

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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ROONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1926

FIVE CENTS A COPY

M. E. CONFERENCE IS NOW IN SESSION

Gastonia Is Host This Week to Great Gathering of Western Carolina Methodists

The Western North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met yesterday morning at 9 o'clock in its 37th annual session in Main Street church at Gastonia, with Bishop Edwin Mouzon, of Nashville, Tenn., presiding.

T. A. Sikes gives the following historic sketch of the conference in Monday's Gastonia Gazette:

The Western North Carolina Conference is one of the largest in the connection, only the Virginia and North Georgia having more members. It was set off from the North Carolina Conference in the fall of 1890, and its first session held that year in Concord. It began with a membership of 56,524 and 130 pastoral charges. The reports of the preachers in charge of the conference held in Statesville last fall indicate that during the 36 years of its existence the membership has increased 136,302, and pastoral charges to 294. Last year the conference raised for the support of the ministry, presiding elders and pastors \$566,645; for missions and benevolences, \$197,662; orphanages, schools, etc., brought the grand total raised for all purposes in 1925 to the princely sum of \$2,198,315. The conference owns four educational institutions, Davenport, Weaver and Rutherford colleges and Jefferson high school. In addition to these it is joint owner with the North Carolina conference of Duke University and Greensboro College. These institutions own physical equipments valued at \$11,827,249, with an endowment of \$15,443,404. This does not take into consideration that of new Duke University provided for in the will of the late James B. Duke. In 1925 the conference owned church buildings and parsonages worth \$11,416,138.

GOVERNOR ASKED TO ACT AS MATRIMONY AGENT

Governor McLean has been called on to find a wife. The call came from a Virginian, who wants the wife for himself—not the governor.

Thirty-four years old, Irish descent, formerly a traveling salesman, but now desirous of the quiet life of the farm, is the way the matrimonial aspirant describes himself. He adds that he has never been married but prefers a widow for his wife, not past 40, with a domestic turn, Protestant with No. 1 references.

"I have heard so much about North Carolina and its beautiful women," the correspondent said, "that I would like to marry there and move there to engage in farming."

8TH AND 9TH GRADES GIVE PLAY AT BLOWING ROCK

The eighth and ninth grades of the Blowing Rock high school gave a very delightful program on Monday night, celebrating the discovery of America. First on the program was the song, "Oh, Columbus the Gem of the Ocean," by the students, followed by a play, entitled "The Life of Columbus." The characters taking part in the play were: Columbus, Bynum Crisp; wife of Columbus, Christine Johnson; son of Columbus, Omer Coffey; king of Portugal, Glenn Coffey; queen of Portugal, Beulah Wooten; navigators, Edna Miller, Corien Knight, William Holsinger, Lucile Coffey; king of Spain, Paul Foster; queen of Spain, Ethel Cannon; sailors, Susie Greene, Fred Day, Margaret Sudderth, Velma Cannon; Indians, Helen Sudderth, Elizabeth Sudderth and Lucile Reid.

OASIS OF DRINK RECEIVES "O. K." OF DRY CZAR

Washington, Oct. 17.—A prohibition oasis just off the southern coast of the United States is to be created with the sanction of prohibition officials.

It will consist of an island known as the Grand Bahama, 60 miles off the Florida coast. British and American interests have obtained a lease for 150 years on the island from Great Britain.

Those interested in the grant have pleaded themselves not to violate the laws of any other country and it is understood that under these conditions Assistant Secretary Andrews has given his unofficial approval.

PROGRAM FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

To Be Held at Laurel Fork Baptist Church On October 30th

Rev. B. F. Wilcox and Z. T. Greene, committee on arrangements have arranged the following program for the Fifth Sunday meeting which will be held at Laurel Fork Baptist church on Sunday, October 30th:

Devotional exercises—Rev. Ed Robbins.

"Birth of Christ"—N. L. Harrison and B. F. Wilcox.

"Boyhood of Christ"—Joe Greene, W. J. Cook and C. C. Triplett.

Preaching at 7 p. m. by Rev. Robt. Shore.

Sunday school at 10 a. m.

"Public Ministry of Christ"—Rev. Amos Hampton and Rev. W. D. Ashley.

Adjourn—one hour for dinner.

Address by Dr. B. B. Dougherty at 1:00 p. m.

"Denial and Crucifixion of Christ," Rev. D. M. Wheeler and Rev. Marshall Watson.

"Resurrection and Ascension of Christ"—Rev. Levi Greene and Rev. Reuben Hartley.

HOWARD P. SAVAGE NEW HEAD AMERICAN LEGION

Howard P. Savage, of Chicago, was on last Friday, elected national commander of the American Legion in what was the stiffest fight for the office in the history of the organization. The principal opponent of Mr. Savage was Colonel J. Monroe Johnson, of Marion, S. C., who with drew from the race while the 21st ballot was being taken. The delegates struggled for nearly five hours to break the deadlock.

The other officers elected at the Philadelphia convention are: Vice commanders, J. G. Sims, Maryville, Tenn.; Thomas Busha, Helena, Mont.; John A. Towne, Waterville, Maine; Stafford King, Minneapolis, Minn.; and John E. Curtiss, Lincoln, Neb., and chaplain, the Rev. Joseph J. N. Wolfe, rector of St. Barbara's Catholic church, Philadelphia.

The new national commander is general superintendent of maintenance of way of the Chicago Elevated Railway and is 42 years old. He was a member of the 55th Engineers and served with his regiment in France as a first lieutenant in constructing and repairing railroads.

The convention adjourned Friday to meet in Paris, France, next year.

WEALTHY INDIAN GIVES BIG SUM TO AMERICAN LEGION

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 15.—Joe Mills, wealthy Osage Indian of Oklahoma, announces a gift of \$750,000, up to the American Legion, to be used in erecting a memorial building at Tulsa, Okla., for the American Legion and the "Forty and Eight" organization.

Mills, a short time before, had been elected to the post of Grand De Port Nationale of the "Forty and Eight." The memorial, he said, will be used as headquarters for the Legionnaires in Oklahoma.

The donor of the memorial is a member of Osage Indian tribe, whose oil holdings in Oklahoma make them probably the richest race per capita wealth on earth.

SAYS REPUBLICANS WILL RETAIN HOUSE

Washington, Oct. 17.—While the Democrats are "groping" for a national issue, the country has become thoroughly convinced that its welfare depends upon the retention of Republican control of the government, Chairman Wood, of the Republican national congressional committee declared today in a statement.

Predicting that the next house of representatives would be "overwhelmingly Republican," he conceded the possibility of the Republicans losing some of the normally Democratic districts won during the Coolidge sweep of 1924, but declared this loss would be more than overcome by gains in the west.

TEACHERS HERE SATURDAY

The second county-wide teachers' conference will be held in the courthouse here Saturday. A live program has been arranged for the meeting.

Tom Tarheel says his cotton will stay in storage until the market is in better condition.

COUNTY CAMPAIGN OPENED IN NORTH FORK TOWNSHIP LAST THURSDAY

Twenty-five or Thirty Citizens Gather in Schoolhouse in Western Watauga to Hear Arguments of Aspirants for Various County Offices; All Given Respectful Hearing

The first meeting of the county candidates was held in the little schoolhouse on North Fork last Thursday afternoon, with about 25 or 30 citizens in attendance. Sheriff L. M. Farthing called the meeting to order and presented the candidates. Thomas H. Coffey, Democratic candidate for the house of representatives, was not present, being kept away on account of illness, but Sheriff Farthing presented Mr. Coffey's cause very briefly. Candidates for register of deeds, coroner, surveyor and county commissioners on both tickets were not in attendance.

The citizens gave close and respectful attention to what each candidate had to say, none of whom had any criticism of his opponent, and there was no ill feeling exhibited by anyone, each candidate presenting his claim for support on his record or fitness for the office for which he is aspiring.

Clerk of the Court

The first candidate presented was Mr. A. W. Smith, candidate for reelection for clerk of the court, who said he had given the best service of which he was capable during his six years of incumbency. His books, he said, had been inspected by two auditors and various grand juries and each had pronounced them O. K. Said no one could say that he had treated anybody, regardless of politics, with anything other than the greatest courtesy, and if elected would endeavor to discharge the duties devolved upon him in the same way as heretofore.

Mr. A. E. South, democratic candidate for clerk, announced his candidacy by saying he felt that he was thoroughly competent to discharge the duties of the office, and would appreciate the support given him.

Sheriff

Mr. W. H. Gragg, Republican aspirant for sheriff, said he was glad to be in North Fork, and wanted the support of the township. Was unanimously nominated for the office by the Republican county convention a few weeks ago, and wanted enough votes to be elected on November 2. If elected he would make the best sheriff he could. Would, in the discharge of his duties, play the part of the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Said he would keep an office open in Boone for 365 days in the year, with telephone connections to all parts of the county. Would set up and keep good set of books, open at all times for public inspection. Said he had nothing to say against his opponent, that the only harm he wished to do him was to receive more votes on election than Mr. Farthing.

Mr. Gragg, in conclusion, presented the cause of Mrs. Pearl Hartley, Republican candidate for register of deeds.

Sheriff L. M. Farthing appreciated the support given him two years ago, and should I be defeated I shall ever remember the confidence placed in me by the people. Has discharged the duties of his office without fear or favor and has endeavored to serve all the people to the best of his ability, and should he be elected again would continue to do so, and if re-elected thought this would be an accomplished fact. "I have made mistakes and will make them again, but the experience of the past two years has taught me many things and if again elected sheriff will profit by the mistakes of the past."

Sheriff Farthing announced the candidacy of Mrs. Ora Brown for the office of register of deeds on the Democratic ticket.

County Treasurer

Mr. Spencer Miller, Republican candidate for treasurer, said he was glad to be back in the township where, fifteen years ago, he began his career as a school teacher. Said he served in the World War, and asked the citizens to elect him county treasurer. Would do all he could to keep the office in good shape.

Emery Greer said he had been treasurer for two years and had tried to keep the books of the office in good shape. Said two auditors had complimented him on the way in

which the records of his office had been kept. Said he did not think the office of treasurer should be a political one, and he, therefore, was running on the independent ticket. Said Mr. Miller was a first school teacher and hoped the people would see to it on November 2 that he continue in this line of endeavor.

House of Representatives

Blaine Coffey, Republican candidate for general assembly, said this was his fourth time before the people asking for their suffrage, and was proud of the confidence heretofore placed in him. Had tried to serve the people as best he could. "My opponent is said to be sick. I went to Coffey five days ago and asked him to have some one meet me, and also went to the chairman of the Democratic executive committee and notified him to have some one fill his place, and if they have no one here to meet me, it is not my fault," he said. Mr. Coffey criticized the state school system, saying the school fund should be equally distributed by the state. Will see that this is done if the Republicans elect a majority in the legislature. Said he had a hand in helping to lift the state out of the mud, supporting every bond issue presented for the purpose of constructing roads. Said he had secured the passage of legislation placing the sheriff on salary and abolishing the county treasurer's office. But the Democratic legislature had restored the commission form in the sheriff's office and re-established the office of treasurer over the protest of the Republican representative this county, which has cost the county approximately \$7,500 annually.

Read a telegram from bankers and other citizens of the county to A. T. Allen asking for the re-establishment of the treasurer's office. Has been advocating all along the election of the county superintendent of education by direct vote of the people. Thought the Republicans of the county were entitled to representation on the school board. The affairs of the county during the past two years had been judicially and economically administered. Each department of the county government shows a surplus, he said, with the exception of the board of education, which shows a deficit of \$26,000. Said he would support a bill in the legislature to prohibit the teaching of evolution in the public schools of North Carolina. If elected would be a servant of all the people.

Sheriff Farthing, speaking for Mr. Thos. H. Coffey, Democratic candidate for the legislature, said that Mr. Coffey was sorry he could not be here today, but hoped to be able to join the candidates before the campaign closes. Said Mr. Coffey would have great influence in securing the passage of road legislation that would be advantageous to Watauga county. In reply to Mr. Blaine Coffey's charge that the Democratic legislature had restored the fee system in the office of the sheriff, Mr. Farthing said no man could properly discharge the duties devolved upon the sheriff on a salary of \$2,500 a year. He further stated that the banks could not properly handle the funds of the county, and for that reason had asked the legislature to create the office of treasurer. Said the old system of handling and distribution of county funds to the various purposes was one of the contributing causes to the state of affairs which had cost the county \$11,000 in auditor's fees.

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SKATING ON THE STREETS OF BOONE PROHIBITED

For the protection of the children of the town, the following ordinance was passed at a recent meeting of the town board:

"Resolved, That it be a penalty of \$5.00 for any child to use roller skates on the streets of Boone."

This ordinance was passed for the protection of the children of the community, and will be strictly enforced, so those who have been in the habit of skating on the streets, should take warning.

ELECTION RETURNS STATEMENT BY MR. S. C. EGGERS

BY RADIO

In an effort to render the best possible service to Democrat subscribers and friends, the management has arranged with the Boone Electric Company to install its very best radio set in the Democrat office election day, so that those interested may come in election night and receive state and national returns. The machine to be used is of the best make and there will be no difficulty in hearing reports from the various states. A cordial invitation is extended to all to be our guests at that time.

LOCAL BUSINESS CHANGES HANDS

Eggers and Ashley Buy Henry Hardin Store—Will be in Control of Business Monday

The big mercantile business of H. J. Hardin & Co. has been sold, Messrs. S. C. Eggers and G. E. Ashley, both of this city, being the purchasers. The trade was closed Tuesday and an invoice is now being taken of the stock. The doors will be open to the public under the new management not later than next Monday.

The former owner, the late Manly R. Blackburn, was always a buyer of the very best articles in merchandise and since his death his successors have adhered strictly to his policy. As a result Messrs. Eggers and Ashley are now the owners of one of the best stocks of general merchandise ever offered to the people of Watauga county.

Mr. Eggers has long been a merchant in Boone and is well known for his uniform kindness and good business qualifications. Mr. Ashley, came from Ashe county more than a year ago, and is a business man of the highest type.

While friends will be sorry to know that the old firm has gone out, they will gladly welcome the gentlemen named as their successors.

DANIELS UNABLE TO REACH BOONE LAST THURSDAY

Hon. Josephus Daniels, ex-secretary of the navy and national statesman, scheduled to deliver an address at the courthouse here last Thursday afternoon, failed to appear. On his way from the capital city by motor, he was forced to stop at Chapel Hill on account of the illness of his son, a student at the university. A large crowd had gathered about the courthouse and in the absence of the scheduled speaker, Senator John E. Brown delivered a short address, followed by P. T. McNeill, of Ashe county, Democratic candidate for the state senate from this district, who spoke interestingly for a few minutes.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN COUNTY FOR HON. O. F. POOLE

Hon. O. F. Poole, Republican candidate for congress in the eighth North Carolina district, will address the people of Watauga county at the following times and places:

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p. m., at schoolhouse.

Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 p. m., at Fosco schoolhouse.

Wednesday, October 27, at 7:30 p. m., at Matney.

Mrs. Francis Stevens Hall, under indictment at New Brunswick, N. J., for the murder of her husband, Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, will take the stand in her own defense, she announces. Referring to the trial set for November 3, and to State Senator Simpson, special prosecutor, she said: "When that day comes I feel that Simpson will receive from the jury the rebuke he so richly deserves and that New Jersey will again be a fit place to live in." She also denied charges of bribery during the investigation of the murder four years ago and repeated her offer to let Senator Simpson examine her bank account. As to the wealth of her family, she said her own assets never exceeded \$300,000; her brother, Harry Stevens, \$175,000; her brother, Willie Stevens, \$260,000 and her cousin, Henry Carpenter, \$140,000. All are under indictment for murder.

Couldn't Stand One

"So you didn't take any vacation this year?"

"No, I thought I needed a rest!"

Concerning Release of Tax Books Regarding Release of Tax Books Was Erroneous

Editor Watauga Democrat:

In issue of your paper of Oct. 14, 1926, I notice that you say Sheriff Farthing was unable to announce his first round for taxes for the reason that the county commissioners had refused to issue to him the new tax books until the old books had been receipted for. In the same article you state that it is understood that two of the commissioners were in favor of following the custom heretofore adhered to and issue the new books to the sheriff but the chairman of the board would not agree thereto, that part of the statement that says two of the members of the board were in favor of issuing to the sheriff the new tax books and that I as chairman would not agree thereto, is a mistake. The truth of the matter is we were all agreed that the sheriff should reduce the amount he owed the county before the new books were turned over to him, and none of us demanded a full settlement, although to adhere strictly to the law this would have been required.

On the first Monday referred to in your article Sheriff Farthing asked us for the new books and stated he owed the county approximately seventy thousand dollars, and as above stated all the commissioners were agreed that this amount should be reduced before the new books were turned over to him, and at the time the books were turned over to him he owed the county and still owes it approximately thirty-three thousand dollars.

It is true that the tax books have been turned over to two former sheriffs without complete settlement, but the most either of them owed on his old book was approximately twelve thousand dollars.

Now, to have followed custom strictly would have required Sheriff Farthing to reduce his indebtedness to approximately twelve thousand dollars.

It was not the intention of the board to injure or embarrass Sheriff Farthing. We were only trying to discharge our duty as public officials.

Respectfully,
S. C. EGGERS,
Chm. Bd. County Commissioners.

It was not the intention of the Democratic to do Mr. Eggers or other members of the board an injustice. A reporter asked Mr. Eggers if the books had been released to Sheriff Farthing and he said they were. Sheriff was making arrangements to secure them. Which arrangement was the borrowing of even \$30,000 on which he is paying interest in order to keep from pressing the taxpayers at a time when money is hard to get. Another matter we should like to call attention to is the fact that on June 30, 1926, two former sheriffs—one of whom has been out of office since 1922 and the other since 1924, were indebted to the county in the sum of \$31,535.78, or about \$1,500 less than Mr. Eggers says Sheriff Farthing is now due the county, and the present sheriff's term does not expire until the first of December, next.

Sheriff Critcher's last tax books called for the collection of approximately \$130,000, while the present sheriff is responsible for approximately \$170,000. Taking Mr. Eggers' figures to be correct, Sheriff Farthing has paid about \$137,000 on his tax books, leaving a balance of \$33,000. On June 30, 1925, seven months after going out of office, Sheriff Critcher owed the county, according to the auditor, \$61,833.66. Taking this from \$130,000, or the full amount of the taxes for that year, the then sheriff had collected for 1924 the sum of \$68,166.34, or \$68,883.66 less than the present sheriff has turned over, with two months to go before the expiration of his term.

Finally, we quote from the audit of R. Emmet Smith as of June 30, 1926: "There does not appear to have been any final settlement with any sheriff in recent years."