

# BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

## The Hour Approacheth

THE outcome of Boone's municipal election has, quite naturally, caused the public pulse to throb anxiously. It's also caused we forecasters of horse races, pugilistic encounters, dog fights and political shake-downs to scratch diligently into the dump-heap of unrestricted opinion for money-winning tips on the ever-drawing-nigher battle of the crossed circle. But relief, ah sweet relief, came Tuesday morning as the Sketch Man was soliloquizing in full tones, doubtfully, of course, on the whys, the wherefores and net results of next Tuesday's balloting. . . . Colonel Pinkney Erastus Baldwin, bewhiskered Sage of Ripshin who recently celebrated a slightly controversial two-hundredth birthday anniversary at his wilderness retreat near the headwaters of Boone's Fork, sauntered into the sanctum-sanctorum. The problem, surely, was nearing solution. . . . from beneath a frayed flap of his venerable "claw-hammer" the Colonel extracted a sizeable cut of "rich and waxy" . . . a calloused hand bore a he-man offering of the authoritative twirl to the cavernous Baldwin "chopper" . . . the Colonel "set" his chop well back amidst those yellowed-by-time molars, adjusted his cane to a characteristic angle, smiled sweetly as a blushing Elberta . . . and gave us the merriest sort of a "howdy-do!"

J. C. R.

WHAT do you think of the coming election, Colonel?" . . . that was the first question we asked him. The older's chinquaspin eyes flashed wickedly . . . he was "wily" affected by the query . . . his dyspepsia must have been bothering him. "What election?" he demanded . . . and we told him. The Colonel then proceeded to deliver himself of a history-making philippic . . . he pranced to and fro pronouncing his rugged staff on the office floor . . . he declared 'pon honor that times ain't what they were back 'endurin' the Injun Wars when General Andy Jackson teamed up with the clan Baldwin in many a duel-shooting, rip-snorting crusade against the enemies of democracy . . . that politics is rotten and candidates rotter than ever before in his long-range memory . . . that horse-sense has ceased to be a virtue or an accessory, of mankind . . . that the country, if it keeps on going to the dogs, will soon be there! "I've been thinkin' all along," the patriarch continued with a pre-Revolution flourish, "that I'd come over here and vote in this election . . . but I ain't certain about ANY of these candidates; guess I'll just stay home and help the old woman plant corn next Tuesday" . . . and then the wise old Colonel glanced tenderly down and concluded his remarks with a simple little request . . . simple, quite simple: "Son, you just see to it that they elect a perfect man for Mayor, and everything will be all right!" And with this the Colonel shuffled away . . . bearing the burden of his great age with a surprising dignity.

WE didn't learn much from the Colonel . . . in fact, about all we gleaned from his scholarly lecture is that perfection MUST abide in the Mayor's seat for the coming biennium . . . and that ought to be plumb simple. Without even a guess as to the outcome of Boone's battle of the century, its' our extreme pleasure to announce, loudly, justly, the "card" for next Tuesday, May 7th: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! . . . In the left corner is "Sluggo" Gragg, 220-pounds in his BVDs, entry of the Hamiltonian Club! . . . In the right corner is "Kid" Cottrell, 152-pound man-mauler who also craves the crown of municipal authority. The "Kid" was selected by the Jeffersonian Club following an "elimination tournament" held Tuesday night of last week. An anxious world awaits the outcome of this featured bout! Mrs. Carrie Coffey Williams will referee the stupendous struggle; Winkler and Stanbury are the time-keepers! Another exciting event will be a "battle royal" between four amateurs and two professionals . . . Jack Dempsey Wilcox, "Killer" Hamby, "Butcher Tatum," "Slasher" Rogers, "Bull" Moose and "K. O." Perry! The awards will be three nice, comfortable seats on the City Council! The show begins Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock in a specially arranged arena at City Hall. Those who intend to participate in the entertainment had better 'ave made their "registrations" early!

THE "cow, hog, flower-garden, dump-heap, electric, bond and interest" platform . . . that generous offering of last week's Sketch column . . . died abornin'! As a putter-over of political platforms, we must admit that our onions are in ignorance . . . but it certainly did read right pretty in places . . . now honest, didn't it!

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## NAMED MASCOT

Billy Joe Crawford Honored at Boone High School.



Billy Joe Crawford, attractive son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crawford of this city, who has been chosen as mascot for the Boone High School senior class. Billy Joe is two years old.

## WOOL POOL BEING FORMED IN COUNTY

Agents and Teachers Work Out System to Aid Farmers in Disposal of Crop.

The Vocational Teachers and County Agents of Watauga have formulated a plan for assisting farmers of the county in selling their wool through a pool this year. Agent W. B. Collins, as spokesman for the group, invites sheep growers of the county to meet at the courthouse in Boone on Monday, May 6th, 10 a. m., to make plans for selling this year's crop, and to elect a committee to sell the wool. It is his belief that a committee composed of three good business men representing the growers of the county, can sell the forty thousand pounds of wool produced here at a much better price than it can be sold for by the individual growers in small lots of fifty to five hundred pounds.

Market quotations will be received daily at Agent Collins' office, and contact will be made with wool buyers in order to assist the selling committee in getting the best price possible for the farmers who pool their wool.

Long Experience Agent Collins has for the past five years assisted farmers in selling their wool through the pool system. During that time those who entered the pools received from 2 1/2 cents to 6 cents more for their fleece than local buyers were able to pay at the time the pool was sold.

No charges will be made for selling the pooled wool and the farmers will be given checks by the buyer when the wool is taken up.

Only wool that is reasonably free from trash will be accepted. Farmers should shear their wool in a clean place and keep it free from trash, Mr. Collins states that the only way to keep tags out of wool is to thoroughly tag the sheep before shearing.

Cards are being sent out to the sheep growers of the county asking them to express their willingness to sell through a pool. This will be the only contract required of farmers. "We would like for the farmers who sign these cards and return them to us to hold their wool for the pool or notify us if they decide to sell through other channels," Agent Collins said.

In order to get the pool started, it is important that a large delegation of sheep growers attend the meeting here next Monday.

## Potato Bill Draws Presidential Favor

WASHINGTON, D. C.—White House approval of the idea behind the Warren potato control bill which would extend the benefits of the AAA to potato growers, was Tuesday given to Governor Brann and members of the Maine delegation in Congress. The approval of the Warren bill was immediately transmitted to Representative Lindsay C. Warren, the author, who expects to introduce a revised bill having the support of the Department of Agriculture today and to secure early action by the House committee.

TO REGISTER TOURIST HOMES Mr. Archie Qualls, secretary of the Watauga Chamber of Commerce, asks that all residents of the town and county who are in position to accept summer people or tourists, please register their names, accommodations and rates at his office in the Watauga County Bank building. This service is offered free.

## REPUBLICANS GO TO BAT WITH FULL MUNICIPAL SLATE

Straight Political Fight Is Now On for Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

FIRST TIME REPUBLICANS HAVE OFFERED TICKET

W. H. Gragg Heads G. O. P. Ticket, With D. J. Cottrell His Opponent. Action Comes 24 Hours After Democratic Pow-wow.

For perhaps the first time in the history of Boone, voters who go to the polls next Tuesday will cast ballots on which appear a full slate of Democratic and Republican candidates for Mayor and City Commissioners, and a full-fledged political campaign is being waged by the politically-minded.

That the Democrats would have opposition in the city election this year developed twenty-four hours after their nominating election last week, when leading Republicans of the community gathered in convention and endorsed a ticket headed by W. H. Gragg for Mayor, and followed by the names of D. L. Wilcox, A. E. Hamby and Dr. G. K. Moose as candidates for Aldermen. The Democrats, as was published last week, nominated D. J. Cottrell for Mayor and Dr. H. B. Perry, L. T. Tatum and Charles Rogers for Aldermen.

First Partisan Contest

Until the last few years, candidates for municipal office had been nominated by citizens' mass meetings, and included both Democrats and Republicans. Later Democratic tickets won unopposed, except occasionally by an independent slate of candidates. The city having always been considered Democratic by a large majority, the Republican party had not previously offered a ticket.

As a result of the placing in the field of two strong tickets, a large vote is expected to be cast on the 7th. About six hundred are eligible to vote and the election this year is to be held at City Hall.

## MRS. GAITHER WINS INSURANCE CASES

Widow of Deceased Dentist Given Favorable Report in Judge Phillips' Court.

The Spring Term of Watauga Superior Court, which convened on the 22nd with Judge Phillips presiding, was adjourned last Monday with about fifteen cases on the civil calendar finally disposed of.

The suits brought against the Security Life and Trust Company of Winston-Salem and the Mutual Insurance Company of New York by Mrs. Sarah B. Gaither of Boone for the purpose of collecting insurance carried by her late husband, attracted considerable interest and resulted in a verdict favorable to the plaintiff. The only question to be answered by the jury was whether or not Dr. Gaither committed self-destruction. This was answered "no," Mrs. Gaither having won something like \$12,000 by the verdict. The prominent Boone dentist was fatally wounded last fall when a shotgun accidentally discharged, and understanding is that insurance companies resisted the payment of double indemnity clauses in some policies he carried.

## Citizens Ticket in Blowing Rock Voting

As has been the custom for many years, Blowing Rock voters at the election next Tuesday will cast ballots upon which appear the names of two candidates for Mayor and six for Commissioners, with no party affiliations indicated. The candidates were nominated at a citizens meeting.

Those appearing on the ticket this year are: For Mayor, D. P. Coffey, D. J. Boyden; For Commissioners, Herbert Stewart, C. S. Pevette, W. B. Castle, J. H. Winkler, B. D. Greene and T. A. Weaver.

Reports coming to Boone indicate that there is considerable interest in the campaign in the neighboring town and that a good-sized vote is expected to be cast.

SAYS PAPER IMPROVES

Mr. J. L. Thomas of Mabel, old time friend of the Democrat, in extending his subscription, writes: "You are putting out a good paper and I think you are making improvements every week. I wish you the very best of success." These words are greatly appreciated. "Uncle Jasper" as Mr. Thomas is familiarly known, is still active, despite his advanced age and takes active interest in the work about his plantation.

## Doughton Will Not Seek 1936 Gubernatorial Plum

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Reversing a definite intention which he had entertained until a few hours before he made his formal announcement, Representative Robert L. Doughton Monday evening declared that he will not be a candidate for Governor of North Carolina in 1936.

The reversal was due to the personal request of President Roosevelt who over the week-end wrote Mr. Doughton a letter on the subject, sent an emissary to him and Monday morning asked him to call at the White House before announcing any intention to leave Congress. Mr. Doughton, who was confident he could be elected, said he had acted "reluctantly."

"I made up my mind definitely that unless the President asked me to stay, that I would announce for Governor," said Mr. Doughton as he gave out his formal statement, in which he said:

"I have been convinced that my best field of service at the present time, if I am to remain in public life, is with the Congress and for the nation."

Late last week Washington newspapers carried a story that Mr. Doughton would step aside from his (Continued on Page 8)



R. L. DOUGHTON

## TVA FARMS HAVE BEEN SELECTED

Ten Watauga Tracts Mapped for Experimentation. Phosphate To Be Applied.

The ten TVA demonstration farms for Watauga County have been selected, the farms mapped, and a requisition for phosphate to go on the pasture and other grass land on these farms has been forwarded to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Following is a list of the TVA demonstration farms and the amounts of triple phosphate to be used:

Tracy Council, Boone, 7,700 pounds; D. F. Greene, Sugar Grove, 4,300 pounds; Don J. Horton, Vias, 26,400 pounds; W. H. Mast, Sugar Grove, 3,900 pounds; A. G. Moretz, Deep Gap, 7,600 pounds; C. M. Shore, Shulls Mills, 25,800 pounds; A. N. Thomas, Trade, Tenn., 8,500 pounds; J. L. Triplett, Matney, 7,190 pounds; Alex. Tugman, Boone R. F. D., 7,500 pounds.

This phosphate will probably be delivered to these farms by May 15. A system of crop rotations will be worked out on these farms and records will be closely kept by the owners.

## Huge Liquor Haul Is Made in Wilkes County

NORTH WILKESBORO.—Federal revenue agents working in Wilkes County Saturday morning made a raid which netted 7,083 gallons of liquor on which tax had not been paid. The illicit liquor was seized at the home of Glenn Johnson, fifteen miles east of Wilkesboro.

The liquor was stored in Johnson's residence in cases of half-gallon fruit jars, it was reported. Four rooms of the home were used for storage and each was filled to the ceiling, officers said.

Johnson, according to unofficial reports here, made his escape from the officers.

Revenue and penalty on the liquor was estimated to reach \$24,000 or \$25,000.

Mrs. Hazel Moody Edminsten of Raleigh spent Easter with her parents in the Shulls Mills section.

## Front Line Sketches



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Charles West (above), former Ohio Congressman, is President Roosevelt's new "contact" man, whose job it will be to work out closer relations with Congress for the White House. He was active in arranging details of the \$4,880,000,000 relief resolution.

## SPLENDID SHOWING IS MADE IN FISCAL AIRS OF BOONE

Retiree Board Cares for \$21,800 in Interest Coupons During Depression Period.

\$26,000 IN BONDS HAVE BEEN RETIRED DURING BIENNIUM

Water Reservoir and Street Improvements Are Added. Simplified Books Installed. Other Financial Details.

Dr. H. B. Perry, senior member of the Board of Aldermen and town clerk, Monday told The Democrat that during the two-year administration of the board which comes to a close next Tuesday \$26,000 in town bonds have been retired, and \$21,800 in interest coupons canceled. The bonded indebtedness of Boone two years ago amounted to \$257,000; today the slate could be wiped clean if the municipality had it in its power to rake up \$231,000, this including defaulted interest and principal.

The board, at present composed of Dr. Perry, who has been a member since 1929, Mr. C. B. Duncan and Dr. G. K. Moose, is being complimented by many local taxpayers on the remarkable showing made by them in the two-year period, during which time the property valuation of the town has decreased \$100,000, thereby shaving \$2,000 from annual revenues.

Water System Improved

In addition to the remarkable showing made by the city fathers in reducing the municipality's indebtedness, \$10,000 has been expended during the past biennium on street improvements and expansion of the water system. An unpoucing reservoir with a capacity of 7,000,000 gallons has been constructed and placed into use, which will afford consumers a sixty-day supply without additional flow. This huge reserve of water affords a maximum of safety against fire hazards, and insures against the drought shortages of recent years.

By retirement of the \$26,000 in street and water system bonds, Dr. Perry pointed out, the city's interest bill has been cut \$1,560 per annum, almost one-half of the amount required for normal operating expenses.

Despite the inroads made on municipal obligations by the board, the town today is in default \$14,960 in interest coupons, and \$10,000 in bonds. But, in view of the fact that bonds, interest, notes and improvements cared for during the period total \$56,880, an almost unparalleled record has been established in an era of financial depression.

The retiring Board of Aldermen, in addition to its financial activities, has installed a simplified system of books at the City Hall, which enables interested citizens to easily obtain a comprehensive knowledge of municipal affairs. The collection of water rents has also shown a decided increase in recent months, and a much more practical method is being pursued in this department.

Final retirement of Boone's gigantic bonded indebtedness still remains a perplexing problem, but the fine record of the old Board of Aldermen at least offers a glimmer of hope to Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer.

## Walker Representative For the C. M. T. C.

County Superintendent W. H. Walker of Boone, North Carolina, has accepted appointment as representative for Watauga County to assist local youths to qualify for this summer's Citizens' Military Training Camps, it was announced Monday.

Mr. Walker also made it known that public-spirited physicians of the county have again volunteered their services to the Government and will give free physical examinations to candidates for the training camps. Young men of this county should apply for these examinations to Dr. H. B. Perry, Boone, N. C.

A recent increase in appropriations by Congress has more than doubled the number of men who may attend the camps this year, and all youths between 17 and 24 years are eligible to apply. The Government pays such necessary expenses as transportation to camp and return and furnishes wholesome food, uniforms, laundry service, and athletic equipment.

The camps run for thirty days and attendance does not obligate the candidate for future military service of any kind.

LUTHER GREENE STABBED

Luther Greene, 18, of Stony Fork, was stabbed in the abdomen Sunday night by Lee Smith, according to meager reports reaching the Democrat this (Wednesday) morning. The wounded man was carried to Wilkesboro Hospital where an operation was performed, and his condition is said to be critical. Whether or not his assailant has been arrested could not be ascertained. Young Greene is a son of Clintard Greene.

## DYNAMITE USED TO DESTROY MILL

Sunday Night Explosion Plays Havoc With Small Grist Mill Near Triplett Postoffice.

A grist mill, owned and operated by Miss Alvena Hayes of Triplett, was literally blown to bits and the building almost completely destroyed as a result of what is thought to have been a dynamite explosion late Sunday night.

The explosive, it was deduced, had been placed in the "eye" of the mill and the rocks or burrs were literally blown to bits, the water wheel destroyed and the roof blown from the building. The loss was something like two hundred dollars, it is said, and it has not been determined as to who the predator was or the motive for the act.

## No Picture Shows Here During Coming Week

The Pastime Theatre will undergo extensive remodeling and redecorating next week, and Manager Hamby finds it impossible to carry forward this work, and yet maintain his daily schedule of moving pictures. Therefore his theatre is to be closed to the public all next week, with the exception of Saturday. The following week, however, he will offer his patrons the usual program of late films, and the interior of the building will no doubt be appreciated in its new finishing.

## Five-to-Five Store Closing Out in Boone

The Five-to-Five Store, popular dry goods establishment, is beginning a sales event, during the course of which it expects to close out its large stock of merchandise. There are six Five-to-Five stores in the chain, most of them in Tennessee, and it is explained that the discontinuance of the Boone store is in order to get all the establishments grouped closer together so that they may be carried on conveniently under the same general supervision.

Mr. Jerry Brewer, the founder of the mercantile chain, was in charge of the local store until succeeded by Mr. R. F. McDade a couple of years ago. The firm has been popular here and has enjoyed a wide patronage.

## Bill Introduced to Add Court Term for County

RALEIGH, N. C.—A new two-weeks term of court for the trial of civil cases, beginning the 14th Monday after the first Monday in March, is provided for Watauga County in a bill introduced in the Senate Thursday by Senator Warren. The bill, Senate Bill No. 529, was referred to the calendar committee. The main section of the bill reads as follows:

"The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

"Section 1. That section 1443 of the Consolidated Statutes, under the subtitle 'Watauga' be amended by adding to the end thereof after the word 'week' a new sentence to read as follows: 'Fourteenth Monday after the first Monday in March, to continue for a term of two weeks, for the trial of civil cases only.'"

Mr. Albert Hodges, progressive farmer of Route 2, made an appreciated call at The Democrat office Wednesday afternoon.