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FIVE CENTS A COPY

NEWS OF WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

School Closed Wednesday Because of Increased Number of Influenza Cases; Miss Collins Honored on Birthday Anniversary

Blowing Rock, Dec. 19.—Although the influenza epidemic in Blowing Rock is not so serious as in some other parts of the county, the school authorities closed the school this afternoon until after the holidays.

It was first hoped that the school could continue until the regular closing time Friday, but in view of the increasing number of cases of influenza, it was considered best to stop the school as a precautionary measure.

Prof. and Mrs. Collins of the Boone Fork community were hosts last Saturday to a lively party in honor of their daughter, Miss De Estie Collins, celebrating her twenty-third birthday.

The guests gathered in the living room, where they heard a musical program by Miss Collins, Spencer Collins and Clayton Hayes. While they played some lively dance music, Clida Dula entertained the gathering with Charleston dancing.

After playing several games, the guests went to the dining room, where the large birthday cake, adorned with burning candles, was cut. This cake was flanked by two others and surrounded by a number of gifts to Miss Collins.

The guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Collins, Miss Norma Collins, Staple Collins, Miss Ruby Dula, Miss Estha Dula, Miss Clida Dula, Mrs. Joseph J. Teague, Mrs. Mattie Richards, Miss Ruby Richards, Miss Maude Powell, Clayton Hayes, Trey Sims, Carroll Hollifield, his two daughters and his son, Earle Gragg, O. J. Coffey, Murray Coffey and Lloyd Gragg.

D. P. Coffey, who underwent an operation at Dr. Long's sanatorium last week was expected home today. Members of his family have visited Mr. Coffey during his illness.

Mrs. Lou Williams has just returned from Menden, where her birthday and her son's were celebrated at the home of her son Horace Williams. A general family reunion was the result of the party, with about forty persons present.

Harry Klutz has gone to Charlotte where he will work for the Southern Bell Telephone Company.

Hugh Hampton of Aho is slowly recovering from a broken arm, which he suffered last Saturday while he was working on an automobile. He was taken to Dr. Perry at Boone and the bone was set.

Pupils and teachers of the Blowing Rock high school have drawn names for giving presents at the annual Christmas tree Friday afternoon. Each Christmas, the names of all pupils and teachers are put in a hat and drawn. Each person gives a present to the person whose name he draws. The elementary grades are also making preparations for Christmas programs and trees. A Christmas chapel program will precede the various trees.

WRIGHTS ARE HONORED BY NATION AT KITTY HAWK

Orville Wright, Dayton, Ohio, manufacturer and pioneer aviator, was the center of attraction at an international celebration staged at Kitty Hawk, N. C., Monday when a cornerstone was laid atop Kill Devil hill for a memorial honoring him and his late brother Wilbur, who at that spot, 25 years ago, proved to an unbelieving world that man could fly. Standing modestly on one corner of the platform erected on top of the hill from which the memorable flight was made, Mr. Wright listened to tributes to him from Governor A. W. McLean, Secretary of War D. W. Davis and Senator Hiram Bingham, proclaiming him the greatest genius of the twentieth century. Practically everyone whose name is known in aviation circles was present for the ceremonies with the exception of Col. Lindbergh, who disliked riding in a motor bus and did not attend, the duck hunters along the coast having brought pressure enough to bear to prevent the presence of flying machines. Thus was the birthday of aviation celebrated without a flight by man.

ARREST CITY OFFICIALS

Alleged open defiance of the prohibition laws at Leadville, Colo., has brought the arrest of ten city officials, including the mayor. The arrests were made under bench warrants issued by a federal judge on charges of conspiracy in connection with the lax enforcement of the laws.

A. S. N. S. Closed Last Friday at Noon

Because of the influenza situation at the Appalachian State Normal, it was decided to suspend work at noon Friday until after the holidays. The officials took this step solely in the interest of the student body, so that all of them may spend the holidays at home, if they desire. About one hundred cases had been reported in the dormitories, up until Friday, but all will be released to go home just as soon as the doctors permit. The dormitories will remain open until all patients are able to leave.

The news is going abroad of the 25th year of aviation and how much it has grown and developed over the world and its wonderful achievements during this quarter of a century; but this just reminds the friends of the Appalachian State Normal that it, too, started in a small way 25 years ago, and has developed into one of the most helpful institutions in the state, and it is felt that its progress has not yet ended, but that it will develop more and more.

WRIGHT AND LINDBERGH AT AVIATION CONFERENCE

Washington, Dec. 18.—Two of the outstanding figures in the world of aviation came together in dramatic fashion today when Orville Wright, the first man to fly a motor driven heavier-than-aircraft, escorted Chas. A. Lindbergh to the room of the International Civil Aeronautics conference to receive the Harmon trophy in recognition of his famous New York to Paris flight.

At the request of William P. MacCracken, assistant secretary of commerce for aeronautics, who presided at today's plenary session of the conference, Mr. Wright escorted the famous flier to the speakers' platform amid applause from the assembled representatives of forty nations.

The tribute climaxed the plenary session at which Mr. Wright had heard new accounts of the sensational progress of the industry he founded 25 years ago at Kitty Hawk, N. C., when he rose from the earth for the first time in sustained flight.

COVE CREEK NEWS ITEMS

Sugar Grove, Dec. 19.—Sixteen pupils of the Cove Creek high school entered the preliminary declamation and reading contest, the winners, one boy and one girl, to enter the contest with practically all the high schools of western North Carolina at Mars Hill College on December 14 and 15. The preliminary contest was held on last Monday night in the local auditorium. The speakers showed careful preparation and real talent. Miss Ruth Curtis and Oscar Brown were the winners. These young people, accompanied by Miss Grace Blalock of the English department, entered the finals at Mars Hill College where Miss Curtis won second place in the preliminaries on Friday afternoon and was thus entitled to speak in the finals on Saturday morning. We congratulate these representatives on their fine talent as shown in this contest.

Mrs. Howard Simpson, art teacher, has been sick with influenza for several days. There are a number of cases among the pupils also, but it has not been necessary yet to close the school.

The heating plant for Henson's Chapel church is being installed. It will be ready for operation by January first.

The local Boy Scouts defeated the Brushy Fork team in two basketball games last week.

The Home Economics club of the school gave a very pleasant social hour Friday night of last week.

George Taylor narrowly averted serious injury a few days ago when he was struck by a car driven by Dan Perry.

Miss Thelma Perry is home for the holidays from Carson-Newman college.

James M. Horton is home for the holidays from Wake Forest college.

Nitrate of Soda Fatal to Fine Herd of Cattle

Five fine dairy cows, the property of Mr. Clyde Perry of Beaver Dam, died Monday after having eaten a considerable quantity of nitrate of soda, which had been stored away for agricultural purposes. The cattle were among the finest in the county, the worth of the herd having been estimated at as high as a thousand dollars. Shortly following the poisoning of the cows, a daughter of Mr. Perry became ill and it was at first thought she had likewise been poisoned from drinking milk. She was rushed to the Watauga Hospital where there is doubt as to the cause of the illness. Her condition at present is not regarded as unduly alarming.

For Scarred Brown Shoes

When toes of brown shoes become scuffed or worn, paint them with brown iodine, then polish as usual.

God's Christmas Gift

BY DR. WILLIAM O. GORDON,
Pastor Cove Creek, Willowdale and Bethel Baptist Churches.

Text: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."—Matt. 1:21.

When we comprehend the backward and forward reach of Bethlehem, we do not wonder that all that is grand crowds around the cradle-manger. It is worthy of all. Let the Star shine. Let the Magi give gifts. Let the Shepherds worship. Let the angel-faces flash out from the great dome overhead. Let the church bells chime. Let the sacred harps and organs respond to the master hand that sweeps their strings and flies over their keys, and let them turn the common air into praise. Let Christian carols roll over this wide earth, and echo among the stars. Let the great universe of God jubilate. Let everything in heaven and earth shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest! God's Christmas Gift." "Thou shalt call him Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."

Once again a tired world turns to behold the Christ Child. Thou shalt call His name Jesus.

Ordinarily we speak only in suppressed hopefulness of what we dare look forward to in naming new-born babes. We hope they will be good. We pray they may be so. We make no forward announcements. We dare not challenge the future with a name. Names await their interpretation from the recipient. John Smith was about as common and meaningless a name as a babe could receive, but today it carries a meaning beyond all the commonness of it to a real place in the world's roster. Abraham Lincoln was handed to us as obscure a babe as was ever slipped into an unknown cradle in this strange world of ours. But that humble, poor, ignorant boy in the backwoods loneliness has come out to pack that name so full of meaning that it cannot be left off the most exacting list of all time greatness in the human history. The way of human names is to build meaning into them. Only God can dare name in exacting prophecy His own Son. Jesus was named presumptively. He was named in divinely bold confidence toward the hardest task a world could know. He was commissioned to the accomplishment of that task, or to the wearing of a great mockery in His Name. There was no uncertainty about it. It shrank in no fear. It asked no compromise. It shouted a challenge. It announced a committed outcome. "You shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."

A King's Lovee in a Barn

Humble little Babe this. Babe in a manger. Babe with humble parents beside Him. Babe from a despised town. Never mind all that; you are talking in ordinary talk of ordinary people. But God has something to say here. Lift that Babe from that manger and make the bold announcement. Don't be afraid. This is God's business. Send the wise men around this humbling way. They are lost. They went man-wise. They took the road to Jerusalem. They look for cradles of kings. Tell them not to look in palaces, but in a stable. Not in Jerusalem, but out at Bethlehem. Tell them not to be disquieted now; having brought all their rich gifts selected for quarters of kings; they can leave them in a barn out at David's city, and be glad. Call Him Jesus! Call Him Jesus because of what He will do.

Reaching down all the forward ages with all that they can ever come to mean, God brings the reasons for His Son's name. He knows. He does not guess. This is not a name writ in mere hope. This is God's way. Call Him Jesus! He is but a Babe now, and you short-sighted folk about that manger cannot dream what He will do. This is not dream matter. I will tell you—Jesus will save His people from from their sins.

No such talk as this was ever before heard beside a cradle, and what is more, will never be heard again. But from that announcement a new force must be dealt with in the world, and a new campaign was begun. Mankind has never been the same since Jesus came. When God makes announcement, we may well start preparation. Up from that mangered mystery in Bethlehem comes a new face to be seen along the human way. The cry of that unusual Infant was to become a challenging voice in the whole human story. He was to ask audience at the bar of conscience. He was to die a tragic death, and set by death a deathless hope against death. That is its deepest meaning.

Present-Day Boast of Practical Things

What I want now at Christmas-time to do is to call the attention of our super-practical age to the fact that the most practical thing in the whole world's life is the heaven-ascribed contract which named Jesus when He came, and consumed Him as He lived, and died, and arose, to save His people from their sins. What do we mean by our boast of the practical? We mean matters pertaining to mortality. Houses and lands, roads and rails, money and stocks, bridge parties and a host of other things that we do. What do we mean when we strut about in the practical? God is in the asking now. The soul is in the balance. Sin is involved. Eternity is at the door. What is practical, anyhow, Jesus Christ is supremely practical in the estimation of God. When you sit down with ultimates, and seek the meaning of the practical, it is God, and not our boast of the mere things that we poor deluded humans strive for, cling to and fight for. Houses and lands, money and stocks or mastery at bridge or popularity amid our little selected social set.

Not to make us rich. Not to heal our mortal diseases. Not to strengthen our tiny hands, not to keep up our mortality. All these things and the many other things we find ordinary emphasis in, we do ourselves, and they are all good, I suppose, but we must keep them in their own respective places. For when we take our stand where the great waves of eternity begin to lift about us, and where the drinking horizon of forever begins to fall back, and the arching heavens of our destiny begin to loom in the escaping illimitable-ness of immortality, and everything else but the soul actually falls away; houses crumble, gold tarnishes, mountains stagger, oceans recede, and the soul—the great naked soul—stands alone; then we begin to recognize what it was that so completely absorbed the purpose of God the Father, and so utterly consumed the passion of His Son, and wrote "practical" with a stencil of destiny as its only meaning. Saving His people from their sins is the eternal practicability of God in Jesus.

In these days when fundamental seems a word of much concern, let me note here—this is fundamental. This is the one fundamental hope of our troubled world, so important that God would with it name His Son. The terrible possibility of a man becoming Herod, or Nero, or De Midei, or Tamerlane, makes peculiarly meaningful the crisis of the soul, which also makes possible Paul, Luther, Wesley or Shaftesbury. You cannot read your way into the world's story, even a scant way, without being convinced that it has been set for tragedy. Such tragedy goes tramping there that has not been satiated by drawing of human blood, but has actually reached out mean hands to draw also the very blood of God and stain Calvary divine red. There is a hell in human sin. There must be a heaven in human righteousness.

The way of sin struck man all across the ages has still carried the glow of His greatness. He is no ordinary creature as He goes there about his little earth, sin-stained but still pre-eminently great. That great, haunting fact threw a shadow across His whole story. We always have had to write in the final path of all human triumphs a pathetic verdict. Dizzy with victories, intoxicated with success, frenzied with his gathered riches! Man! Man! Man! But he is a sinner. That verdict has come on. We can't build it out. We can't dress it out. We can't paint it out. We can't sing it out. We can't dance it out. We can't buy it out. The fault is fatal. It stands invalidatingly by to make clear to everyone of us, and everywhere, that humanly there is helplessness ahead.

But God has never taken His hand off this world, nor left His children alone. Little matters it what else we may gain or not gain. The very same story of the soul is written in jungle and mansion. The cradle altar in the dark forests of Africa, the huge circle of ponderous stones set in mute meaning on the hill at Stonehenge. The pitiful stumbling way of the darkened multitude on the banks of the Ganges; the high altar in St. Peter's at Rome, the altar of our humblest churches everywhere and always mankind knew and knows that they must have help in this matter of sin. It cannot be evaded. No conduct will satisfy it. Deep down in the human soul abides the conscious need of a Saviour. Into that sacred place none but God in Christ can come. And at that sacredly guarded post of the soul universal God takes His stand and authorizes there that His Son be named Jesus because He will save us from our sins.

B. & L. Checks Being Mailed to Stockholders

W. H. Gragg, secretary of the Watauga Building and Loan Association is this week mailing out interest checks to about 300 prepaid stockholders, in the aggregate sum of \$13,000. These checks represent the earnings of the shareholders based on an interest rate of 6 per cent for the year now closing. A letter which is being inclosed with each of the checks, calls attention to a new order of the state insurance department, under which all the associations must operate, demanding that the rate paid be reduced to 5 per cent. Under the new ruling the interest will be paid semi-annually, in the last days of June and at the last of December instead of annually as heretofore. By order of the directors the entrance fee has been lowered from 50 to 25 cents per share on prepaid stock. New 5 per cent certificates are at the office of Mr. Gragg, urging the shareholders to bring in or mail old certificates so that the new ones may be issued. The new ruling will be in effect January 1.

The year just closing marks the most satisfactory period of time the local association has ever enjoyed. The sixteenth series will open January 1, and according to Secretary Gragg, prospects are bright for making it the record-breaking series.

SHIP MAY SPEND MANY WEEKS IN THE AIR

Two army airplanes have completed successfully a refueling operation while flying over the Virginia hills near Washington. The test was preliminary to an endurance test which is to start in California January 1, and the army fliers are hopeful that the Fokker monoplane to be used in the test may remain aloft for weeks. In the test 50 gallons of gasoline was lowered in less than one minute from a 75-foot hose dangling from a transport plane to the cockpit of the big Fokker. The planes were flying at an altitude of about 1,500 feet at approximately 80 miles an hour. The larger project is designed to give the motor and other equipment the acid test, and to determine the staying qualities of the hand-picked personnel.

S-4 AT BOTTOM OF SEA ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On the first anniversary of its sinking with 40 men, the submarine S-4 has been sent to the bottom of Long Island Sound and with a gale blowing above them divers went down to test newly-developed safeguards against undersea disasters. The vessel was sunk in 55 feet of water. The divers then went below to attach huge chains to four lifting hooks which had been placed on each side of the hull. Pontoons are to be sunk and made fast to these chains. According to the theory, as the water is expelled from these, they will be caused to lift the submarine to the surface.

AUTOMOBILE DEATHS MAKE RECORD IN NOVEMBER

With a steady increase since June in the number of fatalities from automobiles, North Carolina set up a new record of such killings in October with 71 deaths, and shattered this new record in November with 77 deaths, according to the report just issued by the motor vehicle bureau of the department of revenue.

The total for the twelve months period ending December 1, was 655 persons killed, and the records show that reckless driving was responsible for the most of the deaths. It is pointed out that besides the dead, hundreds will go through the remainder of their lives maimed and crippled.

Dead from Influenza in Week Placed at 379

Washington, Dec. 18.—The number of deaths from influenza as well as the number of new cases of the disease were shown to have increased during the last week in statistics compiled by the census bureau of the department of commerce, and in reports received today by the public health service.

The commerce department announced that dispatches from 55 cities showed 379 deaths from influenza during the week ending December 15, as compared with 284 deaths from the same cause in these cities and 73 other cities during the week ending December 8. An increase in the death rate of the country also was shown by the figures. The mortality for last week was 15.2 per 100,000 population, compared with 12.7 for the corresponding period last year.

At the same time the public health service estimated that there were at least 403,185 new cases of influenza.

GUARD AGAINST FLU COMPLICATION

Dr. Morris Fishbein, Editor of Medical Journal Says Present Sweep is Minor Outbreak; Gives Timely Advice

The present sweep of influenza over the country is one of the minor outbreaks which regularly occur between major epidemics, Dr. Morris Fishbein, of Chicago, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said in a statement issued last Friday.

Dr. Fishbein discussed the probable causes of the spread of the infection and gave suggestions for treatment.

"Epidemics of respiratory disease similar to influenza have occurred at fairly regular intervals approximating 3 years since 1802, the most severe epidemics being those of 1802, 1830, 1871, 1889 and 1918," Dr. Fishbein said. "Between these major outbreaks there occur regularly minor outbreaks such as that of the present year. From 20 to 50 per cent of the population are attacked in all these epidemics, and in most of them there are relatively few deaths. The disease shows a remarkable lack of relationship to weather conditions."

"The incubation period for influenza is very short—probably between 24 and 48 hours. The onset of the disease is sudden; by the second or the fourth day the symptoms, which include fever, headache, pain in the back and legs and prostration out of proportion to the severity of the symptoms, have usually begun to disappear."

"The chief danger of the condition are not so much from the disease itself as from the secondary complications, such as pneumonia, infections of the sinuses and ears and the nervous system in persons who do not take the proper care of themselves following infection. The disease, like most respiratory diseases, does not produce immunity of any important duration."

"Prevention of contact with other infected human beings is the only known method of certain protection against infection."

"Unfortunately, under modern conditions of civilization it is practically impossible for any human being to avoid contact with others for any considerable period of time. There was convincing proof during the 1918 epidemic that the closing of schools, theaters, churches, moving pictures shows or business establishments did not influence the spread of the disease, and in large communities little, if anything, is gained by closing such places."

"The only possible scientific advice relative to the care of the disease is essentially simple, since there are no specific measures, and since the condition must be handled as the various symptoms develop. The person who is sick should go to bed immediately and should have the attention of a competent physician. It is probably well that he be isolated more or less in the home and that measures be taken to provide that he does not spread the disease by coughing and sneezing, and that he does not use the same towels, napkins, drinking cup and eating utensils as other members of the family."

"Certainly the sick person should not be permitted to feed or play with children."

"Since the patient is likely to have a chill or to feel chilly, warm drinks, such as hot tea or lemonade or orangeade are comforting and support his strength. Hot water bags at the feet are helpful. The patient is not likely to express much hunger or appetite during the first 24 hours of the disease, he should not be forced to take food, but he should, however, have plenty of water."

"After the severe symptoms have subsided, he should be given plenty of food to restore his strength, since the disease produces prostration. The patient should be kept warm, but sufficient fresh air and sunlight should be permitted to enter the room. It is important that the physician watch closely for the development of symptoms of pneumonia, the most serious of the secondary complications. It is also important that the patient does not attempt to get up too soon, since undue exposure in the weakened condition lowers resistance and makes secondary complications likely."

BUYS A TRUNK AND FINDS A BODY IN IT

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 18.—J. E. Butts purchased a trunk for \$14 at an "unclaimed baggage" sale at a railway station. Inside he found a miniature casket containing the dismembered body of a Japanese. The trunk was lined and hermetically sealed with metal. Resting on the casket was an imperial Japanese passport, made out to Hisamata Zan, 48, a native of Okinawa Ken. The trunk had been in the custody of the Canadian Pacific for a year.

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