

The Watauga Democrat

Published Every Thursday by The RIVERS PRINTING COMPANY E. C. RIVERS ROB. RIVERS Editors and Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year \$1.50 Six Months .75 Three Months .40 Payable in Advance.

Advertising Rates on Application. Cards of Thanks, Resolutions of Respect, Obituaries, etc., are charged for at the regular advertising rates.

Sent at the Postoffice at Boone, N. C. as second class mail matter.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1926

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The people are able to do their own fighting and their own voting. William Henry Harrison.

LOCAL CITIZEN NOT SATISFIED WITH SCHOOL CONDITIONS

To the Editor of The Democrat: I want to quote a few paragraphs from an article written by the local correspondent of the Winston-Salem Journal about the "Demonstration" school and make a few comments thereon. The correspondent says:

"If a man make a better mousetrap the world will make a path to his door. This in effect explains why the world and world is making a path to the door of the Appalachian State Normal School in Boone, for the numerous brands of superior mousetrap made there is the grade school teacher; moreover, the product is so excellent that the demand cannot be supplied. The superiority of the mousetrap lies both in the quality of the raw material chosen and in the method of production."

"As to the raw material, only those students who have met their ability to teach under actual school conditions, regardless of the grades they make in their own class room work are granted certificates by the Normal school. In the production this ability must be proved at the demonstration school maintained jointly by the Normal school and the town of Boone."

This demonstration school, where the raw material (teachers) are tried out is the school to which you and I send our children, on whom the "raw material" now demonstrate their ability or inability to teach. We quote further:

"This demonstration school is unique in that it continues for a full full school year, so that student teachers may have the benefit of observation and practice in actual school work throughout the year. In the average teacher-training institution, the demonstration school is conducted usually for a few weeks or for a month or two at best. Under that system the student-teacher does not get the thoroughness of practice that is given in the full-year demonstration school at the Appalachian State Normal School."

No one, no other town could hardly be so fortunate as to have its public school building with its children, its teachers, its instruction in order that our children and ourselves can be trained on for the entire year at the expense of the health of children—long months of confinement in a school room in order that "raw material" may be finished into experienced teachers who go to other schools over the western part of the state to apply the knowledge gained here at the expense of our own children. Again:

"The thorough demonstration work is made possible by the arrangement between the town of Boone and the Normal school, approved by the legislature, whereby the public school of Boone becomes the demonstration school of the Normal school. The educational authorities of Watauga county have joint supervision over the school with the authorities of the Normal; the county pays the teachers' salaries up to the state salary schedule and salaries in excess of that amount, for special abilities, are paid by the Normal school."

Just after the school began last summer I asked one of the school committee men who named the teachers in the "Demonstration" school. His reply was, "I do not know."

More of the article mentioned: "Each student teacher must submit to the critic every day a lesson plan, and this lesson plan must be approved by the critic before it can be carried out in the class-room. As much latitude as possible for originality in teaching methods and in management is allowed in the preparation of these plans, provided that

they always come within the requirements of sound educational methods." "Not every student in the Normal school is admitted to work in the demonstration school. Stringent prerequisites keep the demonstration classes under only the best of teachers. Before any student can do demonstration work, he must have had at least one year of Normal school work and must have completed certain courses in education."

All of this is fine—very fine for the Normal school. But what about our own school? Is it the best that can be had? Would it not be better for Boone to divorce its school from the Normal, place it directly under the supervision of trustees elected by the people of the district, instead of trustees of a state institution scattered all over western North Carolina?

The Appalachian State Normal is a great institution doing a great work. It is an institution the town of Boone and the state should be and are justly proud. But it should not have supervision over our free school. The regular teachers employed in the Demonstration school, as far as I know, are no more as the world than in the teaching and in the Normal course, the even tenor of its way.

"If a man finds a better mousetrap the world will make a path to his door." And if Boone cannot provide and maintain a good public school in any like community, will not the people make a path to some other community where such school is provided?

Boone has issued many thousands of dollars in bonds for street, improvement, water systems and other municipal improvements. Is it not able to support its school system? I believe it is. In justice to our children we cannot do less.

M. W. B. Boone, N. C. Dec. 22, 1926.

CHRIST IS KING

It was in the east a world A Holy Child was born. One who should live to rule the world And hearts of men with grace adorn.

The east produced a glorious Star, The brightest home of dying man. The angels sang "The Christ is born" To bring heaven's good will to man.

He lived a very holy life, His miracles sway the hearts of men. His teaching gives a world from strife, His blood will save a world from sin.

He touched the nations with His word, That treated holiness with scorn. He broke their reign of blood and sword, And so their courts has brought a rain.

He suffered shame without the gate, Although he much despised the wrong. And in His death He conquered hate, And in His world He gave a song.

He triumphed over death and grave, And holds their keys within His hand. He rose again a crown'd day, And brought eternal home to light.

He reigns today in heaven's bliss, For evermore He's free from pain. Upon the Father's throne he reigns, As mighty prophet, priest and king.

—TURNER HOIT, Minister of Christian Church.

JONATHAN MORETZ DEAD

Dr. Jonathan Moretz, an aged and esteemed citizen of Meigs Camp, died at his home last Sunday after several years of declining health. Burial was on Tuesday. Mr. Moretz was a Confederate veteran, having enlisted in the First North Carolina Cavalry from Boone. A brave soldier, a good citizen, an unflinching Christian gentleman was our departed friend. He was a brother-in-law of Mr. John H. News, of Boone, and father of Mrs. Lora Moretz, matron of the State Normal College. He leaves a large family and many friends to mourn his departure.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A unique engagement of the picture "The Ten Commandments" will be shown at the Pastime Theater on December 29 and 30. Manager Hamby announces that the picture has been secured for a re-run here at the request of many patrons of the Pastime Theater. The picture is a wonderful portrayal of the Jewish law as given to the Children of Israel by Moses. There is no increase in price for the show, the regular seats on being charged for this super-picture.

Be wisely worldly, but not worldly wise.—Francis Quarles.

Dr. Frank Crane Says... What Christmas Really Is... (Image of a man with a beard)

THE Christmas season is the season of the horizon line. The earth and the sky, the clouds and the land, meet at the horizon line.

And so at Christmas time the practical and the ideal meet: what is, for the day, reaches up and joins hands with what ought to be.

Talk that is dubbed airy idealism during other seasons is the guiding plan of action when Christmas comes around.

On that day men think of others as well as themselves, they feast their bodies, but also their hearts.

Thoughts concern juicy brown drum-sticks and heaped white mountains of mashed potatoes, but they also concern the welfare of the unfortunate and the relieving of want.

One deals with the so-called "practical" part of life, the other with the "ideal." They both have part on Christmas Day.

No other season comes nearer humanity. It deals with the needs of the present. It takes men as they are and tries to bring the best in them to the top.

It is the most kindly, human season. It doesn't censure or lecture. It doesn't attack or berate. It melts the ice from the springs of human kindness and refreshes the world.

The significance of Christmas is apparent to all. Its rites are simple. There is nothing of the mystic ritual which is comprehended by only a few initiated. It is for all, understood by all.

It comes down to earth and deals with practical things, translating kindly impulses into kindly acts. It touches life as we live it and for one day lifts the world nearer what it should be. Like the parables of the Master, Christmas infuses idealism into the thoughts and acts of our everyday existence.

Those who look only at the sky, fail to see the earth, and those who gaze only at the earth do not see the sky. Only those who look at the horizon line appreciate them both and see them joined together.

During most of the year, in many minds the idealism of the Golden Rule and similar teachings and the practical actions of everyday life seem to stand far apart.

It is at the horizon line of the Christmas season that they are universally seen to draw together.

Ford We Thank You... To the people of Watauga County who have so kindly patronized us in the past year... A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Taylor Motor Company... Come to US for HOLIDAY HARDWARE... It is not yet too late for you to come to our store and see our USEFUL GIFTS... How lovely it is to give something which will be a joy to the one who receives it throughout the year... For a little money spent in our store you can make this a Christmas that will be remembered every day in the year... We have gifts for every member of your family... BOONE HARDWARE COMPANY Our Hardware's BEST; it stands the TEST

An Epic Melodrama of The Birth of a Nation - and its Migration - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS Cecil B. De Mille's Cinemasterpiece... Pastime Theater, Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 29th and 30th. Regular Prices—10 and 25 cents.