

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## SEASON CLOSING AT BLOWING ROCK

Tourists From Many Sections of Country Highly Pleased With Roads and Scenery

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOES GREAT WORK

New Water and Sewerage Systems Be Ready By Next Season

Blowing Rock, Sept. 20.—The present season just closing, has been quite a busy one for this popular place. Owing to the cool dry weather that prevailed in the late spring and summer, the tourists were a little slow coming to the mountains, but after the warmer weather and rains of July, the rush for cooler climate began. The hotels and boarding houses all enjoyed about the usual patronage, most of them being filled to capacity during the height of the season. The number of persons passing through this part of the country has been greater than ever before. Frequently motor cars from many different states were seen on our streets at the same time.

It was a pleasure to talk to these visitors and hear them go into raptures over our good roads and fine scenery. They nearly all without exception were amazed at the wonderful beauty and attractiveness of our mountain region. Many of them camped for days in the village and on the nearby mountain tops, while of course most of them patronized the hotels and boarding houses. They will all become boosters for this part of the country, which will bear fruit in the future.

## Chamber of Commerce

Early in the season an active Chamber of Commerce was organized here which has done considerable advertising and work to make this region better known to other parts of the country. One of the most beneficial features of the organization was the bringing together in closer co-operation the different elements of our own community. There has prevailed all season a most hearty and co-operative spirit among the people, which is destined to bear fruit in the beautifying and promotion of the attractiveness of our community by sanitation and elimination of unsightly buildings, fences, etc., and the planting of flowers and shrubbery.

## Water and Sewerage System

The most important project of our town is the installation of a system of water works and sewerage, which have been imperative needs for so many years. The work is progressing rapidly and will be in operation before the beginning of next season. An ample supply of the purest kind of water now seems assured. The town authorities bought the Mayview water and sewerage systems at the recent sale and the sale has been confirmed by the court and the system taken over by the town. In addition another well is being driven and already a good flow of water has been secured, which with the Mayview supply, is believed to be ample for the needs of the town for some years to come. With these modern conveniences assured, an optimistic feeling pervades the community and it is believed that Blowing Rock is entering upon a period of development that will surpass any previous years. In addition to an ample water supply we are soon to have a modern fire fighting equipment, the order having been placed for a new modern engine, with a capacity of throwing four hundred gallons of water per minute, equipped with several thousand feet of standard fire hose. These will be delivered in late fall or by the first of the new year and the town will have the benefit of a long needed fire protection. The funds for the purchase of the fire engine has been largely secured by the work of public-spirited citizens, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Panella starting the good work by giving a benefit dance in Robbins Hall early in the season, at which about \$100 was raised. Later the horse show netted about \$500 for the community charity fund, and we understand the promoters have decided to give a part of this—\$200—to the fire engine fund. Then a dance was given at Mayview Manor, sponsored by Mrs. S. Mebane and others, which netted about \$1,000 for the engine fund. In addition to these, a number of liberal private subscriptions have

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## Contributions For Florida Storm Victims

At all churches in the city holding services next Sunday, a collection will be taken for the relief of Florida sufferers. If you do not attend services on that day call at The Democrat office on Monday and bring your contributions. We will forward it at once. This call should appeal to all men and women. Give what you can; it is needed and needed quickly.

The Democrat will be pleased to receive contributions from all sections of the county, and will acknowledge same in these columns.

## JOHNSON CITY BOOSTERS HERE

About Fifty Business Men From Tennessee Spent Short While in Boone Tuesday

The Johnson City Boosters, 50 strong, composed of business men of that city, arrived on schedule at the Daniel Boone hotel Tuesday afternoon. As they came into the city, the occupants of the cars scattered along Main street novelties, candies and literature galore, boosting their splendid city. They went directly to the hotel where a much enjoyed repast was served.

After lunch the visitor were greeted by a large number of local citizens in the spacious lobby of the hotel. A selection of music was rendered by the Johnson City band, which drew a large crowd from the streets and business houses onto the hotel lawn. In the absence of the mayor, Mr. W. H. Gragg, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, made a brief but most lively address of welcome which was heartily received by the visitors. Prof. B. E. Dougherty was then called and prefaced his remarks by saying, "My name is B. E. Dougherty, the B. B. standing for Boone Booster." Some excerpts of his address follows:

"As a North Carolinian I give the Tennesseeans a hearty welcome to North Carolina. Tennessee, you know, is the daughter of North Carolina, and a most beautiful daughter she is, one of which the Old North State has ever been proud, and will continue to be proud as long as she remains the same beautiful daughter she now is. You are flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone. Oh! three and four times welcome here and now!

Had you ever thought how many things Johnson City—the second best town in the world and Boone the best town in the world, have in common?

"It seems to be a coincident that we are connected by the narrow-gauge railroad—the best narrow-gauge in America; you have a state normal school here; we have a state normal school here. You have good roads there; we have good roads here. You believe in progress and we believe in progress. You have the town of Boone near you; we have the Johnson City near us. We are alike rich in the history and traditions of old 'Daniel' himself. You have fine looking men and women there; we have handsome men and cultured women here. You have a fine spirit there; we have a little paradise here—there are not any two people in this city that are not good friends and on good terms. Can't you want to come and live with us?"

"We claim the honor of at least helping to build your fine city. We go there to buy and to sell. We feed you while you manufacture. If we should drive all our cattle through your town, we could put a milk cow in every back lot, and hitch a fine steer at the front gate for beef. We could serve you ten fine turkeys for every home next Thanksgiving; and could send you enough cabbage to chickens and eggs all multiplied. We feed the city for months, and we could give you enough apples to make 'apple sauce' for two years.

"I hope your stay here will be pleasant throughout—that your journey elsewhere will likewise be pleasant—that you will get back to your beautiful city in health and happiness. We wish for you and your friends success and pleasure to the end of life. A hearty welcome will await you when you come again.

"If you don't come before, be sure to be here at the judgment day, for all the souls of the earth will start from here to the New Jerusa-

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## HAT NOT IN RING SAYS MORRISON

Former Governor Says He is Not Yet a Candidate for Senate in 1932

Former Governor Cameron Morrison stated in Charlotte last week that he expected to be a candidate for the senate in 1932, but he was not now a candidate.

"I do hope to be a candidate for the senate in 1932, but a formal announcement that I am a candidate is a very different matter," he said.

"If I ever run I will certainly not run on a platform which could be written into law at Raleigh and not at Washington.

"Many things can happen in six years to change present expectations. I expect to run and I am running" are very different statements. I have not made the latter statement."

Announcement has been made that Mr. Morrison would be a candidate for the senate. A platform of state progress and development was mentioned.

"I hope all this platform will be enacted into law long before six years from now, but of course it will have to be done at Raleigh and not at Washington," he said. "The United States senate would have nothing to do with this platform."

In outlining the program he believed essential to the development and future prosperity of North Carolina, Mr. Morrison mentioned eight distinctive points. These he is urging in talks throughout the state and spoke of at the road celebration at Franklin. They were:

1. That the state should do a generous part in the establishment of the Smoky Mountain National Park.
2. Additional bond issue of \$40,000,000 to complete the state's highway system.
3. Inland navigable waterways of the eastern part of the state should be developed.
4. A state owned and managed system of terminals and ports should be established on the coast and at the head of navigable waters.
5. A modern and up-to-date culture of seafood waterways of the east should be inaugurated.
6. The agricultural department of the state should be greatly enlarged.
7. Sectional federations for farmers should be organized throughout the state.
8. Modern and up-to-date marketing facilities for farm products other than cotton and tobacco should be provided.

"I do not talk personal politics, but of course I have been making Democratic speeches as has been my habit for years. I take pride in the fact that I have made more Democratic speeches than any living man and expect to continue making them as long as I live, in or out of office," he said.

## BOND OF MRS HALL IS RAISED TO \$40,000

Somerville, N. J., Sept. 17.—The four defendants indicted for the murders four years ago of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and his choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, pleaded not guilty late today in supreme court.

The bail of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, widow, who has been at liberty in \$15,000, was ordered increased to \$40,000 and she was released when that was furnished.

Henry and Willie Stevens, her brothers, and Henry De La B. Carpenter, her cousin, were remanded to jail without bail.

Setting of the date for the hearing of the trial of the accused was postponed until after next Thursday, when Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson will petition the supreme court in Trenton for authority to summons a jury from another county.

The state considered the status of Mrs. Hall differing from that of the other defendants, Mr. Simpson revealed at the end of the hearing, when the question of her bail was brought up.

"The bail lady gave ended when the grand jury returned the indictments against her," the prosecutor told the court. "The state, however, has evidence not disclosed to the grand jury which places the lay in a position different from that of the other defendants. I therefore, suggest \$25,000 on each indictment."

## HAVOC WROUGHT FLORIDA STORM

Know Death List Yesterday Morning Passed 400 Mark, and Still Growing

PROPERTY DAMAGE MAY REACH HALF BILLION

Miami and Other Cities Are Almost Entirely Destroyed

Miami, Fla., Sept. 21.—At least 100 dead; 150 more missing; 5,000 injured and 100,000 homeless—this was the known toll in tonight of human life and suffering in cities and towns along Florida's Southeastern coast in the tropical hurricane of last Saturday and Sunday night.

At Miami the death total increased at Biscayne Bay gave an more of its dead. Authorities said the list probably would reach 250, although it was around 200 tonight. Hospitals and Red Cross stations here treated more than 2,000 injured during the day, many of them only slightly hurt.

At Hollywood the list of known dead was 32 with possibly eight other bodies to be brought in and with 70 persons listed as missing. Earlier reports included many to the missing as definitely dead and the total had been announced as 75 known dead. It is believed now that many of those missing fled into the interior when the first hurricane approached and while many possibly perished, it is regarded as more likely that they were only injured. There were about 250 injured listed at Hollywood today and slightly over 200 of them were definitely located and treated.

Fort Lauderdale's death list remained at 11 during the day but the list of seriously injured increased to 200 as the interior sections were reached and the victims brought in. Of the seriously injured probably a score will not survive. There are 500 others less seriously hurt in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Progresso neighborhood.

Reports from other localities indicated little change in the death list with the exception of Dania and Davie, both of which reported several additional bodies had been located but could not be removed until high waters receded and broken trees were removed and tangled underbrush was cut away. The injured from these sections continued to increase.

The threat of sickness and possible epidemic which threatened yesterday as the result of lack of sanitary drainage and sewage methods was dissipated today by the arrival of additional relief trains bearing necessary medicines, anti-toxins and badly-needed chlorine, lime and formaldehyde.

Relief trains brought today not only medicines but clothing and food and arrived almost hourly, passenger and freight trains giving way to them. Persons who yesterday were wandering through the wreckage clad in pajamas, bathing suits, bath robes or overcoats, today were outfitted comfortably.

The plea at all of the devastated towns was that medicines and money be sent in preference to bulky heavy objects, heavy clothes or perishables. The West Palm Beach chapter of the American Legion obtained issuance of an order from civil and military authorities to stop all automobiles or traffic of any kind moving south from West Palm Beach into the hurricane area. As a result scores of anxious relatives and friends en route to the wrecked cities have been stopped and held here.

In the devastated area where the waters have receded, millions of fish were left to flop about a bit, then die. Countless thousands of crabs and fiddlers swarm over the land in search of the watering places from which they were so rudely swept last week. Other animal dead add to the picture and make it most attractive for birds of prey circling numbers overhead.

From Deerfield south, the coast continues an appalling scene of desolation and tragedy. Despite the attempts today by brave-hearted residents to bring some semblance of order out of chaos the picture has changed little. Hardly a house of any description remained standing and those that did showed well the force of the winds and rain. Palms, pines, telephone poles, gateways and garages were all dumped together

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## Off To Road Meeting In Wilkesboro Today

Fifty to seventy-five automobiles from this section are expected to be in Wilkesboro this afternoon to attend the meeting of delegations from various adjacent counties held in the interest of paving Highway No. 60, the Boone Trail, from Yadkinville to Tennessee line. Several cars are also expected from Mountain City and Bristol, Tenn. Various counties along the route of the Boone Trail in North Carolina and the meeting will likely have a tremendous influence with the highway commission as to the improvement of this important thoroughfare.

## LINNEY PRAISES SHARPE'S WORK

District Attorney Says Dry Official Has Put Curb on Liquor Traffic in Western Carolina

In defense of the prohibition administration of Ben T. Sharpe, eighth district dry chief, was made in Charlotte last Thursday by Frank A. Linney, of Boone, United States district attorney.

In an interview with the newspaper, Mr. Linney declared that the improvement in the control of the liquor industry in western North Carolina had been outstanding during the past six years and added that the major portion of the credit was due Mr. Sharpe.

The Charlotte Observer of last Friday quoted Mr. Linney as follows:

"Of course, I am willing to concede that the weakening of the forces under Mr. Sharpe's direction was an encouragement to the bootleggers in the western part of North Carolina and elsewhere in the district to become bolder, but I think the forces at his disposal done quite well and the law are very efficient."

"It is my opinion that most of the liquor in the western part of the state is brought in by runners from the coast. Of course there is probably some liquor-making in almost all the counties of western North Carolina, but it is so inconsiderable, as compared with what has been the condition in the past that there is no denying the improvement has been remarkable."

"I think the improvement in conditions is due to two things, the growth of strong sentiment against it and the activity of Mr. Sharpe's forces."

Formerly, distillers flourished everywhere in the mountain country because public opinion did not frown on the practice. Now, public opinion frowns on the manufacture of liquor and the handling of liquor in any form, with the result that the bootlegger is regarded as much an enemy of society in the western part of the state as he is anywhere in the world.

"There may be much clamor about the failure of the prohibition laws to prohibit, but I believe I know differently. One great criterion that comes to my mind is the fact that there is practically no public drunkenness now throughout the western part of this state. I can well recall, as can others, that it used to be quite the common thing that there would be three or four fights at public gatherings due to liquor."

"Now I very seldom see anyone in public under the influence of intoxicants. The change is really remarkable and is due mainly, I believe, to the abrupt and complete change to sentiment with regard to it."

"There may be urban centers in some parts of the state where the public cares little one way or another about prohibition, and to read some of the larger daily papers in the country one might get the idea that prohibition was breaking down. Such, in my opinion, is far from the fact and especially is a fact in western North Carolina."

"Most of the liquor drinking in western North Carolina, in my opinion, is done by the higher grades of society and the smart young people, or young people who think it is smart to drink. Many of them are in the younger social set. Drinking is going out of style, I think with the masses of common people, who after all are the hope of society, and I think it will get out entirely."

## FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE COUNTY

Audit For Fiscal Year Ended July 30, Shows County to Be in Good Shape

NO SETTLEMENT YET WITH FORMER SHERIFFS

Assessed Valuation of Property in County Placed at \$8,842,805

An audit of the financial affairs of the county covering the fiscal year July 1, 1925-June 30, 1926, has just been made by R. E. Egan, Smith Audit Company, public accountants. The concern audited the books of the county last year, covering a period of four and a half years, a synopsis of which was published in The Democrat on August 5, last.

The audit for last year is not as voluminous as the previous one, covering only one year, while the previous one covered more than four years, and is devoted almost entirely to business comments, being very brief.

Also, the only thing which meets with the disapproval of the auditor is the method of collecting taxes—by the use of collectors, when due, and other unpaid taxes remain on tax books for several years.

The audit is divided into eleven sections—A, B, C, and so on. Section A, comprises the abstract of the tax levy for 1925-26, which shows a total levy on property, poll and dogs of \$170,197.54. The assessed valuation of real property in the county is placed at \$8,842,805. It further shows that there are 1,991 delinquent payers in the county and the dog tax for the period covered is placed at \$1,231.

Section B of the audit calls attention to what he terms "the very serious condition of affairs which exists in connection with settlements with sheriffs. There does not appear to have been any final settlement with any sheriff in recent years."

The previous audit showed Sheriff J. L. Young due the county \$14,189.48, on which Mr. Young is credited with a payment of \$8,000, and a release of \$38.57, leaving him still due the county on June 30, 1926, the sum of \$6,151.91.

The old audit showed Sheriff C. M. Critcher due a balance of \$1,528.91 on the 1923 tax book, on which he has been credited with releases since June 30, 1925 amounting to \$222.17, leaving a balance due for that year of \$1,306.74. That audit also showed Mr. Critcher due \$61,833.66 on the tax books for 1924, on which he has been credited with \$36,748.89, leaving him still indebted to the county on June 30, 1925, \$25,084.77.

Exhibit B-5 shows net accountability to the 1925 tax book as charged up to Sheriff Farthing as \$164,120.23, on which he has paid \$75,232.40, leaving a balance of \$88,887.83 due on June 30, last.

In this connection the auditor says: "No insolvent bids or land sales have been turned in by Sheriff Farthing. When such lists are turned in and land sales held, the balance due as shown above will be reduced."

The auditor calls attention to the necessity of having to borrow money to meet expenses on account of the large sums uncollected by the various sheriffs. He notes in this connection that the school fund paid out in interest on borrowed money and warrants carried by the banks of \$6,135.67, which, he says, is almost 8 cents on the \$100 property valuation of the county.

**School Funds**  
No audit was made of the school funds. Attention is called, however, to outstanding short-term notes of \$75,000 and warrants outstanding on June 30 of \$43,121.70, a total of \$118,121.70. The balances due the school fund by the various treasurers is approximately \$15,000 and the sheriffs about \$70,000.

**Clerk's Office**  
"We made no audit of the office of the clerk of superior court," says the auditor, "but in checking fines, forfeitures and penalties paid to the treasurer, we found the records of the clerk in excellent shape and entirely adequate."

**Financial Records**  
The financial records of the county consisted of the record of claims issued for the general fund, a list of warrants issued by the board of education and two books kept by the treasurer, Mr. Greer, all of which are

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