

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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FIVE CENTS A COPY

Building Loans Are Granted 47 Counties

One Project in Watauga County Receives \$14,000 From Special Fund

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Fifty-seven counties today were granted loans from the \$2,500,000 fourth special school building fund, authorized by the last legislature when the state board of education met in special session here.

The largest single school project, to cost \$90,000, was approved for Harnett county. Projects including 84 schools for white children and four for negroes, were approved.

The 88 projects will cost, experts estimated, \$9,538,411.56, of which amount the state will furnish the entire two and a half million dollars loan fund. The participating counties in the list under the equalization act will bear the remainder of the cost, said Superintendent A. T. Allen.

Included in the projects was one for Watauga county, amounting to \$14,000.

BIRD KILLED IN WATAUGA HAD FLOWN FROM WISCONSIN

Mr. Joe Greer of Rutherford has received the following letter from the United States Biological Survey relative to a strange bird he killed on his place in December. An aluminum leg band carried a number and also the words, "U. S. Biol. Surv." Mr. Greer wrote to Washington for information and the reply, which was just received, is as follows:

"Your letter of December 26, 1927, has been received. The Biological Survey thanks you for supplying us with information concerning the bird carrying our band No. 221,132, which was killed by you on that date. According to our bird-banding files we learn that this band was used on an immature herring gull at Jack Island in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on July 10, 1926, by Mr. C. C. Miller, who is one of our co-operators in the bird-banding work.

"By means of these numbered aluminum bands we are carrying on important investigations pertaining to the migration and other features in the life histories of North American birds. The bands are attached by volunteer co-operators who serve without pay and we also appreciate the information supplied to us by persons who chance to obtain banded birds.

"In connection with the present case, we must, however, advise you that in killing this bird you committed a violation of the federal law which protects gulls at all times of the year. Noting that you state the bird was killed by mistake for a hawk the bureau does not feel disposed to recommend prosecution but we must advise you that all care must be exercised in shooting birds not to take those that have no legal open season. As a matter of fact the federal law provides severe penalties in the form of fines and jail sentences for violations. For your further information there is being sent to you under separate cover a copy of the compiled game laws, in which you will find listed those species that may be legally taken during a legal open season.

"Very truly yours,
"W. C. Henderson,
"Acting Chief."

CAR STOLEN BY BOYS RETURNED TO OWNER

The Willys-Knight sedan, in which Thomas McGuff and Arthur Smith, 16-year old robbers, who were captured at Deep Gap recently when they broke into Mr. A. G. Miller's store, was called for last week by the sheriff of Madison county, Ky., and returned to its owner.

The boys admitted that they stole the automobile. They had been to a picture show in Richmond, Ky., they said, and on emerging from the theater they saw the car standing at the curb and decided to take a ride in it.

TEST EXAMINATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The state department of public instruction will give a test examination to all seniors in our high schools this year.

The date for the examination is Tuesday, February 14. It is desired that every high school senior take this examination whether the student expects to attend college or not. This is for the purpose of a comprehensive study of high school work.

SMITH HAGAMAN,
County Superintendent.

United States Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York, will address the Al Smith-for-President Club of Charlotte on February 11 at the new Mecklenburg county courthouse. J. D. McCall, president of the club, announced Friday.

SOUTH WILL KEEP ELECTION LAWS

So Declares Senator Glass of Virginia in Fiery Debate; Bruce Asks that 18th Amendment Be Accepted Like 15th

Washington, Jan. 23.—Notification given in the senate today by two Virginia senators that the south intended to stick by its voting laws "despite threats of universal negro suffrage," stirred up a three-hour row which took in prohibition and presidential politics as well.

Senator Bruce, Democrat, Maryland, suggested in the course of a lengthy address by Senator Swanson of Virginia, who was defending the voting laws of southern states, that the south sanction "the same escape from the tyrannical oppression of the eighteenth amendment that it has from the fifteenth amendment."

Shouting at the top of his voice, Senator Glass, Democrat, of Virginia, was quickly on his feet with the declaration that he was "tired of senators threatening the south" and he told the Maryland senator to "go ahead and get a drink if there is any way under the eighteenth amendment he could do it, but don't try to constrain or restrain Virginia from enforcing the eighteenth amendment."

Another ardent dry, Senator Borah, Republican, of Idaho, rushed into the fight and inquired of Senator Bruce if he was urging nullification of the eighteenth amendment, which the Maryland senator denied.

Discussing the action of southern states in requiring strict educational tests of voters which in turn had disqualified many negroes as voters, Bruce insisted the south had "enunciated" the fifteenth amendment in this manner. This was denied by Senator Borah who said a close inspection of the voting laws of southern states showed no violation of the constitution.

Finally Senator Bruce called for more liberal treatment of the negroes by the south and for "more tolerance, particularly in regard to social views and sectarian freedom." He then expressed the hope that at the next Democratic national convention the "sectarian prejudices shall not be as deep as they appear."

Again Senator Glass rushed into the melee and demanded to know if Senator Bruce thought a southern man could be nominated for president. The Marylander replied in the affirmative, but Glass retorted that "your grandchildren won't see that day."

The debate between the fiery Virginia and the more reserved Marylander became so heated at one time that the presiding officer could not be heard when rapping for order and Senator Heath of Alabama, recent storm center in the party ranks, provoked considerable laughter by suggesting that "we have peace and harmony."

With a smile, Senator Bruce replied the "suggestion for peace and harmony comes from a very dubious source."

After concluding a lengthy prepared address, asserting the right of the south's position in negro suffrage, Senator Swanson again entered the free-for-all debate with the statement that "he resented inferences that the south was intolerant to the negroes." Senator Borah again took the side of the southerners and declared he thought the south was more liberal along economic and industrial lines than was the north.

COVE CREEK JUNIOR CLASS TO GIVE PLAY JANUARY 27

The junior class of the Cove Creek high school will present a play, "Ann, What's Her Name?" in the school auditorium on Friday evening January 27, at 7:30 o'clock. This will be the second presentation of this play, its first appearance having been so favorably received that it was decided to give it again. The admission fee will be 25 and 15 cents, the proceeds to go to equip the class rooms with shades.

THE PENSION BILL

The bureau of pensions at Washington has recently published some interesting facts about its work. Since its establishment in 1789, the bureau of pensions has distributed about \$6,000,000,000 in cash and 9,000,000 acres of public land.

On June 30, 1927, there were 439,942 pensioners on the rolls, including 17 widows of men who served in the War of 1812.

U. D. C. TO MEET

The Watauga Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, will meet at the Critcher hotel, this (Thursday) evening. A full attendance of members is desired.

After Moonshiners on Upper Meat Camp

Led By Deputy Sheriff Greene, Citizens of That Section Destroy Beer and Equipment

"Stolen barrels" became the theme of the citizens of Upper Meat Camp, S. C. on Friday morning last. Deputy Sheriff D. L. Greene, aided by a few good citizens of that section, armed with search warrants, started out in search of the aforesaid barrels. During the day Deputy Sheriff A. N. Brown of Zionville, joined the party, and in a short time three of the barrels, filled to the brim with beer, were found buried in the ground, containing in all, 150 gallons. Nearby were found still worms and other equipment for the purpose of making moonshine. The beer and paraphernalia were destroyed, but no arrests were made.

However, not being satisfied with Friday's work, Deputy Greene summoned more than a dozen citizens of his section on Monday to continue the search, and in a short while they were hot on the trail of another outfit that had become a nuisance in that community.

Before noon near the top of the Elk Knob a large box containing about 30 gallons of beer, two stills and worms were found and destroyed. No arrests were made here but the men returned home in the afternoon feeling that they had done their county a good day's work.

HORDES OF ROBINS DESCEND ON RANDOLPH FARM

Asheboro, Jan. 23.—The Court of Birds, once famed as song and story, is in session near Asheboro.

Millions of robins and starlings, appearing miraculously from nowhere, have darkened the western skies every evening for the past three weeks, swooping down in murky hordes to roost on the farm lands of Dave McCain.

The phenomenon has transfixed the McCain farm to a show place and is drawing its daily clientele of the curious from surrounding counties. The roads near the farm are lined late each day with automobiles and rigs while their owners wait at the farm for the darkening skies to herald the approach of the multitudes.

With the coming of the birds the sky west of here is blackened for at least four or five miles and the sound of their wings has been likened to the rush of ocean waves.

Sportsmen here have been greatly agitated over the indiscriminate slaughter of the birds at the hands of the heedless. Hundreds of them, hewn to death on their roosts, litter the land, and great bags, captured after the birds were blinded with strong lights, are being carried away. Federal authorities now are taking steps to halt the slaughter.

The featured descent on this county is unprecedented and remains unexplained. Pioneers here have described an influx of robins at several points in the state many years ago, but never before in such proportions.

JUDGE HAYES TAKES OATH AS JUDGE OF MIDDLE DISTRICT

Greensboro, Jan. 23.—With a cloud of office seekers filling the corridors and most of them looking exceedingly innocent, federal court got under way here today, a term which will be notable only for the fact that Judge Johnson J. Hayes, at the end of nearly a year of contest to o. k. the solemn oath of office as judge of the middle district and mount the bench in formal capacity to assume an office he is expected to honor.

E. L. Gavin of Sanford was here to take the oath of office as district attorney and he did take it. His commission arrived at Sanford last night. The commission of J. J. Jenkins of Silver City for marshal, has not arrived.

Temporary Clerk Blavlock administered the oath to Judge Hayes and Attorney Gavin.

Open Season on Protestants!

It was reported some time ago that in a certain section of the county a minister concluded his prayer at the Sunday service by a stirring appeal along this line: "We know we are ignorant, please make us ignorant; make us as ignorant as hogs."

Since that time another minister is reputed to have told his audience that to the "best of his knowledge, the Pope of Rome, with the assistance of Al Smith, had put to death within the preceding three weeks 1,500 communicants" of a certain Protestant church.

Who could doubt the efficacy of the first pastor's prayer?

NEWS OF WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

Initial Program Given by Tuesday Evening Club; Mayview Manor Suffers Wind Storm Damages; Personal Mention

Blowing Rock, Jan. 25.—The first program of the Tuesday Evening Club was held this week at the club headquarters in the new school building, with the president, Mrs. I. K. Story, presiding. Parts of the program were carried out by Misses Ethel Holsbuser, Anne Greene, Helen Underdown, Pearl Webb, chairman of the program committee, and Miss Louise Lashour. The club, tentatively called the Tuesday Evening Club, will meet weekly and devote itself to literary, dramatic, musical and current topics, according to the interests of the members. Visitors are invited.

The first public activity of the club will be the presentation of a play, "Sunshine," for which a cast is now being selected.

Mayview Damaged by Wind
Strong wind here Thursday blew a small porch from the roof above the ball room of Mayview Manor. The debris was strewn for some distance along the driveway, and the roof of the hotel was slightly damaged.

Personal Mention

Mrs. N. C. Greene last week visited the Davis hospital in Statesville where Mr. Greene is a patient. It is hoped that he will be allowed to return to Blowing Rock at an early date.

Mrs. A. M. Critcher also was a visitor last week at the Davis hospital and reports that her daughter, Mrs. Helen Cooper, is rapidly recovering from recent operations and will be allowed to return home within a short time, either late this week or early next week. Mr. Cooper is making a gradual recovery, but no date for his release from the hospital has been set.

General Lee Robbins, chief petty officer, United States navy, left Blowing Rock Thursday to rejoin his ship at Hampton Roads, Va., after a short leave of absence spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Robbins, and other relatives here. His service in the navy has taken him to all parts of the world. It is his present plan to re-enlist for twenty years' service upon the expiration of his present term of enlistment.

Mid-term examinations have been occupying the high school students in Blowing Rock this week, ending tomorrow. Reports will be completed Wednesday.

Ernest Hamner, expert stone mason, is considering the acceptance of an offer made by contractors for the Gothic chapel to be erected at Duke University. This work will require the employment of the most skilled artisans to be found throughout the country. If this offer is accepted, Mr. and Mrs. Hamner will make their home in Durham for a number of years.

CCST OF NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNMENT 2ND LOWEST

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—With but one exception, North Carolina has the lowest per capita cost of maintenance of state government of any of the 48.

This fact is pointed out in the analysis of state taxes and debts made by the division of commerce and industry of the department of conservation and development which is expected to be available for distribution at an early date.

"North Carolina," says the analysis, "in 1925 paid only \$5.76 per inhabitant toward the maintenance of state government, exclusive of capital outlay and interest charges, according to the department of commerce. Only one state, Alabama, paid less, \$5.65, and the other 46 states paid more.

"The national conference board places the corporation of 43 states as paying, in 1924, a higher rate of tax, federal, state and local, from total net income, than that of North Carolina, while in only four states did they pay less, indicating a healthy condition of industry and taxes in the state."

FOUR CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

The more merrier is the way candidates for the Democratic nomination of lieutenant governor of North Carolina look upon reports of others entering the race.

With Speaker of the House Dick Fountain, of Rocky Mount, and State Senator W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Northampton county, already announced, the name of John D. Langston, Goldsboro attorney, went the rounds in Raleigh last week as the third candidate, with George Ross, state prison superintendent, also prominently mentioned.

Watauga County's Bonded Indebtedness

Figures Carried in Democrat Last Week Were Compiled From Records of January 1, 1927

A. E. South, county auditor, calls attention to the fact that the bonded indebtedness of Watauga county on January 1, 1928, was \$479,000, and not \$700,000 as stated in a story carried in this paper last week from figures compiled by the University News Letter. The University publication based its figures on data as of January 1, 1927, and therefore, might be confusing. Mr. South said the figure carried last week was substantially correct as of January 1, 1927, but since that time the amount had been reduced to \$479,000.

A sinking fund is provided for the retiring of the county's bonded indebtedness and these obligations are being met as they become due.

The bonded indebtedness of the town of Boone on January 1, 1928, for water works and street improvements, according to M. South, was \$275,000. Blowing Rock, for the same purpose, owed \$125,000.

RETURNS WAR GAVEL TO VIRGINIA SENATE

Richmond, Va., Jan. 21.—Alfred L. Aiken, second vice president of the New York Life Insurance Company, formerly governor of the federal reserve bank of Boston, has returned to the senate of Virginia a gavel that was carried off from the senate chamber by a young officer of the Union army on April 2, 1865, the day of the evacuation of Richmond.

The historic relic, with handle of walnut and head of lignum vitae, was presented at special ceremonies this afternoon and was accepted by Lieut. Gov. J. E. West, presiding officer at the senate.

The young officer who carried it away was Lieut. J. Lewis Spaulding, adjutant of the 29th Connecticut infantry, which was among the first Union troops to enter the city after Richmond fell. He gave it to W. A. Buckingham, Mr. Aiken's grandfather, then governor of Connecticut, afterwards United States senator.

The gavel was used not only by the Virginia senate, but also by the Confederate senate, which held its sessions in the senate chamber.

BOONE ROUTE 2 NEWS

Boone, R. F. B. 2, Jan. 24.—Carl Norris has gone to West Virginia where he expects to work for a while.

Mrs. Emma Ragan, who has been very ill with measles, is improving. Mack Norris, who has been suffering with a broken leg, is able to be out again.

Highway No. 49, under construction between Meat Camp church and Perkinsville, is almost impassable and will likely remain in this condition until spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin J. Cole have been with Mrs. Cole's father at Todd, who has been very ill for the last week.

Miss Lelia Davis is visiting her sister on Cove Creek.

W. H. Norris is visiting his son, Watt Norris, in the eastern part of the state.

Stanley Cole of Riddles Fork and Miss Edith Castle of lower Meat Camp were married at Trade, Tenn., on Sunday, January 15.

Waldo Tagman and Miss Marguerite Norris, both of Riddles Fork, were married at Trade, Tenn., last Wednesday.

TO ORGANIZE GAME AND FISH CLUB HERE

J. W. Bryan, game and fish warden for Watauga county, asks all citizens interested in the propagation of fish and game in the county to meet at the Daniel Boone hotel tomorrow (Friday) night at 7 o'clock for the purpose of organizing a game and fish club. Please bear the date in mind and be there.

SCORES ROAD HOGS

Asheville, Jan. 23.—Road hogs and unscrupulous taxi drivers were lambasted today by Judge Walter E. Moore in a charge to the grand jury at the opening of the criminal term of Buncombe county superior court. He also instructed the jurors to see that convicts on the chain gangs are made to work and that magistrates practice no irregularities.

Judge Moore outlined the highway laws in his charge and admonished the grand jurors to return presentments against truck drivers who "hog" the road, knowing their vehicles cannot be harmed by the lighter passenger cars.

In turning to taxi drivers, Judge Moore said: "Automobiles have become a necessity as a means of transportation but too many of them are being used for immoral and corrupt purposes. Taxi drivers are responsible for a lot of the crime that goes on in the county."

MOVEMENT TO BUILD SCOUT HUT

Campaign Will Be Launched in Near Future to Secure Funds for Undertaking; Has Backing of Local Civic Organizations

The movement on foot to build a Boy Scout cabin in the American Legion park here is progressing nicely. Friends of the boys are discussing the plan with enthusiasm.

Leaders in the undertaking feel that this opportunity to aid the boys in providing a central meeting place for their work has only to be presented to the people of the community, and that aid will be given at once. The progressive spirit of all of the clubs in the town is showing itself, and will be present until the program is completed.

A campaign week will be announced at an early date for the purpose of securing the necessary funds. It is the hope of those already interested in the program that the response will be sufficient to make possible the erection of the building, which will go far in proving to the boys of Boone that their parents and friends are always eager to aid them in becoming better men.

HICKMAN TRIAL GOT UNDER WAY YESTERDAY MORNING

Los Angeles, Jan. 21.—Closely guarded and held virtually incommunicado, William E. Hickman, the 19-year-old confessed kidnaper and slayer of Marian Parker tonight awaited the opening of his trial tomorrow to determine whether he is sane or insane.

The prisoner, who usually has greeted the newspaper men and others with smiles, cursed his fellow prisoners and visitors today. He was given some sunlight exercise under the escort of guards who accompanied him to the roof of the county building housing the jail.

Hickman was indicted on two counts charging him with the kidnapping and murder of the Parker child whose mutilated body he bartered to her father for \$1,500.

By entering a plea of "not guilty because of insanity," he admitted commission of both crimes. If Hickman is found sane the next step will be the pronouncement of sentence.

Less than 125 persons, aside from court officials, attaches and the jury will be able to witness the trial. Fifty of these will be newspaper men and women.

J. A. BOLDIN SUFFERS INJURIES AS TRUCK LEAVES HIGHWAY

Mr. J. A. Boldin of the Boldin Grocery Company, is in a Lenoir hospital suffering from injuries received Tuesday afternoon when a truck in which he was riding skidded from the road east of Green Park and turned several times down the mountainside.

Mr. Boldin had been looking after business in Boone during the day and was returning to his home in Lenoir when the accident occurred. A glaze of ice covering the hard-surface highway was the cause of the trouble. Latest advices from the bedside of the injured man are to the effect that likely no bones are broken but that his body is badly crushed and his condition is considered serious.

GATLIN TRIAL AT WENTWORTH SET FOR MONDAY, FEB. 13TH

Wentworth, N. C., Jan. 24.—Charged with the murder of her father, Mrs. Alma Patty Gatlin will go on trial in superior court here during the week of February 13. The comely young woman whose arrest followed the discovery of her father's body buried in the cellar of their home in Reidsville after she was alleged to have confessed to an evangelist, was indicted to day by the Rockingham county grand jury. The true bill specified a charge of first degree murder and largely was grounded on the testimony of the evangelist who was called before the jury to repeat his story of the confession.

LEVIATHAN'S SKIPPER QUILTS AFTER 900 TRIPS ACROSS

After 35 years on the sea, the last five in command of the mighty Leviathan, foreign ports and big waves have lost their lure for Herbert Hartley and he desires a home such as he has not known since he was eighteen. He has tendered his resignation as commodore of the United States lines fleet. In the course of his long career Commodore Hartley has crossed the Atlantic more than 900 times.

POOR HEFLIN!

Oh, memories of Morgan. Oh, shades of Pettus! Oh, features of Underwood! Oh, Heflin! Oh, Heflin!—Bothan (Aba.) Eagle.