

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.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1953

A Care For The Children

With the new school terms under way in most sections, and with a record number of youngsters making their way to the institutions of learning, the need for additional safety precautions on the part of the motoring public should be emphasized.

In school safety zones, at crossings, and wherever groups of children are seen along the streets or highways, motorists are being asked to slow down and look sharply, because the youngsters are unpredictable. Open playgrounds should be especially watched, because a youngster at play isn't easily distracted. And of course the law requiring vehicles to stop while a bus is receiving or discharging passengers, is generally observed and is most important to the safety of the children.

Let's cooperate with the schools, the city officials, and the bus drivers in providing the greatest degree of safety for the children during the current school term.

REA Telephones

Our information the end of the week was that about ten members were signed before the REA telephone project for Watauga county could go through, and the Democrat would insist that a few more farmers sign up, to the end that this greatly needed rural facility may be constructed.

We incline to the belief that the days for REA funds, public power development, and the like are growing short. There is every indication that whatever is done, will have to be done now, before the lid is put on. In other words the REA telephone development is perhaps the last big-scale public service that's coming this way. Let's get it, if possible.

On Behalf Of The Exiled

The State Supreme Court is again hearing arguments in a case in which the defendant had refused to comply with a court judgment that he leave the State.

Last spring the court had taken a sharp slap at judges who expelled citizens of this State, and forced them to take up residence elsewhere.

If the prisoner at the bar has a chance of reestablishing himself as a useful member of society, he certainly should have the privilege of making the try around the home plate. If he's reached the stage of hopeless delinquency, we're acting in poor grace when we cast him off on other people, who have plenty of their own. It's a bit like emptying one's refuse on the neighbor's lawn, where's he's already waging ceaseless war on the dandelions.

We've always been against banishing the folks who don't exactly conform, and it is heartening to know that the State's high tribunal is allergic to the medieval practice.

Hopeless Gulf

The split between the liberal and the Dixiecrat groups of the Democratic party, or rather between the national and sectional party stalwarts don't seem to heal too much, and was the subject of considerable discussion on the eve of the Chicago meeting.

Down-the-line partisans are just a little dependent that the folks won't get together right when the old ship is in the midst of fairly favorable winds.

This corner holds that there's no hope of healing the rift, when one can't even get an agreement on what the so-called loyalty oath actually was, or is. Most newspapers, the AP and the man on the street keep saying it was an oath binding the delegates to support the nominees of the convention. Ac-

tually it bound the delegates to use their influence to get the nominees of the convention on the ticket in the several states.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Would Like To Have Permanent Fair Headquarters

Dear Editor:

It seems to me that this 1953 Watauga County Fair has shown us plainly that we must work and work hard for permanent headquarters, where we may be assured of adequate and suitable arrangements, equipment may be maintained, outdoor events planned, and recreation of our choosing. We have had wonderful Fairs through the years. We need the whole community behind them.

Sincerely,
ELIZABETH M. LORD

Boone, N. C.

Democrat Circulates

Dear Editor:

I was gratified to learn recently that Elizabeth Blair of New York City, daughter of the late Julius and Annie Shearer Blair, while visiting her mother in Thomasville, picked up the copy of the Democrat and on reading my story, sent it to New York to my son, David Barlow, and wife, Corky, to read. Corky in turn sent it to her mother in Big Springs, Texas, so the Democrat really gets around.

TEXIE HORTON RUSSELL

Lenoir, N. C.

Appreciates Publicity

Dear Mr. Rivers:

It is certainly wonderful to know that we can always depend upon you to give us such fine cooperation with our Flower Show publicity.

You not only gave us grand headlines, but many columns of space for all the preliminary events, rules, classifications, and final placings. The entry cards were exactly what we needed to give all necessary information and yet be neat and uniform.

Thank you for these helps and the sincere interest you always express in our show.

VIVIAN REYNOLDS

Boone, N. C.

Tennessee Governor Expects Highway 603 To Be Completed

Mr. H. W. Wilcox believes Governor Frank Clement of Tennessee will get that state's section of highway 603 built, and submits the following letter from the Governor, following a meeting held with local citizens recently:

"Dear Mr. Wilcox:

"I just wanted to drop you this personal note to thank you for your part in contributing to the delightful meeting we had on August 28th, at Butler, Tennessee.

"I appreciated the excellent and splendid manner in which the Committee presented their interest in the project discussed at that time, and it is my hope and belief that this project will materialize to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

"Again thanking you for your courtesies, and with warmest personal regards and best wishes always, I am

"Sincerely yours,
FRANK G. CLEMENT.

They Say—

CLEM D. JOHNSON, chairman, Project Adequate Roads: "Adequate roads don't cost—they pay."

EDWIN D. CANHAM, editor, The Christian Science Monitor: "McCarthyism is undermining Americans' ability to trust one another."

JOHN FOSTER DULLES, Secretary of State: "Our Constitution, as it is, has served us well for 160 years in the field of foreign relations."

LEE DE FOREST, the "Father of Radio," on his 80th birthday: "The (vacuum) tube has far surpassed my wildest hope."

LEE M. THURSTON, late Commissioner of Education, talking of the new school year: "Three schoolrooms out of every five will be overcrowded."

VISCOUNT BERNARD M. MONTGOMERY, British Field Marshal: "Without a global concept we fail—however good and brave our fighting men and however good their equipment."

PRAVDA, official organ of the Russian Communist Party: "Before the ink on the Korean armistice had time to dry, aggressive (U. S.) forces were again trying to cause a flare-up in Asia."

HERBERT BROWNELL, U. S. Attorney-General: "I suppose there are more (Communists) in labor unions than anywhere else."

RITA JULIET ROTHEIM, good grooming expert: "Make the most of your hands by thinking of them as the visible key to your personality and character."

HAROLD E. TALBOTT, Secretary of the Air Force: "If a nation has enough airpower, the destruction it can inflict upon another nation is beyond our imagination."

SOMETIMES

Sometimes a girl will look as if she was poured into her dress—and someone forgot to say "when."—Wardial.

LOCOMOTIVE TYPE

A friend tells us his radio is the locomotive type—it whistles at every station.—Sunshine Magazine.

BOUND TO BE

The bicycle is bound to be more popular, what with the so-called cheaper models of automobiles crowding the \$2,000 mark. — Christian Science Monitor.

DEFINITION

BUREAUCRACY: Government of the people, by some of the people, and for some of the people. —Detroit News.

CANDID COMMENT

When opportunity knocks it only means the new electric chimes aren't working.—Wall Street Journal.

IN YE OLDE DAYS

Long before the days of television baseball entered the living room—but the window panes had to be coaxed.—Christian Science Monitor.

Georgian Talks Of Horn

By Virginia Polhill Price, Editor News & Farmer, Louisville, Ga.

Last weekend I went to Boone, N. C., to see the out-door drama, "Horn in the West." Many people had told me how good it was but only seeing is believing. I had expected masses of people moving across a stage, with a narrator giving long paragraphs of facts and statistics and children in the best commencement manner doing drills in Indian costumes and an audience sitting stiffly on hard concrete benches. All of my preconceived ideas were wrong. No one had explained to me that "Horn in the West" is a thrilling, moving play with action and plot, story and movement that are gripping and attention compelling. The actors would grace any Broadway stage. The music is beautiful, the costuming colorful and the staging excellent. I never enjoyed a play more, and I have spent the best years of my life trying to see every stage show possible for me to see.

But this play is more than a play. After the mere trivia that London and New York theatre goers have been fed in recent years it is truly stimulating to see a play that is a serious comment on an important subject. No one could witness this stupendous production about the horn of freedom blowing in the west, the wild low echo of which sounds in men's hearts and bids them arise and answer the impelling call, without an awakened appreciation of this freedom and liberty that men down through the ages have died to establish but that we sometimes take so much for granted. The play is a sort of Voice of Freedom on the home front and I wish that every American could go there, sit under the stars where nature is at her loveliest, and get a renewal of faith in the American way of life.

Back of the story is another story. How the fine people of Boone conceived the idea of such a drama and how they financed it, is another drama of American dreams and effort.

Dr. Harmon of Boone, told us something of the financial problems the community faced. The physical properties of the play cost about a hundred thousand dollars. There are two vast concrete parking lots that will accommodate over a thousand cars. The amphitheatre, semi-circular, is arranged on concrete terraces, and metal comfortable chairs are placed on the tiers. There are refreshment stands, picnic areas,

and the stage is divided into three parts. The middle section is beautifully scaled and planted with native shrubs, rhododendron, mountain laurel and the like, with towering trees forming the back drop. The left hand section is an elegant colonial scene, and the right section is used for exterior scenes. Heavy flood lights beam on the section that is called for from scene to scene. How was all this financed?

Well, the citizens of Boone dug down into their own pockets. A bond issue of fifty odd thousand dollars was subscribed by local people. Gifts supplemented the bond issue. Last summer the play went into production and though there is a very large overhead in the way of cast, musicians, lights, and so forth, the drama became a great success. A few more seasons and the indebtedness will be cleared away.

Actors, ushers and directors are paid professionals but the townspeople often have to pitch in and help. On Saturday night extra help was needed. The banker of the town was there dispensing cokes. The mayor helped with coffee making and the leading professional people of Boone were acting as ushers. Recently, after an afternoon shower, ladies of Boone wiped by hand the two thousand chairs so that visitors would not get their clothes damp! People come from far and wide to enjoy the play and yet there is no indication that the local people try to profiteer, raise prices or impose. Quite the contrary. You feel that you are a guest of the community and food and shelter are reduced to a minimum. That is America at its best.

This time is an age of unrest and uncertainty, we say. Different people with varying concepts of government and religions, of customs, and habits of thought. When we see "Horn in the West" we are reminded that America was founded by people of clashing ideals and born in a time of uncertainty and unrest. The price of freedom was paid in blood and sweat and tears and every generation must make an installment payment in the same coin. All of these things pass through the mind as one sits under the stars, sees the big, ripe moon caught in the limbs of a tall tree, listen to the muted hum of little night creatures in the woods, and hears the eerie, but compelling call of a far off bugle that bids us mount the ramparts and guard this Liberty.

KING STREET

Continued from page one)

township brings us some good apples from his orchards, and along with them a fine pumpkin, which we appreciate. . . . Collegians drive through town in well-kept jalopies. . . . George P. Hagaman, veteran Boone banker, now at Valdese, visits in town, and marvels at the growth of the community during the years of his absence. . . . Little Joyce Payne excitedly pointing a chubby finger into the branches of a tree by the street, in which hangs a hornet's nest big as a football; and we've walked under the thing all summer. . . . Which would indicate that a little child's sights range a good deal higher. . . . Family group carefully peruse keep-off-the-grass signs at post-office, select themselves a nice resting spot under one of the beautiful shade trees. . . . and plunk right down. . . . Youngsters walk from store to store getting their College wardrobes ready. . . . The orderly condition of the Clerk's office at the courthouse, and the uniform courtesy with which all callers are received. . . . Owners and buyers were happy at the end of the auction of the J. M. Moretz property, which seemed to have fetched a fair price. . . . J. M. Moretz bought the place in 1896, and built the house in which Miss Jennie Coffey lives, two or three years later.

LESS VEGETABLES?

The Agriculture Department has suggested an over-all acreage reduction of five per cent for fourteen winter vegetables to be marketed fresh, mostly in January, February and March, 1954. While there are no actual production controls, the Department suggested that plantings be limited to 239,700 acres. To be affected are beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, escarole, kale, lettuce, green fiscal year as a result of efficiency change in lima beans.

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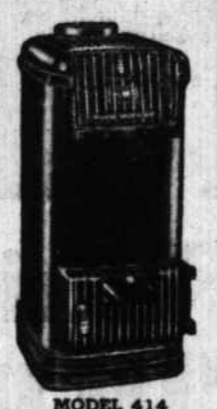
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