

**The Watauga Democrat.**

R. C. RIVERS, Editor and Owner.

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Thursday June 5, 1924.

**Must People Be Made Liable For Fires?**

During the past ten years the fire waste of the United States has more than doubled until we are now annually burning up values amounting to approximately \$500,540,000 which represents the annihilation of material wealth at the rate of \$64 a minute. This destruction furthermore is accompanied by injury and serious loss of life so that the country's human resources are also depleted by fire. These facts are striking enough in themselves but what particularly impresses those who have studied the reasons for our tremendous national ash heap is the fact that it is largely the outgrowth of carelessness and is therefore preventable. Since most fires are due to the carelessness of individuals—the American habit of "taking a chance" with all of its faults and virtues—it is to the individual that we must look for betterment of the situation.

It is true that the value of property has been largely enhanced during the period of the growing fire losses, but in terms of percentages, the incineration of buildings and of commodities has increased to a greater extent than the population. The remedy lies therefore in causing the public to be more careful—in making it realize more fully how the nation and the individual are harmed by the continuous ravages of fire.

This process of education is under way in the schools of the country and means much for the future, but what of the adult population the habits of whom are largely fixed? They are less susceptible to the younger generation, but economists say that the adults must nevertheless, change their ways. Since moral persuasion appears to lack the required "punch" perhaps we must fall back upon the law and enact statutes that will make each person liable for the damage due to the fire he causes. This is the custom of the continental countries of Europe where one is held responsible also for the spread of fire to his neighbors' property. As a result European fire losses are infinitesimal as compared with ours. Of course structural conditions abroad are less favorable to burning but the matter of personal liability looms large as a preventative of fire. Must we too, follow as a nation, the example of the Old World, as several American cities have already done, and attack the disease from the same standpoint before we can effect a cure?

**PEOPLE STRONGEST BACKERS**

More and more the wealth of the nation is being divided up and owned by the people.

It is an impressive fact that hundreds of thousands of laborers, trade men farmers and savings bank depositors are becoming stockholders in railroads and public utilities.

The Kingston Company, investment banking concern of New Haven, Connecticut is authority for this remarkable statement:

"In the year 1921, a period of sudden and severe industrial depression, 495 manufacturing concerns failed with an aggregate of \$233,000,000 liabilities. 45 national banks and 15 savings banks failed with liabilities of \$28,000,000 and \$4,250,000 respectively. Only nine light and power companies failed and their total liabilities were but \$302,000."

**C. C. Hacker, M. D.**  
 (Office over Post Office.)  
 Elizabethton - - - Tennessee.

Practice limited to diseases of **Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat**  
 Diseases of these organs treated by the latest approved methods. Errors of refraction scientifically corrected. Tonsils and adenoids removed only when necessary.  
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It is no wonder that over 2,000,000 people have become investors in properties that show such a small per centage of failures. Is it any wonder the common people are becoming owners and are sharing in the profits of their public utilities?

**DEEP GAP**

(For last week's issue.)

The trial of Mr. A. G. Miller and Mr. Clay Church was continued until May 31st when it will then go to Boone before Mr. W. R. Gragg, J. P.

Mrs. Clemmie Wellborn, Mrs. Channie Wilcox and their children visited at the home of Mr. Alfred Watson last Sunday.

Mr. A. F. Nichols who has been sick with pneumonia is able to stir again, but his side is very weak from the effects of the disease and it still remains very lame.

The case between Mr. I. S. Green and Bud Watson was settled by a agreement of Bud paying Mr. Green some he owed on indebtedness contracted between the late J. B. Miller deceased of which Mr. Greene is now administrator of his estate.

Let's organize the Better Community Club by calling a meeting at Rocky Point school house and get together for the upbuilding of our community. The writer has conceived a plan and will help without stint to the limit if the good citizens of this place will come on with the pull that does things in good order. It will help everyone who has the spirit of loyalty to each other socially and morally. Let's hear from you all on this worthy subject.

We have been listening to the neighborhood talk on the Deep Gap Hotel project, and some seem to think it is a ruse or an air castle built and originated in some master mind, and is only a delusion to awe and inspire valuable holdings here held by certain parties. We do not know the intent of the bids that are now posted asking for foundation material, and however we do have this much to say on the subject, and that we can only wait for future developments along this line, and will keep our lips closed until further notice, but when a thing does turn up like this and found true we will shout it from the house tops with a loud voice. What more can we do?

Mr. Jack Campbell the traveling movie exhibitor gave a show at the Rocky Point School house last Saturday night which was well attended by the folks here. Jack always draws big with his show at this place as he is looked upon as P. T. Barnum of moviedom.

Mr. F. L. Wilcox is demonstrating and trying out a vaporizer for the different makes and types of cars. The vaporizer explodes the gas with an air mixture, and gets the full power from the gas, and furthermore the gas man will look with longing eyes to find a man to sell gas if it works out as the manufacturer claims as it will save lots of gas—mileage in bills to pay for itself in thirty days and then some to spare. It is very easily installed and only takes a few minutes to get it going.

News is a little slack this time here so Mr. Editor excuse our copy for this week.

**ROMINGER**

(For last week's issue.)

Mr. Coy Rominger has returned from the Johns Hopkins hospital very much improved. He underwent a serious operation for ulcer of the stomach. It seems that he will be a well man in the near future.

Quite a number of our young folk attended the singing at Mount Gil-ead and reported a nice time. Five classes were represented viz: Flat Springs, Zion Hill, Timbered Ridge,

**THE SELECTION of a Proper INVESTMENT**

for your individual needs can best be obtained by selecting a financial institution of experience and one which offers a large list of securities to select from.

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 MARTIN BLOCK, LENOIR, N. C.  
 If you get it from DULA, it's all right.  
 WATCH PAPER FOR DATES.

Mr. Gilead and Elk River from Tennessee.

Mr. Louis Hatton of the Beech Creek section happened to a very serious accident at A. J. Ward's Mill last week. The team he was driving became frightened and turned a wagon load of lumber over on him, bruising him severely. We hope he will recover soon.

Mr. J. C. Mast made a business trip to Cranberry last week.

The prospects for an abundant fruit crop in this section looks good now. Surely the freezing weather is past. Some unusual to see the apple trees in full bloom the last of May.

Mr. Daily Pressnell who enlisted in the navy some months ago has been honorably discharged, and is at home to the delight of his parents.

M. P. Trivet visited his folks at Vilas last Friday.

Some frost here the morning of the 23rd.

**BLUE RIDGE**

We are having some pretty weather lately. Gardens are looking very good.

Miss Etta Gragg is in Baltimore for treatment we hear. We hope she doesn't have to have an operation, as the Dr. thinks he can treat her and not have an operation.

Rev. Ed Hodges will preach at the Boone Fork Baptist church Sunday. Mr. A. H. Dula who is in Baltimore for treatment is getting on very nicely he reports.

Mr. Lige Gragg of Foscoe was here on business last week.

Mr. Allen Gragg who recently has bought a large tract of land on the Yonahlossee has given Mr. Roby Gragg the contract of pulling the bark.

Misses Virginia and Manila Dula left recently for Boone to attend the normal. We were glad to have the girls with us this spring and summer and hated to see them go.

Mrs. M. A. Wright is with us again after visiting her brother at Fos-

coe for some time.

We are glad to see the Foscoe road being improved.

Misses Florence Boyd of Lenoir, was a dinner guest at Mrs. Finley Gragg's last Sunday.

Mr. Clarence Greene made music at Mr. J. A. Gragg's Monday night. He is one of the best musicians that has ever visited our community and always has a good crowd of listeners.  
 OLIVE DULA

Delinted seed is giving earlier and more satisfactory stands of cotton in certain tests made by county agents of the Agricultural Extension Service. This is an important matter under boll weevil conditions.

Watch out for lice and mites with the coming of hot weather. No flock of poultry will pay profits and feed these vermin at the same time, say poultry extension specialists for the State College of Agriculture.

**WRIGLEYS**  
 After Every Meal

It's the longest-lasting confection you can buy—and it's a help to digestion and a cleanser for the mouth and teeth.

Wrigley's means benefit as well as pleasure.



**Dixie Theater + Court House**

MONDAY JUNE 9th—DUSTIN FARNUM IN

**"MAN IN THE OPEN"**

From the famous romance by Roger Peacock

Thursday June 12th Herbert Rawlinson in

**"DANCING CHEAT"**

A UNIVERSAL ATTRACTION

SATURDAY JUNE 14th—JOHN GILBERT IN

**"JUST OFF BROADWAY"**

This is the big six reel picture of the season.

Also a two reel comedy full of fun—Title—"Get out and under"

ADMISSION—10-25c



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**SUPERIOR MODEL TOURING CAR**

**\$590.00**

A FEW CHEVROLETS ON HAND AT THE OLD PRICE

When these are sold the new schedule of prices will be effective.

Call at the Boone Garage or see Walter Johnson, F. C. Ward or W. D. Farthing.

**The Boone Garage**

Tom Tarheel says that he can catch more roughage with a mower than he can with his hands and that's why he plants hay crops instead of pulling fodder.

When better autos are built Buick Will Build Them

F. M. RICHARDS, Banner Elk, N. C.

W. H. GRAGG, Boone, N. C.

Chas. E. GREEN, Bakersville, N. C.

**It's Spring—Now Paint Up!**

"Save the Surface and You Save All"

This is the slogan of all the paint manufacturers of favorable repute in the United States.

Our line of paints is complete and we are having the best paint business we have ever had from the fact people have learned how dependable are the lines we carry.

Come in and let us discuss the matter of painting your home.

We have just unloaded another car of Wire Goods and can serve you with anything you may want or need. Plenty of poultry and rabbit fence in 4 and 5 feet heights.

Barbed wire at \$3.25 per spool while it lasts. Stoves and Ranges, Harness, Wagons, Wagon Tire, Rod Iron, Lime, Cement, Roofing, Daisy Churns, and many other things you need every day.

Our line of builders' hardware is complete at all times—in fact you will not find a better assortment of Hardware in this part of the country.

Why send away from home for the goods you need when you can get them here and always as cheap, quality considered.

Let's make this the banner year for our community.

Slogan: Watch Boone and Watauga grow. Nissen Wagons, Oliver Chilled Plows, and Deering Mowers

**BOONE HARDWARE COMPANY**