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BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1963

New Plant Is Coming

The announcement that the Melville Shoe Company's board has definitely approved the proposal to construct a Blue Ridge Shoe Company plant in Boone, comes as good news to this entire area.

The accomplishment comes after many weeks of hard work on the part of the members of Watauga Citizens, Inc., and other citizens of the community and county, who, in typical Watauga fashion, joined together in producing the cooperation and the finances necessary to induce the selection of Boone as the site for the important new manufacturing establishment. All these people are to be commended for their enterprise and generosity in bringing about this new industry, which is calculated to mean so much for the county.

Already a personnel training program is under way, and is presently being enlarged so that competent

workers may be ready when the plant is completed.

To be located on the Gordon Winkler property near the International Resistance Co., the factory will employ near three hundred people, and will bring a payroll of the county of something near a million dollars a year, to further enhance the prosperity and the economic well-being of this part of the country.

And in welcoming the Melville corporation to this community, we feel that they have made a decision of enduring worth to them. They will find a good and diligent labor force, and a community of good neighbors, who will be cooperative and zealous for the welfare of the new enterprise.

We shall wish for them the greatest success with their newest manufacturing unit.

Wastelands Along The Pavement

A couple of Boone citizens went out the other day and gathered in three carloads of miscellaneous debris collected along a two-mile stretch of highway 194, and a picture of a station wagon full of the stuff was carried in the Democrat last week as a reminder of what litter-bugging is doing to detract from the beauties of this region.

Beer cans, papers, bottles, packing cartons, contributed to the mass of rubbish gathered by these people, who are most hopeful that some movement may be started that would induce people to quit casting their garbage along the picturesque mountain roads.

And the outlying streets of the town get their share of the litter, just the same as do the highways, and in spite of a fine sanitary crew,

the problem of keeping the town clean is gigantic. And in the county, we know of no way, except that of appealing to the people who unthoughtfully contribute to this disgraceful littering of the countryside.

Now that the time is almost here for the annual cleanup campaign in the town, we are hopeful that the litterers will desist at least through the tourist season from despoiling the prettiest area in the country. In town the people usually keep their home premises clean, and put in some extra licks during cleanup week. This they will do again.

With indications that travel into these mountains will be the heaviest this year in history, the benefits to be accrued through presenting a clean countryside are enormous.

Reducing Farm Fire Threat

One of the most serious problems the modern farmer faces is the threat of fire. Last year fire destroyed more than 110 million dollars worth of farm property and killed nearly 3,500 persons.

What's the answer? According to the Water Systems Council, an adequate supply of water could have markedly reduced fire loss. The council says that (1) Water supply is the critical factor in fighting farm fires. (2) The first few minutes of any fire are the most crucial. What you do before the fire department comes often means the difference between saving your buildings and total destruction.

How much water does it take to put out a fire? Assuming it is extinguished soon after starting, it may take as little as a hundred gallons or so. On the other hand, if un-

checked, 60-80,000 gallons may be necessary. Many fire prevention authorities suggest a minimum of 3,000 gallons of water on hand at all times. Best bet here is an electric water system, which continually supplies water under pressure. A farm pond or swimming pool can double as excellent water reservoirs, often supplying the 60-80,000 gallons that could be needed.

An adequate water supply is necessary even after the fire department has arrived. The average pumper, for instance, only carries about 300 gallons of water with one inch hoses. Many companies also have tankers—converted oil trucks—which can carry an additional 2,000 gallons. Once this supply has been exhausted, though, the pumper must couple to a new source.

Corn Without Cultivators

(Christian Science Monitor)

Technological progress may suggest factories to most people, but nowhere has it wrought greater change than on the American farm. The city boy who grew up on the land finds himself in a largely unfamiliar world if he looks into some of the periodicals devoted to modern agriculture.

For example, the Farm Journal features an article about "Corn Without Plowing." Corn without plowing? Why, in former President Truman's generation that would have been practically like farming without farming. How could you keep the weeds down except with a cultivator?

Well, it turns out that tillage can be omitted if the land is sprayed

with weed-killing chemicals before the corn is planted. Experimenters in Ohio have found that they can still get yields of around 100 bushels to the acre. The cost is about the same; the question is whether the farmer has something more useful to do with the time he saves.

Here and there it would be easy for a newspaperman to wax nostalgic about the soft earth squishing up between bare toes as a farm boy followed a patient horse down the corn rows. But the lament probably would be written not with a lead pencil but on an electric typewriter. And the writer might be wondering how long before a computer will tell him what keys to tap.

Need For Intensive Analysis



From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

April 16, 1903.

S. B. Dugger of Vilas, has bought the mercantile business of Roger & Combs at Vaughtsville, Tenn., and moved to that place.

Spow the 15th of April and a heavy wood fire seems quite strange, but such are the conditions here now.

Dr. Parlier was down from the Rock last week on professional business.

Sheriff Baird left Monday for Statesville and Raleigh. He took Phillips and Waiser, who were convicted of larceny at the last term of court, to the Iredell chain gang, and Roby Warren, who submitted for murder in the second degree, to the penitentiary where he will serve a term of five years at hard labor.

We are again in the midst of another cold "snap" and the indications are today (Wednesday) that a considerable freeze tonight is almost certain.

Attorney E. S. Coffey and family returned from Morganton Tuesday.

The closing exercises of Watauga Academy begins today and closes with a concert tomorrow night. The program is quite elaborate; the students have taken considerable pains in preparing for the occasion and a very pleasant time is expected.

Two violators of the Internal Revenue Laws from Caldwell, Messrs. Crump and Bolick, were tried before Commissioner Bryan on Monday charged with re-

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

April 17, 1924.

The roses and shrubbery ordered by the Boone Chamber of Commerce have arrived and are being distributed and it is "first come, first served" with Mr. W. H. Gragg. If you do not secure yours, do so at once if you can before they are all taken, as you can not hope to get these at the price asked from other sources.

Mr. J. S. Winkler has opened up and nicely arranged in the Ellis building the little stock of merchandise formerly owned by W. A. Thomas. Fresh groceries will be added to the stock and it will be made to pay as much as possible of the outstanding liabilities.

Capt. E. F. Lovell left yesterday morning for Raleigh, where he is attending the State Democratic Convention, which is in session in the capital city today.

So far as we know he is the only one of the list of delegates named to attend.

Fifteen Years Ago

April 15, 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dages and Mrs. James Morrison of Newland, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Angel.

Mrs. J. D. Council returned to her home here Thursday after spending 10 days visiting with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. DeVault and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Council in Bristol.

Mrs. Lou H. Taylor, Mrs. H. B. Perry, Sr., Mrs. Naomi Farthing, Miss Gertrude Naomy and Miss Nancy Taylor attended the Azalea Festival in Wilmington over the week end.

Lieut. and Mrs. Horton Gragg, who have been stationed in Okinawa for the past two years are with homefolks here for 60 days, before going to Polk Field, Fayetteville, Lieut. Gragg's new post of duty. They were met in Chicago by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gragg, parents of Lieut. Gragg, and the group spent two or three days there before returning to Boone.

Mr. O. L. Adams of Miami, Fla. is a guest this week of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Angel.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Breznay of Cleveland, Ohio, announce the birth of a son on April 3. Mrs. Breznay is the former Miss Chloe Eggers.

Mr. Poly W. Moritz is ill at his home here and information is that while his condition is not too serious, he will likely be confined to his home for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. King announce the birth of a daughter, Conie Sue, on April 10, at Watauga Hospital.

Mrs. Alice Robbins left Sunday for Bristol, Tenn., where she will spend several days visiting with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Y. F. Greene have returned to their home at Deer Gap after spending the winter in Miami, Fla.

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

On one of our infrequent visits to Sparta, we had a talk with veteran Mayor Glenn Nichols, and learned that as a youngster he lived at the Jim Smith place the other side of Poplar Grove, went to school to Monroe Francum, and later to George Sudderth while visiting an uncle, George Nichols, in the vicinity of Sandy Flats School. As a lad he walked to Boone and watched Bob Rivers, the first, set type by hand and print the Democrat without benefit of mechanical power.

From Alleghany . . . Many Came

The Nichols family came from Alleghany in 1892 and left in 1896, close to the time that others from Alleghany made their way into Watauga. . . . Alex Woody moved to the foot of Pine Hill, near Shulls Mills, while Sam and John Phipps established residence below him on the river. . . . Marion Phipps, who sang at Primitive Baptist meetings, settled at Foscoe along with Joe Phipps and Dr. Phipps. . . . Dr. Rufus Brickell also went to Foscoe. All "Hard Shell" Baptists, they had a church at Dr. Brickell's. Mr. Nichols says, known as Baptist Valley Church, which was destroyed in the flood of 1916. . . . George Caudill came and lived near Valle Crucis, and Woods Young and Pless Andrews settled in Watauga township.

Old Neighbors . . . Go AWAY

Mr. Nichols' family had as neighbors at Poplar Grove the Jim Smith family, Capt. Bill Hodges and Miss Sallie, J. M. Hodges, later a physician, and the Sam Lamberts, all of whom have long since died. . . . Mr. Nichols, who is approaching his eightieth year, came back to Boone for four summers at Appalachian Training School, as he was preparing himself to be a teacher. . . . He pursued this vocation in Alleghany county for more than twenty-five years, and expects to be elected mayor again when the election comes up this spring. . . . A sort of king pin in Democratic party politics, Mr. Nichols has only held county office once—as Coroner. He has served on the elections board, on the Democratic Executive Committee, and "always marks in the circle." . . . He has been a Justice of the Peace for thirty years, and tries most of the folks who run afoul of the law in that section, is a Notary Public and presently has a string of callers, for whom he is filling out tax forms, and many others to whom he gives advice on a variety of personal problems. . . . Visitors to the Nichols office are greeted by a friendly dog, the Justice's constant companion, which is a cross between a Spaniel and a fice. . . . Strange thing, the dog stays at his owner's heels all day, is all ready to go when work time comes. . . . But when it's Sunday, and the Master of the house reaches for his Sunday School quarterly and Bible, the dog don't budge, stays right at home till Mr. Glenn gets back.

His Town . . . It's Growing

Mr. Nichols says his town is doing all right, is enjoying good growth, that he is soon to initiate a cleanup campaign and plans are in the formative stage for a municipal parking lot, to siphon some of the traffic off the streets. . . . He says a heap of folks come to Sparta from the Parkway during the summer, and he sees a sustained growth for the town. . . . "We have no county debt, you know," Mayor Nichols said, as he recalled that when the courthouse was burned in 1921, a new one was built without issuing bonds or upping the tax structure. . . . Like everyone else who keeps his fingers on the pulse of this region, the Mayor sees heavy tourist traffic for the coming summer—perhaps the best in history. . . . Like we said, we don't go to Sparta much, like we used to when we went once in awhile to take our troubles to Congressman Doughton, but we enjoyed the fellowship with the Mayor, no end.

From Alleghany . . . We Have Profited

The movement to Watauga county which started, so far as we know, about three score and ten years ago, has done a lot for Watauga, and many of our finest citizens were born in Alleghany county. . . . We are happy that also in recent years we have had the privilege of welcoming a good many

more Alleghanians. . . . Among the many who have established homes and/or businesses here, we might mention O. K. Wayne, Woodrow and Glenn Richardson, Emory Jones, Finis Wagner, Glenn Andrews and their families, who have contributed so generously to the development and growth and tone of the community. . . . Sparta is a lovely town, and we couldn't ever wish Mr. Glenn any hard luck, but if any more of his folks decide to leave, we hope they move this way. . . . From the industry and character and labors of such people has our section of the State grown and developed, and prospered beyond the fondest dreams of the strong mountain men who went before.

Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVERIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Our boys in Washington has been getting deeper and deeper in debt now for about 30 year and I been wondering what would happen if we final went plum busted. I recollect in 1924 that Germany went bankrupt and was trying to spend printing press money that wouldn't buy nothing.

Well, I see where the House Committee on Government Operations, whatever that is, has come out with the figgers. This agency says the U. S. holdings, as of June 30, 1962, was worth \$298.4 billion, and butted agin our national debt of \$298.2 billion, made us \$1.2 billion in the black.

They give a list of our holdings and the two biggest was 772 million acres of real estate worth \$86 billion, and holdings owned by the Defense Department worth \$165 billion.

Furthermore, this Committee says these figgers is based on purchase price and would be way low on the market today. Per instant, they say the 18 acres around the White House cost original \$1,000 and is listed at that price in the holdings.

But I see in the papers next day where some Republicans in the Congress claims these figgers was worked up by the Democrats and ain't to be trusted. But any way you look at it, Mister Editor, Democrat or Republican figgers, our holdings is just one-half of one per cent ahead of what we owe. I ain't no authority on money when you git above \$10, but it looks to me like we're getting the red ink and the black ink mighty close together.

I was giving these items to the fellers at the country store Saturday night and Ed Doolittle allowed as how the average taxpayer, unless he had went to Harvard or some of them fancy colleges, couldn't even add and subtract such figgers, much less understand 'em. Ed says he has quit trying to read Government finances since them Congressmen put the tally sheet in orbit.

Clem Webster said it was all he could do to keep up with the price of hogs since we crossed the New Frontier. Fer instant, he told the fellers he sold a hog last year and went to town to test out the price on sausage. He said he sold another hog last week for the same price and went to town to test it out on sausage and it was up 2 cents a pound. What he wants them fellers on the House Committee on Government Operations to tell him is who is getting that extra 2 cent.

I reckon, Mister Editor, the feelings the fellers at the country store has got on this matter is a pretty good cross-section of opinion everywhere in the nation. Government spending and the public debt has got plum out of the range where a average citizen can understand it.

Yours truly,
Uncle Pinkney
(MacKnight-Syndicate)