

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLIII, NO. 16

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1931

\$1.50 PER YEAR

HAND OF DEATH STILLS HEART OF THOMAS EDISON

Greatest Inventive Genius of All Time Goes Into Eternity a Believer in Supreme Intelligence. Members of Faithful Family Courageous in Face of Final Ordeal. Tributes Pour in From Whole World.

West Orange, N. J.—In the dark hours of early Sunday morning, Thomas Alva Edison passed peacefully from a deep sleep into death, and a world whose civilization he revolutionized paid reverent homage to the most brilliant inventive mind it has ever known.

There was peace in the chamber where his figure, serene in death, rested. There was peace throughout the sunshine-flooded park where he made his home. The physical manifestation of the world's reverence was borne in to his sorrowing family through those myriad channels of communication he himself had labored to perfect: by telephone and telegraph and radio. But within the grounds of Llewellyn Park there was only the occasional purr of an automobile to disturb the silence in which they permitted him to rest.

Edison's death at 3:24 a. m., was an almost imperceptible transition from the deep coma in which he had lain for 54 hours. Through the night, while his nurses and his friend and physician, Dr. Hubert S. Howe, hovered watchfully over him, Edison's relatives had gathered at the bedside and in adjoining rooms with foreknowledge that the end was near. Quietly, a few moments before his fluttering heart beat gave Dr. Howe the final sign that death was at hand, his family had been summoned to the bedside. Then the great inventor's heart stopped beating. That was all.

"Calmly submissive to the will of the Almighty," Mrs. Mina Miller Edison, his wife, bowed to the inevitable and bravely accepted the passing of her husband. In a dignified and courageous message to the world, through the press, her family expressed their admiration for her strength under this ordeal.

Announcement of Edison's death was contained in a bulletin passed to newspaper men in the garage only a few minutes after life had deserted his great frame.

Arthur L. Walsh, vice-president of the Thomas A. Edison Industries, Inc., who venerated Edison, stood in the doorway with a yellow slip of paper in his hands. His eyes were wet. His hands trembled. He needed hardly to speak, and when he did, it was in a voice muffled with sobs.

"Here it is, boys."

A second later the news had flashed through the world that Edison was dead.

Body Lies in State

In their arrangements for the funeral services, the Edison family considered the desire of the world to participate in the expression of affectionate tribute that followed his passing. Two days, Monday and Tuesday, were set apart during which the general public filed past his bier for a final glance at the man whose life had changed the course of living for millions.

The body lay, not "in state," but simply, as he would have wished, in the library of the Edison laboratory. For those of his friends and associates, his workmen and companions in shops and laboratories bearing his name, still another hour, preceding the public view, was set apart. The library where the body rested is in the three-story main building of the group of structures that form the Edison laboratory. It is a high-ceilinged room, some forty by thirty-five feet, and was the theatre of the most laborious years of the inventor—years filled with hectic, painstaking, oft-times disappointing research looking toward his dream of synthetic rubber—and this room was productive of many inventions. One alcove contains a cot. There Edison would fling himself for an hour's sleep when he was too tired to continue longer at the task in hand.

The funeral, which was held Wednesday, was, by contrast, entirely for his immediate family and those close friends of a life-time whose affection for his entitle them to a place by his side at these last rites. It was held at Glenmont, beautiful Edison estate, half a mile from the laboratory in which he accomplished his latter-day miracles.

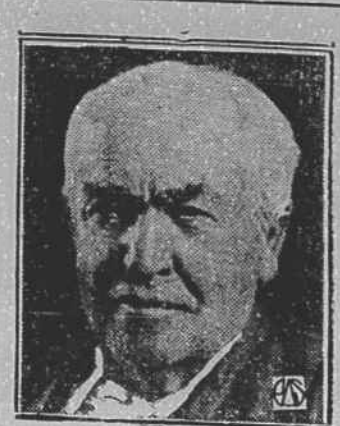
Religious Message

Monday, in accordance with the wishes of the family, Arthur L. Walsh gave out the following statement:

"The question has been asked whether Mr. Edison changed his religious belief before death. Members of the Edison family state that this is a difficult question to answer, because of the widespread misunderstanding of what his beliefs actually were. Mr. Edison can not be said to have changed views attributed to him which he never held.

"He never was an atheist. Although he subscribed to no orthodox creed, no one who knew him could have doubted his belief in and reverence

Inventive Genius Dead



Thomas A. Edison, greatest inventor of all time, whose death occurred early Sunday morning at West Orange, N. J.

BOONE HOME WILL FEATURE STORY

Representative of National Magazine Visits Howard Residence in Daniel Boone Park. Perfect Arrangement Lauded.

A representative of Better Homes and Gardens, national magazine devoted to the advancement of domestic life, spent one day last week in Boone gathering data on the L. J. Howard cottage in Daniel Boone Park, which will feature a story to appear in that organ in the near future.

The home is of native stone backed with hollow tile, and contains five rooms, including bath. The basement provides a double garage, and the living room, which may also be converted into a sleeping compartment, has a four-foot stone fire-place. Door-boards are used throughout the home, and built-in cabinets, etc., add to its convenience. The grounds are being landscaped and native shrubs planted in abundance.

The Howards, natives of Charlotte who spend their summer week-ends in Boone and the winters in Miami, drew their own plans, and have derived great pleasure from their "experiment" in home-building. They refer to this cozy cot as their "play-house," and spare neither time nor energy in making it the most complete dwelling to be found.

Meat Camp Lady Wins First Prize in Carnival

Miss Della Lewis of the Meat Camp section won the first prize given by the business men of Boone at the conclusion of the Bargain Carnival last Saturday evening. The award was \$7.50 in cash. Second, third and fourth prize winners were Charles Osborne, A. W. Smith and J. C. Farthing, their prizes being five dollars and two two-dollar awards.

Most of the business men of the town report an increase in business on both Thursday and Friday, and all are in agreement that Saturday's throng was of unusual proportions. Record-breaking sales have been reported from many establishments while others are elated at having shown a substantial increase over the usual week-end.

J. F. HARDIN IMPROVING

Mr. John F. Hardin, who has been a right sick man for the past three weeks, following the extraction of several abscessed teeth, is now slowly but surely improving, but is still confined to his room. During the spring and summer months Mr. Hardin, despite his advanced age, was able to superintend work and, by the way, did a good bit of it himself on his pretty estate; having fences repaired, rubbish cleared away, his handsome residence, barn, etc., treated to a new coat of paint and the property never made a more handsome appearance. His friends, and that means all who know John Hardin, hope for him a speedy and permanent recovery, and that his useful life may be spared for many years to come.

THREE ARE ARRAIGNED IN MAYOR'S COURT MONDAY

Mayor J. M. Moretz heard three cases Monday, after a period of about two weeks in which no arrests were made. Those tried and the judgments of the court follow:

Ray Estes, drunkenness, fined \$10 and costs.

Letcher Teague, affray, fined \$5 and costs.

Gurdy Barnes, affray, not guilty.

YEAR-OLD APPLES

Mr. R. L. Clay, who owns a fine orchard in the edge of town, was packing fruit last Thursday afternoon in boxes of leaves that had been used for last year's crop. Stirring around in the leaves his hand came in contact with an object, and further examination disclosed that several year-old apples were still in the box. They were in a fine state of preservation, notwithstanding their age, and had retained much of their original flavor.

CHURCH SCHOOL OF STEWARDSHIP TO BE HELD IN BOONE

Five-Day Course Begins at Boone Baptist on October 26th. All Churches of Three Forks Association Urged to Send Representatives. Prepare Workers for Every-member Canvass.

An associational school of stewardship will be conducted at the Boone Baptist Church for the churches of the Three Forks Association, beginning October 26th, and lasting through the 30th. The meetings will be held each evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Each church in the county is urged to send at least seven representatives and as many more as possible. It is hoped by those in charge that enough workers may be trained at this school to put on a course similar to it in each church of the association November 2-6. The work given in the coming school will train those who attend for the Every-Member Canvass November 29th to December 6th.

Wade E. Brown, secretary of the committee, gives out the following program for the three-day school:

1. The Handbook, taught by Rev. P. A. Hicks, 7:30 to 8:00.
2. Round-table discussion each evening, 8:00 to 8:15.
3. Special feature each evening, 8:15 to 8:45.

Monday—"Why Should Every Church Member Be Enlisted in the Program of the Church?" I. G. Greer.

Tuesday—"Loyalty of Every Baptist to His Church and Denomination," Smith Hagaman.

Wednesday—"Why Have an Enlistment Program in Our Country Churches?" Roy Dotson.

Thursday—"The Bible Plan of Financing the Church," J. A. McKaughan.

Friday—"The young people will render a stewardship playlet.

This movement was started at the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham last spring. It was also presented, discussed and approved at the recent Three Forks Association, and a committee of nine was appointed to help organize the churches and to arrange for the schools. The committee desires the full support of the executive committee, pastors and church leaders in this progressive step of the association.

AGED COUPLE JOINED IN MARRIAGE AT BLOWING ROCK

An unusual wedding was recently celebrated at Blowing Rock, the contracting parties being J. H. Green, Esquire, of Blowing Rock, and Mrs. George Pearson, of Valmead. Mr. Green says he is 82 years old, though he looks to be about 60, and his bride is 60, and looks much younger. Rev. Roy Pitts of Blowing Rock officiated at the marriage, which was conducted at his home in the presence of a few intimate friends. The newly married pair are happy in the neat new cottage erected by the bridegroom in Blowing Rock.

An unusual incident connected with the match was an unsigned letter Mr. Green received recently, telling him that Mrs. Pearson was a good housekeeper and would make him a splendid wife, and suggesting he go to see her. Acting upon the advice of the unsigned letter he made one or two visits to the prospective bride and matters were so satisfactorily arranged that he got in his car and brought her home with him, stopping by the way to have Mr. Pitts tie the wedding knot.

It is generally agreed that the writer of the anonymous letter did both the parties a good turn.—Caldwell Record.

Five-to-Five Store Adds Shoe Department

Announcement is made of the opening of a modern shoe department in connection with the Five-to-Five Store, and Mr. Roy Keplar, expert shoe fitter and stylist, of Chattanooga, Tenn., has been placed in charge. The petition which separated the original store from the quarters heretofore used by J. & E. Store has been removed and twice the floor space is available for the enlarged business.

Manager J. B. Brewer believes the line of Central Shoes which are being stocked provides more for the money and that the styles and patterns are distinctly in the forefront. A formal announcement of the opening of the new department, together with other inducements for visiting the popular store, will be found on page three of The Democrat today.

TEACHERS MEETING IN BOONE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Superintendent Smith Hagaman announces there will be a teachers meeting in the demonstration school building in Boone on November 9th, beginning at 10 o'clock. This meeting will be attended by a state worker and every teacher is expected to attend. Schools teaching on Monday will be expected to teach on Saturday instead for that week.

MRS. PHILIP GREER DIES AT ZIONVILLE HOME ON THURSDAY

Well Known and Beloved Lady Succumbs to Long Illness. Was 83 Years Old. Had Lived in Watauga More Than Half a Century. Funeral Services Friday at Zionville Church. Eight Children Survive.

Mrs. Philip Greer, 83-year-old citizen of the Zionville community, passed away at her home there last Thursday after an illness which extended over several months. The direct cause of her demise could likely be attributed principally to the natural infirmities which come with advanced age.

Funeral services were conducted from the Zionville Baptist Church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, by her pastor, the Rev. R. C. Eggers, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. P. A. Hicks, pastor of the Baptist Church at Boone, and interment was in the beautiful cemetery hard by the house of worship. An unusually large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives gathered to pay their respects to the memory of the departed friend and neighbor and the floral offerings were profuse and beautiful.

Surviving are the husband and eight children: Dr. Frank Greer of Mabel; Mrs. J. E. Ruten of Denver, Colorado; A. J. Greer of Yankton, South Dakota; W. C., I. G. and T. M. Greer of Boone; Mrs. C. A. Greer, Zionville; and H. F. Greer, Morganton. All were present except A. J. Greer of South Dakota.

Mrs. Greer was born in Ashe County near Todd in the year 1848, later moved to Pike County, Kentucky where she was married to Mr. Philip Greer on November 16, 1864. The latter was also born in Ashe County, and they would have been married 67 years in one month from the date of the funeral. The happy couple returned to Watauga in 1878, where they had lived since. Ten children were born, two of whom died in childhood, the others having established themselves as fine and useful citizens in their several localities.

Mrs. Greer was affectionately known throughout this section as "Maama Greer," and for fifty-two years Watauga had been blessed with her citizenship. For 63 years she had been a consistent member of the Baptist Church, and her long life of Christian service has been a constant inspiration to the community in which she lived. Watauga generally joins with "Uncle Philip" and the children in their sorrow.

Home Coming Day at Boone M. E. Church

Next Sunday will be home coming day at the Boone Methodist Church and all members and friends of the church are invited to attend the services.

At the Sunday school hour there will be a special program honoring childhood and youth. Parents of children will be especially interested in this service.

At eleven o'clock the service will be a Harvest Home program, and the decorations will be products of field and forest.

Dr. O. J. Chandler will preach the sermon and special music will be rendered by the choir.

R. DON LAWS TO SPEAK AT DEEP GAP ON OCT. 31

"High Lights of History" is the subject of a lecture which will be delivered by R. Don Laws, well-known editor, at the Deep Gap Consolidated School Building on Saturday evening, October 31. The event is sponsored by the Odd Fellows of that place and it is stated that a program of string music will precede the introduction of Mr. Laws, who will present interesting facts throughout the history of the world from the creation to the present time. The address has met with wide favor at other places, it is pointed out, and those sponsoring the occasion believe that a full house will welcome the Moravian Falls Journalist. His discourse is non-political and the proceeds from the sale of tickets will be used for the furtherance of the Odd Fellow work.

DIRECTOR OF RURAL SCHOOL SURVEY VISITS MOUNTAINS

Dr. Fannie W. Dunn, department of Rural Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, who is directing the survey of rural schools in the Appalachian section, spent Monday night at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, coming there from Asheville via Crossnore. She spoke to the faculties of Lees-McRae and the Banner Elk Graded School in the library of the college, discussing the problems, educational and otherwise, which are confronting the mountain section today. Dr. Dunn finds the mountain region in much better shape to face the winter than almost any other section, as it is producing within itself the things necessary to its own living.

New Lord Mayor



Maurice Jenks, shown in a mere London alderman's robes, is the latest successor of Dick Whittington—who was "made" by a cat.

FAMED NEW YORK JOURNALIST HERE

Dr. John Huston Finley Journeys to Carolina to Visit Relatives and View Boone Trail Offspring of Pioneer Stock.

Dr. John Huston Finley, one of America's foremost educators, author and editor, spent several hours in Boone Wednesday, en route to Tusculum College in Tennessee where he delivered a lecture in the evening. The noted New Yorker has spent the past several days visiting the "Finley Clan" in Wilkes and Caldwell counties, distant relatives, and looking over the Boone Trail Highway, his ancestors having followed the intrepid woodsman, Boone, over the Wilderness Road to Kentucky.

Dr. Finley is a native of Illinois, and possesses degrees from twenty-one American colleges. From 1889 to 1892 he was secretary of the State Charities Aid Association of New York and editor of "Charities Review." From 1892 to 1899 he was president of Knox College and in 1899 editor of Harper's Weekly. He was professor of politics at Princeton, 1900-03; president of the College of the City of New York, 1903-13; commissioner of education of the State of New York, and has been associate editor of the New York Times since 1921.

Dr. Finley was Harvard Exchange lecturer on the Hyde Foundation, at The Sorbonne, Paris, 1910-11; he is a trustee of the New York Public Library, Sage Foundation and of Knox and Berea Colleges.

In 1918 he was a member of the American Army Educational Committee in France, and in 1918-19, head of the American Red Cross in Palestine and the Near East. Among his many decorations are: Order of the Rising Sun (Japanese); Knight, Legion of Honor (French); Commander Order of the Crown of Italy; Knight of the Holy Sepulchre; Commander Order of St. Sava (Serbian); Commendatore Polonia Restituta (Polish); Commander Order of the White Rose (Finnish); and Commander Order of St. Olaf (Norwegian).

From 1921 to 1925 Dr. Finley was chairman on International Justice and Goodwill, Federal Churches of Christ in America. He is president of the Immigrant Education Council, National Child Welfare Association, and American Geographic Society; vice-president of National Institute of Arts and Letters and National Recreation and Playground Association and National Institute of Social Sciences; honorary president American Association of Teachers of French; member of American Academy of Arts and Letters, National Council of Boy Scouts, and various welfare and educational organizations. He is editor of "Nelson's Encyclopedia," and author of several books including "French Schools in War Time," "A Pilgrim in Palestine," "The Debt Eternal," and "The French in the Heart of America," which was crowned by the Academie Francaise and awarded a gold medal by the Geographic Society of Paris.

Dr. Finley is enjoying his stay in the mountains, and praises the progressive ideas and modern methods which are fast bringing the Southern highlands into national recognition. He was accompanied to Boone by Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Gwynn of Lenoir.

Len Hagaman Wins College Loving Cup

Len D. Hagaman, son of County Superintendent Smith Hagaman of Boone, was presented a loving cup at Wake Forest College last Monday night, in recognition of his having made the highest grade in chemistry at that institution last year. The award came from the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemical Fraternity, and is given each year to the sophomore making the highest mark during the previous year.

Young Mr. Hagaman has also been honored by having been chosen as one of thirty-five members of this year's debating squad.

INDUSTRIAL BANK TO BE ORGANIZED IN THIS COUNTY

Will Take the Place of Peoples Bank and Trust Company. Ten Thousand Dollars in Additional Stock Issued. Charter Applied for. New Institution Will Specialize in Savings Accounts and Instalment Loans.

The Peoples Bank and Trust Company, of Boone, which for the past thirteen years has been a strong factor in the financial affairs of Watauga, is being converted into an industrial institution, specializing in savings deposits, convenient instalment loans and the handling of commercial paper. A statement issued Monday by the board of directors follows:

For some years many of the business men of Watauga have felt the growing need for an industrial bank in the county. Since this need has grown to be almost a necessity, it has been unanimously decided by the stockholders and directors of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company of Boone to convert this bank into an industrial institution which shall be known as the Peoples Industrial Bank, and thereby much better serve the interests of depositors and those needing to borrow money.

Stock in the Peoples Bank will be converted into stock in the industrial bank, and \$10,000 of new stock will be added; in fact, it has already been subscribed. More stock has been spoken for than will be offered for sale. This new capital will give additional credit and working capital. Practically all savings and deposit accounts in the Peoples Bank have been transferred to this new institution. This new bank will make a specialty of handling time and savings deposits, lending money on easy instalment payments, and handling commercial paper.

This is expected to be a long forward step in the business affairs of the county. The Watauga County Bank has recently made large additions to its capital stock, thereby increasing its capacity to serve the interests of the section.

Hagaman Urges School Boards to Observe Law

Due to confusion which has been brought about by individual school committees in Watauga promising employment to teachers, Superintendent Smith Hagaman has issued the following statement, directed to the various boards:

"The law requires school committees to organize by electing a chairman and secretary, and also to hold a meeting for the purpose of hiring teachers.

"A great deal of confusion has arisen by committees signing contracts or making promises to teachers without a conference with the other members of their committee. I am strongly urging the several committees not to employ teachers except in a called meeting for that purpose, so that teachers and other patrons may have a chance to be heard.

"A committeeman whose time expires next April would not have a legal right to make contracts for next year until they are reappointed."

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED AT COVE CREEK

The patrons and teachers of Cove Creek High School met at the home economics building on Friday, October 16, for the purpose of organizing a Parent-Teacher Association. A large number of parents was present and the following program was given:

Devotional by Rev. H. M. Wellman; song by grade children; "What Other Associations Have Done," by Miss Bouchelle, teacher of the Demonstration School at Boone; "How Teachers Can Help Parents," by Superintendent Smith Hagaman; "How the Parents Can Help the Teachers," by J. B. Horton; "The Ways in Which the P. T. A. Can Help Cove Creek High School," by Mrs. S. F. Horton.

At the conclusion of the program the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Coy Billings; vice-president, Mrs. Stanley A. Harris; treasurer, Mrs. O. J. Harman; secretary, Blanche Stokes.

Refreshments were served by Miss Dougherty and members of her class.

WILL ROGERS FILM HERE NEXT MONDAY-TUESDAY

Will Rogers, America's foremost comedian, more aptly termed as the "Ambassador of Good Cheer," will headline the program at the Pastime Theatre next week when he will appear on Monday and Tuesday in his latest stellar role, "Young as You Feel."

Rogers is said to present a distinctly different figure in his newly acquired finery, handling sticks, gloves and other gentlemanly accessories which he has heretofore scorned, and the filming is unquestionably as mouth-provoking as any of his former triumphs.