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\$1.50 PER YEAR

FORTY-FIVE ACRES OF BRYAN FARM TO BE PLANTED IN 1931

J. Frank Miller to Tend Twenty-One Acres of Beans, Cabbage and Potatoes. "Cove Place" Will Be Put in Corn. Property Lies on Outskirts of City. Plowing is Almost Completed.

One of the most interesting farming operations started in Watauga so far this year, is that taking place on the old W. L. Bryan farm which lies, for the most part, within the city limits of Boone. Around forty-five acres of ground is being broken for various crops, fences are being repaired, new ones erected, and the entire plantation placed in "apple pie order."

B. R. Bryan, under whose management the work is being carried out, states that J. Frank Miller, manager of the local kraft factory, has rented the meadow which lies adjacent to the cannery, and will plant there twenty-one acres to potatoes, cabbage and beans. An aged citizen of Boone declares that this turf was last broken more than sixty years ago, one crop was tended and the field converted into meadow. Plowing is almost finished on this tract, and the turf is said to be more than six inches deep, necessitating the use of an extra-heavy team to pull the share. The rich, black loam which lies underneath gives promise of bountiful crops provided the coming season is favorable.

P. L. (Dick) Colvard will tend the "Bryan Cove," which contains around ten acres of choice corn land. This property was cultivated by him seven years ago, when around fifty bushels of corn was produced to the acre without the use of fertilizer. Mr. Bryan states that the land this year will be given a generous application of nitrates and he predicts a wonderful yield.

Charlie Greer, who has charge of the plowing on Mr. Miller's boundary, has rented ten acres which will be put in oats; Charlie Teague will tend about an acre and a half of truck, and "Barber Bill" Hodges is plowing three acres of rolling land for cabbage or potatoes. In addition to this, Mr. Bryan will himself tend an acre of cabbage and small vegetables.

Situated as the land is, right on the edge of town, and considering the fact that most of it has lain idle for many years, the extensive operations have drawn considerable attention by passers-by. And if the crops grow off well, a real example of mountain industry can be viewed by summer visitors right in Boone's "front door."

22,500 Predatory Birds and Animals Are Taken

Birds and animals classed under the State law as "unprotected" numbering approximately 22,500 brought bounties to North Carolina hunters last year, according to a report by State Game Warden C. H. England.

Bounty claimants rid the State of 429 wildcats and 22,000 crows and sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. The State Warden's report shows these bounties were paid only during the three months of the hunting season and do not account for those killed during the other nine months nor for others for which no bounty was claimed.

Special attention, according to State Warden England, has been given to the extermination of vermin on State game refuges. A report from C. N. Mease, chief refuge warden of the major Western North Carolina sanctuaries, shows that 649 predatory birds and animals were destroyed on these refuges during the year. These included wildcats, outlawed hawks, foxes, weasels and stray houseless cats.

Efforts have been centered on the control of vermin on Holly Shelter State Refuge and public hunting ground in Pender County. More than two score wildcats, as well as numerous hawks and crows, were eliminated from this area by refuge keepers.

State Warden England points out that the number of predatory birds and animals taken from the refuges was smaller last year than during the previous year. This, he believes, is an indication that the breeding stock is steadily being reduced.

Local Musician Will Feature Broadcast

Ruth Rankin Rutherford, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Rankin of this city, is scheduled to appear in the broadcast of radio station WSB, Atlanta, Ga., Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, in a two-piano program. Mrs. Rutherford during the past few years has gained national attention as a musician, and local radio owners will appreciate the opportunity of hearing her initial broadcast.

Mayor Thompson of Chicago was renominated by his party Tuesday.

REGISTRATION AT STATE COLLEGE IS OVER 8 HUNDRED

Spring Term of Appalachian Teachers College Opens With Record Registration. Others Still Coming. Number Could Be Increased if More Dormitory Room for Young Men Was Available.

Monday and Tuesday were extremely busy for the office forces at Appalachian State Teachers College, when the registration for the spring term was at its height, says Professor J. M. Downum, registrar. The enrollment at 2 o'clock Tuesday, according to information furnished the Democrat, had already passed the 800 mark, and a number of students yet remained to be registered. Of the total, more than 425 are enrolled in the freshman class. The number of new students is said to be unusually large.

"This number could doubtless be much increased," says Professor Downum, "if the college had more dormitory room for young men, better college equipment, and if the present faculty could bear the load in addition to the heavy burden they are already hearing. Many of the young men have to room and board in town because their dormitory is full."

Caldwell Grand Jury Returns a True Bill Against A. B. Johnson

Lenoir, N. C.—A true bill charging A. B. Johnson of North Wilkesboro with manslaughter was returned by the Caldwell County Grand Jury after Superior Court convened Monday morning. Judge John B. Harwood, of Bryson City, was on the bench.

Johnson, prominent in business circles of North Wilkesboro, was indicted for the death of Miss Dollie Greene, North Wilkesboro nurse, who was killed in an automobile wreck on the Lenoir-Taylorsville Highway, January 8th.

Johnson's attorneys were granted a continuance from magistrate's court here last Monday when the case was scheduled for trial, basing their request on statements from Johnson's physicians indicating that he is too ill to attend trial.

The court ordered Dr. C. R. Hedrick, of Lenoir, to examine the defendant at North Wilkesboro today and to file his report with the court one day this week. Should the physician find Johnson's condition such that immediate trial in Superior Court would jeopardize his life the case is likely to be continued until later in the two-weeks term of court or until the August term.

The courtroom was packed with curious onlookers as the case was brought up by Solicitor L. S. Spurling for action. A legal snarl developed when the State's attorney discovered that Johnson's bond in the amount of \$5,000 was to magistrate's court and was not binding for Superior Court, requesting a capias to bind the defendant to the higher court. Attorneys for Mr. Johnson immediately placed a justified bond with Clerk V. D. Guire, which was accepted.

Local Hardware Host To County Farmers

Perhaps as many as three hundred farmers and others interested in agriculture were present at the Pastime Theatre on Tuesday, when in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the invention of the reaper, a moving picture, "The Romance of the Reaper," was presented without admission costs through the courtesy of the Farmers Hardware Company, co-operating with the International Harvester Company. Representatives of the latter corporation were with the local store all day, and much interest centered around the replica of the initial harvesting machine displayed at the front of the up-town store. Two International trucks were on the streets too, and one of the machines was demonstrating taking a capacity load up an incline of 47 per cent. with ease. Talks were made to the farmers after the showing of the picture by the visitors, and the occasion was one of much enjoyment and benefit.

BETTIE SUE HODGE DIES AT LENOIR HOME FRIDAY

Bettie Sue Hodge, 11-day-old child of A. B. Hodges, died at the Hodges home in Lenoir Friday, and was buried Saturday morning beside the grave of her mother, who died on February 13th, in Oak Grove cemetery near Boone.

Livestock growers of North Carolina will find technical bulletin 39, "Investigations in the Feeding of Cotonsseed Meal to Cattle," a valuable book on scientific cattle feeding. The bulletin may be obtained free of charge from the North Carolina Experiment Station at State College.

Marketing Hard Problem For Watauga's Agrarians

Interest at Farmers Institute Centers About Means of Placing Watauga County Produce on the Southern Markets. Buyers Present.

The second annual Farmers Institute, which was held at the State Teachers College last Tuesday and Wednesday, was attended by considerably more than a thousand farmers and farm women, and rather overshadowed the highly satisfactory session of the previous year. Experts from State College featured the program to a large extent, and the "schooling" in better ways of producing mountain crops was more or less a continuation from last year. These various lectures met with instant approval of local farmers, who are eager to adopt the most scientific methods of crop production.

However, the business of the session which caused the greatest degree of interest was the problem of marketing the produce of Watauga County in some sort of systematic and business-like way. Wholesale dealers from different points below the Ridge were present and went into the selling problem with the farmers. A representative from the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company also came. One representative of one of the largest wholesale produce houses of the South, perhaps, with offices in Charlotte, has promised to return to the county in about a month to hold another meeting specifically for the purpose of definitely solving the problem of placing Watauga products on the market. He is anxious to handle all the surplus, but finds it impossible to handle any small portion thereof. A plan will be worked out whereby the products may be pooled, and that large quantities of any one item may be furnished immediately. He proposes to handle the crops on a commission basis, thus assuring the farmers uniformly high prices. Freight rates and other transportation costs will be available when the representative returns, and it is expected that the selling of this year's crop will be expedited by some definite arrangement.

Messrs. W. L. Brown, Harry Faw and other tobacco men from the Tennessee Burley belt, added a new touch to this year's institute, and they insist that there is nothing wrong with the price of the weed on the market, but that the trouble is with quality. This, they say, may be improved from year to year as experience is gained, and that with proper care as to curing and grading, burley should provide a desirable cash crop locally.

Moretz Introduces Resolution

During the Wednesday afternoon session Mr. J. M. Moretz of Boone introduced the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the large audience.

"This is the year when there should be a supreme effort made to change the balance sheet of Watauga's citizens in favor of the credit side. This can be done in two ways:

"1. Growing and marketing crops that will bring in more money than you are paying out. This calls for industry—a real, well-planned effort.

"2. By rigid economy. This means a careful, well-planned economy in small leaks, as well as the larger drains on your income.

"The little Sunday-afternoon pleasure car ride costs on an average \$2.00, or \$40,000 a year for Watauga County—enough to pay the county's part of the public school fund.

"Maybe you could get along with a few less clothes, or perchance a little patch on the west end of your pants might be just as honorable as going in debt for a new pair.

"Resolved, That this shall be a debt-paying year for every man who has that millstone about his neck. See to it that on January 1st, 1932, he owes substantially less than he does now."

Current Events Gathered From the "Four Corners"

PLUMTREE MAN INJURED

Elk Park.—Thomas Watson, a prominent citizen of Plumtree, is in Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, with a fractured skull and several broken ribs sustained when he was thrown from a boxcar near Minneapolis Friday. Mr. Watson, delivering wood at the freight yard, had finished loading his car and was moving it down a steep grade when it got from under his control. It moved at tremendous speed down the track, finally leaving the rails. Mr. Watson was hurled about 25 feet against a pile of ties.

AL GOES "ON THE WAGON"

New York.—Alfred E. Smith put on his fireman's hat Monday, took a good grip on the reins of two spanking bays, clucked "gid-day" and drove a fire engine through the streets of Brooklyn. The former governor and Democratic Presidential candidate was born not far from the fire station and always has been interested in the ladder laddies.

FAMOUS PRIMA DONNA DEAD

Sydney, Australia.—Mrs. Nellie Melba, who died Sunday night in a hospital here, is to be buried Thursday at Lillydale, Victoria, from the Scottish church where her father used to sing in the choir. Seventy-one years old, the famous prima donna for several days had fought a losing battle with a skin malady picked up in Egypt and aggravated by a long journey home from Europe before Christmas and the extreme heat of the Australian summer.

EARTH SHOCKS IN ALBANIA

Tirana, Albania.—Twenty-two sharp earth shocks were felt in Koritza Monday night, the area which has been badly shaken by tremors in the last two months. The new shocks were accompanied by a heavy rain, and the combination brought final destruction to many buildings damaged by previous earthquakes.

FAMED ACTRESS KILLED

Springfield, Mass.—Mrs. Helen Queen, 63, for many years widely known as a actress, is dead here, a result of burns suffered in a fire which destroyed her home at Agawam Thursday. Her last appearance was about twenty years ago at Philadelphia. For the last 13 years she had been an invalid.

FLOODS TAKE LIVES

Palermo, Sicily.—Ships in the Mediterranean Monday night were bucking heavy seas and high winds in a storm which began Saturday night. Commerce was delayed and six lives were lost. In Palermo Harbor, twenty fishing smacks and a coal barge sank, and at Port Licata, an Italian steamer ran aground.

BAKER ASSURED 67 VOTES

New York.—Newton D. Baker, returning Monday on the Britannic from a Mediterranean cruise, said he had "67 persons who are willing to vote for me for President." He made the remark in reply to a newspaper man who promised to vote for Baker if he would run for President.

"That makes 67 persons," said Baker, laughing.

LOVERS DIE IN CHAIR

Western Penitentiary, Rockview, Penn.—The brief criminal careers of Irene Schroeder and Glenn Dague ended in a bare, stark room Monday where they were electrocuted in the half-light of dawn. The State of Pennsylvania claimed their lives for the murder of Corporal Brady Paul of the State Patrol. Promptly at 7 a. m., Mrs. Schroeder was led down the corridor from the death cell, passed through the green door to the execution room and electrocuted at 7:05 a. m. Dague was executed 8 minutes later. It was the first time a woman had ever been electrocuted in Pennsylvania.

SENATE PASSES SHOALS BILL

Washington.—For the second time during the long years of controversy, Congress Monday sent to the White House a bill providing for operation of the Government's \$150,000,000 power and nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals. The conference report on the bill which would authorize government manufacture and distribution of hydro-electric power was adopted by the Senate after an hour's debate, 55 to 28, completing congressional action. The measure was approved by the House last week.

"HAM" FOR PRESIDENT

Chicago.—Manufacture of presidential thunder for Senator-elect James Hamilton Lewis was begun Tuesday as friends welcomed him home from the West. Leaders of Illinois Democracy saluted him, although not yet sworn in the Senate as "presidential timber" and Illinois' favorite son.

Coach Johnston Once Tied a World Record

"Sport Scratches," cartoon feature drawn by Reynolds for the News and Observer, states that Johnny Johnston, coach of athletics at Appalachian State Teachers College, knocked three home runs in three times at bat to score win against Wofford University in 1917. Johnston at that time was playing on Wake Forest College's team.

Johnston's great performance carved for him a niche in baseball's hall of fame, for that trio of bingles tied a world's record which to this day has not been broken.

Following his graduation from the Baptist school, Johnston broke in to professional ball, and played for several seasons in the Pacific Coast League. It is stated that during his diamond career he wielded a heavy bat, and at the time of his withdrawal to enter the coaching field was headed for the majors full speed.

Hoover's Assault on Webster Is Noted By Gotham Congressman

Washington, D. C.—Representative Black of New York last week gave a Democratic version of Republican achievements during this session of Congress.

"The outstanding accomplishment of the administration was an assault on Webster's dictionary," he said. "Dismissing the short and ugly word 'food' as having no place in American sociology—it struck 'food' from Webster's and with the aid of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the department of agriculture substituted 'rehabilitation'."

"Hoover would make mad faces at Congress, and then send Walter Newton (a presidential secretary) over to say he didn't mean it."

"A group of weather-beaten little travelers, headed by Rip Van Wicket-orham, sought shelter at the White House from the storm without. They cracked and groaned pitifully: 'Master, we are wet.' Hoover drew himself proudly to his full height, and a la Mussolini, waved his arm over them, saying: 'Brethren, thou art dry.' Dry they became, as dust, and flew away, never more to be seen by mortal men."

"The word 'panic' grated on his ears, so he had the cabinet members, including the greatest secretary of the treasury since Alexander Hamilton, recite in sympathetic unison 500 times a day 'prosperity.'"

"Thereafter, the word 'panic' was to be known as 'depression' and the word 'prosperity' was to be known as 'depression' or vice-versa."

Davidson's Department Store to Be Removed

A two-page advertisement in this issue of The Democrat brings the information that Davidson's Department Store, one of the leading dry goods establishments of this section for almost a decade, is being closed out in a great Removal Sale. Mrs. Davidson, who has owned and managed the business since the death of her husband, its founder, about four years ago, expects to return to her former home in New York for a brief visit, it is understood, before going into business again in some other city.

During the long existence of the Davidson Store in this city it has enjoyed a widespread patronage and customers and friends regret that the popular lady has deemed it wise to make a change of location. Advertising matter places the duration of the sale at two weeks by which time Mrs. Davidson is expected to have definitely completed her plans for the removal of the stock remaining on the shelves. Drastic reductions in prices of high-grade merchandise have been made, in order that the stock may be reduced to the minimum for moving.

Attorney Holshouser Wins Case in Caldwell

(Caldwell Record)

To Attorney J. E. Holshouser of Boone goes the honor of defeating Solicitor Pritchett in the first case lost by the solicitor in the Records Court of Caldwell County, held in Lenoir Tuesday of last week.

Mr. Holshouser defended Mose Tozgue of Blowing Rock, who was charged with driving past a school bus while it was stopped to discharge passengers, and his client was acquitted of the charge. Mr. Holshouser is a young attorney of Boone and this was his first appearance before the local bar.

A new publication which will aid the gardener in starting his early plants has been published by the State College Extension Service and is now ready for distribution. Ask for extension circular 182.

LOCAL MAN TURNS DOWN OFFER THAT BRINGS FORTUNE

Rev. Uriah Farthing Offers Brother-in-Law Oklahoma City Lots for Taxes, and Gets Refusal. Wild Gusher Now Throwing Out Its Wealth Within Fifty Feet of the Property.

Three months ago Rev. Uriah Farthing, Baptist minister of the Beaver Dam section, very generously offered his brother-in-law, W. L. Cook of Boone, two lots in Oklahoma City, provided he, Cook, would pay taxes on these and two other plots located in that town. But Mr. Cook graciously declined the kind offer, believing this to be a poor time for real estate investment. Prices evidently took a boom out in "Alfalfa Bill's" commonwealth, notwithstanding certain alleged depression, for one day last week the Rev. Mr. Farthing, who following Mr. Cook's refusal envisaged a denizen of Oklahoma into putting him right with the tax collector, received an offer of \$80,000 for this pair of 50-foot lots.

Something happened, of course, and this is what it was: A certain oil company took a co-operative lease on this particular block of lots, sunk a test well, and brought in a gusher of some several thousand barrels output each 24 hours. The well is located within fifty feet of Mr. Farthing's property, and his share of the profits, according to a telegram received by him Friday, is \$954 per day. Under an agreement, oil companies operating in the Middle West are only allowed to pump wells three days a month. At this rate Mr. Farthing's income will be \$2,862 per month, or \$34,344 annually, these figures based on prevailing prices of crude petroleum.

It is understood that operators of the field will drill four more wells on this lease within the next few months, and if Mr. Farthing's luck holds out, and these wells prove to be as high producers as the first one, his income may be multiplied by five. He left for Oklahoma City the first of the week, accompanied by an attorney, who will look after his valuable interests in the new bonanza.

The minister is said to have paid only \$50 each for the lots when he purchased them several years ago, and on his meager income has found it most difficult to pay taxes and assessments on them.

Dr. Ross Wilson Opens Office in Philadelphia

An announcement from Philadelphia states that Dr. Ross B. Wilson has opened an office in that city for the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. He is a son of Rev. Leonard Wilson of Beaver Dam and a brother of Dayton Wilson, Boone, received his early education at the State school here, later graduating at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. During the past year he has done interne work at a Quaker City hospital.

Thomas Smith Dies At Home in Virginia

Mr. Thomas Smith, oldest brother of Postmaster A. W. Smith of Boone, died at Palmyra, Va. Tuesday morning. No particulars have been received. Mr. Smith left his Watauga home about twenty years ago and located in Virginia. He and a brother—neither married—have lived together through the years, their main industry being poultry raising. The news of his almost sudden death will be heard with sorrow by his many relatives and friends in Watauga.

THE WEATHER

Weather report for week ending February 21, as compiled by Co-operative Station, State Teachers College, Boone, J. T. C. Wright, observer:

Average maximum temperature, 44 degrees.

Average minimum temperature, 25 degrees.

Average temperature, 35 degrees.

Average daily range in temperature, 18 degrees.

Greatest daily range in temperature, 29 degrees; date, 15th.

Average temperature at 6 p. m. (time of observation), 39 degrees.

Highest temperature reached, 48 degrees; date, 17th.

Lowest temperature reached, 13 degrees; date, 15th.

Number inches of rainfall (including melted snow), 0.50 inches.

Number inches of snowfall, 3.

Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 0.20 inches; date, 17th and 18th.

Number of days with 0.01 inch or more rainfall, 2.

Number of clear days, 2.

Number of cloudy days, 4.

Number of partly cloudy days, 1.

Direction of prevailing wind, west.

Date of light frost, 19th.

Other phenomena described as follows: Solar halo on 16th.

Former Governor "Al" Smith will address the legislature next Monday.