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Another Chick For The Nest



KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

In going through some old files, we happened to notice that we (the Democrat, that is), are knee-deep in our seventy-fifth anniversary year. . . . Come July 4 the "rag of freedom" will have rounded out three-quarters of a century of continuous publication, under the same name—seventy-four of them being in the Rivers family, members of three generations having already worked on the sheet, with no let-up in sight. . . . And we take pride in the good health of the Democrat and are continually pursuing new plans for its further expansion and development.

Maybe a good many people don't know it, but there have been other newspapers in the county, the first being the Watauga Journal, which passed out less than six months before the Democrat started its relentless career. . . . An eight-page tabloid, the Journal was published by a man named McLaughlin, who managed to hand-set a couple of pages, the remainder being what was known as a patent sheet (printed by a national syndicate, with a couple of pages left blank for local news). . . . We know little of this venture. . . . When we could have found out, it hadn't occurred to us, maybe, that our dad wouldn't always be around, and we didn't question him much about it. . . . Anyway, on January 25, 1888, the Lenoir Topic had this to say:

request, his remains were brought back to the old Boone cemetery to be interred with his kin folk. . . . He'd been gone a long time, and following his retirement from business had made his home in the mountain metropol.

Lon Payne did some barbering down in the east room of the Old Brick Row (about where the W. W. Mac store stands) more than forty-five years ago. . . . Glenn Salmons practiced dentistry at the other end of the long row of bedrooms, used as added lodging space by Coffey's Hotel (later Critcher's), and one could stand at the back window of Lon's Barber Shop and look directly into the Coffey House, now the Creed place. . . . No structures were in between.

In those days ready-made cigarettes were not sold in Boone—the sentiment was against 'em. . . . Lon and Dr. Salmons disliked rolling the fags, and the Rivers-boys motored some packages down from Blowing Rock now and again and retailed them for a small profit, so's we could buy a gallon of gas and go again. . . . There was no running water, Lon heated his towels in a tin can with a gasoline burner under it, and used the stove in winter time. . . . Most of the barbering was done at night time, and he'd clean off the whiskers and trim the hair for about twenty cents, as we recall, and at the same time provide a gathering place for all who were out on the town. . . . Lots of things have been said from the pulpits we've faced during the intervening years, which we have forgotten, but a heap of the things we learned in that crowded little room where Lon Payne set up a barber chair are fresh in our memory.

A son of the late Rev. J. M. Payne, a powerful Baptist sermonizer of his time, and a brother of the late Rev. W. C. Payne, Lon was widely known and just as widely liked. . . . Good natured and generous, and with a sparkling sense of humor, we liked him and he contributed a lot to our pleasure in our short-palooned days. . . . If we ever get around to recording some of the first-hand history of fine people we have known on the Street, such wholesome and kind souls as Lon Payne will be bountifully remembered.

"DIED in Boone, Watauga County, North Carolina, at 9 o'clock, January 16, 1888, the Watauga Journal. The Journal was born in the same place November 17, 1887, being just one month and 29 days old. . . . The Journal came to its untimely end by reason of its persistence in the use of a diet too strong and powerful to be digested by its weak digestive organs. It now lies in state at its former residence, the Horton House on Main Street."

Don't know whether this is to imply that someone working at the Journal was throttled by a viper which escaped from the fery jug, or whether Editor Scott meant that the editorial policy of the Journal proved to be its undoing. . . . At any rate the Watauga Enterprise came next, was published for a year or two as a Republican Journal by Thos. Bingham, we believe, and others, and it was there that Bob Rivers the first took time out from his carpentering and learned to set type. . . . Don H. Phillips published the Watauga News, across the Street from the Democrat office in 1913, and we have been unable to locate a copy of that paper. . . . If any reader has one or more copies we would appreciate having them. . . . Could even do with the loan of the papers, so they could be microfilmed, and become a part of the recorded newspaper history of Watauga County.

Lived Here . . . Long Ago
Alonzo Payne died the other day in Asheville, and on his

Uncle Pinkney

(MacKnight Syndicate) HIS PALAVERIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR: Most of the time the sessions at the country store goes along as smooth as frog hair, but Saturday night they was a difference of opinion at the meeting. Everything was in good humor and nobody was mad, but some of the fellers was taking sides, Democrat and Republican.

Ed Doolittle come in all riled up on account of him having to pay 5 cent for a stamp to get his income tax report mailed. Ed don't buy but one stamp a year and that's when he has to get his annual masterpiece off to the Internal Revenue Department.

In the first place, allowed Ed, he was 100 percent unimpressed when the Democrats come up with this idea back under Truman of making farmers mail off their report in February ahead of everybody else. In the second place, claimed Ed—who has always voted the straight Republican ticket—this 5-cent stamp is a good example of what the Democrats is doing to this country.

Furthermore, announced Ed, Democrats is the champions and inventors of high taxes and the over-balanced budget. He told the fellers that Kennedy was the best President this country has ever had, since Eisenhower, and that he

Labor Available

The labor survey conducted on behalf of the proposed shoe factory for Boone by local Chamber of Commerce officials and industrial committee members, along with the officials of Watauga Industries, Inc., shows that there is a bountiful labor supply here, and those who are considering locating here are heartened by the response.

A great many men who are commuting to Lenoir and other manufacturing centers are anxious to work at home, many who have been employed in the North for years want to return and a lot of people who fit into neither category are available.

The persistent efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and Watauga Industries to attract added payroll have resulted in great benefits to the community through the two enterprises which have already located here, and which have added tremend-

ously to the local economy. The employment picture, has, however, been weighted toward the distaff side, it is said, and the proposed new industry will take up part of this slack by providing a good many jobs for men as well as women.

With a continual slight loss in over-all county population figures, there is an abiding need for more jobs to keep the people at home, and all those who have labored so consistently in this endeavor should have the gratitude of all the people.

With the farming enterprise, the college and the tourist industry, this section has prospered, but the migration has continued, and so many of our young people are deliberately educated for work which they cannot secure in this county. The more manufacturing we get the greater inducement will be for our young people to stay at home.

Saw His Shadow

If the groundhog's beady little eyes were not dimmed by sleep, he saw his shadow for certain last Saturday, and is supposed to have retreated into his burrow to snooze out another six weeks, when winter is supposed to hold sway.

And a mountain man watches groundhog day, like a lazy worker eyes the clock, not that he believes in that sort of thing, but it's just something that's been handed down through all the generations.

Of course it is fairly likely that the clouds will break on most any given day, and whether or not that happens any wise old man of the hills can tell you that following February 2nd, there would have to be a lot of rough weather.

If we haven't forgotten the winter of the big snow it was a good winter till February came in to bury us deep, and while the short month is apt

to fetch in a few days of good weather, sometimes swelling the buds on the peach trees, she will dish up the cold and the snow without mercy setting the stage for March's tempestuous reign of wind and freezing weather.

But anyway the groundhog watchers in this section, or those of them who claim to believe in the cunning of the little whistle pig in matters of rain and of snow and bitter cold, were set back a smidgin when Sunday brought fair skies and good weather which was still holding on Monday.

But there'll be big storms galore but when March is only a short month away a mountain man's anticipation of branch lettuce and "sallet greens" is quickened, and he bears up with greater strength against the blizzard's force.

College Costs To Rise

College costs, now ranging from \$800 to \$5,800 a year, will jump to a range of \$2,000 to \$14,800 a year by 1975, according to Changing Times, the Kiplinger Magazine.

"High as college costs are now, they're going to jump drastically in the years ahead," reports an article in the current issue of the magazine. Basing figures on a steady annual rise of about 5 percent in educational costs and 2½ percent in living costs, the article gives these estimates for tuition, fees, rooms and board.

1962: A range of \$500 to \$3,700,

with an average of \$2,000, in public schools; a range of \$1,150 to \$5,800, with an average of \$2,450, in private schools.

1965: Public schools, \$1,000 to \$4,600, average \$2,500; private schools, \$1,450 to \$7,200, average \$3,000.

1970: Public schools, \$1,400 to \$6,600, average \$3,600; private schools, \$2,050 to \$10,300, average \$4,250.

1975: Public schools, \$2,000 to \$9,600, average \$5,150; private schools, \$2,950 to \$14,800, average \$6,200.

Hard Work Makes Progress

(The Waynesboro News-Virginian)

The personal stock-taking that is supposed to accompany the average American's plunge into a new year might well include the question: Is the individual's capacity—or willingness—to do hard work, even to endure hardship if necessary in performance of duty, diminishing in this country?

Any one of us can perhaps find ample evidence, too, that hard work has not exactly gone out of fashion in the United States. Dedicated workers abound in our space and defense efforts, in many less spectacular channels of government, in professions like the law and journalism and medicine, in industry, on the farms. The 18-hour day is still a reality in many places.

Yet there are in our life today many, many manifestations of a vastly different attitude toward work and hardship. As scientific progress has steadily freed us from the back-breaking physical labors once necessary for the barest existence, more and more of us seem to have seized

upon this liberation as a kind of permanent pass through life.

Crime has many causes — some of them different in different periods of history. Yet one enduring cause is the desire of some to gain the fruits of labor without working. With our great material abundance providing more "fruits" than ever, this particular soft approach appeals to increasing numbers.

What many of the non workers seem to want is not only the material benefit but the status that, in this country, goes with having things. The new commissioner of United States education, Frances Keppel, aimed a shaft at such people when a newsman asked him whether teachers in America deserved a higher status. He replied: "I hold to the old-fashioned view that status should be earned."

Such a comment ought to touch a delicate nerve among Americans who think it can be bought, or stolen, or faked, or achieved by a variety of other shortcuts.

From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

February 5, 1903.

Married on last Thursday at the residence of Mr. John H. Cook, his daughter, Miss Maggie Cook to Mr. Lum Pennell, both of Deerfield. The Democrat extends congratulations.

Mr. J. J. Mast of Vilas, who has been critically ill for some weeks, died at his home on Monday night of this week. He was a good man, a useful citizen and his departure is deeply deplored.

Mr. Jasper Kincaid, who was reported so critically ill in our last issue, is improving rapidly, in fact he is now able to be out a little.

Yes, Monday was cloudy all day, and as his hogship failed to see his shadow, we take it that we will now have a spell of good weather for a few days, at least.

Sory to learn of the feeble condition of our friend John H. Council of Blowing Rock. He recently returned from a southern trip, where he had been with the hope of recuperating, but his health remains unimproved and we are told that he is on a rapid decline.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Council, Jr. another wee baby boy. It is also a noticeable fact that Ben has entirely recovered from what he took to be quite a severe attack of rheumatism before the little one arrived.

Glad to see Col. Joe Todd in town yesterday after his illness. He returned last week from Globe where he tells us he met all his living children, and a most sumptuous dinner was served by his daughter, Mrs. F.

Just One Thing

By CARL GOERCH

For years we've had the idea that we'd like to own some kind of a boat. The other day we were talking to a friend about it and he had this to say:

"I've got an uncle who used to own a 38-foot cruiser. He kept it about two years. After he had disposed of it, I asked him whether he had got much pleasure out of it. He studied for a moment and then said: 'I believe every man has two very happy moments in his life; one is when he is able to buy a boat, and the other is when he's able to get rid of it.'"

A few days ago we received a letter from Mr. P. H. Elkins of Spencer who told us about a tornado that hit in the area of Mt. Gilead about 1890. In its course it demolished a house on the Montgomery County side of the Yadkin River and passed on into Stanly County.

"Now the most interesting part of the story," says Mr. Elkins, "is the fact that this tornado demolished among other things a house in Montgomery County, picked up a mattress on which a little girl was sleeping, and set the mattress and girl down on the Stanly County side of the river with only a slight minor injury to the little girl. I believe her name was Rebecca Lowder and that she lived for many years in Albemarle."

The General Assembly will be coming to town next week and

P. Moore.

On last Friday night our aged mother, Mrs. Jane L. Rivers, by an unfortunate step fell and badly crushed the bones in her left wrist. Though seventy-five years of age, she is bearing the suffering well and is getting on nicely.

Married on the 29th at Shulls Mills, J. B. Reid to Miss Laura Moody, with James B. Reid officiating.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

February 7, 1924.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. Roy Johnson, a girl.

Attorney T. A. Love of Avery county, was in Boone Monday transacting legal business.

Saturday, ground hog day, was clear warm and bright. Of course this time honored weather prophet got a good squint at his shadow, and as the story goes, returned to his burrow from which he will emerge for 40 days, during which time we are to have exceedingly rough weather. It seemed up to Monday evening, that his hogship was going to fail for once in his prognostications but not so for today, the snow is falling and perhaps rough weather is ahead.

J. H. Brown of Adams, who has been a constant subscriber to the Democrat since it was established, came in Monday to square up a little balance and renew for another year. When he planked down the dough he remarked: "That is the last cent I owe any man in Watauga". Good for you, Jess.

Mrs. R. K. Bingham, who some weeks ago underwent a

serious operation in the Shuford Hospital at Hickory, returned to her home in Boone on Monday afternoon and her many friends will be glad to know that she is rapidly improving.

Drs. Tate and Hardin of the Banner Elk Hospital passed through Sunday en route to Winston-Salem to attend a meeting of the State Surgeons in the city.

Mrs. R. C. Rivers had the misfortune of getting one of her thighs broken last Saturday morning. Mrs. Rivers is very appreciative of the kindnesses shown her by her many friends since the painful accident.

The youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Jennings has been very ill with pneumonia for several days but is slowly improving. This is the little one's second attack of disease within the past few months.

Fifteen Years Ago

February 5, 1948.

Mrs. Charlie Boone, who has served with the U. S. Army in Korea for the past eighteen months, has been discharged and is now at the home of his mother, Mrs. Esther S. Boone. Mr. Boone will likely enter Appalachian State Teachers College for the remainder of the term.

Mrs. Evelyn Bingham Smith and daughters, Linda and Sara, recently spent six weeks at the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. K. Bingham while Mr. Smith attended the Univ. of N. C. Mr. Smith joined them here for a few days before leaving for their home in Macon, Ga.

Mrs. W. B. Abrams of Pine-top, is a patient at a Tarboro Hospital where she is suffering from a broken hip, sustained in a recent fall. Mrs. Abrams is the mother of Dr. W. Amos Abrams, former Appalachian College professor.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Smith, who have made their home in Boone for the past three years, moved to Blowing Rock last week where they will establish their permanent residence. Mr. Smith will retain his law office in Boone.

Mr. Arthur Dougherty of Lenoir, was a business visitor in the community Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Coe announce the birth of a son on February 2, at Watauga Hospital.

Pfc. J. W. Cuddy, who recently completed his boot training at Parris Island, S. C., is spending ten days with his mother, Mrs. M. A. Cuddy here.

Mr. Lynn Fox left Tuesday for his home in Nekoma, Kansas after spending a week at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fox at Valle Crucis.

Mrs. James Council underwent a major operation at Duke Hospital, Durham, two weeks ago and is recovering rapidly. Mrs. Council is expected home this week.

Oak Grove Baptist Church was the scene of an impressive ceremony Wednesday afternoon, January 28, at 8:00 p. m. when Miss Betty Kathleen Berry, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Berry, became the bride of John Edward Ward, son of Mr. Lionel Ward and the late Mrs. Ward.

Not only that, but in 1872 there were only fifteen towns in the entire state that had a population in excess of 1,000.