

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 Sections of the County

Valle Crucis

A delightful basket picnic was enjoyed on Saturday afternoon by the three Episcopal Sunday Schools of Chapel of the Holy Cross, Dutch Creek and St. Johns, and many of the friends of the Methodist church and other denominations, on the lawn of the Episcopal chapel. Tables were spread under the trees and laden with a tempting picnic repast, winding up with cones of ice cream for everybody.

The Banner Elk Band under the leadership of Mr. Hord Thomas contributed music for the occasion. A number of friends from Banners Elk were present.

The rector, Rev. J. P. Burke announced at the evening service that he wanted to make this an annual picnic.

The young people of the valley have been enjoying a series of social events for the past week. On last Thursday night a marshmallow toast was enjoyed at the home of Mr. D. C. Mast on Cove Creek. On Friday night Misses Gladys Taylor and Anne Moretz gave a delightful party at the home of Miss Moretz. On Saturday night Misses Susie and Annie Taylor entertained and on Monday night Misses Lucy Mast and Alice Taylor gave a party at the home of Miss Taylor. At the latter party all the guests wore costumes of children under twelve years of age and much fun was had by the comical appearance of grown people in children's clothes.

A party of twenty five boy scouts under the leadership of Mr. Brown from Harnett County are camping at Warren Park.

Miss Mary Newman trained nurse of Chattanooga, Tenn. is a guest at Mr. J. M. Shull's.

Mr. Walter Spainhour of Morganton is a guest at the home of his brother Mr. P. G. Spainhour.

Mrs. Arthur Mast gave a party Tuesday night in honor of the birthday of her husband. Many of the better people of the community were present and delicious refreshments of ice cream and cake were served.

Misses Gibson and Woodruff, of Tennessee, are the guests of Misses Susie and Alice Taylor.

The Community Club held an interesting meeting at the school house on Monday night. A community fair was discussed and it was voted to have a fair in October. At the close of the meeting a social hour was enjoyed. Songs were sung and refreshments served.

Foscoe

Mr. Walter Shull died Monday in the hospital at Shulls Mills. He had an operation and never recovered.

We were pleased to have our old friend and Methodist preacher Willet Simon of Johnson City with us a few days. He rode the circuit here in 1870 and 1872. He is 78 years old now and as jolly as ever. He preached here Sunday night. The Rev. Wagner came with him. He preached one sermon which was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Leander Norris and wife of Arkansas are spending the summer in Watauga.

Mrs. Norris (Maggie Floyd) is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Patrick at Shulls Mills. She also visited Mrs. Walters at Foscoe. She is as ever the sweet little Maggie Floyd.

Carrie Waters visited at the home of Mr. George Robbins Saturday and visited the hospital.

Mrs. Barber Hartley, of Blowing Rock and her nurse Miss Ward were there. Mrs. Hartley is getting on fine.

Miss Alena McCain came down for a short visit from Blowing Rock Sunday.

Mr. James Shoon of Shulls Mills recently caught a rainbow trout 20 inches long and 6 inches wide and several bass in Watauga River near the head.

The Foscoe Sunday School is getting ready for their trip to Linville next Sunday. If any of our friends would like to join us and have a good time, come on, we would be pleased to have you.

Mabel

The school started here Monday. The teachers are Mr. Lewis Reese, Misses Jennie Mast, Pearl and Ruth Bingham. We are glad to have them with us and are wishing them the best of luck which we are sure they are going to have.

Mr. Roe Warren from Butler Tennessee spent the week end with home folks.

Married on last Sunday morning at Trade, Tenn. Mr. Fred Fletcher to Miss Bina Eggers, both of Mabel. Rev. Brittain the Methodist pastor performing the ceremony. Congratulations to the young couple.

Mrs. Link Culver and little son T. L. Junior have returned home from Butler where they have been visiting relatives for the past week.

Mr. A. W. Smith and family were over Sunday.

Mr. W. M. Thomas spent the week end with home folks.

Mrs. Emmitt Wilson and children from Sutherland are visiting Mrs. J. B. Jackson.

Mrs. Sarah Davis has been visiting her daughter Mrs. I. G. Hodges of Blowing Rock.

A game of base ball was played here Friday week between Butler, Tenn. and Cove Creek, also one Saturday between Elk and Cove Creek. Cove Creek being the winner of both games.

Meat Camp

Rev. Griggs of Todd preached at the Methodist church on last Sunday. The pastor Mr. Williams was gone to some other place.

Mr. Sam Norris of Riddles Fork attended services here Sunday.

Mr. A. W. Hodgson visited his parents in Ashe last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wagoner and little boys of Kingsport Tenn. are visiting relatives here. We are glad to see them and hope they will come again.

Mr. W. A. Proffit has purchased for himself an Oldsmobile right from the factory.

Mr. Olin Winebarger has taken up his school work at Tamarack as principal.

Mrs. Wm. Winebarger is still very sick woman.

Mr. G. G. Stephens of lower Meat Camp attended services here last Sunday. Come again Grant.

Aunt Jane Hodgson is visiting her nephew Mr. Albert Hodgson.

There has been announced a quarterly meeting at the new Methodist church on next Sunday. Of course, a cordial invitation is extended to all.

After having spent several weeks at the home of her aunt Mrs. Bessie Proffit, Miss Ola Moretz has returned to Yuma.

Mrs. Poley Moretz of Boone visited relatives here last Sunday.

Deep Gap

Too late for last issue.

The Deep Gap Tie and Lumber Co. of this place is pushing their railroad to completion just as fast as they can and by the time this is printed will perhaps have reached their goal on the last lap and link of the project near the Daniel Moore Trail Highway.

Mrs. Cordia Wellborn has been very much indisposed for several weeks, but we hope the good lady will soon improve to her normal health again.

There seems to be some "red eye" stuff going again on the highway and court is on the way, so the Wilkes traffic men had better keep their liquid in Wilkes if they want to be in a zone of safety.

It has been a season of rainy weather in this section, and it seems the crops have had an abundant supply of water and everybody is wanting to see Old Sol shine again.

Mr. C. M. Watson, patrolman of this section of the highway is doing some good work in the way of repairs, and will soon put a new coat of gravel in the weak places on the road.

RAINMAKER GETS THOUSAND DOLLARS PER INCH FOR RAIN

Los Angeles—Rainfall is needed to make nature flourish. It also has brought prosperity to Charles M. Hatfield, man of science or fortune teller, according to one's individual opinion.

Rainmaker Hatfield has recently been washed into the limelight again on the crest of eight inches of precipitation which descended in arid district in central California just as he said it would.

Because he either guessed rightly or aided nature in turning on the faucets of the skies Hatfield is eight thousand dollars richer, that being the amount promised him by the distraught ranchers of the San Joaquin valley districts should his assurances be fulfilled.

For twenty years Hatfield has been doing this same thing—contracting to produce any desired minimum of rain wherever needed during periods of drouth—and never once has he failed to make good, he says.

Believers say that Hatfield possesses the secret of teasing the clouds to get together and deliver the moisture. Skeptics say he is merely lucky.

The son of a San Diego county rancher, Rainmaker Hatfield took up his study of the skies in his early 20s. He was a sewing machine salesman traveling about the country behind a horse in an old buggy. He used to see the storm clouds gather, and kept wondering why they answered nature's call and were so heedless of man's desires.

Then Hatfield dabbled in chemicals and in his study he says, hit upon the mixtures that makes rain. No one knows what formula he uses. Those who have been permitted to approach the high scaffold which the rainmaker uses on which to mix his solution in large pans which the whole mess has a terrible smell. That is as much as anyone except Hatfield knows about it.

"No rain, no pay," is the contract which Hatfield signs. Even the most dubious admit that it is a just one. One thousand dollars an inch is his price, set when he first started rainmaking and it has never varied.

His biggest cleaning was made in Alaska back in 1906. There was a long drouth there and the placer mines needed water to pan their dust. Hatfield was called to see what he could do, and the miners put up a ten thousand dollar purse. It rained river and he came back with the cash.

Two years ago Italy sent for the Rainmaker and he set up his pans near Naples. Southern Italy was flooded. Hatfield was hailed as a hero. Newspapers bannered his success he was given the title of doctor and a good sum for what he was credited over the whole of Italy with producing.

Hatfield guarantees a minimum but he does not designate a maximum. This fact brought him disaster in San Diego in 1916. The Moreno dam, which holds the water supply for San Diego was nearly dry. The Rainmaker went down, installed his meteorological mixture of mystery—and the dam washed out. It rained forty inches in some sections of the country.

Hatfield says San Diego promised him a large sum. He filed suit for that amount and was greeted by a counter action demanding damages for the flood. The dispute has never been settled. Everyone admits, tho, that it rained.

Hatfield lives near Los Angeles. He is a mild man, easy to talk to, and has all the quiet manner of a student and scientist. He does not try to convince people that he possesses the secret of rainmaking. He merely signs contracts to do so when any section that is drought-stricken is in need of water.

AMERICAN LEGION MEETING

There will be a call meeting of the Watauga Post American Legion Friday night July 26 at Cove Creek School house. All veterans are urged to be present. The adjusted compensation will be discussed and other important matters.

METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Epworth League 7:15 p. m. Wednesday prayer service 8 p. m. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

COSTS TO RIDE IN AUTOMOBILE

Last Year North Carolina People Burned Gasoline to the Amount of \$45,000,000.00 in 285,000 Cars.

RALEIGH, July 15.—Not counting the costs of oils, repairs and equipment it cost automobile owners and tourists in the State of North Carolina \$53,723,750.87 to operate their motor driven vehicles during the year ending July 1, 1924, according to a compilation of figures obtained from the automobile department of the secretary of state.

This amount includes the money spent for gasoline at 23 cents per gallon, the state gasoline tax and the license fee charged by the state.

During the year the secretary of state licensed 285,000 motor vehicles including 260,000 passenger cars, 25,000 trucks and 1,400 motorcycles. These 285,000 vehicles consumed, the compilation shows, 198,992,770 gallons of gasoline which netted the state a tax of 3,979,855.40.

The gasoline burned in the running of these passenger cars, trucks and motorcycles and also tourists motor vehicles cost \$45,768,337.10, basing the cost of gasoline at 23 cents per gallon the average prevailing rate throughout the state for the fiscal year ended. The addition of the two cents tax increased the cost to \$49,748,192.50.

The income from the gasoline and tax and the license fees for automobiles brought the state the sum of \$7,955,513.77. The automobile fees amounted to \$3,975,658.37 which was \$4,197.07 less than the gasoline tax.

Good roads are responsible for the big increase in the purchase of motor vehicles as well as for the big sum expended for the operation of the cars it was said. The expenditures increased considerably when the cost of repair work, oils, tires and other necessities are taken into consideration.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

Mrs. H. L. Wilson was hostess at the last meeting of the Friday Afternoon Club.

A patriotic program had been prepared. Riley's Old Glory was most effectively read by Mrs. E. S. Coffey. "The Song of the Flag" read by Mrs. O. L. Hardin was greatly enjoyed.

In the red white and blue word contest that followed Mrs. B. J. Council excelled, and Mrs. Wilson presented her with an attractive silk flag.

The hostess was assisted in serving refreshments by Mrs. M. P. Criccher Mrs. David Greene and Miss Louise Criccher. Covers were laid for twenty four. Dainty place cards added to the attractiveness of the tables, and carried out the pretty color scheme as did also the flag favors. The plates also carried out the color scheme, red white and blue cream and cake following a most tempting salad course.

Besides the club members Mrs. Tom Forest of Greensboro, Mrs. Weber of Danville, Va. and Miss Woolley of Durham were sharers in Mrs. Wilson's hospitality.

The next meeting of the club will be held with Mrs. Woolley.

"That new recruit must have been a bookkeeper."

"Why?"

"Well, I saw him trying to put a bayonet behind his ear."

TRIPLETT NEWS

The rainy weather has got farmers badly behind with their work.

Rev. Levi Greene filled his regular appointment at Mount Ephraim Saturday and Sunday.

There will be a box supper at Mt. Ephraim School house Saturday night July 19th, the proceeds will go to Virgil Cox to send his wife to a hospital as he is in a needy condition. He and his wife and one of his children are sick. Everybody invited. Girls come bring boxes; boys bring your pocket books. Let's help in a good cause.

There was singing at Mr. J. M. Walker's Sunday evening.

The rain has continued until the wheat crops are damaged badly. School begins Monday morning with a Mr. Brinkley of Cove Creek as principal.

Some of our boys went to Cove Creek Saturday and played ball. They are expected down here the 26th.

HAPPENINGS AT THE SUMMER TERM

J. F. Spainhour Among those Who Have Delivered Helpful Addresses to A. T. S. Student Body.

Mr. Shuford Duckworth, a cousin of Dr. J. D. Rankin of the Training School and a friend visited Dr. Rankin the past week and were at the school looking over the plant.

Miss Whaley, representing the Red Cross was at the Training School on the 11th and talked to the student-teachers in regard to the important work of this great organization.

Hon. J. F. Spainhour of Morganton was at the school on the 10th and made a most thoughtful and impressive address on the responsibility of the teachers and the State in regard to children and schools of the state. He also brought forward the proposition that when teachers shall have taken a certain specified course preparatory to their work they be licensed as teachers just as doctors, lawyers and other professions are.

He believes and impressed the fact that the public schools are not the place to teach vocational subjects, that this should be reserved for the higher institutions. He insisted that the old school law should be abolished and a new law passed making several important changes. Among these to lessen the work required of the state board of education and the complication of Certification and allow much of the fund used here to go to improving the schools. He strongly impressed his belief that these matters are worth while and should be heeded. He has given a close study to these matters, having been a successful teacher himself for years and who knows but that he is fully right in his conclusions. They are worth considering.

Prof. J. A. Williams of Burlington and now a teacher in the summer term of the Training School, talked at the Baptist church on Sunday on the obligation and necessity of work for every one from the Savior's word "I must work," etc. He made it evident that everyone must work if they meet the requirements of the scriptures for their own good and for the good of others.

WARRANT ISSUED FOR MAN SUPPOSED TO BE SPECIALIST

About four weeks ago a stranger appeared at Mrs. Mattie Harmon's, a widow and after looking at her eyes told her she would be paralyzed in her head unless she bought glasses from him and a treatment which he would furnish from his eye hospital in Charlotte. Said he was Dr. Walker of Charlotte was a Mason, and did convince her son O. J. Harman that he knew something of Masonry, and on the strength of this he sold her some glasses and the treatment to be furnished from Charlotte in a week.

Tuesday of this week as Dr. A. W. Dula of Lenoir and W. J. Horton, of Ferrell, Pa. were passing Vilas, Mrs. Harman waved them down and told them of her trouble and how useless the glasses were and asked Dr. Dula to fit her, and told of others that he had charged as much as \$40 and as Mrs. Harman was a widow and her husband a Mason he only charged her \$30.00.

Dr. Dula has telegraphed the chief of police in Charlotte about this man and is setting the law in shape to catch him, who is evidently the same kind of man who came through here two years ago and got as high as \$500 from some for miraculous treatment and glasses which never came.

A warrant has been sworn out for this man, and Dr. Dula says that the N. C. Optometric Society will pay a reward of \$25 for information as to his whereabouts so that he may be convicted for swindling. It is likely that the name given was a fictitious one as no such Dr. Walker is registered in the Clerk's office here as required by law, but his methods of course will be the same anywhere.

Mrs. Harman says he was about five feet ten inches tall, weight about 190, dark hair and eyes, clear complexion with sandy mustache and had a foreign accent. His companion was decidedly foreign dark and smaller.

Box Supper

There will be a box supper at the Bamboe school house on July 26 for the benefit of the ball team and the school.

MANY ARRESTS MADE LOCALLY

County Jail Practically Filled With Violators of the Federal Prohibition Laws and Other Statutes.

Up until just prior to the fourth of July there had been but one arrest made during the few weeks Ex-Sheriff Moody had been holding down the job of Chief of Police, and Mr. Moody had been heard to remark many times about the excellent behavior of the boys around town. But just as things were sailing along so smoothly, and the sheriff had no doubt about decided that his position was too easy, the glad and glorious fourth comes along, and with it the usual quota of "red-eye." The first arrest came on the 4th, and from that the policeman, assisted sometimes by the Sheriff of the county and Deputy George Hayes, began a systematic round up of the offenders, the highest number in jail at any one time being 21. A few have been bailed out from time to time, but at present about 18 are still boarding with Jailor Hayes.

Not all of the offenses were committed right in the town, nor were all those arrested boys of this place. They came from as far away as Charlotte to fall into the carefully laid nets of the local officials, and the luckless ones included the pilots of the high powered cars as well as the "Lizzie." Five arrests were made for speeding, two for check flashing and all the others had to do with the liquor traffic in one way or another, from having a few drinks in the stomach to transporting a gasoline can of the liquid in an auto. Business has been so rushing with the officers that we cannot give this week an accurate list of the offenders and the crimes committed.

Never before in the history of the town have the citizens shown such a spirit of cooperating with the authorities in putting down lawlessness. Chief Moody has unlimited support it seems, and intends to do his duty, as do all those associated with him in the execution of the law. It would appear that at present Boone might be the wrong place to get gay. The speed laws and those governing the passing of worthless checks will be more strictly enforced in the future.

Cow Leg Blown Through Mule in Cyclonic Freak

Columbia S. C.—The tornado is one of the most terrific forces known to nature, as can be shown by records on file with the state relief headquarters of the American Red Cross at Columbia which has on file many instances of the freakishness of the whirling winds of April 30. These records show heavy objects blown about, dwellings demolished and little trace of them found, great trees shattered as if by large charges of dynamite and a street car blown off the track.

A new threshing machine, property of J. W. Jackson near Horatio Sumter county, was destroyed and practically no trace of it has been found. Mr. Jackson's substantial two story dwelling was demolished and he has been unable to find where the upper story went to and only about 200 bricks of two massive chimneys remain.

Near Dixiana Lexington county, a 1200 pound safe was picked up with the flooring of a house and deposited several hundred yards away in a field.

At Horrell Hill, Richland county the feathers were blown off chickens and they wandered around in a state of nudity.

In the Walnut Grove section, Sparta county, the body of a dead mule was found with the leg of a cow driven into its side.

A four-ton electric motor, used in driving spindles at the Highland mill Anderson was blown from the building and laid into a field 50 feet away.

A massive smoke stack at the Highland mills, Anderson was displaced from its base as smoothly as if cleaved by a disk saw, was lifted and deposited again on its base two and one half inches out of plumb. It was necessary to pull it down.

In every storm area, trees, some of three feet in diameter, were twisted and shattered into splinters and in every section, dwellings and outhouses were splintered as if chopped by an axe.

"Before man made us citizens, nature made us men."—Lowell