

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XL, NO. 23.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1929

FIVE CENTS A COPY

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Doctors

Good doctors are scarce everywhere. Country doctors are underpaid and overworked. Peckskill, N. Y., physicians have agreed to charge \$1. for telephone consultations. If advice on how to treat a cold is worth telephoning for it is certainly worth a dollar. In England the fees of rural physicians are fixed by the Government. We may come to that in America. The fees must be high enough, however, to encourage well trained young doctors to settle in small towns and to stay there.

Several Eastern towns where doctors have failed to make a living have agreed to pay a salary out of public funds to a good doctor, for public health work, which still leaves him time to engage in general practice. That way of insuring a doctor a living and at the same time safeguarding the public health is a sound American method and should be more generally adopted, as it will be.

Engines

The next big improvement in automobiles will be an engine that uses crude oil or distillate instead of gasoline.

Heavy oil engines use cheaper fuel, get two or three times as much power out of a gallon of it, require no complicated electrical sparking apparatus, and have no valves to be re-ground. The motor car of the future will have an engine of that type, driving the front wheels instead of the rear wheels, and will have no gears to shift.

Airplanes will use the cheaper fuel, too. A Diesel type engine flew a plane from Detroit to Washington recently. Elmer Sperry announces he has perfected such an engine for air use on which he has been working for years. A company has been formed in England to manufacture a heavy-oil automobile engine invented by a Swede, Hesselman.

Sweden, by the way, produces more first-rate engineering ability in proportion to population than any other country except, perhaps, Italy. Ericsson, inventor of the screw propeller and builder of the Monitor, was a Swede. So were Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, and De Laval, inventor of the steam turbine and the cream separator.

Education

The best American I ever knew died the other day. I shall not print his name; he would not have liked the publicity. He probably had never earned as much as \$100 a month, but he sent his four children through college. A Cape Cod fisherman's son, he was a schooner captain in the West Indies trade at eighteen. At seventy-five he was hauling mail and baggage in his old Ford truck, preferring independence to retirement.

Unlettered himself, one of his sons is a professor in a Western university, one is on the Harvard faculty, a daughter is superintendent of a great training school for nurses.

"Sorrill and Son," one of the most popular English novels of recent years, has for its theme the sacrifices of a father for his son's education. A new theme in England, but one of the oldest in America.

Climate

Chicago may rival Florida as a winter resort when the new power plant of the Commonwealth Edison Company is completed at State line on Lake Michigan. More steam power will be generated there than on any other square mile in the world. To cool the huge condensers of the compound engines, four hundred thousand gallons of Lake Michigan water will be pumped up every minute and will flow back with its temperature nearly a hundred degrees higher.

In New York the average temperature of the whole Upper East Side of the city has been appreciably increased by the condenser water from the New York Edison Company's plants. The southern end of Lake Michigan and all the towns that border it will have a perceptibly warmer climate when the new State Line plant gets into full operation.

Accidents

Automobile accident cases cost the hospitals in the United States more than \$15,000,000 last year, for the care of the injured. More than one-third of this was never collected, because the persons responsible for the accidents could not be compelled to pay for the damage they had done.

Next to industrial accidents, automobiles send more individuals to the hospitals than any other one cause. The care of the victims is a charge on all the rest of us, to the extent that the deficit in hospital expenses has to be made up out of taxes.

Almost every State makes insurance against industrial accidents compulsory on employers. Only Massachusetts requires automobile owners to carry liability insurance. If you are injured by a car with a Massachusetts license, the insurance company pays. If a car from any other State hits you, you can usually whistle for our hospital bill, or start a tedious and expensive lawsuit.

Eventually every progressive State will adopt the Massachusetts system or something like it.

Offer Reward for Johnson Murderer

At the regular session of the Board of County Commissioners on Monday a reward of \$200 was posted for the arrest and conviction of the slayer or slayers of Andy Johnson, aged resident of Meadow Creek, who was found dead from gunshot wounds last July, with no clues leading to the identity of the gunman. No developments have come to light, other than that a bill was returned by the last Grand Jury against one Odus Watson in connection with the crime. He has never been apprehended.

The Governor is expected to offer a like amount on behalf of the State, making a total reward of \$400.

AMERICAN LEGION COMPILES HISTORY OF STATE DEPT.

"The History of the American Legion, Department of North Carolina," from organization up to date, now in process of compilation, will contain the names of all North Carolinians who took part in the original conference held in Paris, France, in the spring of 1919, if these names can be secured. The department historian, Mr. A. I. Fletcher, of Raleigh, has already secured a partial list, but is hopeful that a full list may be obtained. Mr. Fletcher asks that every Tar Heel who took part in this important organization meeting, write him full details of the meeting, giving the unit which he represented and his recollections of what took place in the various sessions.

For this chapter on the beginnings of the Legion, Mr. Fletcher desires also the names of those who attended the first conference in the United States, which was promoted by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and his associates. Those North Carolinians who took part in these two conferences are in position to perform a very real service in the writing of the history of North Carolina's part in the formation of the American Legion.

ONE OUT OF EVERY THIRTY AMERICANS TAKE AIR RIDE

One out of every thirty persons in the United States have ridden in American airplanes this year, according to Assistant Secretary of Commerce Clarence M. Young.

At least 3,525,000 passengers will have been carried when final figures for the year are in, he stated.

The vast increase over previous years, he explained, is due to the growing confidence in air transportation, the increased service, the decreased cost, and the improved service offered by airlines. Much of the increase is represented in air-rail service, instituted by several important transcontinental lines.

"Reports from 27 out of 40 scheduled air transport operators," Assistant Secretary Young said, "indicate that 45,000 passengers were carried during the first six months of the year. This means an average of 245 passengers a day."

A recently completed census shows that approximately 748,000 passengers were carried by miscellaneous aircraft operators during the three months of April, May and June. This means that 8,565 passengers were carried every day in some sort of airplane service."

Past experiences show that, conservatively, the passenger total will increase about 25 per cent. in the last half of 1929, because of more favorable flying conditions, increased facilities, lower rates, and growing air-mindedness.

He estimates that figures for the year will show a total of considerably more than 100,000,000 air miles flown. There are now about 90,100 miles of flying scheduled daily for regular air service routes.

MISS FANNY TAYLOR HONORED BY FACULTY OF LEES-McRAE

On Tuesday evening the faculty of Lees-McRae College entertained at dinner in honor of the birthday of Miss Fanny K. Taylor, of Staunton, Va. The table was decorated in green with a center-piece of red cyclamen and a birthday cake alight with candles. This also marked the twenty-fifth year of Miss Taylor's connection with the school, where she has been an instructor in Latin and French since 1904.

Miss Taylor remembers the early days of the school, when the sessions were held in the summer as there was no way of heating the buildings. She said that she could recall when the school had no lights, heat or water and when it took her as long to get to Elk Park as it does now to drive to Johnson City.

B. Y. P. U. PRESIDENT TO VISIT IN THIS SECTION

Charles B. Winberry, of Statesville, president of the West Central B. Y. P. U. Region, announces a tour of the region during the week of December 9th to 13th, and will be accompanied by Mr. James A. Ivey, State B. Y. P. U. secretary; Miss Winnie Rickett, Junior-Intermediate secretary, and Rev. Charles Howard, State president.

All pastors, associational officers, directors, senior and adult presidents and junior and intermediate leaders in the Ashe, Alleghany, Three Forks, Stony Fork, Caldwell Stone Mountain, Brushy Mountain and Elkin associations are invited to meet with the above-named leaders at Wilkesboro Church, Wilkesboro, Tuesday evening, December 10th, at 6 o'clock. The meeting will be featured by a banquet given by the church; conferences, and an inspirational address by Rev. Mr. Howard.

James Lovill Meets Tragic Death When Auto Crashes

DR. GORDON'S LESSON IS OMITTED THIS WEEK

Owing to a misplaced manuscript, the Sunday School lesson by Dr. Will O. Gordon, which appears as a weekly feature in The Democrat, is omitted this week, much to the regret of the publishers.

Dr. Gordon's messages, which are warmly welcomed by Biblical students throughout Northwestern North Carolina, will appear regularly in future editions of The Democrat.

RED CROSS DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS

A Great Number of Memberships Pour in Near Close of Campaign to Swell Fund. Valle Crucis Woman Makes Large Donation.

The Red Cross Roll Call drive came to a close with Thanksgiving Day and Chairman R. C. Rivers terms the campaign an unqualified success, the receipts in memberships and donations having far surpassed the effort of last year. Until the first of this week it appeared as if, despite the valiant efforts of the solicitors, the results might be a little disappointing, however, on the last lap of the campaign a super-human effort was made, and Watauga Chapter went "over the top" in grand style. A total of 150 one dollar memberships have been tabulated, and Mrs. W. H. Wagner, of Valle Crucis, besides contributing her customary dollar and soliciting fourteen other such subscriptions, seeing that the drive was in danger of falling short, sent in a clear-cut donation of \$25. This act on the part of Mrs. Wagner furnished the high spot in the activities of this year, and the good lady is being highly commended for her generosity. Miss Ellen Coffey, of Blowing Rock, brought in a check for \$46, representing as many members, while eight members from Miss Effie Fox, of Cove Creek, have previously been acknowledged. The remainder of the subscriptions were collected by Mrs. Paul A. Coffey and Miss Nellie Coffey, of Boone.

Chairman Rivers, speaking for all others engaged in the work, wishes to thank all for their co-operation in the worthy cause.

The names of those contributing, besides the list formerly published, are:

Blowing Rock: Mrs. W. P. Pendley, Mrs. D. P. Coffey, T. H. Coffey, Mrs. C. S. Prevette, G. C. Robbins, Ellen Coffey, Lena Reeves, Joe White, Mrs. H. M. Thornton, Stewart Cannon, W. L. Holshouser, R. W. Coffey, H. E. Coffey, C. A. Underdown, I. W. Bolick, C. S. Prevette, G. T. Robbins, J. F. Robbins, G. M. Sudderth, Paul Gragg, W. N. Sudderth, C. Critcher, W. H. Greer, Donald Greene, D. J. Boyden, C. W. Moody, D. R. Lyda, W. D. Coffey, Miss Hattie Greer, Mrs. Rupert Gillett, F. C. Nye, Mrs. C. E. Tester, Mrs. I. E. Story, G. E. Tester, Floyd Cannon, Howard Holshouser, Mrs. J. S. Williams, Mrs. H. E. Conrad, J. H. Winkler, Mrs. J. M. Hodges, J. A. Lentz, Mrs. John Lentz and William White.

Valle Crucis: W. W. Mast, Mrs. D. F. Mast, Miss Letitia Ricaud, Miss Mary E. Wagner, Mrs. W. H. Wagner, Mrs. W. W. Mast, Mrs. C. D. Taylor, Tom Taylor, S. I. Graves, Mrs. T. W. Taylor, Frank Taylor, Mrs. D. F. Mast, R. A. Farthing, Wilma Baird and Miss Isabella Payne.

Others reported from Boone and vicinity include: Mrs. R. L. Bingham, Mrs. H. B. Perry, Howard Mast, J. F. Hardin, Mrs. John Hardin, Mrs. A. R. Smith, Miss Alice Watkins, John W. Hodges, Gordon Winkler, Miss Cora Jeffcoat, R. S. Swift, Mrs. G. K. Moose, W. G. Hartzog, R. T. Greer, I. G. Greer, G. K. Moose, W. R. Winkler, C. C. Harris, Mrs. J. L. Winkler, Mrs. Alice Hardin, Mrs. I. G. Greer, Mrs. T. M. Greer, Miss Edna Hoisclaw, Miss Nellie Coffey, Miss Eula Hodges, Hill Hagaman, L. Bingham, Charles Younce, Leo B.

Killed Near West Lafayette, Ohio, When Car in Which He Was Riding Was Wrecked on Highway Bridge. Buried in Hines Graveyard Near Boone Wednesday.

Former Wataugan Held On Manslaughter Count

Will Hanes, Driver of Death Car, Is Held on Manslaughter Charge by Ohio Authorities. Alleged to Have Been Driving Car While Under the Influence of Liquor.

James S. Lovill, 31 years old, son of William R. Lovill, Boone attorney, was almost instantly killed near his home at West Lafayette, Ohio, last Saturday afternoon when an automobile in which he was riding crashed into a bridge. The remains were brought to Boone and funeral services held yesterday morning from the Methodist Church by the pastor, Dr. O. J. Chandler, following which interment was in the Hines Graveyard, near the boyhood home of the deceased.

According to information brought to Boone by relatives of young Lovill, he had started to the county near his home to transact business on Saturday and on the way was overtaken by Mr. W. L. Haynes, also a former resident of Watauga, who was accompanied, as the story goes, by his son. Haynes is said to have left his car in charge of his son and to have started on the journey at the wheel of the Lovill car. No details of the collision are forthcoming other than that in some way the car plunged into the railings of a bridge, with the result that the skull of Mr. Lovill was crushed, he having expired in a hospital less than an hour later. His companion sustained only minor injuries.

Mr. Rom Lovill, brother of the deceased, brings the information that Mr. Hanes is being held by Ohio authorities on a charge of manslaughter as a result of the accident, and that following these proceedings will be arraigned on a charge of driving a car while in an intoxicated condition. Following the wreck he is alleged to have walked a short distance to a store, where he is said to have been told in a short while that a man was in a dying condition in a wrecked car on the road. Rom says that he expressed surprise, and later averred that the man was a stranger he had picked up along the way. The car, he says, was left in the luneway of the bridge, and had first been moved to allow motorists to pass, without the passers-by having discovered the body of the fatally injured man.

James Lovill was reared in Boone and had lived here until a few years ago, when he moved into Ohio. He was one of the most popular young men of the town and his sunny disposition contributed to a magnetic personality. He had been employed with the State Highway Commission of his adopted State for a long period of time and had become the center of a wide circle of friends in that section. He was a member of the Methodist Church and among the many elegant floral offerings accompanying the remains was one from that body. The Highway Commission and a local baseball club also tendered beautiful wreaths. The going of young Lovill has cast a gloom over his native town.

Coming from Ohio for the funeral were: A brother, Rom Lovill, and wife; the widow and children, and Mr. Bower Hodges, a close friend and near neighbor.

The following were named as pallbearers: James Carter, J. B. Taylor, Lee Teague, Henry J. Hardin, Rob Rivers, Bower Hodges, Roy Johnson, Cleve Gross, W. M. Hodges, Cleve Johnson and Ernest Hodges.

Surviving are the widow, who before her marriage was Miss Bina, daughter of Ex-Sheriff and Mrs. W. P. Moody; and three daughters, Jennie, Melba and Joan, besides a sister and several brothers and one sister.

Vaughn, Mrs. Leo B. Vaughn, A. D. Wilson, J. F. Moore, Russell Hodges, R. L. Clay, J. M. Downum, J. D. Rankin, J. A. Sproles, Grady Farthing, L. T. Tatum, Miss Jennie Todd, Mrs. Smith Hagaman.

DON J. HORTON TELLS AMUSING STORY ON TERRAPIN; TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD

Don J. Horton, of Vilas, paid the Democrat office a pleasant call Monday, and during his conversation told an interesting "terrapin story."

On or about July 5, 1908, Mr. Horton, while working in the harvest fields on his father's farm near Vilas, discovered a small dry-land terrapin. Picking the terrapin up, Mr. Horton carved with a knife his initials and the date on the creature's shell. The years passed and the incident was forgotten.

In 1918, ten years later, the same terrapin, with the initials of Mr. Horton still clearly imbedded in the shell, was again discovered in a hay field on the Farm of Mr. Frank Horton, about a mile away. After displaying the terrapin to farm workers, it was again placed in a fence corner.

The years rolled on, and Mr. Terrapin, it seems, continued to

hold on to life like "grim death to a skeleton." Last summer, while harvesting wheat on the farm of Mr. Jack Horton, probably a mile from the place where the small turtle was first found, Don Horton came across his long-lost "friend," still apparently in good health and moving casually on his way. He was again restored to his native thicket.

According to Mr. Horton, the terrapin, to his knowledge, is now more than twenty-two years old, and bearing his age nobly. Just how long it will be until he is brought to light again is a matter of conjecture. Stories have long been told of the slowness of this species of animal life, but this one caps them all. For Mr. Terrapin has been wandering throughout all these years on approximately a square mile of territory. May his lazy journey continue for many years to come.

Citizens Meet With City Governing Board

On Tuesday evening about twenty-five of the leading citizens of the town came together at the courthouse in response to a call issued by the city council. The purpose of the sessions was for the officials to talk over with their fellows the seriousness of the situation arising in the city's fiscal affairs, as a result of non-payment of a considerable number of back taxes. Although the procedure to be followed by the board in such a contingency is outlined by law, the officials felt that the right thing to do was to discuss the matter with taxpayers themselves. This they did, and a general round-table discussion of the business affairs of the city was engaged in, following which it was unanimously agreed to proceed to press the payment of back taxes at once. An advertisement in The Democrat calls attention to the fact that after next Monday personal property levies will be made and the property sold to meet the taxes. It was also decided that henceforth failure to pay water rents will result in the prompt discontinuance of service.

The town board is forced to take drastic action in the tax matter, everyone has been given ample time to take care of these obligations, and a united citizenship has pledged support to the officials in their effort to clean up the books.

Former Wataugan Held On Manslaughter Count

James S. Lovill, 31 years old, son of William R. Lovill, Boone attorney, was almost instantly killed near his home at West Lafayette, Ohio, last Saturday afternoon when an automobile in which he was riding crashed into a bridge. The remains were brought to Boone and funeral services held yesterday morning from the Methodist Church by the pastor, Dr. O. J. Chandler, following which interment was in the Hines Graveyard, near the boyhood home of the deceased.

New Horton Building Again Changes Hands

The Horton Building, one of the very best propositions from a rental viewpoint in the city, was sold at auction at the courthouse door last Monday, Mr. A. W. Hodgson, of Meck Camp, being the last and highest bidder.

The sale was for cash, and the price paid was \$16,105. This did not cover all the indebtedness by possibly something like \$2,000, but the loss, as we get it, will be prorated among the creditors.

The failure of Mr. H. W. Horton, the promoter of the enterprise, to get as large a loan as he expected on the building, caused the forced sale of the valuable property.

CERTIFIED CROP SEEDS PASSED BY INSPECTORS

Depending on the outcome of germination tests now being run, there is a likelihood of 60,000 bushels of pure crop seeds being available out of the 95,000 or more bushels inspected this fall under the new seed law.

These seeds are principally of the different varieties of cotton, corn, soybeans, lespedeza, peanuts and vetch beans, reports Gordon K. Middleton, seed specialist at State College, who has been in the field almost continuously during the past twelve weeks engaged in this work. The varieties being approved are those which have been tested by the North Carolina Experiment Station and found available for use in the State.

However, Mr. Middleton says that most of the seed are being grown in small areas on small farms and that the owners will likely use most of the certified stock for planting at home. This means that few certified seeds will be available before the increase is made next season. This does not apply to soybeans, however, as the New Holland Seed Corporation in Hyde County will probably have several thousand bushels passed by the inspectors.

Mr. Middleton also reports that some small grain seed will be available for distribution next summer from the Caledonia Prison Farm, where 600 acres were planted this fall. These seed will be placed with responsible growers who will keep them pure and multiply the amount so as to have a considerable quantity available in two or three years.

Both Mr. Middleton and Director W. H. Darst are finding much to encourage them in the certified seed work. The North Carolina Crop Improvement association now has 207 actual members despite the fact that the organization is less than six months old. The members are interested in developing new sources of certified seeds and most of them are doing careful work.

THE WEATHER

Weather report for week ending November 30, as compiled by the Cooperative Station, Appalachian State Teachers College, J. T. C. Wright, observer:

Average maximum temperature, 33 degrees.

Average minimum temperature, 20 degrees.

Average temperature, 26 degrees.

Average daily range in temperature, 15 degrees.

Greatest daily range in temperature, 25 degrees; date, 25th.

Average temperature at 8 a. m. (time of observation) 29 degrees.

Highest temperature reached, 47 degrees; date, 27th.

Lowest temperature reached, 6 degrees below zero; date 30th.

Number inches of rainfall (including melted snow) 0.25.

Number inches of snowfall, trace.

Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 0.10 inches; date, 24th.

Number days with .01 inches or more rainfall, 3.

Number of clear days, 1.

Number of cloudy days, 6.

Direction of prevailing wind, west.

Thirty-two new silos have been built in Buncombe County this season as a result of a campaign by the farm agent to have a silo on each farm where the owner has ten or more cows.

BOONE ARTISTS TO SING FOR RECORDS

Mr. and Mrs. Greer Sign Contract With Paramount Recording Corporation. Have Already Made Fourteen Record Sides at New York Laboratory. A Success.

For untold years, hundreds of quaint old ballads, some of which had their origin in the thirteenth century, have been preserved by the hill people of the Southern Appalachians. By open fires in the rustic homes of these descendants of the Angles and Saxons, the melodies of years long gone are still sung, accompanied by banjo, dulcimer, guitar or fiddle.

But the "world beyond" will now be given opportunity of hearing these songs, for Professor I. G. Greer, of the Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, and Mrs. Greer have recently signed a year's contract with the Paramount Recording Corporation of New York to make phonograph records of these tuneful folk-songs. The Greers, who already have visited the New York laboratories of the company, have completed fourteen record sides, and release of the finished product will be made within the next week or ten days.

Professor Greer for many years has taken a keen interest in mountain songs and dialect, has made a collection of more than three hundred ballads, and is considered an authority on Blue Ridge folklore. He has an excellent singing voice, which, according to technical advisors of the Paramount Company, records perfectly.

Mrs. Greer accompanies her husband on the dulcimer, probably the oldest musical instrument now in existence. She has spent much time mastering this antique three-stringed melodium, and her work has been highly acclaimed by critics throughout the South. She also joins with her husband in singing some of the vocal refrains.

It is believed that the chief demand for the finished records will be from college and university classes in ancient American literature, but "Sourwood Mountain," "Common Bill," "I Got a Gal" and many other ballads peculiar to denizens of the mountain region, will, in all probability be warmly welcomed by people of all classes and walks.

The Greers expect to be called to the Chicago laboratories of the Paramount company for their next addition.

MAN KILLS MOTHER TO BE MERCIFUL; FREED BY JURY

Dranguan, France.—Richard Corbett, who calmly told a jury how he shot his invalid mother to spare her from pain, was acquitted of murder.

The verdict, which seemingly placed the stamp of approval on the taking of life for humanitarian ends, brought a controversy that is now sweeping through all France.

Corbett, the son of an English father and a French mother, declined the services of counsel. With surprising poise he told of killing his mother or last May when he learned that she was suffering from an incurable cancer and then trying to kill himself. He had been her nurse during her long illness.

The defendant made a dramatic plea to the jury in which he asserted that he had done right even though he had broken the law.

The public prosecutor demanded a verdict to establish Corbett's guilt, although he said he would be satisfied with the minimum sentence, five years.

The jurors, after an hour's deliberation, brought in their verdict of "not guilty." Spectators in the massed courtroom cheered and sobbed in a spectacular demonstration.

Asked by the court if his mother requested him to kill her, Corbett replied:

"As all sick persons say at a moment of crisis, 'I wish I were dead.' " "But she never asked you? It was you who coolly and deliberately decided to end her life?" came another question.

Corbett acquiesced with a bow of his head.

After telling how he shot himself after killing his mother, he added:

"My mother was suffering tortures and the doctors agreed that she could not recover. I feel that though I broke the law, I did right. I'm willing to pay any penalty you think just. My action would not have been necessary if the State would pass a law enabling doctors to end the sufferings of incurables."

The matter was discussed at length in the press, recently.

WILD COWS "PRAY" WHERE THREE WERE BUTHERED

Down the banks on Ocracoke Island, this State, are a hundred or more wild cattle. A few days ago two or three of these cows, killed for beef, were brought to the village and that night down the banks a coast guardsman heard the bellowing of the wild herd and with curiosity climbed to the top of a sand-hill to see what it was all about.

Near the spot where the wild cows were killed the herd had gathered and were apparently in the act of praying. A great many were down on their knees and the mournful bellowing continued.

This, say the natives of Ocracoke, is an old custom among the wild cows. When any of their herd are shot or taken away, those remaining gather together and conduct a "prayer meeting" in their own way. Incidentally, the herd is very dangerous at such times and it is unsafe for a person to get near them.