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STATE NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Happenings of Interest From All Sections of North Carolina Briefly Told

David M. Abernethy was on yesterday sworn in as mayor of the city of Charlotte.

The 166th annual Easter service of the Moravian church at Winston-Salem early Sunday morning was attended by about 25,000 people.

Richard Rising, confessed New Hanover distiller, is being held for the murder of J. W. Bell, special deputy sheriff and liquor raider. Rising, denied bond, will be arraigned for trial at the next term of New Hanover superior court.

Fire losses throughout North Carolina during the month of February totaled \$783,544, with a grand total of 216 fires, according to a report of the state insurance department. The loss is about \$270,000 in excess of the figure for the same month last year, while the number of fires show an increase of 32 over February, 1925.

Explosion of an automatic portable fire extinguisher in the hands of Bruce Lowery, Durham fireman, on Tuesday afternoon may result in the amputation of his leg, which was struck by a piece of the flying copper casing. Firemen had been called to help put out a grass fire and Lowery had the extinguisher in his hand ready to begin fighting, when it exploded.

Federal Judge Meekins last week denied the action for a temporary receivership of the Tri-State Tobacco Growers' Association, but he retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and left pen for renewal of the original motion, and restrained the tobacco association from instituting any further suits against growers, or from changing materially the present status.

"Everybody in Florida is talking western North Carolina," says S. Q. Myers, of Lenoir, who has just returned from a trip through the Sunshine State. Mr. Myers spent some time at Haynes City, Miami and Coral Gables. He also visited the eastern and western coasts of the state. Everywhere he went they were talking western North Carolina and making plans for a visit to this state this summer, and in his opinion there will be a record-breaking crowd to visit the Tar Heel state during the year.

That John Gray, who was on Saturday convicted of first degree murder in connection with the death of "Dad" Watkins at Albemarle last October, and who was sentenced to die on May 26, is an escaped convict from the Texas penitentiary where he was serving a term of 99 years for murder of a man in that state, would now seem probable. Officials of Athens, Texas, reading of the Gray case at Albemarle, wrote Sheriff Furr stating that a John D. Gray killed a man in that state 12 years ago, was tried, convicted and given a 99-year term in the Texas penitentiary, but shortly after starting his term escaped.

WILSON BIRTHPLACE MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

Raleigh, April 7.—The two weeks from April 15 to 30, have been set apart as the time at which the canvass will be conducted throughout North Carolina for the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Memorial, to be established at his native place, Staunton, Virginia.

This announcement was made today from state headquarters at Raleigh by Dr. T. A. Allen, state superintendent of public instruction, the chairman for North Carolina of the Wilson Birthplace Memorial movement.

Chairman Allen states further that he felt confident North Carolina would raise the \$50,000 assigned to her for the memorial, and that the many friends and admirers of Woodrow Wilson in this state would welcome the opportunity to share in this tribute to him. A chairman has been appointed for each county in the state who will have charge of the canvass in his community, and everyone will have an opportunity to contribute.

The Birthplace Memorial embraces three features, the central one being the house in which Woodrow Wilson was born in Staunton, Va. In connection with this shrine, the chapel in which he was baptized and in which his father preached for more than 50 years, the property of Mary Baldwin College, will be restored to its original form, and a Wilson Memorial hall will be erected on the campus of the college.

Every farm should grow some corn every year and this year, especially, should the acreage be increased.

GERALD CHAPMAN HANGED TUESDAY

Notorious Murderer Met Death Calmly, With Only Few People Witnessing the Execution

Wethersfield, Conn., April 6.—Gerald Chapman, notorious bandit, was hanged at 12:04 o'clock this morning for the murder of a New Britain policeman.

Chapman walked to the blue chalk circle on the floor of the death chamber in full strength. He looked quietly around, his glance lingering an instant on the clock in which the mechanism of the hanging machine was hidden.

Father Michael Barry entered the chamber with Chapman. He did not have a crucifix.

A few minutes before Chapman's neck was broken by the automatic hanging machine the third reprieve given him by Governor John H. Trumbull to permit counsel to battle in the courts for the man's life expired. The governor in final appeals for still another reprieve refused to grant "even another hour," the courts, federal and state, for lack of evidence or legal reasons, having declined to grant a new trial. Chapman's hope for delay in execution, waning as his counsel lost in the courts, faded when the board of pardons rejected his application for commutation to life imprisonment.

In the death chamber were the officials required by law, representatives of seven daily newspapers in Hartford county, who under the law were permissive witnesses, and three persons, selected by the condemned man.

Chapman walked from the death cell to the death chamber, a distance of about 10 feet, across a narrow entry. In the death chamber a guard on either side of the noose, dangled the end of a new, well-stretched rope which disappeared in the ceiling, the unseen end being attached to the machine which was not within sight of the witnesses.

The witnesses and prison officials passed into the death chamber. The midnight hour had come and the reprieve was ended. The door was closed. All except the parole clerk and the warden passed by the dangling noose and took seats on benches in the rear of the room, ten feet from the rope, while the parole clerk and the warden covering to the left stopped at a metal coverlet into the floor in the extreme left hand corner, their figures masking a plunger which protruded from the cover much like an automobile footbrake.

It required only a minute to seat the witnesses. The chamber door opened and Chapman with his arms bound by a leather strap, a guard on either side, walked in without stopping to look at the noose, five feet from the door sill. A guard passed a strap around his legs, above the knees and in almost simultaneous motion other guards slipped a black cloth cap over his head and the noose, drawing the latter taut. A signal was given, a foot pressed the plunger, noiselessly the slack of the rope was taken up and second jerk carried Chapman straight upwards several feet.

After a brief interval the body was lowered so that the feet were a few inches from the floor. The prison physician and medical examiner rose from their seats and opening the coat and shirt of the dead man applied their stethoscopes. When Chapman had been officially pronounced dead the chamber door opened again, a man wheeled in an undertaker's basket and the body was placed in it and removed to the room which Chapman had left in life a few minutes before.

MOTHERS ASK THAT DRUNKS BE RUN OUT

Hertford, N. C., dispatch of April 4: Drunkenness among the youth of this town and county has reached such a stage that the mothers of the town have appeared before the chamber of commerce to ask aid in their efforts to clear the streets of Hertford of rowdiness, cursing and general misconduct, especially on Sunday.

The Rev. S. R. Monds, speaking at a meeting of the chamber, urged the adoption of a law enforcement committee, backed by the civic organizations to "eradicate the pest of whiskey" from the town of Hertford.

After a number of persons had spoken, it was voted to appoint a committee as suggested by Mr. Monds and the latter was appointed as a committee, with power to select as many as he wished to aid him in starting his law enforcement campaign.

The question as to how the enforcement would be attempted has been left with Mr. Monds and his committee, but it was indicated they will follow the suggestion offered by Mr. Hefren and will ask the support of the local town council, mayor and chief of police in imprisoning anyone found on the streets of Hertford drunk and disorderly.

Annie Lee Edminsten Shot By Don Trivett

Annie Lee, fifteen-year-old daughter of Mr. George Edminsten, of the Beech Creek section, is in the Banner Elk Hospital in a serious condition as the result of a gunshot wound inflicted by one Don Trivett Tuesday afternoon, near Beech Creek postoffice.

Miss Edminsten, in company with her uncle, Dwight Edminsten, was riding in a truck, and had just passed the home of Grant Trivett, one of five dogs belonging at this place was in the road and unintentionally the driver of the truck ran over it. A rifle cracked, the ball taking effect in the girl's side, and lodged against the spinal column. The weapon used was a .22 calibre rifle. Latest reports indicate that the young lady's condition is most critical.

The accused man made his escape, while his father, mother and two others of the family were arrested. They were given a preliminary hearing yesterday before Justice of the Peace R. M. Ward, and released, having had nothing whatever to do with the crime.

This is one of the most dastardly crimes of recent years in this county, committed, to make the thing even worse, over a cur dog, which was not even killed by the car. It is earnestly hoped that Trivett may soon be apprehended and given justice in full measure.

REGULATIONS FOR FISHING IN COUNTY

April 15 to September 1 Open Season for Trout; Must Secure License.

J. A. Nelson, state fisheries commissioner for North Carolina, has sent J. W. Bryan, county inspector, the following rules and regulations for fishing in the streams of Watauga county. Commissioner Nelson further states that Mr. Bryan has full authority to enforce the regulations and fishing laws applicable to this county, and issue fishing licenses.

License required to fish are as follows: For residents of the county above the age of 16 years, a license tax of \$1; for non-residents of the county above the age of 16 years, \$2; for non-residents of the state to fish with rod and reel, a license tax of \$3.

Fishing Regulations
Rule No. 107. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to take or catch fresh water trout commonly known as brook, speckle, rainbow, mountain or California, from any of the waters of Watauga county at any time by dynamite, trapping, seining, netting or by any other means or method whatsoever except under the following provisions: That such fish may be taken with hook and line, rod and reel, between the 15th day of April and the 1st day of September of each year; Provided, that not more than 25 trout shall be taken by any person during any one day, nor more than 200 in any open season.

Rule No. 108. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to take or catch by seining, dynamiting, netting or by any other means or methods whatsoever, large or small mouth bass, rock, sun perch, bream or other game fish from any of the waters of Watauga county at any time except under the following provisions: That such fish may be taken with rod and reel, hook and line, from July 1st to October 1st of each year; Provided, that not more than ten large or small mouth bass or rock shall be taken by any person during any one day, nor more than fifty in any season.

Rule No. 109. It shall be unlawful, in the county of Watauga, for any person, firm or corporation to take, buy, sell, offer for sale, have in his or their possession, or unnecessarily destroy fish taken from the waters of said county of less size than the length specified for the several kinds of fish hereinafter mentioned, to wit:

Brook or speckled trout, 6 inches; rainbow or California trout, 8 inches; large or small mouth bass, 8 inches; rock, 8 inches; sun perch or bream, 6 inches.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

The Republican convention, pursuant to a call of Chairman W. H. Gragg, met at the courthouse Monday, and for a primary gathering, was largely attended. The object of the meeting was announced by the chairman, and the organization was perfected by the re-election of W. H. Gragg as chairman and J. C. Ray, secretary for the next two years. Delegates were named to the judicial, congressional and state conventions, endorsed T. E. Bingham for solicitor, and township committees for the county were elected.

The meeting was very harmonious, and many short speeches were made by local Republicans.

Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, woman tennis champion of the world, is engaged to be married, says a Paris dispatch. Her fiance is Jacques Briende-jones Offenbach, and he is not a tennis player, or even a fan, but a poet and described as one of the best of the younger generation. He is a grandson of the famous composer Offenbach, whose "Tales of Hoffman" is an operatic classic. No date has been set for the marriage.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE ITALIAN PREMIER FAILS

Rome, April 7.—Benito Mussolini, strong man of Italy, was near death today. He had just emerged from the Congress of Surgeons and had raised his arm in salute to the plaudits of the multitude, when a woman pressed a revolver into his face and fired.

Mussolini really saved his own life by his habit of holding his head erect as he faces the crowds which invariably await as he emerges to the street. Just as the bullet sped on its intended journey of death the Italian leader threw back his head to greet the multitude, and the leaden missile, instead of traversing the brain, plowed through the tip end of his nostrils, causing a slight wound. His assailant, believed to be an Irish woman, Violet Albina Gibson, sister of Baron Ashborne, a resident of Copenhagen, France, was seized and dragged to a place of safety for in an instant the thousands gathered to acclaim the premier were in a frenzy of excitement and rage.

WORTH WHILE CLUB MEETS WITH MRS. W. D. FARTHING

Mrs. W. D. Farming delightfully entertained the Worth While Club at her home last Friday. The bunny rabbit with the nest of beautiful colored eggs, greeted the guests at the entrance of the hall. An Easter program was given, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The program was as follows:

The Bible story of the resurrection as given by Matthew, followed with prayer, by Mrs. Huggins. Reading, "Easter," by Mrs. Hahn. Piano solo, Frieda Farthing. Reading, "Christ is Risen," by Frieda Farthing.

The Symphony Orchestra delighted the guests with many selections, some of which were "Whispering Hope," "Over the Waves," "When You and I Were Young, Muggie," and "Nellie Gray."

A very interesting but unique contest was participated in by the guests. Mrs. W. C. Greer won the prize, a lovely April fool Easter egg.

A dainty two-course luncheon was served, consisting of butterfly salad, saltines, pickles, salad egg, and a salty Easter flower of candy, delicious fruit and cake.

COMRADES' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ENTERTAINS

A most delightful party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. South, Thursday evening, April 1st, when the Reds were entertained by the Blues, of the Comrades' Sunday school class of the M. E. church. The Reds were dressed in funny costumes and went on masse, which created lots of merriment, and a jolly time was had throughout the evening.

Mr. Woosley was asked to lead in prayer, following which the president, Mrs. John Steele, conducted a short business session. A membership committee was named, also a committee to buy chairs for the new Sunday school room in the dome of the church. A committee was named to arrange for the next social.

After the business session, much amusement was caused by different fancy stunts. An April fool contest caused lots of fun, and the prize, a fool's cap, was won by Mrs. Steele, which she later presented to Mr. Larnie Bingham. Partners for refreshments were drawn by matching Mother Goose rhymes. Delicious sandwiches, coffee and chocolate bonbons were served.

Mrs. William Watson, wife of "Sliding Billy" Watson, burlesqued, was shot to death at Freeport, N. Y., Tuesday in an argument with a discharged waiter in an argument about two pet dogs. Henry Koltz, joint proprietor with her of the "Three Hundred Club," a roadhouse, was killed with her. Shortly after police received word of the double killing, Karl Kieferle, the waiter, surrendered himself to Freeport police.

COMMERCE BODY MET MONDAY P. M.

American Legion Park and Community House Are Considered; Ladies in Attendance

By R. N. BALDWIN
The Boone Chamber of Commerce met Monday evening at 7:30 at the Critcher hotel. Chairman W. H. Gragg called the meeting to order and Rev. F. M. Huggins led in prayer.

A number of ladies of the town, members of the Worth While Club, were present, and were asked to say anything that might be on their minds, which they thought might be of benefit to the town.

Mrs. F. M. Huggins said she was the spokeswoman for the Worth While Club, and that the women present had called to put before the chamber a request which she submitted in writing from the Worth While Club to the Chamber of Commerce asking that the club be permitted to help in the matter of erecting a community house on the grounds now owned by the American Legion, which the legion is offering to Boone as a public park. The letter asked that the Chamber of Commerce, together with the American Legion work out a plan by which the Worth While Club can co-operate in the matter of fixing up the proposed community house and also the pro rata amount of money the club would be expected to give to such a project, and also how the club may be able to participate in the privileges and usage of such community house.

Chairman Gragg assured the ladies that the Chamber of Commerce received with gladness the communication read by Mrs. Huggins and that at as early date as possible the chamber would comply with the requests set forth in the letter.

Motion was made by Mr. J. N. Davidson and seconded by Rev. M. Huggins, that the Chamber of Commerce write a letter to the various fraternal orders in Boone and to the different churches and ask each of these bodies to appoint two of their members to serve upon a committee composed of a like number from all the other bodies, to help devise ways and means for developing the American Legion park into a public park for the town of Boone, and to devise ways and means for erecting a community house on the park and to devise methods and rules for the maintenance of the park and community house, and to have the members of the committee meet with the Chamber of Commerce at the Critcher hotel on the third Monday night in April and discuss these questions and try to arrive at some definite conclusions regarding them.

The idea of this motion was to get all the organizations in Boone interested in the public park and the proposed community house. Out of consideration of these questions, the Chamber of Commerce hopes to arrive at the best plan possible under which to operate in the creation of and maintenance of the public park and the community house.

The various fraternal and religious organizations will in all probability get busy at once and discuss the propositions and name two of their members to serve on a committee to meet with the Chamber of Commerce at its various meetings until everything can be worked out in detail and carried forward to completion. All committees suggested should be appointed at the next regular meeting, or if no meeting is scheduled to be held before the third Monday in April, then there should be a called meeting for this purpose.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY EARNINGS SHOW DECREASE

Boston, April 7.—Despite the enormous profits amassed by most of the large automobile manufacturers in 1925, the Ford Motor Company is one of the few to show smaller earnings than in the preceding year. It was indicated in the company's annual financial statement filed with the Massachusetts commissioner of corporations today.

Operating profits, calculated on the basis of the year's increase in surplus, plus the usual dividends of \$14,670,000, were estimated at \$91,560,997 compared with indicated profits of \$115,105,416 in 1924.

AMERICAN PILOTS AIRPLANE 140 MILES NORTH OF ALASKA

Fairbanks, Alaska, April 7.—Captain George H. Wilkins, leader, and Lieut. Carl B. Eielson, aviator, of an expedition seeking land by flight over the Arctic ocean, landed perfectly here today on return from Point Barrow, Alaska.

The Wilkins-Eielson machine hopped off from the Fairbanks field one week ago and executed a flight from there over the Arctic that penetrated further north than any human being is recorded to have gone previously in that region.

HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

General News and Happenings From all Over the World Condensed for the Busy Reader

Easter Sunday was celebrated in Rome at St. Peter's and other churches by crowds of Romans and visitors from abroad, numbering 150,000.

Specific bequests to organizations totaling \$36,250,000 are made in the will of Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness, of New York, wife of one of the earliest partners of John D. Rockefeller, in her will filed for probate last week. She died March 27.

Charles Ponzi, Boston financier, charged with violating the Florida statutes regarding the operation of trusts, was found guilty at Jacksonville Friday by a jury in the Duval court of criminal records. The verdict carries a sentence of two years in the state prison or a fine of \$1,500.

British armored cars and airplanes, used as reinforcements for Iraq detachments, guarding the Iraq-Syrian frontier, participated in a skirmish Friday against 2,000 Syrian and Arab tribesmen who attacked the Iraq troops. The tribesmen fled in disorder, leaving 45 dead and carrying away many wounded.

President Coolidge expects congress to pass coal legislation at this session. In line with recommendations in several of his messages, he wants legislation to enable him to appoint a mediation board in the event of a strike and to provide machinery for a coal administrator in case of a scarcity of fuel.

Miss Hettie Davis, 28, was killed near Danville, Va., Monday when a car in which she was riding with M. M. Baker left the road and plunged into a creek. Miss Davis' head was caught between a boulder and the side of the car as it turned. Baker remained pinned for 20 minutes until negro boys could bring assistance. He was not hurt.

A bill to authorize an annual increase of \$18,554,000 in pensions for Spanish American war veterans was passed by congress this week and sent to the senate. Under the provisions of the bill which also provides for increased rates for veterans of the Boxer rebellion, it is estimated that pensions of 114,724 would be increased \$11 each month, and \$3,300,000 additional would be paid 21,983 widows and 14,000 children.

The Bryd Arctic expedition started from the Brooklyn, N. Y., navy yard Monday for the frozen north and the land of the midnight sun. The steamship Chantier sailed after Commander Richard E. Byrd and the 46 members of the expedition, aided by bluejackets from the navy yard, had labored at high speed to stow below decks the two airplanes with which the explorers plan to fly over the North Pole. A hure throng cheered the expedition on its way.

Frolicking children took possession of the grounds of the White House Monday and under the smiling faces of President and Mrs. Coolidge made merry with their egg rolling and other Easter games as has been their custom annually at the executive mansion for 50 years. Thousands were present for the fun-making, the only condition of admission being that a child should not be more than 10 years of age and should be in care of an adult. In the late afternoon the grounds were thrown open to the general public for a closing concert by the marine band.

Suits asking \$5,000,000 damages were filed in Shawnee county, Kansas, district court Monday by counsel for former Governor Jonathan M. Davis, alleging criminal libel and malicious prosecution. The defendants are Walter S. Dickey, publisher of the Kansas City Journal-Post and a number of individuals. The suits are the outgrowth of the trials of the ex-governor on charges of accepting bribes for paroles and pardons which followed the publication of a copyrighted article in the Kansas City Journal, January 10, 1925, purporting to expose corruption of the pardon power by Governor Davis.

Prohibition was put under the microscope in Washington Monday, with the beginning of the first comprehensive congressional hearing on the subject since the Volstead act became a law. Four hours a day this week the wets have undertaken to demonstrate to a senate committee that prohibition is a farce and must continue so until the law is modified to permit the sale of beer if not wine and even stronger drink. After the wets are through, the dries will have an inning for six days, four hours a day to defend the operations of the 18th amendment and to urge the strengthening of it along the lines proposed by the administration in the recently introduced Goff bill.