

# THE NEWS-RECORD

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## WEAVERVILLE MAN OBJECTS TO BLAMING FARMERS WITH SOIL EROSION

### SAYS CITY DWELLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE

Mr. Anson G. Betts, of Weaverville replies to the article of Mr. Goldston last week as follows:

Mr. Editor: I do not wish to dispute the statements made in your paper by Mr. Goldston, the Soil Surveyor, except in one respect.

There is no question that an acre of new land, in a few short years, has washed away by rain up to \$5,000 and even more of fertilizer chemicals in the soil, taken at bag fertilizer prices.

It is the same sort of thing with the timber, of forest trees ranging in age from 300 to 1500 years. It is again the same with the fish in the streams, the coal and minerals in the mines, and in an extreme case, the river of gasoline which has not a great many years to run.

Mankind is destroying the Earth. The American people are eating up the resources of the United States and have supported millions of foreigners from these resources, at no pay.

Mr. Goldston says "the 35,000,000 acres that American farmers have ruined and the 225,000,000 acres which they are now ruining". That is the part I would deny. It is true that the farmer holds the plow, as a woodsman wields the ax, but that is not where the fault lies if we decide to call it a fault, and not an uncontrolled force.

The farmer and the woodsman have no choice in the matter. The city people control politics, make the rules of the game, control the laws and the taxes and during the past few years by political action seek to control the prices for the benefit of the city population.

Here is a concrete example. 20 years ago white pine lumber was worth about \$22 a thousand and today \$18. Suppose a timber owner did not destroy his white pine the past 20 years. He has lost the use of his money for that time; he has paid taxes on the timber, and has to sell

now in a lower market. Like many other owners of natural resources, he is compelled by the rules of the game, which he does not make, to do as he does do. He makes a poor living, or none, by handling these resources in the only possible way left open to him, or perishes.

So whose fault is it after all? Who demands this folly, who makes anything but this folly punishable by commercial death?

The discovery of America opened new resources, followed by the modern world as we know it but the United States is no longer in position to keep up the flood of food to over 400 million in Europe depending on this country in part. Shortly we will not have enough for ourselves.

There is no question of the destruction of the Earth by growing millions of humanity but it is unjust and silly to blame it on the farmer the woodsman, the fisher, and the miner. The fault is the insatiable appetite of city dwellers for more and more of the supplies of the Earth, and leaving no way open to those who gather these things, to do it, and live, in any way but the way it is done.

If mankind in mass had wisdom and thought of the future, the laws and the tax arrangements would make it pay the farmer, the woodsman, the miner and the fisher to conserve, rather than leave no possible way open but to destroy.

So I object to the city dweller charging the waste of fertility unreplaceable and unreplaceable, on the farmer.

ANSON G. BETTS

Dr. J. H. Hutchins, president of Walnut P. T. A. at Walnut. Admission will be 10c and 16c.

### To Speak at Mars Hill Monday

Mr. J. G. K. McClure, president of the Farmers' Federation, Inc., will speak at the Chapel Exercises at Mars Hill College next Monday morning at 11 o'clock to the faculty and student body. The public is cordially invited to hear this address.

### A SHORT SHORTHAND COURSE

1. Containing nothing — MT
2. To behold — C
3. An insect — B
4. Part of body — I
5. A tent — TP
6. A poem — LEG
7. A number — AT
8. All right — OK
9. A slang expression — G
10. A foe — NME
11. Intemperance — XS
12. An image — FEG
13. Poorly dressed — CD
14. Not difficult — EZ
15. Jealousy — NV
16. A girl's name — LC
17. Another one — KT
18. Literary effort — SA
19. A creeping vine — IV
20. To surpass — XL

—Smoky Mountain Trail

### R. R. Ramsey Remains On Board of A. P. C. Association

At the annual stockholders' meeting of the Asheville Production Credit Association which serves sixteen counties of Western North Carolina, held at Asheville on January 17, 1936, reports by officers showed that this cooperative credit organization of farmers had a very successful year in 1935.

The meeting was attended not only by stockholders but also by many farmers who are not members but who desired to acquaint themselves with the credit facilities which the association is offering to the farmers of this section. An invitation had been extended by the association to all farmers to attend.

After the report of the year's operations had been made by W. H. Overall, Secretary-Treasurer of the association, the report being illustrated by charts showing how much business was done, how much it costs to run the association and how much income was received, the meeting was addressed by H. L. Gardner, vice-president of the Production Credit Corporation of Columbia, S. C.

The Asheville association made 149 loans for \$39,727.00 last year. The two members of the board of directors of the association elected at the meeting are A. J. Dills, Jackson County, and C. C. Bennett, Burke County. Other members of the board elected a year ago are John A. Huggins, Henderson County, H. L. Nettles, Buncombe County, and R. R. Ramsey, Madison County.

At the annual meeting there was a round table discussion by members, at which plans were made for 1936.

MARS HILL

To Sponsor Book Day The Mars Hill Women's Club at

### Students Get Holiday As Waters Isolate School



Students at Marshall High school had a holiday today as waters of the French Broad river, upped by heavy rains, blocked the school, located on Blunhasset Island in the river. When this photograph was made yesterday, the water was only several feet from the bridge to the school. Receding waters today made approach to the school possible, but the school basement was still flooded with water. The school is expected to reopen Wednesday.

Above cut and reading taken from last Monday's Asheville Citizen-Times and reprinted by their courteous permission.

A recent meeting voted to undertake the project of enlarging the library of the High School. The committee

hopes, by personal solicitation, to reach each patron and friend of the school and ask each one for a donation of at least one book suitable for the library. Wednesday of next week, Jan. 29, is the day set for the "shower." The books donated should be in the hands of the committee before ten o'clock on that day, so they may all be presented at the chapel hour. They expect to read the names of the books and the donors at that time. The same library was enlarged a few years ago by this same method, sponsored at that time by the P. T. A. The Club and the Committee expect a favorable response at this time.

### Mars Hill College and Madison County

One cannot think of the mutual relation of Mars Hill College and Madison County apart from that long procession of loyal, capable, and consecrated men and women who have labored here and into whose labors we have entered. One thinks of Mr. Brown, Marsh, Huffman, White, Miss Helen McMaster, and others. As these veterans of the Kingdom pass in review, a series of questions arises. Why Mars Hill College? Why Mars Hill College in Madison County? Is Mars Hill College of value to Madison County? Does Mars Hill College merit the support of the citizens of Madison County? Are the College and the County serving one another to the utmost of their resources? Are the College and the County walking and working arm in arm for the ongoing of the Kingdom of God?

Here on the heights in Madison County, in God's great out of doors, where health is abundant, living plain, and thinking high, where earth and sky meet, it is easy for the finite to commune with the Infinite. Surely no one will gainsay that Madison County has no greater single asset than Mars Hill College. The school has done much to elevate the moral standards of the County, to raise property values, and to substantially increase the volume of business. But it has gone beyond this in that it has prepared scores of young men and women of Madison County for places of responsibility in the Nation and in the Kingdom. The doors of Mars Hill College have been, are today, and ever shall be open to every boy and girl in Madison County who has prepared to enter. Moreover, just as far as possible, she will accept her pay in farm produce and in work done on the campus.

It is a fact of common knowledge that Mars Hill College has served even beyond her resources, beginning in Madison County and extending to the ends of the earth. With her two years of unsurpassed junior college training linked up with her summer school arrangement with Wake Forest and Meredith Colleges, there is no reason why every ambitious young man and young woman in the County should not have a college degree.

Since the College and the County are perhaps more vitally linked together in the work of the Kingdom today than ever before, and since the County is in better shape financially than at any time since 1930, surely we stand ready to hear her call for additional funds for the sole purpose of serving her constituency more efficiently and more effectively.

In next week's issue of The News-Record, we hope to set forth ways in which each one of us may greatly help.

### MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL PLAY PROVES DECIDEDLY ENTERTAINING

Characters in "Look Out Lizzie" Manifest Splendid Training

The people of Marshall and vicinity were given an opportunity last Thursday evening to witness one of the most amusing amateur plays ever staged in Marshall. The attendance was not as great as it should have been. If the people could have known before hand what a treat would be in store for them, doubtless the auditorium would have been nearly filled. Seldom does one see amateurs perform more naturally and effectively on such occasions. Guy Frisby, an old farmer, and James Blain Ramsey, acting as his wife, an old lady, would be hard to equal. Their daughter, Wilma Ramsey, also was quite natural, and showed splendid training. The hired girl whose part was taken so well by Hazel Deal, proved to be a splendid actress. In fact, all the characters did their parts well—Liston Ramsey, as the hired man, Clarence Bryson, as the neighborhood gossip, Jack Jones, as an old miser, and Charles Redmon as the sporty looking stranger from New York. Extreme in their make-up, with effective staging, as a whole they presented a delightful play. Between the acts a trio of guitar and male voices rendered very enjoyable selections. Those in the trio were: Frank Roberts, Onnie Robinson, and O'Dell Robinson. Mr. Clarence Highsmith was the business manager of the play and Mr. Howard Wilkie, high school coach, and a member of the faculty, is to be congratulated because of the splendid training which the actors reflected. The entertainment was given for the benefit of the Basketball squad and was repeated at chapel, Tuesday for the benefit of the school who could not attend the entertainment Thursday evening.

### Sunday School Attendance Low

The heavy rain early last Sunday morning turning to a blinding snow storm shortly after nine o'clock, caused the Sunday School attendance to be unusually below the average for a bad day. In some classes, there was not a single member present, and two departments had only two each. However, by the end of the Sunday School hour, the storm had broken and a number gathered for church services, only to find that the preacher expected for the day Rev. Nane Starnes, of Asheville, had been forced to give up the trip on account of the unusual weather conditions.

### Circles Are Named

The four circles of the Woman's Missionary Society met for their first meeting of the year last Monday afternoon. The membership of the circle, is changed each year and new names are selected by the groups. For several years they have been named for missionaries in active service on the fields. The leader of the circles this year are Mrs. Floyd Holcombe, Mrs. Guy George, Mrs. Phillip Dixon, and Miss Vista Stines. The names chosen for circles for the year are The Olive Circle, The McCall Circle, The Taylor Circle, and The Della Huggins. Two of the circles have begun the study of Mrs. Aulick's, "Who is My Neighbor."

### Activities of Madison County High Schools

The Madison County Schoolmasters Club held their regular monthly meeting in the county court house last Thursday evening.

The following high school principals and teachers were present: Superintendent J. O. Wells, Professor A. V. Nolan, Ray, Edwards, Phillips, and Bailey, of Mars Hill; H. W. Cook, Hot Springs; T. P. Burgess and Meadows, Spring Creek; Guy B. Rhodes, Marshall; E. D. Wilson, Clyde and Carmel Roberts, Beech Glen; J. V. Howell and Angel, Beech Glen; and C. M. Blankenship, Laurel.

Several general matters in the routine of business were discussed by the county superintendent, and the next county-wide teachers meeting was announced for Saturday, Jan. 25.

Contest to be Sponsored Thursday evening, Jan. 23, the county wide reading and declamation contest for the high schools will be held at the Beech Glen High School. Each county high school will send one girl and one boy to participate in the contest.

Monday afternoon, Feb. 10 the primary story-telling contest for grades 1-3 of the county schools will be held in the auditorium of the Spring Creek high school. Each Madison county school will be allowed one participant in this contest.

Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 11, the oral reading contest for the elementary grades (4-7) of the Madison county schools will be held in the auditorium of the Laurel (White Rock) High School.

Rules for the contests have been forwarded by the superintendent to the principals of each school. Grover L. Angel, of the Beech Glen high school, is chairman of the county activity committee. Other members are: Principal T. P. Burgess, Spring Creek High School, and Henry Clay Edwards, Mars Hill High School.

### 728 Books Donated To Marshall School

The Marshall P. T. A. sponsored "Book Week" movement before the Christmas holidays. During this week 728 books were brought to the school library. Out of this number, 182 books were added to the fiction shelf. The grades which brought the most books were: 1. 10th—Mrs. Blankenship; 2. 9-A—Mrs. McLean; 3. 8-C—Mr. Wilkie.

The next meeting of the P. T. A. will be Tuesday, Jan. 28th at 8 p. m. in the high school auditorium. All members are urged to be present.

V. McCLURE Sec.

### French Broad Becomes Furious Again

#### OUT OF BANKS LAST SUNDAY

The heavy rainfall last Saturday all day and night and Sunday morning followed by snow caused the French Broad river to over-run its banks again last Sunday, as may be seen by the accompanying pictures. As a consequence, the Marshall school was closed Monday but re-opened Tuesday. Very little damage was done, but it looked furious for several hours. Water over-ran the railroad between Marshall and Redmon to a depth of about 8 inches, but trains made their regular trips.

### Fiddlers' Convention

An old time fiddler's convention will be held at the Walnut High School auditorium on Sat. Feb. 1. The doors will be opened at 7:00 p. m. This contest is open to everyone in Western North Carolina. Cash prizes to be awarded to winners of the following: Best string-band best fiddler, best banjo player, best guitar with singing. If you wish to enter this contest please communicate with

### HONOR ROLL

#### — of — The News-Record

Beginning with our issue of October 17, we are publishing below the names of people who subscribe or renew their subscriptions to The News-Record within the last week. By keeping your subscriptions paid up you will greatly help your local paper. Of course, those whose subscriptions are paid in advance are already on our honor roll.

- Robert Teague, Marshall, N.C.
- Miss Thelma Franklin, Asheville.
- Miss Nellie Crough, Cullowhee, N.C.
- John Craigmiles, Hot Springs, N.C.
- Bartley Gentry, Marshall, N.C., rfd 3
- E. F. Goldston, Marshall, N.C.
- Lee Worley, Stocksville, N.C.
- John Banks, Stocksville, N.C.
- Wm. M. Anders, Detroit, Mich.
- Mrs. A. R. Reector, Lansdown, Md.
- M. C. Faulkner, Marshall, N. C. rfd 2
- J. N. Fisher, Marshall, N. C. Rfd. 2
- Mrs. Walter Niles, Cambridge, N. Y.
- Calvin R. Edney, Marshall, N. C.
- J. E. Kent, Marshall, N. C. Rfd. 2
- A. S. Reeves, Walnut, N. C.
- T. E. Huff, Mars Hill, N. C.
- Douglas Robinson, Mars Hill, N. C.
- W. M. Lawson, Paint Rock, N.C.
- Mrs. Bertha Adkins, Una, S. C.
- Vernon Runion, Detroit, Michigan.
- J. H. Jervis, Stocksville, N. C. r-1.
- Mrs. M. A. Chandley, Asheville, N. C.

### Flood Water Covers Highway At Marshall



Rising waters of the French Broad river covered highway No. 26 for a distance of about a quarter of a mile yesterday at Marshall after heavy rains had occurred in this section. This photograph was made yesterday about a quarter of mile from the depot at Marshall. The truck in the picture is owned by Ralph Sprinkle, a mill operator, who was attempting to reach his plant, located at the upper end of the blocked highway. A number of logs at the mill floated away. The highway was open today. The water dropped rapidly and was more than a foot below the highway this morning.

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