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Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOOKBRIDGE

Voices

The head of a college of music has got into the newspapers by announcing that the pitch of American girls' voices is getting lower and attributing this to "yelling at football games and smoking cigarettes."

It is much more probable that the American type is changing through the admixture of races and that the average American girl has a better muscular development than her grand mother had. Physical training rather than cigarettes would tend to enlarge the breathing passages which affect the pitch of the voice.

If the change which this teacher has noticed is general, so much the better. The high-pitched American female voice, almost shrill, grates on sensitive ears. Women may admire sopranos, but most men prefer the deep-toned contralto voice.

Junk

Nearly a year's experience with the plan, adopted by all of the large automobile makers, of offering a bonus to dealers for "junking" used cars, seems to have had a good effect, not only in stimulating the market for new cars, but in removing dangerous vehicles from the roads.

Ford is paying \$20 for each hopeless Ford car delivered at the factory. Other makers allow from \$20 to \$40 to dealers for each car junked in the presence of responsible witnesses or factory representatives. The dealer has to find his own "graveyard" for the wreck and that is a difficult problem in some localities. Almost every abandoned quarry and mine has been filled to the top with old cars. On some of the undeveloped streets in the suburbs of New York ancient automobiles virtually line the roadway on both sides.

There is a fortune waiting for the man who will discover a cheap and speedy way of reducing old cars to their original raw steel.

Noise

Hiram P. Maxim, son of one great inventor and nephew of another, and himself the inventor of the gongman pet, the Maxim silencer for firearms, has found a way, he tells the world, to keep noise out of the house even with the windows open.

The principal use of such an invention, will of course be, in the large cities, where noise interferes not only with sleep but with the health of those who get no respite from it through the twenty-four hours. But everywhere there will be a demand for a silencer of this sort for hospitals and rooms from which all external sounds must be excluded, as well as for places near railroads and other sources of noise.

Taxes

One of the things we are going to hear more about in the next two or three years is the proposal for a Federal Sales Tax on all merchandise, or on a good many items. At present the Government levies a sales tax on automobiles, corporation stock sales and some other things. A few states have tried the sales tax as a means of raising revenue. The gasoline sales tax is in general use in almost all of the states, as everybody knows. New York levies a tax on the sale of stock.

Advocates of the sales tax contend that it is the fairest of all forms of taxation, being based on definite transactions in which money changes hands. Since the war many European countries have adopted it, and it ranks second only to income tax as a revenue producer. Germany gets 15 per cent of her public funds from the sales tax, Belgium, France, Austria and Czechoslovakia somewhat more.

Whether an Federal Government ever tries it on a large scale or not, the effort to pass a sales bill is likely to be made in the next Congress.

Einstein

George Bernard Shaw, who has the clearest mind of any man in England, introduced Professor Albert Einstein to a London audience the other night as "the man who has created a new universe." Eight men, each in his own time, has changed our conception of the universe, Mr. Shaw said. They are Pythagoras, Ptolemy, Kepler, Copernicus, Aristotle, Galileo, Newton and Einstein.

Each of those scientists gave the world a new conception of natural laws. Each in his turn proved that others had been wrong, but each of them served the purpose of his time. Over a period of two thousand years man is gradually learning the truth about the world he lives in. A few hundred years from now some scientist, equipped with better measuring instruments than are available today, may prove that Einstein is wrong in his theory that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points and that light travels in curves instead of in straight lines. But his theory will stand until somebody finds an unescapable fact which contradicts it.

That is the way scientific knowledge grows. Man probably will never know all the facts about the universe but we are learning faster now than ever before.

The Alleghany County Mutual Farmers Exchange has recently purchased 2,000 bags of cottonseed meal for its members to feed cattle this winter and plans to purchase another 1,000 bags shortly.

COUNTY'S HIGHWAY SYSTEM EMBRACES TOTAL OF 335 MILES

Two Hundred and Ninety-Two Miles of Unimproved Road; Forty-Three Miles Graded, Seventy-Six Miles of Highway Is Being Maintained as a Part of the State Highway System.

By M. R. DENNAGAN
Faleigh, N. C.—Watauga County's highway system embraces a total of 335 miles, of which 292.5 miles is unimproved, 43.1 miles is graded, none is sand-faced or gravel and none is hard-surfaced, according to a recent survey made for Governor Gardner's expense by the district highway engineers. These figures are actual and are generally less than those shown in replies to Chairman R. A. Doughton's questions a few months ago. In addition, Watauga County has 75.6 miles which is being maintained as a part of the State highway system.

The State highway system at this date embraces 9,010 1-2 miles, probably 60 per cent, of which is hard-surfaced, which includes, oiled gravel and sand-clay. The 100 counties have a total of 45,092 miles, of which 14,727 miles are hard-surfaced, 14,223.6 miles are topsoil or gravel, 18,089.55 miles are graded and 11,865.95 miles are unimproved, the survey shows.

The State Highway Commission is making a set of maps of the one hundred counties which show the State highways, the four grades of county highways, the extent of use of each county highway, all towns and cities, consolidated schools and streams, from these surveys, and will present each county with its map. Many of the counties have never had a complete highway map before.

Chairman Doughton estimates that the State commission could maintain the 100 county road systems as well as they are now maintained at about 75 per cent of the present cost of \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000, or for about \$6,000,000, if the State should take them over. The extra one cent tax on gasoline amounts to about \$2,500,000, the additional \$500,000 allotted giving \$3,000,000 to the counties. If one cent more were added to gasoline, making the tax 31 cents a gallon, the county roads could be taken care of entirely, in addition to care for the State system, it is figured.

But automobile owners will strenuously oppose any addition to the gasoline tax on the ground that they are paying enough already. Such addition would endanger the more than \$100,000,000 in State highway bonds the gasoline tax is pledged to pay off as they fall due, some officials argue.

High Point College Wins From A. S. T. C.

The High Point Panthers, led by Captain Swart, rolled up a 13 to 6 victory over Appalachian State College in a homecoming game at that place Saturday afternoon as a climax to exercises marking the inauguration of Dr. G. I. Humphreys, as president of High Point College.

Swart took an Appalachian kickoff and ran 75 yards for the final Panther touchdown. The other came as the result of a short lateral pass, Cory to Litman, who ran for twenty yards and the score. Harris, a substitute halfback, went over for Appalachian's touchdown in the third period.

The Mountaineers will play Bowling Springs College here Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

North Wilkesboro Man Takes His Own Life

North Wilkesboro.—Roscoe Prevet, prominent merchant of this place, committed suicide at his home on Eighth Street Sunday. When he was called to his home, he was found that he was not feeling well, went to his room, locked the door, fastened his belt to the head of the bed and around his neck, and when members of his family, becoming uneasy, entered the room they found him dead.

Mr. Prevet had been in ill health for several months and had been noticeably despondent, but his family was totally unprepared for his action. He was a partner with his brother, J. T. Prevet, in the clothing business here and was prominently connected in the county. His widow, a son and several brothers and sisters survive.

DOUGHTON'S MAJORITY IS OFFICIALLY PLACED AT 15,007

Congressman Robert L. Doughton, who was re-elected in the November 4th election, received a plurality of 15,007 votes over his Republican opponent, Ed F. Wakefield, according to the official canvass of his district. His majorities in the nine counties are as follows: Alexander, 648; Alleghany, 766; Ashe, 683; Cabarrus, 2,975; Caldwell, 1,876; Lincoln, 2,259; Rowan, 3,275; Stanly, 706; Watauga, 279.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION HIT BY FIERCE BLIZZARD

Denver, Colo.—Winter took an icy grip on a wide area from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast and from Arizona to Canada Tuesday as snow fell in depths ranging up to 24 inches. The fall was heaviest in the mountains.

The loss of two lives had been attributed to the storm; mountain passes were snowbound; air travel was made hazardous and many highways were clogged with drifted snow.

Professor T. E. Story was unanimously elected president of the Schoolmasters' Club, at a banquet meeting Tuesday night at the Smith Hotel in Wilkesboro. A fine group of educational leaders responded to the invitation of Professor and Mrs. C. C. Wright to be their guests at this meeting.—Wilkes Patriot.

Two Ruths Return



Hon. Ruth Bryan Owen of Florida (above) and Hon. Ruth Pratt of New York, both re-elected to Congress. Hon. Ruth Hanna McCormick of Illinois, the third Ruth in Congress, was defeated for United States Senator.

Short Illness Is Fatal To John Winebarger

John Winebarger, prominent citizen of Watauga County, died at his home in the Meat Camp section last Saturday, succumbing to an illness which had not appeared serious until about a week before the end came. He had reached the advanced age of 81 years, and although he had been in declining health for some time, his condition had not been previously regarded as critical.

Funeral services were conducted from the Meat Camp Methodist Church by Dr. W. A. Deaton, assisted by Rev. L. A. Wilson, following which the remains were taken to the family graveyard for burial.

Mr. Winebarger had spent his entire life in the neighborhood where he first saw the light of day, and was a successful farmer. He was a leading spirit in church affairs, and no better citizen lived within the borders of the county. In his death the community and the county have sustained a great loss.

Surviving are a widow and one son, Olin G. Winebarger of Meat Camp; four brothers, Caleb W., Nathan W. and Noah W. Winebarger of Meat Camp; James W. Winebarger of Piney Flats, Tenn.; and three sisters, Mrs. Martha Miller, Mrs. Francis Miller and Mrs. W. F. Lookabill, all of Watauga County.

Gardner Urges Care in Selecting Supervisors

(Special to The Democrat)

Governor Gardner has issued a call to the one hundred boards of county commissioners in the State, many of which are new entirely or in part, to exercise great care in selecting county tax supervisors for the reassessment of all real estate for the ensuing four-year period. The supervisors are to be named at the December meetings, the first to be attended by the newly-elected commissioners, and the revaluation is to start in January.

"No function of government comes closer to the people than this, and a satisfactory performance of this public duty requires the infinite patience of men of broad experience and sound judgment," he states. "If the reassessment is to be successfully and responsibly satisfactory, it will require the services of men in whose judgment and integrity the public will have complete confidence."

Governor Gardner has arranged for the State to pay actual expenses, or five cents a mile for travel and \$4 a day, to the supervisors while they are here attending the three-day school to be conducted, beginning December 10, by the State Board of Assessment, to inform and aid the supervisors in their work. Uniform blanks for property listing will be worked out and efforts will be directed toward a fair and just basis of valuation for every taxpayer, the State Board announces.

LEE CARENDER OF MATNEY GROWS MAMMOTH POTATOES

Mr. Lee Carender, progressive farmer of the Matney section, sends The Democrat office a couple of potatoes that look to be about as good as were ever produced on a Watauga farm. The two tubers tip the scales at three pounds, there being a little less than an ounce difference in their weight. Smooth as apples, and free from any protrusions, these Green Mountain beauties look like prize winners. Mr. Carender states that he has two hundred bushels just like 'em that were raised on a little over a quarter-acre of ground.

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BULLET WOUND PROVES FATAL TO ED. S. DAY

Former Wataugan Succumbs Saturday in North Wilkesboro Hospital, After Having Been Shot by S. C. Webster More Than Two Weeks Ago. Body Returned to Watauga. Funeral Held at Cove Creek.

Ed S. Day, 32 years old, native Wataugan and for many years a business man of Boone, died in the Wilkes Hospital, North Wilkesboro, last Saturday, where he had been a patient since he was shot in the back at his meat market in that city on October 29th.

As soon as Day expired officers promptly re-arrested S. C. Webster, free on a \$7,500 bond since the shooting, and placed him in the county jail to await trial at the spring term of Wilkes Superior Court, which convenes in March. The trouble between the two men was ascribed to "domestic difficulties" and the fatal shot was fired through the window of Day's market, while his back was turned through the body, piercing the left lung, and at first the injured man was regarded as having a 50-50 chance of recovery. For several days thereafter his recovery was confidently expected, and his death came as a distinct shock to his friends in this county.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon from the Cove Creek Baptist Church by Rev. P. A. Hicks of Boone and interment was in the nearby cemetery. Members of the Wilkes Post American Legion acted as pall bearers and no less than 25 friends from the Wilkesboros made the trip through the rain to be present at the last rites were held. A large concourse of Wataugans was present and the floral offerings were beautiful.

Mr. Day was a native of the Cove Creek section and a member of one of the county's most substantial families. He served with the American forces during the world war, was attached to the famous 81st division and was on the firing line during the bloody campaign in the vicinity of Verdun. It was there that poisonous gases so affected his lungs, that he had small chance of surviving an injury to one of these organs. Following the war Mr. Day settled in Boone where for a long time he operated a meat market. He had been in similar business in North Wilkesboro for several years. He was well liked throughout this section and was equally popular in the Wilkesboros.

Surviving are a widow, who before her marriage was Miss Mary, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Beach of Watauga, and five children.

Red Cross Membership Drive Begins Monday

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week Watauga Chapter, American Red Cross, will put on her annual Roll Call Membership Drive, and really nothing of more importance will come before war people for many moons. Last year the ladies who had the active part of the campaign in charge succeeded beautifully, and our hopes now are that the same ones will be at the helm in this fight that is to be waged for dollars with which to try to alleviate the suffering of our local poor upon whom the hand of Fate has rested heavily. And, at the same time, while looking to our local needs, headquarters at Washington gets 50 per cent of the amount raised which is used when great tragedies strike our nation. And our beloved soldier boys, who fought our battles in Flanders Fields, still prostrate on beds of suffering as a result of the fearful war, are still mothered by the great American Red Cross.

But why dwell on this? A year's membership costs \$1.00. Do your duty and join. Don't say you haven't got the dollar—get it! If you fail to see a solicitor, call at The Democrat office, pay in your dollar, get receipt for same, and feel good over a duty well performed.

Quail and Rabbit Season Opens on November 20

All ve outdoor sportsmen take notice that November 20th is the first day of the open season on quail and rabbit. Buy your license and get permission from the ones on whose land you want to hunt, and try your luck on the feathered tribe (quail).

There is no open season on pheasants this year, so don't let the tempting rustle of wings overpower your better judgment. It will cause you trouble if you are caught. Even if you think you can kill them and get by without being caught, you should be a better sport than to violate the law. Both the old native pheasant (grouse) and the ring-necked are getting a pretty good start and if they get the proper protection for one more rearing season they should increase in number so that the danger of extermination of the coveted bird will not be near so great.

Don't forget to buy your fur dealer license before you start trafficking in furs. We are grateful to the public for the sympathetic co-operation that they are giving in the preservation of the fish and game. There are very few violations of the game laws in the county now.

METHODIST BAZAAR

The ladies of the Boone Methodist Church will hold their annual bazaar at the Blackburn Hotel on Thursday afternoon and evening, November 20. The sale of fancy work will begin at 4 o'clock and will continue until 10. Beginning at 6 o'clock, oysters and chicken salad will be served. The public is invited to attend.

New Minister



REV. H. M. WELLMAN, newly-appointed pastor of the Watauga Circuit of the Methodist Church, expects to fill his initial appointment next Sunday. The reverend gentleman is a graduate of Duke University, and joined the Methodist Conference in 1914, since which time he has done fine and constructive work in every detail. He is an active Master Mason and is interested in every other organization of movement that makes for a better citizenship or community. Mrs. Wellman is a real helpmeet to her husband in his work and is a native of McDowell County. They have three children, two of them high school students.

Mrs. R. D. Jennings Dies at Banner Elk

Mrs. Margaret Catherine Jennings, wife of Dr. R. D. Jennings, well-known Avery County dentist, died at her home at Banner Elk Sunday, following an illness of only a few days, which is said to have resulted from internal injuries sustained from a fall. She was 64 years old. Funeral services were conducted from the home Monday at 11 o'clock by Dr. J. D. Rankin of Boone, who was assisted by Rev. W. R. Smith of Banner Elk. Interment was in Banner Elk Cemetery, the burial being in charge of the Moretz Funeral Home, Boone.

Mrs. Jennings was a native of Gaston County, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Abernethy, but was a citizen of this region during the greater part of her long life. She was well known and well loved throughout Watauga and adjoining counties, was a whole-souled Christian lady, and news of her demise is the occasion for widespread sorrow.

Surviving are the husband, three children, F. P. Jennings of Elizabethton, Tenn., Edward Jennings of Banner Elk, and Mrs. Mary Sue Helms of Tryon, and the following brothers and sisters: Jim Abernethy, Long Creek, Thomas and William Abernethy of Shelby, Ed Abernethy of Hilderbrand, and Mrs. Clara Cook of Candy Springs. Seventeen grand children also survive.

Wates Greene Passes Away Last Thursday

Wates Greene, 70, prominent resident of the Middle Fork section, passed away at his home last Thursday after a lingering illness which had its beginning more than two years ago. Funeral services were conducted Friday from the Middle Fork Baptist Church of which deceased was a long and faithful member, by the Rev. Robert Shores, and interment was in the neighboring cemetery.

Mr. Greene was a native citizen of Watauga County, and had spent his entire life here. He was a splendid citizen and contributed his full share toward the general welfare of the community in which he made his home.

Surviving are a widow and eight children: Dock Greene, Caldwell County; Newton Greene, Blowing Rock; Bynum Greene, Boone; Milton Greene, Boone; Lloyd Greene and Fred Greene, Middle Fork; Mrs. J. D. Harrison and Mrs. Wiley Hollifield, Blowing Rock.

SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM AT M. E. CHURCH SUNDAY

The following special program will be presented at the Boone Methodist Church next Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Hymn, "Softly Now the Light of Day" (Gottschalk), choir.
Prayer.
Bible Reading—Psalm xix.
"Creation" (Haydn), choir.
Talk, "Church Hymns," by Miss Bouchele.
Anthem, "Soft Floating on the Evening Air" choir.
Offeratory—Largo (Handel).
Duet, "Peace to This Dwelling" (Smith), Miss Wary and Mr. Moore.
Hymn "Manoah" (Haydn).
Address, "Value of Music in the Church," Dr. Chandler.
Quarter, "I Wonder if There's Room There for Me" (Thompson), Miss Wary, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Moore, Charles Rankin.
Anthem, "Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers" (Stults).
Benediction.

COUNCIL GROWS A HIGH GRADE OF BURLEY TOBACCO

Johnson City, Tenn. business men, on Visit to Watauga State That Leaf Grown Here Is Far Above Average. Delegation Luncheon at Daniel Boone Hotel, and Meets Farmers at Courthouse in Afternoon.

Twenty-four Johnson City, Tenn., business men, each one a booster for the tobacco market of that town, visited Boone last Thursday, lunched with Boone Civic Club at the Daniel Boone Hotel, and at 2:30 o'clock convened a tobacco meeting at the courthouse which was attended by more than one hundred and fifty Watauga farmers.

Following a brief welcome by President Russell D. Hedges at the dinner meeting, Secretary Harry Fawcett of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, assumed the role of master of ceremonies and introduced in pleasing manner the Tennessee guests. Watt Gragg in turn made the visitors acquainted with club members, twenty-six of whom were present.

Folsom B. Taylor, manager of the John Sevier Hotel and a genuine good roads enthusiast, told the diners of the kindly feeling which has developed between Boone and Johnson City due to the fine highway facilities linking the two, and gave assurance of an additional Federal number for Watauga at an early date. Mr. Taylor's brief talk embodied a recital of the marvelous development of Watauga agriculture during recent years, and an invitation to county farmers to market their weed at the warehouses of his city.

Mr. A. L. Brown, editor of the Burley Bulletin, Greenville, and one of the district's most experienced tobaccoists, was introduced by Mr. Fawcett, and gave figures to prove that every county in Western North Carolina where Burley culture has proven a success is showing a steady increase in business. Mr. Brown estimated that nearly two hundred acres of the weed was grown on Watauga farms this season, and advised that the average be doubled next year.

Raymond Rosson, Washington county farm agent, who, according to his own words, "was raised in a tobacco patch," declared that Watauga can average, over a period of years, more than \$300 per acre on Burley. One-half acre for every farmer in the county was urged by Mr. Rosson, who stated that large individual acreage should be avoided until growers become experienced in curing, grading and marketing.

Proceeding to the courthouse, where farmers had brought many samples of their weed for grading, the meeting was turned over to Messrs. Rosson, A. L. Brown, James P. Gray, W. F. Carter and Lawrence Britton. Short talks on marketing were made by these gentlemen, following which tables were arranged and grading started on the many piles of golden leaf, each move in the sorting being explained by the workers.

Several warehousemen were in the party and, according to them, the samples displayed here were of high quality, excellent in fact, most of the tobacco grown in the Eastern District this season.

Mr. Brown, who during the meeting gave each farmer present a copy of his subscription to The Burley Bulletin, was enthusiastic over the tobacco he found here. "During my thirty-five years' experience with Burley," he stated, "I have never seen better weed than that grown by Mr. J. M. Moore on his lots here in Boone. The large manufacturing concerns are looking to the Eastern District for their best quality tobaccos, due to the failure in Kentucky," he continued, "and I am happy to state that Watauga has the best average I have seen anywhere."

In Mr. Brown's opinion, Watauga soil is peculiarly adapted to tobacco growing, and the climate is unexcelled for curing and handling. The Watauga leaf is thin and velvety and each stalk bears an unusual number of high-grade leaves.

The visitors extended a cordial invitation to Wataugans to patronize Johnson City warehouses; also to call on them for advice relative to marketing. A list of the Tennessee men who formed the motordate follows: Harry Fawcett, Tom Watkins, Ed Houston, Hugh Webb, Robert Desser, Harris Wofford, Jim Crumley, J. W. Summers, W. F. Carter, R. D. Devault, Cliff Bowers, H. E. Read, Hugh Edmonds, H. E. Hart, Albert Bowers, Raymond Rosson, Hugh Squibb, Ralph Carr, James P. Gray, Elbert Anderson, Folsom Taylor and Lawrence Britton, all of Johnson City; A. L. Brown, of Greenville, and Mack Chambers, of Hampton.

NORTH CAROLINA G. O. P. SPENDS \$17,204.77 IN ELECTION

Money disbursed for campaign purposes by the Republican State Executive Committee from May 1 to November 14 aggregated \$17,204.77, a very small amount by comparison with the total of approximately \$75,000 expended in the campaign of 1928. It was revealed Tuesday when Senator James S. Duncan, chairman of the committee, dispatched to Raleigh, the final statement showing receipts and disbursements in the 1936 campaign.

The largest amount of money was contributed by Representative Geo. M. Pritchard, of Asheville, Republican nominee for United States Senator. At one time Mr. Pritchard furnished a check in the sum of \$2,000, subsequently he gave \$5,400, making his contributions total \$7,400. He gave almost half of the campaign money listed.