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FIVE CENTS A COPY

A "Cavern" Discovery Being Made in Johnson

There is, as many of our people know, a spring near the Grant home on upper Roans Creek, in Johnson county, Tenn., known as "Fish Spring," out of which older people of the community say, before and since the civil war, myriads of cave fish, at a certain season of the year, came out and followed the spring branch to Roan Creek. An elderly gentleman of that section was heard to relate this some weeks ago by the editor of this paper. Those were the days of iron forges, when a tilt hammer was used to draw out the bars when the heated metal was taken from the furnace. It required quite a number of men to operate a primitive iron plant, one of which was located near the Fish Spring, a watering place for the laborers. The owner of the forge found that in many instances, the workmen, after slaking their thirst, which was rather often—forging was very hot work—they would lose time catching fish or watching them emerge from the earth, making their way to freedom in the then sparkling waters of the historic creek. Accordingly, in order to stop this profligacy of time, he ordered that a lot of cinder from the forge be hauled and poured into the bowl of the spring, which was done. The water continued to flow, but never afterward was a fish known to come out of the spring.

When a boy this scribe was very much interested in this story and, he, with a cousin, Mr. Sam Rhea who also had an ambition to explore what we believed to be a great subterranean cavern, set about to investigate. At the foot of the great limestone mountain and not so far from the spring, jutting out between two great boulders a miniature lake of considerable depth. Young Rhea, the real explorer, made for himself a small boat and with paddles in hand, started on his voyage. But lo, when he had gone only a short distance, his laketoe contracted and there his first hopes failed him. The would-be discoverer knew of a hole on top of the mountain several hundred feet above. We had rolled great stones into it, and listened to their bounding from side to side, until at last they made a clear drop to the depths below. In after years, large stones, and even rails and logs were chucked into the yawning hole, until it was choked some distance down, being explored later on by Bruce, now Dr. Rhea. He went down on a windlass far, far below the surface, but was unable to pass the obstruction.

But back to the story. The State Highway Commission of Tennessee got permission from Dr. Rhea to set a heavy rock crusher at the foot of the limestone cliff to provide rock for the surfacing of the road. The machinery had not been in place long ere the steam drills had cut their way deep into the solid limestone and the further they cut the more convinced were they that a cavern was just ahead. All summer they have pounded away, finding sometimes a hole in which was found well defined stalactites and in one instance the workers found the heavy bones of some animal 24 feet below the surface and about the same distance back in the cliff. The week before last a heavy shot was put in and it was decided that Sam Rhea and Bob Rivers were prophets a half century ago when they said, "There is a cave and a lake in there if they can only be located." The last shots revealed an opening of considerable size with heavy lime formations hanging from the arch above, and among them some of as pretty specimens as have been taken from the world-famed caverns of the Valley of Virginia. There are leads off in the bottom of the hole, that it seems from the top, a man could easily walk into, but the powder had so shivered the stone that to go down before more work is done, seemed too hazardous for any man to take the chance of making explorations. Yes, it seems that ere many more days work have been done, a cavern of resplendent beauty and a real lake teeming with fishes will be revealed to the human eye; its progress is being watched with great interest by many people. It is only 20 miles from Boone, right on the highway.

WORK BEGINS ON ROARING GAP-DOUGHTON HIGHWAY

A big force of workmen began Monday on the construction of the new highway up the mountain between Doughton and Roaring Gap, under the supervision of the state highway commission. The rebuilt highway will be completed in five months, officials say and when completed, will make it one of the finest highways in the whole state system. The road will be 30 feet wide on the curves and will average 24 feet in width. The embankments have all been cleared of trees and obstacles and drivers will have perfect visibility on the new road so they may see approaching machines at a distance.

BIGGER POTATO CROP IS ASKED

Washington Interstate Committee Urges North Carolina to Increase Yield 7,000 Carloads for Next Year; Market Outlook Good

Washington, Sept. 22—Basing its recommendation upon probable market conditions of the next year, the interstate early potato committee in a statement urges growers in five Atlantic seaboard states to increase their potato acreage so as to produce a crop about 2,000 cars greater than that of this season.

This increase would make the total crop from this region total about 39,000 cars. The committee, composed of extension and marketing officials of the various states and the department of agriculture, recommends that Florida growers increase their acreage to a total of 28,000 acres in order to produce 6,000 cars of potatoes as compared with 5,000 cars this year.

The recommended increase for South Carolina was from 12,000 acres this year to 15,000 so the state will have about 4,000 cars for shipment.

North Carolina growers were urged to increase from 30,000 acres this year to 35,000 next year in order to ship between 6,500 and 7,000 cars.

Growers of the Norfolk area were advised to plant 12,000 acres as compared to 10,000 this year in order to produce about 3,000 cars. Decrease in acreage was recommended for the eastern shore of Virginia from the 67,000 acres this year to 55,000 acres, so as to produce about 15,400 cars. Maryland growers were urged to hold their acreage at 14,000 to produce from 3,000 to 3,500 cars.

In advising the decrease in Virginia acreage, the committee predicted that territory will meet with greater competition next season from New Jersey, Long Island and the Mississippi valley, where low yields were recorded this year because of prolonged drought.

The committee estimated the carry-over of old potatoes would be between 75,000,000 and 80,000,000 bushels on January 1.

THIEF ESCAPES WITH A FINE AUTOMOBILE

The sheriff's office was busy yesterday tracing out clues which might lead to the apprehension of the thief or thieves who on Tuesday night escaped with a Reo Flying Cloud coupe, the property of Mr. Pink Hodges of this city. The car had been left parked on the street near the Baptist church while Mr. and Mrs. Hodges were attending services and when they emerged from the church the auto was gone. Information came to Mr. Hodges of the car having been seen to pass Mabel, but the informant was unable to identify the driver.

The car was a 1928 model, motor No. A20235.

MAY MANUFACTURE MILK BOTTLE CASES IN BOONE

Mr. W. H. Gragg, chairman of the Boone Chamber of Commerce informs The Democrat that there is a likelihood of closing a contract in the near future with a Pennsylvania concern to make 500 milk bottle cases per day. If this deal is closed it will mean considerable additional payroll for the town.

MAY MANUFACTURE NEW YORKERS BUY IN BOONE

Mr. Will C. Walker, local jeweler, is accustomed to buying his merchandise in the eastern markets; however, he is not accustomed to making sales in his purchasing territory. The unusual happened yesterday when an order came to the local establishment from Miss C. M. Wallaston, 47 Hancock street, Brooklyn, N. Y., for several items of jewelry. Mr. Walker did not know the lady but she said she had traded with him once before while traveling through this county, and the purchases were so satisfactory, she wondered if he could handle a mail order. Needless to say the order was filled the day it was received, and Mr. Walker thinks he has a record for long-distance selling.

MRS. WILL STURGIL DEAD

Mrs. Will Sturgil, about 38 years old, died at her home near Oak Grove Monday evening, after having suffered for a number of months with tuberculosis. Interment Tuesday at the John Brown graveyard. Deceased is survived by a husband and several children.

The enrollment of the University of North Carolina surpassed all predictions for the fall quarter when 2,573 persons enrolled for the term opening and others are expected to enter. There were only 2,504 enrolled for the opening last fall. Between 700 and 800 of the students are freshmen.

WATAUGA RECEIVES SHARE FROM STATE ROAD FUND

County Auditor A. E. South

has announced the receipt of \$3,691 from the state highway commission, which constitutes a part of Watauga county's share of the highway fund created by act of the last legislature. This payment is to be applied on interest and sinking fund on outstanding road bonds.

Fine Virginia Sheep Brought Into County

Mr. Charles Tester of the Laurel Creek section of the county, arrived in town Monday night from Chilhowie, Va., en route to his home with a fine bunch of thoroughbred Hampshire rams and ewes, which he is distributing among the farmers of the county without profit, merely charging the farmers the purchase price of the sheep, plus actual transportation costs.

Sometime ago Mr. Tester went to southwest Virginia to buy a few blooded sheep for his flock, and locating a fine bunch of thoroughbreds, he decided to allow his fellow farmers to avail themselves of the opportunity. Accordingly, he solicited orders and delivered the fine Hampshire sheep this week. Mr. Tester has done his part toward purifying the flocks of the county in an admirable manner.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Charlotte, Sept. 23.—Possibility of calling a special session of the North Carolina general assembly to provide legal ways and means of controlling such situations as that which arose in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties as a result of activities of the National Textile Workers Union and communist leaders was discussed at the conference held Saturday at Raleigh between textile manufacturers and Gov. O. Max Gardner, Stuart W. Cramer, Charlotte textile manufacturer, said here today. Mr. Cramer, A. M. Dixon of Gaston, president of the American Manufacturers Association and J. H. Separk, Gastonia, head of a large chain of cotton mills, conferred with the governor.

Betty Spivey, aged about 20 years and a daughter of S. A. Spivey of Lee county, is dead and James Spivey, a cousin, and Bill Morgan, the latter a crony of Spivey, are in jail at Sanford pending an investigation. The woman met her death shortly before midnight Sunday night, being slain with an axe or some other heavy instrument. Jealousy is believed to be the cause of the slaying, as James Spivey had urged the girl to marry him, but she had refused. The tragedy occurred within half a mile of the filling station on the Sanford-Carthage highway where a few weeks ago Gaither Edwards, owner of the place, shot and killed Levi and Owen Birdsong, Kentucky bandits, and who, himself, was slain in the attendant gun battle.

Sparta, Sept. 24.—Charges against three high school youths, aired before the grand jury, and that body's inability to find sufficient evidence to send the case to the court, for trial, may be the last chapter of what is alleged to have been one of the most heinous crimes in the history of Allegheny county. The facts became known here today, when the grand jury started an investigation into charges that three or four young girls of the sparta high school were administered a vile drug. The drug was alleged to have been administered through the medium of fruit, by three young high school boys. However, the evidence before the grand jury was insufficient to warrant a true bill.

If the average number of pupils per teacher is larger than 43 in the elementary schools of the state, such schools will get an extra teacher; if there are as many as 65 pupils in the primary grades per teacher, another will be added; if elementary schools which had an average attendance of 210 last year, in which seven teachers, one for each grade, were then permitted and the present school law cuts it down to six, another will be permitted in order to make it a standard school. Resolutions embodying these rules were adopted by the state board of equalization in session in Raleigh Saturday. It is expected that this action will add 100 or more teachers, but the number cannot exceed 150, since that number will take about all of the money available from the emergency and tax reduction funds.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Horton of Boone, and three children, spent a few days here last week with Mrs. W. P. Horton—North Wilkesboro Hustler.

TALKING PICTURES AT LOCAL THEATRE

Pastime Theatre Installs New Mechanical Equipment Throughout, Including Vitaphone; First Talkie Will Be Exhibited Next Week

There were no shows at the Pastime Theatre during a part of last week, the management having been busy engaged in installing the latest and most modern projecting equipment to be had, including the Vitaphone, and Messrs. Hamby and Winkler announce Boone's first all-talking picture for next week, when Warner Brothers will present, Al Jolson, the incomparable, in "The Singing Fool."

For a long time the local theatre has contemplated equipping for the "talkies" and now that the machine is in place the management is not yet satisfied, and accordingly are replacing both projecting machines with new ones of the latest type, and promise the theatre-goers of this section as good pictures as can be had. A machine has been installed for the purpose of transforming the current from alternating to direct, which eliminates the "flicker" heretofore experienced, and theatres in the largest cities will be unable to screen a more perfect picture than will be enjoyed in Boone.

In bringing the Vitaphone to this city, the Pastime Theatre has rendered an unusual service to the show-goers of this section, in view of the fact that the talkies are as yet generally confined to towns much larger than Boone. The reporter was privileged to see and hear the first reel run when the machine was tried out, and the picture was as good and the sound as perfect and well-synchronized as in the shows attended in the large cities.

The opening picture is perhaps the most popular release of Warner Brothers and has met with widespread approval. A three day run has been arranged for next week, starting Thursday.

GREAT REVIVAL IN PROGRESS AT BOONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Announcement was made yesterday that the revival meeting now in progress at the Baptist church would continue through Friday night, and probably longer if interest demanded, at least until Sunday. Up to Tuesday night half a hundred or more people had signified their intention to affiliate with the church, either by baptism or by letter. Rev. B. E. Morris is delivering powerful gospel messages twice daily to large congregations, and probably no series of meetings in recent years has made a more profound impression upon the town and community, and it would seem that lasting good is being accomplished. Services are held at 3:30 and 7:30 p. m.

NEWS OF UPPER VALLE CRUCIS COMMUNITY

Mr. and Mrs. Dorth Taylor have a very sick baby.

Mrs. Roy Anderson spent Monday with her mother, Mrs. L. C. Earp. The box supper was well attended at Liberty Hill School House on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brown attended the Fair at Mountain City. Report a good time.

Mrs. Emily Townsend went to Banner Elk Sunday to see her son Clarence Cook, who was operated on last week. He is getting along fine.

Mrs. Julia Danner and daughter Fay have returned home from James town, Tenn., after visiting three weeks at her daughter's Mrs. Fin Brown and Claud Garland.

The farmers are busy getting their farm work done. Mr. Early Earp who has been in Ohio for some time is visiting home folks. Glad to have him home again. Dr. H. E. Perry passed through this community Monday.

MATNEY NEWS

Matney, Sept. 25.—Matney school met Valle Crucis school here in a game of baseball Friday, September 20. The score was 24 to 13, in favor of the Matney team.

County Superintendent Smith Hageman visited the school last week.

Mrs. Sara G. Baird is visiting her son, Mr. A. L. Baird, in Granite Falls.

Ernie C. Triplett, a student in Appalachian State Teachers' College, spent the week-end at his home here. The Tammonds of Randolph county, visited Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mast this week.

Mrs. J. C. Hubbard's sister of Roamer, Wilkes county, is visiting here. Mrs. Hubbard, who has been sick, is greatly improved.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ward of Beaver Dam, are visiting relatives here.

RED CROSS OFFICIAL PLANS FOR ROLL CALL

Mrs. R. J. Miller of Charlotte, state Red Cross field executive, was in Boone last Thursday, conferring with officials of the Watauga county chapter and mapping out plans for the annual roll call campaign which begins November 11th. No details have been worked out relative to the local campaign organization, but it is expected that the roll call will be one of the most successful yet conducted in the county.

Rev. B. E. Morris Talks to Civitan Club

The Boone Civitan Club had as its guest last Thursday, the Rev. B. E. Morris of Statesville, who is conducting the revival services at the Baptist church. His address was declared to have been one of the best ever heard before the club.

He spoke of the wonderful opportunities we have to foster and promote the ideals of Christian civilization, pointing out that those nations that have accepted the standards and teachings of Jesus Christ have survived every crisis. The members of the club were so well pleased with his message that the program committee has engaged him to talk to the organization again today. The meeting will be held at 12:45 at the Daniel Boone Hotel.

Members of the club with other citizens attended the road meeting at Blowing Rock last Saturday. An effort is being made to have the highway passing through Jefferson, Boone and Blowing Rock designated as a United States highway and given a federal number. The towns represented agreed to donate \$10 each to help defray expenses of the organization promoting the project and the Civitan Club made up \$10 for Boone and instructed the treasurer to forward check to the secretary for that amount.

FLEXIBLE PRINCIPLE IN TARIFF ESSENTIAL SAYS PRESIDENT

Washington, Sept. 24.—President Hoover, from the White House today issued a statement declaring that the flexible provision of the tariff should be maintained as vital to the protection of farmers, industries and consumers. The president's pronouncement came upon the heels of a notice by Senator Simmons of North Carolina, that he will press a senate motion to strike the entire flexible tariff provision from the pending tariff measure. A formidable Democratic-insurgent coalition is lined up behind Senator Simmons in the flexible tariff fight.

In the face of this threatening situation, President Hoover broke his silence on the tariff question and let it be known that he considers the flexible provisions of the "utmost importance" and "one of the most progressive steps" in tariff history.

THOMAS R. BYRD, OF ASHEVILLE KILLED

Asheville, Sept. 23.—Thomas R. Byrd, Asheville banker and head of several financial and mortgage companies, was killed in an automobile accident early tonight between Hickory and Statesville. Mr. Byrd was one of the most prominent financiers in this section of the state and was head of the Federal Mortgage Company and several other companies here.

The wreck occurred near Elmwood about seven miles east of Statesville while headed for Salisbury on highway No. 10. Details of the wreck were lacking. The body was being removed to Asheville tonight.

STATE PRISON POPULATION INCREASED 100 IN SEPTEMBER

Raleigh, Sept. 22.—With the admittance of 11 more prisoners, at state's prison today the number of new convicts received during September jumped to an even hundred. Warden Honeycutt said last night, and has reached to within twenty of the record admitted in a single month.

Yesterday John Mason, negro, was received from Warren county after being sentenced to be electrocuted November first. John Sawyer, Martin county white man, was also received last week, running the total population of death row to 10.

ELIZABETHTON WORKERS VOTE AGAINST STRIKE

Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 24.—Officials of the American Glanzstoff and American Bemberg textile mills late today announced that 2,883 of their operatives had voted against a walkout and 255 for it in a poll taken under supervision of the workers' committee.

SCHOOLS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

Largest Enrollment and Best Average Attendance Ever, Says Superintendent Hageman; More Than 600 High Students in County

Superintendent Hageman tells The Democrat that the schools of the county have an unusually large enrollment, also the best average attendance ever.

Blowing Rock and Boone, the last schools to open, are crowded as are many others. Blowing Rock opened with more than 50 high school students and others entering daily. The elementary department is crowded. Boone high school opened with 260, the Demonstration school has an enrollment of 300, the college 500, giving the schools of Boone a total enrollment of 1,120 with new students entering every day.

Bethel district voted a special tax this year and now has a high school department with 30 students. There are now a little more than 600 high school students in the county.

Owing to an unusually large enrollment in Bethel and Silverstone schools the state board of equalization has granted an extra teacher for each of these schools.

The county superintendents of Watauga county and Johnson county, Tenn., are arranging a joint meeting of the teachers of the two counties to be held in the next two or three weeks near the state line between Zionville and Trade, Tenn. If the weather will permit it will be held in the open, otherwise, perhaps in the Trade high school building. Date and program will be announced later.

COLLEGE NOTES

(By J. M. Downum) The following facts about the student body of the college for the fall term may be of interest to the many friends of the college in various sections of this and other states:

Alamance, 8; Alexander, 3; Alleghany, 17; Anson, 9; Ashe, 33; Avery, 9; Bertie, 2; Bladen, 9; Burke, 10; Cabarrus, 2; Caldwell, 22; Carteret, 2; Caswell, 4; Catawba, 11; Chatham, 5; Cherokee, 2; Cleveland, 14; Cumberland, 3; Currituck, 1; Davidson, 7; Duplin, 2; Edgecomb, 2; Forsyth, 3; Gaston, 15; Gates, 1; Granville, 1; Guilford, 5; Henderson, 1; Hoke, 1; Iredell, 15; Lee, 4; Lincoln, 34; Madison, 3; McDowell, 5; Mecklenburg, 13; Mitchell, 3; Moore, 2; Nash, 4; Pender, 1; Person, 1; Randolph, 1; Richmond, 1; Robeson, 10; Rowan, 9; Rutherford, 9; Sampson, 1; Stanly, 6; Stokes, 3; Surry, 1; Transylvania, 1; Tyrrell, 1; Union, 19; Wake, 1; Watauga, 74; Wayne, 2; Wilkes, 22; Yadkin, 19; Yancey, 7.

Other States

Colorado—Otero, 1.
Georgia—Whitfield, 1.
Illinois—Cass, 1; Clark, 1.
Maryland—Baltimore, 1.
New York—Onandaga, 1.
S. C.—Anderson, 1; Chesterfield, 1; Dillon, 1; Lancaster, 3; Marion, 1; York, 3.
Tennessee—Johnson, 4; McMinn, 1; Virginia—Carroll, 1; Grayson, 1; Pitts, 1.
W. Va.—Kanawha, 1.

In Other States

No. Counties, 18; No. students, 25.

In North Carolina

No. counties, 58; total counties, 76.

Other Interesting Facts About the Student Body

No. students within 50 miles of the college, 154.
No. students beyond 50 miles of the college in N. C., 322.
No. students beyond 50 miles of the college in other states, 25.
No. male students enrolled in college on Sept. 18, 1929, 148.
No. female registered in college on Sept. 18, 1929, 353.
No. students in freshman class, 268.
No. students in sophomore class, 188.
No. students in junior class, 37.
No. students in senior class, 13.
Total number students enrolled for fall term to date, 501.
Increase over last year's enrollment for fall term to date, 90.
No. counties east of Guilford (central county), 23.
No. students from east of Guilford county, 68.
No. students represented by the student body, 10.
Average radial distance of student's homes from college, in miles, 117.

The college in starting out in its wider field of work is desirous of accomplishing the most possible in the very best manner within its power, and to be as helpful as it may to every one coming under its influence at any time and in any way. Nothing short of the best is its goal.

Mr. Floyd Eggers, who has been in Cleveland, Ohio, for the past several months is visiting his family here.