

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 51

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1928

FIVE CENTS A COPY

## Game and Fish Club Organized Here

Organization Perfected at Meeting of Local Sportsmen Last Friday Evening

On last Friday evening a delegation of sportsmen from Boone and the county at large met at the Daniel Boone hotel for the purpose of perfecting an organization for the protection of the game and fish of this section. James W. Bryan, fish and game warden, acted as temporary chairman. After interesting discussions along lines of interest to sportsmen, the Watauga Game and Fishing Club was formed, with the following officers elected: President, Hon. F. A. Linney; vice president, Robert W. Pulliam; secretary, Richard R. Johnson. The membership fee was set at \$1 per annum.

A program for the improvement of trout streams will be carried on provided land owners will grant fishing privileges to club members, while a bounty will be paid on snakes and hawks destroyed.

Those attending the meeting Friday night were: J. W. Bryan, Rev. C. H. Moser, Robert W. Pulliam, L. B. Vaughn, J. T. Wright, J. D. Council, Richard R. Johnson, Grady Farthing, R. K. Bingham.

Another meeting will be called at an early date at which time more definite plans for conservation and development will be agreed upon.

## COL. CHAS. A. LINDBURGH REACHES VIRGIN ISLANDS

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Jan. 31.—A presidential salute of 21 guns announced to Virgin islanders today that Col. Charles A. Lindbergh had completed another lap of his world tour.

Rain cut down the size of the crowd at the golf course where he landed, but it was estimated that 2,000 persons were present to cheer as he dropped out of the sky at the end of a 1,450 mile segment of the Caribbean circle he is negotiating. The hop from Caracas, Venezuela, required ten hours and five minutes.

## STATE'S POPULATION NOW PLACED AT 2,897,000

North Carolina's population in 1927 was estimated at 2,897,000, an increase of 320,000 over the official 1920 census, the bureau of census, United States department of commerce, has notified the state board of health at Raleigh.

The population, the bureau of census said, was estimated upon the basis of available birth, death, immigration and emigration figures. The official census of 1920 revealed North Carolina had a population of 2,577,000. In 1921, unofficial figures revealed 2,631,000.

## HIGHWAY COMMISSION WILL NOT ASK FOR MORE FUNDS

Raleigh, Jan. 31.—Members of the state highway commission in session here today, unanimously passed a resolution not to request the next general assembly to authorize an additional bond issue to be used in the construction of additional state roads.

Chairman Frank Page tonight declined to comment on the resolution or any plans the commission had discussed for future, if any, roads in Tarhelia.

## BASKETBALL

The basketball game between the A. S. N. S. and Piedmont College will be played here tomorrow, Friday, instead of the 4th as previously scheduled. Tonight the team is at Johnson City, Tenn., to play the East Tennessee Teachers College. Both games are with four-year colleges, but the Normal team is confident of holding its own with them.

To date the boys have lost only three games out of twelve played, with seven more games remaining on the schedule.

The Normal boys last week defeated Rutherford, Catawba and Wingate colleges on successive nights. They deserve the support of the entire community. The game Friday night with Piedmont College will be called at 7 p. m., and one of the largest crowds of the year is expected to be there.

John Spencer Bassett, 60, author and authority on American history, died in a hospital in Washington City Friday, two hours after having been hit by a motor car. Mr. Bassett's home was in Asheville.

Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, who is an avowed candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, will deliver an address before the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution at Raleigh on March 27, next.

"I have not the pleasure of knowing your wife."  
"Then how do you know it's a pleasure?"

## GOV. FRANK O. LOWDEN

Something of Man Who is Prominent Candidate for President; Says There is a Real Farm Problem and Wants a Solution

Albert W. Fox, special writer for the Washington Post, after a visit to Frank O. Lowden at his home in Illinois, has written a sketch of Mr. Lowden, covering almost all of his life, his business and political activities. In part Mr. Fox writes:

Frank O. Lowden, whose personality and whose record of achievement as governor of Illinois have stamped him as of presidential timber since 1920, is going to make a determined bid for the Republican nomination this year. He has pledged himself to his nation-wide army of supporters and will not let his personal disinclination to press his candidacy for public office stand in the way. He is in the fight to stay.

I visited with Lowden at his Mississippi farm in Illinois last week and checked up on the many and varied reports which have been circulated with respect to his present attitude, his views on national affairs, his daily routine, his political activities at this stage of the pre-convention campaign.

There are some things which can be said for publication with Lowden's permission, and other things which must be said without asking Lowden's consent. It is only fair to say, however, that the governor, as every one calls him, is reluctant to become personally involved in any of the advance pre-convention skirmishes which of necessity concern his own candidacy and the purposes, plans and intrigues of those who are opposed to him.

When the Dawes followers see reports that Hoover is forging ahead and that Lowden is suffering from ill health and advancing years, the natural impulse of the Dawes people is to inquire why Lowden does not step aside and let Dawes make the race against Hoover. This, at least, is the way some of the Lowden people put it. Lowden himself will not discuss these matters, but it may be said that if he believed any of these reports circulated about him, if he thought himself unequal physically to undertake the burdens of the presidential office, he would not hesitate a moment to step aside.

He can not, in fact, understand how any man in his right mind would think of undertaking the tremendous responsibilities of the presidential office if he thought himself physically unequal to the task. But as Lowden knows more about his own physical fitness than those who have any interest in circulating "misleading reports," he is naturally not disposed to follow the advice of his "solicitous political enemies," as his friends call them.

Besides, Lowden represents an issue—the agricultural question. He believes there is nothing more important before the American people today than the farm or agricultural problem. He believes, and his followers believe with him, that this problem must be settled right, not only in the interest of the American farmer but in the interest of the American people as a whole. Nothing is more important from the national standpoint, Lowden believes, than to face the agricultural problem courageously now before it is too late. In short, Lowden has become the leader in the movement for practical farm relief, which movement admittedly has become more and more deep rooted in agricultural centers throughout the country.

There are those who disagree with Lowden's conception of how the agricultural problem should be dealt with, but few deny that he has devoted his mind and energy to this question with a thoroughness and intense interest that command respect from all classes. It is not a whim of the moment or a fad with Lowden, it's the all-absorbing, time-consuming life work of Frank O. Lowden at the present period of his eventful and colorful career. No amount of research work or investigation is too exacting a task for Lowden to undertake in his tireless efforts along this line.

In the spring of 1926, Lowden decided to go to Sweden and Denmark for the purpose of studying the co-operative movement and other farm development at first hand. He brought back a wealth of first-hand information which he communicated to the agricultural interests of this country in three articles written by him and published in The Farmer, farm paper of the Northwest.

It is to the advantage of society as a whole to stabilize prices of farm products, Lowden contends.

Lowden apparently does not care who assumes the lead or what the method is to be with respect to farm

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## Watauga Building and Loan Has Good Year

Has Total Assets of \$351,801.39, Showing a Growth the Past Year of \$86,896.71

Rounding out six and a half years of its existence, the Watauga Building and Loan Association has received from Jenkins & Smith a detailed audit of the condition of the association for the year ending December 31, 1927. An advertisement covering page five of this issue carries the financial statement.

With the December payment the first series of the installment stock matured and Secretary W. H. Gragg has paid out to these shareholders \$26,000 in cash and cancelled mortgages. Many of these now live in their own homes, purchased through small monthly payments and have earned \$1,746 in profits on their monthly installments. The association has assets of \$351,801.39, representing a growth during the past year of \$86,896.71. All prepaid stockholders received six per cent in December and installment shareholders have earned 8.4 per cent interest.

No building and loan association perhaps in this section of the state has shown a more striking growth than has the local one, under the management of Mr. Gragg. Read the full statement and learn more of this great home building institution.

## MRS. THOS. PRESNELL DEAD

Mrs. Nelie Presnell, widow of the late Thomas Presnell, of the Brushy Fork section, died at the home of Mr. George P. Hagaman here, Thursday afternoon about 6 o'clock, having never rallied from a stroke of paralysis suffered about 1 o'clock on the same day.

Mrs. Presnell had been housekeeper at the Hagaman home for several months and on Thursday after her duties were finished incidental to the midday meal, she packed her suitcase and started to walk a short distance to the home of Mr. Frank Moore where she intended telephoning for a jitney to carry her to a Winston-Salem hospital for treatment. Mr. Hagaman found her a short time later unconscious by the side of the road. Mrs. Presnell had been suffering from high blood pressure for some time. She was about 61 years of age.

Funeral services were conducted from the Willowdale Baptist church Friday afternoon by Rev. P. A. Hicks and R. C. Eggers, interment being in the cemetery near the church.

Mrs. Presnell was a good woman and had many friends in Boone as well as in the neighborhood of her old home. Mr. Vance Presnell of Vilas is one of the surviving children.

## NEWS OF COVE CREEK

Sugar Grove, Jan. Feb. 1.—Mrs. Kate R. Curtis of Cleveland, Tenn., has taken charge of the home economics work in the Cove Creek High school. Mrs. Curtis is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

John R. Horton, Lewis Reece and Chas. Hayes returned to Cleveland, Ohio, last week.

At the second presentation of the play, "Ann, What's Her Name?" the sum of \$36.10 was realized. The school is planning to give a negro minstrel in the near future.

The girls' basketball team was victorious over the Boone high school in an interesting game last week. The final score was 24-14.

Mr. N. L. Mast has been quite sick for the last few days, but is improving now.

Mrs. Clark Swift has been very sick for several days.

Mrs. Howard Simpson is teaching a class in art in the school here. She has 35 pupils and rapid progress is being made.

## MR. BOLDIN IMPROVING

Lenoir News Topic, Tuesday: J. A. Boldin, who was seriously injured in an automobile wreck one mile this side of Green Park hotel last week, is improving in the local hospital, and he is considered practically out of danger now. Mr. Boldin was returning home from Boone, driving a truck, and drove on a short stretch of road covered with sleet. The truck skidded, and before passing over the thin coat of ice, slid off the road, and Mr. Boldin was severely injured. Passersby picked him up and brought him to the local hospital.

## Turning Over a New Leaf

It was visiting day at the jail and the uplifters were on deck. "My good man," said one kindly lady, "I hope that since you have come here you have had time for meditation and have decided to correct your faults."  
"I have that, mum," replied the prisoner in heartfelt tones. "Believe me, the next job I pull, this baby wears gloves."—American Legion Weekly.

## WATAUGA'S FIRST BRICK RESIDENCE

Built by Benjamin Council on Brushy Fork Nearly Century Ago; Aunt Polly Horton Recalls Days When House Raising Was Social Event

(Homer Gillett in Winston-Salem Journal)

The traveler on the Boone Trail will pass at Vilas, six miles west of Boone, an old mill with an overshot water wheel which still grinds meal for those who follow the ancient custom of having their meal ground from their own corn, instead of buying it from the store.

Just when this old mill was built by Benjamin Council no one seems to know, not even his daughter, Mrs. Polly Horton, who lives near Sherwood postoffice. It was built before she was born, and she is now eighty-two. It is safe to conjecture, therefore, that the mill is in the neighborhood of a hundred years old, and the old overshot wheel still turns as merrily as when the people of the neighborhood relied entirely on it for their corn meal.

But, according to Mrs. Horton, or Aunt Polly as she is affectionately called by all who know her not all of them depended on her father's mill, for some ground their corn with rude mortars and pestles, just as the Indians did, and as people in many parts of Mexico still do.

Across the road from the mill is a large brick house, the first house made of that material in Watauga county. This house, Mrs. Horton says, was built by her father just before she was born, 82 years ago. It was a mansion in its day, for to bring brick over mountain roads nearly a century ago was more of a problem than people today can realize.

Mrs. Horton does not know where her father got the bricks, but it is probable that they came from Johnson City, sixty miles away. At a time when ten miles made a good day's journey, and when it was not at all unusual for a wagon to be up to its hubs in mud, Benjamin Council did not permit such obstacles to stand in the way of his building the first house in Watauga county.

But house building in those days was not such an unpleasant task as these details might indicate. As all the mountain people faced the same difficulties, all were willing to help a neighbor when he wanted to build a house, harvest a crop, or split rails for a fence. All a man had to do was to let his neighbors know that he would have a "house raising" on such and such a date, and early that morning the neighbors would begin arriving to help with the work.

Mrs. Horton tells that the people made house raisings their principal social events. Usually, they were for constructing log houses; which were put together almost without nails. The neighbors gathered early. Some began cutting the logs and mortising the ends for the walls. Others were set to riving logs to make boards for the floor, and for the roofs. (The roofs were covered with boards laid the same way as slingles.)

When the materials were cut, all began helping to put them into place. The logs of the walls were mortised at the corners, so that no nails were needed there. The sleepers of the floor and ceiling were held in place by wooden pegs, as were the rafters and cross pieces on which the shingle boards were placed. Thus, with all the neighbors helping, a fine log house could be almost erected in a day.

Then came the fun. While the man worked on the house, the woman prepared a fine meal of the very best mountain delicacies that could be procured. All the neighbors who came to the house raising brought some of the best products of their beehives, smoke-houses, milk-houses and—sh! s-sh! even their stills. These were prepared and assembled on a long table improvised under the trees, and all joined in the feast.

After the day's work was done, the new house was dedicated with a dance, in which square dances were interspersed among contests in buck and wing and clog dancing. Far into the night the fiddlers scraped "Turkey in the Straw" and "Sourwood Mountain" from their strings to the accompaniment of the scraping of heavy boots on the new floor and the shouts of the caller, "Ladies to the center, gents circle right," "Swing your opposite; now your own," and an occasional hilarious "Yip! Yip!" from an unusually exuberant dancer.

At length, when the splintered boards of the new floor were worn almost smooth, the dancers dispersed to their homes and left their host and hostess in possession of a new home of their own. No one ever thought of being paid for his day's labor; the fun of the gathering and the satisfaction that comes

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## Will He See His Shadow?



Those who rely upon the ground-hog as the most accurate weather man of all time, will watch the sky today with anxious eye, more especially if at daybreak the sun is not shining. According to the followers of the rodent in this capacity, should he be able to see his shadow at any time during the day he will scurry back into his underground castle, knowing full well that for six weeks the weather will be too rough for him to sally forth. On the other hand, if old sol is hidden throughout the day, spring is on the way.

## EVIDENCE INTRODUCED AS TO HICKMAN'S SANITY

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 31.—The asserted indications of insanity in William E. Hickman were traced through his Arkansas ancestors down through the troubled domestic life of his mother to center upon the mentality of the kidnaper-killer himself in his sanity trial here today. Depositions read into the record by the defense included testimony that Hickman's grandfather, Otto Buak, was considered "crazy." That the defendant's mother, Mrs. Eva Hickman, once was confined in the Arkansas state hospital for nervous diseases. That his father, Thos. Hickman, deserted his family. That the youth underwent a mental transformation after losing an oratorical contest while in high school in Kansas City.

The trial which got under way first of the week, will continue for several days.

## THOS. S. WATSON SUFFERS STROKE OF PARALYSIS

Mr. Thos. S. Watson of the Vilas section, is in a critical condition at the home of his son-in-law, George Green at Lenoir, as a result of a stroke of paralysis on last Saturday. Mr. Watson had gone to the Yadkin Valley for a load of corn and suffered the stroke while there. He was speedily moved to Lenoir and latest advices from his bedside are to the effect that he has never spoken and his friends entertain slight hopes of his recovery.

## TEMPERATURE HERE DURING JANUARY AVERAGED 26 1/2

Mrs. S. M. Ayers, who lives in Daniel Boone Park, has taken the pains to keep an accurate record of the temperatures during the month of January. The coldest day of the month, says Mrs. Ayers, was on the 2nd, when mercury dropped to 16 degrees below zero. The warmest day was the 23rd, the highest temperature being 54. The average temperature for the entire month, Mrs. Ayers reports, was 26 1/2 degrees.

## LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

I wish that there were some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again; where all our mistakes and all our poor selfish grief could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door and never put on again.

I wish we could come on it unaware, like the hunter who finds his lost trail; and I wish that the one whom our blindness had done the greatest injustice of all could be at the gates, like an old friend that waits for the comrade he's gladdest to bale.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind in the Land of Beginning Again; and the ones we misjudged and the ones whom we grudged their moments of victory here, would find in the grasp of our loving hand-clasp more than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best and what had seemed loss had been gain; for there isn't a sting that will not take wing when we've faced it and laughed it away; and I think that the laughter is most what we are after in the Land of Beginning Again.—The Progressive Mortician.

## NEWS OF WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

"Misery Moon" Presented to Small But Appreciative Audience; Students Make Good Showing in Examinations; Social and Personal

Blowing Rock, Feb. 1.—Like the leading character in the play, "Misery Moon," has been dogged by hard luck at every performance. The inclement weather which kept away a large number from the rendition at the Blowing Rock school auditorium was no exception, but those who did see the performance were enthusiastic in their praise of the cast. A good crowd was present, considering the near-zero weather.

The cast was the same as in the former performances. A. E. Mercer appeared in the title role, Miss Anne Greene as the old maid, Mr. Castle as Mr. Tut, Velma Cannon as the ragtime girl, Pearl Webb as Roschud Reese, Paul Foster as the college sheik, Spencer Greene as the ticket agent, Edna Miller as the housewife girl.

Birthday Party  
Celebrating his eleventh birthday, Vaughn Hartley entertained sixteen of his friends last Friday night at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hartley.

A large birthday cake mounted with eleven glowing candles was the center of attraction in the living room. After games were played, refreshments were served to the guests by Mrs. Hartley.

In a contest which followed the refreshments, all the contestants made such high scores that they had to draw straws to decide the winner. Irene Jenkins was awarded the prize.

The guests at the party were Omer Coffey, Edward Robbins, Charles Robbins, Edward Coffey, Luther Green, Dennis Coffey, Jay Castle, Norman Pitts, Verdola Walters, Irene Jenkins, Arlene Jenkins, Baby Coffey, Onal Pitts, Beulah Teaster, Elise Pitts and Bessie Wooten.

## New Grocery Store

Stuart Cannon, formerly an employe of Prevette's store, has opened a grocery store in the building occupied last summer by the Gem Cafe. Mr. Cannon says he will carry a stock of the very best groceries, vegetables and fruits. During the summer season he will carry a stock ample to meet all demands. He will operate the store on the cash-and-carry plan, with a self-service system. This plan will not be installed, however, until the summer season.

## Celebrates Sixth Birthday

Little Miss Lena Miller Robbins celebrated her sixth birthday last Monday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Robbins. Children's games and a birthday cake were enjoyed by the little guests present, who were: Margaret Miller, Louise Prevette, Dore Story, Nancy Ward, Bettie Jane Robbins, Grace Hartley, Bill Williams and Grover Robbins.

## People Going and Coming

Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Norman have returned to their home in Knoxville, Tenn., after Mrs. Norman made a visit of a month to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Crisp. They were accompanied by their daughter, Sarah Jane Mrs. Norman also visited her husband's relatives near Winston-Salem. Mr. Norman joined her here last Saturday, and they proceeded to Knoxville.

Mrs. Harry Cooper returned Saturday from Statesville, where she underwent a serious operation. She is reported to be convalescing rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Robbins were absent Tuesday in Charlotte where Mr. Robbins transacted business.

Cameron Williams has been offered a place in a cabinet shop at Warrenton and is considering accepting it and moving there.

## ATTENTION, COMRADES

Next regular meeting of Watauga Post No. 130, American Legion will meet at the Legion hall, Friday, February 3, at 7:45 p. m. Some important matters to come before the post. Please be on hand.

L. S. ISAACS, Com.  
J. W. NORRIS, Adj.

Submarine slogan: Join the navy and see the next world.—Bridgeport Star.

## ASKS FEDERAL FUNDS TO FIGHT ILLITERACY

Washington, Jan. 31.—Declaring that the spread of the Ku Klux Klan and other mob movements was due to illiteracy and that the United States was lagging behind a number of European countries in education, Representative Berger of Wisconsin, the only Socialist member of Congress has introduced a bill providing for a \$12,000,000 Federal fund to aid the states in remedying the illiteracy problems, the first appropriation of \$2,000,000 to be used within the next six years.