

The Watauga Democrat.

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News Items as Reported From Rural Watauga

Interesting News Items as Reported Each Week by
Our Correspondents in the Several Sec-
tions of the County

MEAT CAMP NEWS

The farmers in this community will have to eat corn or buckwheat bread or buy flour for the wheat crop has been wholly destroyed by freezing.

Miss Ruth Bingham of Beaver Dam was a business caller on Meat Camp last Thursday.

Mrs. Manly Moretz left on last Friday for Bristol, Va. where she will probably stay awhile.

Messrs N. E. Moretz, R. W. Hodgson, O. G. Winebarger, J. R. Miller and Dayton Winebarger all went to Boone last Friday on business.

We are glad to know that the Methodist church which is under construction here is being built nicely and quickly.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Wilson spent the week end on Beaver Dam at the latter's parents.

Mr. Calen Winebarger is suffering very bad with rheumatism at this writing.

Mr. A. W. Hodgson spent the week end with his parents in Ashe.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Woodring of Doe Ridge were the visitors at the former's grandfather Mr. John Campbell Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Chessie Miller little daughter of Mr. Clay Miller fell last Saturday and cut her leg just above the ankle very badly.

Misses Mary and Pearl Norris of the Mt. Pleasant vicinity visited at Mr. Clay Miller's last Sunday.

Mr. Lafayette Potter and sister Virgil visited relatives at Tamarack during the week end.

It's getting real spring like here, the gardens are being planted and the fields and bottoms are being plowed; the warm sweet spring wind is blowing and the birds are singing loud.

"Who climbs not the hill, he can never see the plain," said Franklin.

FOSCOE

Rev. Huggins preached in the Baptist church at Shells Mills Sunday from Foscoe.

Misses Virginia Coffey, Olive Taylor, and Neva Calloway are still in the Presbyterian high school at School Mills, N. C. They are liking fine. The parents of Foscoe are planning good for their girls.

The Sunday School at the first Christian Church is fine it is charming to hear the choir sing.

Mrs. J. D. Coffey went to Boone on business Thursday.

Miss Eva Mae Coffey returned after spending a few days with her sister in Johnson City.

Mr. W. H. Byrd has built a warehouse on Main and Taylor Street. He believes in building. All the people in Foscoe believe in building financially as well as religiously.

Mrs. Wesley Coffey's improvement is very slow.

Mrs. H. B. Wagner has been very sick again.

Miss Snow Moody is back again from Banner Elk School. Mr. Ted Coffey and Ernest Banner from Banner Elk were visitors here the week end.

We have one of the most lovely and beautiful women living for our neighbor. It is a treat to be around. She is doing all the good she can for others. Her labor and time is spent to make others happy and better neighbors. She wants people to see that there is something good in this life for all if they will reach out and grasp the prize. She is rich in this world's goods but she said it's for me to live in this beautiful world and do all the good I can and keep the golden rule. She is one of our old time Wesley Methodists, was baptized by sprinkling when quite young and has always been satisfied with her baptism. D. L. Moody said, John Wesley preached the gospel, Charles sang the gospel around the world and that gospel is good enough for me. Charles was sitting in his room and a snow storm was coming up. A little bird flew in at the

window and in his bosom for safety. He sheltered it, and then wrote the song, Jesus lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly. This good lady begs people to live up to the Golden Rule. If we fail to make the world better by our life we will fail in the life that is to come, that means all. She believes in the plan of the Dougherty boys at Boone. They are doing all in their power for the people trying to get the mito see the bright side of life. I think you see why I am a Wesley Methodist; they are still living and will live forever.

She said if we couldn't be an ocean sailing large ships to be a little spring by the wayside so as to give a cool fresh drink to the weary travelers as they pass by.

STONY FORK

Mr. D. L. Wellborn had the misfortune of getting his horse's leg broken and as a result had to kill him.

We hope the people of this community will attend the orchard demonstrations to be held in Mr. B. T. Taylor's and J. J. Wellborn's orchard next Saturday. The orchards of Watauga are beginning to attract state wide attention—we hope in the future to cause all sections of the state to sit up and take notice.

and to admit that apples grown in Watauga are the best in the country. Let's get busy. Go over the hill and see Messrs Niswonger and Steele show you how it done.

A very pleasant surprise birthday dinner was given at the home of Mr. D. L. Wellborn, celebrating his fifty-second year. Those present, were his children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, each bringing him a nice present. The reunion was a pleasant surprise to the splendid family. The ties that bind hearts in Christian love were drawn closer together. May the good father and mother be permitted to spend many more happy years together.

AHO NEWS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ronda Hartley a baby boy.

The roads are real bad in the Aho section, nearly past traveling.

Mr. Jack Hampton made a business trip to Blowing Rock Saturday.

Mr. Calvin Hodge is completing his nice new home.

Mr. Conor Hodges spent the week end with his uncle Cal Hodges.

Mr. T. H. Triplett and Mr. J. C. Miller made a business trip to Caldwell Saturday.

Mr. Calvin Story and family have moved back to Aho from Calowell. We are glad to have the good people with us again.

The children of Mr. T. H. Triplett have been very sick.

Miss Ruth Ashley, Jennie Coffey and Hazel Triplett were visitors at Mrs. Nevada Green's Wednesday.

Mr. Spencer Hampton and wife, and Mrs. Lona Cook made a business trip to Blowing Rock Saturday.

Miss Exie Croe and Eric Story were Sunday visitors at Mrs. W. M. Moore's.

Mr. J. C. Miller and family visited his father Luther Miller Sunday.

RIDDLES' FORK

Mr. T. J. Tugman is very ill at this writing.

Mr. T. R. Cole of Cove Creek section visited in the community the last week.

Mr. T. J. Tugman, Jr. purchased a fine horse last week.

Mr. L. L. Cole traded a pair of mules to Mr. Harrison Baker for a team of horses.

Mr. G. V. Jackson and son visited Mr. J. W. Jackson last week.

Mr. John Brown from near Silverstone was in the community Sunday.

Mr. Clyde Miller sold his farm to Mr. M. E. Tugman and it is reported that he is going to move to Boone.

Mrs. Zura Tatum of Brookside visited his father Mr. T. J. Tugman on Sunday.

MORRISON WEDS WEALTHY WIDOW

Governor of North Carolina Married
Yesterday Afternoon

Governor Cameron Morrison and Mrs. Sara Ecker Watts, widow of George W. Watts, Durham millionaire financier were married in Durham yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Watts mansion on South Duke Street.

Immediately after the ceremony Governor and Mrs. Morrison motored to Greensboro where they were to have taken a New York train for their honeymoon trip.

The bride is one of the wealthiest women in North Carolina and is a native of New York State, and was formerly a trained nurse, before having been married to Mr. Watts.

HARLAN FISKE STONE

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

President Coolidge filled his second cabinet vacancy yesterday when he selected Harlan Fiske Stone retiring dean of Columbia University school of law as attorney general to fill the place vacated by Mr. Dougherty the latter part of last week.

Having gone recently to the Pacific coast to get a secretary of the navy in Curtis Wilbur of California Mr. Coolidge turned to the Atlantic seaboard for his attorney general and in Mr. Stone chose a present resident of New York City and a former New England farm boy. Mr. Wilbur was drawn from California's supreme court and Mr. Stone is being taken from a law school and from active practice.

ATTENDANCE LARGE AT FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

The Fifth Sunday Meeting was well attended and in many respects the best meeting we have held. The pastor, Rev. Walter E. Wilson conducted the opening devotional service. Prof. A. J. Greene was elected chairman and Brother W. E. Wilson was chosen Secretary. "How May We Deepen the Spirituality of Our Churches" was discussed by L. S. Pennell, Rev. Uriah Farthing and Rev. L. C. Wilson. "What are the Moral Conditions of our Association" was discussed by W. S. Farthing.

Sunday morning Rev. R. C. Eggers preached a very strong sermon on Covetousness. Sunday morning Rev. Uriah Farthing conducted the devotional exercises, after which the Sunday School went into the study of the lesson. Following the Sunday School there was a helpful discussion of our denominational work as follows: Christian Education, Prof. V. C. Howell; Orphanages, M. J. Williams; Old Minister's Relief, Smith Hagaman; Hospitals, Miss Theodosia Watson; Missions, State, W. S. Farthing; Home, Rev. L. C. Wilson; Foreign, F. M. Huggins.

In the afternoon "Types of Good Preaching" was discussed by W. S. Farthing. "What Jesus Means to Me" was the final topic, and was spoken by G. P. Sherrill, and Rev. Wellington Swift. There were many vital and precious testimonies given on the last topic.

It was indeed a delight that we had to gather in fellowship in this good community, and in their new church which is a credit to the community. Dinner was served in the old church Sunday, and every one was made to feel welcome.

F. M. HUGGINS.

The recent milk campaign in Cleveland county disclosed the fact that of the 4,500 children turning in cards 1,334 are drinking whole milk, 2,043 are drinking tea and coffee daily and 111 are taking milk to school with their lunch.

THE NEAR EAST RELIEF

I am again appealing to the pastors and the Sunday School Superintendents for the needy orphans in Armenia depending upon us. We cannot allow them to suffer. Please let me know how much you have collected and sent to Mr. John M. Scott Treasurer, Charlotte, N. C. If you have not appealed to your people for these dependent orphans will you please do so at once. It is very important and I know that your hearts are in the work. With very best wishes for you, I am,

Yours for the Orphans,
J. M. DOWNUM,
County Chairman

HAPPENINGS AT THE VALLE CRUCIS MISSION SCHOOL

It has been decided that the school will be open for summer boarders during July and August. Attractive folders have been printed telling of the plan.

The installment of the ice plant has just been completed. The students of the school were given the privilege of being shown through and of having the principles of refrigeration explained.

We were fortunate indeed to have Dr. Dula with us on Friday evening. He illustrated with magic lantern slides in a most interesting way his lecture on the care of the eye. When we consider how this most delicate and indispensable organ is abused, Dr. Dula's lecture was most timely.

The Mary Horner Literary Society presented a most interesting program on Saturday evening March 29th, of readings, recitations, songs, and a scene from the play of "William Tell"

Our rector, the Reverend J. P. Burke has been away several weeks visiting different places in the state and speaking in behalf of the New Church Building Fund. It is hoped that he will be able to return in time to fill his regular appointment next Sunday.

Miss Bouldin has just returned from a short visit to White Marsh Pa. where she was invited to talk in the interest of the school.

TRAINING SCHOOL ITEMS

Rev. Richard Lewis, a distinguished author and minister of Colorado and a relative of Mrs. D. D. Dougherty, was at the A. T. S. one day recently and made one of the best talks that the school has heard from anyone.

Miss Sallie Carroll, the Epworth League Secretary of the Western N. C. Conference of the Methodist church in Boone several days during the past week. She was present at the social meeting of the Epworth League, given especially in honor of her in the basement of the Methodist Church on Tuesday evening and gave many helpful suggestions. She also talked to the league officers on Wednesday evening. An Indian lectured in the Methodist church on the latter evening. On Thursday evening the Epworth League was invited to a social given by the B. Y. P. U. in the basement of the Baptist church, and the occasion was a very pleasant one for all present.

The Baptist fifth Sunday Meeting was held at Cove Creek Baptist church on the past Saturday and Sunday. The meeting began on Saturday afternoon and continued thru Sunday afternoon. At the eleven o'clock hour on Sunday the various activities of the Church work were discussed by the speakers in short talks. The pastor and others from Boone attended the services.

Prof. I. G. Greer of the Training School delivered the address at the school at Sutherland in Ashe county on Saturday.

President Dougherty remained at home several days during the past week owing to indisposition, which however, was not of a serious nature.

Dr. J. D. Rankin of the Training School, preached at the Methodist church on Sunday morning giving his large congregation a most excellent, thoughtful and impressive sermon. Pastor M. B. Woosley was at Blowing Rock holding a protracted meeting.

P. H. BLACKBURN DEAD

The following from the Johnson County News will be of interest locally as Mr. Blackburn was born and raised in Watauga County:

"Rev. D. L. Howell went to Shingle town yesterday afternoon to conduct a funeral service over the remains of P. H. Blackburn who died last Sunday night at the home of his son in law, Will Davidson. The deceased was about 70 years old. He was a good quiet citizen and had many friends. For a number of years he and his wife lived in the city."

UNDERGOES OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS

Miss Gladys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swift of Beaver Dam, a student at the A. T. S. was operated on by Dr. Perry yesterday at the Watauga Hospital. She passed thru the ordeal well and is resting nicely. Her parents came over, and her mother will remain for a few days.

One county agent exchanged 27 tons of cotton seed for nitrate of soda, acid phosphate and kainit obtaining for the seed a price of ten cents per bushel above that offered farmers locally.

Wataugans Revolt at Threatened Discharge of County Farm Agent

Shall We have a Demonstration Agent in Watauga
County Commissioners Considering Dispen-
sing With Important Office.

THRONGS WILL GATHER IN MASS MEET-
ING IN BOONE MONDAY MARCH 7

Business Men, Farmers and all Interested Urged
to be Present—Would Retard Progress
of County for Years to Come.

The people of the Town and county are alarmed over the movement on foot to dispose with the office of Farm Demonstration Agent, which Mr. John B. Steele has filled to the great benefit of our farmers for the past two years. In order that those interested in the work may have the opportunity of interposing objections to his dismissal, and that those opposed to the farm program may give their reasons for such oppositions, in other words that the populace may get together on the proposition, a mass meeting of the good citizens of the county is called for next Monday March 7, at 11 a. m. at the court house in Boone North Carolina, at which time the die will be cast, either pro or con.

At this time it seems almost criminal to dispose with the County agent. Mr. Steele has accomplished perhaps more, and under greater difficulties, and we might say more of them, than any county agent in the state. At the beginning of his tenure in office two years ago, he launched a program of progress it might be called, which at the time it seemed almost impossible to carry out. At first only a few fell in line but this number has gradually been increased until today those of the farmers who have been so wonderfully benefitted are almost furious at the step that is being taken to put the brakes on the wheels of agricultural prosperity in this county. We are in hopes that some of those who are opposed to the work, are that way because they do not thoroughly understand the plan herefore it is fitting at this point to go into some of the details of the proposition.

Methods

The first great object of the county agent work is to get the farmers organized, instruct them to grow more and better stuff, buy supplies cooperatively, market cooperatively and work together for the common weal. Take the apple business. Last year Mr. Steele assisted only a few to properly care for their fruit. This year more than double the number are planning to spray, fertilize and prune orchards. Mr. Bob Taylor the largest commercial orchardist in the county perhaps, says that County agent Hendron of Wilkes should have credit for \$5,000 worth of the improvement made on his farm due to timely advice given. Another farmer says that without the income from his association potato crop that he would have otherwise lost, he would have been unable to pay his taxes the past year.

Progress Attained

When Mr. Steele came here he was a stranger, therefore the first thing to do was to get acquainted. This takes time. After learning who would work with him, he started on the potato proposition, giving the major part of his attention to that work. The second year the kraut business was added, in the meantime giving some attention to poultry and apple work, the plan being to get a few started in each community and let the neighbors observe the results. The potato growers sold this year 3300 bushels of potatoes which paid the grower \$1.70 per bushel or \$5,610, which is that much money that would have otherwise never been in local circulation. We are told that "only a small number of farmers are growing potatoes." Fact is, less than 20 grew these. They could just as easily have sold 40,000 bushels. One man visited Boone last fall who wanted 27,000 bushels. The net income from these potatoes is far better than cotton, tobacco, etc. This year the farmer averaged 230 or \$390 per

acre. Watauga could, should and will if their leader is retained, grow one thousand acres of this crop. There will be more than twice as much this year as last.

More than one million pounds of cabbage were delivered to the kraut factory this year. If this had been put on the market in the old way it would simply have been glutted, and the farmers would have been kraut business will furnish an outlet for a large production of this crop we can grow so well. We can go on marketing cabbage as usual and in addition grow a large acreage for the factory. The kraut is having slow sale this first year for the very simple reason that a market for a product cannot be taken by storm, as there are leading brands to contend with. Every new business has to start slowly, but the kraut is conceded to be as good as can be bought and the market is finding it out. 25 cents per hundred has been paid to the farmers for their cabbage and this alone has paid some of the growers as much as a hundred dollars per acre. The remainder will be paid when the remainder of the kraut has been sold.

Future Tasks

The next job is to develop the potato and cabbage organizations into real self-supporting industries as can only be done with the right sort of leadership. To stop now would be disastrous to both these. It is also a purpose of the present county agent to develop the apple industry to the highest degree possible by showing the farmers how to spray and care for their trees. Interest is increasing rapidly in this line and with the high price and scarcity of apples together with our natural adaptability to this fruit, makes the orchard perhaps the most valuable part of the farm. The poultry industry is likewise to be developed. Several communities are already organizing to sell fresh eggs to large markets, and with this comes proper feeding and care.

These are only a few things that should be taken up, but a program of this sort cannot be developed in a short time. It must be a matter of growth.

You ask what would be the result of losing Mr. Steele at this time? In the first place the potato farmers have \$5,000 invested in seed and equipment. The cabbage growers \$10,000 invested, but greater than these is the fact that the farmers have established confidence and are willing to try methods advocated by the Demonstration Agent. They will lose the assistance of the State Specialist, inspector furnished for potatoes, fruit specialist who gives the benefits of all experimental work of the sort done in the United States. Last week a bee specialist wash ere, will be back in May; week before there was a poultry man here, this week the orchard man. The State has furnished Mr. Blair as kraut maker, and is willing to furnish an agent to help the beef cattle raisers of the county market baby beef.

ALL THESE WILL BE LOST

Who is benefitted? The farmers who are taking advantage of the thing. The number has grown. As an illustration of those who benefit: The county agent has ordered a high explosive for the farmers to blow stumps. This material was left over from the war and was offered to the farmers at less than half the price of dynamite. They have been saved more than one thousand dollars on this alone. Who benefitted? Only those who took advantage.

This program of development is
(Continued on page seven)