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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1927

FIVE CENTS A COPY

DR. BOYER CLEARS MYSTERY OF MURDER OF JOSEPH SMITH

Shelby, Feb. 18.—The veil which has shrouded the mysterious death of Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon church and a candidate for the presidency of the United States in the year of his death, since 1844, was brushed aside today almost 83 years later, by Rev. H. K. Boyer, pastor of Central Methodist church here and prominent in state Methodist circles.

Dr. Boyer declared that, in 1898, he was called to the bedside of an aged, dying man in Mt. Airy, where the minister was serving one of his early charges.

There, with the death angel lurking near, was unfolded the hitherto secret tale of the slaying in Carthage, Ill., of one of the country's most notorious characters.

Dr. Boyer, in telling of the confession, said he was prompted to do so by a letter he received yesterday from J. A. Cook, of Tigra, Ill., who said he had been told Dr. Boyer could supply details of the slaying which never had been cleared up.

"I knew Belton slightly," Dr. Boyer stated. "He was a member of my church at Mt. Airy, but I took no particular interest in him until he became ill. One day after he had been ill for some time and was convinced he was going to die, he told me there was something he wanted to confess before his death.

"He then told me that he and three other men killed Smith. He said that 10 or 12 men met in Carthage the night before the killing and pledged that they would neither eat nor sleep until Smith was dead. He declared that Smith at the time was in the Carthage jail and that he and his three companions broke into the jail, planning to slay Smith in the cell.

"Belton said that somehow Smith escaped by jumping through a window and fell to the ground from the second floor and was stunned by the fall. Belton told me that he and his companions ran to where Smith lay on the ground and that one of the number shot him through the head and killed him.

"After that Belton said he left Illinois and came to Mt. Airy, where he joined the church."

Dr. Boyer said Belton died a short while after the confession and that he preached the funeral.

AFTER ROAD FROM JEFFERSON TO TENNESSEE STATE LINE

Jefferson special February 19: A large delegation of representative Ashe county citizens has just returned from Raleigh where, after conference with highway officials, they are hopeful that a road from Jefferson to Trade, Tenn., may be secured and improved as a state highway. The route is now a county road.

The delegation included G. L. Park, W. H. Worth, J. B. Cunnell and W. R. Bauguss of Jefferson; W. J. Price, A. A. Price, E. A. Ray and Lester Cox, of West Jefferson; T. K. Miller, of Laurel Springs; C. M. Denny, of Trade, and County Agent E. C. Turner, Jr.

The group conferred with Frank Page, chairman of the state highway commission; Senator P. T. McNeill and Representative W. B. Austin, Jr. In Winston-Salem they conferred with A. S. Hanes, highway commissioner for this district.

Sentiment in this section is strong for the completion of the Grassy Creek highway and the taking over of this road into Tennessee by the state. If this should be done, proponents point out, this county road would have quick connection with both Virginia and Tennessee not now available, and considerable commercial and social benefit is predicted under the plan.

FORMER OHIO GOVERNOR DIES

Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 22.—Judson Harmon, distinguished Cincinnati attorney, who for years was a picturesque figure in the political life of the state and nation, died unexpectedly at the Jewish hospital here today. Mr. Harmon, who had been twice governor of Ohio, once attorney general of the United States and several times a Democratic presidential possibility, celebrated his 81st birthday about three weeks ago.

Probably Mrs. Spatts: "Oh, if I were only a man."

Spatts: "Huh! You'd be as crazy as I was and go marry some fool of a woman."

Hub Wagner Moved To Statesville Jail

Reason For Transfer of Prisoner From Wilkesboro Last Friday Has Not Been Announced

Hub Wagner, slayer of Earl Moody and Dexter Byrd at Shulls Mills on Christmas Day, was last Friday removed from the Wilkesboro jail to Statesville. This makes the fourth time Wagner has been moved since the crime was committed, first being taken to Greensboro, and from there to the state prison at Raleigh, thence to Wilkesboro and now to Statesville.

For what reason the last move was made is not known. It is understood that Wagner's lawyers did not know of it until after the transfer. Frank A. Linney, of counsel for the prosecution, is quoted as saying that it was probably made upon an order of Judge Moore at the request of Solicitor Jones. It is probable that Wagner was removed because of the congested condition of the Wilkesboro jail.

The law firm of Brown & Bingham has been engaged to assist the solicitor and Messrs. F. A. Linney of Boone, and J. Hayden Burke, of Taylorsville, in the prosecution of the case. The defense will be represented by W. R. Lovill, of Boone; Johnson J. Hayes, of Greensboro, and Governor Will C. Newland, of Lenoir.

VEIN OF COAL FOUND IN CALDWELL COUNTY

Coal has been discovered in Caldwell county. A deposit of a good grade of coal was dug into at Granite Falls a few days ago, says the News-Topic. Discovery was made by Pink Carter while digging a well for E. R. Foster on a lot in the western section of Granite Falls.

At a depth of 45 feet, Mr. Carter ran into a ledge of stone. This ledge is only a few inches thick and was underlain by another ledge of coal. The coal was about three inches thick and then another ledge of rock underlain that. Tuesday the newspaper men visited the Forest home, but found the well had been walled up and closed in. Samples of the coal and stone taken from the ledges above and below the deposit of coal had been saved by Mrs. Forest who shared the samples with the newspaper man.

The discovery of this deposit of coal at Granite Falls is the first ever found in Caldwell county, according to the best information available. No effort was made by Mr. and Mrs. Forest or by Mr. Carter, who was digging the well to follow out this ledge of coal and see if larger deposits might be found. It is possible that should this be done coal in quantities sufficient for working might be found.

VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Valle Crucis, Feb. 23.—Mrs. W. L. Baird is spending a couple of weeks in Lenoir at the home of her sister, Mrs. A. W. Dula.

Mrs. J. C. Brown attended the burial service of Mrs. John May at Shulls Mills on Monday afternoon.

News was received in Valle Crucis this week of the death of Mrs. Jasper Moore, of Collettsville on last Sunday.

Mrs. Powers, sister of B. W. and R. A. Farthing, is spending a few weeks with relatives in the valley.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

New advertisements in this issue of The Democrat include the following:

Spainhours, Inc.
West End Feed Company.
The Fashion Shop.
Eggers-Ashley Company.
Farmers Hardware & Supply Co.
Boone Chevrolet Company.
Boone Hardware Company.
Pastime Theater.
Boone Insurance & Realty Company.

The Leading Citizen

"Very public spirited, is he not?"
"Oh, yes. He is continually in a high fever because somebody else does not do something about something immediately."

When a child dies in some parts of Greenland, the natives bury a live dog with it to guide the child in the other world, as it is claimed dogs can find their way anywhere.

COOLIDGE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY

Washington, Feb. 22.—In marked contrast to the horseback courier who carried news of the election of America's first president, a radio hookup that reached across the continent and the seas was used today by President Coolidge in leading the nation in tribute to George Washington. The president, in a speech delivered with ceremonies of state before a joint session of the congress, formally initiated arrangements for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth to be held in the national capital in 1932.

Portraying the father of his country as a "builder—a creator," Mr. Coolidge said Washington "had a national mind."

"Washington has come to personify the American republic," he continued. "He presided over the convention that framed our constitution. The weight of his great name was the deciding factor in securing its adoption by the states. These results could never have been secured had it not been recognized that he would be the first president."

Speaking in the house chamber, Mr. Coolidge read his address from a black pocket note book which lay before him on a desk. He was accorded close attention but received no applause until near the end when he said:

"We have seen many soldiers who have left behind them little but memory of their conflicts. But among all the victors the power to establish among a great people a form of self-government which the test of experience has shown will endure was bestowed upon Washington, and Washington alone. Many others have been able to destroy. He was able to construct. That he had around him many great minds does not detract from his glory. His was the spirit without which there would have been no independence, no union, no constitution, and no republic."

LA FOLLETTE OPPOSES COOLIDGE CANDIDACY

Washington, Feb. 22.—A resolution to have the senate in effect declare against another term for President Coolidge was offered by Senator LaFollette, Republican, of Wisconsin, today on the anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The insurgent leader said he would ask for action at the earliest opportunity and that it was his purpose to force senators to go on record.

REV. STANBURY DEPLORES ACTION ON DIVORCE BILL

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—Rev. W. A. Stanbury in his Sunday sermon in Edenton Street Methodist church deplored recent state legislative action adverse to the marriage divorce bills, the Klutz 35-hour a week working measure, and the anti-evolution bill.

DEATH OF MISS BLACK

Miss Margaret Black, for years an inmate of the county home, died there Friday night and was buried the following day. She was a wonderful character in many ways, her body was so twisted and drawn that one knee rested on her chest, and in fact all her limbs were in such shape as to render them practically useless. During all the years at the county home when not in bed she lived in a wheelbarrow, as it fit her twisted body better than anything that could be contrived, and she said she rested more comfortably in it. Her mind was clear and she read quite a lot, especially in her well-worn Bible. She was bright, cheerful, never bemoaning her afflictions. A former keeper of the home remarked to The Democrat: "Margaret Black was one of the best women I have ever known."

GOV. PEAY IMPROVING

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 23.—Governor Austin Peay, who has been very ill with pneumonia, continues to steadily improve, according to latest bulletins from the governor's sick room.

He Knew Better

"You have to help yourself before others will help you," said the uplifter.

"Applesauce," retorted the former burglar who was trying to start on a new life. "I got five years in the pen for believing that bunk."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Sixty-two per cent of Canadian families own their own homes.

News of a Week At Blowing Rock

Bad Weather Interferes With Work on the Streets and Water System

By RUPERT GILLET

Blowing Rock, Feb. 22.—The fourth municipal well, now being drilled in Green Park, had reached a depth of 45 feet when the torrential rains of Friday and the snowstorm of Saturday and Sunday caused a cessation of the work. Rob Greene, manager of the water works, said that rock was encountered at a depth of six feet and that the drillers have been working in solid rock ever since. Considering these difficulties, Mr. Greene said, the work is progressing as rapidly as could be expected.

The well will be drilled until a good flow of water is had. This is expected to be reached at 300 feet.

Ditching for the Green Park connection with the town mains has been completed under the direction of Councilman N. C. Greene, and laying of the six-inch main has been started.

Remodeling Cottage Sidney Blackmer, motion picture actor of Salisbury and New York, is leaving his summer cottage here completely remodeled and enlarged at a cost of between \$4,000 and \$5,000. E. G. Pitts, the contractor, said the cottage is being practically made over.

Work on Side Streets Halted

Grading of the side streets in Blowing Rock was almost completed when the inclement weather of last week-end put a stop to the work. Traffic over the soft earth after the snow thawed, however, almost undid the work of the graders.

A. M. Critcher has finished the bridge across Middle Fork of New River at Chestnut Lane and is now engaged in improving the lane itself and making of it a town street.

Wants Additional Information

The Southeastern Underwriters' Association, which recently sent a representative here to inspect the fire fighting facilities with a view to re-rating the town, has asked Mayor George M. Sudderth for additional information on the fire department and water supply. Mayor Sudderth said he believed that with this data in his hands, the association would raise the town from fourth to third class.

Weiner Roast

Miss Marjorie Coffey and Mrs. Joe Panella were hostesses at a weiner roast Thursday night at Devil's Gate. The guests were Messames Cannon and Cooper, and Misses Mabel Coffey, Carrie Miller, Ann Ward, Lucy Williams and Velma Cannon; Joe Panella; Dewey Story; Henry Conrad; Bynum Crisp; Harry Cooper; Stuart Cannon and George Robbins.

Personal Mention

Lee Crisp was taken ill last Saturday and remains ill at his home. He had a slight stroke of paralysis, which was induced by a hemorrhage of the brain.

In spite of snow and rain, the young people of Blowing Rock enjoyed a lively dance at the Town Hall Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cooper, Mrs. Joe Panella and Miss Ann Ward went to Lenoir Thursday. They made the drive to Lenoir in 45 minutes.

THE WEATHER

The beautiful February weather that we have been and are having still, has caused much comment, many declaring they have never experienced anything like it in Watauga. But Mr. J. C. Ray tells The Democrat that 29 years ago, this February—then we usually had real winter weather—the peach trees were in full bloom in February, there being only one light skiff of snow during the winter. He said the weather was so warm during February of that year that Irish potatoes in the hills grew out and when they were taken from the ground, he distinctly remembers that he found a quantity of new spuds in the hill, many of them as large as hen eggs.

Mr. J. R. Hagan says that 30 years ago the peach trees bloomed in March and that year the crop in Watauga was superabundant.

Mr. Rufus Greene says that we all forget too quickly; that in 1924, only three years ago, we had just as fine a February as this, and that March was extremely cold.

Boys played marbles even in the early days of the Indian mound builders.

YOUNG NED JOHNSON DIED FRIDAY MORNING

After an illness covering about two months, Ned Johnson, the 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Johnson, died at the home of his parents in Boone last Friday morning. The remains were interred near the old home on Cove Creek Saturday, following funeral services at the Cove Creek Baptist church Sunday morning.

The young man was working on the highway and from a slight abrasion on one of his fingers, blood poison set up which baffled the skill of the best physicians. Everything possible was done for his relief but it availed nothing. The funeral and burial were attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN PARK BILL PASSES 3RD READING

Raleigh, Feb. 22.—The Great Smoky Mountains National Park bill, which passed the senate last week, went through the third reading in the house today by a favorable vote of 90 to 10.

The bill authorizes the acquisition by North Carolina of half the acreage of the proposed national park site, for which bonds amounting to \$2,000,000 will be issued. The other half of the park acreage is to be acquired by the state of Tennessee.

BELSER TO SUCCEED JUDGE GRADY AS GRAND DRAGON

Raleigh, Feb. 22.—Morgan Belser, of Washington, D. C., will assume the office of grand dragon of the realm of North Carolina, K. K. K., Saturday, Judge Henry A. Grady, of Clinton, resigned grand dragon, announces in his last official communication to all exalted cyclops, terrors and kinsmen of the realm.

LINNEY OR HAYES?

Approval by the house of representatives of the Bulwinkle bill establishing a third federal judicial district, means the appointment of either Johnson J. Hayes or Frank A. Linney to the bench to preside over the courts in the district, prominent Republicans here state, says a Greensboro special of Tuesday to the Winston-Salem Journal.

In case of the appointment of either, it is regarded as almost certain that Greensboro will have again an active resident federal judge, recalling the days when Judge James E. Boyd was in his prime as the first citizen of the city. At the time of the last session of the criminal court here, Mr. Linney, present district attorney, expressed his decision to make his home here. He is a resident of Boone. Mr. Hayes is already a resident of Greensboro. He recently joined the law firm of Brooks, Parker and Smith and is now a very active member of it under the title of Brooks, Parker, Smith and Hayes.

It was called to attention that Federal Judge I. M. Meekins and J. J. Parker were both elevated to their posts following vigorous but unsuccessful campaigns for the governorship. Mr. Hayes made a great fight against Senator Overman last year while Mr. Linney was the candidate of his party for governor several years ago.

In addition to Messrs. Hayes and Linney, the following have also been mentioned in connection with the judgeship: A. H. Price of Salisbury, H. F. Sewall of Carthage, and A. A. Whitener of Hickory. But it is believed, however, that the real fight will be between Hayes and Linney. Should the latter be named, two new district attorneys will be appointed.

The middle district, created by the bill, is composed of the following counties: Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin.

Courts will be held in the middle district at Rockingham, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Wilkesboro and Salisbury.

Glory's Graveyard

Office Boy: "My brother has a gold medal for running five miles an hour for ten miles; a silver medal for swimming; two cups for wrestling; and badges for boxing and rowing."

"He must be a wonderful athlete."

"He's no athlete at all. He keeps a pawnshop."

Progress of the General Assembly

Majority of Important Legislation Yet To Be Acted Upon; Three Local Measures Pass House

With only 12 working days left the legislature on Monday began consideration of major legislative work for the session. During the first seven weeks of the session only one state-wide bill of special interest enacted into law is the provision for changing the date for the automobile license year so plates will be bought in December rather than in June.

Automobile owners will pay for the change in the license year to the tune of about \$100,000, which it was estimated, this change would cost. Twenty-five cents extra will be added to the half-year license which will be bought next June.

While this is the main state-wide bill that has been ratified, both house have disposed of other measures by killing them.

Among major casualties are the attainment clause in the compulsory school law, urged by the Parent-Teacher association, which failed to get by the house, and the constabulary law, which was killed in committee.

A number of minor measures have also gone into oblivion through one of these cuts.

Among the major measures the assembly has before it for consideration during the next two weeks are:

The Australian ballot measure.
All educational measures.
The county government bills.
The proposed amendments to the constitution.
The general appropriation bills.
The revenue bill.

The \$30,000,000 road bond bill.
State-wide regulation of traffic.
The omnibus bill appropriating county school funds.
The governor's proposal to establish a radio broadcasting station which is included in the appropriations bill.

Workmen's compensation act.
All fisheries bills.
The machinery bill.
Forestry conservation bills.
Smith-Hargett highway bill.

Most of these measures have been three-holed out in committees and some before the house. The last of the bills recommended by Governor Mecklen for reform of county government was introduced in the house Monday.

The following bills relative to Watauga county were passed by the house last week:

Prohibit throwing of sawdust in the streams of Watauga.
Amend 1925, 1924 and 1925 road acts of Watauga county.

Authorize a bookkeeper for Watauga county.

Senate bill 45, increasing the salaries court judges and solicitors from 20 years to 27 each, failed in the house Thursday night. The vote was 40 for, 68 against. The bill passed the senate by a vote of 34 to 12.

Enactment of a statewide game law with 20 dissenting from the majority of 83, passed the house on Thursday. At the same session a bill to prohibit state bank examiners from borrowing money from banks which they examine, and defeated the proposal to make compulsory attendance through four grades and the time from 14 to 16 years.

OTTO WOOD AGAIN IN STATE PENITENTIARY

Otto Wood, habitual prison breaker and North Carolina's most elusive convict, once again is within the walls of the state prison at Raleigh, arriving there Tuesday afternoon in company with two officers, from Terre Haute, Indiana, where he was captured after he had been seriously wounded by a storekeeper whom he attempted to rob. Wood was placed in the safe-keeping section of the penitentiary for preventing escapes.

Wood thus begins for the fourth time service of a 30-year sentence imposed for the slaying of a Greensboro pawnbroker.

Following a nervous shock, a Parisian turned blue all over. Physicians have been unable to restore him to his natural color.