

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1931

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## COVE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED ON TUESDAY MORNING

Diplomas Presented to Thirty-eight Graduates by Superintendent Hagaman. Dr. D. D. Dougherty Delivers Literary Address, and Mr. Walker Tells of Success of Vocational Agriculture Department.

Commencement exercises at the Cove Creek High School were concluded Tuesday morning when Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of the Teachers College, was the principal speaker, and when diplomas were presented by Superintendent Smith Hagaman to 38 high school graduates. President Dougherty's address was delivered in a humorous vein and was happily received by the audience which filled the large auditorium.

Mr. Hagaman spoke encouragingly as he presented the diplomas to the graduates, and Principal S. F. Horton made appropriate remarks as he tendered perfect attendance certificates to a large group who had not missed a day in the classroom during the session. Professor W. Y. Perry presented Clint Adams of the senior class an honor medal and a scholarship to Lees-McRae College, in recognition of his superior scholastic accomplishments.

Mr. Howard Walker gave something of the vocational agriculture course he heads, and recited the history of 67 boys who graduated from the Cove Creek School. Twenty-four made farmers, 10 public workers, 3 rural school teachers, 1 civil engineer, 1 banker, 2 merchants, 1 barber, 1 shoemaker and a few other occupations. He discussed the value vocational agriculture would have been to these 24 farmers and outlined plans for a community fair this fall.

The commencement began Saturday evening with the presentation by the senior class of a play, "Follow Me," the proceeds from which amounted to a little more than a hundred dollars. The cast was well coached and the stage performance is described as well-high perfect.

The class exercises, which were rendered under the direction of Miss Annie Dougherty, a member of the faculty, came on Monday evening, and Miss Dougherty's handling of the program deserves special mention, as well as the beauty of the stage setting which was prepared under her personal direction.

Twenty-eight seventh grade diplomas were presented and the following comprised the high school graduating class: Clint Adams, Alice Bingham, Finley Bingham, Faye Byers, Rex Bumgarner, Fred Castle, Madge Castle, Ruth Castle, Ralph Church, Lavola Carender, Edith Estridge, Hazel Eller, Laura Farthing, Ruby Grayson, Willie Greene, Glenwood Greer, Cecil Glenn, Jessie Mae Harmon, Grace Mast, Glenn May Harbitt, Moody, Percy Moody, Georgia Palmer, Madge Reese, Thelma Rominger, Dora Dean Sherwood, Mildred Thomas, Ancil Thomas, Doris Wilson, Ruby Williams, Ralph Williams, Alma Winebarger, Cleo Walker, Scottie Sue Barlow, Gilbert Mast, Robert Yates, Beatrice Osborne and Belta Ward.

### Honor Roll

Those receiving honor grades were: Second Grade: Billie Harmon. Third Grade: Gray Presnell, Robert Banner, Rachel Henson, Francis Grager, Marcelle Coleman, Ruth Banner. Fourth Grade: Dwight Stout, Jack Grogan, Hal Johnson. Fifth Grade: Della McGuire, Robert Walker, Lee McGuire, Fred Shull, Don Johnson, Blanche Fletcher, Robert Lewis, Morris Henson, Len Isaacs. Sixth Grade: Edna Harmon, Helen Banner, Lester Deal, Fred Hayes, Brownie Hagaman. Seventh Grade: Clyde Cole, Dottie Glenn, Loy Brown, Ruby Glenn, Bob White Bingham, Ruby Johnson, Pauline Mast, Loy Presnell, Alma Smith. Eighth Grade: Henry Wellman, Josephine Mast, Nile Norris, Chloe Michael, Mattie Lou Harmon. Ninth Grade: Glenn Sherwood, Kermit Reese, Roy Rominger, Edward Love, Howard Love, Earl Henson Wade Fletcher, Grady Eller, Ola Winebarger, Ruby Thomas, Geneva Thomas, Ella Reese, Ruth Sherwood, Mary Phillips, Bess Lewis, Louise Johnson, Carrie Harmon, Myrtle Henson, Velma Brown. Tenth Grade: Mary E. Banner, Nina Church, Gladys Mast, Thomas Presnell, Paul Trivette, Albert Michael, Madge Williams, Erin Smith Billings. Eleventh Grade: Ruth Castle, Madge Castle, Cecil Glenn.

## Democrats Will Name Ticket for May Election

Chairman J. M. Norton issues a call today for a Democratic convention to be held next Tuesday evening, at which time it is proposed to nominate a ticket for a mayor and three aldermen to be voted on at the municipal election on May 5.

So far as is known, no slate of candidates is being advanced preliminary to the convention, and no information is forthcoming as to whether or not a Republican ticket will be offered.

### A Florida Queen



Miss Margaret Shepard, of New Kensington, Pa., was chosen Queen at the Festival of States in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently.

## HIGH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE APRIL 29TH; JENKINS TO SPEAK

Baccalaureate Sermon by Dr. Kent on Previous Sunday. Superintendent Hagaman to Present Diplomas to Fifty-three Graduates. Professor Williams to Present Award to Most Polite Student.

Boone High School will come to a close on Wednesday, April 29th. On Sunday evening, April 26th, at eight o'clock in the Baptist Church, Rev. L. F. Kent, rector of Valle Crucis Associated Missions, will preach the baccalaureate sermon. The ministers in town will take part in this service.

On Wednesday afternoon, April 29th, at 3:30 o'clock, class day exercises will be held in the college auditorium. The time for this exercise was changed in order not to conflict with an operetta being given by the Demonstration School on Tuesday evening.

Dr. William A. Jenkins, president of Davenport College, will deliver the commencement address in the college auditorium on Wednesday evening, April 29th, at eight o'clock. Mr. Smith Hagaman, superintendent of county schools, will award diplomas to 53 graduates out of a class of sixty seniors enrolled.

At this exercise Professor Joseph Williams will present a five-dollar gold piece, given by him and Mrs. Williams, to the student in Boone secondary schools who has been voted the politest student by the citizens and teachers in Boone.

## Junior Senior Banquet at the Blowing Rock School

On Saturday night, April 18, at 8 o'clock, the annual Junior-Senior banquet of Blowing Rock High School was held in the Town Hall of that city. The thirteen juniors tendered the four seniors, Misses Mary Wooten, Annie Coffey, Velma Hartley and Virginia Suddreth, a four-course banquet. The hall was beautifully decorated in the form of a ship and the color scheme, white and blue, was carried out.

Joe Bolick acted as toast master, and Miss Edith Walker acted as hostess. Toasts were given by Mrs. F. C. Nye, Omar Coffey, Maude Powell, Wylmuth Bradshaw, Virginia Coffey and Hayes Coffey.

About twenty-five guests, including the faculty and friends of the classes, were present. Much credit for the success of the banquet is due Mrs. Eugene Storie, sponsor of the junior class. She was assisted by Mesdames D. P. Coffey, Dan Klutz and Jesse Walker.

## Houses at "Devil's Gate" Razed by Flame

Two summer cottages, the property of Mr. Bynum Taylor of Boone, located at "Devil's Gate," close by the power dam on the Blowing Rock highway, were burned to the ground last Thursday night, the loss being complete. The little buildings were well constructed and represent a considerable loss, which is said to have been partially covered by insurance.

One of the structures was rented during summer months as a tea room, the operators renting the other as a dwelling. The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin, the buildings were unoccupied, and neither caught fire from the other. It appears practically certain that the buildings were ignited separately and from the inside.

## Black Diamond Pick Wins Praise in Coal Camps; Big Production Is Imperative

The Black Diamond pick, a recently patented and improved miners tool invented by Roby M. Owens of this city, was accorded a sensational reception by operators in the coal regions of three states last week, and it is now certain that mass production methods will have to be adopted in order to supply the implements in sufficient quantities to meet the demands. Mr. Owens, co-founder with J. A. Sproles of the Black Diamond Pick and Handle Company, returned Saturday from the bituminous regions of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, where samples of the new tools were exhibited with such surprisingly successful results. He was accompanied by Mr. Roy Brown, and from reports they bring it is deduced that it will be necessary to manufacture at least 200 of the new digging tools daily to meet the orders which are assured.

Commissary managers, mine owners and operators, as well as the miners themselves, were shown the pick, and gave unanimous approval. The elongated eye, reducing handle breakage to a negligible minimum, quickly took the eye of the coal men, and they were equally impressed by the advantage of the points of hand-forged steel. One owner of three mining operations became so enthused that he made Mr. Owens the

offer of ample lands for the establishment of manufacturing facilities, and besides proffered \$8,000 for the payment of stock in the new enterprise. Another operator asked leave to invest \$2,000, but no stock was forthcoming. Still others besieged Owens and Brown to purchase outright the patent rights, and commissary managers asked for immediate mass production so that orders might be placed for all future needs. All these interviewed expressed the opinion that the new tool would remove all competitors from the markets of the coal fields.

The only objection voiced to the implement in any respect came as a result of its weight, it being slightly heavier than the regulation miners' tool. This condition, however, is easily rectified in manufacturing process, and new samples made to conform to the standard three and one-half-pound weight will be manufactured.

Meantime it will be definitely established within the next few days as to what steps the company will make to meet the phenomenal demand for their product. Mr. Sproles says that all things being equal, or practically so, it is the purpose of his concern to erect the factory in Boone, but that no definite statement as to manufacturing can be made at this time.

## WELL KNOWN VET DIES IN CALDWELL

J. King Farthing, Sole Survivor of Colonel Folk's Cavalry, Dies at Home Near Patterson. Nine Children Survive.

The Lenoir News-Topic of April 20th bears the information that J. King Farthing, one of the few remaining Confederate soldiers of Caldwell County, died of a paralytic stroke at his home near Patterson Saturday. He had resided in Caldwell since reconstruction days, where he was engaged in farming.

The venerable veteran was sole survivor of the Sixth North Carolina Cavalry, a company composed largely of Caldwell County men, commanded by the late Colonel George N. Polk. He enlisted in the army in 1864 at the age of 16 years and remained in the thick of battle until the surrender in '65. He was among the "seventeens," youngest Confederate troops in the war.

Mr. Farthing was a son of the late Brown Farthing, and was born in Johnson County, Tenn. Shortly after the war the Farthing family removed to Caldwell. A host of relatives in Watauga hear of his death with sorrow.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from Harper's Chapel, Rev. J. W. Watts and Rev. R. E. Hardaway having charge of the rites. Interment followed in the nearby cemetery.

Deceased is survived by the widow and the following children: D. P. Farthing, Garfield, Wash.; Mrs. M. N. Clay, D. C. Farthing, J. W. Farthing, Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. George Nelson, Lenoir; W. M. Farthing, Portland, Oregon; Dave C. Farthing, Lenoir; J. S. Farthing, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. R. L. Setzer, Lenoir.

## Ideal Weather Prevailed During the Past Week

The week ending April 18th, with an average temperature of 52 degrees and a total absence of snow or sleet, was ideal in Watauga. Observer J. T. C. Wright's weather report for that period follows:

- Average maximum temperature, 70 degrees.
- Average minimum temperature, 33 degrees.
- Average temperature, 52 degrees.
- Average daily range in temperature, 37 degrees.
- Greatest daily range in temperature, 41 degrees; date, 13th.
- Average temperature at 6 p. m. (time of observation), 62 degrees.
- Highest temperature reached, 75 degrees; date, 17th.
- Lowest temperature reached, 28 degrees; date, 12th and 13th.
- Number inches of rainfall (including melted snow), 0.03.
- Number inches of snowfall, 0.
- Greatest rainfall in 24 hours, 0.03.
- Date, 18th.
- Number of days with 0.01 inch or more rainfall, 1.
- Number of clear days, 4.
- Number of cloudy days, 1.
- Number of partly cloudy days, 2.
- Direction of prevailing wind, east.
- Dates of light frost, 12th and 13th.
- Dates of thundershowers, 19th.
- Other phenomenon described as follows: Solar halos on 14th and 17th.

## SOLICITOR DID NOT AID HUB WAGNER

Prosecuting Attorney Jones Nails Rumor That He Assisted in Parole of Hub Wagner. Didn't know of Pardon Petition.

Persistent rumors keeping going the rounds to the effect that various persons aided in securing the release of Hub Wagner from State Prison—persons who didn't even so much as know that application was being made for pardon, and one of them purported to show that Hon. John R. Jones, Solicitor for the Seventeenth District, was instrumental in the movement which resulted in the freedom of Wagner, sentenced to a maximum of thirty years for the slaying of two men. Mr. Jones was quick to deny the rumor, and writes the following letter to the editor of The Democrat, the full text of which is given:

"Editor of the Watauga Democrat, Boone, N. C.

"It has been reported to me by various citizens of your county that a rumor has been circulated in Watauga saying that I recommended and assisted in the recent parole of Hub Wagner. It will be greatly appreciated by me if you will allow enough space in your paper for me to state that I did not recommend the pardon or parole of Wagner, and did not know that there was any effort being made by Wagner or his attorneys to obtain a parole. Had I been informed that a petition was being circulated requesting the Governor to grant the pardon, or had any information that a parole was being applied for, I would have certainly protested against it.

"I, of course, have no personal feeling in the matter either for or against Mr. Wagner, but it is my opinion that the parole should not have been granted on account of the seriousness of the crimes for which he was sentenced.

"Very truly yours,  
"JOHN R. JONES, Solicitor."  
North Wilkesboro, N. C.  
April 21st, 1931.

## Operetta Tuesday at Boone Graded School

Grades one to six of the Boone Demonstration School will present an operetta, "The National Flower," on Tuesday night, April 28th, at 7:30.

Candidates for the position of National Flower have been summoned to appear before a judge and jury, there to plead each one his own case. After giving reason for desiring to be the National Flower, each aspirant remains to hear the stories of his rivals. Weeds will sometimes stray in among flowers, as they do here, and consternation is great when an onion chances to look in upon the scene.

The jury, composed of women, acting under instructions from the judge, endeavors to decide in favor of the most useful, as well as the most beautiful flower. Uncle Sam offers some valuable information, after which the flowers express their hearty approval of the one chosen, and the contest is happily and satisfactorily ended.

An admission charge of 15, 25 and 35 cents will be made. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### May Be New Speaker



John Q. Tilson (above) G. O. P. majority leader, is being groomed to succeed Longworth as Speaker of the House. If the Democrats gain control, it is likely that John N. Garner, of Texas, the Democratic floor leader, will be chosen.

## ROUTING TRAVEL THROUGH BOONE IS AIM OF CIVITANS

Movement Inaugurated to Advertise Park-to-Park Route Through Boone and Blowing Rock. Fiddlers Convention Expected to Yield Necessary Funds for Placing Signs at Various Points on Lee Highway.

At a meeting of the Civitan Club at the Daniel Boone Hotel on last Thursday the necessity of north-to-south tourists becoming acquainted with the new federal highway through Boone and Blowing Rock drew the major part of the discussion, and plans were inaugurated looking to the placing of handsome road signs at strategic points along the Lee Highway through Virginia and into Washington.

The local club being without the necessary funds for financing the advertising project, it was decided that an old-time fiddlers convention should be held in Boone on July 2 and 4, for the purpose of raising the money. W. H. Gragg was appointed chairman of a committee to work out the details of the entertainment which is expected to be the greatest event of its kind ever held in this county.

Various other activities, looking to the placing of Boone on the map as to the tourists are included in the Civitan program for the spring and summer.

## Mrs. Charlie Norris Dies At Home on Meat Camp

Following an illness of several days with pneumonia, which had developed from influenza, Mrs. Merie Norris, age 86, died at her home on Meat Camp last Friday evening.

Mrs. Norris was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Norris, and was born and reared near the place where death occurred. She was married to Mr. Charlie Norris in 1915, and to this union were born five children, three boys and two girls. Two died in infancy, those surviving being Clyde, Luther and Mary. The husband also survives.

Mrs. Norris was considered one of the leaders in her community, striving at all times to make the Meat Camp section a better place in which to live. She was a loyal worker in the church and was always lending her aid to the sick and needy. It can truthfully be said that one of the county's best women has passed. Interment was made in Meat Camp Cemetery Saturday evening at two o'clock. Revs. Payne and Wilson having charge of the service.

## \$40,000 Drought Relief Funds Come to Watauga

Mr. W. H. Gragg, chairman of the local board appointed for the administration of the Federal drought relief funds in this county, says that \$40,000 in relief funds have been granted locally for the purpose of buying seed and fertilizer to the amount of \$40,000. Mr. Gragg further states that estimates he has made from the applications filed, indicate that no less than 3,000 acres of Irish potatoes have been planted or will be within the next few days. He further suggests that these farmers will produce an average of 200 bushels to the acre, making a total yield for the county of 600,000 bushels, which at \$1 per bushel would bring this fall and winter \$600,000 into the county.

Mr. Gragg has no estimates on acreage seeded to other crops.

## MANY ANGLERS ON SEAS AS TROUT SEASON IS OPENED

As Thus Far Described as Satisfactory, Considering Extremely Unfavorable Weather. Warden's Notable Increase in Sale of Permits. Isaak Walton League's Many Permits.

Trout fishing officially opened in these parts last Wednesday and many anglers locally and from distant points have hied away to the swift-flowing mountain streams and for the most part they have been successful in their casting for the speckled and rainbow trout. County Game Warden H. Grady Farthing, however, in his report to the Department of Conservation Monday, pointed out that thus far trout fishing weather had been extremely unfavorable. He predicts, however, that when the elements become friendly to the angler, record-breaking catches will be recorded, as the efforts to restock the streams are now bringing forth fruit—there are really trout in the streams this year as is evidenced by the fact that catches on poor days have been ahead of "fisherman's luck" on ideal days of previous seasons.

More than forty dollars worth of special permits to fish in the waters of Howard's Creek have been issued so far by the Isaak Walton League, and few have failed to be amply repaid in fine sport for the dollar expended. Meat Camp Creek, another stream which the League controls, will be opened on May 1, and remain open until the 15th. During this period, Howard's Creek will be closed and restocked. The two streams will not be open at the same time during the season. Wardens are on full-time duty to see that all anglers are provided with license and that there are no other violations.

No less than \$250 worth of State and county licenses have been sold, according to incomplete returns, which is far ahead of last year's receipts at this time, when the total sales of fishing licenses for the entire period was \$480. Nine hundred dollars worth of hunting licenses were sold. The wide difference in the figures, says Warden Farthing, comes from the fact that numbers of non-residents with State licenses come here to fish, while there is no non-resident hunting. It has been arranged now that where non-residents angle in local waters on licenses bought elsewhere, this county will get credit accordingly. Last year license receipts were \$500 more than warden expenses.

Present indications are that the Warden League will be enabled to meet all warden expenses from sales of permits on the two special streams. It was not expected to make profits from the venture, but to try to make expenses, and meantime provide first class angling for local as well as non-resident sportsmen.

## High School Play Well Received by Audience

On Thursday evening, April 16th, the senior class of Boone High School presented "Welcome Home, Jimmy," a clever comedy of country life in three acts.

The cast included the following students: Lucy Greene, Mary Frances Linney, Mary Honeycutt, George Sawyer, Dale Norris, Jack Steele, Stewart Duncan, Margaret Taylor, and Mary Moretz.

Each character rendered his or her part well, and reflected credit upon the director, Miss Grace Graybeal. The auditorium was filled to its utmost capacity with an appreciative audience. Music between acts was furnished by the town orchestra, under the direction of Rimmel Porter.

## Pastime Theatre to Offer Great Historical Drama

Manager Arthur Hamby, of the Pastime Theatre has arranged a special program, one which combines historical drama with tense pioneer emotion, for Friday and Saturday of this week. On these days he will offer for the approval of his patrons Edna Ferber's seething, roaring, storm-charged "Cimarron," starring Richard Dix, Irene Dunne, William Collier Jr., Estelle Taylor and a supporting cast of five thousand. This amazing drama has to do with the opening of Indian Territory, and the struggle of that vast inland empire previous to Oklahoma statehood, sweeping from glorious past to roaring present, blazing its heroic message into the heart of the nation!

During recent weeks this great picture, which is said to surpass in glorious action "The Birth of a Nation" and "The Four Horsemen," has been exhibited in the larger cities of North Carolina, and several of the State's leading dailies have carried feature editorials on its historical value. Mr. Hamby believes that "Cimarron" is by far the greatest film brought to this town in years, and is anxious that the people of Watauga see it during its two-day run. No increase in admission charges will be made.