

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1934

"Present Law Enforcement System Is Wrong And Not Effective," Says Robinson

Sam M. Robinson, Prominent Canton Attorney, Points Out How To Better Existing Conditions

Sam M. Robinson, prominent attorney of Canton, recently in an address to the Canton Parent-Teachers' Association on "Crime in Haywood County, Cause and Prevention," brought out some startling facts which were the subject of much comment by those who heard his address.

Mr. Robinson had his address in substance written out at the request of The Mountaineer which is being printed in full. In the latter part of address Mr. Robinson criticized the present system of enforcing the law in Haywood county—not the officers but the system and he offers a suggestion for bettering this system.

The address that caused all the comment was as follows:

"Your Association requested me to speak on the subject of Crime in Haywood County, and to give my suggestions as to the cause of the crime and methods of elimination. This question has created considerable public interest in the county during the past few months in view of the fact that recent statistics show that there was more law violation on a per capita basis in Haywood county in the preceding 12 months than any other county in the state. There being one person tried for each 35 inhabitants. Stanley county, having the lowest rate with one person tried out of something more than 600 inhabitants. These statistics speak so strongly that it is not necessary for me to dwell upon the facts that the criminal laws are being violated in this county. It would be interesting if we had the records analyzed so that we could instantly ascertain how many crimes of each of the classes have been committed, by whom committed and from what sections of the county. A large percentage consist of violation of the prohibition law. Domestic cases have greatly increased in the past few years and there has been a gradual increase of the violation of the motor vehicle law. However, the laws that are being violated that are giving us the most concern are the felony class, a felony being a crime punishable in the state penitentiary or by death in the past few years there has been a steady increase in the violation of law against larceny, which includes the offense of breaking and entering. A few years ago it was unusual for a person to be indicted on this county for stealing but now there are numerous cases at each term of court, and it is being done principally by boys and young men from 15 to 25 years of age.

The crime of homicide has also increased to an astonishing extent in our county. Perhaps this year has surpassed all records for Haywood county.

It is indeed a difficult task to say just what causes, and how many causes enter into the crime situation. While the violation of the prohibition law may be back of a large percentage of the crime, there are numerous crimes where there has been no suggestion that liquor had anything to do with them. We can not attribute the commission of crime in this county as a whole, to a ignorant or unlearned people, we can not contribute it to people of any particular ages, sexes or nationalities. Therefore there are numerous causes entering into it. Criminologists have for many years tried to arrive at the

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Waynesville Boys Have Narrow Escape In Auto Accident

Floyd Rippetoe Jr. and Lashlan Hyatt both of Waynesville, narrowly escaped serious injury last Wednesday night when the Model T Ford roadster in which they were riding plunged off an embankment on Highway No. 10 near Enka and turned over after hitting a stump at the foot of the embankment.

Rippetoe, driver and owner of the car, suffered a broken arm and minor injuries to his back. Hyatt was scratched and bruised with a few cuts about his face.

The two young boys were en route to Asheville when the accident occurred. An investigation of the demolished car after the wreck revealed that a spindle bolt in the steering apparatus had fallen out which is said to have caused the accident.

Deposits At Bank Up To \$2,500 Are Insured

The First National Bank here this week received from Walter J. Cummings, chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a certificate showing that the bank is a duly qualified member of the Federal Deposit Insurance fund and that all deposits up to \$2,500.00 are covered by insurance.

Unemployed Must Register Again

Laura Limer, manager of the unemployment office, here announced yesterday that orders received from Raleigh stated that all persons who registered in December last, 1933, would be required to register again. This is because of a slight mix-up in some counties in the state, and all counties are required to abide under the new ruling. All persons are notified to tell their friends of this change.

Citizen Depositors Paid Over \$202,000

Unsecured depositors of the Citizens Bank and Trust company of Waynesville, which closed on September 17, 1932, have been paid over \$202,500 and the liquidation of the bank has been completed with funds on hand to complete 100 per cent settlement for all depositors.

Gurney P. Hood state bank commissioner, reported today that the bank had \$701,36 in preferred claims and \$202,930.06 in unsecured deposits when it closed. All but \$358.21 of the unsecured deposits have been paid in full and that amount is on hand in cash.

Sun Controls Street Lights Of This Town Through Photo Electric Relay

Waynesville has gone modernistic—at least the street lighting department has. The street lights of Waynesville are turned on and off by the sun through the means of a photo electric relay. That might sound like a big thing, but the actual mechanism part is not so large as it might sound.

S. H. Stevenson, head of the light department of the city, recently installed this new piece of electrical apparatus to take the place of an obsolete switch which has worn out. The photo electric relay looks about like a quart jar on a iron pipe. Inside this glass jar is a piece of metal bent into a "U" shape with two wires leading from it to the contraption which throws the switch.

No one has to handle the apparatus at all as it is all automatic being worked by the light and darkness.

Several nights ago, Mr. Stevenson demonstrated the new piece of apparatus with an ordinary flashlight. When the light was thrown on the photo electric relay the switch was thrown off just as it would have been if the sun had been rising instead of a flashlight ten feet away. As soon as the light was cut off the switch went back on just as it does at sunset.

Mr. Stevenson put this up seven weeks ago, and has been testing it ever since. Not once has it failed to

Old Court House Clock Again Tolling Time To Community

City Employees Erect Old Timepiece At Fire Station, Keeps Almost Perfect Time

The old court house clock is again working and tolling off the time every hour, which is a welcomed sound to residents of Waynesville who for years long to rely on the striking of the old clock in the court house tower for the time.

Several months ago S. H. Stevenson and Oscar L. Briggs, both employed by the city, got to longing for the sound of the old clock's striking and carried it up to the fire station. After working on it during spare time and at night when on duty at the fire station, they erected it at the fire station and placed the bell on a high pole and after some few adjustments on the old timepiece it began to work.

For the past number of weeks the old clock has been keeping almost perfect time striking every hour.

When the old, old, hour was torn down for the new building the clock was stored in the press room of The Mountaineer, until something definitely could be done about erecting it again. At one time it was suggested that a tower be erected in front of the court house for the clock, but this idea never materialized.

Attempts Are Made To Enter 7 Homes In This Community

Mock Trial Will Be Given Friday Night

A mock trial with the Waynesville District Chamber of Commerce and "the people" as litigants will be staged in the Haywood county court house Friday evening, January 3, at 7:30. Mrs. W. B. Matthews, chamber secretary has announced.

Joseph D. Self, Asheville attorney, will preside as "judge." Prosecuting attorney's roles will be taken by Fred Ferguson, Frank Ferguson, Jr., and Lee Davis, and those of defense attorney, by Thomas Reeves, Tom Lee, Jr., Frank Davis, William Medley and Doyle D. Alley. W. L. Lampkin has the role of sheriff and C. L. Grubb will officiate as clerk of the court.

Witnesses' roles will be taken as follows: Deftense, H. B. Atkins, Mrs. G. F. Long, J. M. Long, W. A. Bradley, Lebo Massie, Joseph E. Johnson and Carol V. Bell; plaintiff, Mrs. Doyle Alley, Roy Campbell, Felix Stovall and Carl Messer.

A "special venire" of 50 citizens has been called by "Judge" Self. "Subpoenas" have been issued for Mrs. Matthews, secretary and C. M. Deussen, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

A small admission will be charged. A large attendance is expected.

Legion To Meet On Monday Night, 7:30

Announcement was made yesterday that the local post of the American Legion will meet at the Masonic Temple Monday, January 8, at 7:30 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to all ex-service men to attend this meeting.

Special entertainment will be featured after the business session, at which time important business of the organization will be disposed of.

Sales Taxes From Haywood Amount To Over \$10,000

For Three Months, Total Collected In State Is \$1,288,281.21. Official Figures Show.

For the months of July, August and September the sales taxes collected in Haywood county by A. J. Maxwell, commissioner of revenue, amounted to \$10,963.41. During same period, the total collected from sales taxes in the state amounted to \$1,288,281.21.

In his communication to The Mountaineer, Mr. Maxwell wrote:

We take pleasure in furnishing you herewith information taken from our records showing the amount of sales taxes collected in North Carolina for the months of July, August and September which has been tabulated for each county in the state.

We take pleasure also in enclosing herewith tabulation showing property tax reductions afforded by (1) Removal of 15 cents levy for schools; (2) Elimination of levies for current expense for districts county-wide and special charter schools.

From these tabulations you will observe that we have the following results in your county:

(Continued on back page)

W. D. Smith Named County Agent For Next Eighteen Months By Board Monday

D. O. K. K. Official



HARRY A. SCHOBERTH

D. O. K. K. Official To Meet With Lodge In Canton On 13th

Harry A. Schoberth, Imperial Prince of D. O. K. K., has notified local officials of the organization that he will be in Canton on Friday and Saturday, January 12 and 13, for the purpose of promoting the work among the different temples of this district.

Mr. Schoberth is from Versailles, Ky., and is prominent in lodge work and is one of the outstanding law yers of that state. He is making a tour of the temples in the Southeast.

Plans have been made for a business meeting at the regular Bagdad Hall on Friday night in Canton at 7:30 o'clock. All members are urged to attend. On Saturday night at the same time, and place an open meeting will be held to which the public is invited.

Man Is Killed When Knocked Off Fender Of Car At Balsam

Clay Shuler, 45, was almost instantly killed last Friday night when he was jolted swept from the bumper board of a car by a car said to have been driven by Frank Ferguson, son of Oscar Ferguson, of Waynesville, on Highway No. 10 just across the Jackson county line.

Shuler was brought to the Haywood county hospital but died en route.

Those who investigated the accident stated that the Shuler car, which was a strip-down was being driven without lights or license. It was also said that members of the Shuler party had been drinking.

State Spends Large Sums For Tape Etc. For Football Teams

Raleigh—The state of North Carolina spends more for adhesive tape, bandages, gauze and absorbent cotton for its football teams than it does on these supplies for the various state hospitals and institutions, according to A. S. Brower, director of the division of purchase and contract.

"About \$500 worth of adhesive tape, bandages, liniment and rubbing compound and similar supplies are required for each of the state's larger football squads each season—State college and Carolina—a total of at least \$1,000 for these supplies for both squads," Brower said today. "This is more than we buy for all the state hospitals and all the other state institutions."

One of the principal items on the list of purchases to be made by the division in its next letting December 14 is tape. Adhesive absorbent cotton, gauze and bandages. Brower said. At the letting the low bidder will be awarded a contract for a year's supply to be ordered as needed.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILL HOLD ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately at the close of morning service on Sunday, January 7th, the members of "Grace Church in the Mountains" will convene in business session to elect a vestry to serve during 1934.

The eleven o'clock service will be a general celebration of the Holy Communion, and the Rector will preach on "The Guidance of the Star."

Former Vocational Teacher's Successor To Be Named This Week By School Board

The board of county commissioners on Monday named W. D. Smith as county agent for this county giving him a contract for the next eighteen months. The appointment came as a surprise to many but to those who have been in close contact with the requirements of the crop reduction and other things under supervision of the government, the action of the board was expected.

For the present, the room on the second floor of the court house next to the court room will be used by Mr. Smith. His first major task will be helping get the barley tobacco growers signed up for the crop reduction as sought by the Federal government.

The county has been without a county agent for one year, the board having asked for the resignation of James L. Robinson last January.

The state will pay one-half of the salary of the county agent.

At the mass meeting held in the court house last Monday night at which time some 600 farmers attended to hear a discussion of the reduction of tobacco acreage, Frank Davis, member of the board of commissioners, told the farmers that the board had decided to fill the office of county agent. He then requested that all those present who would like to have Mr. Smith appointed agent to stand. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Davis then explained that the board had earlier in the day named Mr. Smith as agent.

Mr. Smith came to Waynesville seven years ago as principal of the Central Elementary school. After holding that position for one year he accepted the place of vocational agricultural teacher and has held that until appointed county agent Monday.

Mr. Smith's successor will be named during the next few days. During the first few days after school opens Monday Mr. Smith will assist the new vocational teacher in getting lined up on the work.

A letter to the public given to The Mountaineer yesterday by Mr. Smith reads:

"To the Public:

"Space and time will not permit me to put in word my thoughts in leaving the Waynesville Township School. It has been my privilege to have worked seven years with a fine band of teachers. We have had a fine bunch of boys with the finest bunch of boys in the state. I shall miss my daily contact with this group. However, I take consolation in the thought that my efforts now are to be for the hundreds of boys of Haywood county and with the hundreds of farmers.

The times demand that we forget things of the past and shoulder to shoulder face the future. We have demanded of a county agent now that we expect. The agricultural adjustment act is the most far reaching piece of farm legislation ever enacted for the farmers. The direct effect of this program are just now reaching this section. To make this of great value to our people demand cooperation from every group.

In taking up my new relationship I ask every one at all times to be ready to serve. I have been assured by our splendid board of county commissioners and school board that the program of vocational education in the county is to go forward. I think every one can put their past favor and cooperation and may our effort result in a better Haywood county."

Sincerely yours,
W. D. SMITH.

Beginning Today—A New Story, BOMBSHELL

Thousands have paid to see this thrilling picture on the screen, and now you have an opportunity to read it. . . .

Before publishing this story we had several people to read it and give us their opinion of it. Everyone said: "Just Thrilling. Something different. Thank you for letting me read it."

You, too, will like it.

START READING IT TODAY

Read Mr. Robinson's Article On Crime

IF You don't agree with his views and suggestions, send in your opinion on the subject to The Mountaineer

IF You do agree, perhaps there are some suggestions you would like to make. If so, send them in.

(Next week there will be another article along this same line of thought by one of Haywood County's outstanding leaders—watch for it.)

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