

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina.

VOL. XXXIII, NO. 9

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Happenings In and About Blowing Rock

Interesting News of Past Week From Famous Resort Town

Blowing Rock, March 17.—A tentative agreement that may mean a change in the county board of education's method of financing school buildings has been reached by the school boards of Blowing Rock, Sandy Flat and Silver Lake and Superintendent of Education Smith Haganman. If the policy is adopted, the building funds of the county will be prorated to each consolidated district, instead of being allocated at the discretion of the board, as has been the system heretofore. This agreement, however, is only tentative, and awaits the approval of the board as a whole. If the system is adopted, the long-standing argument between the Blowing Rock consolidated district and the county board will be ended, for the Blowing Rock representatives assert that all they care for is equitable treatment of all districts, whether the county furnish one-third, one-half or two-thirds of the money for building the school, just so it furnishes the same proportion to all districts.

Just how much the county will furnish toward the Blowing Rock school has not been determined, but this is considered a minor matter in view of a possible equitable division of the county funds among all the districts.

W. T. Willis, surveyor for the Bell Telephone Company, who was here Monday supervising a change in the course of the cable line to the local exchange, said the cable line from Loudon is within ten miles of Blowing Rock and that, with three crews at work, good progress is being made daily. Mr. Willis said also that surveying of the line from Boone to Newland and Cranberry is progressing rapidly.

The Blowing Rock school will give a regent minstrel entertainment soon, provided the literature ordered two weeks ago arrive in time to prepare the program before school closes April 25. Dialog, jokes and negro music will comprise the program.

Thomas H. Coffey, representative in the general assembly from Watauga county, on his return here last week expressed himself, as well pleased by the work of the session. He was particularly gratified by the passage of the Australian ballot as applied in this county. Mr. Coffey said it was improbable that the Watauga fire, which was burned last fall, will be rebuilt for the summer season.

The \$15,000 bond is authorized March 13 by the town council for the completion of the water main connecting Green Park with the town supply. The pipe has been bought by Ferree and Company of Andrews, N. C. The Green Park main, already under construction, has been progressing rapidly under the direction of Town Councilman N. C. Greene. But the work is now suspended awaiting the arrival of more pipe. The main will be 5,100 feet long. Pipe has been laid 800 feet. The fourth municipal well is blowing 20 gallons a minute at a depth of 109 feet a minute, said Rob Greene, manager of the water works. This is considered an extraordinarily good flow for that depth, Mr. Greene said. Almost the entire depth has been drilled through solid rock.

The March meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Rumples Memorial Presbyterian church was one of the loveliest held since the organization of the auxiliary some months ago. Mrs. E. G. Underdown and Mrs. Joe Panella were hostesses, assisted in serving by members of the Girls' Circle. The table was attractive in its spring-like decorations, with a jargon and fern centerpiece, linen and favors carrying out the color scheme of yellow and white. The meeting, preceding the social hour, was given over to the election of officers for the year now beginning for the auxiliary. This work was disposed of by re-electing Mrs. Underdown as president, Mrs. Holshouser as vice president, and Mrs. Dan Klutz as treasurer. Mrs. C. C. McCaraher was elected secretary to succeed Mrs. Cobb, who expressed herself as being unable to serve again owing to other duties. As refreshments, a salad course, with

MR. MARTIN AT BAPTIST CHURCH LAST SUNDAY

Editor of Winston-Salem Journal Delivered Fine Address to Crowd That Packed Auditorium

Mr. Sanford Martin, editor of the Winston-Salem Journal, occupied the pulpit of the Baptist church here last Sunday morning, delivering a very able address to a crowd that taxed the seating capacity of the church. At the Sunday school hour Mr. Martin addressed the Sunday school class taught by Prof. I. G. Greer.

Mr. Martin used as the theme of his address the recent Baptist Sunday school convention held in Memphis, Tenn., and during the entire address held the closest attention of the large audience. The address was a most timely one, and while he is not a minister, Mr. Martin brought out many religious truths and valuable lessons. All were delighted with the Winston-Salem editor's presence in Boone and will gladly welcome his return at any time. Dr. B. E. Dougherty, in introducing the speaker, brought out some interesting facts about the speaker and the estimation in which he is held in this community.

MAN IN WILKES' JAIL CHARGED WITH POISONING DEEP GAP BOY

Says the Wilkes Patriot of last Thursday: Local physicians and attorneys went to Deep Gap Sunday and held an autopsy of Linney Church, who is thought to have died of poisoning last week. Church was taken ill Wednesday, February 23, as a result of which he died Friday, Dr. Perkins, who attended him during his short illness stated to Church's family that he believed the boy had been poisoned and upon investigation sufficient evidence was found to cause the arrest of Bill Mason, with whom Church was making his home. Mason was brought to Wilkesboro and placed in jail and an autopsy of the Church boy ordered. The body had already been buried. The boy's stomach was sent to Raleigh for analysis, and Mason ordered by the court to be held until a report could be had. Mason came to Wilkes about a year ago from Canada. He married a cousin of Linney Church and the dead boy had been making his home with his cousin and her husband for some time. It is reported that all feeling existed between Church and Mason, and Mason is alleged to have made threats against the boy. Mason, however, stoutly denies his guilt. Attorneys Trivette and Comer are prosecuting the case and J. A. Rousseau is defending.

NO DATE BEEN SET TO NAME OFFICERS FOR NEW DISTRICT

Washington special of March 15 to Winston-Salem Journal.—President Coolidge stated today that he did not know when officials for the newly created middle federal district of North Carolina would be named. He stated that officials must be named for a number of new judicial districts and that he had not determined when he would name the officials or whether he would give recess appointments. He stated that this matter will be determined by the department of justice and that the decision will be made with regard to the business to be done and the needs of the appointments of officials in the districts.

TAM BOWIE NAMED JUDGE

Raleigh, March 14.—Governor McLean late tonight told the Associated Press that he had appointed Tam C. Bowie, of West Jefferson, and H. Hoyle Sink, of Lexington and Raleigh as special superior court judges. Governor McLean said the reason for his withholding the announcements was that Mr. Bowie, a former speaker of the house, did not advise him until late tonight that the appointment would be accepted. Mr. Sink, now pardon commissioner, had already accepted the appointment. Coffee was served, followed by ice cream, cake and nuts. The next regular meeting will be held in April; the meetings to continue on a monthly schedule.

Woodson Likely Will Oppose Doughton

Senator Woodson, of Rowan, Said to Be Harkerin' After Seat of Farmer Bob

The following dispatch from Raleigh to the Greensboro Daily News under date of March 9th, will be of interest in these parts:

Legislative loose-ends, picked up the morning after, have Walter Henderson Woodson, of Salisbury, certain entry for congress in the 8th district, and no fewer than five other potential congressmen from the late general assembly.

So much is congress in the mind of Senator Woodson's friends, at least, that it may be said with certainty that if an emergency judgeship is offered him he will decline it. He would not think lightly of the honor, but his taste is different. The prestige of four senatorial sessions in a row, with acknowledged leadership in them all, and a big hand in the work which has made North Carolina a business state in its administration, will be his when he takes the field as a candidate in the eighth.

It has not been sent out from Washington in recent years that Farmer Bob Doughton thinks of coming back home to live. Newspaper men were wont in old days to have Farmer Bob running for the governorship and making ready to move back. Senator Woodson does not make any announcement as yet. He will agree that he seriously entertains the ambition to serve in Washington. He is urged on many sides to get into the race and not be slow about it. Most offices are now won in the first of the three years preceding the race. Mr. Woodson will probably not wait long.

If he goes into it against Farmer Bob he will carry a record of legislation in the state which advantages him greatly. The public mind dwelling on roads and schools will find Mr. Woodson well put on the two most popular pieces of North Carolina statehood in recent years. The senator has been chairman of the education committee and then of the finance committee. He has helped by his vote to build all the roads since the present highway regime took hold. The district must know a great deal about him. He is a close local politician, good at leading the county of Rowan, which will have a great deal to say about congressmen. He has not made politics a business, but rather has made business political in recent years, and has helped to give the state the reputation of a business commonwealth. If the idea works and wins, the senator can sit as pretty as anybody.

BAPTIST WOMEN TO MEET AT BLOWING ROCK CHURCH

The quarterly meeting of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of the Three Parks Association will be held at Blowing Rock on Thursday, March 21st. The following program has been arranged for the meeting:

- Morning Session**
10:30—Devotional exercises, Mrs. W. W. Wilson.
10:45—Prayer in its Relation to the Missionary Enterprise, Mrs. Nan Johnson.
10:55—Thoughts from Program for Week of Prayer for Home Missions, Mrs. Smith Haganan.
Poem—"I Will Hear," Mrs. Pendley.
11:10—The Heck Memorial, Mrs. W. Y. Farthing.
11:15—The State Expense Fund, Mrs. Lee Swift.
11:20—Apportionment for 1927.
11:30—Standard of Excellence for societies, Mrs. J. L. Qualls, for association, Mrs. D. F. Horton.
11:50—Poem, "As You Look Backward," Miss Ruth Detson.

- Afternoon Session**
12:30—Devotional exercises, Mrs. J. S. McBride.
12:45—Members of the W. M. U. as loyal church members.
1:00—If Our Missionaries Do Not Go Back, Mrs. Coffey.
1:30—A Message from One of Our Missionaries, Mrs. J. A. Williams.
1:40—Exercise by Boone Y. W. A.
2:10—Y. W. A. Hymn.
2:45—Must Our Missionaries Do All the Sacrificing? Mrs. J. M. Moretz.
2:55—Prayer for Personal Conversion, Miss Pearl Davis.
Adjournment.

In the United States during 1925, there was one divorce for every 7.2 marriages.

Over \$71,000,000 Voted By the Last Assembly

Makes Record in Amount of Money Spent; Highway Commission Gets Bigger Slice

Although it is held out as an "economy league," the economy was evident in that more than it was practiced since the late general assembly probably go down in history for having authorized the expenditure of more money than any other.

More than \$71,000,000 in appropriations, both bonds and for general maintenance, was voted by the assembly which adjourned last Tuesday night. The 1925 general assembly appropriated about \$60,000,000, and that was thought a record. But it has been made to look like a piker in comparison with the one just passed.

But in conscience stricken retrenchment, the bill providing for increasing the salaries of the governor, council of state and the majority of other department heads, was killed in the last minutes of the session, despite the fact that a few minutes earlier bills had been passed granting to every employe of the house and senate from clerks, janitors and sergeants-at-arms down to boot-blacks, a bonus of a dollar a day for the session. It required nearly \$10,000 to provide these little gifts of \$60 to each of the 162 employes of the two houses—almost one employe for each member of the houses. The exact amount that had been paid out by reason of these "bonus bills" was \$9,720, and the auditor's office reported that there might still be some more.

But to get back to the \$71,000,000 appropriated for all purposes, here it is by general projects:

- State highway bond issue \$30,000,000.
- Revenue from gasoline and license tax for sinking fund on bonds, maintenance, etc. \$15,000,000 yearly.
- General fund revenue for state purpose \$15,000,000 yearly.
- For permanent improvements, state institutions, \$5,247,000.
- For Smoky Mountain National Park \$2,000,000.
- For Cape Fear bridge at Wilmington \$1,250,000.
- For school loan fund, \$2,500,000.
- For prison farm, \$400,000.
- For farm colony for women, \$60,000.

Total, \$71,457,000.

Of this amount, more than \$41,000,000 is bonded indebtedness, making the total bonded indebtedness of the state more than \$180,000,000. The educational equalization fund of \$3,250,000 is included in the general fund revenue of approximately \$15,000,000 yearly.

BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING HERE APRIL 12

A Baptist regional fellowship meeting in the interest of the denominational program will be held at the Baptist church here on Tuesday, April 12th. The meeting is to last all day, and pastors, deacons, teachers in the Women's Missionary Union, Sunday school and B. Y. F. U. workers are asked to attend the meeting. The speakers here will be Revs. A. C. Hamby, S. H. Tompkins, and M. A. Higgins.

GOOD PRICE RECEIVED FOR SHATLEY SPRINGS WATER

Jefferson, March 14.—Telegrams received here from T. T. Cole, vice-president and general manager of the Radium Springs Corporation of America, and from New York to Jefferson friends, bring the news that Shatley Springs water is selling and in great demand in New York City at \$1.40 per gallon.

Raleigh, March 14.—In spite of the tremendous slump in the price of cotton the average North Carolina farmer received only three and one-half per cent less for his 1926 crop than for the 1925 crops. North Carolina ranked sixth in the nation in the value of crops in 1926 with an estimated value of \$327,680,000, according to figures made public by the co-operative crop reporting service of the State and federal departments of agriculture. The figure was approximately twelve million dollars less than the value of state crops in 1925, but was more than eight million dollars more than the value of the 1924 crop.

THINKS CREAMERY WOULD BE GOOD THING FOR WATAUGA

Realizing that Watauga county is drifting, and has drifted to an extent, into a financial condition that is distressing, and that we must arouse ourselves out of our lethargy or else go onto the rocks of financial destruction, it is my purpose to try to instill in the minds of our folks the necessity of our getting in line to utilize our time and turning it into cash.

The serious condition with us today is our shortage in money. We have gone wild on fast living and are sending more money out of the county than we have coming back into it from all sources. When you stop to think about it, a county is like an individual. If you are drawing on your bank account for more cash year than you are putting back into it sooner or later your balance will be small. We have got to do something to offset our expenditures. We have a greater diversity of farm products in this county than almost any county in North Carolina. We can raise any and all kinds of products for table use and then we have cash or surplus crops we can raise for markets, namely: Apples, potatoes and cabbage. The potatoes should hold the prominent price in this county on account of marketing as they will keep and give you all the time necessary for finding the best markets—a thing that can be studied very closely, as this is where we derive our benefit or profit from our labor. So far we have not been able to use our time for the entire season and we care nothing about our time without receiving in return for it. Now it is up to us to find some other or new field that is undeveloped whereby we can work all our time and still be making money.

We are glad, indeed, that some sections of the county are engaged in cheese making and will venture to say that these communities are the most progressive sections of the county, due mainly to the fact that they are turning their surplus milk into cash, and at the same time building up the farm land by keeping cows to consume the feed and to turn feeding the land back the manure. But there is only a small portion of the county that is connected with the cheese industry, and the remainder of the county is suffering from the lack of some industry that will give employment on the farm and bring in cash regularly.

We believe the needed industry, and also a profitable one, is a creamery, or at least furnishing cream for some creamery, whether or not we establish one here. This is a new thing and will have to be tried before we know just what there is to it; but there is a lot of things that have to be tried out. We are told that there is a country in Arkansas that is very rough, rocky and mountainous, which started in the creamery business on a small scale six years ago, producing only 70,000 pounds of butter fat the first year. Last year they produced 7,000,000 pounds of butter fat, to say nothing of the by-products, such as calves, hogs and chickens raised from the skim-milk and the improvement of the farms. That county has today twenty-three active creameries, fifteen banks with average deposits of over half a million dollars to each bank.

Shall we not wake up to our opportunity and use the natural conditions given us by our Great Creator, and in the next few years have the eyes of the world turned on us as being the most thrifty and prosperous people in all this great commonwealth? If interested in this proposition, come in and talk the matter over with us, and we will tell you all we can about this proposition, as well as any suggestions you might have to your mind that will help us to become more thrifty and prosperous. If we can get a few folks who are willing to make an effort to try this proposition out, we will work out a plan by which we can give you service here and you can receive your paycheck direct from the creamery. J. F. MOORE. Boone, N. C., March 16.

LINNEY'S FRIENDS ACTIVE

Washington, March 14.—A delegation of leading citizens from the state will be here tomorrow to see the attorney general and the president in behalf of Frank A. Linney for the middle district. Senator Overman will present them. Mr. Linney has influential backing for the position.

Agricultural Facts About Watauga

1925 Census Gives Some Interesting Facts Relative to Farm Conditions in the County

Below are presented a few figures relative to the agricultural status of Watauga county as compiled by the agricultural census of 1925. United States department of commerce. The number of farms, value of farm land and products, livestock and other figures are given.

Farm Lands
Number of farms, 2,133; number of farmers (white), 2,113; colored, 11. Farms operated by owners, 1,682; operated by tenants, 217; cash croppers, 16; coopers, 66; other tenants, 116. Percentage of farms worked by tenants, 10.2.

Acresage
There were approximately 183,920 acres of tillable land in the county in 1925, or 82.33 per cent of all land in the county, with 29,674 acres under cultivation.

Farm Values
All farm land and buildings are valued at \$7,613,776, showing a decrease of \$77,659 from the census figures of 1920. Three hundred and thirty-seven farms, or 17.6 per cent of the farms reported mortgage indebtedness.

Livestock
Total value of all livestock, \$524,224. There were, when this census was taken, 1,857 horses, 455 head of mules; 4,615 head cattle, 5,329 sheep; 2,961 hogs and 32,355 chickens in the county. There were 80 colts and 34 mules under two years of age, according to the census. The total value of dairy products in the county is given as \$1,245.

Crop Values (1924)
Total value of all crops grown in the county in 1924 is placed at \$666,921. Corn is listed as the principal crop, 8,732 acres producing 171,666 bushels. Other crops are listed as follows: Wheat, 4,680 bushels; oats, 10,764 bushels; rye, 6,001 bushels; buckwheat, 23,304 bushels; hay of all kinds, 8,876 tons; Irish potatoes, 82,500 bushels. The production of cabbage is not given in pounds, but 331 acres were devoted to that crop.

Population
The total farm population for the county in 1925 was 10,014, classified as follows: Under 19 years of age, 3,277; 20 years and over, 7,637; male, 5,811; female, 3,805.

LOCAL CITIZENS PURCHASE PROPERTY IN SOUTHWEST

The eight excursionists who went from here Saturday a week ago for southern Texas, returned last week-end. Five of the eight who went purchased small tracts of land in the Lone Star state, and express themselves as highly pleased with their investment. In fact, one of the party told The Democrat that he was offered a profit of \$100 per acre for his holdings, but refused, saying he had rather buy more than to sell what he had. The land is government irrigated, very rich and is the home of grapes and other citrus fruits.

One of the young ladies who made the trip brings back this little story which is proof of the richness of the soil: "A man and his wife lived in this most fertile spot of the Lone Star State. They, it seemed, did not agree as well as they might. Finally the wife died. The husband decided to remove her body away from there for interment. When asked his reason for so doing he replied, 'I am afraid to plant her here for fear she might come up.'"

SMITH GETS APPOINTMENT AS TEMPORARY DEPUTY MARSHAL

Mr. A. W. Smith, ex-clerk of the superior court of Watauga county, has been appointed temporary chief deputy marshal for the new middle federal court district. In company with Mr. W. H. Gragg, he left for Greensboro Tuesday afternoon to enter upon his duties.

The position pays approximately \$2,500 per year. Mr. Smith is a very fine business man and his friends in Watauga are glad to learn of his appointment. They hope also that he will be held permanently and confidently expect that he will.

Fast Worker

A bonnie little lassie named Daisy Drove all the laddies plumb crazy. But what was her system— Whether she hugged 'em or kissed 'em— It's on this very point that kin hazy.