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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.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1947

## "Horn" Season Is Ended

"Horn in the West," Boone's outdoor historical drama, concluded its sixth year's run Monday evening on a happy note.

Fact is, says Leó Derrick, public relations director, attendance for the current season was 27,110, which was 12.6 per cent greater than last year's attendance figure of 24,410.

Significantly, Mr. Derrick points out, this is the first season since the drama began in 1951 that the attendance has shown an increase over the preceding year. The Horn started off with a bang, nearly 50,000 having witnessed the first year's run, with a yearly falloff since, making the fate of the drama uncertain, at least for the past two or three years.

It is gratifying that the Horn is doing better. Chief reasons which have been assigned for the increase are that the drama is better, that a more fruitful publicity program has been followed, and that there have actually been more people in the area than ever before.

Without actual statistics, we would suggest that travel to Blowing Rock, Boone, the Smokies and all tourist centers has been greater this year. One can rather sense the increased tempo on the open roads. And of course, Mr. Derrick, and

all others connected with the promotion of the Horn have worked diligently, and deserve great credit for their enterprise.

So it would seem to go without saying that the Horn will blow again, come next June, and that is a good thing for the town, further enhancing its status in the western North Carolina tourist community.

## Circulation Gains

The average weekly newspaper published in towns under 50,000 population has shown a circulation increase of 469 during the past ten years, according to an analysis made by the American Press Association.

Average circulation of these newspapers is now 1,977, compared with 1,508 in 1947.

Of interest locally is the fact that the Watauga Democrat has gained about 2,000 circulation during the period mentioned as against the average of 469, and has a circulation of 3,450, or 1,473 above the national average.

In North Carolina there are 155 non-daily newspapers. In weekly towns of under 50,000 there are 8,123 newspapers in the country today, a loss of 189 under the 8,312 listed in 1947, the survey shows.

## Join Forces To Help Ill

Physicians and ministers, in a growing awareness of the relationship of faith and health, are joining forces to help the ill, reports Milton Golin in the September Reader's Digest. His article, "Near Life, Near Death, Near God," is condensed from The Journal of the American Medical Association.

He cites the story of Stanley Wisniewski who "died" in Chicago just before Christmas in 1954. His heart stopped beating. But doctors at the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital operated, massaged his heart, gave him stimulating drugs. Two and a half hours later, he was alive and his heart was beating normally. The case was widely reported at the time but, writes Golin, neglected was one significant fact: "during the crucial two and a half hours everyone within sight of the victim—nurses, doctors, technicians—was praying, some audibly."

Of the 7000 hospitals in the United States, 1100 have some religious affiliation and a large proportion of the remainder provide for the spiritual as well as physical needs of patients. The Texas Medical Center not only has a program for training ministerial students from five theological schools but also offers courses in religion for medical students "to help them learn about the resources the church can offer them in their practice."

Enmities between theology and psychotherapy are melting away, reports Golin. A number of rabbis, like Dr. Henry Raphael Gold of New York, have become prac-

ticing psychiatrists. So have several Catholic priests. One is Jerome Hayden, a Benedictine monk and a doctor of both philosophy and medicine, who teaches psychiatry at Catholic University in Washington, D. C., and sees patients every day.

## Food Processing

Miss Marguerite Alexander, Asheville newspaper woman, who has an abiding faith in the future of the entire North Carolina mountain area, paid one of her infrequent visits to the Democrat the other day, and mentioned a subject which has been handled from time to time by the Democrat for generations.

That is, the apparent opportunity which abounds in the processing of the products of mountain farms.

Miss Alexander believes that the welfare of this region could be advanced greatly through the development of food processing plants which would prepare apple butter, string beans, and other products which are produced in such great abundance here.

For instance, in most years, apples go to waste by the untold thousands of bushels here. They are buried and carried by the ton from areas where cattle graze. They should be good for apple butter, or vinegar, it would seem. And vegetables could be processed by the carloads.

It's a good notion.

## Are Teachers Colleges Vanishing?

(Charlotte Observer)

A trend of the times has been noted by a report of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, which predicts that the teachers colleges as they have been operated in the past will soon disappear.

The report was made by Dr. Paul Woodring of Western Washington College of Education, whose findings are that the college devoted exclusively to training teachers is no longer economically or educationally practicable. Hence, the teachers colleges will be absorbed by the liberal arts colleges, or they will expand into liberal arts colleges with education only one branch of their curricula.

The pressure of economics is probably the strongest force in this change, but also, as Dr. Woodring points out, the high concentration in teachers colleges on professional courses is out of line with the present day demand for teachers with greater knowledge of subject matter. The graduate of the teachers college is

often rejected for graduate study in a liberal arts college, because he has not had enough background in subject matter to be able to pursue the advanced work. Likewise, the holder of a degree from a liberal arts college is sometimes rejected for graduate study in the teachers college, because he has not had enough professional courses to give him a foundation for a graduate degree in education.

For many years critics of the present system of teacher training have remarked on what seems to them to be an overemphasis on professional courses at the expense of subject matter. The result, says these critics, is a teacher with an excessive amount of training in how to teach and a deficiency of instruction in what to teach.

It may be that the gradual elimination of the teachers college as a separate unit will bring about a better balance of professional training and subject matter. Better teachers might be the result.

## Look At 'Em — But Don't Recognize 'Em

By Alexander



## Stretch's Sketches

By "STRETCH" ROLLINS

### How Honest Are We?

THERE'S A LITTLE LARCENY, someone has said, in everybody.

It is probable that very few people are completely honest. There are many, happily, who would not steal your money or possessions, but there are many ways of being dishonest.



Most of us are guilty of some form of deceit at one time or another.

Once as a lad I was playing left field in a sandlot baseball game. There was a ditch in deep left with some bushes in front. We were leading by one run and the other team had two runners on base in the ninth inning with two out.

The batter hit one out there and I ran back and got my glove on it but dropped it as I fell into the ditch behind the bushes. The center fielder was there, too, and he picked it up, put it back in my glove, and I emerged from the bushes triumphantly waving the ball aloft as though I had held onto it. Nobody questioned the catch, the game was over and we won.

But did we?

A MAN WHO runs a grocery store in another state told me this one with a straight face. Said he had to go out of town for the day,

### Sixty Years Ago

September 2, 1897

Our enterprising saw mill man, S. N. Bingham, of Pine Run, has sold his mill to the Messrs Green on Flat Top. Mr. Bingham contemplates buying another engine and saw.

On last Saturday, Dr. T. C. Blackburn was appointed postmaster at Boone to succeed R. C. Rivers. One by one the heads of the Democratic officials fall from the Republican guillotine.

Hon. A. Leazer, who has been stopping at Coffey's hotel for some time, left for his home on Monday last. Miss Carrie, his daughter, will remain longer with us.

What are we going to do about the reunion of old confeds? Capt. Todd, of Ashe, responds in last Democrat. Let us hear from others in our adjacent counties.

### Thirty-Nine Years Ago

September 12, 1918

In honor of Mrs. W. L. Bryan's 74th birthday, a beautiful and bountiful dinner was served at the Bryan home yesterday, and to make the happiness more complete, every member of the family, save one, Robert, who is now in California, was present and partakers of the dainty repast. The good lady who has rounded out her three score and ten and four years, was born and reared here, stands high in the esteem of all who know her, and The Democrat, in behalf of them all, extends to the splendid woman and her husband, several years her senior, the wish that they may both live to see the happy return of many such occasions.

Miss Carrie Coffey, daughter of Atty. and Mrs. E. S. Coffey, has accepted a position with the Boone Fork Lumber Company and entered upon her duties in the offices of the Co., at Shulls Mills Tuesday morning. Success to you, little lady.

### Fifteen Years Ago

September 3, 1942

Mr. S. C. Eggers of Boone was re-elected moderator of the Three Forks Baptist Association at the 162nd session which was held with Mount Calvary Church at Balm last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. Horton Gragg left Tuesday for La Mesa, Texas, where she will join her husband who is taking advanced courses in the army aviation. Mr. Gragg recently completed his preliminary training in various types of flying in Goodland, Kan.

Mr. Gilbert Barnes suffered the loss of three fingers on the left hand last week when the shotgun with which he sought to kill groundhogs

so he briefed his new clerk on his "two price" system. "For instance, on five pounds of sugar, it's fifty-five cents if they ask—sixty if they don't."

"But be honest," he admonished. "If you have to tell 'em it's fifty-five, be sure that's all you charge 'em!"

HONESTY IS OFTEN a matter of necessity. A survey indicates that the public is curiously unresponsive to paying for "intangibles." Generally they will make steady weekly or monthly payments on a product, says the report, but when it's services, Mr. and Mrs. Public unaccountably "fall off" in squaring their bills.

Unaccountable? Not very. You can't repossess a service.

A DRY CLEANER (not here, of course), who found a \$100 bill in a customer's trousers was in a dilemma. Should he keep it, or be honest and split it with his partner?

AND SOMEHOW, when a person begins a sentence with "Frankly," or "To be perfectly honest," I get a vague feeling that this is a rare occasion, and he is not always so frank and honest.

WISH I'D SAID THAT, SO I WILL—Some women's idea of keeping a confidence is refusing to say who told them.

## From Early Democrat Files

was accidentally discharged. The index finger remains and it is believed it may be saved. Mr. Barnes was holding the short weapon by the muzzle when it was accidentally discharged.

## Letters to the Editor

### Stewart Simmons Likes Column

I deeply appreciate your nice write up you gave our community in your column King Street, and I want to extend to you and your entire staff an invitation to visit our community at anytime.

STEWART SIMMONS

Triplet, N. C.

### Ashevillean Enjoys Colorama Editorial

Please let me express my appreciation and enjoyment of the article from your paper copied in the Asheville Citizen of August 28th, on the autumn season in the mountains.

It is a beautiful description, and could be used "as is" in any brochure gotten out for the Fall Colorama.

MARIE SHANK

38 Maney Avenue Asheville, N. C.

### Praises Boone Youth, Their Elders

Just a few weeks or so ago, I was reading an article from the "Watauga Democrat" that was sent to me by a friend. The article was written by Mrs. Owsley and concerned itself with praising the youth of Boone. I, too, think the youth of Boone should be praised; but I think more praise should go to the people who have built our youth—people like Mrs. "Corky" Owsley, Mrs. Holshouser, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Groce, Mr. Bill Ross, Mr. Shirley Gabriel, and Mr. Steve Gabriel (who have helped in the past) and many others. All the praise possible should go to these people, for they are the people who have built a strong youth in Boone; and in doing so have built a strong America.

I agree wholeheartedly with Mrs. Owsley in saying that the "Watauga Democrat" has been an outstanding factor towards the development of our youth. For as long as I can remember, it has promoted good citizenship, not only in our schools, but also in our business.

I have lived in many different towns in my short 18 years; but I can say that Boone is my town—my town for the friendship, courage, and beauty that makes it the most wonderful city in all America.

WILLIAM R. GRAGG

SSC. NAPS, Naval Training Center Bainbridge, Md.

## KING STREET

By ROB RIVERS

### COFFIN MAKERS . . . SOME REMAIN

We goofed, it seems, when we said recently that the late John Harmon was the last of the old-time coffin makers in this area. . . . Fact is, we are reminded there are a lot of people left who have fashioned some of these cozy planked-up cases for the dead. . . . Charles F. Thompson, Esq., calls our attention to the fact that he has been making coffins for about forty years, and that during the time he's turned out perhaps 75 of the caskets. . . . He reminds that Poly Wyke, and many other carpenters in the area have made caskets. . . . We'd thought the "store-bought" variety of coffins had taken away the market for the home-made sort longer ago than that. . . . Anyway Squire Thompson harks back to the days when home-made coffins were the rule rather than the exception. . . . The favorite timber used, he says, was chestnut, which worked easily, finished nicely, and was easily secured. . . . He has also used poplar, cherry and oak. . . . He says some folks had the boxes made ahead of time—one customer of his kept the sanctuary for his mortal remains on hand 12 years before the summons—but in most cases, nothing was done until death came. . . . Then, maybe by night, the coffin was fashioned, handles were bought at N. L. Mast's Store, cotton padding was used and the interior looked quite as well as those found in the caskets which the general merchants later sold. . . . Mr. Thompson says on occasions when a man about his size had gone away that he would climb into the box himself to ascertain whether or not there would be a cozy fit. . . . And often, he relates, he served as undertaker, before funeral parlors had come to the county. . . . But the situation has changed, and he hasn't had a call for a coffin in seven years. . . . It used to be that folks regularly kept a few smooth boards of "coffin timber" just in case.

### RESIDENTS OF BOONE . . . WHAT ARE THEY?

Folks who live in Charlotte are referred to as Char-ottians. Those who reside in New York are obviously New Yorkers; if you are a resident of Denver, you'd be a Denverite, but we don't know what you call a resident of Boone. . . . The Democrat, back through the years has referred to us as "residents of our beautiful village," "those who live in the best town in the State," "citizens of our fine community," but what we want to know, for reasons of brevity, are we Booneans, Booners or Boonites.

### MORAL . . . DON'T WORRY ABOUT PARKED VEHICLE

The man was parked fairly close to the intersection, and during the split second while we should have been observing the color of the light, he swung one of these extra wide doors right out into the lane of traffic. While we were mildly cursing his carelessness we drove right smack through a red light, at a busy spot. . . . Luckily, no damage ensued. . . . Ironically we made our first trip through a stop signal just after we'd made a fervent editorial plea for all motorists to take care, lest there be other fatal accidents on our Street. . . . As they used to say in these parts, when a man had committed a crime, we "ought to be handled."

### HAS BEEN AVAILABLE ALL ALONG

Two fellows were passing the Democrat, and one read the sign on the window. . . . "Strange," quoth he, "I'd never heard of that paper before." . . . "You'd order," said our faithful friend, "hit's been here a right smart spell."

### GREETINGS . . . FROM UNKNOWN FRIEND

"No business," said our caller. "A good friend of yours from down Rolly way just insisted that I come by and remember him to you." "Always glad to hear from an old buddy," we beamed. "But the heck of it is," said the visitor, "even though we are good friends, I can't for the life of me call his name. . . . he's a medium-sized, darkskinned fellow, dresses well, and says he used to have some plumb good times with you, way back when. . . . And if it would help you any, he has a beautiful wife." . . . So we've spent some time pondering the subject. . . . There are only a few million medium sized, well-dressed lads, and a lot of them have fared well in getting beautiful wives. . . . If he'd only had a wen on his nose, had five fingers or something we might have guessed his name. . . . Anyway, we're happy he remembered us even through a man who couldn't remember him.

## So This Is New York

By NORTH CALLAHAN

Standing beside a policeman in the subway—it is redundant to say "crowded subway"—I noticed he had a box at his feet which he seemed to be carefully guarding. I asked him what was in it and he told me. Cops here are usually courteous. He said it was full of policy numbers and other gambling data he had captured in a raid in the Bronx and he was taking it to headquarters as evidence. Noting I was curious, he explained how the racket works. About a third of the people in the huge Bronx borough play, he said. Each selects a number and bets on it at any time, usually in connection with horse races. Odds are about 800 to 1 that the person will not win. But so popular is the custom that some folks go hungry rather than miss placing the betting money with the phony bookies. "Yeah," he concluded, shrugging his shoulders as he got off the train, "there's always some people who want to get something for nothing."

Ex-Governor Keen Johnson, now a joke-telling public relations representative for a metal company, said a visitor was riding in a taxi in Washington when he passed the National Archives building. High on its walls were the words, "What is Past is Prologue." The visitor turned to the cab driver and asked what that meant. Quoth the cabbie: "That's government talk for 'You ain't seen nothin' yet!'"

Returning from New York on a train to Cincinnati were a Hungarian couple with two small children. They were refugees. In the same coach were several American high school students. The students learned that the Hungarians spoke no English, carried a dictionary and had only 25 cents to last them until they

(Continued on page seven)