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OPERETTA OF GLEE CLUB DRAWS HUGE AUDIENCE MONDAY

"Bells of Beaujolais" Well Received by Packed House. Excellent Cast and Chorus. Miss Virginia Wary, Director, Receives Praise for Her Accomplishment. Musical Score Handled by Miss Trivette.

Under the skillful direction of Miss Virginia Wary, instructor of vocal music at State Teachers College, "The Bells of Beaujolais," an effervescent operetta in two acts, was presented in College Auditorium on Monday night, and the more than fifteen hundred students and townspeople who were in attendance thrilled to the beautiful musical numbers, lent attentive ears to the clever dialogue, and pronouncing the whole show, from "curtain raiser" to finale, a complete and undeniably success.

While the plot of this musical play was somewhat lacking in weight, as is the case with most operettas, each member of the large cast developed his or her part with the ease of a legitimate actor, and the vocal numbers, appealing in their sparkling melody, brought forth thunderous applause. Miss Nell Trivette, accompanist, is due a full measure of praise for the competent manner in which she handled the difficult musical score, and to Miss Wary goes a whole lot of roses for the coaching, direction and production of what is looked on as the best operetta staged in Boone for many a year.

An imaginary island off the coast of Normandy is the setting for the play. This island domain is ruled by the mild-mannered and rather romantic Duke of Beaujolais, played by H. V. Martin. The principal town is Beaufleur, where a spring festival is in progress when an American yachting party, headed by John Bender (Lagah Smith), appears on the scene. The strangers are charmed with the animated scene and enthusiastically enter into the spirit of the festivities, especially the young men, Larry and Tony (Charles Rankin and Paul Mahoney), who find two dainty village girls, Susette and Yvonne, so charming that they rather neglect their traveling companions, Phillip, Bender's daughter, and Belle, her friend. The two former roles were played by Misses Ruby Winkler and Neva Brinson; the latter by Misses Ruth Johnson and Lynn Saunders. The work of these four young ladies provided one of the brightest spots of the evening.

The entire company of villagers are adorned in holiday attire—the girls in colorful kirtles and Norman caps; the young men in knee-length trousers and berets. Countess Marie, just a trifle old but nevertheless of romantic disposition, is affianced to the Duke, but when she meets Bender her world changes, and regardless of a pending "political" marriage between herself and the ruler, she determines to "get her man." And the Duke also has a change of heart when he sets his eyes on Aunt Sarah Jessup, middle-aged sister of Bender, who is chaperon of the American party. The role of Countess was skillfully handled by Miss Margaret Phillips, while Aunt Sarah was played by Miss Elma May. Other members of the cast who deserve mention are Pierre, a juggler (Reece Harris), and Chicot, a wrestler (DeVaughan Boyles). These boys seem to hold a secret affection for Susette and Yvonne, but good-naturedly adhere to the advances of Larry and Tony. Their solo work, as well as their excellent stage presence, was most gratifying.

From footlights to back-drop, the stage was crowded with lovers—at least, that was the way it looked to the audience—but the little affair between Harkins, Bender's English valet, and Fantine, maid to the Countess, was by far the outstanding love. Harkins was played by Zeb Dickson, and Fantine by Mrs. J. Lee Lavender—comedy by the bushel was handed out during their capricious appearances, and as a sideline, they gave the audience a rather good exhibition of the terpsichorean art. Without a wish to offend one single member of the superb cast, and basing his opinion on ovations accorded the actors, the writer is compelled to give Mrs. Lavender and Mr. Dickson headline positions. Their work smacked so much of the professional that a spectator could scarcely believe his own eyes, and their voices blended to perfection. Messrs. Rankin and Mahoney also deserve special mention for their songs and the zip which they injected into their lines.

Back to the story: The closing scene is a garden party arranged by the Duke and Countess in honor of the American party. The girls exchange costumes, so do the Countess and Aunt Sarah, a mix-up of sweethearts takes place, and the final curtain comes just as they find one another—right where they started, and everybody happy. "Lovely Venus," closing song by the assembled actors, was perhaps the most popular

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Municipal Election Is Called for May 5th

An election for the purpose of naming three aldermen and a Mayor for the Town of Boone, to serve a period of two years each, was called for May 5th by the City Council, in regular session Tuesday evening. Mr. Jeff Stanbury was named as registrar and M. P. Critcher and S. O. Stanbury, judges of election, and it was announced that the registration books will be opened next Saturday and remain open until Saturday, April 25th.

The present administration, which is composed of R. S. Swift, Mayor; H. B. Perry, L. L. Bingham, J. D. Rankin, aldermen, who were elected two years ago on the Democratic ticket, will not stand for re-election, it is said, although many demands have been made upon them to again enter the race.

The names of no other citizens of the town, regardless of political affiliation, have been advanced for the official posts, and there is much conjecture as to who will take over the reins of the city government for the next two years.

Watauga Justices Named In House Omnibus Bill

The omnibus bill appointing justices of the peace throughout the State was recently introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative White, of Chowan.

Under the bill the justices will serve a term of six years beginning April 1, 1931, or when their present terms expire unless the bill specifies a different time.

The list of appointments for Watauga follows: Stony Fork, R. L. Wagner; Walter Moretz; Elk, P. G. Carroll; Boone, Charles E. Vannoy; J. D. Council, A. J. Edmisten; Meat Camp No. 1, C. G. Hodges; J. W. Weil, B. H. Gross; Meat Camp No. 2, Herman McNeill; Watauga, Everette Fox, C. D. Taylor, Don Shull, Charlie Rowe; Shawneebaw, L. F. Townsend; Blue Ridge, M. O. Coffey; J. M. Bradshaw; North Fork, Britton South; Beaver Dam, D. C. Hagaman; Laurel Creek, V. B. Mast, G. C. Ward; Bald Mountain, H. C. Howell; Russell Vannoy.

Will Appear Before Federal Road Board

Professor I. G. Greer, of Boone, Messrs. Rufus Gwyn and T. H. Broyhill of Lenoir, and Congressman R. L. Doughton are members of a delegation which leaves this morning for Washington City, where they will appear before the Federal Road Commission at a hearing on Saturday, when the exact location of the highway between the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Smoky Mountain Park in North Carolina and Tennessee is expected to be determined. Other delegations including prominent citizens from over North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia are expected to be heard also.

One proposed route for the Federal thoroughfare and the one sponsored by the local delegation brings the road through Sparta, Jefferson, Boone and Linville, while the route opposed locally would take the thoroughfare through Tennessee.

Watt Gragg Touted For Highway Post

W. H. Gragg of Boone is being prominently mentioned throughout the State as a likely candidate for appointment to the minority seat on the Governor's newly-created highway board. Mr. Gragg has been widely endorsed by prominent citizens throughout this and other sections of the state for the appointment which goes to a Republican under the terms of the re-organization, and prospects at this time seem rather bright for his appointment.

Those who are sponsoring Mr. Gragg's candidacy feel that unless a Democrat has been slated for appointment from this immediate section, he is in a winning way, as he is thought to measure up admirably to the requirements of the responsible post.

APRIL FOOLS?

April was ushered in with beautiful weather, sunshiny skies and all that sort of thing. . . There is no slush or mud in the business district of Boone this (Wednesday) morning. . . Potato planting has gone on without interruption by the weather for the past two weeks. . . All the backyards and alleysways have been cleaned up and the town is spic and span for the summer season. . . There ain't no twenty bootleggers in Boone. . . General Assembly adjourns after passing much constructive legislation. . . Boone flappers adopt cotton stockings for spring wear. . . Present Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen will seek re-election on May 12. . . And many other equally truthful stories!

SALES TAX GIVEN FULL ATTENTION OF LEGISLATURE

Day Bill Passes House Committee by Narrow Margin. Expected to Meet Defeat in Senate. Gardner Condemns Tax as Unfair. Revenue Bill and Appropriations Remain to Be Passed Before Adjournment.

Raleigh, N. C.—Sales tax or no sales tax has been the all-absorbing problem in the House of Representatives for a week, particularly in the House of Representatives' side of the General Assembly. The question of a sales tax, then which, was answered by the House, as a committee of the whole, in favor of the so-called luxury tax, by the close margin of four votes.

This vote, of course, was not decisive. In fact, proponents of the luxury tax, in some instances, voted for the general sales tax, with a sort of reservation that they would introduce amendments when it comes to final voting in the House to substitute the luxury tax, or that the Senate, when the revenue bill reaches that body, would substitute the luxury sales tax and send it back to the House for concurrence.

Lines established when the so-called MacLean bill was enacted to require the State to support the six-months school term, and when the later Johnston-Jolly bill, providing machinery for operation of the six-months term, was enacted, both by overwhelming majorities—these lines have become all broken up over methods of financing the six-months term. It would seem that the legislature would incline toward the luxury tax, on tobacco products, cosmetics, soft drinks, playing cards, automobiles, and other articles listed as non-essentials. Instead, they have turned to a tax on general sales which would be collected by merchants on all articles sold to all classes of people.

If the general sales tax finally gets by the House, it is freely predicted that it will meet death in the Senate. In fact, belief is that the Senate will not adopt any form of sales tax, general or luxury. A poll of the members in that body is said to show 26 members opposed to all forms of sales tax. If so, then the sales tax had been passed in the House by a good majority, the force of that vote may have carried it over in the Senate, but with a majority of only four, the Senate is expected to take the position that the small majority can be overcome and vote it down.

Several factors have entered into the apparent change in line-up and breaking away of the earlier supporters of the MacLean act. Governor Gardner appeared before a joint session of the two houses last week and voiced strong opposition to the sales tax idea as being economically unsound, a tax on poverty and should only be imposed as a tax of last resort. His speech, said by many to be the best ever made, had strong logic and carried conviction to many of those formerly supporting it.

Representative A. D. MacLean, sponsor of the six-months bill and the general sales tax, characterized one part of it by saying that the Governor must be a "damned ass or thinks you are one." It caused much comment and not a little criticism.

Opponents of the general sales tax argued that it is a shifting of the tax burden from the big property owner to his employees, they pointed to the lining up of Mr. MacLean, supposedly representing the small landowner and home owner, with the representatives from Forsyth County, referring to it as a legalized marriage, but as a companionate marriage. The tax proposed is one per cent, which, it is pointed out, is five times as much as any general sales tax in any other state. The ease of running across a state line to make purchases to avoid the tax, with the accompanying loss to merchants at home and thus to the community was stressed.

Those favoring this tax said it was fair and just, that all receive benefit from the government and all, rich and poor alike, should help support it. The average of about \$2 a year would impose no hardships on the poor, they argue.

Great pressure is being brought to bear on the legislators from home to support the MacLean measure, but great pressure is also brought against the sales or the luxury tax. It is not considered improbable by close observers that the efforts to raise about \$18,000,000 additional revenue will fail and that the results will be an increased equalizing fund. That, say at \$10,000,000, will in reality bring more relief than complete operation of the six-months term, if the sales tax accompanies it, they state.

The Revenue bill will probably come to a final vote in the House early this week and may reach the Senate may the latter part of the week. Following it will come the Appropriations bill, which will also con-

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Freezing Temperatures Prevailed During March

March came in like a lion, went out like a fighting wildcat, and in between times Watauga County had its share of disagreeable weather, if you will believe Observer J. T. C. Wright whose report for the breezy month follows:

Average maximum temperature, 45 degrees.
Average minimum temperature, 27 degrees.
Average temperature, 36 degrees.
Average daily range in temperature, 18 degrees.
Greatest daily range in temperature, 37 degrees; date, 18th.
Average temperature at 6 p. m. (time of observation), 38 degrees.
Highest temperature reached, 58 degrees; date, 14th.
Lowest temperature reached, 18 degrees; date, 18th.
Number inches of rainfall (including melted snow), 5.48.
Number inches of snowfall, 18.50.
Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 1.61; date, 22nd.
Number of days with 0.01 inch or more rainfall, 15.
Number of days with freezing temperature, 39.
Number of clear days, 7.
Number of cloudy days, 16.
Number of partly cloudy days, 8.
Direction of prevailing wind, west.
Dates of light frost, 6th, 7th, 18th.
Dates of sleet, 31st.
Dates of fogs, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 27th, 28th, 29th.
Dates of thunderstorms, 27th.
Other phenomena described as follows: Lunar halo 26th; solar halos, 13th, 18th, 20th, 30th; high winds, 9th and 10th.

No Mexican Quail for Distribution This Year

County Game Warden H. Grady Farthing is in receipt of a letter from C. H. England, State Warden, in which that executive states that no Mexican quail will be available for distribution during the present year.

Mr. England's explanation follows: "Due to a shortage of more than \$20,000 in game receipts this year as against last year, it will be impossible for us to buy, as heretofore, Mexican quail for general distribution in the covers throughout the State. We certainly regret this situation for the reason we all believe that the distribution of Mexican quail has helped considerably in making better quail hunting as well as proved to be a popular feature in our program. You will, therefore, please advise such persons as you have promised quail of the situation.

"We hope, however, to raise several thousand quail at the game farm this summer and, of course, will assign them equally to all the counties in the State for release. Our receipts may run shorter than the figure above indicated, I suppose the shortage is due to the condition of the times."

Operetta Will Be Given Again Monday Evening

Due to popular demand by those who were unable to get seats in College Auditorium for the operetta on Monday evening, Miss Virginia Wary, director, has decided to again present "Bells of Beaujolais," the most-talked-of play which Boone people have witnessed in many years, on next Monday evening, April 6. The hour will be 8:15 o'clock, and it is requested that those who intend to be present get their seats early. No admission charge will be made.

At 9 o'clock Monday morning the cast will give dress rehearsal, at which time public school and college students may witness the performance. Miss Wary is highly pleased with the manner in which the public received her operetta, and hopes that those who failed to see Monday night's performance will be on hand for the second engagement.

CMTC Applicants Must Be Vaccinated at Once

Major R. E. Patterson, United States Army, stationed at Statesville, N. C., has received word from headquarters Citizens Military Training Camps, that more than enough applications have been received from North Carolina boys for the Citizens Military Training Camp, at Fort Bragg, than can be accommodated. But many of the young men have not completed their vaccinations against smallpox and their inoculations against typhoid.

Applications will be approved in the order in which these vaccinations are completed and the certificates received at CMTC Headquarters, Fort McPherson, Ga. Major Patterson urges all tentatively accepted applicants to expedite completion of their vaccinations so that they will not be too late to be definitely accepted for camp.

Interest of Johnson County farmers in dairying was shown by the recent purchase of seven pure-bred Jersey bulls and one heifer at a sale sponsored by the county agent.

Auto Smash Fatal to Local Electric Serv

An automobile operated by Edgar Cook went out of control Saturday morning on East 1 Street, crashed into one of poles of the New River Light Power Company line, snappin at the ground and caused suspension of electric service for several hours. No bodily injuries of sequence resulted from the impact, although the car is said to have been practically demolished.

In relating the cause of the suspension in service, Superintendent S. M. Ayers called attention to the fact that a crew of men worked diligently in the rain for several hours placing the new pole and restoring service. The management of the electric company is keenly alive to the necessity of rendering uninterrupted service, and assures the public that when the "juice" is off it is due to some unavoidable accident.

BANKS OF COUNTY REPORT BUSINESS ON THE UPGRADE

Deposits Show Increase, as Well as Clearings. Peoples Bank Makes Gain of \$15,000 in Past Thirty Days. Messrs. Hagaman and Farthing See Better Days Ahead for Business.

The three banks of Watauga County are publishing their reports as required by the corporation commission in this issue of The Democrat, and the bankers are unanimous in their expression of confidence in a business revival. Mr. G. C. Brinkley, assistant cashier of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company, calls attention to the fact that deposits have increased during the past thirty days to the amount of \$15,000 at his bank, and that business is still on the upgrade. The co-operation of the public is splendid, says Mr. Brinkley, and our records bespeak better business for coming months.

Mr. George P. Hagaman, cashier of the Watauga County Bank, in submitting his usual splendid report, also speaks very encouragingly of the business outlook, and thinks the economic status of the county is destined to show steady improvement.

Mr. W. D. Farthing, newly-elected cashier of the Bank of Blowing Rock, has prepared a statement showing the fine condition of his institution, and is greatly encouraged with the business being accorded. He wishes, however, to call attention to the overdraft item of \$400.28, all of which was a matter of record before he assumed the management of the bank, in fact the item has been reduced to this figure from \$141.28, he says, and there are no new entries of this kind.

Easter Services at Boone Baptist Church

Easter Day services will open at the Baptist Church Sunday morning at 6 o'clock with a young peoples watch service. Rev. P. A. Hicks, the pastor, says, this will be followed at 11 o'clock by a special Easter service, "A Story of the Galilean," which is described as a musical interpretation of the Christ and which is rendered in six parts under general headings as follows: His Infancy, His Youth, His Ministry, His Last Week, His Death, and His Triumph. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Parents of Mrs. Dave Ray Claimed by Death

Belated information reaching The Democrat is to the effect that Mr. James H. Greene and wife, both of Cranberry, N. C., are dead, the former having succumbed on March 16th, the latter on March 1st. Both were well advanced in age and had been ill for several weeks.

Realty Changes Hands In Daniel Boone Park

Mr. Charles Watson, local mechanic, has traded his house and lot in Daniel Boone Park to Charlie Critcher for his farm at Bamboo. In turn, Robert Castle of Zionville bought the Watson property and is moving here, Critcher taking over the Castle farm in payment is moving there today, and the Rev. I. H. Houck has bought the Davidson bark cottage in the neighborhood of the Watson property and is moving in.

And still it is intimated by some that trading is dull in Boone.

SUPERIOR COURT DISPOSES OF CIVIL CASES SATURDAY

Will Reconvene April 4th for Hearing of Motions and Signing of Judgments. Ferd Wilson Given Suspended Sentence of Two Years and Placed on Good Behaviour. Grand Jury Submits Report Advising Repairs on Public Buildings.

Watauga Superior Court adjourned Saturday, March 28th, after a session of only five days, having disposed of the lightest criminal and civil dockets in Watauga court history. Hon. Hoyle Sink, presiding jurist, will return next Saturday, however, at which time court will reconvene for the hearing of motions and signing of judgments.

Two criminal cases, tried Wednesday of last week and not recorded in the criminal docket carried by The Democrat, follow:

State vs. Ferd Wilson; two years on the roads; suspended with payment of cost and bond for \$1,000 to stay away from the home or premises of J. M. May, and not to loiter near his home when passing the highway. Sentence to go into effect on motion of Solicitor with or without evidence that he has violated the above conditions.

State vs. C. D. Phillips, liquor, \$25 and the costs.

Civil Docket
W. J. Wagner et al vs. J. E. Jester et al; judgment for possession of land in favor of Wagner.

W. L. Greene vs. G. B. McAlister; suit for damages account of personal injuries; judgment in favor of G. B. McAlister.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith vs. E. J. Blackburn; suit dismissed.

E. D. Cook and Grant Hodges vs. S. C. Carroll; on contract; judgment for \$349.46 less 50 bushels of potatoes, in favor of plaintiffs.

W. J. Wagner et al vs. J. F. Church et al; judgment dismissing the restraining order of W. J. Wagner.

Hannah Warren vs. R. B. Warren; judgment for \$25 and 6 1/2 acres of land, also for divorce a mensa et thoro for the plaintiff.

Texie Greene Main vs. John Main; marriage annulled.

W. L. Coffey vs. N. R. Coffey; divorce granted; couple separated for eleven years.

Grand Jury Report
The report presented by the Grand Jury to Judge Sink's court follows: "We the Grand Jury at the Spring Term of 1931 Superior Court have examined the jail and recommend that the jailer be furnished with six blankets and six comforts.

Sands Filling Station Robbed of Gasoline

Seventy-five gallons of gasoline were removed from the tanks of the Sands Service Station, sometime between Thursday and Saturday nights of last week, and no trace of the robber has been secured. Sheriff Farthing, acting on suspicions of the operator, Mr. Honeycutt, spent one whole night in an effort to locate some of the stolen fluid, but was unsuccessful.

MORE GAME BIRDS FOR THE MOUNTAIN SECTION

Banner Elk, N. C.—Western North Carolina and especially the country around Banner Elk has long been considered a "sportsman's paradise." Just recently Mr. Fred C. Ott, a representative of the "More Game Birds in America, Incorporated" (a foundation for the propagation and protection of game birds) has visited Banner Elk. This foundation is considering Banner Elk as a possible location in which to conduct an experiment in the raising of ruffed grouse. Mr. Ott was very enthusiastic and considers Banner Elk an ideal spot for such an undertaking.

Dr. Gardner Bump, of Cornell University, who has made a special study of these birds, is expected soon in Banner Elk on a visit of inspection and to help start the experiment and give more complete instruction and advice as to the methods to be used.

KILLS SELF WITH COP'S GUN
Greenville, N. C.—Oscar Shirley, 35, walked up to Policeman Walter McKeel, boyhood friend, on the street here Thursday, asked to look at the officer's gun, stepped back a few paces, said "Goodbye, Walter," and killed himself.