

BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

A MAN OF PARTS

Congressman Bob Doughton, representative from North Carolina's Ninth District, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, politician from away back yonder, close advisor to President Roosevelt, in truth and in fact the biggest "pebble" on Capitol Hill . . . is a farmer through and through. Down in Alleghany County the Congressman maintains a few hundred productive acres. Every now and then he casts aside the cares and woes of official duty, packs his bag and slips away for a few days' rest at the old home place, where black-faced sheep and white-faced cattle and grunting pigs and sleek horses cavort about the broad pastures . . . where his aged mother, his sisters and brothers and nephews and nieces and cousins and boyhood friends forget the formalities of high position and call him "Bob." It's a pleasant sight . . . watching Congressman Doughton assume the role of "Farmer Bob" . . . it's nice to hear him discuss the masculine proclivities of a Hereford bull, or the proper care of a Shropshire flock, or the price of spuds or cabbage or corn . . . for Congressmen are usually made of softer timber.

Twenty-four years in Congress, a period that has witnessed the administrations of six different Presidents, seems like a mighty long time . . . but Bob Doughton is the same Bob Doughton who drove cattle by the hundreds out of Watauga when the writer was a mere "chub." The honors bestowed upon the Alleghany representative are greatly appreciated . . . he'll tell you as much . . . but he clings to the simple traditions of his stalwart mountain forebears, he cherishes the friendships of yesterday, he eats and sleeps and lives the life of a farmer . . . in other words, he just refuses to be changed. A leader in Washington, an ordinary citizen at home . . . perhaps that's a part of the reason why it would almost be a sacrilege for any Democrat, big or little, to oppose Congressman Doughton for his seat.

AN ADDED ATTRACTION

A few nights ago down at the local picture theatre a good-sized audience watched with considerable interest as the hero and heroine and villain and such-like exhibited their wares on the silver sheet. Occasionally a flapper giggled, as flappers often do . . . and a bald-headed gentleman munched serenely away on a sack of pop-corn. Having a right good time, everybody was. But an unscheduled attraction . . . a rather nasty attraction . . . thrust itself on the innocent showgoers as some twenty-five intellectuals, students at the local college, formed a flying wedge in the lobby, knocked an unsuspecting manager into a cocked hat, and scurried into some twenty-five unoccupied seats . . . just like so many wasps. Grown men, sons of good men or sons of something, this group of swashbuckling collegians has persisted in the gate-crashing racket for the past several months . . . acting exactly like a gang of sodden sailors on shore leave. In an institution of higher learning, where science and sociology and higher mathematics and civics and what-not is dished out in prodigious measures . . . an ignorant layman desires to suggest that a department of manners and common honesty would add greatly to the curricula.

WE WONDER?

As the glorious pageant of Spring unfolds itself here in the hills, and the fish worms crawl from their winter hibernation deep down in the soil, and the robins return from the lowlands, and the sweet young things parade in garments gay . . . we inhale a couple of gentle zephyrs, cast a cartload of juicy razzberries in the path of our dear old coal man, direct a reverent message of thankfulness toward the high heavens . . . and wrestle with the whys and whiches of Creation, even as Jacob grappled with the angel: . . . Why the hyacinth, drawn by warm sunshine and refreshing showers from a withered bulb, blossoms in exact conformity to last year's bloom? . . . Who whispered in the elongated ear of a mother rabbit, bearing her first litter, and advised her to cover those embryo bunnies with a furry quilt from her own body? . . . Why pasture fields, deadened by the freezes of winter and dry as a tinder box, take on an emerald hue, each root and seed pod of each grass blade and each weed responding to the mute call of nature? . . . Why a tiny wren, after a sojourn of months in sunnier climes, returns to last year's nesting place? . . . Why every creature, large and small, in the universe picks a mate and renews its amorous philanderings? . . . Why young maids and old maids and sedate matrons use their eyes just a trifle carelessly as the genus homo passes by? . . . Why that drowsy, far-away, no-account feeling that envelops everybody . . . aw, heck, it's spring! . . . we'll . . . just . . . let . . . somebody . . . else . . . figger . . . it out.

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Ace of the Secret Service



Washington, D. C.—William H. Moran (above) is rated one of Uncle Sam's most valuable Secret Service investigators. He reached retirement age of 70 late in March. By a special order, President Roosevelt retains him as chief for two years more.

BOOM SEASON IS PREDICTED FOR STATE RESORTS

Head of Carolina Motor Club Concludes Survey and Avers that More Visitors Are to Be Entertained in Mountains this Summer Than at Any Time in the Past. Prosperity Will Reign, Says Roberts.

Mountain and beach resorts of the two Carolinas will experience the best business and entertain more visitors this summer than they have ever had in the past, even during the most prosperous periods, Coleman W. Roberts, president of the Carolina Motor Club, predicted the first of the week in Charlotte after a tour of the two states.

"From my observations on this trip I feel safe in predicting better business for the summer resorts of the Carolinas this season than during any previous summer, not even excepting the most prosperous years of the past," declared Mr. Roberts.

"In the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other mountain sections, the Sandhills and the beach, the Carolinas have three great sections that attract tourists," continued the Charlotte man. "What we need is to work together for the advancement of the two states as a paradise for tourists. Through coordinated effort, the Carolinas can be advertised and sold to the world for their scenery and recreational advantages."

The Charlotte man said that everywhere he traveled over the two states tourists told him that they were amazed at the State's resort facilities, beautiful scenery and good roads and that prosperity seems to be back in the Carolinas.

Hotel operators in the Blowing Rock section have implicit faith that Mr. Roberts' predictions will be borne out by their receipts this season.

Diversified Farming Program Under Way Banner Elk College

Banner Elk.—Carl Silver, manager of the Lees-McRae farms, announces a more diversified program of spring planting than in previous years. A number of Lees-McRae students are now working on the college farm and will be employed during the summer.

There will be a twelve-acre garden, to supply Pinnacle Inn, the summer resort operated by the college during the summer. This will include an acre of head lettuce, two acres of tomatoes, an acre of onions, and other vegetables including beets, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, brussels sprouts, asparagus, spinach and rhubarb. Two acres of raspberries and strawberries, set out last year, are expected to do well.

The college farm took thirty-five bushels of certified Irish Cobbler seed potatoes from the Carolina Mountain Co-operatives, new project sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Edgar H. Tufts, president of Lees-McRae College, is chairman of the board of directors of the Carolina Mountain Co-operatives, and Dr. W. C. Tete, head of Grace Hospital at Banner Elk, is also a director. There are 17 acres in potatoes, including 2 in certified seed.

The farm is planting 6 acres in stringless green pod beans and 7 acres in golden bantam corn, for canning purposes.

Forty acres were seeded in rye last fall. Barley was tried last year for the first time. There are now twenty acres set aside for permanent pasture, 2 acres are in soy beans, 10 in Danish roundhead cabbage, 14 in silage corn for the silo and 1 in corn to go with it.

U. S. DEPT. FEARS POTATO ACREAGE MAYBE TOO LARGE

Planting Intentions Point to Increase and With a Normal Yield Crop Would Be Largest Since 1928. May Be Above Average. Favorable Returns on Last Year's Crop Cause of Increased Acreage.

Washington, D. C.—The usual aftermath of a profitable crop—an increased acreage the following year and consequent lower prices for the larger production—is predicted in effect if not in so many words by the Department of Agriculture in the potato situation for 1934.

Planting intentions as received by the department from growers throughout the country indicate a total of 3,400,000 acres in potatoes this year. Last year the crop totaled 3,184,000 acres, large enough to produce an average crop. However, last year heat and dry weather reduced production to the smallest average in 12 years, and as a result of the short crop, prices to growers were much better than the year before. The crop in 1933 was about 317,000,000 bushels. The average for the last five years is about 355,000,000 bushels. Should the crop be normal this year, if the acreage is as large as intentions to plant indicate, there will be a total crop around 375,000,000 bushels, the largest since 1928 when large quantities could not be marketed because of low prices. It was further pointed out by the Department this week that consumer demand for potatoes is fairly constant, and that small crops during the past 25 years have consistently returned higher gross incomes to growers than have the large crops.

"If a crop the size of that now in prospect had been produced last year," the bureau said, "growers would have received a gross income only about one-half that returned from the short 1933 crop. About 3,000,000 acres will ordinarily produce what can be marketed at fairly satisfactory prices to growers. This would require a reduction in acreage of about 6 per cent. from 1933 instead of an increase of 7 per cent."

The prospective increase in potato acreage is indicated to be quite general throughout the country. In the 11 early producing states, some of which have already begun to market this season's potatoes, the total acreage already planted or intended to be planted is increased 14.1 per cent over that harvested in 1933, increases ranging from 2 per cent in Texas to 42 per cent in Florida.

In the intermediate states, which begin to market the commercial portion of their crop in late May and early June, the intended acreage increase is 11.2 per cent above the 1933 harvested acreage, and ranges from 2 per cent in Maryland to 15 per cent in Kansas. In the 30 late producing states, intention reports indicate an increase of 5.5 per cent over 1933.

The bureau says that the acreage planted last season was large enough to produce about an average crop, but that yields were reduced by heat and drought in the intermediate and late states to the smallest average in 12 years. Repetition of this condition, this year is considered as "unlikely."

HOG CONTRACTS MUST BE SIGNED

Prompt Action is Necessary to Take Advantage of Government Proposition to Place Pork on Paying Basis. Must Produce Evidence.

Another meeting of the hog raisers of the county is set to be held at the offices of S. C. Eggers in the Watauga Bank building on Staturday morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of signing contracts in the hog reduction program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Messrs. L. F. Brumfield, county agent of Yadkin, and A. G. Hendren, who holds a similar position in Wilkes County, explained the working of the New Deal in so far as it relates to a group of farmers at the courthouse Tuesday morning, and in turn arranged the Saturday meeting. These gentlemen point out that the time is growing short to enter the agreement with the Government and contracts must either be signed or in the process of completion no later than Saturday.

Farmers are urged to get names and addresses of those buying pigs and hogs during 1932 and 1933 and bring this evidence to the meeting, which is strictly a sign-up gathering. Only growers giving some sort of evidence of sale are eligible to receive compensation. Blanks and other information may be secured at Mr. Eggers office.

An estimated four thousand dollars will be received by Watauga farmers from the corn-hog adjustment contract. Failure of local growers to act will divert the funds which should come here to other channels.

Members Institute of Government Are Named



Pictured above are the four members of the staff of the North Carolina Institute of Government. Top row, left to right, they are: Albert Coates, director; Henry Brandis Jr., Dillard S. Gardner and T. N. Grice, associate directors. Appointment of the associate directors has just been announced. The Institute also announces that definite progress is being made in the studies being undertaken by that body in tax, criminal law and judicial administration, and the accounting methods and practices of governmental units.

EIGHTEEN SEEK RURAL ROUTE 2

Three Veterans and Three College Graduates Included in Number Seeking to Carry Uncle Sam's Mail on Local Routes.

Eighteen persons, seventeen men and one woman, took the Civil Service examination last Saturday morning looking to the appointment of a carrier for Rural Route Number 2 out from Boone. The examination was given at the graded school building by B. H. Watson, local Civil Service representative, and from among the applicants an eligible list of three will be chosen, one of whom will receive the coveted position.

Those handing in papers included: Grady Moretz, Walter Edmiston, Joe Goodnight, Rex Hagaman, R. Clyde Wineberger, Mrs. Blain Clawson, James Gross, Ralph Greer, Walter Greene, Plato Greer, Dana Cowles, Paul Norris, Deward Norris, Marvin Rouse, Douglas Redmond, Howard Gragg, Newell Patterson and Wilford Davis.

Three veterans of the World War and three college graduates are included in the list of those seeking the carriership. About twenty residents of Ashe County took the examination at the same time for vacancies occurring in that county.

R. F. D. 2 has been served for several months by Howard Gragg of Boone as temporary carrier. The result of the examination will furnish a permanent carrier.

FARTHING PCA DIRECTOR

Mr. H. Grady Farthing of Boone was named a director for Watauga County at a meeting Monday in North Wilkesboro of the Production Credit Association, farm money-lending organization of the Federal Government. At the same time Mr. Wade Byers of Boone was named inspector, and will check up on livestock and farm machinery on which owners would offer mortgages to secure loans. Mr. S. C. Eggers, local PCA representative, accompanied Messrs. Farthing and Byers to North Wilkesboro.

Commencement Begins At Bethel Thursday

Commencement exercises will begin at Bethel High School on Thursday evening, April 12, 8 o'clock, with the senior class exercises.

On Friday evening at 8 o'clock the graduating exercises will be held. Saturday evening, April 14, the senior play, "Beads on a String," will be presented.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Rev. P. A. Hicks, pastor of Boone Baptist Church.

The commencement address will be delivered by Mr. C. M. Dickson of Helton, N. C. The high school diplomas will be awarded by Mr. Howard Walker, county superintendent of Watauga. The public is invited to attend.

BURIED STILL IS TAKEN BY SHERIFF

Unique Illicit Plant on Elk Knob Thirty-Second for Sheriff Howell in 15 Months of Office. Dugout Is Completely Hidden.

A good sized whiskey distillery located near the top of Elk Knob, and completely concealed in an underground compartment, was the thirty-second illicit plant captured by Sheriff Howell and his deputies since their induction into office fifteen months ago. The capture of the unique plant came last Wednesday as the Sheriff and his deputies noted old still furnaces and fresh tracks in newly-moved earth. Following these clues an underground vault twelve feet square and six feet deep was uncovered, containing a complete whiskey-making outfit, still, furnace and all equipment, including about 75 gallons of beer.

Stills had been placed across the top of the subterranean still house, and poles and leaves were used to completely cover the illicit operation. No operator was present and so far as is known, no warrant has been issued in connection with the find.

DOUGHTON GETS OLD POST OF POU

Ninth District Congressman Chosen by North Carolina Delegation to Represent State on Democratic Congressional Committee.

Washington, D. C.—The honor of representing North Carolina on the Democratic Congressional committee that has for years been held by the late Representative Edward W. Pou of Smithfield, Tuesday passed to Representative Robert L. Doughton of Laurel Springs.

The Tar Heel delegation met yesterday afternoon, with all members present except Representative Bulwinkle of Gastonia, to fill the post. Mr. Doughton was unanimous elected. Members spoke feelingly of their late associate in the house, and a committee was named to prepare suitable resolutions on the life of Mr. Pou, comprising Representatives Doughton, Lambeth and Warren.

The delegation then endorsed Representative J. Bayard Clark of Fayetteville for the vacant place on the rules committee, of which Mr. Pou was chairman. As Mr. Doughton is chairman of the ways and means committee, which selects the committees, it is thought that Mr. Clark will be chosen.

It was also decided to work and vote for the bill of Representative John H. Kerr of Warrenton which would control tobacco production on the same plan as proposed for cotton in the Bankhead bill.

Miss Clara Dohme of Baltimore, Md., is visiting at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Yount in East Boone.

RELIEF GARDEN FAMILIES ASKED TO SIGN BLANKS

Contracts Must Be Signed by Those Planting Government Seed With Government Fertilizer. Proved for Family to Be Provided Before Any of Crop Is Sold. More Than 100 Will Plant Relief Gardens.

All persons securing fertilizer, seed, etc., for planting relief gardens are being urged by Miss Theodocia Watson, local relief head, to call at her office and sign the government contracts. Under the terms of the contract, states Miss Watson, the relief tenant agrees to use the proceeds from his garden or acreage for the primary purpose of providing food for his family, and to desist from sale of the products until after a surplus is assured. Landlords, in the case of rented plots, are also required to sign the blank with the relief farmer, but the landowner is not obligated in any way other than to an agreement not to take the present crop or any portion of it, for old debts due him by tenant.

Seven Hundred to Plant
Miss Watson states that already seven hundred on the relief rolls have agreed to plant gardens with the government aid, and that these projects range from small family gardens to five and six-acre truck patches. It is the purpose of the administration, she states, to clear the relief rolls by winter through the agency of these individual farm projects.

TROUT SEASON IS OPEN NEXT SUNDAY

Anglers Expected to Have Better Luck This Year. Licenses Put on Sale in Many Sections of County. Many Trout Streams Stocked.

The trout fishing season officially opens in Watauga County Sunday, April 15, and according to the belief of County Game Warden H. Grady Farthing, anglers will enjoy greater success this season than for several years. The principal trout streams of the county are Boone's Fork, Mead Camp, Howards Creek, Middle Fork, Winkler's Creek, Laurel Creek, Laurel Fork, New River, Watauga River, Trivet's Branch, Bald Branch, Beech Creek and Buffalo Creek. All these streams have been stocked with trout in liberal quantities during the past years, and Warden Farthing says they are in fine condition for the opening of the season.

Many Sell Licenses
Following are the names of those offering fishing licenses this season, and their addresses:

Farmers Hardware Company, Boone; Victor Ward, Sugar Grove; Ben Watson, Triplett; Ed Mast, Sugar Grove; John Isaacs, Mabel; W. W. Mast, Valle Crucis; Ed Harbin, Shells Mills; Conley Trivette, Sugar Grove; Coy Billings, Vilas; Robert Greene, Blowing Rock; T. T. Triplett, Blowing Rock; R. F. D.; Grady Trivett, Beech Creek; Ronald Ragan, Zionsville; James McNeil, Zionsville; R. F. D.; Jim Brown, Mead Camp; L. L. Gragg, Shells Mills; R. F. D.; Clark Trivette, Rominger; Horace Cook, Blowing Rock; Roby Pendley, Pendley; Coy Rogers, Deep Gap; Marion Coffey, Blowing Rock; R. F. D.; Harrison Baker, Boone Route 2; Bob Gentry, Laxon; A. N. Thomas, Trade, Tenn.; R. F. D.; A. E. South, Boone.

It is stated that there are some wardens who are not suitably situated to sell fishing licenses but do have good localities for hunting. State officials request all wardens to aid in enforcing the fishing laws during the coming season, even if they are not all selling licenses. A strong effort will be made to see to it that all anglers provide themselves with the license before going fishing.

BLOWING ROCK LADY IN SPRING BLOSSOM CONTEST

Miss Marjorie Coffey of Blowing Rock is an entrant in the Spring Blossom Festival Contest at Southern Pines. It has been announced, the local young lady having entered by popular demand.

Miss Coffey is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Coffey and has been employed at the resort city during the winter season as dietician in Mr. Starnes' cafe.

LOCAL LADIES CLUBS TO OBSERVE MUSIC WEEK

Plans are being made to observe National Music Week this year with a musical program on Monday evening, April 23. The program will be sponsored by the Friday Afternoon and the Worth While clubs. A varied program is being planned, one feature of which is to be numbers given by a chorus of all the singers in Boone. A rehearsal has been called for Saturday evening at 8:00 o'clock at the Demonstration School and every person in Boone who sings at all is invited and urged to be at this rehearsal.