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## LOCAL MEN ATTEND HIGHWAY MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Messrs S. C. Eggers, O. L. Coffey and W. N. Howell and Messrs I. G. Greer and W. H. Gragg, who went to Raleigh to attend the meeting of the State Highway Commission, returned Tuesday. They went ostensibly for the purpose of "feeling the pulse" of the commission relative to the Black Bear Trail, their success on this point being given in a Raleigh dispatch to be found in another column. They brought the good news also that the much talked of road from Baldwin in Ashe county to Boone, is now a certainty, and that the work will be let to contract in time for early operations next spring. The survey does not pass by Todd proper, but leaves it to the left some little distance, coming this way and crosses the ridge to Riddles Fork, connecting with the road already graded near Greene's store, No. 69, which is now being regraded to be made a dependable all-year round road to Cranberry, and still better for Boone, we are assured of substantial help on our streets by Commissioner Haynes just as soon as the town gets the water works out of the way. All of our citizens who attended the meeting speak in the highest terms of Mr. Haynes and his absolute willingness to give the mountain counties of his district a square deal. The delegation is highly pleased with the prospects of much more work being done in Watauga.

## MRS. HENDRIX HOSTESS TO FRIDAY CLUB

Mrs. Turner Hendrix was a delightful hostess to the Friday Afternoon club on the 11th. Sprays of holly gave the house quite a gay holiday note.

A busy hour of sewing and pleasant conversation was followed by an interesting contest. In this Mesdames Spainhour and Rankin took part, but since Mrs. Rankin drew the lucky straw she was presented an attractive bud vase.

Business was then attended to and several important matters were decided. The club's annual Christmas tree, for its members, is to be Saturday December 26th, at 2:30 at the home of Mrs. Tracy Council.

On Friday December 18th the club members are to meet at the Critcher Hotel to pack and send the Christmas stockings to Ocracoke.

On Thursday December 17th, the club will entertain in honor of their husbands.

Committees were appointed to attend to other business.

After the business had been completed, the dining room was decorated in true Christmas fashion with red paper and evergreens. Here a delicious salad course with accessories was served. This was followed by cream, cake and mints.

Mrs. Hendrix was assisted in entertaining her guests by her mother Mrs. Faye Critcher. The only invited guest was Mrs. Hooper Hendrix.

## METHODIST NOTES

Sunday School was well attended last Sunday and the Epworth League reports a good service. Large congregations were present at both the services at Blowing Rock. Twenty one were present at prayer meeting last week.

We are grateful to the Baptists of Blowing Rock for the use of their church while the Methodist Church is being repaired.

We must not forget the community program Wednesday evening instead of Thursday as was announced.

The Christmas program for the Sunday School will be held Sunday morning at 9:45.

Sunday School Sunday at 9:45. Be on time.

Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. by the pastor.

Epworth League 6:15.

All are welcome.

A letter from Mrs. J. G. Pulliam announces her arrival in Santa Maria Cal. one month ago. Her husband, Rev. J. G. Pulliam is on his way there where they will spend the winter with their daughter, Mrs. E. P. Marshall.

A telegram announces the arrival of little Miss Mary Lee Marshall in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Marshall of Santa Maria, Cal.

## NEWS ITEMS FROM THE NORMAL SCHOOL

Prof. I. G. Greer of the Normal, has just returned from Raleigh where he went with the county commissioners of Watauga and Rev. Mr. Deaton of Boone and large delegations from Rutherford and Avery counties in the interest of the Highway from Canada to Florida passing through this section of North Carolina. This delegation organized by electing Mr. Greer spokesman and went before the State Highway Commission to secure the endorsement of the Commission and their recommendation to the Federal Bureau of Roads that this route thus far known as the Black Bear Trail, be given a Federal Number. After laying the matter before the Road Commission the Commission agreed to recommend that this route should be given a Federal number when completed. The route designated by them comes into North Carolina from Virginia by way of Sparta, Jefferson, Boone, Blowing Rock, Linville, Newland, Marion and Rutherford and out at Spartanburg, S. Carolina.

This great route will mean very much commercially and otherwise to the western section of North Carolina leading as it does through one of the most beautifully scenic sections of America, a route it will be a delight for the tourists from the North to South to pass over, revealing beauties that will be a surprise and a joy as every turn along the way. The people of Boone and this section are delighted with the prospects of this route's being a reality in the very near future.

Matters at the normal are moving on in a manner generally most satisfactory in all the work of the institution. The faculty stands as a unit for the highest ideals of work and proper attitude for all concerned.

President Dougherty and the writer have been sick during the past two weeks, but are in their respective places, though not so vigorous as usual.

A pleasing thing to record is that the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Morganton has presented the Normal a male Holstein calf, which act is greatly appreciated.

An interesting event during the past week was a basket ball game in the gymnasium between the North Wilkesboro High School girls' team and the Appalachian High School girls' team. A fine spirit prevailed throughout, the score standing at the close 25 to 11 in favor of the Appalachian girls.

Work is being pushed on the drives of the campus even though much of the time the weather has been unfavorable for work of this nature. It would seem that the foundation being laid would insure a good road for years to come.

The Normal will close for the holidays on the 22. A petition from the student body asked that it close on the 19th, but the faculty, although they desired to conform to the wishes and convenience of the students as much as possible, decided that it was necessary to make the date a little later in order to get the necessary time, and even with this some Mondays are used to make out the full time.

Prof. and Mrs. I. G. Greer gave folk lore songs at the ladies Kiwanis night at Morganton on the 11th. Prof. Greer also attended a meeting in the interest of the Black Bear Trail in Raleigh on Monday. This important trail is a scenic highway from Canada to Miami, Fla.

## DEEP GAP BREEZES

Mr. F. L. Wilcox has started his residence building in Deep Gap near the Boone Trail Highway. He expects to have it completed enough to move in by the new year.

W. R. Blackburn M. D. will perhaps locate in Deep Gap for the practice of medicine at no distant date. We have been in need of a doctor here for some time. We believe the doctor can build up a good practice here when he comes in. We are glad to know of his coming and wish him every success.

Mr. J. F. Welch, deputy sheriff has been indisposed for a few days. He can be out some on duty during the day, but is compelled to stay in during the night in order to avoid the damp air which is against his health.

Miss Edna Greene, a student of the consolidated school of Deep Gap is now seriously ill, and is expected to live unless her complicated case which has been puzzling the

# Spirit of Christmas

by Katherine Edelman

**I** AM THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS! Today I rule over the world as no king or queen ever ruled. I hold gifts in my arms that no ruler ever held and I scatter them with a lavish hand. I am loved by my subjects with a love that has no hint of fear, for they feel that I am working for their happiness.

**W**ITH my magic hand I heal the hurts in many hearts. I pluck out by the roots the resentments and rancors that make men unhappy. I bring peace and understanding to hearts that know it not. Along my way I scatter seeds of faith, of hope, of love, that will spring up and bear fruit after the last echo of my footsteps shall be heard. I leave behind me beautiful memories to enrich and gladden, unnumbered dreams to make men more happy.

**W**ITH my touch I create new friendships—I strengthen those that are already formed and make more dear and more precious the ties of home and kindred. To the little children I bring joy beyond telling, happiness beautiful to behold; to their elders I bring again the faith they knew in childhood. I am the instigator of thousands of loving messages that go from friend to friend, from kin to kin. I have breathed something of myself into each and every one of the gaily tied packages that are coming to every home.

**T**HE mantle that I wear is broad and encircling enough to cover the whole world, to give to every heart a shelter and protection from fears and doubts, from hates and mistrusts, from all the things that keep men and women from their heritage of happiness. Within its folds I welcome every class and creed, every race and color—for all of them I have comfort and warmth.

**I** AM the Spirit of Christmas—broad, tolerant, loving! Everywhere today my presence is felt—my power is unlimited, my word supreme! I rule the world from land to land and from shore to shore. I am welcome in every home and at every hearth—the most loved and most welcome monarch the world has ever known.

doctors takes a turn for the better. She is a bright young girl and beloved by her friends and playmates who hold so much in common with her. We hope that she will soon recover.

The report has just reached us that the above girl died Saturday night.

We note with pride that Mr. W. H. Gragg has had the school building at this place repaired. It was not Mr. Gragg's fault at all for the dashing rains that came down in torrents filled the valleys and carriers to overflowing. It was not our intention to reflect in any manner upon his part when we stated in this paper that

some one should see to it that our ten thousand dollar school building was not neglected and allowed to ruin from the wants of a minor repair. Mr. Gragg however says: "Let me know if it does not prove satisfactory and I will fix it." This statement being made after he had the building inspected and repaired.

The holiday of Christmas is fast approaching and will soon be upon us. Right here we wish to say: Stay sane and do not go wild while observing the birth of our meek and lowly Savior. Lots of folks think they must have a jug of gin and be a rough neck before they can call

the 25th of December Christmas day.

Only think how the papers after Christmas are filled with murders.

Mr. A. G. Miller recently lost a fine milk cow. She was suddenly stricken in his barnyard. Mr. Miller and his farmer friends did all they could to save the cow but she did not respond to medical aid.

and slaughters and refrain from going on "a wild" — the boys call it, meaning that they get tony tony with too much strong drink. We do not claim to be any sage, but if these things were only observed it would be a move on evolution which is so much in need in our day and time.

## BLACK BEAR TRAIL PUT ON FEDERAL ROUTE

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—Black Bear Trail from Toronto to Miami, got the endorsement of the State Highway Commission this afternoon for a Federal number on that part of the road which traverses Western North Carolina.

The route runs through Sparta, Jefferson, Boone, Marion and Rutherford, sections of rare scenic beauty, and a large delegation of citizens from along the way appeared before the commission to ask its recognition in a movement under way to get the trail included in the federal highway system.

The name given the route was carefully avoided in the commission's resolution of endorsement out of respect for Chairman Frank Page's warning that highways denominated "trails" are out of favor with the federal board which is interested only in the route.

The tentative map of the trail carries an alternative route from Marion to Asheville, Hendersonville, Chimney Rock and Rutherfordton, J. G. Stikelather, Asheville, moved for the inclusion of it in the resolution of endorsement, but the motion was withdrawn when the alternative route threatened to develop complications.

The Commission spent the full day in session here and heard several delegations in regard to road construction and location. It will meet again tomorrow and probably will give some attention to the matter of county loans, many counties seeking more aid with offers to lend money to the commission with which to build them.

## COVE CREEK ITEMS

The first piano recital to be given at the school was that of Miss Rebecca Taylor on last Wednesday evening. She was assisted by Miss Anne Dougherty, soloist; Miss Burchi, accompanist and Miss Nannie Altride who gave some excellent readings. The program was thoroughly enjoyed and we appreciate the cooperation of the talented ladies of the State Normal.

On Saturday night a moot trial was held in the auditorium of the school building with Judge John E. Brown presiding. The case was an entirely fictitious one but it was well prepared and very much enjoyed. The proceeds from the sale of tickets amount on to \$49.25 which will be used by the school.

Mountain City defeated Cove Creek in a basket ball game on Friday on the local court with a score of 26 to 10.

The pastor Rev. R. C. Eggers assisted by Rev. Sebastian of North Wilkesboro is beginning a series of meetings at the Willowdale Baptist Church.

The Junior Class will present a play "Out of Court" on Wednesday night December 23. An admission fee of 25 cents adults and 10 cents children will be charged.

Mid term examinations were given on Friday, Monday and Tuesday. Regular class work was resumed at noon on Tuesday.

Mr. J. F. Spainhour and son Walter were visitors in the community over the week end. Mr. Spainhour made an excellent talk to the Sunday School at Cove Creek Sunday morning.

Prof. B. B. Dougherty and Supt. Smith Hagaman were visitors in several class rooms on Monday. Glad to have them.

## CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for the help and kindness they ministered to us in the illness and death of our son brother and family William Younce of Elizabethton, Tenn. We extend grateful thanks and may the richest blessings of God abide with each and every one.

Mrs. Solomon Younce and Family Mabel, N. C.

Our editors certainly hit a bright spot, when they stated that they intended to keep the Democrat clean and free from slurs that cannot be founded on facts from getting into print. To this we can say that they are right, and personal matters should be settled outside of newspaperdom, but public criticism well founded should have a free press as our liberal constitution provides and should never be throttled.