

# BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

THE OUTCOME of the big trial at Flemington, Uncle Sam's rejection of the World Court proposal, the antics of Huey Long, the social reforms advocated by President Roosevelt, the expected decision of those solemn Supreme Court justices relative to the constitutionality of a Democratic gold policy, gang murders, lynchings, public scandal... all these "juicy" morsels which in days recently past tickled the appetites of Carolina's newspaper readers, shrink to insignificance as reports seep out of Raleigh that certain Assemblymen...

UNDoubtedly there's been a change of heart on the part of a gang of legislators... but legislators are peculiar animals, and intestinal fortitude, or "guts" if you please, is almost always lacking when those august lawmakers start figuring from a political angle. A majority of the Senators, perhaps are many House members, are on the verge of ditching Tarheel's "noble experiment"... but the referendum of '33 and the unforgettable debacle of '28 still rankle the hides of those whose ambitions are directed toward bigger and sweeter and more colorful plums that grow high on the tree of public preferment. And when they think of those beautiful votes, those fuscious votes, those essential votes... ah, dear me... the dignified gills of the gentlemen from Currituck and Cherokee and Madison and Mecklenburg and Hoke and Pender take on an ashy hue... and Senatorial jowls break out in "goose-pimples". The givers of new laws and takers-away of old laws cringe with fear; rosate dreams and aesthetic sentiments do battle with old fashioned boss-sense... and then the "dear peepul" are asked to take a hand.

THE MOIST repealer which is apt to go farthest in the present Assembly is the work of Senator John Sprunt Hill, whose intellect, influence and wealth have, in days ago, been freely expended in the cause of State and Federal prohibition. It's a worthy document, perhaps... a document which would use the "demon" as a vehicle of revenue to afford relief for the aged and infirm, widows of veterans and crippled orphans... a document garnished with paternalism and seasoned with promise. But, along with other objections, Senator Hill has included the crowning gem of present-day politics in his proposed law, namely, the referendum. He, like so many of his valiant cohorts, is unwilling, or afraid, to take responsibility for this drastic step.

IF THE ASSEMBLY is hell-bent on dragging the skeleton from the closet, its members should be equally anxious to bear on their own shoulders the consequences whatever they may be. An election is unpleasant... just the ordinary, every-two-year brand... but may Allah deliver His children from the uncalled-for, unasked-for and unwanted referendum which deals with controversial moral codes. Life is hard enough without having to bear this additional burden! And those who recall enactment of Colonel Turlington's dry measure can testify that it was a product of the legislative mill... if it has outlived its usefulness the Legislature should, in like manner, consign it to the bone-yard... the people spoke last November when they selected members of the body.

CAROLINIANS are hard to understand, when the question of "wet" or "dry" bobs up. A little more than six years ago Alfred Emanuel Smith lost the State by more than sixty thousand votes supposedly because he advocated beer of 2.75 per cent alcoholic content. In 1930 Josiah William Bailey, who vigorously championed the Smith cause, defeated Senator Simmons, who battled the New Yorker in the previous election. In 1932 Bob Reynolds stumped the State on a dripping wet platform and defeated dry Cameron Morrison for the United States Senate by a majority of 115,000. In the fall of the same year Franklin D. Roosevelt, fervent opponent of national prohibition, carried the State by a majority unprecedented in history. But in the referendum of November, 1933, the pendulum swung in an opposite direction... men and women flocked to the polls and crucified the Federal repealer by a majority of more than three to one! Yes, Carolinians are hard to understand!

REPEAL of the Turlington Act might be all right... it might be all wrong... to this writer it would merely mean a change from the venerated fruit jar to properly-labeled bottles... but liquor itself has a mighty poor character, regardless of the cask that bears it! Without the expression of a single personal opinion, we'd like for the Assembly to take care of its own younguns and spank 'em if they need it!

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## Mrs. Hauptmann and Baby in Day's News

DEFENSE INTRODUCES MORE ALIBI WITNESSES



Mrs. Hauptmann and child as they appeared at Flemington, N. J., where their husband and father, Richard Bruno Hauptmann, is being tried for the murder of the Lindbergh baby. As this is printed the trial continues from a defense angle, as witnesses support the defendant's alibi story. Tuesday was described as his best day in court as evidence continued to link others with the murder and extortion plot.

## MUST LIMIT SPUDS OR TAKE LOW PRICE

Indications Are That Carolinians Must Reduce Acreage, Says Morrow. Large Surplus Would Have a Bad Effect on New Crop.

Present indications are that North Carolina Irish potato growers will lose heavily on their 1935 crop unless they reduce it by 30 per cent or more, says E. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at State College.

Basing his statements on figures supplied by A. E. Merckner, secretary of the Interstate Early Potato Committee, Morrow said that the anticipated crop of 8,500 carloads would probably sell for \$1,500,000 less than the cost of production.

But if the crop is limited to 5,000 cars, he added, the growers stand in position to clear over \$1,100,000 above production costs. In other words, a reduction of 3,500 cars will put \$2,000,000 into the growers' pocket.

Some growers have expressed intentions of producing a big crop this year in order to establish a large base as possible, said Morrow, who is executive secretary of the North Carolina Potato Growers Association. But Morrow pointed out that the potato advisory committee has requested that the base period be 1930-34 inclusive, and it is not likely that the 1935 crop will have any effect upon the base average.

Furthermore, he said, there is not enough chance of the 1935 crop affecting the base through a special ruling or otherwise, to justify the growers producing a big crop this year at a heavy loss.

Among the advisory committee recommendations are: determination by the secretary of agriculture of the advisable size of the annual crop to be marketed so as to maintain a parity price; a flexible basis of allotments to States; a tax of half a cent a pound on all potatoes marketed which are not covered by tax-exemption certificates; transference of certificates between growers when desired; and a referendum on the plan after it has been in force one year.

## CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an examination to be held in Boone, N. C., as a result of which it is expected to make certification to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth class postmaster at Shulls Mills, N. C. The compensation of the postmaster at this office was \$600 for the last fiscal year.

Application blanks, Form 9, and full information concerning the requirements of the examination can be secured from the postmaster at Shulls Mills or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C. Receipt of applications will close on February 21st, and date of examination will be announced shortly thereafter.

## BABY SHOW

The Comrade Sunday School Class of the local Methodist Church plans to hold a baby show soon and hopes that all mothers of the community will join to make it a success.

## WATAUGANS WILL ATTEND LINCOLN DINNER TUESDAY

Increased Number of Republicans Expected to Go from this County to Annual Meeting in Greensboro. Congressman Christianson of Minnesota Principal Speaker. Chairman Hodges Wants Large Delegation.

From thirty to fifty Republicans of Watauga County are expected to attend the Lincoln Day dinner in Greensboro next Tuesday evening, according to Chairman Russell Hodges of the County Executive Committee, who is anxious that all those desiring to attend the annual political banquet meeting get in touch with him at once in order that tickets may be secured.

The meeting, which is to be held at the King Cotton Hotel, beginning at 6:30 on the 12th, will be featured by an address by Hon. Theodore Christianson, a Congressman from Minnesota. The speaker is now serving his second term in the Lower House. He was Governor of Minnesota for three terms, and was a member of his State legislature for ten years, being chairman of the appropriations committee for that period. He is known as one of the country's best speakers and the State Republican organization feels fortunate in having him as honor guest on this occasion.

Asks Large Attendance "Since our party is out of power," reads an announcement from State headquarters, "this is a splendid time for us to demonstrate that the Republicans of North Carolina are very much alive. To do this, it is necessary for us to have the biggest crowd that has ever attended a Lincoln Day dinner in this State."

Chairman Hodges says that it is the purpose of the local organization to send from thirty to fifty delegates this year, as against a normal attendance of twenty-five and less. Tickets for the occasion may now be procured, he says, but it is especially advisable that all wishing to go make known their intentions to him within the shortest possible time.

## MATNEY CITIZEN TAKES OWN LIFE

Dave Yates Dies from Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wounds. Services Held at Matney Church. Widow and Six Children Survive.

Dave Yates, middle-aged resident of the Matney section, committed suicide Friday, by firing the lead from a shotgun into his left breast, death having been adjudged instantaneous.

Mr. Yates, according to reports, had previously threatened self-destruction, and on the fatal day left the house with the announced intention of shooting squirrels he had heard in the nearby woods. Mrs. Yates soon heard the report of the gun, and thinking he had hardly had time to reach the forest, sent one of the children to investigate. The father was found, a gaping hole in his chest, the shotgun nearby, together with a forked stick used to release the trigger.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist Church at Matney Saturday afternoon by Rev. Murray, Presbyterian minister, and interment was in that neighborhood.

Surviving is the widow and six children.

Mr. Yates was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Yates of Vilas, and was a highly respected farmer. The Democrat does not know what reason is assigned for the suicide.

## MRS. ZIMMERMAN'S FATHER RECEIVES SEVERE INJURIES

Mr. J. H. Fisher of Asheville, father of Mrs. Charles T. Zimmerman, Boone, was struck down by a hit-and-run motorist at Rockingham on Wednesday night of last week. He was rushed to a Hamlet hospital where he is now undergoing treatment for a crushed leg and severe wounds on the scalp. His condition is said to be improving slowly.

Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman went to Hamlet Saturday, where they remained until early Monday.

## COVE CREEK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Cove Creek Community Club will meet Friday, February 15th, at 3:15 p. m. at the Home Economics Building. Mrs. Dora Mast will be in charge of the program. Mrs. S. F. Horton and Mrs. Dean Swift will act as hostesses. All members are urged to attend, and a special invitation is extended to the men of the community who are interested in the school.

## WORTH WHILE CLUB

The Worth While Club will meet next Tuesday, February 12, at the home of Mrs. W. C. Greer, with Mrs. Greer and Mrs. Clyde Winebarger as joint hostesses.

## Mayor Cuts the Birthday Cake

Councill Wilds "Cutlass" as Large Crowd Makes Merry at Presidential Ball.



A part of the gathering at the President's ball held last week at the Daniel Boone Hotel. Mayor Tracy Council and Mrs. Council are shown as the Mayor cuts a large birthday cake, adorned by fifty-four candles lighted in honor of President Roosevelt, and they are surrounded by a number of those who participated in the event.

The ball was attended by people from about five western North Carolina counties, and the net proceeds amounted to \$87.00, including a few donations by those who did not buy dance tickets. Seventy per cent of the money remains here for treatment of infantile paralysis victims locally; thirty per cent goes to the Warm Springs Foundation.

## County Agent Plan to Be Settled Feb. 15th

On account of the illness of one of its members, Mr. W. F. Miller, the Board of County Commissioners again failed to take definite action in the matter of the employment of a county farm agent, the proposal having gained much support among the farm people during the last several months. Mr. J. R. McRary of State College was again present and will return on the 15th when it is promised that the matter will be decided. Indications are that an agent will be employed and State College officials are anxious to cooperate with the commissioners in securing a proper man for the position.

## PCA IN DISTRICT MEET SATURDAY

H. G. Farthing Re-elected Director in Credit Association, While Charles G. Hodges is Local Secretary. Vestal Heads Groups.

The annual stockholders meeting of the Wilkesboro Production Credit Association was held at the offices in Wilkesboro Saturday afternoon, the principal business being the election of the following board of directors: H. G. Farthing, Watauga; Fred N. Colvard, Ashe; Paul J. Vestal, Wilkes; A. B. Hobson, Yadkin; W. H. Hardy, Surry. Pursuant to instructions from the Production Credit Association of Columbia, the directorate was reduced from 9 to 5 members, in order to save administrative costs.

Following the stockholders meeting the directors elected Paul J. Vestal, president; W. R. Hardy, vice-president; T. W. Ferguson, secretary. Mr. C. G. Hodges of Boone was named local secretary and is ready to receive loan applications for this county. His office is to be located in the courthouse for the present.

Mr. W. E. Shipley of Vilas was named as inspector, and will pass upon the collateral offered by applicants.

Webb Addresses Meeting Mr. W. M. Webb, secretary of the Columbia PCA, made an address on the activities of the association during the year 1934. He was assisted in the conduct of the meeting by J. Edwin Tiddy of Columbia, the regional field representative.

This year, it is explained, all farmers desiring loans for modernization of homes and other buildings will have to subscribe for Class B stock in order to procure these loans. Loans are made, it is understood, on crops, livestock and implements, in amount of \$50 and above. The interest rate is 5 per cent, and no interest is charged until money is actually in the hands of the applicant.

## MITCHELL—GREER

The friends of Miss Hazel Greer and Mr. Charlie Mitchell will be interested to learn of their marriage, which took place recently. The bride is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Greer of the Silverstone section. She is very popular among a wide circle of friends. Mr. Mitchell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Mitchell, also of the Silverstone section.

## \$20,000 IS LOCAL GAIN MAIL ORDERS P. O. FIGURES SHOW

Local Merchants Appear Before Joint Legislative Committee and Show a Huge Loss of Business to Watauga County on Account of 3 Per Cent Sales Levy. Five Hundred Tradesmen Join in Presenting Case.

In October, November and December, 1934, patrons of the Boone postoffice counted \$20,000 more in money orders made payable to mail order susceptible firms than in the same period of 1933, according to figures given the Joint Finance committee of the Legislature last week by Clyde R. Greene, Boone merchant and secretary of the Watauga Fair Tax Association, who in company with other local merchants journeyed to Raleigh to appear as witnesses against the 3 per cent retail sales tax.

C. W. Teal, Frank Pearson and Glenn Brown composed the other members of the Watauga delegation, who with 500 others gathered from every county in the State appeared in the hearing arranged by the State Merchants Association as it seeks to prevent the re-enactment of the sales tax legislation.

## Greene Is Spokesman

Acting as spokesman for the delegation, Mr. Greene gave postal figures to show that in the months of October, November and December, 1932, \$27,226.90 in money orders were mailed from the Boone postoffice to mail order merchants, while in 1934, with the sales tax, \$47,231.40 went through the agency of postal checks to outside retailers.

At the same time, it was shown that in 1929 Watauga County's retail trade amounted to \$2,010,000, placing it in 56th place among the one hundred counties of the State. In 1933, he continued, it occupied 76th place with a drop in retail trade to \$764,000. Watauga County, it is believed, has suffered a great loss of business on account of the sales tax, due in large measure to the fact that it joins the State of Tennessee and is also in close proximity to the Virginia line, there being no sales tax in either state.

## North Carolina Figures

The legislators were further shown that in 1929 the mail order business from the State of North Carolina amounted to \$23,709,000; in 1932, \$23,400,000; that in 1933, when the sales tax had been in force for six months, the mail order trade jumped to \$19,375,000; and that one full year on the three per cent levy had taken \$7,429,984 from the trade of the merchants of the State, through the mail order route.

It is further indicated by the retail trade figures that the nation over retail trade was off 37 per cent during the period of 1929 to 1933, but that in North Carolina it was 44 per cent below normal. In Watauga County it is shown there has been a retail loss of 62 per cent, most of which is lost at the door of the retail levy.

## Say Tax Must Go

The local merchants upon returning to Boone state that sentiment is rapidly growing in Raleigh against the re-enactment of the tax and they believe it is now quite likely that with the introduction of substitute revenue measures that the soons will eliminate the levy on sales. Any way, they say, the situation looks brighter now than at any time since the merchants took up the cudgel against the controversial levy.

## EGGERS DOES NOT PURCHASE SPUDS

Erroneous Report as to Buying of Irish Potatoes Corrected by Loan Agent. Market Found for Those Who Are in Debt.

Mr. S. C. Eggers of the local Farm Loan Office calls the attention of The Democrat to an erroneous report which has been circulated over the county to the effect that the Federal Government is buying Irish potatoes, and asks that it be corrected.

Mr. Eggers states emphatically that the Federal Government is not buying local potatoes, never has, or so far as he knows never will. He, however, on his own initiative, sought to find a market for the 200,000 bushel Watauga County surplus, so that in turn the farmers might pay the Government their loans. In other words, he is trying to bring the farmer and the market together, and has now found an outlet for the potatoes at forty cents a bushel for number ones, net, delivered in Boone.

Farmers who owe Federal loans may sell their potatoes under this arrangement, and the money to be applied as credit on their obligation. Those wishing to sell potatoes and not owing the Government may get in touch with Mr. Eggers, and if he can aid them he will do so.

## HOG-CORN PAPERS READY TO SIGN

Representative of State Department of Agriculture Will Speak to Hog Breeders at Courthouse Here On February 15th.

Corn-hog reduction contracts are now ready for the signatures of the farmers of this county, states S. C. Eggers, local representative of the Association, who further announces that A. H. Chambers of the State Department of Agriculture will address the farmers of the county at the courthouse here Friday, February 15, at 10 o'clock. Mr. Chambers will be prepared to answer all questions concerning the hog reduction program and will explain in detail the plan for subsidizing this branch of the farming industry.

It is explained that last year the hog rebellion constituted 25% of the increase of production in the years 1932-33. This year the same period of time will be used as a base and the reduction asked is only 10 per cent. For this 10 per cent the farmer will receive from the Government pay at the rate of \$15 per pig for those he fails to produce. Any farmer who has been producing corn or hogs is eligible to sign a contract, whether or not he signed last year.

Books are available at Mr. Eggers' office in Boone in the meantime, and it is expected that all contracts be executed by the first of March.

## HORSE STEALING CHARGES AIRED

Three Given Road Sentences Tuesday for Taking Mules and Horse, Others Get Sentences for Larceny and Drunkenness.

Days of long ago when appropriation of another man's beast, particularly his horse, resulted in a "necktie party," the accused playing the part of the man at the end of the rope, were vividly recalled in Recorder's Court Tuesday, when Kermit Wilcox, Walter and Millard Greer were tried for the larceny of two mules, a horse and a saddle. Judge Bingham sentenced the trio to 6 months on the roads, the first named having filed notice of appeal to the Superior Court.

The mules were the property of Mr. W. R. Greene of New River and were taken from his stables on the night of January 28. The horse and saddle came from the barn of Mr. Jim Walls, a short distance away. The beasts were recovered the next day and Deputy Sheriff Lester Carroll arrested the three men. Mr. Greene states that his mules have been badly abused, and are not able for work—in fact, can scarcely stand.

Other Cases Sebron Burlison and Elmre Saine, attaches of a CCC camp, were arraigned on charges of the larceny of tires and gasoline, breaking and entering, were given six months in each case.

Letcher Teague was before the court for drunkenness, and the conditions of a six-months suspended sentence, previously passed, were invoked.

Henderson and Polk County apple growers have ordered a car of spray materials co-operatively.