WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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News of a Week At Blowing Rock

Happenings of Interest During Past Seven Days In and About Famous Resort Town

Blowing Rock, Dec. 20.—Robert Greene has been awarded the position of manager of the Blowing Rock water and sewer systems. Mr. Greene was selected by the council at its meeting Friday night out of some score of applicants.

Mr. Greene will have complete charge of all accounts for water and will be responsible for the upkeep and proper functioning of both the water and sewer systems.

To Handle New Fire Truck

After a week's training under Robert L. Pringle, engineer for the American La France Company, Paul Kluttz, N. C. Greene and Robert Greene have been selected by Fire Chief J. A. Panella as drivers of the fire truck. At least one of these men, Chief Panella said, will be available at all times to drive the truck in case of fire.

The men have thoroughly mastered the mechanism of the truck, the pump and the chemical tank, Mr. Panella said, and should be able now to cope with any fire emergency that may arise in Blowing Rock.

Encouraged by the stentorian voice of W. T. (Little Tommy) Willis, surveyor of the Bell Telephone Company, dancers of Blowing Rock and some from Boone responded Saturday night to the command, "Swing your opposite," "Now your own," "Bird hop out and crow hop in," and enjoyed the square dance, the round dance, the Virginia reel, with some modern steps interspersed for variety.

The occasion was the oyster supper and square dance for the benefit of the fire department. A total of $128 was realized from the supper and dance. This money will be used to buy helmets, slickers and other equipment not included in the purchase of the truck.

Complete Telephone Survey

Surveying of the telephone line into Blowing Rock from Lenoir has been completed and the engineers are now calculating the number of poles needed, so that they can be ordered at once.

The entire village stack of the Blowing Rock and just off Boone streets has been selected for the telephone exchange.

Making Progress on Reservoir

The concrete walls of the 170,000-gallon reservoir on Blowing Rock Hill are rapidly rising, and riveters are working daily in hastening the completion of it. This standpipe will give the water system a pressure of 90 pounds on the main street.

Entertainment Begins Christmas Season

A Christmas tree Monday afternoon and an entertainment Monday night marked the beginning of the Christmas holidays at Blowing Rock school.

At the Christmas tree the teachers gave each pupil a package of fruits and candy. The children also gave presents to each other, and these were distributed from the tree.

The program Monday night was as follows:

"The Pinkies and Winkies," a dance of fairies with speaking parts, by the first, second and third grades.

"The Awakening," a play by the fourth and fifth grades.

"Father Christmas," a play by the fourth and fifth grades.

"Jolly Picaninnies," blackface song, fourth and fifth grades.

"A Christmas Carol Come to Life," pageant by the fourth and fifth grades.

"Away in a Manger," pantomime by the sixth and seventh grades.

"Christmas Star," a drill by the sixth and seventh grades.

Orchestra music was played between the numbers on the program.

For Near East Relief

The Blowing Rock school sold $7 worth of Christmas seals and raised $20 for Near East relief during the weeks just before the holidays, it was announced Monday by Principal A. E. Mercer.

Personal Mention

D. P. Coffey and family motored to Hickory on Thursday. Miss Helen Coffey spent Thursday with friends and in the shops at Lenoir.

A. M. Critcher made a business trip to Charlotte on Wednesday, returning Tuesday. Collie Greene drove a truck loaded with apples, potatoes and other products of Mr. Critcher's orchard and garden, all of it was disposed of on the trip. Both announced upon their return that Blowing Rock's winter climate is much to be preferred over that of the lower country.

Out-of-town visitors during the past week included Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, of Charlotte, summer residents here, who returned on a short business trip, and Mr. and Mrs. Henkle, of Statesville.

Mrs. and Mrs. Joe Panella left by automobile for Charlotte Tuesday to spend the holidays with relatives and friends there.

Prof. B. B. Dougherty of the Appalachian State Normal school, was in Blowing Rock for a while Friday.

Miss Lillian Robbins is visiting her cousin, G. C. Robbins.

Miss Anne Ward, who has been in Lenoir for some time, has returned to Blowing Rock.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Gillett will leave Friday for Ashe county, where they will spend Christmas at Mrs. Gillett's old home near Jefferson.

Not Yet Been Found

Searchers returned Sunday night from a fruitless hunt for the negro servant of State Representative T. H. Coffey, who, during his employer's absence Sunday, took Mr. Coffey's car out of a drive, wrecked it three miles from here on the Boone highway, and gave rise to a rumor that Mr. Coffey had been injured.

The car was found where it had been run off the embankment, but it was completely deserted. When it was recognized as Mr. Coffey's car it was feared that the Watauga representative had been injured, until Mr. Coffey was found and said the negro had taken the car out without permission.

It is believed that the negro is either afraid to come back or is so badly hurt that he cannot get back to Blowing Rock.

REVOLUTIONARY RENDEZVOUS GIVEN TO STATE FOR PARK

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—Rendezvous Mountain, where during the Revolutionary war ten companies of Wilkes county, North Carolina, men gathered from which 225 picked men were sent to join other patriots at Quaker Meadows for the advance on Kings Mountain, has been donated to the state of North Carolina as a state park.

The transfer was announced here today by Wade H. Phillips, director of the department of conservation and development.

Situated north of Wilkesboro, the new park, the third state park in North Carolina, contains 140 acres on which stand three major mountain peaks, the loftiest being Rendezvous mountain. It has been deeded to the state by Judge and Mrs. T. B. Finley, of North Wilkesboro, and the deed recites that it is dedicated to the memory of the Revolutionary heroes of Wilkes county.

One of the three peaks is set aside for a campus club house for members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On top of Rendezvous mountain the D. A. R. plan to erect a monument to the 225 men who went to King's Mountain.

The general assembly will be asked it is stated, to appropriate funds for a highway from the Boone Trail, three miles distant.

"During the Revolutionary war," say the deed, "Wilkes county sent 225 picked soldiers from Rendezvous mountain to the battle of Kings Mountain under command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Captain (afterward general) William Lenoir. From this point Wilkes county furnished a larger number of troops in winning the battle of Kings Mountain than any other county in the present state of North Carolina. The battle of Kings Mountain was the deciding battle in the freedom of the colonies.

"The ten companies of Wilkes county were assembled at Rendezvous mountain and the 225 men were selected and started on the march to join the other patriots at Quaker Meadows in Burke county."

EPHRIAM MILLER PASSES

Mr. Ephraim Miller, one of the oldest citizens in this county, died at his home on Meat Camp creek, per[illegible] being the cause of his death. Mr. Miller was a good citizen. For the past few years the aged [illegible] had spent rather peaceful days on his farm, and his merger [illegible] was [illegible] by which [illegible] he could [illegible] hands to. The world is no worse by his having lived in it.

CHRISTMASTIME

(An Editorial)

Light the candles on your tree of hopes.

This is Christmas.

Let hearts refresh and [illegible] joy and gladness to those who are heavy laden.

This is Christmas.

Listen closely for the melody in all creation because it is there for those who will hear. Have all know that duplicity is disarmed by the gazing eyes of Love which comprehends only that truth is all in all.

This is Christmas.

And—'tis Children's Day—the day which should resound with echoes of their laughter—a true reflection of the Child of God whose birthday it is.

Carry gifts. Let Love shine. Happiness is in the heart only when we are giving—Love.

None is too old—nor none too young to gaze into the starlight night and see again the vision of the manger. Feel that spirit of Him, the Child King—Jesus.

He brought to us an everlasting heritage of Love, Peace and Hope.

Set aside the frown and hold out a hand of hearty welcome to Santa Claus. It is the spirit of Him you welcome.

Forget the trials of the day or the hour. Know that this world of ours is governed by a wisdom far beyond the comprehension of man. Even as the swallow's fall is guarded—so are you and yours, all mankind, and he who learns the peace of everreliance on Him, will have no fear and can well afford to make this day of days one of rejoicing and praise giving.

Christmas chimes will ring throughout this land of ours on Saturday and to a most favored people. They will echo through our meadow land and the great marts of commerce.

We are a free people, made so through our faith in Him. We must never lose the understanding that it is the democracy of our religions, giving to every man his right to worship in his own way, which makes each succeeding Christmas further proof of His mercy and goodness.

'Tis Christmas—Thrill again in the joy of service—and the love of your fellowmen.

PROF. B. B. DOUGHERTY FAVORS UNIFORM STATE SCHOOL SYSTEM

A Boone special of December 15 to the Winston-Salem Journal says: "The proposal to create a state equalizing fund of $5,000,000 for equalizing schools was severely criticized by B. B. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian State Normal School, in a address on [illegible] representatives of the district. The idea of an equalizing fund is a good one, Prof. Dougherty said, provided the fund is safeguarded by checks to prevent the counties from engaging in a wild scramble for money.

"The law," said Prof. Dougherty, "should be so written as to encourage efficiency but to discourage extravagance."

The way to accomplish this, Prof. Dougherty said, is to place a uniform school tax of say thirty cents on each county in the state. Then let the expenses of the county school system above this thirty-cent tax be met one half by the county's share of the equalizing fund and one-half by additional taxes in the counties.

"If you put all of the expenses above the thirty-cent tax," Prof. Dougherty continued, "the boards of education in each county would devise means of getting all the money from the state they could. Every county would plan an expensive system of education, hoping that the state would pay for most of it, and the state would always be embarrassed.

"But if the counties had to meet half of their excess expenditures out of their own taxes, they would be encouraged to use all care possible in spending both their own funds and the state's."

Prof. Dougherty scouted the argument that the state could not raise the $5,000,000 for the equalizing fund. He called attention to the recent report that North Carolina had contributed more than any other state to federal taxes and added:

"Is there anyone, realizing our ability to pay $193,000,000 a year to the federal government who will doubt our ability to raise the pittance of $5,000,000 for an equalizing fund for our own schools? If the federal taxes of one North Carolina corporation could be turned into the state treasury for sixteen days, we should have the entire amount. This obviously, is impossible, but it shows our ability to raise the equalizing fund.

"We could not get the money by taxing the farmers but by levying on corporations, the railroads, insurance companies, income taxes and the like."

Prof. Dougherty said he would set aside $500,000 of the equalizing fund to encourage counties to establish an eight months' school term. He would have the counties levy a tax to pay 75 per cent of the cost of an additional two months, and pay the other 25 per cent out of the $5,000,000. North Carolina, he pointed out, is among the very few remaining states that have not established the eight months' term.

The lengthening of the school term, Prof. Dougherty said, will mean a great deal in the state, but it will mean also that teachers must be especially trained for their work.

"I am one who believes," he continued, "that every person who teaches should be trained to do so. The person who teaches school six months of the year and clerks in a store the other six months is either a clerk or teacher—I am not sure which—but certainly not both. If teaching is ever made a profession, those that enter it must have a living wage, and must have employment for a period long enough to earn a living for the entire year, else the schools will continue to be taught by young, inexperienced teachers, who have never been trained to do anything well and who are looking for something better."

In summing up his position on a school system for the state, Prof. Dougherty stressed these points:

1. Opposition to any increase in taxes until the discrepancies in the tax load of rich and poor counties are corrected.

2. An equal chance for every child in the state.

3. An equal term for every taxpayer.

4. Listing of all the property in each county on the tax books at its real value.

5. Uniform tax of thirty cents on $100 valuation.

6. Retention of the money in the county in which it is collected, with the consequent preservation of local government.

7. An equalizing fund of $5,000,000 to carry one-half the cost of teachers' salaries in each county above the amount raised by the 30-cent tax.

8. Requiring each county participating in the equalizing fund to submit its valuations to a central authority for approval.

9. Let the counties provide for a building fund and administration expenses.

10. Encourage the counties to lengthen the school term to eight months.

11. Have the books audited regularly.

ALEXANDER WANTS LINNEY IF NEW DISTRICT IS CREATED

Alexander county people, without regard to political faith, party affiliation, race, creed or color, want to see United States District Attorney Frank A. Linney elevated to the federal district judgeship, says L. J. Hampton in the Winston-Salem Journal. Mr. Linney was born and reared in Alexander county, and his father, the late Romulus Z. Linney, former congressman, also lived and died here. It was the elder Linney, great campaigner, who was known far and wide by the sobriquet of "the Bull of the Benaine," and there are men yet living here, with hair turning now snowy white, who remember that the old warhorse they call him yet deserve the cognomen, for he was he who when political campaign waxed squarely upon the shoulders of stump speakers, who went up and down the state telling the people face to face instead of spending campaign thousands by printers ink. District Attorney Linney is considered one of the ablest if not the ablest of lawyers of any political faith in the western part of the state, and intimate friends who have known him all of his life declare he is both fitted in temperament and ability to occupy such a high place, this, in addition to his admitted legal knowledge of the law.

It is reported Mr. Hampton says that National Committeeman Jim J. Hayes will not be an aspirant for the new judgeship, if a new one is created. It is reported that Mr. Hayes is considering moving to Greensboro to form a law partnership with Brooks, Sapp and Williams.

W. M. WATSON FAMILY TO HAVE HOME-COMING

The W. M. Watson family of Blowing Rock Route 1, will have a home-coming on the 25th of December, 1926. There are eight living children and seven grandchildren, as follows: C. S. Watson, of Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. Ellen Shull, of Swannanoa, Tenn.; Mr. Anna Watson, Johnson City, Tenn., Mrs. Nina Hicks, of Bryson City, N. C.; Dana Watson, Turney Watson, Mattie Watson Watson, all of Blowing Rock, Route 1. The home-coming will be at the home of W. M. Watson, three miles from Boone.

ROMINGER NEWS

Rominger, Dec. 16.—Mr. F. F. Tester and wife and some of their children visited Mrs. Coy Rominger recently.

Mr. Charlie Ward has been very sick. He is better at this time.

The school here will close in a very few days. The attendance is unusually small for this district. The progress has been very unsatisfactory. [illegible] teacher has done [illegible] work.

Dr. J. A. Greene baptized eight candidates into the fellowship of Cove Creek Baptist church. The total number received during the recent revival was 27. Truly it was a great meeting.

Rev. L. C. Wilson preached an inspiring sermon at Zion Hill church Sunday, December 12.

Mr. Coy Rominger is still in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Rominger will join him there in the near future.

A revival meeting closed at Bethany Baptist church last Sunday, December 12, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Watts and Rev. Ed. Hodges.

Now She Knows

Inquisitive lady: And officer, tell me what that strap under your chin is for?

Officer: That, lady, is to rest my poor old jaw when it gets tired answering silly questions.

Impossible Task

The Boss: Rogers, I hope you try to save half of what you earn.

Office Boy: I don't get that much, sir.

Confederate Pension Checks at Clerk's Office

Total of $3,515.00 Being Distributed to Civil War Veterans and Widows in the County

Clerk of the Court Austin E. South has received the semi-annual pension checks for Confederate veterans and widows of veterans. According to the records in the clerk's office there are [illegible] veterans on the [illegible] roll—two of the third class and [illegible] of the fourth class. Six months ago when the checks were distributed there were [illegible] on the list. Duke Ward having died since that time, and one check on the list for the past six months still returned, that for R. H. Farthing, he having answered the final roll call within the past few months. One new name has been added, that of Jenny Greene.

The third class pensioners receive $107.50, and the fourth class $100. Veterans and widows of veterans will receive $50 each, making a total for all classes of $3,515.00.

Checks have not been received by some, yet. Those not added to roll for some reason. Those yet added to come personally can authorize someone else to receive them.

Following is the list of soldiers and widows of the county who are entitled to the Dixie Christmas cheer from the state of North Carolina:

Soldiers—Third Class

Newton Greer, E. [illegible] Norris.

Fourth Class

S. J. Bishop, R. A. Davis, R. H. Farthing (deceased), R. M. Greer, Jenny Greene, Wyatt Hayes, W. M. Hodges, William Hollar, Thos. Love, J. E. Luther, John M. Miller, L. D. Miller, Jonathan Moretz, James C. Orrant, W. A. Williams, Albert P. Wilson.

Widows—4th Class

Polly A. Billings, Caroline Bradshaw, Nancy Brown, Mary E. Coffey, Martha E. Cole, Elizabeth Cook, Martha Davis, Elizabeth A. Dyer, C. C. Edmisten, Elizabeth Eggers, Mary E. Eller, Nancy Farthing, Sarah C. Farthing, Elizabeth Hagaman, Talitha Harmon, Susan Herman, Ann Hayes, Julia Ella Horton, Mary S. Hockett, Molly Isaacs, Mary Jones, Lucy M. Mast, Mary Miller, Mary E. Moretz, Nancy Norris, Vina Norris, Mary S. Parker, Mary A. Parson, Josie Ray, Sarah Turnmire, Anna Ellen Vanhoy, Rachel Walker, Caroline C. Walker, Margaret M. McGuire.

COVE CREEK HAPPENINGS

Sugar Grove, Dec. 21.—A very interesting social meeting was held with Snow Lodge A. F. & A. M., on Saturday evening. Besides members of Snow Lodge, their wives and daughters, several members of Watauga Lodge were present. During the business session of the evening interesting talks were made by Rev. W. S. Harbison, Rev. D. A. Hurst, W. D. Farthing and others. Rev. W. S. Harbison gave something of the history of Snow Lodge, its organization, first officers and also outlined the principles and meaning of Masonry. Music for the occasion was furnished by the Cove Creek string band. Several degrees were conferred on the ladies present and a few honorary degrees on some of the members which added much merriment to the program. Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Don J. Horton, Mrs. P. G. Spainhour and Mrs. Thos. Taylor.

On Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Horton entertained as their dinner guests Misses Taylor, Bundy and Wetmore and Messrs. Frank Payne, Walter Bingham and Robert Putnam.

In a hard-fought basket ball game, Mountain City defeated Cove Creek on Saturday by the score of 26 to 24. When time was called the score stood even, and an extra five minutes gave Mountain City the lead.

A play, "Son John," will be given in the auditorium of the school building on Wednesday night, December 22. Admission will be 15 cents for children, 25 cents for high school pupils and 35 cents for adults.

David Mast has come home from Chapel Hill for the Christmas holidays. Carlton Mast from V. P. I., Miss Blanche Horton from Meredith will be home last of the week.

Needed a Dictionary

Doctor: Ever have any trouble with dyspepsia?

Patient: Only when I try to spell it.