

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 46

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1927

16 PAGES

Quick Justice Given Wayne Negro Killer

Within 60 Hours After Crime, Negro Was On Way to Death House

Goldboro, Dec. 11.—Justice, traveling hard on the heels of crime, today placed on the altar the life of Larry Newsome, negro, barely 60 hours after the dead body of Beulah Tedder, 15-year-old girl, was found in a cotton field 15 miles from here with her throat cut.

Newsome, convicted in what is believed to have been the only Sunday session ever held in North Carolina, was sentenced to die in the electric chair at the state prison, Raleigh, Friday, January 13, 1928.

Outraged citizenry revolted and threw a courtroom, packed to almost suffocation, into a near panic when an attempt was made to take the negro from the courtroom five minutes after court had convened at 9:30 o'clock this morning. Shots were fired into the ceiling and national guardsmen were called in.

Eric Tedder, father of the dead girl, and William Tedder, his brother, advanced through the crowded room quietly and unnoticed and each took an arm of the prisoner before spectators or officers realized their presence. They lifted the negro half-way out of his chair in the midst of attorneys sitting directly in front of the judge.

Shouts of "get him!" "Take him!" broke from a dozen throats in the crowd and a group of spectators surged toward the prisoner.

The audience broke and crowded for exits. Court attaches and newspapermen took cover under tables and behind the jury box. Tables, chairs and cuspidors were overturned. One man in his frantic efforts to leave the room jumped through the glass pane of a door.

Officers crushed around the prisoner, beating off his assailants. He was whisked away, his shirt nearly torn from his back, into an adjacent room where a guard was established.

Sheriff W. D. Grant, of Wayne county, placed his back to the door of the room, fired two shots into the ceiling. William and Eric Tedder were taken into custody, Eric, the father of the dead girl, sitting free under guard and William, the uncle, sitting through the remainder of the trial anchored with handcuffs to two officers.

Judge Henry A. Grady, presiding, armed with a huge automatic pistol, called for order in the courtroom and sat through the remainder of the trial with the gun in easy reach. There was no further disturbance. The negro was placed in an automobile and rushed to state prison at Raleigh, under escort of national guardsmen, immediately after the trial.

The jury, after hearing evidence for three hours, retired and returned within 15 minutes with their verdict. The negro did not testify. It was testified that he had testified to committing the crime while en route to Raleigh Friday morning.

MADDOG SCARE
Mr. Harve Deal of Cove Creek was in town Tuesday and told of a maddog being on a rampage in his section the day before. The rabid animal was first discovered four miles down the creek, and a young man followed him with gun in hand, but never getting near enough for a death shot, until the dog finally took refuge under Mr. Deal's house, which is near the Cove Creek high school.

In coming up the creek the dog came in contact with other dogs, cattle, etc., all of which have been killed. Where the dog belonged is not known. Mr. Deal says he seemed to be a mongrel, a cross between hound and cur.

Dr. Otto Bingham and Attorney John B. Bingham have had their dogs and cats killed and many other families have done the same, and it is believed that nothing serious will result from the escape of the dog.

Students at Chicago's Northwestern university vote Lindbergh and Henry Ford the "biggest men of the year." Queen Marie leads the women.

President Coolidge, Mussolini, the Prince of Wales, Mayor Thompson, Edison Tunney, Al Smith, Babe Ruth get votes.

STILL DESTROYED IN NORTH FORK TOWNSHIP
R. R. Eggers, deputy sheriff in North Fork township, was in town Monday and told The Democrat that on Friday of last week, he captured a still within a few hundred yards of the Trade-Jefferson highway. It was a gasoline barrel outfit, with all the necessary paraphernalia. Quite a lot of beer was destroyed, but no Christmas booze could be located. From all appearances, the old barrel had done long service. No clue as to who the owner of the outfit was.

SERIOUSLY HURT IN AUTO CRASH

J. Allen Gragg Narrowly Escaped Death When Car in Which He and Policeman Story Rode Overturned on Blowing Rock Road Sunday

By RUPERT GILLET
Blowing Rock, Dec. 14.—J. Allen Gragg, who was dangerously injured in an automobile wreck near Lentz's store Sunday morning, was still in a precarious condition at Watauga Hospital this week. He was gashed on the head, and his chest was injured, but the exact nature of the latter injury had not been determined by physicians.

The accident occurred when Mr. Gragg, in Policeman L. E. Story's car, rounded the curve near Lentz's store. One of the men offered the driver a cigarette, and this diverted the driver's attention from the road. Seeing the car about to plunge off the embankment, he cut the wheels too quickly and overturned.

Story was lacerated about the head and hands, but his injuries were not so serious as those of Mr. Gragg.

Story and Gragg were chasing two women and a man who had broken into the summer home of former Governor Cameron Morrison and were speeding in the direction of Boone. When the fugitives saw how closely they were being pursued, they abandoned their car and took to the woods. Story found in the car a blanket, a mirror and one or two other articles, believed to have been stolen from the house.

The thieves have not been captured.

School to Present Play
The cast for the play that pupils of the Blowing Rock high school will present some time after Christmas has been announced by Principal A. E. Mercer as follows:

Glenn Coffey as Charles Chester, a young man unacquainted with work; Jay Knight as Jacob Sharp, a landlord who wants his money; B. Yum Crisp as Billy Briefless, just admitted to the bar in love with Elsie; Fred Spann as Mike Murphy, a pugilistic aspirant; Biddy's young man; William Holsouser as Benjie Bellhop, bellboy at "The Prommer's Rest"; William White as Justus Ketchum, a detective; Lucy Williams as Elsie Andrews, Jacob's niece; Elizabeth Sudderth as Biddy McMillen, chambermaid; Lucile Reid as Armantha Artichoke, a wealthy widow; Charlie's aunt, Lucile Coffey as Andromeda Applewood, agent for "A Daughter of the Gods"; Ruby Richards as Sally Sausage, a "dark lady" and cook.

The play is entitled "Unacquainted with Work" a comedy-drama in five acts.

Mayview Hearing in January
The Mayview matter situation is expected to be cleared up finally at the session of Federal court, convening in January in Charlotte, said Thomas H. Coffey, one of the receivers, on his return Sunday from Charlotte, where he attended the hearing on the bid of John H. Cathey of Charlotte.

At the hearing, the case was continued to the January term of federal court, as Cathey had failed to raise the money to cover his bid. Mr. Coffey said several other bids are in prospect, and one of them is expected to be accepted.

Cathey took over the bid of Scott Dillingham, who raised the bid of H. Broyhill of Lenoir at the last sale. Mr. Broyhill's bid was \$124,000. Dillingham raised it \$75,000, but he then became involved in charges of having violated the blue sky law, and his bid was then taken over by Cathey.

Fire Dept. Elects Officers
The Blowing Rock fire department at its regular meeting last week elected officers for the coming year. C. S. Prevette was re-elected president, R. L. Greene was chosen vice president, Don Johnson secretary and treasurer, C. A. Underdown re-elected chief, Lloyd Robbins assistant chief and George Robbins captain.

Holiday for School
Christmas holidays in the Blowing Rock school will begin next Wednesday. It has been decided by the school board, and school will begin January 2.

On that day, the school is expected to move into the new building, which will be completed this week or next, according to the contractor, E. G. Pitts.

White-Spann Marriage
Miss Pauline White and C. R. Spann were married December 8 by Justice of the Peace C. R. Walter. Mrs. Spann is the daughter of Joe White, cabinet maker of Blowing Rock, and Mr. Spann is a prosperous farmer of this section.

The Blowing Rock Dramatic Club was to present this week the farce comedy, "Misery Moon" in the auditorium of the Cove Creek high

Shots Exchanged at Moonshine Plant

However, No One Injured and Quarrel Ended by One Man of Beer

Linville Eggers, on bond of \$500 for his appearance at the next term of superior court on a charge of moonshining; a blockade still about 50-gallon capacity; half of liquor and a quantity of destroyed, is the net result of an raid of officers on Lower Beaver Dam Friday night.

Deputy Sheriff H. A. Hagaman, in company with his son Grady Hagaman, and Ray Wilson, had information that a plant producing "Christmas jer" was in operation. They followed the "lead" and discovered the plant, which was being operated by three men. Eggers made for Mr. Wilson, evidently believing he was by himself. He drew his pistol and fired one shot, which went wild of the mark. Wilson clinched with Eggers and he was soon under arrest; not, however, until Deputy Hagaman let the "shiners know" he was around by firing at one of the trio. In the smoke of battle, the other two men made good their escape, but the officers seem to have a pretty good idea as to their identity, and it is expected that they will be apprehended.

HOLY CROSS MISSION HOLDS ANNUAL ROLL CALL SUPPER

Valle Crucis, Dec. 14.—Holy Cross Mission held its annual roll call supper on Wednesday, December 8, in the dining room of the Valle Crucis School for Girls, with about fifty persons present, many having been kept away by epidemics of whooping cough and measles in the neighborhood, together with the unfortunate combination of heavy rain.

This yearly opportunity for members of the parish to get together and discuss their common religious work and interests was instituted some four years ago by the present rector, the Rev. James P. Burke, and proved popular and helpful.

The program was designed to cover the activities of the past year, and included reports on the work of the Woman's Auxiliary by Miss Letitia Ricard of the high school department; on the Junior Auxiliary by Miss Ruthann C. Clough, teacher of the 4th and 5th grades; on the church school by Mrs. Sarah Wagner, on the Young Peoples' Service League by Marjorie Deal, a pupil in the high school, and on the Altar Guild and Choir by Miss Isbell Graves, principal of the school. Mrs. Burke's rendition of two religious songs was greatly appreciated. Miss Susan Taylor, treasurer of the church, ably presented the financial side of the work; Mrs. Charles D. Taylor spoke briefly, introducing resolutions of sympathy for those who were prevented from attending by illness of a serious nature, and Squire Taylor made a few interesting remarks on the history of the church movement in Valle Crucis, dating back nearly a century—to the time of Bishop Ives. Miss Julia Edwards, Miss Virginia Buck and Miss Iola Tankard, all teaching for the first time in the school, expressed their interest and happiness in the work. Naturally the feature of the evening was Mr. Burke's address, based largely on a church pamphlet entitled, "The Rector's Parish."

The meeting adjourned at about 10 o'clock, with all convinced that much had been attempted, much done, and all things considered, well done since the similar event a year ago.

The library of the Valle Crucis School for Girls has been much enriched by the generous gift of a set of the "International Encyclopedia," "Mark Twain's Adventures of Tom Sawyer," and other worth while books.

The last two meetings of the Mary Horner Literary society have been presented with programs of unusual interest. One, conducted under the auspices of Miss Virginia Buck, presented the songs of that most famous American song writer—Stephen Collins Foster—both by soloists and choruses, varied with tableaux. The other, arranged by Miss Iola Tankard, included a short play, period songs and a reading from Eugene Fields.

The Rev. and Mrs. James P. Burke expect to visit Niles and other points in Michigan shortly after the Christmas holidays in the interest of the school and mission.

The students of the school will present a short Nativity play in connection with the annual Christmas tree this year.

Harry K. Thaw has been named defendant in a \$100,000 breach of promise suit filed in Los Angeles by Forest Hall, 20, one-time film extra.

school, but the engagement was cancelled because of the epidemic of measles at Cove Creek.

WAGNER CASE IS CONTINUED

Because of Illness of Witnesses, Case Has Been Continued to Spring Term of Wilkes Superior Court

Hub Wagner will not be tried at the present term of Wilkes superior court for the killing of Dexter Byrd on last Christmas day, according to information coming from defense attorneys Monday, the trial having been continued until the spring term on account of an epidemic of measles and other contagious diseases in the community from which the witnesses were summoned.

Wagner has been held in the Wilkes jail since he was sentenced in September to serve 15 years in the penitentiary for the killing of Earl Moody, both crimes having been committed on the same day.

FINE ESSAY ON "ESTIMATE OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE"

Blowing Rock, Dec. 14.—The tenth grade history class of the Blowing Rock high school has just finished an unusual assignment for pupils of that age. It was an essay of 600 words, entitled, "An Estimate of Napoleon Bonaparte." All of the pupils wrote excellent essays. Those who wrote them were Velma Cannon, Lucille Coffey, Bynum Crisp, Paul Fester, William Holsouser, Edna Miller, Lucile Reid, Pem Robbins, Elizabeth Sudderth, William White and Beulah Wooten.

The following paper was written by William Holsouser:

"Napoleon Bonaparte ranks, with Alexander, Caesar and Charlemagne, among the greatest men the world has ever seen. He possessed military greatness and ability as a statesman in the highest degree. In his first important command, general of the French army in Italy, Napoleon had either created or destroyed an empire in a year, and a half after taking command. His ability as an administrator is shown by the way he reorganized France and Europe after he became emperor. By his genius as a warrior and a statesman he made France the most powerful nation in the world and himself the ruler of almost all Europe.

"Napoleon raised France out of the anarchy into which the nation had fallen after the French Revolution. As first consul he gave France a strong centralized government, bringing every department of the government directly under his control. Even the mayors of the larger towns and cities owed their positions to the first consul. Napoleon adopted the single uniform code of laws worked out by the national convention. He gave every man in France the fullest opportunity for self-development and advancement. He insisted upon equal rights for all men. Citizens of all ranks might try for office, honors, wealth and other distinctions. Napoleon reformed the finances of France so that at the end of his rule there was no debt left on France. He built roads and bridges, improved the harbors, encouraged trade and established schools.

"On the other hand he reduced France and the other nations of Europe almost to poverty by his wars and the disastrous continental system. He was novel for his great selfishness and his untruthfulness. He gave France a strong, efficient form of government, not for the benefit of the people, but because he knew that it would help him to become master of Europe and perhaps the world. The only time that he ever kept a promise was when he thought it would benefit him more than if he broke it. His untruthfulness is shown by the way he tried to conquer Spain, the nation that was more friendly to him than any nation in Europe at the time. He also declared war on Russia after signing a treaty to allow Alexander, czar of Russia, a free hand in eastern Europe. He had no religion of his own, but restored the church to France, so that he could get control of the church.

"All this shows that Napoleon was the greatest genius, both as a ruler and a military commander, had the greatest love for war, was the most ambitious, the most selfish, and the most untruthful of all men in history. He thought of nobody but Napoleon. Napoleon might be compared to a baseball pitcher, who had been pitching a no-hit game for seven innings and suddenly blows up in the eighth inning. The Russian invasion could be compared to the eighth inning.

"Although Napoleon saved France for a time, he let it fall back further than he raised it. France after the time of Napoleon, went back to the time of Louis XIV. Considering these things, and the number of wars that he started, and that he reduced the height of the average Frenchman about two inches by these wars, I think that Napoleon did more harm in the world than he did good."

Baptist Congregation to Erect New Building

Plans Now Being Laid for Erection of Handsome New Edifice in the Near Future

A campaign has been inaugurated in Boone by the members of the Baptist church for a new house of worship. They already have a good building, that for years was considered the best in the county; but, today, it is entirely inadequate—too small for the growing membership, and others who always attend in great numbers. Some of the membership favors razing the entire building, while others think it best to employ an architect and make an effort to save it by building to, so as to make, not only a much larger auditorium, but ample provision for Sunday school rooms.

It is not the intention to do the work this year, but get everything in readiness for 1929, when the edifice will be rushed to completion.

Mr. D. J. Cottrell was vested with the power last Sunday to appoint a committee, who will assist him in the big drive for funds that will be launched in the very near future. The pastor, Rev. P. A. Hicks, and Messrs. Frank Moore, S. C. Eggers and Prof. L. G. Greer left for Raleigh Wednesday morning, where they will go over the building project with the Baptist state mission board, looking to some aid in the big undertaking.

INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS

Below are indexed the local advertisements appearing in this issue of The Democrat. A representative group of the leading business men of the town have made a definite bid for your patronage. In their respective spaces has been prepared interesting and helpful matter for the benefit of the Christmas shopper. Read these ads and simplify your shopping problems. Trade at home, save money and help to build a bigger and better Boone. The following firms have messages for you: Read them:

- The Fashion Shop—Page 2.
- Taylor Motor Co., J. & E. Stone—Page 3.
- Pastime Theater, Boone Electric Co., Hodge Drug Co.—Page 4.
- Carolina Store, Boone Hardware and D. J. Cottrell—Page 5.
- Davidson's Department Store—Page 6.
- W. R. Winkler, Boone Chevrolet Co., McConnell Motor Co., and Ashley Shoe Store—Page 8.
- Will C. Walker—Page 9.
- Peoples Bank, Boone Drug Co.—Page 10.
- Boone Electric Co., Watauga Co. Bank—Page 11.
- Watauga B. & L. Association, High Land Furniture Co.—Page 12.
- Boone Chevrolet Co., Farmers Hardware Co.—Page 13.
- C. S. Stevenson, Boone Clothing Store—Page 14.
- Watauga Lumber Co.—Page 15.
- Spainhour's Inc.—Page 16.

FORD SAYS NEW CAR COST HIM HUNDRED MILLION

"Subtract \$100,000 from \$350,000,000 and you have \$250,000,000. Now figure it out for yourself what those first five or six Model A's cost me," said Henry Ford in an interview last week when he was asked the cost of his new "sample copies" which went on display throughout the country on December 2.

He used his bank balance of one year ago and his present surplus to answer the question, and said the difference represented the cost of the first models. Therefore, \$100,000,000 is somewhere near the actual cost of getting enough cars before the public view, or about \$20,000,000 a car.

No one was asked to help finance Ford's new line of cars, but the banks that hold the Ford's surplus worked overtime in satisfying demands from the Ford offices. Still he was not called upon to spend his last \$100,000,000 to accomplish what he did within one year. No small amount of this money spent was "deposit money" for new cars, which ran into many millions of dollars.

Mr. Ford said that the new line was not the result of hasty decision but that such a move was considered inevitable as far back as five years ago.

Frank L. Smith of Illinois, and William S. Vare of Pennsylvania, have been denied seats in the United States senate until the special campaign funds committee can further investigate and report upon the charges of fraud in both the primary and general elections. Both senators-elect will have the opportunity to present their case in person and through counsel before the committee and then will be heard on their own behalf on the floor of the senate.

The Cove Creek high school closed last Friday because of an epidemic of measles among the students, nearly a hundred cases being reported. The school will remain closed until January 2nd.

PREPARING LAND FOR POTATOES

Well Selected Land Properly Prepared Before Planting Necessary for Best Yield, Says State Botanist

Mr. G. P. Hagaman, cashier of the Watauga County Bank, is in receipt of the following letter from Obed Castelloe, assistant state botanist, which should be of interest to the farmers of Watauga county who want to increase their Irish potato yield next year:

The farmers who are planning to plant potatoes should pay special attention to the selection of the fields to be planted to potatoes. Select only well-drained, deep, friable, loose, fertile soils as potatoes will grow best in this kind of soil. Drainage is the most important requisite in a potato soil. Potatoes will not give a profitable return if planted in a water-logged soil. Well-drained, deep, friable, loose but firm, fertile loam will produce the greatest yield and of the highest quality. Sod land which has been in clover or meadow, other things being equal, will be good land to plant to potatoes.

Too much emphasis cannot be put on the importance of preparing the land to be planted to potatoes. A well prepared seed bed is the most important thing in the production of potatoes. All other conditions for the production of a good crop of potatoes may be ideal, but a poorly prepared seed bed will mean a low yield.

The land should be plowed in the fall or as early in the spring as weather will permit. Land should be plowed eight to ten inches deep, and turned in time to get some of the winter frozes. Freezing will improve the mechanical condition of the soil, make plant food available and destroy insects of which grub worms and wire worms are the most important. Early plowing will give the seed bed a firmness, conserve the moisture and give the vegetation time to decay. All of these are necessary in the best seed bed.

Just before planting time, the land should be disced and harrowed and not turned again. This discing and harrowing will improve its mechanical condition, conserve moisture and destroy weed seed.

No grower of potatoes can hope for even fair success unless he plants a well-prepared seed bed.

VANCE WITHDRAWS CHARGES AGAINST JUDGE HAYES

Washington, Dec. 12.—Senator Overman received a telegram from D. T. Vance of Plumtree, today requesting that the charges Vance had filed with the senator against the confirmation of the nomination of Johnson J. Hayes to be judge of the middle district, be withdrawn. Mr. Vance stated in his message to Senator Overman that he had filed the charges against Judge Hayes "in the best of faith," but having learned that the lawyers in Judge Hayes' district are expressing confidence in him, and Mr. Vance not being a lawyer himself, and therefore not as well qualified to pass upon the qualifications of a judge as lawyers are, he withdraws the charges filed and requests that they be returned to him.

Senator Overman had on Saturday filed Mr. Vance's charges with the senate judiciary committee, and in reply to Mr. Vance's telegram advised him that with permission of the committee he will withdraw the charges. The senator said that with the withdrawal of these charges, so far as he knew, there would be no objection to Judge Hayes' confirmation.

900 MILES OF ROADS TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR

Raleigh, Dec. 12.—Approximately eighteen and one-quarter million dollars will be spent by the state highway commission on roads and bridges in North Carolina during 1928, and approximately nine hundred miles of road will be completed. Of these roads about four hundred miles will be hard-surfaced and about five hundred dirt, officials said today.

Wilmington's \$1,250,000 bridge across the Cape Fear River is scheduled to be started next year.

About twenty-four million dollars was spent by the state on roads and bridges during this year.

The calling of an international conference in Washington next December for a thorough discussion of civil aviation, was suggested last Friday by President Coolidge in a letter to the civil aeronautical conference in session in Washington. At the same time, Mr. Coolidge recommended that an aeronautical exhibition be held in connection with the meeting as a means of increasing the interest of the public in the accomplishments and possibilities of aviation.