

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, 7

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## SCHOOL MEETING HERE FRIDAY

State Educational Leaders Address Representatives at Appalachian State Teachers' College; Gathering Largely Attended

Fifty or more high school principals, teachers, county superintendents and other educational leaders from the counties of Ashe, Caldwell, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey and Avery gathered at the Appalachian State Teachers' College Friday to discuss organization and other problems preliminary to the opening of the 1929-30 school term.

A. T. Allen, state superintendent of public instruction, and Dr. J. H. Highsmith, supervisor of high schools for North Carolina were present. Dr. Allen addressed the assembled teachers and students of the college at chapel Friday morning on the progress education is making in the state, and Dr. Highsmith conducted the conference with the teachers and principals.

County superintendents present were Smith Hagaman, Watauga; Steel, of Mitchell; J. C. McIntosh, of Caldwell; R. E. L. Plummer, of Ashe; H. E. Teague, of Avery, and D. E. Wilson, of Yancey.

At the invitation of Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Normal, the entire conference was guest of the college at dinner.

## CIVIL CALENDAR

Fifty-three cases are on the civil calendar for trial at the fall term of superior court, which convenes here Monday, September 2, with Judge John M. Oglesby of Concord, presiding. The trial of civil cases is scheduled to begin Friday, September 3, and continuing through Wednesday, September 11th, the first four days of court being given over to the trial of criminal cases. Following is the list of civil cases:

**Friday, September 6**  
Dorris Wilson, by her next friend, W. C. Miller, vs. Dr. H. B. Perry.  
A. W. Brown vs. W. S. Wellborn, Bank of Blowing Rock vs. C. R. Melver and Henry S. Duncan.  
E. A. Adams and Carrie E. Adams vs. J. A. Woodie, two cases.  
Abraham Potter vs. Clarence Potter.

Dana Harmon vs. Axie Harmon.  
D. B. Bingham and Carrie H. Bingham vs. R. K. Bingham and Jennie Bingham.  
George I. Fox, Inc., vs. M. R. Wilson.

The Noland Company, Inc., vs. Robert Winkler, Marion Winkler and J. W. Todd.  
Roy L. Haynes vs. Prichard-Cobb Motor Co.  
Union Trust Bank vs. Roy L. Haynes.

**Saturday, September 7**  
Clintard Hicks vs. Hannah (Honey) Hicks.  
W. R. McKay vs. John Jones and Bessie Jones.  
Alfred Watson vs. Claude Smith, et al.

H. W. Horton vs. Mattie J. Greene.  
Evelyn McLean vs. Don McLean.  
Jason Moretz vs. James Ray.  
W. M. Transon, trading as Transon Hat Co., vs. R. Monroe Ward and Lewis Pressnell.

D. G. Moretz and A. G. Miller vs. D. V. Winegarer.  
E. R. Osborne vs. Lizzie Osborne.  
W. J. Wagner vs. J. F. Church.  
Arnold W. Story vs. Hudson Veneer Co.

David Gayn vs. T. F. Yates and P. M. McGinnis.  
Coleen Laws vs. Jeff Laws.  
**Monday, September 9**  
C. H. Turner Mfg. Co. vs. J. E. Norris and E. J. Norris.  
S. J. Barnett vs. R. K. Bingham and Jennie Bingham.  
P. H. Hodges, Gdn. of Mattie J. Greene, Incompetent, vs. B. W. Pendleton.

Miller-Moretz Motor Co. vs. W. R. Lovill, Jr.  
The Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. et al. vs. J. F. Mulligan and R. E. Seroggs.  
J. Walter Wright Lumber Co. vs. J. G. J. Potter.

Mrs. J. H. Younce, Admx. of J. H. Younce, deceased, vs. Harley Bumgarner.  
J. W. Harmon vs. Martha J. Harmon.

M. J. Williams vs. A. C. Williams, Dessie Williams and Ed. S. Williams.  
**Tuesday, September 10**  
T. H. Coffey, Adm. of E. S. Coffey, deceased, vs. Union Trust Co.  
J. C. Miller vs. R. M. Shore.  
W. R. Winkler and Jas. D. Horton vs. R. R. Madron and W. W. Hines.  
W. F. Reese vs. J. W. Moore.

Northwestern Engineering Co. vs. W. E. Graham and Aberhart Construction Co.  
Americap Hardware & Equipment Co. vs. W. E. Graham and Aberhart Const. Co., and Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.  
Sarah E. Elson, Admx. of Fred Elson, deceased, vs. R. M. Martin.

Wainiac Motor Co. vs. Aberhart Construction Co.  
Gast Manufacturing Co. vs. R. E.

## 14,000 Acre Game Refuge at Edgemont

Agreement has been reached between the state and federal authorities whereby North Carolina has come into possession of 14,000 acres of mountain land near Edgemont which will be developed as the "Daniel Boone Game Refuge." J. P. Stepp, assistant state game warden in charge of the second district, announced in Winston-Salem Monday night says The Journal.

The vast acreage is to be carved from Pisgah National Forest and has been leased by the North Carolina department of conservation and development for a game refuge. The area is to be enclosed with one strand of heavy wire. This work is already under way. R. C. Ray, resident warden having supervision of the project, Mr. Stepp asserted. The territory is being posted to prevent trespassing.

The refuge will constitute one of the largest achievements in game conservation attained in the south, it is believed. Five head of deer are being brought to the area from the Burlington of Brushy Creek, refuge near Spruce Pine, and elk will also be placed in the Daniel Boone refuge. C. N. Nease, assistant state warden in charge of the first district, is supervising the transfer. Other animals will probably be added to the reservation from time to time.

According to Mr. Stepp, plans are now on foot to organize several auxiliary refuges in the district for the purpose of encouraging the conservation of game through adequate protection of animals and birds from the ruthless huntsman. Land for auxiliary refuges is provided usually by private individuals, he intimated.

Mr. Stepp was accompanied here from his headquarters in Lenoir by W. L. Nothstein, district forester, and both men conferred with Safford Martin, member of the North Carolina department of conservation and development. Mr. Nothstein has charge of fire prevention work in eight counties comprising the second district, all county fire wardens serving under his direction. He is reported that fire losses have been slight in the district for the past seven months, partly owing to weather conditions.

There are six forestry districts in the state with headquarters at Asheville, Lenoir, Fayetteville, New Bern, Windsor and Wilmington. Each district forester has a number of county wardens under his supervision and these wardens usually have about 50 deputies who work only in event of fire outbreaks. The Piedmont section in which the metropolis of the Carolinas is located, has not yet been organized, since a lack of ample funds has caused the state authorities to first organize forest areas, leaving other districts to be organized when a better financial status is reached.

The forestry program in his district is proceeding along progressive lines and more and more people are coming to see the tremendous danger and economic losses frequently caused by mere carelessness in handling fire. Mr. Nothstein pointed out. Considerable publicity and fire prevention propaganda handled through his office has had the effect of winning many converts to the forest conservation program, Mr. Nothstein stated.

Messrs. Nothstein and Stepp work out of the same office and their activities are to some extent correlated. The game warden assists in all prosecutions for violation of game laws, supervises the activities of the county game wardens, checks up on license sales and stimulates interest in and helps with the organization of Isaac Walton leagues. Mr. Stepp was actively identified with the movement to bring the Daniel Boone game refuge into being.

## MEETINGS CLOSE

Rev. Ed Hodges recently closed a series of services at Mt. Zion church in Wilkes county. He was assisted in the preaching by Rev. W. D. Ashley and there were 11 additions to the church. Rev. Hodges also assisted Rev. Ashley in a revival meeting at Stony Fork, the services closing Sunday.

## SPUDS BRING DOLLAR

Two carloads of Irish potatoes have been shipped from here the past week. We understand that the spuds are selling at \$1.00 a bushel.—Johnson County News.

Knapp, Peoples Bank & Trust Co. vs. A. C. Miller, R. C. Ragan, et al.  
L. C. Phillips vs. Floyd Eggers, H. C. Eggers and S. C. Eggers.

Watauga County Bank vs. R. D. Jennings, et al., four cases.  
Z. T. Greene vs. D. Z. Tipton and M. J. Icenhour.

S. R. Brown vs. Central Glass Co.  
Alumni Guild vs. Joe M. Gaither.  
D. V. Winegarer vs. A. C. Swift and J. S. McBride.

## Tax Rate is Lowered to \$1.20 as \$196,931.87 Budget is Approved

Of This Amount, \$104,217.45 is Devoted to School Purposes; \$22,125.00 to the General County Fund; \$23,000.00 to Road Maintenance Fund and \$47,589.42 to Interest and Sinking Fund; Tax Rate for Next Year Will Be \$1.20

The board of county commissioners in call session on Tuesday, adopted the budget figures for the year 1930 as submitted by the county accountant, and set the tax rate at \$1.20, which represents a reduction of 10 cents on the hundred dollars valuation over the levy of last year.

A further tax reduction would have been possible, say the officials, but for the fact that the state of North Carolina had valued the property in Watauga county at a little more than ten million dollars, whereas the actual value as assessed by the county was slightly above nine million dollars. Through error the school levy was made on the latter figures, and the Boone and Blowing Rock high schools were not included in last year's school budget. These two items, it is explained, created a small deficit in the school funds for the past year, which the board of education is including in the present budget.

Releases, insolvents and land sales reduced the revenue for sinking fund purposes and the deficit created is added in the new budget.

Of the total set aside for expenditures during the period from July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930, there is \$104,217.45 devoted to schools; \$22,125.00 to the general county fund; \$23,000.00 to road maintenance fund, and \$47,589.42 to the interest and sinking fund.

The following table gives a clear insight into the various fiscal departments of the county, showing the expenditures for the previous two years as well as the budget estimates for 1930:

| Department                     | Expended 1928 | Expended 1929 | Budget for 1930 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Board of Commissioners         | 2,681.83      | 930.46        | 1,150.00        |
| Listing and Assessing Property | 1,897.32      | 1,733.54      | 2,600.00        |
| Sheriff                        | 1,412         | 1,412         | 1,412           |
| Elections                      | 118.25        | 1,612.32      | 100.00          |
| County Accountant and Audit    | 1,580.71      | 1,310.26      | 2,300.00        |
| Treasurer                      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00      | 1,000.00        |
| Courthouse and Grounds         | 514.81        | 434.02        | 600.00          |
| Register of Deeds              | 157.13        | 175.85        | 175.00          |
| Coroner                        |               |               | 50.00           |
| Jail                           | 1,789.25      | 2,481.25      | 2,200.00        |
| County Home and Farm           | 1,788.91      | 1,525.10      | 1,650.00        |
| Outside Poor Relief            | 2,230.74      | 2,543.29      | 2,500.00        |
| Agricultural and Economic      | 701.87        |               | 1,200.00        |
| Health Department              | 825.05        | 715.50        | 1,800.00        |
| Superior Court                 | 6,319.59      | 4,555.93      | 4,500.00        |

Total of General County Fund \$21,502.58 \$18,865.22 \$22,125.00  
Road Maintenance Fund 27,288.86 21,622.65 23,000.00  
Interest and Sinking Fund 44,525.45 52,841.58 47,589.42  
General Schools 104,217.45 104,217.45

Total Budget for All County Purposes \$196,931.87

## W. R. Lovill Speaks To Civitan Club

Declaring that Boone and Watauga county are to make any material progress along industrial lines, we must have a standard gauge railroad, Attorney W. R. Lovill, in an address before the Civitan Club last Thursday, urged the extension of the branch line of the Norfolk and Western railroad from Deep Gap to Boone. However, he said it would be impossible to interest the railroad officials in extending the line unless freight tonnage could be provided in sufficient quantity to make the proposed extension a paying proposition. This, he argued, could be done by securing the location of furniture and other manufacturing plants here, which he thought could be done, in view of the fact that about six-eighths of Watauga's area is in timber. Mr. Lovill's plan is to confer with the railroad officials and secure their promise to extend the line to Boone, with the understanding that industries sufficient to make the line pay be secured, and then go after the manufacturing plants. The matter was referred to the committee on public affairs for further consideration.

Mr. Alexander of Los Angeles, Cal., guest of Civitan I. G. Greer, was introduced and made a brief but interesting talk. The meeting this evening will be held at the Colonial hotel, West Jefferson, and every member who can is urged to attend. Cars will leave here at 6 o'clock, provided highway No. 63 is not closed to traffic; if it is, the trip will be made by way of Trade, and in order to reach Jefferson by 7 o'clock, cars will have to leave about 30 minutes earlier.

**COMMITTEE OF THREE FORKS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MEETS**

The executive committee of the Three Forks association met last Sunday at Cove Creek church, with all members present. The committee decided to present the following resolutions to the association for consideration when it meets on August 27 at Shulls Mills:

1. That the churches call their pastors indefinitely and that voting by proxy in calling pastors be discouraged.
2. That more caution be used in ordaining ministers.
3. That the churches demand that all members attend services, contribute to the expense of the church, and live more Godly lives.
4. That all churches have sufficient number of deacons and that they meet often in conference with the pastor.

The committee is anxious for the delegates to the association to study these questions, and be prepared to discuss them in a prayerful way.

## Civilians Will Visit Ashe County Today

Reports from West Jefferson indicate that elaborate plans have been completed for the entertainment of the Boone Civitan Club at the Colonial Hotel in that city this evening. Prof. I. G. Greer and a number of other Boone citizens have been to Ashe county's metropolis making arrangements preliminary to the meeting. About twenty-five members of the local organization have made plans to attend, it is understood, and at least that many business men of the Jeffersons have made reservations.

A movement is on foot to organize a club in Jefferson and it is believed that the initial work done this evening will be fruitful. Already plans have been made for an organization there, although nothing definite has been given out.

## SAYS DEATH OF BENTLEY CHILD WAS ACCIDENTAL

Funeral services for Texie Bentley, 12-year-old girl of the Bowie section, who was killed last Wednesday, were held Friday at the Adams cemetery, near Vilas. The little girl was found in a small cabin near the mouth of Gap Creek where her family was making their home, with a bullet from a 22-caliber pistol in her breast just to the left of the heart.

Mrs. Mattie Bentley, mother of Texie, was some distance away picking blackberries when the shooting occurred and Mrs. Coy Greer, a sister, was the first to reach the scene. The little girl, however, was mortally wounded and although she lived for about thirty minutes, was unable to speak. No inquest was held at the time, but as suspicion had been directed toward members of the family Sheriff Carl Graybeal conducted an investigation.

Evidence at the belated inquest indicated that the little girl was playing with the pistol and that she thought all the cartridges had been removed. A number of witnesses were placed on the stand and nothing was produced to support the theory of foul play.

## GREER WILL SPEAK AT ASHE SCHOOL OPENING

An address by Prof. I. G. Greer of the Appalachian State Teachers' College will feature the opening exercises at Bowie High School September 3. This institution is located about ten miles from West Jefferson and is one of Ashe county's best rural schools.

Prof. Troy I. Jones, who has an A. M. degree from Columbia University, New York, will again be principal of the school. An able corps of teachers has been secured and the faculty ranks among the best in that county.

## Avery County Fracas Results in Homicide

By MARY BLEDSO

Blowing Rock, Aug. 16.—A gruesome story of homicide growing out of family feuds reached Blowing Rock today by returning relatives of Abner Lowdermilk, age 28, who was shot to death with a rifle in the hands of Paris Coffey in the home of Lowdermilk's sister in the Carys Flat section, near the Watauga line Wednesday night.

When H. D. Lowdermilk of Blowing Rock, a brother of the slain man, reached his sister's home, 15 hours after the shooting, he found the body of his brother still without a coroner's examination, a hole through the head, where a bullet had entered from the rear, causing instant death, the victim having fallen face downward, evidently instantly dead.

According to the story of eye witnesses, Lowdermilk had come to the defense of his sister, wife of Fred Coffey, brother of Paris Coffey, who was being threatened by her husband allowing his attention to another woman, who was present at the time of the shooting. When Lowdermilk intervened in defense of his sister, Paris Coffey took the part of his brother.

Witnesses report that Lowdermilk then struck Paris Coffey with his fist, the latter then leaving the room to go to his car, in which he is said to have carried his gun for several days. After procuring the weapon, Coffey returned and shot Lowdermilk in the back of the head, according to witnesses, and then he phoned Sheriff Vance, pleaded self-defense, was arrested, and released on \$500 bond.

When H. D. Lowdermilk reached the scene he secured the re-arrest of Coffey on the charge of adultery, secured a coroner's inquest and Coffey is now in the Newland jail awaiting trial on a charge of first degree murder.

Funeral services were held today in the Carys Flat community, an isolated settlement between the foot of the Grandfather and Edgemont mountains, where the Coffeys and Lowdermilks live as neighbors, connected by marriage.

## J. F. HARKLEROD DIES IN BANNER ELK HOSPITAL

Mr. J. F. Harklerod, 50 years old, prominent Boone citizen, died at the Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, Tuesday night at 11 o'clock after an illness of about three weeks, an ulcerated condition of the stomach being a contributing factor. He had been a patient at the hospital for about a week, but his weakened condition rendered an operation inadvisable.

Mr. Harklerod was a native of Bluff City, Tenn., having moved his permanent residence to Boone about nine years ago. For a long time he was connected with J. A. Sprues of this city in the lumber business, and since that partnership was dissolved has been engaged in various other enterprises. He has lately been connected with the state highway commission in Watauga county road construction projects.

Deceased was one of Boone's finest citizens and a distinct loss is felt in his death. An industrious and highly honorable man, he contributed his full share toward the advancement of his community along all worthy lines.

Remains will be taken to Bluff City, Tenn., today, where interment will be made amid childhood scenes.

## FOSCOE ITEMS

Foscoe, Aug. 21.—Mr. and Mrs. I. Hamlett and two daughters of Affinity, W. Va., are visiting their aunt, Mrs. W. M. McCain. They came to be at the dedication service Sunday, which was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Mr. Byrd of Pennsylvania, who has been spending the summer here, left for his home on the 15th.

Mrs. Charles Henson of Amantha spent last week in Foscoe.

Mr. Brinkley has been teaching a fishing school all summer. He and some of his students got after a large trout near Shulls Mills; they say it was two feet long and weighed nine pounds, for they saw the scales on its back.

Rev. J. A. Yount of Boone, filled his regular appointment here Sunday afternoon.

On Monday evening a large crowd gathered at the home of Mrs. Ralph Story and gave a lively party in honor of her cousins, Misses Ruth and Edith Hamlett. Music was furnished by the young men of the community. Many interesting games were enjoyed by the old as well as the young, after which delicious refreshments were served.

During the fine weather the people here are busy in the meadows. Rev. E. M. Gragg and others have already put enough hay in the stacks to winter several hundred head of cattle.

## SHORTAGE OF GOOD CATTLE IN COUNTY

Livestock Association at Meeting Saturday Discuss Plans for Increasing Number and Improving Grade of Livestock; To Hold Township Meetings

Half a hundred farmers from practically every section of Watauga county attended the meeting of the Livestock Association held in the courthouse last Saturday afternoon. The main purpose of the meeting was to hear reports from the various townships on the number of purebred and grade bulls in each township, and to determine how many farmers would agree to buy purebred animals to replace the grades and scrubs.

From reports submitted it would appear there are about 10 purebred and 55 grade bulls in the county and approximately 4,500 ewes in the county, distributed among the various townships as follows:

|                   | Purebred | Grade | Ewes  |
|-------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Beaver Dam        | 2        | 5     | ..... |
| Cove Creek        | 1        | 9     | 650   |
| North Fork        | 3        | ..... | 1000  |
| Laurel Creek      | 1        | 6     | 600   |
| Watauga           | 7        | 10    | 1000  |
| Shawneehaw        | 3        | 3     | 150   |
| Boone (No report) | .....    | ..... | ..... |
| Blowing Rock      | 4        | 5     | 400   |
| Blue Ridge        | 3        | 6     | 100   |
| Elk               | 1        | ..... | ..... |
| Stony Fork        | 2        | 3     | 400   |
| Meat Camp         | 4        | 7     | 450   |
| Bald Mountain     | 2        | 1     | 125   |

The foregoing figures were arrived at through very meagre reports, as to the livestock condition in the county as it exists now.

It was the consensus of opinion among the farmers that there should but they give a very good indication of at least 100 purebred animals in the county, and if the livestock grade is to be materially improved. Looking to this end, Smith Hagaman, president of the association, named a committee composed of Harrison Baker, R. T. Greer, John Fox, Herbert Stewart and Scott Swift, to investigate and report to the association at its next meeting where these animals can be obtained, and at what price they can be bought.

It was also decided to hold meetings in every township between now and Saturday, September 7th, the date of the next county-wide meeting, for the purpose of stimulating interest in the livestock program.

## BLOWING ROCK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS FAR ABOVE AVERAGE

Blowing Rock, N. C., Aug. 21.—Patrons of the Blowing Rock High School from the Department of Education have received confirmation at Raleigh of their pride in the town's first graduating class. Returns from the tests given all high school seniors in the state show that the Blowing Rock class made an average ten points above the average for the state, including all the city schools.

The highest score was made in American history and the lowest in French. The low score in French was due to the fact that the test was given on a basis of two years' French and the one Blowing Rock senior who had had French at all had only one year.

Only two members of this graduating class, so far as is known, will enter college this fall. These are Lucile Reid, who will enter the North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro and Elizabeth Suddeth, the Appalachian State Teachers' College. Pom Robbins will take a secretarial course at Raleigh and two others, Edna Miller and Velma Cannon have made preparation to enter training in the United States government hospital, St. Elizabeth's, in Washington, D. C. The youngest member and the only boy to graduate, Bynum Crisp, will work a year before entering college.

The new senior class, which has this record as their only precedent, includes Glen Coffey, Paul Foster, Lois Klutz, Helen Suddeth, Margaret Suddeth, Ruby Tolbert, Ruby Richards, Mary Robbins and Hazel Blaylock.

## FELDSPAR MINE IN ASHE

Jefferson, Aug. 19.—It has long been believed that minerals exist in Ashe in abundance and that it is possible to mine them profitably, but mining has never been carried on in the county on any large scale. However, samples of feldspar brought to the Jeffersons this week indicate that feldspar of a high quality has been found at Todd, near the Ashe-Watauga line.

Several weeks ago, it was announced that McKinney Brothers, of Spruce Pine, were interested in mining feldspar at Todd and the first carload is now on the railroad tracks for shipment. Apparently, the quality is unusually good and further development of the mine at that place is expected, according to close observers of the mining business.