

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLII, NO. 39

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1930

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Pistols

The Massachusetts Legislature is considering a bill to prohibit the manufacture of pistols within the State.

Nowhere else in the world are pistols sold so freely as in this country. And nowhere else in the world are there so many murders. Rifles and shotguns are used for sport. Pistols are made for shooting only one kind of game. Think that over. The only purpose for which a pistol is made or used is to kill human beings!

The knowledge that one carries a pistol invites attack. Most shootings arise from the fear that the other fellow will shoot first. The unarmed man is less likely to be shot than is the gun toler.

Irish

Wherever you go you can find folk of Irish descent. And wherever you find them you will find them with a finger in the political pie. Politics and fighting seem to be gifts with which every Irishman is born. One of the greatest leaders of the American Revolution was General Sullivan. A McMahon was a Marshal of France and afterwards President of the French Republic. Admiral O'Higgins is one of Chile's national heroes. O'Reilly Street in Havana is named for a Cuban patriot of Irish descent. One of the members of the French Cabinet which took office in February is named Hennessy. Tradition has it that the Obregon's of Mexico were really O'Briens. Three Presidents of the United States have been of Irish stock. Men of practically unmixed Irish descent control the governments of New York City and Boston and of many other American cities.

The secret seems to be in the Irishman's innate ability to adapt himself to his surroundings, a quality which many other races seem to lack.

China

The North China Republic seems to be on the way to firm establishment on the basis of democracy as we understand it. That part of China has been free from war since 1928. The name of the old city of Peking has been changed to Peiping, which means "City of Peace." The leaders of the Nationalist party have inaugurated an educational program looking toward the establishment of a constitutional, representative government.

It may take China a hundred years, and probably will, to lift its people to the levels of civilization as we understand it, but the present movement is the most hopeful of any which have been undertaken.

Salvation

Fifty years ago, on March 10, 1880, six young women dressed in strange-looking blue bonnets with red ribbons across them and wearing blue capes lined with scarlet, landed at Castle Garden. They were the advance guard of the Salvation Army, sent across the Atlantic by General William Booth, that inspired son of a Jewish pawnbroker, to carry out his militant Christianity, with the aid of the bass drum and the cornet, into the slums of America.

They and their successors have reached down to levels which the churches had never plumbed and lifted thousands of hopeless, weak and miserable human beings into a new life of faith, hope and courage.

No other organization or sect so endeared itself to our soldiers in France as did the Salvationists, with their human, simple, selfless helpfulness. No other religious organization today holds the respect of all intelligent church people as the Salvation Army does. It has proved itself the friend of the poor and the unfortunate. Its leaders and members have justified their faith by their works.

Corporations

The business corporation, the shareholders in which have no liability for the company's debts beyond the amount of their investment, is only 100 years old. In 1830 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted the first law permitting manufacturers to incorporate. Today more than nine-tenths of the nation's business, aside from farming, is done by or through corporations.

Corporate farming is the next step. Farmers are learning about corporations and corporate management through their selling co-operatives. In several sections corporations are operating farms successfully.

The most important thing we have learned about business corporations in 100 years is that their success depends almost entirely on their management. They do not run themselves. And the success of corporate farming will depend entirely upon the management of the farming corporations.

TAXES MUST BE LISTED THIS YEAR AS OF APRIL 1

In accordance with the provisions of the new State law, taxes this spring must be listed as of April 1 instead of May 1 as has been the rule in former years. This information came from J. Harding, Watauga Tax Supervisor, Monday. Mr. Hardin has inserted a special notice in The Democrat this week giving a complete list of the times and places set apart for the listing of properties pursuant to the law. The names of the list takers are also included.

PROF. I. G. GREER NOT A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

Boone Man Issues Statement in Which He Announces Withdrawal From Contest. Fight Will Be Made to Throw Eighth District in Republican Column. Local Politicians Saw Strong Candidate in Greer.

I. G. Greer, professor of Citizenship at Appalachian State Teachers College, in a statement recently given to The Democrat, made public his intention of withdrawing from the race for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Eighth District. The popular educator, whose potential candidacy has been boosted by party men throughout this section, professed his thanks to Watauga Republicans for their support and in retiring from the contest pledged his willing allegiance to the nominee who will oppose the veteran incumbent, "Farmer Boh" Denton in the fall election.

Since the announcement of Walter R. Baughness, Jefferson attorney, for the Congressional nomination, letters have been coming in from every portion of the district urging Professor Greer to make known his position. It will be remembered that the Boone man led the Republican State ticket in the last election for Superintendent of Public Instruction, and his extreme popularity made him, according to party leaders, one of the most available candidates in the Eighth.

It is understood that an aggressive fight will be made this fall to send a Republican to Congress from this district, the Democratic majority having been materially cut in the last election. In his statement, Professor Greer stated that a candidate whose views and whose life is in harmony with the principles that are advocated by the Grand Old Party will have a good chance to win.

Local politicians are of the opinion that Greer would have offered the strongest opposition of any Republican to the Democratic incumbent.

His statement follows:

"For some time many of my Republican friends have been urging me to enter the race for Congress in the Eighth District. Although personally I have no political ambition, I have at times been tempted to yield to the courteous requests of friends and allow my name to go before the convention. But after thinking the matter through, I have decided not to enter the race.

"For a number of years I have been giving my best time and thought to the problems of education. My ambition is to contribute something toward the building of a good citizenry in the community and State. When I consider the opportunity for rendering this service, the lure of the classroom and of the educational field is stronger than that of political ambition.

"I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to those who have expressed to me, either in person or by letter, a desire to have me enter this race. I appreciate the confidence they have manifested in me. I am giving this statement to the public in fairness to others who may wish to secure the nomination.

"According to local Republicans, Professor Greer may be appointed as permanent chairman of the Republican convention which convenes in Charlotte on April 17th.

Capt. Mordecai Writes From Philippine Land

The Democrat is in receipt of a letter from its good friend Captain Alfred Mordecai, who for a long time has been stationed with the American army at Fort Mills, Philippine Islands. He tells of his intentions of leaving the Philippines on the 11th of this month, and says it will be three months before he is again settled. Except from the letter furnish interesting reading:

"It has been a great pleasure to receive and read the Democrat over here in the Philippine Islands. The mails often failed me otherwise, but I was seldom disappointed, as the little home paper came quite regularly with all the news fit to print, and though more than a month late, it usually made me feel quite at home and content.

"One day last month while on a hike through the Bontoc Mountains, Central Luzon, I halted an hour or two to rest on the slope of a hill overlooking some very picturesque landscape, including a native village with several hundred small grass-covered houses, surrounded by rice terraces and tropical jungles, and out of my pack fell part of a November issue of the Democrat. It was a very strange feeling indeed to be sitting there in one of the wildest spots of Luzon, ten thousand miles from Boone, reading about Watauga County's preparations for Thanksgiving Day and the Boone Civic League.

"I enclose a close-up view of an Igorate couple standing in front of their home. Don't draw any wrong impressions of the Bontoc man—For though primitive, he is courageous, industrious, self-respecting, honest and withal a pretty good fellow—just about as good as any of us so-called civilized people.

"I may see you in Boone sometime late in the spring. Coming home via China, Honolulu, San Francisco, Panama, New York, Washington, D. C. and Bailey's Camp, North Carolina."

Three shipments consisting of 240 head of hogs will be made from Cumberland County in April, reports the county agent.

Boone Musicians Will Broadcast Over WBT

Next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock two of Boone's most talented musicians, Miss Ruth Coffey and Mr. Porter, will "go on the air" from Station WBT, Charlotte. For thirty minutes the great radio audience will be treated to a spicy program of violin and piano selections by these artists, and the manner in which the initial broadcast is received will, it is stated, determine whether or not an extended contract will be signed.

Miss Coffey is the daughter of Mrs. E. S. Coffey, and for the past several years has been an instructor of piano at the Appalachian State Teachers College here. The charming young lady has been widely acclaimed for her work as an entertainer, and it is understood that both she and Mr. Porter satisfactorily passed necessary tests at the broadcasting station recently.

Mr. Porter is a native of Arkansas, but has been making his home here for more than a year. He is a private instructor in violin, his studio being located at the Greene Inn, and his ability in the profession of his choice has merited the praise of a host of music-lovers throughout this section.

The young couple will perhaps be the first residents of Boone to face the microphone, and it is expected that a majority of the town's radio fans will tune in on WBT next Sunday for their performance.

Mr. Lee Greene Dies At Stony Fork Home

Mr. Lee Greene, 68 years of age, a highly respected citizen of Stony Fork Township, died at his home last Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock following an illness of more than a year's duration. His condition had been critical for more than three months, he having been a sufferer from leakage of the heart.

The remains were laid to rest in Laurel Springs Baptist Church Cemetery near the Greene home Thursday afternoon, the pastor of that church conducting the last rites. Mr. Greene, the father of a large family, was held in high esteem by a host of friends who were made sorrowful by his not unexpected demise.

Surviving are six sons and three daughters; R. E. Greene of Boone, J. C. Greene of Brownwood, W. G. Greene of Laxton, Grady Greene of Laxton, M. C. Greene of Ashland, W. V. Van Curney Greene of Laxton, Mrs. J. M. Young of Laxton, Mrs. H. O. Kay of Seattle, Wash., Miss Della Greene of North Wilkesboro. One daughter, Mrs. Charles Watson, died several years ago.

All of his children, with the exception of Mrs. Ray, were present for the funeral.

Personality Conference At Lees-McRae College

On Friday, March 21, a group of about sixty high school students assembled at Lees-McRae College for the purpose of studying the value of personality and how to obtain it. Fine schools were represented, Harris High School, Newland High School, Spruce Pine, Cove Creek and Lees-McRae.

The students and teachers were delightfully entertained by the members of Lees-McRae College. Meals were served in the Tennessee Hall to the members of the conference immediately after the students had finished. On Saturday evening dinner was in the form of a banquet where many songs, yells and toasts were enjoyed by all.

The conference opened with the devotionals by Rev. Smith of Spruce Pine, after which Professor Kenneth J. Foreman, tutor of Bible and philosophy at Davidson College, gave an interesting address on "What Is Personality?" He said that a personality had four walls, and the lack of one of these walls would cause it to fall. (1) a healthy body, (2) an alert mind, (3) a social side, (4) a sense of communion with God.

On Saturday morning group conferences were held and a personality diagnosis was made. Many of the students found that they failed. On Saturday afternoon Dr. Robert Yost, of King College, gave an inspiring lecture on "How Can Personality Help Me to Succeed?" He gave many illustrations from his own observations showing the value of personality in success. After dinner in the evening Mr. Victor M. Davis, University of Tennessee, gave an address on "How Can I Obtain a Winning Personality?" He held Christ up as an example to all.

Last of all, the resolutions were read. It was decided that the meeting would be held again next fall. Those who attended the meeting are looking forward to the opportunity of being there again, and it is to be hoped that many other schools will take advantage of this privilege to meet with other high schools and study character building.

Youngest Lawyer is Admitted to the Bar

Mr. Wade Brown, 21 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Brown of Blowing Rock, still a student at Wake Forest College, passed the Bar Association examination in February and was sworn in as a practicing attorney on Monday morning by His Honor, Judge Harding. Young Brown is a scion of one of our best families, and one of rare intelligence. He is many years the junior of any member of our local bar and is to be congratulated. His rapid advancement is far out of the ordinary and his success in his chosen profession is an easy prediction.

W. H. GRAGG HOME RAZED BY FLAMES THURSDAY NIGHT

Prominent Local Realtor Suffers Loss of Perhaps \$15,000 When Fire Destroys One of City's Most Beautiful Homes. Losses Are Partially Covered by Insurance. Nearby Buildings Saved From Flames.

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the home of Mr. W. H. Gragg on North Water Street Thursday night, inflicting a loss which has been variously estimated at from \$12,000 to \$15,000. The latter figure is believed to be the more accurate, in view of the fact that an inventory made since by Mr. and Mrs. Gragg accounts for almost \$10,000 in furnishings alone. The home was one of the most beautiful in the city and was elaborately furnished.

The Gragg family was in attendance at a performance of the lyceum troupe at the Demonstration School building when fire was discovered by passersby. The local volunteer fire company was on the scene within a space of minutes, but the interior was so nearly gutted that their efforts were directed toward the protection of the nearby buildings. A wash house and barn nearby were saved in their entirety, and the home of B. T. Taylor was undamaged, due to the efficient work of the firemen. It was impossible, however, to remove anything from the Gragg home. The fire seemed to have originated in the living room of the home, where an indoor furnace was employed to heat the building, but the exact cause of the flame has never been determined.

On Friday the debris was removed from the lot, however, Mr. Gragg has not announced whether or not building operations will be commenced. Meantime he and his family are spending the time with relatives and other neighbors, while another residence owned by him nearby is being furnished.

The losses are said to have been partially covered by insurance.

Community Day Rally At Blowing Rock Sat.

Blowing Rock, March 26.—Arrangements are being carried to completion for the community day rally Saturday. Under the direction of Mr. G. C. Robins and Mr. E. G. Underdown, the school grounds will be so arranged that the grounds will be suitable for a fair and social, and a committee of ladies is making arrangements for a big dinner to be served the workers in the town hall.

Every worker (and every man or boy interested in his school and community is invited to come.) Should bring some food—beef, mutton, turkey, or if possible, a team.

Any observer, noting how the grounds have been improved by the shrubbery planted around the building a year ago, can see the possibilities the large, sloping, well drained grounds have for improvement, and can well see how the committee's slogan, "Blowing Rock school grounds the most attractive in the county," can be put into effect with a little effort and co-operation from the community.

Anybody who will spare a day, even in our busy farming season, or even half a day to serve his community on this project is requested to inform either Mrs. Paul Klutz or Mrs. Howard P. Holshouser, president of the Parent-Teacher Association, under whose sponsorship the work is undertaken.

The two high school literary societies are working as teams to enlist the community as a body, the reward being a mysterious "treat" offered by the Parent-Teacher Association to the winning group, and another prize to the room producing the most attractive poster in connection with the rally.

Working on the basis that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," the day's activity will end with the community music in the school auditorium, beginning at 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

The program Saturday morning will begin with music by the Blowing Rock Band, which will play again during the noon hour, and a talk by the Mayor and other public-spirited citizens.

W. John Gragg, of Boone's Fork, has donated the shrubbery which is to be set Saturday.

Date for G. O. P. Meet Changed to April 10th

The Republican county convention will be held in the courthouse in Boone on Monday, April 7th, instead of on the 14th, as was previously announced. This information was given out Monday by Republican Chairman W. H. Gragg, who explained that the change in Republican plans was brought about by the announcement that the congressional convention would be held in Lenoir on the 10th. Thus, should initial plans have been carried out, Watauga would have had no delegates when the candidate for Congress is named.

Precinct meetings will be held in the various townships on Saturday, April 5, at which time delegates to the county convention will be selected.

The purpose of the convention, it is pointed out, is to elect the delegates to the State, Congressional, Senatorial and Judicial conventions to be held during the year. Watauga County is entitled of fourteen delegates at these conventions, and other than their election, no business is expected to come up for consideration.

A. C. Gayle Addresses Independent Merchants

A "cyclone" Gayle, of Shreveport, La., a member of the staff of Radio Station KWKH, addressed a mass meeting of Watauga business men at the courthouse in Boone on Tuesday evening. A crowd of more than one hundred and fifty heard the speaker flay chain stores and their practices, mail order houses with Wall Street connections, and citizens of the community who buy from them.

Mr. Gayle during the course of his most convincing talk laid the blame for present economic conditions on a centralization of wealth which has been brought about by the chain systems. He asserted that if these institutions enjoy the same growth in the next ten years that they have in the past, that the middle classes, which compose the backbone of our social structure, will be reduced to poverty. The unfair trade practices of certain large chain stores were brought to light by the speaker, who urged co-operation of independent merchants as their only salvation.

At the close of the address, Mr. Gayle invited the local retailers present to join the Merchants' Minute Men, an organization which was formed last December for the purpose of waging a nation-wide fight against chains. Several local men offered applications for memberships, and it is understood that a number of others will join within the next few days. "Old Man" Henderson, of radio fame, is president of the Minute Men.

Census Enumerators for Watauga Are Appointed

On Monday of last week the Executive Committee of the Republican party of Watauga county met in Boone for the purpose of naming the census enumerators for the various townships of the county. There were many applicants for the jobs, but of course there were not enough to supply the demands. Many high grade examination papers were handed in, but as we understand it, Mrs. W. O. Bingham, of Laurel Creek, Miss Ruth Bingham of Cove Creek, and Mr. Z. T. Watson of Bald Mountain, headed the list in high grade papers.

District census director, Mr. Barkley of Hickory will be in Boone today to give the successful aspirants their final instructions before beginning their work the first of April.

The appointees are: Boone—in the city, Mrs. Paul A. Coffey; town, Mrs. Fred Winkler; Blowing Rock, in town, Howard Huisheuser; rural, Fred Hartley; Blue Ridge, Thomas Hampton; Bald Mountain, Wade Norris; Cove Creek, Grover C. Norris; Meat Camp, N. S. and J. Chas. Lewis; Stony Fork, W. A. Watson; Shawnee-Chaw, Z. T. Watson; North Fork, Miss Ruth Bingham; Beaver Dam, W. R. Johnson; Elk, no appointment; Laurel Creek, Mrs. W. O. Bingham.

Equalizing Fund Checks Mailed Out from Raleigh

The balance of the fourth installment of the equalizing fund, a sum amounting to \$641,671.25, was mailed to the counties a few days ago by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, it was learned Tuesday from the State office. The first part of this fourth payment, the sum of \$645,462.50, was sent out in February. The total of these two amounts, \$1,287,133.75, therefore, represent the fourth and last installment of the fund applicable to the six-month school term.

While Watauga's check has not yet been received, Superintendent Smith Hagaman states that that county will receive something over \$3,000 as its share.

On September 5, 1929, the first payment of \$1,156,300 was made; on October 15, a second installment of \$1,211,800 was made; and on December 10 a third sum of \$1,270,800 was distributed—making in all the total sum of \$3,638,900 apportioned before January 1, 1930. This total installment just finished brings this amount up to a total of \$4,899,033.75 which has been applied to the operation of the six-month schools.

Within a few days the State Superintendent announces, checks will go forward to those counties employing rural school supervisors to help pay the salaries of those officials. Under a ruling of the State Board of Equalization, each county employing a rural school supervisor will receive that percentage on the supervisor's salary which equals the percentage of its current expenses which it received from the equalizing fund. After this distribution, it is learned the next money sent will be from the \$1,250,000 fund set aside by the General Assembly to aid those districts operating their schools beyond six months. This distribution will be made some time in April.

SPAINHOURS IN THRIFT SALE; OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

Spainhour's, using the most of two pages of the Democrat this week, announce a Thrift Week Sale Event, featuring special dry goods offerings. Announcement is made that this event will be a monthly affair in the future. Other new display advertisements appearing this week include:

Central Tire Company—Goodyear Holds Record for Popularity.
Carolina Stores—Grocery offerings.
Pinehurst Farms—Sale of Ayrshire Cattle.
Blowing Rock Light and Power Company—Light, Power, Heat.
Boone Drug Company—Sargon.
Reynolds Tobacco Company—Camel Cigarettes.

SIX MONTH TERM OF SUPERIOR COURT OPENED MONDAY

Judge W. F. Harding Addresses Eloquent Plea for Law Observance to Grand Jury. Several Minor Cases Tried. More Than One Hundred and Fifty Cases on Criminal and Civil Dockets.

Judge W. F. Harding, of Charlotte, opened the Spring Term of Watauga Superior Court here Monday morning, and his charge to the Grand Jury, which was heard by an audience which packed to overflowing the courtroom, was one of the most eloquent pleas for law observance ever addressed to a jury in this county. The venerable judge hailed education as the most powerful antidote for the crime wave which has swept the country for the past several years, and cited various instances to prove the contention that all of the great reforms of the day had their origin in the classroom.

Going back thirteen years, when he first appeared on the bench in Watauga, his Honor recalled conditions in the town of Boone during the year 1916. "No paved streets, no concrete sidewalks, no street lights, no water or sewer systems were then to be found within its limits. Today all these modern improvements are being enjoyed by the populace, and our educational and good roads systems made them possible, said Judge Harding. Referring to the morals of the town, he said: "Boone ought to be one of the cleanest towns in the State, for it is here that parents send their children, their boys and girls, to learn the great lessons of citizenship, to imbibe loftier ideals and to absorb knowledge imparted by the textbooks."

The appearance of the crowd in the courtroom was complimented by the popular jurist. He found in their faces a more intelligent look, that their behavior was better and that they were neater and cleaner than the people who filled the same room years ago. The advancement along this line was credited to Professor Dougherty, president of the Appalachian State Teachers College, and his co-workers, who "have faithfully labored for the transformation which has been wrought here."

Speaking of errors that have been and are being made in law enforcement all over the country, Judge Harding referred to the courts as instruments of justice which can never do their work perfectly because they are guided by human hands. He lay blame for the feeling that law is discriminatory to the practice of officers in arresting "negroes and poor white trash," especially in prohibition law violations, while the better classes ride "rough-shod" over the same law and are never apprehended. He let it be known that he was not a fanatic on the prohibition question, although he believes the law should be strictly and impartially enforced as long as it is upon the statute books.

Merchants, according to the Judge, should practice precaution in accepting personal checks presented to them in payment for goods or in settlement of indebtedness. The law, as he construed it, does not protect the business man who encourages these infractions solely for the profit he makes in the trade. The real violator of the banking law is the fellow who goes from place to place passing checks in payment for small purchases and receiving a large portion of the amount in cash.

Judge Harding cautioned the Grand Jury to pay particular attention to the law that prohibits the sale of cigarettes to the youth of the country under seventeen years of age. He also urged a strict adherence to the compulsory school law, which provides punishment where children under sixteen are kept from school.

About seventy cases are on the criminal docket for trial at this term of court, and a similar number appear on the civil docket. Already several report cases have been heard and a number of minor offenders, mostly charged with violations of the prohibition laws, have received trial. A complete list of these judgments will appear in next week's issue of The Democrat.

Howard Snyder Will Face Forgery Charges

Howard Snyder, of the Beaver Dam section, was lodged in the county jail Saturday afternoon on a charge of forgery, following his presentation at the Watauga County Bank of two checks with spurious signatures. Two checks drawn on Messrs. J. P. Wilson and A. C. Mast, prominent citizens of Watauga, were handed by the young man to P. A. Coffey, assistant cashier, during the busiest hours on Saturday and payment demanded. Mr. Coffey immediately noted discrepancies in the signatures, and under pretense of checking the balances of the two men on whom they were drawn, walked back and told another employee, Mr. Duncan, to secure an officer. He then returned to the window and held the attention of Snyder until an officer arrived. He was released late that night under bond.

It is understood by bank officials that the solicitor will not call the case for trial at the term of court now in session.

Young Snyder is a member of a prominent family, and there is no intimation that he has ever before stepped without the pale of the law.

A county board of agriculture with Taylor Barrow as president has been organized in Greene County.