

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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R. C. RIVERS, JR., Publisher

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them."—Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1951.

MOTHER'S DAY

Another Mother's Day draws near, and we hail this national practice of honoring the mothers of men, as one of our most beautiful and wholesome observances.

Some of the more callous don't go along with this plan of giving these brave souls a gesture of appreciation on a specified date; they say the idea was promoted for commercial reasons—to promote sales of flowers, and of candy, and of clothing and most everything. Quite likely, the profit motive has entered into the thing, for after all, even Christmas has been commercialized to the point that it sometimes appears difficult to see the manger or the star. But we wouldn't speak out against the glorious institution. Likewise we shall go along with the most of the folks, in having a care for mother on just this one day in the year.

Not much is required. There is no fanfare, no parades, when the mothers of the land occupy the spotlight. They just enjoy the glow of the observance, the warmth of the devotions which are manifested and settle down to another long hard year of service to their loved ones, their friends, and the Lord, and the compelling job of holding society itself together through the influence of the homes they have established.

Yes, we always feel privileged when we don a little blossom on a Sunday morning and join with the other folks of the community in paying simple and deserved tribute to all the mothers both living and dead, for their unselfish devotions, and unending labors in the cause of a fuller life and a more wholesome and happier social status.

SOCIETY SHARES THE BLAME

Ralph Gragg, young Collettsville man, perpetrated perhaps the largest mass slaying in the history of the State, when he bludgeoned his eight children to death, poured oil about over their mountain home, ignited the fluid and committed suicide, and while folks are trying to figure out the ramifications of the gruesome tragedy, we're going to take sides with those who argue that perhaps society is quite as much to blame as the unemployed father who wielded the hammer, struck the match and fired the shotgun.

Be it said to the discredit of society that although the 36-year-old man, who had been injured in a sawmill accident in November and hadn't worked since, did not have access to any sort of court of domestic relations, even though his wife had moved out thirty days previously because "I was afraid of him." The system didn't provide any sort of protection for a lot of youngsters left in the hands of a distraught father, facing a hopeless task, in a frenzied frame of mind. He had threatened to kill the children before, his wife said so, the oil was on hand to provide the fuel for the funeral pyre; neighbors said the father had "acted peculiar" of late; he had a case pending for assault on Mrs. Gragg in the Caldwell court; and Mrs. Gragg "felt she would never come out alive if she returned to her husband's home."

Yes, the wholesale tragedy had been taking place in the maddened mind of Ralph Gragg for a good while, his wife evidently knew it; it seemed to be the general understanding that something was wrong at the place, else Mrs. Gragg would be home. The children were trying to attend school and make the best of a bad situation, but the system just didn't allow them to stay around. In a civilization such as ours, there should have been some way to save these innocent youngsters.

Truly enough, society must share some of the blame for the destruction of the folks who composed what had likely been at some time a happy home. The crazed father might

not have been capable of reasoning, but the folks had ample opportunity to know something was in the making which smelled of disaster.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

THANKS, "DOC"
Dear Bob:
As busy as I am and as busy as you are, I want to write you to say that your comments on Uncle Bob Bingham are excellent. I knew Uncle Bob and loved Uncle Bob and you have measured the man in a language and style few editors can command.

Not too many years ago a little old professor suggested to an editor that he should write a few editorials and thus strengthen his paper. Your editorials are doing that every issue.
Say hello to my Boone friends.
Cordially yours,
W. AMOS ABRAMS
Associate Editor
"N. C. Education"
Raleigh, N. C.

MARCH OF DIMES

Dear Mr. Rivers:
You will be interested to know that the 1951 March of Dimes campaign in North Carolina was a splendid success. All final reports from our county campaign directors are not yet in but we know that we now have a gross total for the state of a little over \$1,125,000.00.

Watauga County, under the leadership of Mr. James Taylor, of Boone, raised \$3,200.00. The newspapers of the state—weeklies and dailies—have contributed a considerable share to the success of the March of Dimes. Without your cooperation we could not possibly succeed.
This is just a note to let you know what the people of North Carolina have done this year in raising money to fight infantile paralysis and to thank you for the support you have given through your paper to the campaign. I feel sure we may continue to depend upon your help, just as we have all along.

With all good wishes.
Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Phillips Russell
Director of Organization
N. C. March of Dimes
Chapel Hill, N. C.

THEY SAY . . .

LEWIS W. DOUGLAS, former Ambassador to Great Britain: "An intimate association with Britain is one of the keystones of the arch of the future."

BERNARD LAW MONTGOMERY, British Field Marshal: "The philosophy of every soldier is different and it is no good in trying to turn the soldiers of any nation into international types."

BURNET R. MAYBANK, U. S. Senator from South Carolina: "The farmers' incomes have gone down and down and down."

WILLIAM LANGER, U. S. Senator from North Dakota: "Any idea that the farmers are riding the crest of high prices and prosperity doesn't jibe with the facts."

HARRY S. TRUMAN: "This fall and winter the economy will be hit by the full impact of military production."

MICHAEL V. DiSalle, Price Stabilizer: "Scarce buying and hoarding can bring us closer to rationing than anything else at this time."

OMAR N. BRADLEY, head of Joint Chiefs of Staff: "If at all possible, Korea should be settled on the present battle ground."

DOUGLAS MacARTHUR, General: "The Soviet will not necessarily mesh its actions with our moves."

ROBERT A. VOGELER, American released from Hungarian prison: "God has given us the mission to destroy the Communist enemies of freedom."

ROBERT SHERWOOD, playwright: "It is in Europe that the Communist czar of Russia feels himself most vulnerable."

LESTER C. HUNT, U. S. Senator from Wyoming: "Any attorney defending a crook knows the source of his fee."

GEORGE H. MAHON, Member of Congress from Texas: "It takes time for a gigantic mobilization program to get under way."

PICKED UP . . .

ASK THE CALF
"The United Nations has the world by the tail," asserts a columnist. We are reminded of the story of a boy who had a calf by the tail. When he was asked where they were going, he replied, "Ask the calf."—Minneapolis Star.

THREE STRIKES AND OUT
Did you hear about the fellow who goes to church three times in his life: When he's hatched, matched and dispatched?—Man-Data.

HASN'T CHANGED
Love-making hasn't changed in 2,500 years. Greek maidens used to sit and listen to a lyre all evenings, too.—Exchange.

MODEL
A model marriage is one in which the wife is a treasure and the husband is a treasury.—Watchman-Examiner.

STRANGE?
It's strange how the girls with the cleanest minds give you the dirtiest looks.—The Hoist.

NEVER PUT IT OFF
Never put off enjoyment. There is no time like the pleasant.—Tester.

IDEA
Many a couple thinks their crying need is solved when they secure a baby-sitter.—Miami Herald.

POEM
In Washington's swirl
Of favor and fetter,
Know-how's nice
But know-whom's better.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat

QUANTITY
For those who like quantity for a small price there's a California firm that sells 5,000 items for fifty cents—to be more specific they're dwarf-type watercress seeds.—Christian Science Monitor.

SOCIETY

Junior Woman's Club Installs Officers

The Boone Junior Woman's Club met Thursday night, May 3, at the Skyline Dining Room. Mrs. R. W. Watkins, incoming president of district three, performed installation ceremony of charter officers: Mrs. Palmer Blair, president; Mrs. W. C. Richardson, 1st vice president; Mrs. Walter Hawkinson, 2nd vice president and program chairman; Mrs. John Kirk, recording secretary; Mrs. Roy Smith, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Charlie Wilfong, treasurer; Mrs. Jim Taylor, parliamentarian.

Mrs. W. R. Winkler was elected from the senior Woman's Club as sponsor to Junior Club. Miss Corky Lonon was appointed chairman of "Scrap Book"; Mrs. Rebecca Chamberlain, publicity and "Press Book" chairman.

The constitution was read by Mrs. John Bingham, and adopted. Mrs. Jim Taylor gave a report of the delegates' trip to Woman's Club convention in Charlotte.

Mrs. W. C. Richardson presented a report on trip to Hickory Junior Woman's Club, Inc., installation program.

The appointments of committees and chairmen by the executive board were presented by Mrs. Blair.

A lovely desert course was served. The hostess was Mrs. John Bingham with Mrs. Bryan Farthing and Mrs. Jim Taylor co-hostesses.

Mrs. Clyde Williams Entertains Club

The Green Valley Home Demonstration Club met April 27 at the home of Mrs. Clyde Williams with ten members and one visitor, Mrs. Jim Hodges, present.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The ecoclect repeated and the song, United Nation Hymn was sung. After the business session the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Edwards. She gave a very helpful and interesting demonstration on making slip covers.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Williams assisted by Mrs. Earl Miller and Mrs. Emilie Clawson. The May meeting will be with Mrs. Hamp Clawson.

Crow-poison, also known as fly-poison and staggergrass, is a common North Carolina plant that is poisonous to livestock.

KING STREET

Continued from page one) week on the firing of General MacArthur, but we regret to report that news from Frog-town and Yahooola, plus other disturbances in and around Dahlonga, have crowded the General off the front page of the Nugget. If anyone is interested in our views on the MacArthur issue, they may secure same by calling on us in our office in the Nugget tower."

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Cleveland, Ohio	11.35	20.80
Fayetteville	4.85	8.95
Wilmington	6.75	12.15
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GREYHOUND

May Day Program at Lees-McRae Slated

Miss J'Neese Altman, member of the Senior class of Lees-McRae College has been elected queen of the May Day Festival which will be held on the college campus, May 12 at 4:00 o'clock.

Miss Altman will have as her maid of honor Miss Jolene Payne of Mountain City, Tennessee also a member of the senior class, an eight attendants elected from the senior, freshmen and medical secretarial classes. The attendants are: Misses Dawn Leach, Greensboro; Mary Alva White, Charlotte; Martha Benton, Monroe; Carol Coffey and Hazel Saunders, Lenoir; Katrina Walker, West Jefferson; Patsy Alexander, Durham, Marion Helms, Charlotte.

Miss Altman, from New Smyrna Beach, Florida, is president of Phi Theta Kappa, head cheer leader in 1950-51, member of the Sullivanian Sorority, member of the Christian Council, member of Women's Athletic Association and in 1949-50 was an attendant of the May Court. Miss Altman is taking a medical

OBITUARY

Bro. Roby Shook was born on April 13th, 1874, departed this life on May 4th, 1951, being 77 years and 21 days old.

He was married to Julia Greer on Nov. 14th, 1885, who survives. To this union were born six children, all of whom survive: Mrs. Doris Evins, Johnson City, Tenn.; Mr. Crestes Shook, Whaley, N. C.; Mrs. Mamie Ward, Sherwood, N. C.; Mr. Tom Shook, Sherwood, N. C.; Mrs. Clara Shook, Sherwood, N. C.; 15 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren.

He is also survived by 4 brothers and 3 sisters: Mr. Jim Shook, Gastonia, N. C.; Mr. Jo Shook, Minneapolis, N. C.; Mr. George Shook, New York City; Mr. Ward Shook, Johnson City, Tenn.; Mrs. Sam Howell, Banner Elk, N. C.; Mrs. Lee Carenard, Banner Elk, N. C.; Mrs. Richard Smith, Banner Elk, N. C.

Bro. Shook professed faith in the Lord Nov. 6th, 1938, and joined Pleasant Grove church. Therefore being cleansed from his sins he was ready to go. His call came at the midnight hour—

But he was trusting in the Saviour's power
To bear him away to heights above.

Where all is joy, peace and love. Oh—his presence here will be greatly missed.

But his soul is bathing in the heavenly bliss.

No more suffering, no more pain, no night will ever again
Come to him in that city so fair, Which Jesus said He had gone to prepare.

secretarial course at Lees-McRae College.

The May Day Festival is sponsored by the Women's Athletic Association of which Miss Mary Alva White of Charlotte is president. Mrs. Victor Prusa, president of the Banner Elk Women's Club will serve as advisor for the festival.

Craddle Roll Day

Craddle Roll and Nursery Day will be observed at the First Baptist Church, Sunday, May 13th. At 10:30 a. m. there will be a special program in the church auditorium by the nursery children. All craddle roll and nursery children are urged to be present. The names of all the children will be called and a gift presented to the youngest child there. A prayer of dedication for our homes will be given.

Children's Bureau reports infant, maternal deaths at low.

House group backs withholding tax on dividends, interest.

NOTICE

I have sold my grocery store and filling station known as Jones Grocery to Roy Jones and Will Jones and am not responsible for any obligations of the business after May 5th, 1951.—Those indebted to me will please make settlement with Roy Jones, who has my books. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the people for their fine patronage and friendly cooperation with me during the time I was in business.

TOM D. JONES

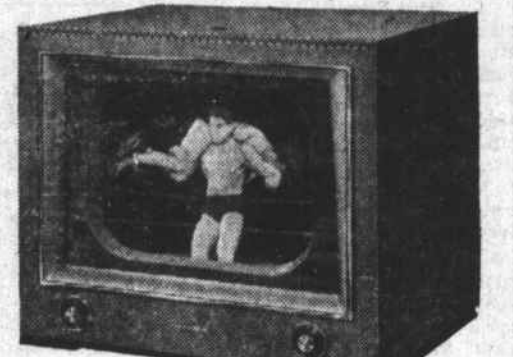
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