

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLII, NO. 41

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1931

\$1.50 PER YEAR

## JAMES M. BROWN, FORMER CITIZEN OF COUNTY, DEAD

End Comes in Government Hospital at Anchorage, Alaska. Had Been Away from County for Thirty Years. Burial Toad Place Friday. Three Brothers and Five Sisters Survive.

James M. Brown, 54, a native of Watauga, died in Anchorage, Alaska, on Wednesday of last week, according to a telegram received by relatives here Thursday. The cause of his death is unknown, but it is understood that he had been in declining health for several months, and had been a patient in a Government hospital for some weeks.

Mr. Brown was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown, was born on Meat Camp, and spent his early life in Watauga. About thirty years ago he went West, located in Montana, and resided there until ten years ago, when he located in Alaska. He had followed the mining game for many years and is said to have accumulated a rather comfortable fortune.

About two years ago, Mr. Brown visited in Watauga his last time. He was of generous disposition, possessed a pleasing personality, and had made a host of friends throughout the section who learn of his demise with sorrow. He was never married. Brothers residing in Watauga attempted to have the body sent back to his native county for burial, but friends in Alaska advised that the task would be almost impossible, so interment was made at Anchorage on Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Isaacs, former Watauga people, were with him when the end came.

Surviving are three brothers and five sisters, all of whom reside in this county: Conley of Adams, Wilby of Howards Creek, Stewart of Boone; Mrs. Ed Hodges, Mrs. Ad Hodges, Mrs. Tom Greene and Mrs. John Hodges, of Adams and Mrs. P. C. Wyke of Boone.

## Local Boys Are Held on Federal Charge in Texas

News has reached Boone that Messrs. W. A. Dacas and Bobby Hurd, of this city are being held in El Paso, Texas, by Federal authorities, on a charge growing out of possession of an automobile, which is alleged to have been stolen from Mr. W. R. Winkler of the Central Tire Company, Boone.

Messrs. Ed Hodges, A. E. South and Henry J. Hardin, the first named a partner of Mr. Winkler in the tire business, have gone to the Texas city to intercede for the boys. It is said that the accused asked for the loan of the car, and wired of their arrival in El Paso. It seems, however, that the owner understood that the loan of the vehicle was to have been for a short time. In view of the circumstances, Mr. Winkler will not push prosecution of the case, as Mr. Dacas, who has been employed by him, was accustomed to borrowing the car, and the case is expected to be dropped with the return of the vehicle.

## Elinor Smith Climbs 32,000 Feet in Plane

Roosevelt Field, N. Y.—Eighteen-year-old Elinor Smith, thrice beaten in her assault on the woman's world altitude record, swept down on this field from a twilight April sky last Thursday night with an altimeter reading of 32,000 feet.

She believed she had broken the present official record of 28,418 feet held by Ruth Nichols.

It was a happy Elinor who landed and was gathered into the arms of her mother and father. Forgotten was the terrifying experience of a scant two weeks ago when the young air adventurer dropped 25,000 feet to land in a rough field and turn over, miraculously unhurt, from an attempt to smash Miss Nichols' record. "One of the altimeters stuck, but the other functioned perfectly as I climbed. The roof of my mouth became cold from the frigid temperature of the oxygen, but I felt fine. When the altimeter registered 32,000 feet I found I had only gasoline enough for fifteen minutes more flying. I came down in long spirals and here I am."

## OPERETTA AT BLOWING ROCK HIGH SCHOOL A SUCCESS

The operetta given by the first six grades of Blowing Rock School on Friday night, April 10th, was a great success. Two musical plays, "A Rose Dream" and "A Day in Flowerdom," were combined into one program. About eighty children took part. The costumes and stage settings were beautiful indeed. The children were trained by Mrs. Eugene Storie, Mrs. John Horton, Misses Bettie Ruth Greer, Elizabeth Suddeth and Mabel Benson. A large audience was present.

## Control of Cabbage Diseases in Watauga

Prepared by H. S. Niswonger Extension Horticulturist

1. Secure good seed. Treat the seed before planting as follows: Tie one-fourth ounce lots of seed loosely in cheese cloth and suspend in a solution of corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury) for 20 minutes. Use an earthen or wooden container. After treatment rinse seed in running water for 30 minutes and spread out to dry. Corrosive sublimate solution is prepared by dissolving one-fourth ounce in 7 1-2 quarts of water.

2. The seed bed is often the source of infection. Locate seed bed on new ground and be careful that drainage water does not flow from a cabbage field over the seed bed soil.

3. Sow seed thinly in plant beds. Use only the most vigorous plants at the first pulling for setting in the field.

"Crop rotation is one of the most effective means of controlling diseases. A rotation of three years should be practiced, avoiding crops of the cabbage family such as mustard, turnips, kale.

5. Do not use manure containing cabbage refuse.

6. Agricultural lime at the rate of one to two tons per acre should be applied to fields where club-root disease has previously existed.

## SPRING REPLACES WINTER IN COUNTY

Balmy Weather, With Nominal Temperatures, Brings Delight to Residents of Watauga. Farmers Busy With Crops.

About the time that citizens of Watauga were ready to throw up their hands, dispose of their property and seek refuge from freezing temperatures in Alaska or Siberia, along came spring. During the past week, balmy weather prevailed, some days registering summertime warmth, and farmers are making up for lost time putting out crops, fruit trees are budding, migratory birds are winging their way back from Southern resorts, and an epidemic of "spring fever" has broken out in Boone. Yes, sir, "spring has come to spend the summer," as boosters of Boone are wont to express it, and a little glance through Observer Wright's weather calendar for the week gone by will convince the skeptical that Watauga is a mighty fine place to be during April.

Average maximum temperature, 58 degrees.

Average minimum temperature, 55 degrees.

Average temperature, 47 degrees.

Average daily range in temperature, 23 degrees.

Greatest daily range in temperature, 35 degrees; date, 10th.

Average temperature at 6 p. m. (time of observation), 53 degrees.

Highest temperature reached, 72 degrees; date, 9th.

Lowest temperature reached, 28 degrees; date, 7th.

Number inches of rainfall (including melted snow), 0.86.

Number inches of rainfall, 1.

Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 0.57; date, 6th.

Number of days with 0.01 inch or more rainfall, 3.

Number of clear days, 3.

Number of cloudy days, 2.

Number of partly cloudy days, 2.

Direction of prevailing wind, west.

Date of fogs, 5th.

## Sheep Scab Discovered in Watauga and Ashe

Raleigh, N. C.—The discovery of sheep scab in flocks of Watauga and Ashe counties will result in immediate measures to prevent the spread of this disease, Commissioner of Agriculture William A. Graham announced.

When reports of the presence of scab reached the Department of Agriculture a representative of the veterinary division went to the counties mentioned. Returning, he verified these reports and it was decided to begin dipping infected sheep about May 1, as it is believed the weather will have sufficiently moderated in the mountains to allow this work to begin at that time. Measures to combat the disease and to insure western sheep growers against its spread will be under the supervision of Dr. William Moore, chief of the veterinary division, Commissioner Graham said.

## HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT TO ENTERTAIN P.-T. ASSOCIATION

The girls of the high school home economics department will be at home to the members of the Parent-Teacher Association, school committee, their parents and friends on Friday, April 17th, from ten o'clock until four. Basement of Lovill Dormitory.

## Mass Marketing Plan is Given Definite Approval

At a county-wide meeting held in the courthouse here Saturday afternoon and attended by a large crowd of farmers, it was agreed that a plan of marketing the vegetables of Watauga, as explained to the assembly, was practical, and unanimous approval was given it.

The plan, briefly, is as follows: Andrews & Knowels, of Mount Olive, N. C., agree to handle potatoes, cabbage and beans in car lots, furnish an expert packer and shipper at this end of the line, ship to markets paying the best price, pay grower at least one-half of estimated price as produce is delivered, with settlement in full each calendar month during the shipping season. This will be done on a 7 per cent commission basis. The farmers will furnish their own bookkeeper and hire any common labor needed. Overhead expenses are expected to be very small.

The advantages of this plan are obvious. It will give a large wholesale market which can amply handle the enormous quantity of produce that will be grown; otherwise county growers would likely cause a congestion of nearby markets that would

cause disastrously low prices.

Andrews & Knowels have more than twenty years of successful business with leading markets of the North and South, and are in position to handle more than twenty cars a day. Farmers in every section of the county are signing contracts to sell their products this year through the new combine, which is known as the Mountain Growers Exchange.

Farmers who do not understand details of the plan are asked to see one of those who attended Saturday's meeting, and have it explained fully. If it meets their approval they are urged to sign one of the little printed contracts which have been distributed over the county. If one of them can't be procured handily, see of write Smith Hagaman or call at the Watauga County Bank, where a supply is kept.

It will be determined within the next few weeks whether or not the plan is successful. The volume must be of sufficient size to merit the approval of the brokers before they will consider handling it. The matter is left up to the farmer entirely, and it is requested that they make up their minds as early as possible.

## SENATOR LOVILL INTRODUCES BILL VALIDATE BONDS

Measure Pertaining to City's Indebtedness Placed on Senate Calendar Saturday. Would Relieve Present Financial Stress and Place Boone on More Practical Footing. No Action Yet Reported.

Raleigh, N. C.—A bill to validate bonds issued by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boone for construction of a water system was introduced in the General Assembly last Saturday by Senator W. R. Lovill. The bill, which was placed on the Senate calendar, follows:

"The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1. The proceedings of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boone adopted on the eighteenth day of March and the twenty-second day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, authorizing the issue of twenty-eight thousand dollars water system bonds of the said town, are hereby validated and the said bonds may be issued accordingly when advertised and sold pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act and to chapter two hundred and seventy-seven Public Laws of 1929, unaffected by such amendments thereof or other legislation as may have been or may hereafter be enacted at the present session of the General Assembly. The proceeds of the bonds shall be applied to constructing a water system for the said town and its citizens, including the payment of notes heretofore issued for that purpose, but the purchaser of the bonds shall not be obliged to see to such application.

"Section 2. This act shall be in force and effect from and after its ratification.

No definite action had been taken by the Assembly Wednesday.

## Resurfacing Continues On Blowing Rock Road

A good crew of men with all the necessary equipment is engaged in resurfacing the Blowing Rock road. As a result of the severe winter weather, the macadam highway was badly broken and was rendered highly unsatisfactory as a motor road. But now it is being refinished at a rapid rate. A fine course of stone and a binder of tar is being used, and by the time the tourist travel gets under way, the thoroughfare will again be smooth as a floor.

## Mayor Swift Designates Period for Annual Clean-up of Town

Mr. R. S. Swift, Mayor of the town of Boone, has designated Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week as the annual clean-up period, during which time it is expected that all property owners of the city make their premises sanitary and presentable. Junk and rubbish of all kinds is to be removed from vacant lots as well as all others, and trucks will be provided to carry away the refuse. Citizens are asked to place the rubbish in boxes or bags in convenient places so that the minimum of time may be consumed in the rounds of the trucks. The clean-up is to be completed by Saturday night, and on Monday the trucks will begin their rounds. If for any reason, how-

ever, it is necessary that a property owner have rubbish removed this week, he is asked to get in touch with the mayor, and arrangements will be made to accommodate him if possible.

The Mayor and all other forward looking residents of the town are anxious that this year's clean-up be executed more thoroughly than those of previous years. The average lot about town may be put in apple-pie order in spare moments, and property owners should get considerable "kick" from competing with their neighbors in this work. Let's work together to the end that this summer's victors may carry away with them the impression that Boone is the cleanest town in the hill country.

## Ex-Speakers



With the death of the Speaker of the House Nicholas Longworth last week, it is recalled that only two men are now living who have wielded the gavel in the lower House of Congress. One is General J. Warren Keifer (above) now 95 years old, who lives at Springfield, Ohio. The other is Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, 80, of Springfield, Mass.

## COVE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL TO CLOSE MONDAY EVENING

Senior Class Play Will Be Presented Saturday Evening. Commencement Address by Dr. B. B. Dougherty. School Has Shown Remarkable Growth During Past Few Years. Public Invited to Finals.

The commencement at Cove Creek High School, which features exercises over a four-day period, opens Saturday evening, the 18th, at 8 o'clock when the senior class will furnish the cast for the play, "Follow Me," one of the most popular numbers yet presented by that institution, and which brings a diversity of comedy and pathos. A small admission charge will be made, the proceeds from which are to be used for the school fund.

Sunday night at 8 o'clock, the annual sermon to the members of the graduating class will be delivered by Rev. Richard E. Hardaway, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lehigh. The service will be held at the Methodist Church nearby.

The class exercises will be rendered Monday evening, the final program coming Tuesday morning at 10:30, when Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian State Teachers College, will deliver the commencement address and the diplomas will be awarded the members of the senior class.

The Cove Creek High School has steadily forged its way forward year by year to take its place in the forefront of similar institutions of Western North Carolina, and the commencement events annually draw large attendance from over this entire region. The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend all of the exercises.

## Church Loyalty Day At Baptist Church

"Church Loyalty Day" will be observed next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock at the Boone Baptist Church. The pastor, Rev. P. A. Hicks, states that several have fallen from the congregation during the rigorous winter weather, from unavoidable reasons, and it is in an effort to bring these back that the services are being held. All Baptist members are urged to be present. There will be special music, a special service, and several talks by various laymen.

## 42 HONOR STUDENTS IN BOONE HI SCHOOL

Large Number of Pupils Have Perfect Records for Eighth Month of Term. Senior Class Leads With Thirteen.

The names of forty-two Boone High School students were written on the honor roll for the eighth school month, according to Principal Dave Mast. The senior class, which has ranked high during previous months, led the school with thirteen honor students. The complete list follows:

Eighth Grade—Beach Keller, Gladys Hagaman, Winifred Hampton, Odessa Lookabill, Ralph Tugman, Margaret Ray, Virginia South, Annie Adams, Edna Mae Brown, Olive Jean Coffey, Elizabeth Cooke, Edith Greene.

Ninth Grade—Tom Council, Rex Hagaman, Wilson Brown, Gladys Hampton, Leonor Hampton, Jean Little, Ruby Shull, Della Hayes, Banner Miller, Dale Keller, Karl Sawyer.

Tenth Grade—Winton Rankin, Glenda Hampton, Laura McCannel, Sam Austin, Helen Benson, Nannie Byrd.

Eleventh Grade—Marie Jean Jones, Mary Moretz, Dete Norris, Ruby Parsons, George Sawyer, Margaret Taylor, Boyd Cooke, James Farthing, Mary Austin, Mabel Cooke, Lucy Greene, Sylvia Greene, Grace Ashley.

## High School Seniors Present Annual Play

"Welcome Home, Jimmy" is the title of the comedy drama which has been prepared by members of the senior class of Boone High School, and which will be offered to the public Thursday evening, April 16th, at 8 o'clock. A small admission fee will be charged to take care of worthy causes in connection with the operation of the school.

The cast of characters is as follows: Mrs. Brooks, who rents the Coolbrook farm, Lucy Greene; Lucille Brooks, her daughter, Mary Francis Linney; Peggy Summers, a neighbor, Mary Honeycutt; Benny Banks, another neighbor, George Sawyer; Val Gardner, a young lawyer, Dale Norris; Chesterfield Mewope, a friend of Val's, Jack Steele; Allie Thomas, the pretty school teacher, Margaret Taylor; George Pierce, a country lawyer and president of the school board, Stewart Duncan; Melinda Preston, an old maid with a string of campaigns but no conquests to her credit, Mary Moretz.

## SENATE BILL WOULD PLACE PRESNELL ON PENSION ROLL

Senator W. R. Lovill has introduced a bill in the Senate to place the name of Jerome Presnell of Watauga County on the Confederate pension roll. The Senate passed the bill and sent it to the House of Representatives, where it is due to be passed any day, unless objection arises, and that is not expected.

## JUNIOR-SENIOR BANQUET

On Saturday night, April 18th, the junior-senior banquet of Blowing Rock High School will be held in the City Hall of that town. Elaborate preparations have been made and an enjoyable evening is contemplated by the participants.

## ANY CARS STONE DRIVE FOR NEW PAVING PROJECT

Materials Being Delivered on Siding Huge Quantities for Concrete Work on Boone Trail East of Town. Actual Paving Will Begin Soon as Sufficient Quantity of Stone is Delivered to Insure Steady Work.

Several cars of stone are now standing on the siding for use in the construction of the five miles of concrete road on Highway 60, extending from the New River bridge eastward in the direction of Deep Gap, and machinery for unloading the material is now on the ground. The spur track has been built away from the main line on the farm of J. S. Stanbury in the eastern limits of the town, and it is understood that a large plot of land has also been leased so that a huge mountain of the Cranberry rock may be amassed before actual paving work is started. Because of the short haul, and the speed with which the link of road will be built, it is said that the railroad will be unable to supply the material as fast as is required. Hence trains will be operated between Boone and Cranberry for perhaps a couple of weeks before the work on the roadbed begins.

The Guilford Construction Company, of Greensboro, was awarded the contract for the paving in February, they having submitted the low bid of \$101,460.40. Citizens of Boone are very anxious that the link of road between the river and Boone be paved while the equipment is on the ground, and an effort is expected to be made by them to have the highway authorities consider this move. It is pointed out that should this be done, the contractors would be in a position to construct the road at a highly satisfactory figure, while all is in readiness, perhaps cheaper than could be expected for many years to come.

## Mrs. Fannie Townsend of Clark's Creek Dead

Mrs. Fannie Townsend, aged 74 years, lifelong resident of the Clark's Creek section, passed away on March 21st, after a brief illness with pneumonia. She had just returned on Monday from a protracted visit with her sons in Virginia, became ill immediately and death ensued on the following Saturday. Funeral services were conducted from the home of a daughter, Mrs. Zettie Clark, by the Reverend Maris, Seventh Day Adventist minister of Banner Elk, and interment was in the Dutch Creek Graveyard.

Surviving are ten children, four sons and six daughters; Mesdames Sallie Andrews and Lulu Norwood of Banner Elk; Mrs. Rhoda Byrd and Mrs. Zettie Clark of Valle Crucis; Sherman and Wesley, of Shepherd, Va.; Emory, Enzor and Luther, Valle Crucis, and Roby of Banner Elk. More than 75 grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive.

## German Calmly Admits Killing Nine Persons

Dusseldorf, Germany—A small, slightly corpulent man with hair neatly parted, Tuesday faced a jury and told in an even voice how he committed nine murders. Numerous European crime experts are watching with keen interest the trial of the 47-year-old worker, Peter Kuertner. He has confessed nearly 100 crimes ranging from arson and burglary to murder. His victims were of both sexes and of various ages. His weapons were scissor, hammer or dagger, as well as his own hands, with which he strangled several. Asked for details of his acts, he merely said: "It just came over me, and I struck."

## Only Five Horses Are Now Owned in Boone

"A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!" shouted a feudal king several centuries ago when he craved to "make tracks" from the enemy. But that exalted personage couldn't even find a pony, and the day was lost. During the pretty weather of the past few days, ambitious gardeners around the city have yelled "Horses, horses, horses!" loud and longingly—not for the purpose of escaping an enemy, but just to get a little plowing done. A horse "census" has been taken, and the discovery made that only five members of that specie now reside in Boone. Back in the good old days of 1914 and 1915, at the beginning of the "gasoline era," most every family in Watauga County possessed a team . . . but automobiles took their places, especially in this city, thus the shortage. Automobiles are mighty nice to ride in, says one gentleman, but when it comes to plowing gardens, box 1 are hard to beat.