

THE BREVARD NEWS

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NOW HERE'S A JOB FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

".....we intended to come up there and spend the latter part of the summer, but we understand that North Carolina does not allow out-of-state cars to come without going through a lot of red tape, so we will go elsewhere."

Such was the closing paragraph of a letter written by Mr. H. C. Hanor, Dunedin, Fla., to The Brevard News. Mr. and Mrs. Hanor have been coming to Brevard for many years, and own some property here. Now, because of the unfortunate battles raging around the truck and auto license laws when the last legislature erected such tariff walls about our state, this impression as expressed in the Hanor letter is keeping our regular summer people away from Western North Carolina.

Our Chambers of Commerce have much work to do within the next few months in order to undo all the harm that has been done through this unfortunate legislation and its devastating influence. Western Carolina can ill afford to lose the interest and patronage of such fine people as Mr. and Mrs. Hanor. There is no way of knowing how many thousands of tourists were kept away from the mountains of Western North Carolina this summer because of the impressions created by the automobile laws enacted in the last legislature. Now is the time to begin work on clarifying this matter.

BOYLSTON ROAD WORK OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

While many people assisted in various ways to bring about the improvement of the Boylston road, most of the credit is due to the efforts of Duncan MacDougald and his good roads committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. MacDougald's enthusiastic work has been done quietly yet consistently and persistently, and the success which now crowns his efforts will be felt by thousands of people. Work will begin at an early date on the Boylston road, it is said by highway officials.

In addition to opening up a highway which means much to a large and rich section of the county, the actual work to be done in improving the road will be the means of livelihood to a large force of men working on the road. It means more than appears on the surface. Already people are wanting to buy homes and farms along the highway. The Brevard News is running an advertisement now from a gentleman in Virginia who wants to buy a home on the Boylston road, having read the information in this newspaper that the road is to be improved.

Hats off to Chairman MacDougald, and may he succeed in another project upon which he is now engaged in the same fine manner that he succeeded in bringing the Boylston road to the front.

CAMPERS LEAVING COUNTY AFTER HAPPY YEAR HERE.

Once again the camps are closing, and hundreds of young men and women are returning to their homes in every part of Eastern America and the Central West. It has been an unusually good season, according to the directors of these splendid camps, the general depression not being sufficiently strong to prevent full enrollment at all the camps.

During the next ten months Transylvania county will be the subject of tens of thousands of conversations, as the boys and girls attending camp here tell of the wonders of this section, and the pleasant experiences enjoyed while here. That is a guarantee that another camp season will find the camps filled in 1932. We hardly appreciate the bigness of the camp business here, nor can we readily grasp all that it means to this community to have so many young men and women singing the praises of Transylvania county.

The Brevard News is confident that it expresses the sentiment of the entire community in wishing for all camp directors and officials, and all the boys and girls who have been here this summer, a most pleasant year and an early return next summer to their old haunts in Transylvania county.

SCHOOLS BEGIN WORK UNDER HANDICAPS.

Schools of the county begin work next Monday under a tremendous handicap. The teaching force has been greatly reduced; schools have been consolidated that must cause more or less confusion; teachers are entering upon another year's work with last year's money still due them and unpaid.

Facing a situation like this, with the lives of the county's children at stake, it is time for every citizen to throw his whole influence into one combined force and in every way possible encourage pupil and teacher to forge ahead despite all of these handicaps. The school year just beginning will mean much in the lives of hundreds of boys and girls, and when the year comes to an end it will be gone—forever and beyond recall. Each day will count, and each hour in the day will count. We parents of the school children ought to urge upon the boys and girls the importance of using every waking hour to advantage.

Difficulties that face people may be turned to good advantage if people would only meet such difficulties in a determined spirit to capitalize upon such difficulties by turning them into means of strengthening character, much as the prize fighter trains with the sparring partner in making ready for the main bout to come.

Let us all say: All right, Old obstacles, we'll just make this the best school year in the history of the county, just to show to the world that we are not daunted by difficulties.

SPLENDID STATEMENT IN JACKSON COUNTY JOURNAL

Among the many newspaper comments upon the conviction in Superior court here before an imported jury of eight of this county's most outstanding citizens, an editorial in The Jackson County Journal comes nearest hitting the mark. Yet Editor Tompkins seems to have overlooked some of the most vital points in the evidence, as published. We would call his attention to the fact that evidence brought out at the trial shows that the county commissioners withdrew from the Brevard Bank and paid out on the county's account the sum of \$218,000 between Sept. 1 and Nov. 24, when it was charged by the state that the county sold the \$100,000 note "to help the bank."

If the bank was "tottering" at that time, and the commissioners wanted to help the bank, doesn't it seem strange that the county would have withdrawn more than double the amount that it obtained for the note which the state claims was sold to help the bank?

Following is the editorial appearing in last week's Jackson County Journal:

With the conviction of former bankers and county officials tried in Brevard on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the county of \$100,000, some of the leaders and builders of Transylvania have been branded as criminals by a Haywood jury.

They are practically all men who are known throughout Western North Carolina. Most of them are men of vision who have striven mightily to promote the growth and development of their county and the mountain region.

Thomas H. Shipman, president of the closed Brevard bank, which went down with numerous other banks in Western North Carolina, early last winter, was sentenced to serve from two to five years in the State prison and was fined \$5,000. J. H. Pickelsimer, former chairman of the county commissioners, drew a like fine and sentence, as did C. R. McNeely, former member of the board of commissioners and former county accountant. Ralph R. Fisher, former county attorney, world war veteran and former candidate for congress, was given the same sentence and fine by Judge Sink. Joseph S. Silverstein, vice president of the bank, and one of the leading capitalists of Western North Carolina, was fined \$5,000. S. R. Owen, A. M. White and W. L. Talley, former county commissioners, were fined \$1,000 each.

It is not the province of the newspapers to try court cases, nor to pass judgment after a jury has determined the facts, and we are not so doing. However, on the face of the case, from newspaper accounts, it would appear that the county officials and the bankers had no intention of defrauding anybody; but a note was issued by the county and the money placed on deposit in the bank. The jury evidently took the position that the money was borrowed at a time when the county really didn't need to borrow, and that the transaction was made in an attempt to save the Brevard Bank, and at the same time, to protect county funds already on deposit. In other words, it seems that the county's money was used to finance a private institution. Perhaps the bankers and the county officials realized the seriousness of the situation, and were actuated by high motives, that is to say they were probably trying to save the people of Transylvania the embarrassment that has come in the closing of the bank. But one need not have the wisdom of Solomon nor the legal learning of John Marshall to know that it is unlawful to use the public's money and the public's credit to finance private businesses, and the Haywood jury has evidently decided

that that was what was done. The probability is that this is not an isolated instance of such a transaction. Some played their cards and lost, and their acts are public knowledge. Others have probably held winning hands and the public will never know.

The verdict of the jury is reported as having been a great shock to our Transylvania neighbors, many of whom saw their best friends, and the men to whom they have looked for leadership and advice, branded as violators of the law.

The whole matter, from beginning to end is one of keen regret to the people of this section. Under strenuous circumstances good men will sometimes do things that they would not ordinarily do. A drowning man will catch at a straw, and he cares little whose straw it is. A man with his back to the wall will fight with any weapon that comes handy, and few people will allow their life work to be destroyed, their business go down, and carry their neighbors' with it, without making desperate efforts and taking desperate chances to save themselves, their friends, and their communities.

STATESVILLE LANDMARK MISSES THE MARK.

Every once in a while an editor of a newspaper will take a side glance over long distance at some event, and turn loose an editorial comment not at all in keeping with facts in the case. Even the most careful editorial writers make this blunder occasionally. Last week The Statesville Landmark, one of the most highly esteemed newspapers in North Carolina and one of the most ably edited, fired loose at the "Brevard case," and went far afield in his surmises, doing, unintentionally, of course, a very serious wrong to eight unfortunate men.

The following editorial appeared in The Statesville paper:

SOME MORE SACRIFICE

The Haywood county jury sitting in Transylvania Superior court on the conspiracy charge brought against two former bank officers and six former county officials—five ex-county commissioners and the former county attorney, found all guilty of conspiracy and also found the five former commissioners guilty of misapplication of funds. A Brevard bank was so shaky, according to the evidence, that the president and vice president called the commissioners and attorney in council and told them if the county drew out money to meet a note coming due the bank would be compelled to close. Thereupon the county officials agreed to help the bank with public funds, borrowing \$100,000 on the county's credit and depositing it in the bank. But the bank was sick unto death and died despite drastic actions.

The indictment was for conspiracy to defraud the county for the whole and misapplication of funds on the part of the commissioners. Judge H. Sink, who presided at the trial, sentenced Thomas H. Shipman, former president of the bank; former commissioners J. H. Pickelsimer and C. R. McNeely, and former county attorney Ralph R. Fisher, to State prison for two to five years each and imposed a fine of \$5,000 each. Jos. S. Silverstein, vice president of the broken bank, was fined \$5,000; A. M. White, S. R. Owen and W. L. Talley were fined \$1,000 each. Presumably Judge Sink differentiated the punishment according to his view of the difference in guilt. Judgment was suspended on the misapplication charge on the payment of costs and the costs of all cases are attached to the defendants. Appeal taken.

It is a matter of news that a lawyer is convicted and sentenced to State prison. But it is just as well for any who take satisfaction on that account, if any, to wait until the lawyer is actually in prison. He isn't there yet. This Fisher is the lawyer who is alleged to have complained to Brees, Democratic county chairman, that they—the county commissioners and attorney—had sacrificed the Republican party to save the d— bank and the Democrats hadn't kept quiet about it as they had agreed. Not only did the Democrats talk for political advantage but indictments were returned. Fisher didn't mention the sacrifice imposed on the taxpayers of Transylvania on account of the breach of trust—the taxpayers of all political faiths. The Republican party in Transylvania was sacrificed to save a bank that wouldn't be saved; the taxpayers were sacrificed, and now some of those who are held responsible for the sacrifice are on the way to doing a bit of sacrificing themselves. Which some multitudes of folks will hope will come true, on general principles for the public good.

Where The Statesville Landmark obtained its information that it was in evidence that the president and vice president of the bank informed the commissioners that if they drew out the money with which to pay a county note coming due, the bank would have to close, is beyond us. As we get it, the statement referring to this matter was one alleged to have been made that the bank would have to force collection of notes owed the bank by business men of the town and the citizens of the county.

The Statesville Landmark failed also, apparently, to read the evidence wherein the county withdrew from the bank and paid out on its account the sum of \$218,000 during the time that this tax anticipation note of \$100,000 was being issued and sold, and which it is claimed was done to "save the bank."

The Statesville Landmark also overlooked that bit of evidence brought out at the convicted board of commissioners went out of office two weeks before the bank closed, and

turned over to their successors every cent of the county's funds.

The Statesville Landmark also overlooks the fact that evidence in the case showed that the county commissioners sold a tax anticipation note at the beginning of the school term just as each and every county board had issued and sold such notes each and every year for many, many years back.

The Statesville Landmark also overlooks that bit of evidence brought out by a state's witness who had access to and swore that he did examine all accounts and records in the bank bearing on the county accounts, and not one instance did he find where a dollar of the county's money had gone except to the credit of the county.

Let The Statesville Landmark come into Transylvania county, where it will find the citizens almost solidly imbued with an unshakable faith in the integrity of these convicted county officials; and that newspaper will then realize just why it is that the editorial in The Landmark is so generally resented. It was written without the usual careful thought given to subjects that are to be discussed in The Landmark. Two of the convicted officials have many relatives in Iredell county who have long looked upon The Statesville Landmark as being the perfect newspaper, they say but this editorial so evidently written in haste and without due consideration has caused them much concern.

Knowing The Landmark as we do, we assure those Iredell friends and relatives of these unfortunate former county officials that The Landmark will give further study to the case and have something more to say about the matter.

For consolation of those Iredell relatives and friends of the convicted men, we can assure them that the people in this community have lost none of their confidence in the honesty and sincerity of purpose of the former county commissioners.

REV. J. R. OWEN KNOWS THE MEN

Editor The Brevard News:
I have read with deepest interest your account of the trial and sketch of the defendants in the recent trial and conviction of eight of your most prominent citizens. I too was amazed on account of the outcome of this case. I have known these men many years and have been happy to count them among my warmest personal friends. And I hold them in the same high esteem today as before. Certainly all of us feel that somebody should be punished for all we have suffered in these trying times, yet is it not true that all of us are guilty in a large measure for bringing about conditions that have brought public institutions and private fortunes alike to ruin. Our extravagant living and reckless buying could not have resulted otherwise.

I have no criticism of our courts of justice, but in this particular case does it not seem a pity that the court could not have gone back of the mere technicality of the law and found out if these men could have and should have done otherwise than they did. I did not hear the evidence in this case, only as it was reported in the papers, but I fear it was a travesty on justice.

If our courts are to proceed with the indiscriminate punishment of good and innocent men I greatly fear that they will only aid the thieves and thugs in bringing all law into disrepute. My deepest sympathy goes out to these stricken men, and I sincerely hope that their sentence may some day be averted and their good names saved.

Very cordially yours,
J. R. OWEN.
Mars Hill, Aug. 22, 1931.

CRAB CREEK NEWS

R. H. Kuykendall of Tryon, N. C., and R. L. Kuykendall of Columbus, N. C., visited friends and relatives in this section Saturday.

Mr. Amos Reese has returned to his home at Canton, N. C., after spending a week with his brother, J. A. Reese.

Mrs. Lee Kilpatrick and daughter, Verta, of Bat Cave, N. C., were visitors here recently.

Mr. Lonzo Osteen has returned home from spending a few days with relatives at Tryon, N. C.

Miss Edna Corn is spending a few days with relatives and friends here. Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Reese and family of Canton, N. C., visited Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Reese Sunday.

Miss Marjorie Shipman has returned home after spending a week with her aunt, Mrs. J. J. Gray, of Etowah.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Reese and children, Evie and Roy, visited Mrs. Reese's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Holden of Little River.

Mrs. Neal Hamilton and children were callers at the home of Mrs. Parmer McCrary Sunday.

Little Miss Grace Osteen of Tryon, N. C., is visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Holden of Little River are visiting their daughter, Mrs. O. D. Reese.

Those attending the Orr reunion from this place are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Orr and children, Mr. and Mrs. Pet Anders, Homer Anders, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Patterson, Elmer Anders, Elzie Anders, Misses Carrie, Emily and Emma Anders and Miss Rebecca Peahuff.

SCOUT TROOP NO. 1 PLANS FOREST TRIP

(Scout Reporter)

Scouts of Brevard Troop No. 1 of the Boy Scouts of America are planning a four day trip into the wilds of the Great Smoky Mountains. This troop takes an annual trip each fall, aside from the many hiking and camping trips enjoyed during the year. One year they invaded the Cherokee Fair; another year the State Fair and they have experienced several lengthy camping tours to various points of interest.

Fred Miller, Jr., Eagle Scout, Scout monitor and Patrol Leader of the Silver Fox Patrol gave a short talk Friday at the regular weekly scout meeting on the possibilities of sight-seeing and Nature Study during the contemplated trip. He discussed some of the most important peaks of the Smokies; one of which rivals the world renowned Mt. Mitchell in height. He mentioned a ridge 65 miles long, that is devoid of any sufficient water supply.

Fred described the beauty of these virgin forests, of their untamed spirit and of the myriad wild animals to be found among them. Bear, Panther, Fox, Deer, Elk and many others of interest to the nature lover.

The Smokies though only a few hundred miles are undoubtedly well having only a few trails cut thru them and still less roads. However, since the forest was made into a National Park, steady workers are maintained, building roads, trails, and erecting signs for the convenience of hikers. Only comparatively few of the Smoky Mountains have been surveyed.

Several tribes of pure blooded Indians still live in the recesses of these beautiful forests. Carrying on many customs as of old. Many of them cannot speak a word of English since they are direct descendants of the Indians who lived there when Columbus discovered America.

The Smokies have been visited and worked by many great men, such as Slingman after whom one of the largest peaks was named. Clingman's Dome, Horace Kephart of Bryson City who died recently, traveled and explored there very much. He wrote several books on the Smokies and on the Hillbillies who live there in the mountains and secluded valleys. It is thought that the Smokies were first officially visited by De Soto when he sailed up the Savannah River in search of Gold. Instead he found a valuable berry that is a health giver as termed by the Indians.

Fred completed his talk explaining the value of such a trip to the Boy Scouts and what a pleasure it would be to invade the Forests, in that section of the country.

Scoutmaster J. A. Miller is very enthusiastic concerning the trip and has promised to furnish a truck to transport the boys and baggage to a convenient base camp.

ETOWAH NEWS ITEMS

Miss Pauline Will of Spartanburg, has been the guest for two weeks of her grandmother, Mrs. L. N. McCall.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roberts and daughter, Miss Gwendolyn Roberts, have returned to their home in Fort Myers, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Justus of Blantyre were Sunday visitors here.

Master Jerald Weece of Spartanburg is the guest of relatives here.

Mrs. Mann of Haywood county is the guest of her son J. A. Mann.

Mr. and Mrs. Edney, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman and son of Rosman were callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Saunders Sunday.

After an extended stay here, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Johnson and daughter, Miss Mona Johnson and Miss Catherine McKevitt have returned to their respective homes in Miami, Florida.

Mrs. Chas. Turner of Turner, Va., is spending some time at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. O. English.

Miss Susan Read has arrived from Brooklyn, N. Y., and is the guest of Mrs. C. E. Mallet at her home "Bryn Avon."

Mrs. Robert Henly who has been a guest at "Bryn Avon" has returned to her home in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur English of Charlotte were week-end visitors here.

Mrs. C. C. Bellamy and daughter, Miss Caroline Bellamy, and son, Robert Bellamy have returned to their home in Wilmington.

Raymond English is visiting relatives in Charlotte.

The Etowah school opened Monday with the following teachers:

R. W. Jones, principal; Miss Izora Reese, Thos. Freeman, Martin Garren, high school, Mrs. R. W. Jones, Miss Ward, first grade; Miss Mary L. Cash, second grade; Mrs. Christine Garren, third grade; Miss Hazel Brown, fourth grade; Mrs. Effie Kellar, fifth grade; Miss Annie Mae McKinna, sixth grade; Mrs. Margaret A. Combs, seventh grade.

Children from the following former school districts were enrolled on opening day: Etowah, Boylston, Blantyre, Pleasant Grove, Beulah, Hebron, Rhymer, Yale and Horse Shoe.

Members of the B. Y. P. U. and quite a number of their friends were delightfully entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Whiteside Saturday evening.

Mr. Theodore Britton of Panama was the week-end guest of Horace Maxwell.

THE RIGHT WAY TO TRAVEL is by train. The safest. Most comfortable. Most reliable. Costs less. Inquire of Ticket Agents regarding greatly reduced fares for short trips.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

BIG EVENTS TOLD IN LITTLE PARAGRAPHS

(Gleaned by Clifford Montieth)

James A. Alexander, of Statesville, N. C., graduated from High School at 13, received his Bachelor's degree from Davidson College at 17, and took his Master of Arts degree from the same college at 19. And now he is the winner of a scholarship in the University of North Carolina.

Cincinnati, the only American city named for a Roman hero, is to receive a gift from the city of Rome, to remind her of the origin of her name.

M. Oechichen, of Orly, France, has built a one-man dirigible of 400 cubic meter capacity that is capable of maneuvering in any direction, either forward, backward, or sideways.

J. T. M. Stonerod, president of the Carnegie Coal company, proposes that the Governors of Penn., Ohio, and W. Virginia use police powers to control the production of coal, as the Governors of Oklahoma and Texas have to control oil production.

At the slightest buzzing sound from the sky, the detectors of the "comparator," latest protective device against hostile aircraft, cause the machine to swing powerful searchlights into position, outlining the enemy plane and making it a perfect target for the guns.

Jimmy Doolittle, famous speed and stunt aviator, piloted a secretly constructed plane at a speed of 251 miles an hour over Ashburn field, Chicago, last Saturday.

Over 30,000,000 people in China have been driven from their homes and 10,000,000 are destitute, facing starvation because of floods in the Yangtze river valley.

The new east Texas oil field is so large that the Hobbs pool of New Mexico, which has been considered the largest in the world, could flow into it and still have room for two or three more such pools.

Because immigration officials have barred him from the United States and England, Peter Russel is a "Man without a country." He has been shuttling across the ocean for two months trying to find a place to land.

The record yield of wheat for Western North Carolina goes to Claude Wells, Jr., of Leicester, who grew 54 bushels on one and one-eighth acres of land.

The latest record of Captain Frank Hawks is a flight from New York to Fort Worth, Texas, in seven hours and 57 minutes.

Miss Mary O. Holler, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, has been crowned as Queen of Junaluska for 1931.

Sir Hubert Wilkins, commanding the submarine Nautilus, has reached the ice pack zone where it will be necessary to go under the ice in order to advance.

Darwin O. Lyon, of New York, has chosen Misda, Africa as a suitable spot for his next experiment of launching a rocket into the upper atmosphere.

France and England are waging a battle for trans-Atlantic speed honors. France with a gigantic new liner powered with Diesel electric motors, and England with the new 70,000 ton Cunard liner that is powered with steam driven turbines.

Major General D. Butler's application for retirement from the Marine Corps has been approved by President Hoover with the understanding that his services will be available in case they are needed.

Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh completed the next to the last leg of their flight from the United States to Tokyo when they landed at Nemuro Harbor, Japan Sunday at 7:51 p. m.

The spread of disease and an invasion of serpents have added to the horrors faced by survivors of recent floods in Mexico.

William H. Murray has announced that every oil field in Oklahoma will remain closed under martial law until all companies in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas agree to pay \$1 a barrel for crude oil.

The German seaplane DO-X will return to Germany from New York via Newfoundland, Azores, Portugal, France and England.

Leaders of the Cuban revolt against the rule of President Gerardo Machado insist that although there has been no serious clashes lately the revolution is far from crushed.

Einstein himself admits that he does not thoroughly understand Doctor Pauling's latest discovery—the nature of chemical bonds that fasten the elements together.

The second highest bridge in North Carolina, the Wade H. Harris bridge which spans Lewis Fork of the Yadkin river in Wilkes county, will be officially opened to traffic Saturday.