

## FARM DEMONSTRATION WORK SHOWS PROGRESS IN WATAUGA COUNTY

A Glance at Its Scope and Usefulness  
By John B. Steele, County Demonstration Agent

Agriculture is the fundamental industry in the United States, but in Watauga county this is especially true. There are many of the qualifications necessary to develop such industries except an almost unlimited supply of water power. While Watauga has been depending for many years on its agricultural development for its wealth very little progress was made until recent years because of inadequate transportation facilities. The roads were rocky, narrow and long and railway connection seemingly impossible.

The development of the agricultural resources of the United States was not undertaken in any sort of systematic way until recent years. True there was a department of Agriculture at Washington with a small experiment station that ever so often would publish a bulletin which was sent to those whose names appeared on their mailing list but the bulletins were seldom if ever read by farmers themselves. It was not until the boll weevil was striking Texas and the farmers became alarmed and appealed to the U. S. government for help, that definite that was given as to how the farmers of that section could be saved from what appeared to be their ruin.

Dr. S. A. Knapp, who was working with the Department of Agriculture doing cotton work in Texas, conceived the idea of working with a few individual farmers to show, or demonstrate, that diversified farming would bring the farmers more money than they could possibly get from an attempt to grow cotton alone. It was Dr. Knapp's long-cherished idea that the object lesson was the best method of teaching the average person.

In 1910 an appropriation bill was passed definitely setting aside for the study and demonstration of the best methods of meeting the ravages of the Mexican boll weevil. The appropriation for the following two years was made in the same language although the amount of the Department's funds was increased each year. It was not until 1913 that the wording of the bill, under strict interpretation, was made broad enough to allow the money given by congress to be used for the promotion of all lines of farming.

The increased financial support for co-operative demonstration or extension work is an index as to the need and favor with which this work is received. In 1904 \$27,316.00 was appropriated which amount was increased to \$6,316,370.00 by 1921. A striking feature of the increase is the support that came from local or county appropriations. In 1907 \$2,800.00 came from this source which increased to \$1,050,621.00 by 1921.

The Co-operative Extension work in North Carolina is in direct charge of I. O. Schaub as director who is responsible for the state college of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the work of the organization. The Assistant Director Mr. James Grey, is directly in charge of the county work. The state is divided into five districts according to physical, soil and district composed of 19 counties, from Alleghany to Cherokee, is supervised by Mr. John W. Godman with headquarters at Asheville. The soil in this territory is fertile and productive, the rainfall usually plentiful, and the season short and cool. These conditions are indicative of a section suited to live stock, poultry



JOHN B. STEELE  
Co. Farm Demonstration Agent

fruit, berries and all kinds of truck crops. Even tho this section is well suited to the above, the section is just in its infancy from the standpoint of development. This is largely due to the fact that timber, and in some sections roots and herbs and minerals, have furnished an occupation for the inhabitants. Since the natural resources are becoming exhausted there is need for developing the resources of the farms.

At present the problem facing us is one of increasing the production of certain crops, of certain types of livestock, of certain fruits and truck crops; increasing in sufficient quantity in every community to insure enough to ship, in car lots, after improving the home demand; improving the method of growing, packing and marketing.

To bring about these conditions it is necessary to employ a definite system in order that we may reach and teach the fundamental principles in building up a great system of agriculture in Watauga county. As far as is possible the County agent is following the definite demonstration as a means of translating scientific knowledge into a practical application on the farm. Since there are over 2000 farms in Watauga county it is not possible for the agent to conduct demonstrations along the various lines on every farm or even to visit every farm; therefore the agent puts it up to each community interested to select the farmer and the farm where the demonstration will be of the greatest benefit to the community as a whole. Field meetings and meetings at the school houses in the communities are held to assist the other members of the community to profit by the teaching brought out by the demonstration.

The dairy work is being developed around the cheese factories. The chief method of improving the grade of milk is by the use of good cows. Within the last few months many have been brought in, also the dairymen are buying a goodly number of probred cows and heifers and grades. The growing of the necessary feeds on the home farm is an essential part of the demonstration and it is encouraging to note that few farmers are making a definite attempt to do this.

The work with the poultry is being done on the same definite basis using the standard home flock of from 50 to 200 hens as a good maxim to work to. The important poultry work for Watauga County is not to develop commercial poultry men but to improve the breeding and the conditions surrounding the farm flock. The program includes the proper breeding, feeding, housing and culling

## The North Carolina Hills

Oh, the North Carolina hills, how majestic and how grand  
With their summits bathed in glory  
Like our Prince Immanuel's land;  
Is it any wonder then that my heart with rapture thrills  
As I stand once more with loved ones on those North Carolina hills.

Oh, the hills, beautiful hills! How I love those North Carolina Hills.  
If o'er sea or land I roam, still I think of happy home  
And the friends among the North Carolina hills.

Oh, the North Carolina hills! Where my childhood hours were passed,  
Where I often wandered lonely and the future tried to cast;  
Many are our visions bright, which the future ne'er fulfills  
But how sunny were my day dreams on those North Carolina hills.

Oh, the North Carolina hills, how unchanged they seem to stand  
With their summits pointing skyward to the great Almighty's land.  
Many changes I can see which my heart with sadness fills  
But no change can be noticed on the North Carolina hills.

Oh the North Carolina hills I must bid you now adieu;  
In my home beyond the mountains I will ever dream of you;  
In the evening time of life if my father only wills  
I shall still behold the vision of the North Carolina hills.

### BOONE'S BIGGEST ASSET

The following is taken from a recent issue of the Winston-Salem Journal:

The eyes of the state are on Boone. Recently the news came of the completion of a splendid new hotel in that mountain center. This hotel is destined to be a tremendous asset to that community, because Boone is at present one of the most easily accessible points in the mountains of the State west of the Blue Ridge. It is true that the town has no railroad connection with Piedmont and Eastern North Carolina. But it now has two of as fine highways to the east as the State affords.

But Boone's biggest asset is not its hotels. Boone's greatest asset is coming to be one of the biggest things in Northwest North Carolina, and for that matter in the whole state. It is a million dollar plant for the training of school teachers.

President B. B. Dougherty of the Appalachian State Normal School of Boone spent a few hours in Winston-Salem this week. We learned from him that the institution he heads has made remarkable progress in the last three years. Few people realize that this college for teachers now has a plant that cost a million dollars and is worth a great deal more than that. And still fewer deem that when the summer school for teachers opens in June there will be teachers there from no less than 75 of the one hundred counties in North Carolina.

Over five hundred thousand dollars have been invested in buildings at the Appalachian State Normal School in the last three years. This brings the total value of the buildings up to one million dollars. Last year the school drew students from seventy counties in North Carolina. President Dougherty says the institution will draw students from every county in the State, and from every state in the south. The school is already crowded for the summer school which opens

These and many other lines of work are being carried on to the end that the farming may be more profitable. The soil is the basis of all work and must be fertile if the crops or livestock are to return the maximum profit.

Since the eye seems to be the most direct avenue to the brain the method of teaching by means of local visible demonstrations has been developed. For the same reason the Watauga County Agent has added a motion picture machine to his equipment so that the actual visible demonstration can be placed before the masses of the people. Many who are not sufficiently interested to travel several miles to see a good piece of work done along some line, will go to see the movies, become interested, seek further information, and become a demonstrator himself.

Seventy six counties out of the 100 in North Carolina have county agents. In each of the counties a definite program has been worked out between the county agent and the people to meet the greater needs of the county and state. A definite group of people in every county are assisting in making the program as useful as possible in bringing about improved farm practices and improving rural conditions and the prosperity of the county and state.

JOHN B. STEELE.

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## SUPT. HAGAMAN OUTLINES GROWTH OF WATAUGA COUNTY INSTITUTIONS



SMITH HAGAMAN  
Superintendent of Public Schools  
Watauga County.

### 636 Students Register at the State Normal

Additional Teachers Employed to Meet Emergency—81 Counties are Represented.

It would be hard to find a busier or more enthusiastic crowd than the faculty and student body of the Appalachian State Normal College for the past week. The registration of students is at a high water mark, there being at this writing 636 on roll, as fine a student body to all appearances as ever registered in this or any college. The great mass of the students were registered on the first day of the term, beginning on Tuesday the second, and classes began regularly on Wednesday, and the work is running smoothly, save for some classes which were so large that they had to be arranged in sections and additional teachers employed to meet the situation. At the faculty meeting on the 5th the fact was impressed upon the teachers by President Dougherty that they should emphasize department, judgment and common sense, as well as credits, and that this important fact must be realized by all the student body. Prof. Dougherty was delighted to express his impression that there is a very high type of students here, and it is generally believed that this school will take the lead in thoughtfulness. 70 of the 100 counties in the state are represented, Watauga leading with 81, followed by Caldwell with 42, Gaston 37, Wilkes 31, Cleveland 30, Iredell 28, Ashe an Union each 25 and others with fewer. Four other states have 11 counties represented by 10 students, South Carolina leading with 9, making in all five states and 81 counties.

On Saturday night the school was most interestingly entertained by Prof. and Mrs. I. G. Greer with a number of folk songs. There was a very large audience present and certainly few occasions have come when they were all better entertained, as Prof. and Mrs. Greer know so well how to do, and are most capable of doing.

Education Throughout the County On Steady Incline, According to the Report of Educational Official

The public schools of Watauga Co. have been run with two things constantly in view—first the progress and development of schools and of school facilities within the limit of reasonable taxation, and second, that the citizens' opinion shall be treated with great deference always.

The last quarter of a century has seen very great changes, going from a term of three months to six months and in numbers of schools an eight months term, in many cases untrained and poorly educated teachers to much better prepared teachers. At that time we spent for public education but little more than \$5,000. This year we shall spend about \$74,000, of which amount the state will donate \$18,000.

There has grown a strong demand for larger schools, better buildings and especially high school facilities to take care of the rapidly increasing numbers of boys and girls who are completing the free school course.

In order to meet these requirements the board of education has made a number of consolidations under the law providing for a county wide consolidation. These consolidations will be worked out as the roads finances and other conditions will permit.

One of the larger consolidations known as the Stony Fork Consolidated School will be worked out this year. The building is now under construction and will be ready for use by Aug. 15. This is a modern six room building with an auditorium that will seat 500 people. This consolidation will take care of five districts.

The people of Stony Fork are to be congratulated upon the progressive movement and the fine spirit behind it.

The high school students of the county are being taken care of in two standard high schools and four junior high schools. Instead of building more high schools at present and perhaps for a number of years the board of education has figured that it is better

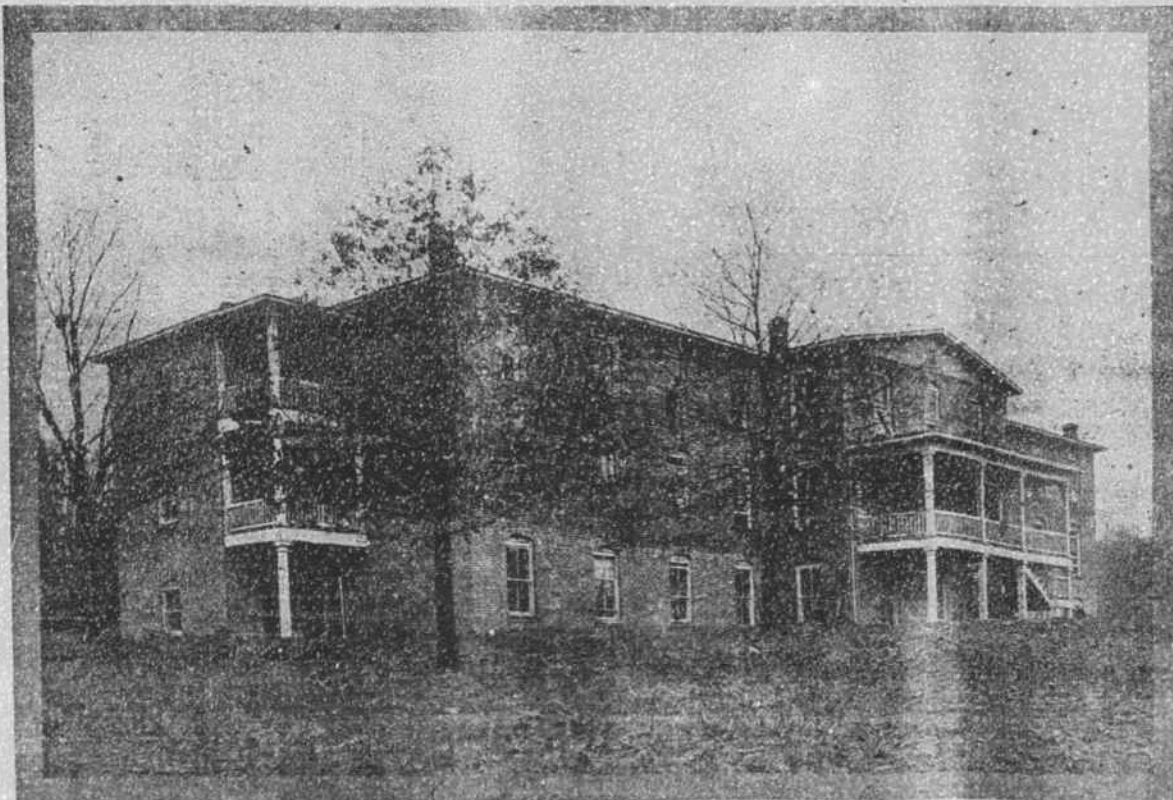
much cheaper to provide where practicable, transportation to schools already built. The board has bought three school trucks that will be used this year, one of these trucks will carry high school students from the state line over the Boone Trail Highway to the Cove Creek High School. One will run from the Wilkes county line to Boone for the same purpose. This truck will pick up a small school on the way and thereby eliminate the price of a teacher and school building.

The County Superintendent of Schools has so arranged the elementary schools that each teacher follows a weekly schedule worked out in every grade covering the same amount of work in each school every year.

SMITH HAGAMAN,  
County Supt.

### VISIT IN MECKLENBURG

Mrs. Nathan Sharp and her baby daughter, Nancy, are off for a two weeks visit to home folks in Mecklenburg county.



Justice Hall, Boys' Dormitory, Appalachian Normal

## BETTER BREAD BAKERY

We respectfully solicit your patronage and friendly and hearty cooperation in building up and maintaining a permanent Bakery in Boone. Without this a Bakery could not exist long in a town so small as Boone.

We are working to make the bread standard in size and better in quality as the name implies.

This bread is served in all the hotels and restaurants of the town and sold by all the grocery stores in Boone, and several of the country stores.

You can buy hot rolls and fresh bread at the Bakery at all times.

BETTER BREAD BAKERY  
J. L. QUALLS