

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLII, NO. 27.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1930.

FIFTEEN CENTS A COPY

Today and Tomorrow

By FRANK P. STOCKBRIDGE

Work

Half of all the work done in the world is done in the United States, says Dr. Thomas Thornton Read, Professor of Mining in Columbia University. The average American does thirty times as much work as the average Chinaman, two and one-half times as much as the average German, almost twice as much as the average Briton. Electrically-powered machinery is the answer; each American worker has the equivalent of thirty-five slaves at his command, who do not have to be fed out of his earnings.

Europeans, puzzled by our prosperity, have attributed it to America's natural resources. We know better. We do more work.

Young

Owen D. Young told a Senate committee that it will soon be possible for anybody to write a message in his own home or office and have it transmitted in his own handwriting instantly, to any point in the world. All that needs to be done to accomplish this is a slight extension of existing telegraph facilities. Technically it is easy.

Mr. Young's predictions are always entitled to respectful consideration. He is one of the rare men who combine great business ability with a broad and statesmanlike view of public affairs. As the head of the international commission which worked out the plan for the World Bank to handle war reparations payments he has a reputation in Europe even greater than in America. He is a Democrat; otherwise he would have been in the cabinet of President Hoover, who is one of his warmest friends.

Klein

Keep an eye on Dr. Julius Klein, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, the young man from California who has been the center of the business conferences in Washington. Dr. Klein is a graduate of the University of California and of Harvard; he studied also in Berlin and Paris universities. He knows more about international trade than anyone else in America, and what is more important, he understands men and knows how to make industrial and business leaders pull together. He will go higher in public service.

Barnes

Another man to watch is Julius Barnes, head of the Chamber of Commerce of the U. S. Mr. Barnes has an office in New York but spends most of his time on the floor of the Produce Exchange where he has done more than any other one man or group of men to stabilize the price of export grain for the benefit of the American farmer. Mr. Barnes has not made a fortune for himself out of his wheat operations, which he took over after the war from the U. S. Food Administration. He has sharpened himself with the duty of seeing that American grain goes where it is needed and that the price is fair to buyer and seller.

Mr. Barnes is one of the President's most intimate personal friends, perhaps the most intimate. His hobby is the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, which he believes can be made the most useful constructive force in American business, and he has the faculty of making big business men believe him.

Morrow

When the international commission on naval disarmament which is to meet in London in January finishes its work, if it does not break up in a row, one man whose influence will have had a large part in the conclusions arrived at will be Dwight D. Morrow. "The smartest man in the world" is the way the editor-in-chief of a big New York daily referred to him in conversation the other day.

Success has not spoiled Mr. Morrow or his family. They live in the pleasant but decidedly not "smart" suburb of Englewood, N. J. in much the same way as an ordinary family of middle-class Americans. Being a partner of J. P. Morgan, Ambassador to Mexico, the next Senator from New Jersey, has not impressed Mr. Morrow with the necessity of keeping his trousers creased and otherwise dressing like a bond salesman. One of his daughters is a school-teacher; another, as everyone knows, married "Slim" Lindbergh. Just plain Americans to whom "society" means nothing.

The Lord Mayor of London still rides in a stage coach, carved and gilded and said to have been built in 1757.

STOKES MAN KILLS FAMILY OF SEVEN

Christmas Day Tragedy Stirs Whole Section, Takes Own Life After Committing Horrible Crime. One Son Sole Survivor.

Becoming suddenly insane, Charles Lawson, a farmer of near Germantown, Stokes County, N. C., last Wednesday afternoon slew his wife, six of his seven children and then committed suicide, the tragedy taking place in and near his home on the Germantown-Walnut Cove Highway.

On Thursday at 12 o'clock the final chapter of the tragedy was enacted at Browder's Graveyard, a short distance from the scene of the wholesale killing, when seven caskets were placed side by side in one large grave, the youngest member of the family, little Mary Lou, aged 5 months, being laid to rest in the same casket with her mother. The funeral service was attended by hundreds of people, as the tragedy had created wide interest throughout that section.

The slaying, which wiped out every member of the family except one youth, Arthur, aged 16, is believed to have occurred between 1 and 2 o'clock Christmas day. The lone survivor, Arthur, left home shortly after 12 o'clock, going to Germantown to do some trading. Neighbors living a quarter of a mile or more from the Lawson home report hearing several shots fired in that direction about 1:15 o'clock, and also heard Mr. Lawson's dogs barking furiously.

About 3 o'clock, Elisha Lawson, a brother of Charles, who was hunting with a party of friends, stopped by the house, and seeing no signs of life approached the side window and upon looking in met a horrible sight. Lying on the floor were the bodies of Mrs. Lawson, aged 38; Marie, 17; James William, 4; and Raymond, 2 1/2 years old. In its cradle lay the lifeless body of Mary Lou, aged five months. The bodies of Marie and James William were lying with their heads near the bureau. Raymond's body, in a pool of blood, was to the right, the mother's body at the foot of the cradle, in which were the horribly mangled remains of the baby.

Without entering the house, Mr. Lawson gave the alarm and soon a number of persons had gathered. Sheriff Taylor, of Stokes, was notified and he and Coroner C. J. Helsabeck hurried to the scene. At first, according to parties on the scene, it was thought that perhaps the father and other members of the family, Mr. Carrie, Marie and the father, might be in the attic of the three-room house, the stairs leading to the attic from the room in which the bodies were found. Dr. Bynum, who was on the scene shortly after the arrival of the officers, went into the attic, but no bodies were found there.

In the meantime farmers began arriving with shotguns and started in search of other members of the family. About a quarter of a mile from the home, in an old tobacco barn, the bodies of Carrie and Maybelle were found, each having died from shotgun wounds inflicted in the backs of the victims. They had been placed, as other members of the family, in crude Christian fashion, with arms folded over the breast. They had apparently fled from the insane killer and were overtaken at the barn.

About a quarter of a mile beyond the barn, in a clump of pines, the father and slayer of his family, Charles Lawson, was found, a suicide victim, and near his mangled remains a scribbled note: "I did it; blame no one but me," was found. In the pockets of Lawson was found several warehouse receipts for tobacco sold during the fall and about fifty-five dollars in money.

Neighbors of the Lawson family described them as hard-working people who, apparently, were happy in their family life. Lawson, the father, was said to have been a kind father, a good provider and a man above reproach. A detachment of the mind was given by the coroner as the cause for his horrible act.

LEN HAGAMAN ON HONOR ROLL AT WAKE FOREST COLLEGE

Upon the basis of marks assigned freshmen up to Christmas this fall at Wake Forest College, Robert H. Bains Jr., of Whiteville, N. C., is in the lead with an average grade of 97. Mr. Bains is a first cousin of our townsman, W. O. Robinson, is a member of the debating club of his college, and is considered a model student.

Among other members of the Old Gold and Black first-year men whose marks, according to Registrar Grady Patterson, are in the highest 10 percent of the class is Len D. Hagaman, son of County Superintendent Smith Hagaman, of Boone. Young Hagaman is to be congratulated for bringing this signal distinction to his home town.

Charles E. Greene Dies At Bakersville Home

Funeral services for Charles E. Greene, assistant United States District Attorney, who died suddenly at his home at Bakersville during a heart attack, was held at the Bakersville Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, with the Rev. J. C. Owen, pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in the Greene family cemetery. All churches in Spruce Pine and neighboring towns closed in order to allow members of the congregations to attend the rites.

Active pallbearers were Dr. E. A. Geuge, W. C. Berry, M. L. Wilson, J. L. Buchanan, Dr. W. B. Masters, George Dale, J. B. Pennell and D. M. Greene, all of Bakersville.

Honorary pallbearers were: R. L. Moore, of Mars Hill; E. F. Watson, Charles Hutchins, G. G. Bailey, James Hyatt, Dover Fouché, and R. W. Wilson, all of Burnsville; James B. Hensley and Thomas Harkins, of Asheville; S. J. Erwin, of Morganton; Frank Patton, of Morganton; W. C. Newland, of Lenoir; G. F. Washburn, of Marion; Charles H. Jones, of Lincoln; John R. Jones, of Wilkesboro; Judge Johnson J. Hayes, of Greensboro; W. H. Barkley, of Charlotte; W. B. Greene, of Forbes; E. N. Vance and D. T. Vance of Plumbtree; F. J. Black, Fred Lambert, of Bakersville; P. T. Henry, F. B. Cannon and George W. Greene, of Spruce Pine.

Mr. Greene was formerly a Republican party nominee for Congress in the Ninth North Carolina District. He was widely known in Western North Carolina and a leader in the councils of his party. Two years ago Mr. Greene was appointed Assistant U. S. District Attorney. He formerly served as trial attorney in many important cases in Western North Carolina, and will be remembered by many Watauga citizens who came in contact with him during sessions of court in Boone.

Mr. Greene was born on a farm near Bakersville on July 27, 1876. After graduating from the Bakersville high school in 1897, he held a position in the War Department at Washington for some time. He later returned to North Carolina to enter the Wake Forest College law school, where he studied during 1900 and 1901. In 1902 he was elected clerk of the Mitchell County Superior Court, holding that position until 1907, when he took up the practice of law in Bakersville. In 1912 he represented the Ninth Congressional District as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago. In 1916 he was a candidate for Congress. He was defeated, though he reduced the Democratic majority from 5,000 to about 2,500 votes.

Mr. Greene is survived by his widow, who, prior to her marriage, was Miss Blanche Pritchard, a daughter of George K. Pritchard, of Bakersville, and a niece of Judge Jeter C. Pritchard; three sons and a daughter.

Doctor and Companion Almost Frozen in Gale

During the blizzard of Monday night, December 23, Dr. J. B. Hagaman received a call from the convict camp on the Yonahlossee Road, where one of the prisoners was suffering from pleurisy. Dr. Hagaman, with Fred H. Hodges as a companion, set out in a car to make the hard trip. Near the Daingerfield home in the Coffey Gap section they stalled in a snowbank. While attempting to dislodge the automobile, distributor trouble developed and the engine went dead.

Efforts to start the motor proved futile. This was at about 6:30 o'clock Monday evening. Due to the severity of the storm, the men were unable to look for shelter, so they were forced to sit in the car until daybreak the next morning, when they were rescued by Russell and Grant Hodges who, becoming alarmed by their absence, had started in search for them.

Mr. Hodges suffered a frost-bitten face, and was confined to his room for three days due to the exposure suffered during the frigid night. Dr. Hagaman, while attending to his practice for several days following the ordeal, is now feeling the effects of the cold, and has been a right sick man for the past four days.

LITTLE GRADY RUPPERT DIES AT HOME ON BOONE'S FORK

Little Grady Rupbert, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter Rupbert, died at his home in the Boone's Fork section on Christmas night, mastoiditis causing his death. His small body was carried back to his birthplace, Matney, for burial. Rev. Watts conducted the funeral services Friday afternoon at Matney Church.

He is survived by a young father and mother, two brothers and two sisters. Little Grady was much loved by his teachers and all his schoolmates during his two years in school. His teacher, schoolmates and many friends extend to the family their sincere sympathy.

—R. I. R.

BOONE ENJOYS A QUIET CHRISTMAS

Streets of City Practically Deserted on Holiday Because of Temperatures. Total Absence of Effects of Whisky. No Arrests Made.

With mercury hovering about throughout the day at uncomfortably low temperatures, and a storm of almost blizzard proportions being experienced in the afternoon, residents of the city made it almost unanimous and stayed by their respective fire-sides, enjoying a quiet but happy Christmas day. The streets were practically deserted throughout the day and with the heavy snowfall and accompanying wind, those who took their motors from the garages were soon baffled by the skidding tires and piercing cold.

Even the members of the police force were enabled to rest a good part of the time, there being only minor routine duties to perform. Citizens of the town are proud of the fact that at Christmas time, no man was arrested or subject to arrest in the city. Furthermore, there was no indication of whisky drinking, one policeman having told The Democrat that he didn't see a man whom he had reason to suspect had imbibed, even so much as a drink. In view of the recollection of some Christmas days in the years gone by, the people of Boone have good reason to be happy over the behavior of citizens and visitors during the past week.

Boone Young Lady Is Severely Injured

Miss Ruth Coffey, of Boone, who is connected with the Music Department at the Normal College, is at the Hospital as a result of injuries sustained Monday evening, December 23, at the Critcher Hotel, where she had been an invited guest at a holiday party.

Miss Coffey had just arrived at the hotel and in attempting to quickly turn to greet a friend, in some way lost her balance and fell, a broken thigh resulting. Friends of the popular young lady throughout this section were grieved at the news of her injury, but will be glad to know that at last reports she is showing satisfactory improvement.

RELIGIOUS FANATIC TAKES LIFE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Morganton, N. C.—Essie Ross, a young white woman, committee suicide at her home near Morganton Christmas Day, evidently the victim of religious delusions. In a note found in a Testament on the bed where the bloody body was found late Christmas afternoon she had written: "I waited too late to confess my sins. The wages of sin is death and I am dying to prove it, to warn you to repent and be baptized before it is too late. Farewell to this world." She had evidently made the second effort before being able to work successfully the shotgun which she killed herself with, one bullet having gone through the wall of the house and into a tree in the yard. She had used a stick to manipulate the trigger of the gun, whose muzzle was placed against her breast.

Miss Ross, possibly thirty years of age, lived with her father, John Ross, near the State Hospital. Both had been invited out for Christmas dinner and the father had left her alone at the home about 11 o'clock to visit another daughter, thinking she was to go to a neighbors for dinner. Returning home in the late afternoon he and a son found the body and two notes which gave conclusive evidence of suicide. One of the notes was to a young friend to whom she left her watch.

The father says he had not noticed any mental aberration in the young woman, but others to whom she had recently talked on religious matters and had begged for their prayers say that they were not greatly surprised at her rash act.

NEWS FROM NEWLAND

Jack Wise, 21, met his death last Friday night when he fell through a hole in T. M. Cuthbertson's barn loft.

Mrs. Margaret Love Hood is spending a few weeks with home folks. Married last Sunday evening, Mr. Roy McDaniel of Old Fort, N. C. to Miss Loice Keller of this city. Also Mr. Lonnie Taylor of this city to Miss Marian of Hickory, N. C.

No mail from Asheford on Christmas day as 27 had been unable to make its arrival on account of a wrecked box car in front of it. The Baptist Sunday School had a real Christmas tree for the children. The program was fine and everybody seemed to have a real good time. Mr. Sam. (son of T. J.) Ray who married Miss Verdie Daniels some months ago, is now housekeeping in the new little home formerly the office of Hon. T. A. Love deceased.

Distilling Outfit Seized In Beaver Dam Section

Sheriff Farthing, accompanied by Deputies Lee Gross and Poly Wyke, braved the frigid temperatures of last Saturday night to search out a still in the Beaver Dam region and on their return brought news of the destruction of a 50-gallon outfit, and two men, the alleged operators of the illicit plant, as evidence of the success attending the chilly venture. Stokes Williams and Paul Hodges were placed in the county jail on a charge of manufacturing, but were later released when satisfactory bonds were posted.

The raid was made following up information which had reached the Sheriff's office, and the still was located with little difficulty, however the attendants had undoubtedly quit their posts of duty immediately preceding the arrival of the officers. The latter were aided in a merry chase down the mountainside by the tracks in the heavy snow and Williams was soon captured, however Hodges managed to reach Cove Creek and baffled the officers for a few minutes by a disappearing stunt. Hasty search, however, soon revealed him, practically concealed in the chilly waters of the creek. Officer Gross extricated him from his uncomfortable hideout and the officers, with their prisoners, proceeded to the county seat.

A fifty-gallon oil barrel had been fashioned into a still, which with all necessary equipment, was "all set" for a Christmas run. About 50 gallons of mash was in the fermenters, and some whisky is said to have been found, which was likely dropped as the distillery was vacated.

SIX FEUDISTS ARE HELD IN KENTUCKY KILLING

Jackson, Ky.—Chester Fugate, who was taken from the Breathitt County, Ky., jail Christmas morning and shot and beaten, died late Friday after he had accused six men of being the leaders in the latest shedding of blood by members of the Fugate and Watkins families.

Five of the men, kinsmen of Clay Watkins whom Fugate shot to death December 18, came in and surrendered and were held in \$5,000 bond each shortly before the death of Fugate, whose body showed thirteen bullet holes. Lee Watkins, of Hazard, the sixth man named by Fugate, sent word that he would surrender. The warrants charged malicious shooting and wounding and after Fugate's death, G. C. Allen, Commonwealth's attorney, prepared to issue murder warrants.

Fugate, who lay for five hours in a snow-filled ditch before he was found, made his statement to the Commonwealth's attorney, in presence of witnesses. Then at its completion said, "My arm's broken so I can't raise it to swear, I'll just hold up a finger."

In his affidavit he declared that he recognized six of the men who surprised S. L. Combs, the jailer, bound him and took his keys, dragged Fugate from his cell in his night clothes, beat him with a blackjack, tramped upon him, shot him and hurled his apparently lifeless body into a ditch a few miles from town where Jim Butler, a farmer, heard his groans and prayers.

Estimates of the jailer and Fugate as to the total number of men in the mob ranged from 30 to 40, even as high as 100, and Combs said all the men he saw wore masks.

CRUELTY TO DOG AROUSES PEOPLE OF THREE STATES

St. Louis, Mo.—Resentment and anger toward the person responsible for sewing up the mouth of a small dog and leaving it to starve a week ago, continued to mount in the breasts of residents in all walks of life today. Eagerness to mete out punishment caused the total rewards offered to reach \$1,678.

Each day long, the telephones in the offices of the Humane Society of Missouri, under which the search for the perpetrator is being made, are busy. School children pledging their pennies to \$100 offers from business men are coming in. Telegrams and letters reveal the interest of people out-of-town, among them being a \$15 telegraphic pledge from J. R. Robinson, of Dallas, Texas, and a subscription of \$100 by Arthur M. Cooper, of Alton, Ill.

The dog was found by Robert F. Sellar, executive secretary of the society, after a woman had called asking it be put out of its misery. Sellar, in examining the animal, discovered a person unskilled in surgery had sewed its mouth shut with eight stitches using a tough twine. The animal had apparently been in that condition for several days. It was painlessly killed.

Mr. K. E. Knapp of Boone has set a high record for hog-raising. A porker was killed by him recently which was fifteen months old and weighed 550 pounds. Knapp likely holds the banner for this season.

11 HEREFORD BULLS ARE DELIVERED IN CITY

Registered Hereford Bulls Are Bought by Watauga Farmers. Plan the Elimination of Scrub Sire. Find Ready Sale.

Farmers from all sections of Watauga County came to Boone Monday, the main attraction being a herd of eleven thoroughbred Hereford bulls, which had been brought from Southwestern Virginia for sale and distribution among the cattlemen of this county, this being the first definite step toward the elimination of the scrub sire, in keeping with the program of the Watauga Livestock Association.

A committee composed of R. T. Greer, Arlie Brown, Scott Swift and Harrison Baker, members of the local association, returned on the 19th from Chilhowie, Va., where the bulls were purchased from Mr. H. L. Ratham, leading stockman of that region. These gentlemen were selected for the mission because of their wide knowledge of cattle, and those who saw the animals on the streets of Boone Monday unanimously agreed as to the expertness of their judgment. The bulls are of registered line bred Hereford stock and ranged in age from six to eighteen months. They were sold out to the farmers in front of the courthouse Monday afternoon and there were not enough to go around. The prices ranged from \$200 down to \$125, the highest priced animal having been a blue ribbon heifer at the Marion Fair last fall. Two of the bulls were resold at higher prices right on the spot, Messrs. Paul Norris, of Meat Camp, and T. C. Baird, of Valle Crucis, being the purchasers. A list of those buying the animals, together with the prices paid, follows:

Achie Brown, \$150; Baxter Linney, \$170; Amos Adams, \$166; Scott Swift, \$150; H. N. Blair, \$150; Arlie Brown, \$200; P. T. Greer, \$175; Arlie Brown, \$125; Scott Swift, \$155; Ira Brown, \$125; Fred Yates, \$135.

So great has been the demand for the Herefords since the initial shipment came in, that another trip is to be made soon in quest of more cattle of a similar strain. The movement will not be allowed to stop until the herds of Watauga County are definitely freed from the scrub sire. Stockmen seem to be generally agreed on the Hereford as the most desirable type for this region, they being the finest of beef cattle and consequently the most satisfactory as "feeders."

Hon. R. L. Doughton Was Boone Visitor

Hon. R. L. Doughton, member of Congress from this district, spent Thursday night in Boone and the following morning mingled for a short while with friends in the city, returning that day to his home at Laurel Springs. He will be back at his office in Washington by January 6.

The veteran Eighth District Congressman some time ago announced his intentions of being a candidate to succeed himself in the next general election, and there has already been considerable speculation as to who his opponent will be. I. G. Greer, of Boone, is being championed by Republicans of this region but says he does not seek political honors.

It is recalled that while the Doughton majority fell short as the result of unrest in Democratic ranks in the last election, Farmer Bull has never yet failed to lead his ticket in this district.

TO INVESTIGATE DEATH OF FORMER BOONE NURSE

John E. Brown, local attorney, left Boone Sunday morning for Goldsboro where he has been employed in an investigation of the death of Miss Theresa Stokes, which occurred recently following what is said to have been bichloride poisoning. Mr. Brown was retained by the deceased lady's mother and expects to show that the death was not suicide but accidental, the payment of an accident insurance policy depending on the result of the investigation. Reports reaching Boone are to the effect that bichloride was self-administered, but that the deceased took it through mistake.

Miss Stokes will be well remembered locally, having served in the capacity of nurse at the Watauga Hospital for a long period of time.

ATTENTION, LEGIONAIRES!

Watauga Post, American Legion, will meet at their rooms over Central Tire Company next Friday night, January 3, at 7:30 o'clock. Every soldier is urged to be present, as we have some very important things to discuss.

SPENCER MILLEK, Com.