

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1923

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FIVE CENTS A COPY

## Mr. Eggers Writes From Sunny Florida

Local Realtor, Wintering at Fort Lauderdale, Is Favorably Impressed With Resort State

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Feb. 14.—Before coming to Florida, I promised some of our friends that I would write a line to your paper. We left Boone on January 1. I guess all remember how cold it was. It took us a little more than three days to get here. We had a good trip in every way, no accidents or trouble of any kind. The nearer our destination, the warmer the weather was. We found it around 80 and most of the time the thermometer stands from 70 to 80. Children here go barefooted, flowers are in bloom, gardens are growing, vegetables and fruits are being gathered and shipped from here daily.

This is a great country in winter time. People are here from nearly every state in the union.

We took the time as we came down to visit the old Spanish fort at St. Augustine, where we saw many wonderful things, such as ancient relics of war, old documents of writing and even the old fort itself with the thick heavy walls made of rock quarried from an island near the fort and hauled to the place by boats. We were taken through the fort by a guide who explained all the different departments—detail, of which I will not try to give here (but may in a later article), but we saw the court room where they held the courts and tried prisoners of war. Then we saw the prison rooms and the awful dungeon where they kept those that were termed their worst enemies. This dungeon is the darkest place I have ever seen. It is said that the life of prisoners in this dungeon is not over twelve days, and it is only in recent years they paved some of the cells, and in cleaning them out they found quantities of human bones.

We then visited the large room with the "wishing chimney." Tradition has it that whenever you would bow before the large open fireplace in this room and make a wish, it would come to pass. Hence the name "wishing chimney." You can see there the old cooking utensils that were used in those days. In an adjoining room to this is the Chansey M. Dewey collection of ancient war relics and weapons, as well as some of more modern times which is very interesting.

Then we visited a room where you see the works of an ancient skilled taxidermist, the dressing, the dressing of birds, animals and snakes make them appear almost natural. One special attraction here is a Hindu carrying home a rabbit he has slain with bow and arrow.

Next we were taken to the top of the fort which has large courts on top and at the corners are towers that were used for observation points, watching for the enemy during wars on land and sea.

After spending the night in the historic old town at the Ocean View hotel, we left early next morning, taking the ocean boulevard drive, a highway just opened and running along the seacoast for miles, and giving a fine view of the Atlantic. Coming to Palm Beach we stopped for a while, where we saw hundreds of people upon the beach, playing and swimming.

We got to Fort Lauderdale late on Saturday evening and through the courtesy of our good friend, Mr. S. B. Sullivan, he carried us to a house we at once adopted for our home and began keeping house immediately. Went to church next day, also to the beach where we met people just like those we left.

We have seen quite a bit of the East Coast of Florida since we have been here. We have seen Miami, with her skyscrapers, her crowded streets, beautiful parks, etc. Also Miami Beach with its magnificent hotels and throngs of people. This is where Carl G. Fisher's estate is located. Then we saw Coral Gables with its wide boulevards and beautiful gardens and Hialeah with her race tracks, flying field, etc. Then Opaoka, a new town with its nice park and fine collection of wild animals, snakes, birds, etc. In this park you will find animals and birds from many foreign countries. Bears, monkeys, foxes, wolves, wild cats, several kinds of squirrels, rabbits, snakes of all kinds and many kinds of birds, etc. They also have a tower there, high in the air. We went up in it and looked for miles over land and sea. Another feature there is a refuge house for use in time of a storm. It is built of concrete, the walls are five feet thick. We saw President Coolidge and party pass on their way to Havana.

Best wishes to everybody,  
S. C. EGGERS.

It's all right to remember that the early bird gets the worm, but don't forget that the early bird goes to bed early.

## POLITICAL EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK

Highlights of Political Activity of Both Major Parties Summarized From Recent News Dispatches From Over the Country

"Hoover Day" Saturday night have been called "Hoover Day" at the White House, were it not for the fact that all of the political talking was done, not by President Coolidge, but by Republicans from various parts of the country who called on him and who one and all disclaimed having discussed politics in his presence. As they left the executive offices Representative Fort of New Jersey said all of his state's 31 votes would go for Hoover. William M. Calder, former senator from New York, predicted that the commerce secretary would be nominated and would carry New York "against Governor Smith." Mark L. Riquia, the San Francisco oil magnate, said it was futile to ask about the political situation in California, because it was all Hoover.

### Willis-Hoover Fight

Washington, Feb. 17.—The wet and dry issue, now an important factor in the Hoover-Willis fight in Ohio for delegates to the Republican national convention, may serve as a guide for Democrats in choosing their candidate for president in the Houston convention. While both Willis and Hoover are dry, Willis is classed as very dry, indeed so very dry that the wets in Ohio have turned to Hoover as the lesser of the two evils. Of course, what the commerce secretary may say in his answer on prohibition to the letter already sent him by Senator Lorain may somewhat modify the line of cleavage on the issue. But if Willis defeats Hoover by an overwhelming vote the fact will be attributed largely to the stand of the two men on prohibition, it was said here today.

What takes place in the Ohio Republican primary in a wet and dry fight, the Democrats cannot overlook, it was pointed out here, in the selection of their candidate. If the dries, with a candidate like Willis, scores a great victory, it is said, it will be notice to the Democrats to drop candidates like Smith, Reed and Ritchie. For that reason the Republican primary election in Ohio becomes of nationwide importance in more ways than one, whether Hoover wins or loses. Willis is employing every resource at his command to make prohibition the issue. The wets in Ohio have fought Willis many times, and rather emphatically are expected to support Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover, if he is to win, must have dry support in Ohio, because the state has proved itself strongly dry in past elections.

### Profit By Experience?

Washington, Feb. 18.—As the nation's voters cast inquisitive glances at the field of candidates for president, those of Democratic persuasion are receiving a good deal of counsel and some concrete demonstrations of harmony and tolerance to guide him in the November winnowing at the ballot boxes. The Democratic party's 1924 nominee, John W. Davis, points to past and present European executives to support his plea that religion should not be a major issue in the forthcoming race for the White House. Speaking at Columbia, S. C., last night before the South Carolina Bar association, Mr. Davis reminded that gentle England had had in Disraeli, a Jew prime minister, Protestant Canada, a Catholic premier in Laurier, and Catholic France a protestant in Doumergue.

"I'd be ashamed," he said, "to believe that the spirit of tolerance is less in America than in those great democracies I have named."

### Reed on Tour

More counsel for the Democratic party to accept the challenge of issues and not "again fall a victim to its own folly and blither about non-essentials," came from Representative Finis Garrett of Tennessee, speaking at Indianapolis before the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association.

Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, is the first candidate of either party to take the stump. The picturesque campaigner left Washington Saturday to visit at least nine western states.

### Democrats to Meet in Raleigh

March 6 was last Thursday set by State Chairman Dennis G. Brummitt as the date for the biennial meeting of the Democratic state executive committee. The hall of the house of representatives in the capitol at Raleigh was announced as the place of meeting. Business of the meeting will be to select the time and place of the Democratic state convention, to fix a common day for holding a

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## Sinclair, Burns and Day Get Prison Terms

Oil Magnate and Others Guilty of Contempt for Shadowing Jurors

Washington, Feb. 21.—Oil senators were meted out today to Harry F. Sinclair, wealthy oil operator and sportsman, W. J. Burns, widely known detective, and Henry Mason Day of New York, for their part in the shadowing last fall of the Fall-Sinclair oil trial jury. W. Sherman Burns, another defendant, was let off with a fine.

After a criminal contempt hearing that continued for weeks, Justice Siddons sentenced Sinclair to serve six months in the District of Columbia jail. He already was under sentence to spend three months there because of his refusal to testify in the senate Teapot Dome inquiry.

Day was given a sentence of four months and Burns 15 days.

## HUNT FOR MISSING HICKORY BOY IS FUTILE

Hickory, Feb. 20.—Search for Julian Whitener, 13-year-old son of A. A. Whitener, prominent attorney and politician, who has been mysteriously missing from his home here since Saturday, has spread into several states, but tonight, only indefinite news had been received concerning his whereabouts.

Scattering reports have come to the parents over long distance telephone, but so far no tangible trace has been gathered.

Relatives fear that the boy may have been kidnapped and every effort is being made to determine the identity of the "traveling salesman" whom the boy said Saturday morning had invited the boy to ride with him to Charlotte.

## HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE STATE NORMAL

The Normal young men's basketball team has just returned from a trip through Tennessee and Georgia, having played Hawessee in Tennessee and Piedmont College in Georgia, winning over the former by 32 to 20 and the latter 32 to 29. On Monday night the young ladies' team played the ladies' team from Cullowhee Normal and won over the visitors by a score of 17 to 23.

The spring term of the Normal has started off well with an unusual increase in the number registering for the term. The number now enrolled is 163 or 101 more than have ever been registered during the regular year. Also contrary to the idea of many people, more than one-half of these are entirely outside of what is generally considered the mountain section; more than three-fourths of them coming here from east of the Blue Ridge. The average distance of the student body marks a radical change of more than 100 miles, showing that the student body of the Normal is fast becoming decentralized.

Prof. I. G. Greer of the Normal, and Mrs. Greer have just returned from Greensboro where they gave a program of folk-lore songs before the Euterpe Club, consisting of the musicians of that city.

The past Saturday was one of the severest days of the winter, the wind blowing the snow at a terrific rate, so that it was impossible to see at a very great distance. The weather now is bright and clear and considerably warmer.

Below are given some interesting facts about the student body of the Normal for the regular year 1922-23, that may be of interest to the friends of the school in various parts of the state:

Number of students from each county in the state: Alamance, 3; Alexander, 7; Alleghany, 6; Anson, 11; Ashe, 24; Avery, 11; Bertie, 3; Bladen, 9; Brunswick, 3; Buncombe, 1; Burke, 10; Cabarrus, 3; Caldwell, 17; Camden, 1; Caswell, 1; Catawba, 15; Chatham, 1; Cherokee, 2; Clay, 1; Cleveland, 7; Columbus, 3; Davidson, 7; Duplin, 2; Forsyth, 2; Franklin, 1; Gaston, 17; Gates, 2; Granville, 1; Guilford, 3; Harnett, 1; Hyde, 1; Iredell, 31; Jackson, 1; Johnston, 3; Lee, 1; Lincoln, 13; Madison, 2; McDowell, 7; Mecklenburg, 6; Mitchell, 11; Moore, 2; Nash, 1; Onslow, 1; Orange, 1; Pender, 1; Person, 1; Randolph, 1; Richmond, 4; Robeson, 3; Rockingham, 2; Rowan, 3; Rutherford, 15; Scotland, 1; Stanly, 4; Surry, 5; Union, 20; Wake, 2; Watauga, 49; Wayne, 2; Wilkes, 18; Yadkin, 24; Yancey, 10. Total North Carolina counties represented, 63.

South Carolina, Alabama, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia are represented by 28 students.

At the present time there are 164 students enrolled—93 males and 371 female students.

## GAVIN SENTS BINGHAM RUMOR

District Attorney Says His Organization Was Perfect Before He Knew Watauga Man Wanted To Continue as Assistant

Objection to Washington dispatches in state newspapers to the effect that the reason Ralph Bingham of Boone, was not recommended for reappointment as assistant United States district attorney was because he was not a "Hayes man" was expressed in Greensboro Monday by Edwin L. Gavin, the district attorney, according to the Greensboro Record.

Mr. Gavin denied that any animosity existed between himself, Judge Hayes and Mr. Bingham, and asserted that the retiring assistant district attorney had been done a grave injustice by Washington correspondents.

These reports indicated that Mr. Bingham had opposed Judge Hayes' confirmation, was a Lowden man and otherwise detrimental to the scheme of things under the Hayes' regime as United States district judge.

T. C. Carter of Mebane and A. E. Tiley of Mount Airy were recommended for the appointments as Mr. Gavin's assistants and are expected to be sworn in within the next few days.

The district attorney said that he will prepare a statement clearing up the whole affair, which, he branded, as "disgraceful, unfair to Judge Hayes and unfair to Mr. Bingham."

"The reason that Mr. Bingham was not retained was that at the time I was appointed I proceeded to make plans for an organization and that was made before I even knew that Mr. Bingham would want to continue," Mr. Gavin is quoted as saying. "It was not because of any objection on the part of Judge Hayes or myself. Both are very friendly to Mr. Bingham and Judge Hayes knew nothing of the matter until after the appointments were announced."

## THOS. HODGES DIES IN TEXAS

On Thursday morning of last week Mr. J. C. Ray, Mr. W. L. Bryan and possibly others in Watauga, received telegrams announcing the death of Mr. Thomas Hodges at his home in Paris, Texas, at 6 o'clock that morning. Mr. Hodges, with his mother, brothers and sisters, moved to the Lone Star State many years ago, where he and all the other boys succeeded well financially. Tom, as we knew him, reared and educated a large family, who, it is said, are numbered with the best people of his city. He was a farmer, cultivating his own soil and did it on a rather extensive scale, and was planting his early crops when stricken with the illness that proved fatal.

When the family left Watauga for Texas there were ten living children and the master. Death, he claimed them one by one until now only one son and one daughter, Mr. R. P. Hodges, who spends his summers in Watauga, and Mrs. J. C. Ray of Boone Route 1, survive.

Mr. Hodges was a fine, companionable school and playmate, a splendid young man, and we are told that he was a citizen of which any community would justly be proud of up to the time of his death.

May the grass grow green and the birds sing sweetly over the mound that contains the body of our good friend and schoolmate, Tom Hodges.

## PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ADJOURNED ON TUESDAY

Havana, Feb. 20.—The sixth Pan-American congress, which came to a close today, marked a notable departure from the character of previous conferences of this type, by being dominated by controversies of a political nature instead of confining its activities mainly to the study of tangible means of inter-American intellectual, social and economic cooperation. Following closely upon widely advertised incidents in Nicaragua between United States Marines and bandits and upon the unsuccessful efforts of the Argentine ambassador at Washington to obtain mass importation of Argentine products through United States tariff barriers, the present conference began its labors last January amid general predictions of disaster. Conference leaders, therefore, find matter for boasting in the fact that this conference has been second to none in the formulation of actual measures to promote inter-American cooperation and solidarity. They also regard it as the highest compliment to the ability of the United States delegation that the conclusion of every political outburst which seemed directed against them found virtually a vote of confidence in the policies of the Washington government.

## News of Week in and About Blowing Rock

Building Boom in Prospect for Resort As Soon As Weather Permits

Blowing Rock, Feb. 22.—Building promises to boom as soon as the weather breaks up. Material has already been hauled to the ground for the new business building which will be erected by E. G. Pitts on the lot adjacent to the Sanitary Barber Shop. The building will be of brick and the construction 21 by 60 feet, and two stories high. Mr. Pitts said he did not know yet whether he would occupy the building himself or rent it to some other business. At any rate, the first floor will be a store room. The second floor will be constructed either for business purposes or for apartments, depending upon the nature of the demand for the space, Mr. Pitts said.

Stone has been hauled to the lot next to the bank building for the stone business building which Rob Greene will erect this spring.

Material is on the ground for putting a new slate roof on the Presbyterian church. Architect Hibbs of Nashville, Tenn., was here last week to look over the building and to draw plans for remodeling the front, including the erection of a tower. It is unlikely, however, that this part of the work will be attempted this spring, as the treasury does not have enough funds for that purpose.

The Tuesday Evening Club, at its meeting this week with Miss Ethel Holshouser, carried out a program honoring both Lincoln and Washington. The program was opened by the singing of "America the Beautiful." Miss Mabel Coffey then read the Scripture lesson and led in prayer. This was followed by the reading of the Gettysburg address by Miss Louise Icenhour, "To Washington," by Mrs. Stuart Cannon, "Sketch of the Life of Washington," Miss Annie Greene, "Sketch of the Life of Lincoln," Mrs. Robert Green, "Anecdotes Pertaining to Lincoln," Mrs. I. E. Story, "Story of Washington," Miss Ethel Holshouser, "Lincoln's Favorite Poem," Miss Pearl Webb. Refreshments were served by Mrs. W. L. Holshouser, mother of the hostess, who was assisted by Miss Holshouser and Miss Mary Louise Williams.

## PARENT-TEACHER MEETING

Last Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Parent-Teacher association meeting was held in the Demonstration school building. This meeting proved to be one of the greatest ever held from the viewpoint of interest and attendance, sixty-three fathers and mothers being present.

The meeting was opened by invocation by Rev. J. A. Yount, pastor of the Lutheran church. Immediately following a program, most interesting in every way, was presented by the first and second grades, which consisted of songs by the children in these grades.

This program was under the direction of Miss Ethel Bonchelle. The splendid manner in which these children gave their songs convinced those who heard them that they are being well trained in their respective departments.

Following the program, the business session was entered into. Mrs. Smith Hagaman, president of the association, was in charge of the meeting. A report of the membership committee was called for and a report rendered. The fact of the large attendance upon this occasion was indicative of activity on the part of the membership committee. The report of the picture committee was given, and the announcement made that the pictures had come and were ready for distribution. The playground committee in making its report, urged a more hearty response on the part of everybody in the supplying of material or equipment for a playground. The committee also stated that thirty dollars had been collected for this purpose. Several talks were made on this subject.

It was the opinion of those present that a playground, completely equipped, is one of the outstanding needs of the school at the present.

The ways and means committee reported, and under this heading was discussed the fountain fund to which nine dollars has been added. The last committee report was the library committee. Prof. Willford, chairman of the committee, made an interesting report, and at the same time, John E. Brown, speaking in the interest of the library, made an appeal to those present for more books and material for the library, stating that the patrons of the school should not allow the school to continue to be a non-standard school for the sole reason that the library was inadequate.

A vote was taken to determine among those present what grade in the school should be privileged to have in its possession the picture, presented by the Parent-Teacher Association. The fifth grade received the largest number of votes, 19, and was, therefore, presented the picture.

## GO TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

Coming in Contact With the Elements of Society That Attends Church Services Is Within Itself Elevating, Declares Minister

By REV. J. ALONZO YOUNT (Pastor Grace Lutheran Church)

We have noticed with pleasure and profit the articles in The Democrat concerning church going, and we wish to add one more thought briefly.

Separate and apart from the fact that the church is a divine institution and that it is the duty of a man under God to maintain and support it, the very fact that we come in contact with the better element of human society and are almost unconsciously elevated thereby, we should seek such environment, if from no other reason.

Even the atheist and infidel are benefitted by the church and the church-going people, though he may not be honest enough with himself to admit it.

Bob Ingersoll, the much noted and internationally known infidel went to New York City and purchased a fine residence almost under the shadow of one of the largest Protestant churches in the city, and it is said to have made the remark that he felt rather safe in close contact with these simple Christians.

But let us inquire, are there higher motives that should prompt us to go to church than the ones just mentioned? Yes. Early in the history of the human family, God told His prophets to urge the people to assemble at the temple for the purpose of hearing the message He wished to impart to them. Here we behold the faithful and loyal Jew, who, having packed upon the back of his camel or faithful ass, such belongings as were necessary, awaiting with an anxious heart for the man of God to deliver his message. These devout children of God would assemble themselves for worship and for mutual benefit and uplift, under many difficulties and even sacrifices, while we of the present age, under far more favorable conditions, foolishly, yes, even wickedly, remain away from church to our own hurt and to the detriment of others.

Listen once more, you who carelessly and indifferently remain away from church, while you may render all sorts of excuses to the pastor or conscientious church member for not performing your duty, what will you render to God whose watchful eye is ever upon you, when you, together with the whole human family, hear the summoning voice of the Great God, who will bid you appear at the judgment bar to give an account for the deeds done in the body?

Candid reader, this will bring your life and mine before the eye of the Omnipotent God, who will render to every man according to his work.

## NO AGREEMENT YET REACHED BETWEEN BOARD AND FIREMEN

"No, I have no statement to make at this time," said Mayor W. R. Gragg, when seen by a representative of The Democrat Monday afternoon in regard to the so-called "strike" of the local volunteer fire department. However, Mayor Gragg said that he felt that he and the board of aldermen had done all they could to keep the boys on the job. He said the board had agreed to meet all demands presented to it—save one—the speeding of the fire truck on practice runs. And this, it seems, is the main bone of contention between the board and the firemen.

Mr. Gragg said the town was ready to buy the equipment demanded by the firemen, including a new siren—larger than the one now in use—and place two smaller ones in the eastern and western extremes of the city, which, he thought, would answer the purpose for the present.

He stated that the firemen were very mandatory in their demands; that they would not go into a discussion of the matter of reaching an agreement. "They put it up to us to accede to their demands or accept their resignations."

He expressed the hope that an amicable settlement of the affair could be reached and that the present organization could be held intact. But if not, a new company would be organized at once, in order to give the people of the town the protection they are entitled to.

Tid: If a burglar should break into the basement, would the coal chute?

Bit: Naw, but the kindling wood.

ture, Miss Flemming receiving it for that grade.

Two short talks were made by Rev. Yount and Rev. Moser. It was decided that the next meeting will be held on the second Thursday in March and all parents are urged to make their plans to attend this meeting.—Reported.