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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 26, 1963

Bonds Are Approved

We had said on more than one occasion that it was our opinion that the bond issue proposals would be approved by the voters, but actually, we had no notion that the margin of victory would be so large in the county.

It is a good thing that the majority in the county was commanding, we think, since it left no doubt as to the opinion.

We have never known of a more concerted effort to give the people the issues. They liked what they read and heard and voted accordingly, and have procured for themselves a consolidated high school and a modern hospital plant.

Like we had mentioned before,

Watauga County came forth with big majorities for the State bond package a couple of years ago. It had voted road bonds in the days of dirt trails, and Boone township had bonded itself to help bring in the railroad tracks. In the old days different townships readily voted "special school taxes," and put up the cash to help the Dougherty brothers build the first part of a college. So in giving the green light to the recent bond proposals, Watauga is only following her normal course. And all would agree that out of her past performances has come a fabulous growth in the general well being of her people. It's expected to happen again.

The Chilling Days

Monday dawned chill and frosty. There was windshield scraping to be done, and once again automobiles left behind vapor trails in the cool stillness.

Dry weather, coupled with the natural ripening processes, had already brought yellow and crimson splashes to the forests where trees stand on thin soil, and all the fall flowers have come out, fetching sneezes and red eyes, and beauty to those of us who've managed to escape hay fever.

The wisecracks now tell us that the frost has nothing at all to do with the coloring of the leaves—that they'll get just as bright and beautiful without frost. We would scarcely have a chance to prove that logic in this vaulted land of the early chill. We aim, however, to stay with the tale of Jack Frost, the devilish little elf, whom we always told our

bitsy ones, sailed over the countryside with his paint pots and brushes, and made a patchwork of color.

At any rate, fall came Monday, we are told, bringing all the beauties of the gilded forests and the bounties of the golden harvest. It's nature's great drama of fulfillment—of bursting granaries, sweet-smelling apple houses, jammed root cellars, of sweet cider, dusty purplish grapes, of hog killings, and frosted punkins, and new molasses, crackling bread, and candy-pullings, and barns, jam-packed with burley, ready for the auctions.

Fall is brightness, a tang in the air, a new spell of picnicking and crowded highways on week ends, as visitors return to see summertime in her gay autumn dresses and robes and flowing gowns, and the mountain tops in their flaming new bonnets.

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Forward-Looking Watauga

Watauga County has taken a big forward step in approving a \$21-million bond issue for school improvements and a new hospital. The progress of that county will in turn mean progress for Northwest North Carolina.

In voting to consolidate its high schools Watauga is following the lead of other Northwest counties which have consolidated or are in the process of consolidating. The consolidation will improve educational opportunities considerably over those available in the present four high schools. For example, industrial education courses, not now available in any of the schools, will be provided in the consolidated high school. This should improve the county's ability to attract industry and provide skilled workers for it. Music, special education and business courses will be available to all the students in the new consolidated high school.

The new hospital will provide the county with the up-to-date facilities that it needs to replace the crowded and obsolete present hospital. And the county's share

of the \$1.5-million hospital will be only \$500,000. A federal grant of \$600,000 and \$400,000 from other sources will make up the difference.

This successful bond election is only part of the evidence of progress in Watauga. Other signs can be seen in expanding industry and tourism. The county is getting a new factory of Melville Shoe Company, and International Resistance Company is expanding. The Hobbinses, owners of Tweetsie Railroad, are building a luxury resort, and new ski facilities are expanding the county's summer resort business into a year-round enterprise.

If all North Carolina's counties were as willing to carry their own loads at Watauga, the state-wide \$100,000-million bond issue for public school construction would not be necessary. It might be easy for Watauga, ringed about as it is by high mountains, to content itself with isolation from progress. This week's bond election is evidence that Watauga is not willing to do so.

* * *

The Hickory Daily Record joins the Winston-Salem Journal, with these welcome remarks:

"It is odd that at the same time a group in Caldwell county is seeking to block consolidation of its several small high schools into a few institutions large enough to give the students the best facilities available for funds on hand, Watauga county voters trooped to the polls and endorsed consolidation by approving bonds with which to finance the improvements needed.

"The Record commends the clearing voters in Watauga, and urges those in Caldwell County who are attempting to prevent consolidation by any means to review their position and let the welfare of the boy and girl be the deciding factor.

"In voting to consolidate its high schools, Watauga is following the lead of other Northwest North Carolina counties which have consolidated or are in the process of consolidating. The consolidation will improve educational opportunities considerably over those available in the present four high schools. For example, industrial education courses, not now available in any of the schools, will be provided in the consolidated high school. This should improve the county's ability to attract industry and provide skilled workers for it. Music, special education and business courses will be available to all the students in the new consolidated high school.

"At the same time the school bonds were approved, Watauga voters also authorized bonds and a tax levy to build a new hospital."

Tough Assignment



From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

September 24, 1903

The family of Mr. John Blair has returned from Asheville and will remain in Boone until December, when they will move to Blowing Rock.

The Rev. Wm. H. Hardin of Valle Crucis will conduct services at the Episcopal church in Boone on next Sunday at 11 a.m.

Master Lawrence Horton has been suffering for several days with an attack of tonsillitis but is now able to be out again.

M. A. Teague took the first load of cabbage to Lenoir from this section last week. He received \$1.25 per hundred for them.

The summer boarders are rapidly leaving Blowing Rock—in fact they are nearly all gone. Those who wish to furnish us wood on subscription will please deliver it before the roads get bad.

Miss Allie Penley of Rutherford is visiting at the Blackburn Hotel this week.

Mr. John A. Boyden was in town Tuesday.

Councill Boyden, who has held a position at the Blowing

Rock Hotel during the summer, has returned home and will enter school at Boone or Valle Crucis.

Mr. W. C. Coffey is preparing to erect a neat barn on his home lot. He tells us that a little later he and his sister, Miss Jennie, will begin housekeeping again.

Miss Mary Lillington Hardin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Hardin, left on last Friday for Greensboro, where she will again enter the Greensboro Female College. She is a close student, and we are told that this is her graduation season.

Mr. W. G. Hall, one of Blowing Rock's most popular merchants, who was married to Miss Marquerite Grier of Harrisburg, on the 9th, inst., has returned after an extended bridal tour north. The Democrat extends to the happy couple its warmest congratulations and wishes for them much happiness and prosperity.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

September 25, 1924

Among the late season guests at the home of Mr. B. J. Council were Miss O'Connell of

Illinois and Miss Arnold of Virginia. Both have spent a lot of time in New York City and are widely travelled. They are introducing a new system of child training. Both these ladies were greatly pleased with our mountain section and our people. On preparing to depart Sunday morning they found someone had taken the spare tire from their car and also the curtains. It is too bad for strangers in our midst to receive such treatment.

Capt. and Mrs. Haywood Clarke of Wilmington have been recent guests at the B. J. Council home. They are an interesting couple and have spent a good part of their vacations at this home for several seasons. Capt. Clarke has been conductor on the Atlantic Coast Line from Wilmington to Norfolk for forty-eight years and is yet in active service. He was at one time a candidate for the office of Secretary of State.

Mr. T. J. Baird, for the past twenty years an employee of the Tide Water Power Company at Wilmington, is at his boyhood home on the Watauga for a few days visit. Always glad to see Tom. He is one of our young business men of whom we are all proud.

Mr. Baxter Linney left Monday morning for Durham where he goes to resume his work at Trinity College.

Fifteen Years Ago

September 23, 1948

Born to Mr. and Mrs. S. Roger Matthews at St. Leo's Hospital in Greensboro last Thursday, a son, who has been named Roger Hardin Matthews. Mrs. Matthews was the former Miss Jacqueline Hardin, daughter of Mrs. R. H. Hardin and the late Dr. Hardin of Banner Elk and Boone.

Miss Stella Sherrill left last week for North Wilkesboro where she will teach this winter. She was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. John Sherrill, who will spend the winter there.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harris, Stacy Harris, Mrs. W. W. Parish and son, Rickie of Charlotte, and Mrs. Dora Jolly of Wilkesboro, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rush. Mrs. Harris is Mr. Rush's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Edmondson of Bel Air, Md., are spending several weeks with Mrs. Edmondson's sister, Mrs. R. L. Bingham and Mr. Bingham, and with other relatives in the county.

Mrs. Inez Ellis of Washington, D. C., spent last week in the home of Major and Mrs. John H. Thomas. She is visiting this week with her sister, Mrs. J. C. Sherwood of Bristol, Va.

Mrs. Faye Templeton of Deep Gap spent the week end with her husband, Staff Sgt. Howard H. Templeton, in Washington, D. C. Staff Sgt. Templeton is with the Army Air Force there.

Among those leaving Boone last week for the University of North Carolina were: Fred Council; W. B. York, Jr.; Gray Moretz, Jr.; and Jim Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Nash and daughter, Lenore, arrived in Nashville, Tenn., Monday, where Mr. Nash will do a year's graduate work.

Mr. Henry Horton of Miami, Fla., was a visitor last week with his father, Mr. H. W. Horton of Boone.

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

He Worked . . . For The Common Good

In the death of Carl Teague the community loses its Water Superintendent. . . . He had worked for the city with as great a degree of devotion to duty and for maybe a longer time than any other individual in the history of the community. . . . For more than thirty years he and the late A. C. Shoemaker had gone about the business of keeping the water system going, and that he had done an exemplary job is evidenced by the esteem in which he has held along the Street. . . . Merchants closed their stores during the funeral services and there is general sorrow because of his death.

CARL TEAGUE grew up in a day and age when hard work was the symbol of good citizenship and of a worthy man. . . . In his long tenure over the city, he had done every sort of work which comes up in the matter of keeping the water and sewer systems going, and the work was never too arduous or the going so tough, but that he would master the difficulties, and help keep the vital services functioning.

IN SOME INSTANCES, he worked through the night in bitter cold weather when there were breaks in water mains. . . . Half-frozen and tired, he never wavered in his concern for his job and for the welfare of the people he served. . . . When Mr. Shoemaker, who labored long and arduously in the water department, and did a remarkably fine job, died, Carl was named to take his place as Superintendent, and has since held that post. . . . Since Mr. Shoemaker and Carl are both gone, perhaps no one is left with full knowledge of the unmapped portion of the water and sewer system, which will cause concern for the time being. . . . At any rate these two fine public officials will long be remembered for their complete dedication to the city government and to the people who live here. . . . They have established an unbeatable record of public service, for which those of us who knew them best, are most grateful.

Funds . . . For Old School

Misses Jane Watson and Susan Lawrence, seventh grade North Carolina history students at the Appalachian Elementary School, were charming and appreciated visitors at the Democrat office the other day. . . . They brought along \$4.82 to be used for the restoration of the old Shulls Mills School house. . . . The young ladies also brought us a letter from their class which shows their concern for the history of this region. . . . We thank them sincerely, on behalf of the committee for their significant help, and for their excellent letter, which says:

"EDITOR WATAUGA DEMOCRAT: We the students of Mr. Ramsey's seventh grade N. C. History classes, after going over and examining the old school building which is being moved from Shulls Mills, wish to donate four dollars and eighty-two cents (4.82) to be used as the Committee desires for restoration purposes. . . . We believe that if this building is kept in a good state of preservation that future generations will profit therefrom."

Mrs. Shull . . . Contributes

Mrs. Roby Shull comes by with three dollars for the old school house fund, which is greatly appreciated. . . . She has the word from Mrs. Minnie Sutherland that the school house was actually built in 1883 by Simon Shull. . . . She says that the benches came from the "old log school house." . . . They were made from split logs. Mrs. Shull says, with the legs driven into sugar holes in the round sides of the logs. . . . This old building, she says, was behind the Robbins Hotel, above the William Shull place and the old Methodist Church. . . . Mrs. Shull's contribution, added historical notes, and her visit to the Democrat are appreciated.

Old Days Recalled

Buret Presnell reminds us of his carrying the mail from Boone to Trade, in the horse and buggy days, when John Main had the contract, and of the death of his father, Joe Presnell, by a bolt of lightning in Caldwell county. . . . Buret, who is now working at the building trades, is smug at the terrific amount of building

going on here. . . . He is a grandson of W. W. Presnell, former Register of Deeds, a one-armed veteran of the Confederate army. . . . Buret's grandparents suffered double trouble in those grim days of the Civil War. . . . At about the same time Mr. Presnell lost his arm from Union shellfire, his wife, who was trying to keep the home together in those skimpy times, lost one of her arms between the rollers of a cane mill.

Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVERIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I see by the papers where a agency called the National Association of Life Underwriters has spent more'n a year compiling some official figures that is mighty alarming. The handling cost for ever dollar took in by private charity groups in this county is 7 cents on the average. And fer ever dollar the Federal Government collects from taxpayers and uses on our give-away programs, it costs \$3.02 to handle it.

Now you can see right off, Mister Editor, we got to get rid of them private charity groups. If they ain't spending but 7 cents to handle a dollar, it's plain that the Government is using a heap more file clerks, typists, office girls, checkers, field snoopers, politicians, Congressmen's kinfolks, and public trough experts per dollar to get the cost up to that \$3.02 average. If private charity groups keeps competing with the Government in these matters, it's going to lead to widespread unemployment in Government circles. I wish you'd write a editorial on this item and send it to our Congressman.

And I was reading another item that was a little more upsetting. Senator Williams of Delaware reports the Department of Agriculture last year paid \$1.1 billion to git farmers to take 64 million acres of land out of farm production. On account of this was hard on the lime and fertilizer business, the Government had to help out these fellers with \$208 million.

Then they turned around and leased 5 million acres of Government farm land for agricultural purposes, getting \$13 million in rent. Senator Williams says the best he can make out from the figgers, the Department of Agriculture is paying farmers not to farm and then paying 'em to farm, all out of the same cash drawer, which is the taxpayer's pocket.

But they was one encouraging story in the news last week. A feller named Thomas Morris that is a assistant to Defense Secretary McNamara has discovered two leaks in the Pentagon. And when things leaks in the Pentagon, Mister Editor, it's a flood. They was using a gold-plated clip to hold tubes in place in them missiles and paying 49 cents a piece fer 'em. It was found a 2-cent clip without the gold plate was just as good and will save \$88,000 a year. Then it was ordered to cut down on the models of screwdrivers from the 526 they was now buying to 235 models, saving \$129,000 a year.

They ain't but one way 526 different models of screwdrivers could git invented, much less sold to the armed forces. They have got a screwdriver lobby in Washington. I wouldn't be surprised none if a investigation wouldn't show that some of them Government officials ain't in the screwdriver business.

Yours truly,
UNCLE PINKNEY.