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COVE CREEK FAIR ATTENDED BY BIG CROWDS FRI.-SAT.

Agricultural Exhibits Large and Varied. Home Economics Department of School Filled to Overflowing With Ladies' Exhibits. Livestock Show on Closing Day. Full List of Prize Winners.

Friday and Saturday were red letter days for the Cove Creek community. The fair, sponsored by Howard Walker, teacher of vocational agriculture in the Cove Creek high school, and his class of fifty boys, and Miss Annie Dougherty with her class in home economics, was a splendid success. The exhibits were of high quality and the entries were up to the expectations of the fair committee for the first year.

The ladies' department, in charge of Miss Annie Dougherty, teacher of home economics, was worthy of especial note. The home economics rooms presented an interesting appearance. One room was given over to needlework, culinary, canning and preserving. Another took care of the art exhibits and weaving. A third room was used to display the premiums.

The basement of the high school building was used for the farm crop, garden, orchard and flower exhibits. All these exhibits were attractively arranged and presented a good appearance. The flower display attracted a great deal of favorable comment.

The livestock exhibit was entered on Saturday morning. Horses, cattle, sheep and poultry were all represented. For the first year we believe that the entries in this department deserve special praise. Watauga County is an ideal place for the livestock industry and a fair where friendly competition can be entered into will surely bring about marked improvement in livestock. Mr. J. W. Wilkins, county agent of Catawba was present and assisted in the judging. Mr. Wilkins praised very highly the type of stock entered at the fair.

For amusement on Friday night, members of the home economics and agricultural classes presented a comedy, "Meivina's Courtship," which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience. Saturday night, Prince Wilburn, noted two-piano artist, delighted his hearers with a concert of varied interests. He was equally at home with classical selections as with negro spirituals and jazz.

Saturday morning the American Legion Band furnished music and several amusing contests were held under the direction of Mr. W. Y. Perry. Ball games were played each afternoon.

Saturday afternoon Dr. B. B. Dougherty and Superintendent Smith Haganam spoke to a large crowd in the auditorium, stressing the importance of continued efforts in farming during the depression period.

It is the hope of the fair committee that everyone will pull together

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Rattlesnake Pete's Case Dismissed by the Court

Pete Bradshaw, picturesque resident of the Globe community, who is popularly known as "Rattlesnake Pete" because of his success in capturing the venomous reptiles on the sunny slopes of the Blue Ridge, hobbled into court Monday afternoon to prove his good conduct since the spring term, as required when he was tried last year for appropriating some household wares at Blowing Rock without leave.

Pete's case had been called in the morning, but 26 miles is a long way to walk, especially when one has "rheumatiz," and the gray-haired snake catcher was late. But when he came he was fortified with the necessary affidavits and witnesses which proved to the court that he had trodden the straight and narrow as demanded. Attorney W. R. Lovell placed Pete on the stand and asked him numerous questions, particularly concerning his hobby of corralling vipers. The witness declared he had caught something like 2,000 rattlers in his time, had been bitten by a copperhead, but that he hadn't much brief for the latter, for the hide was no good on the market.

The lawyer wanted to know how many kinds of rattlesnakes were to be found in this region, and the court was convulsed with laughter when the tired-eyed old man assured him that so far as he knew there were only two varieties, the male and the female. He said, however, that he had become so disabled from his muscular ailments that he was neglecting the reptiles this season and was doing a bit of farm work in order to get along.

He asked permission to address Judge Moore, and told his Honor that with his "rheumatiz" and all, it was a long, long road from the Globe to Boone, and he wanted to "beg off" from proving his conduct for the remaining two terms of court which had been required. The jurist smiled on the weatherbeaten old face, dismissed him from further obligation to the State, and Rattlesnake Pete offered gracious thanks and hobbled

Seed Loan Agent to Come to Watauga

W. H. Gragg, secretary of the Seed Loan Committee for Watauga County, is in receipt of a letter from G. L. Hoffman, Chief of Administration, Washington, setting forth the procedure to be followed in the collection of seed loans. The text of the letter follows:

"Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 12, 1931, requesting information relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection of seed loans in your vicinity.

"In reply you are advised that our seed loan agent will be in your territory within a few days and payments may be made to him or sent direct to the Farmers' Seed Office at Washington, D. C. Remittances may be made by check, draft, or preferably by Postal Money Order, drawn in favor of the Disbursing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture.

AIRTIGHT PLAN FOR PAYMENT OF DROUGHT MONEYS

Prosecution May Follow If Farmers Fail to Square Up Their Debt to Uncle Sam. Forty Thousand Dollars Due in Watauga. Washington Bulletin Sets Forth Plan for Collecting Huge Sum.

The \$40,000 which came to Watauga County, along with all other moneys advanced by the Federal Government for the production of this year's crops in the drought areas, must be paid, or prosecution may follow, according to information recently coming from Washington. The full text of the bulletin, which sets forth the plans to be followed in forcing collections, will be of especial interest to Wataugans, and follows:

"With only \$400,000 of the \$7,000,000 lent to farmers in the storm and drought areas to produce new crops in 1931 voluntarily repaid, the Federal seed loan office has decided on an airtight policy to insure collection of principal and interest.

"Elevator men in the Northwest, cotton dealers in the South, and merchants and processors generally have been notified of the government's prior lien on 'drought loan' crops. They also have been supplied with lists of farmer-borrowers and their amounts of indebtedness.

"These agencies have been instructed to deduct and hold for the government the first proceeds of mortgaged crops to the extent of indebtedness thereon, or suffer the penalty of repaying the loans and interest due out of their own funds.

"To the farmer it means no pay for his product until his debt to the government has been liquidated. The seed loan office says prosecution may follow where willful disregard of these instructions is proved.

Drought loans in previous years have been subject to such collection, it being requisite to application for assistance that the farmer list his customary trade sources.

In addition to notification of dealers that loans must have been repaid or liquidated at the time of sale of mortgaged produce to them, approximately 100 collectors have been added by civil service examination to the seed loan office. They will be sent into all drought loan areas as mortgages fall due.

"For the most part loans in the Northwest are due in September, in the South in October and elsewhere in November. The small amount of voluntary repayments to date is credited to the unusually late movement of crops to market.

"There were approximately \$85,000 drought loans made on the current crops. They average slightly less than \$140, although some ran several times that amount, while others were considerably smaller."

DIFFERENT VERSION GIVEN OF RECENT AUTOMOBILE WRECK

An article carried in The Democrat last week relative to an automobile accident which occurred some time previous on east main street, bore certain errors, according to Mr. C. C. Triplett, of Elk, whose son was driving one of the cars. Mr. Triplett called at the office Monday and asked that a correction be made, stating that contrary to the news article, no passengers occupied the car with the exception of his son, and that R. L. Teague, driver of the other vehicle, did not hit a power pole to keep from striking the Triplett car, but ran into the pole after smashing a fender and bending a front axle on his car. He further states that Mr. Teague was coming from the east rather than the west, and that his son was within his rights when the accident occurred. The correction is gladly made.

away on the long road down the mountain, where there are rattlesnakes aplenty and peace and quiet

MARION HARMAN DIES FROM EFFECT OF RECENT STROKE

Prominent Resident of the Sugar Grove Community Passes Away on Last Thursday. Had Been Prominent in Church and Fraternal Circles for Years. Funeral Conducted at Harman Graveyard Friday.

Marion Harman, prominent citizen of Sugar Grove R. F. D., passed away at his home there last Thursday morning, after having suffered a stroke of paralysis on the previous Saturday. He was sixty-nine years old. Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in the Harman burying ground Friday afternoon by Revs. Wellington Swift, Trivett and MacKaughn.

Mr. Harman was married to Miss Victoria Teague on March 21, 1889. To them five children were born, four of whom survive: Mrs. G. C. Atkins, of Pontiac, Mich.; Mrs. J. E. Harbin, Shulls Mills; Mrs. Ed Stokes and Howard Harman, both residents of the Cove Creek section. Mrs. Harman died several years ago.

Mr. Harman was a native citizen of Watauga County and had spent his entire life in the section in which he died. He was a member of the Antioch Baptist Church since early manhood, and had been a prominent member of Snow Lodge, A. F. & A. M. for many years. He was a good and worthy citizen, and contributed a full share to the betterment of the community in which he lived.

J. R. ISAACS FACES CHARGE OF RAPE

Prominent Resident of Mable Indicted by Young Neighbor Girl. Trial Continued by Justice Hahn Until Saturday, Oct. 3.

J. Roby Isaacs, prominent citizen of the Mabel community, was arraigned before Justice E. N. Hahn Saturday afternoon, to answer charges of rape contained in a warrant which was issued at the instance of Miss Vergie Greene, young neighbor girl.

When the case was called, W. P. Lovell, who is employed as counsel by the defendant, branded the indictment as malicious, and pointed out to the court that in the opinion of himself and many others the girl was being used as a shield for those who had malice toward the defendant, and who promoted her to secure the warrant in order to damage the character of Mr. Isaacs, who has borne the reputation of a good and upright citizen. The attorney further pointed out that no prosecuting witness came into court, the girl was sent in alone, and that Mr. Isaacs had perhaps a score of good citizens to attest to his character and reputation. He therefore pleaded that those who he alleged conspired with the girl in making a malicious charge, be compelled to come into court and back up their accusations.

Justice Hahn placed no witnesses on the stand, but set Saturday, October 3, as the date of the hearing, at which time it is expected that the case will be disposed of. Meantime, it is stated that Miss Greene has made an affidavit retracting the charges of the warrant and exonerating Mr. Isaacs, and that her statement to this effect will likely be forthcoming when the case is again called.

TWO-FOR-ONE SALE LAST THREE DAYS OF THIS WEEK

Thursday, Friday and Saturday have been set aside by the Hodges Drug Company for their first big two-for-one sale of the well-known Nyal Brand of household remedies and toiletries and an advertisement on page 5 of the Democrat gives the detailed information as to the unusual offerings. An article is purchased at the regular price and another given without cost under the new plan, and the event will doubtless win widespread approval. The management points out that an excellent opportunity is presented the people of this section to thoroughly restock their medicine chests and provide adequate future supplies of toiletries at just one-half the regular price.

EXHIBITS HUGE RATTLER

Mr. General Watson, of the Stony Fork section, exhibited in town Wednesday an enormous rattlesnake which he killed Monday in a cornfield on the side of Osborne Mountain. The reptile was more than five feet long, unusually large in diameter and carried twelve rattles and a button. A son of Mr. Watson narrowly escaped injury when the snake struck him from the front, but his clothing provided protection from its fangs.

SURVEYORS NOW AT WORK ON LAUREL CREEK HIGHWAY

Party Now Locating One of County's Most Important Roads, Down the River to Butler. Maintenance Men Have Made Fair Road on Present Grade. Not Known When Grading Will Begin.

A party of surveyors from the State Highway Department have begun the work of surveying preparatory to the grading of the new road from Sugar Grove down the river to the Tennessee line, and while there is no information as to the time which will be required to locate the State thoroughfare, it is believed by local road officials that the location will have been made and work of grading started perhaps late next summer.

The Laurel Creek highway will provide one of the principle arteries of transportation through the mountain region, shortening the route to Elizabethton, Bristol, Johnson City and other important Tennessee centers, and eliminating the crossing of any mountain ranges. Meantime the maintenance crew, headed by Foreman Charles L. Lewis, are doing excellent work on the old grade, and have made it into a good county road. The road will be maintained and kept in a thoroughly passable condition until the new road shall have been graded. A bridge crew is now engaged in making repairs to the steel bridge across the river; a new floor will be laid, and the structure rendered entirely safe for the traveling public.

MRS. J. C. POTTS PASSES TUESDAY

End Comes After Long Illness With Cancer. Funeral Held Wednesday from Boone Lutheran Church on East Main St.

Mrs. Cora Mae Potts, 71 years old, passed away Tuesday afternoon at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Howard Mast, in Boone, after a long illness with cancer. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Boone Lutheran Church by the pastor, Rev. J. A. Young, who was assisted in the rites by Dr. O. J. Chandler of the Methodist Church, and interment followed in the town cemetery.

Mrs. Potts was born in Ashe County, the daughter of Mrs. Hamilton Phillips, but had made her home in Watauga for the past forty years, where she was well and most favorably known. She was a faithful and consecrated member of the local Lutheran Church.

Surviving are the following named children: Mr. Clyde Faw and Mrs. E. S. Goodman of Ashe County; Mrs. Franklin Moretz of Boone Route 2; Miss Laura Moretz of Limestone, Tenn.; Miss Mable Moretz of Lenoir; Mrs. M. R. Castle of Canton, Penn.; Mrs. Foss Pearson, Lenoir; Mrs. Howard Mast, Boone. Two brothers and three sisters: Mr. Sidney Phillips, Boone; Arthur Phillips, West Jefferson; Mrs. Matthew Shevils of Laurel Springs; Mrs. Frank Goodman, West Jefferson; and Mrs. J. T. Jordan, Limestone, Tenn. A number of grandchildren and great grandchildren also survive.

Lavender Visits Here; Is Supporter of Gragg

Hon. J. Lee Lavender, prominent Columbus, N. C., attorney and member of the State Republican Executive Committee, was a recent visitor to his wife, who is taking special work at the Teachers College. Mr. Lavender is a staunch supporter of Watt H. Gragg of Boone for the appointment to the United States marshalship, and believes the Wataugan will win the Federal honor. He reports a wide sentiment in favor of the Boone man throughout his section of the State.

SOME ONIONS!

Mr. O. L. Smith, of Zionville, visited The Democrat office Monday, and brought the editor a display of vegetables which flatter the grower's ability as a gardener, and will eventually, of course, add strength to the scribe's menu. One onion, of the Great Wonder variety, weighs over two pounds, and four others in the basket tip the scales at around a pound and a half each. Two carrots, which would make an ample meal for a small family, and a beet weighing near ten pounds, were also included in the nice assortment. Thanks.

BANNER BUCKWHEAT YIELD

Mr. Olin G. Winebarger of the Meat Camp section was in the city Saturday and tells of what is believed to be the banner buckwheat yield of the season. Mr. Winebarger sowed five bushels of grain and threshed 207 1-2. About five acres of land were utilized for the crop.

Stone Being Tried on Second-Degree Charge

As The Democrat goes to press Clint Stone, confessed slayer of Mattie Bentley, is being tried in Superior Court on a charge of second-degree murder, he having pleaded guilty to the charge immediately after court convened at 2:30. The State promptly accepted the plea, and the 100 members of the venire which had been summoned from which to select a jury were discharged. The evidence will be taken and the argument of attorneys will doubtless begin before adjournment this afternoon.

W. R. Lovell and Linney, Bingham & Linney are assisting Solicitor Spurling in the prosecution and Trivette & Holshouser are conducting the defense.

WATT GRAGG OUT FRONT IN RACE SAY HIS BACKERS

Boone Man Mawing Strong Bid for Appointment as U. S. Marshal. Sponsors Hopeful of Success and Are Undisturbed by Claims of Other Candidates. Jenkins and Prevette Strongest Opposition.

Watt H. Gragg, local business man and for many years a leading figure in the Republican organization in the Northwest as well as in the State at large, is making notable headway in his race for the appointment as United States Marshal, according to those most actively engaged in his behalf, and his friends are now frankly admitting that his chances for picking the political plum are at the present time excellent. They are not discouraged by news of successes of other candidates in different sections of the State, and while admitting that the race is a fight to the finish, believe Gragg is a likely winner.

It is generally believed in these parts that the incumbent, Marshal Jenkins, is offering the most dangerous opposition, and unbiased note is taken of the intensive campaign being waged by J. T. Privette, North Wilkesboro candidate. Therefore, no reckless optimism pervades the Wataugan's camp, and the contention that the local candidate has a good chance comes from a widespread survey of the State committee members and other Republican leaders far and near.

Mr. Gragg is making his campaign solely on the basis of past performance in the G. O. P. ranks, coupled with his ability to serve as a Federal official, and it is pointed out by his backers that he has always been a strictly organization man, appeals to no particular faction, and that the edicts of the committee are law and gospel with him. He knows no personal political code, they say, and believes that at this time when the Republican party is facing one of its most crucial periods, the necessity for strict organization adherence on the part of every partisan is essential.

Meeting of Teachers Was Well Attended

On Saturday, September 12th, the teachers of Watauga held their first meeting of the school term, and practically all schools of the county were represented in the audience. Dr. B. B. Dougherty spoke to the association on the new school law, reviewing the causes leading to the enactment of the law, and its application to present conditions. Principal Roy Dotson of Deep Gap Consolidated School discussed reports of teachers as required under the new law.

County Superintendent Engaman requested teachers in the several communities to contribute school activities and other local happenings to the Watauga Democrat. It was disclosed that the county paper is being read by almost every teacher in Watauga.

It is interesting to note some of the rapid educational growths which have been noted in this county by Superintendent Haganam:

About nine hundred school children are being transported by bus, or about one-fourth of the average attendance. Eleven school buses are being operated, making twenty-one trips every morning and the same number every afternoon.

Seven hundred students are attending standard high schools this year, and one hundred and twenty-five of the county's young men and women are now in college.

The State's average is one college student to every 186 people. Watauga's average is one college student to every 117.

WORTH WHILE CLUB MEETING

Mrs. A. L. Cook will entertain the members of the Worth While Club at her home in East Boone on next Friday afternoon. A full attendance of the members is urged.

COURT DISPOSES OF MANY CASES; STONE TRIAL BEGAN WED.

acked Courtroom Hears Judge Walter Moore Deliver Charge to Grand Jury. Raps Violators of Checking Laws. Lone Murder Trial Expected to Draw Large Crowds. Calendar of Cases Already Disposed Of.

The fall term of Watauga Superior Court opened Monday morning, with Judge Walter E. Moore presiding, and Solicitor L. S. Spurling prosecuting the docket which is made up of more than seventy cases, most of them minor offenses. A large audience which packed the courtroom heard Judge Moore deliver his charge to the Grand Jury.

His Honor seems to have a pet aversion for men who drive cars while under the influence of liquor, and looks on them as the worst menace to public safety. He advised the jury to weigh the evidence carefully in cases of this kind, and if and when true bills were returned against the malicious offenders, his court would do its best to curtail their activities. Judge Moore declared that "it takes very little whiskey to fire a man's mind."

Referring to the bad check laws, the jurist offered the opinion that post-dated checks are supposed to be good on the date that is set forth, and that if funds are not available at that time, the drawer of the check is guilty of fraud and subject to the punishment of the courts. "If the laws of the State regarding the drawing of checks were strictly adhered to," he declared, "there would never be reason for question when a check is presented for payment. The checking system is a great medium of business exchange, and it should never be abused."

In giving advice to the jury relative to the inspection of public buildings, Judge Moore stressed the need for a county home that is in every sense a "home." Good, wholesome food should be provided the county's unfortunates, clean rooms and good beds should be furnished them, and a homelike atmosphere should be created about these "children of misfortune," he stated. Then he gave splendid illustrations of the uncertainties of life, the misfortunes that lurk along the pathway and lead old men and women "over the hill." "A county that takes care of these unfortunates in creditable manner will always prosper. If you gentlemen of the jury find that the inmates of the county home are not being cared for properly, state the facts clearly in your report, and the court will see to it that the corrections are made," the judge said in conclusion.

The first part of the session was consumed by the good behavior docket, and jury trials did not begin until court re-convened following the noon hour. Judge Moore has a rule of long standing that county officers cannot appear as witnesses in good behavior cases, and his ultimatum was adhered to strictly.

The case of State against Clint Stone for the murder of Mattie Bentley on a lonely mountain top near the Ashe-Watauga line early in May, has been called for trial at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday. A venire of 100 men have been summoned, and it is expected that the remainder of the day will be consumed in selecting the twelve men. Solicitor Spurling will be assisted in the prosecution by Senator W. R. Lovell, while the law firm of Trivette and Holshouser will handle the defense. Due to the nature of the crime, which is looked on as one of the most brutal ever committed in the county, large crowds of spectators are expected to be present when the testimony begins.

Cases Disposed Of

- Some of the cases already disposed of follow:
- M. C. Bumgarner, driving drunk, not pros with leave.
- Bessie Wilcox, larceny, not guilty.
- J. L. and J. C. Church, affray, not pros with leave.
- L. D. Pennell, liquor, not guilty.
- Dean Ashley, drunkenness, not pros.
- Everett Freeman, assault with a deadly weapon, not pros with leave.
- Don Wallace, drunkenness, not pros with leave.
- Lewis Bryan, Howard Culler, J. W. Henson, gambling, costs.
- Butler Thomas and Don Thomas, liquor, not guilty.
- J. C. Brown, driving drunk, 12 months on roads, \$100 and costs; road sentence suspended on good behavior for three years.
- George Norris and Glen Coffey, drunkenness, \$25 and costs.
- Walter Bumgarner, transporting, \$10 and costs.
- J. C. Brown, possession, \$10 and costs.
- Worth Greene, driving without tag, \$20 and costs.
- Hal Shore, drunkenness, \$10 and costs.
- Robert Yates, liquor, \$10 and costs.
- Paul Shore, liquor, costs.