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ORPHANS HOME AT BANNER ELK CARES FOR 85 CHILDREN

Superintendent Jane Russell and Her Assistants Have Created Homelike Atmosphere, Game Farm and Poultry Projects Conducted. Established Seventeen Years Ago by the Late Edgar H. Tufts.

In the friendly shadow of Grandfather Mountain, 'neath the shelving comb of Hanging Rock, nestles one of the Northwest Carolina's most worthy institutions—the Grandfather Orphans Home. Here a family of some eighty-five mountain children, brought together from the remote coves and hill-sides of the Appalachian highlands, have found refuge. Here in this lovely setting they are given opportunity to gain for themselves an education, cultivate respect for the good and beautiful, and at the same time enjoy the homelike atmosphere which Miss Jane Russell, superintendent, and her assistants have created.

A visit to Grandfather Home is indeed a pleasure, for here one truly feels the presence of omnipotence. Little girls and boys who only yesterday, perhaps, were grief-stricken by the loss of a mother or father, are again happy—their tears have been erased, and their faces beam with the glad smiles of childhood. Games are in progress, the larger boys on the athletic field, the larger girls at basketball practice and the tots engaged with cut-outs and toys.

Miss Russell shows her guests through the modern cottages, each of which is steam heated. The living rooms are hung with attractive pictures, bright curtains adorn the windows, and potted plants add their colorful charm to nooks and corners. In the baby cottage, a well-equipped play-room adjoins the reception hall, where the "little fellows" romp and play to heart's content. And the dining room is just too attractive for words with its tables of clear oak already set for the coming meal: bowls upturned on plates, silver in place, and centerpieces of evergreen. In the corridor outside is a long rack hung with little coats and hats, and every child "knows its hook."

And the other buildings are equally as attractive as the "baby house." The larger children all have their meals in the central dining hall which is situated in one of the older buildings of the group. The kitchen that adjoins is scrubbed spotless, and everything, as the expression goes, has its place, and everything can be found in its place. A wagon load of milk cans on the back porch await the milk from eighteen blooded cows which constitute the dairy herd. Miss Russell says there is always plenty of milk for those who wish it, and that those who do not care for it are encouraged in its use.

Nearby is the game farm where several hundred ring-neck pheasants, grouse, quail and Mallard duck are being reared. The woven-wire pens are watched with care by the larger boys, who exercise every precaution against harm to their feathered charges. Eggs are procured from the State Game Farm, hatched in incubators, and the small birds are kept in brooders until of sufficient size to be placed in the pens. And these pens are made to resemble, as nearly as possible, the natural habitat of the game birds—grain shocks in the quail houses, spruce for the grouse, and green vegetables for the pheasants. Ninety-five full-grown ducks fill the air with their "quack-quacks" and come running from the pool as the visitors approach.

A large poultry flock furnishes the home with plenty of eggs and birds for table use. A group of boys has this work in charge also, and their prodigious efforts have been responsible for the building of one of the best flocks in the entire section. The productive farm lands yielded bountiful harvests of grain and vegetables during the season, and hundreds of cans of beans, corn, tomatoes, spinach and other edibles line the basement walls of the main building, and offer a valuable auxiliary to the food supplies of the home. This canning was done by the girls, and they take great pride in their contribution to the home's larder.

Grandfather Orphans Home was established more than fifteen years ago by the late Edgar Tufts, who at that time was in charge of Lees-McRae College. It is supported by the Holston-Snyder family, and during its years of existence has cared for several hundred children. Miss Russell has been superintendent for about two years, and during her administration of its affairs many improvements have been made. Despite the prevailing depression, sufficient funds for the support of the home are still to be had, and while many economies have been resorted to in order to keep the budget as low as possible, everything is still running normally.

Miss Russell states that during the life of Grandfather Orphans Home not one single child has left its doors to stop directly into the affairs of the world. Each of them, she says, has just "gone across the hill" where

Early Edition Democrat To Appear Next Week

The Watauga Democrat will make its usual visit next week, however in order that those responsible for its publication may have a brief rest for Christmas, it will be necessary for it to go to press Monday.

Advertisers, news contributors and others interested are asked to cooperate with the publishers in observing their first holiday of the current year, and have "copy" ready for the printers during this week. It will be impossible to guarantee publication of organization news, advertisements etc., which reach the office after Saturday night.

The Democrat is anxious that its Christmas week edition should render the usual service to all concerned, and feels that splendid cooperation will be in evidence along the lines mentioned.

City Electrical Inspector Issues Timely Warning

A warning to citizens against the use of cheap or unapproved electric lighting systems for illuminating Christmas trees in home during the holiday season was issued yesterday by City Electrical Inspector S. M. Ayers.

"While electric lights are much safer for illuminating Christmas trees than the familiar old wax candles, all decorative electric lighting systems are not safe," said Mr. Ayers. "To prevent a possible fire which might result in loss of life, especially among children, and which might also damage or destroy your home, the electrical inspection department asks that you use only lighting sets approved by this department."

"Good sets which are safe are not usually more expensive than sets of poor or doubtful quality. Furthermore, approved sets are sold in this city. Lamps may be obtained in a wide variety of designs and colors, and by calling telephone 38 you can learn what outfits are approved."

Merchants planning to use electric lights or appliances for decorative purposes in Christmas window displays are also asked to get in touch with Mr. Ayers before doing so. The electrical inspector promises co-operation in the installation of temporary electrical circuits so that they will be safe, and the possibility of fire thereby reduced.

The installation of temporary lighting systems by unskilled or unreliable workmen and without supervision by an electrical inspector is a very unsafe practice, says Mr. Ayers.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS BEGIN AT BANNER ELK ON DEC. 18

Banner Elk.—The Christmas holidays for Lees-McRae College will begin on Friday afternoon, December 18th. The program for the week is as follows:

Sunday, December 13—Vespers at half past seven in the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. "Christmas in Song and Story" presented by the cabinets of the Lees-McRae Christian Association.

Monday at 7:30—Christmas party for Group A (older students) in the library.

Wednesday evening—Christmas party for Group B in the library.

Thursday evening at 7:30—Alpha Literary Society play, "Dickens' Christmas Carol," in the college auditorium.

Carols will be sung by the Glee Club on the campus and through the community at the conclusion of the play. The public is cordially invited to attend the vespers service on Sunday evening and the play on Thursday evening.

HAND BADLY MANGLED BY FALLING STONE

Mr. Charles L. Lewis of Sherwood, one of Watauga's county road foremen, was painfully injured last Saturday when his hand was caught by a falling rock, while he was working on a crusher. The forefinger was crushed and the flesh of the hand seriously lacerated. The accident occurred while stone was being prepared for use on the surface of the Beaver Dam road.

He or she entered Lees-McRae College for further education. "It's the hardest thing in the world to tell a boy or girl that it's time for him or her to leave the home," continued Miss Russell. "We have two boys now who are past nineteen, but things are so hard this winter that we have decided to let them remain until conditions improve. It's the only home they have ever known, and it would break their hearts should be ask them to leave."

Grandfather Orphans Home has become a very tangible part of the hill country. Into its wide-open doors has flowed, for these seventeen years a steady stream of neglected, poverty-stricken childhood. The training begins—training in right-thinking and right-living—and from those same doors emerges a generation of young men and young women fully equipped to take their places among the elect of the land. Modern miracles are being wrought at the haven of mercy in the shadow of the ancient "Grandfather."

Heavy Damages Entailed in Early Morning Blaze

A fire which apparently had its origin in the south end of the Masonic Hall, and which resulted in almost the complete destruction of the big Isaacs dry goods establishment, damaged the Farmers Hardware Store to a considerable extent, partially destroyed the fraternal quarters, and threatened to raze an entire business block in the heart of the town, was brought under control Wednesday morning after local firemen and a company from Blowing Rock had labored for hours in a successful effort to limit the depredations of the destroying flame.

The fire alarm was first sounded at 3 a. m. and the local fire squad was on the scene within a very few minutes. The fire department at Blowing Rock, in the meantime had received word of the distress and in 21 minutes after the siren sounded, their men had been awakened, partly clothed themselves, and were in the midst of the fight. The Blowing Rock boys have the undying gratitude of the people here, as have the Boone boys, for their heroic handling of the serious situation.

Nothing definite has been learned as to the cause of the blaze, but firemen are assured that it started on the Masonic Hall floor, for when they

arrived on the scene the floor was already falling down. The room was occupied by a session of the Eastern Star on the evening preceding the fire.

Mr. Isaacs who for a number of years has operated the Isaacs Department Store, one of the most modern dry goods establishments in this section was in Charlotte on a business trip at the time of the conflagration, returned home at press time, but has not made an estimate of his losses. The entire stock of merchandise however is believed to be a total loss.

The amount of insurance in force was not learned. A nominal loss was suffered by the hardware store, which came from water in the basement of the building, however no figures were made public. Damage to the Masonic Hall included, besides damage to the building, the loss of furniture and all the records of the organization. A partial insurance coverage is reported in both instances.

The postoffice building which was in the same block was undamaged, as was the Watauga County Bank.

Total damage to the buildings are estimated at from two to three thousand dollars, but individual damages have not been estimated.

BANK MAY REOPEN AT BLOWING ROCK LOCAL MAN WINS TRIP TO HAVANA

Cashier of Closed Institution Gives Out Hope of Early Opening Negotiations Under Way.

Mr. W. D. Farthing, Cashier of the defunct Bank of Blowing Rock, says that indications at the present time look promising for the early reopening of the institution, which poor collections and usual withdrawals closed on November 28th.

Mr. Farthing says that the bank officials have received information from the State Commissioner of Banks, setting forth the requirements, and that there is strong belief that negotiations now under way will culminate in the reopening of the bank at an early date.

A. M. Burns, Jr., is the liquidating agent now in charge.

AN EXHIBITION AT THE VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL

Miss Basom, the Home Economics instructor, has held an exhibition at the Valle Crucis School for the first three months work of the eighth and ninth grades. The judges and friends of the school agreed that the girls of the school had done a great deal. The prizes were given as follows: Skirts, first prize, Nina Miller; second prize, Lillian Tester; Dresses: first prize, Lillian Tester; second prize, Wilma Baird; Pajamas: first prize, Elizabeth Baird; second prize, Maxine Langmaid; Aprons: first prize, Fanny Hollars; second prize, Maude Draughn. For the best luncheon set, Elsie Wilson. Baby Dresses: first prize, Fanny Hollars; second prize, Marianne Cook. Hot dish holders: first prize, Lillian Tester; second prize, Ruth Smith. Bags: first prize, Nina Miller; second prize, Naomi Wachter. Organ-dian powder puff case: first prize, Lillian Tester. Nannie Bunting received honorable mention for man's shirt.

The ninth class has also done some very nice canning and preserving which were on exhibition, including beans, beets, chow chow, jelly and apple butter.

The judges were Miss Dale, home economics instructor from Cove Creek and Miss Dougherty, home economics instructor from Appalachian State Teachers College; Mrs. C. D. Taylor and Mrs. W. W. Mast of Valle Crucis.

The evening closed with a very attractive Christmas play given by the fourth and fifth grades under the direction of Miss Salley.

FORMER WATAUGA MAN HAS HUNTING ACCIDENT

While hunting last Thursday, Rev. J. L. Norris of Maiden stumbled, and to save himself from falling, used his gun as a cane to catch his fall. Some trash caught and hung on the end of the gun barrel and the preacher made a dash at it with his left hand and the gun discharged at the same instant, tearing the flesh from the end of the thumb of the left hand. During the stumbling he had, evidently, released the safety device and on making the motion with the left hand, pressed the trigger with his right.—Maiden News.

RALEIGH, N. C., PRIEST AMONG GROUP ORDAINED IN ROME

Rome.—Thirty-one young American priests were ordained last week by Cardinal Francis Marchetti-Selvaggiani, vicar of Rome, and said their first masses Friday morning in St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, and other churches in Rome.

Among them were Louis Rath, of Raleigh, N. C.

Only Six More Shopping Days Until Christmas

Only six more days remain in which to do holiday buying, and again the Democrat is a good index to the splendid shopping facilities of this city. The Christmas messages from the merchants bring good cheer and news of the lowest prices offered perhaps, during this century. Peruse these advertisements, learn all about the service your home merchants are rendering, and resolve to do your trading at home. At the same time the merchants of the town, while well prepared for the last minute rush, would greatly appreciate early shopping. Mutual benefits arise from selecting your gifts before the congestion always incident to the last couple of days before Christmas.

Highway from Town to River Nears Completion

The contractors are on the last lap of the grading on no. 60 highway between Boone and the New River bridge, and the weather permitting, it is now only a matter of a few days until they have completed the job.

The construction work on the two miles of road has been very heavy, in fact some of it being about the heaviest we have seen in the county, much stone having been blasted out, with deep cuts and high fills. But the major part of the time the weather has been fine and work has continued almost unbrokenly, and a beautiful addition it will be to the now far-famed Boone Trail Highway.

PROF. T. E. STORY INJURED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Professor T. E. Story, principal of the Wilkesboro School, received scalp wounds and minor injuries Monday night (December 7) near Brooks Cross Roads when his car overturned in the road.

Professor Story was driving toward Wilkesboro when he met a wagon traveling in the middle of the highway without lights. He dodged the wagon, but in making the quick turn his car completely overturned and stopped upright.

Passersby picked up Professor Story and brought him and his car to North Wilkesboro, where he received attention at the Wilkes Hospital. His injuries were found to be of a minor nature and he is back on the job in the school.

He had been to Raleigh where he looked after school business.—Wilkes Journal.

LOCAL ELECTRICIANS AT WORK ON GRACE HOSPITAL

Ayers Brothers, local electricians, last week were awarded a contract to install the electrical fixtures in the new Grace Hospital building at Banner Elk. The Boone men had already wired the plant, installed nurse calls and telephones, and the new contract, which will be completed within the next forty days is the last to be let by officials. The hospital, which is of seventy bed capacity, will be opened about the first of February.

LOCAL JUNIOR COUNCIL OBSERVES LADIES' NIGHT

A ladies' night program was given by the local council, Jr. O. U. A. M., in their hall on Tuesday evening, December 8th. Mr. Hill Hagaman extended a warm welcome to Juniors and their ladies, following which talks were made by W. O. Robertson, Howard W. Mast and Clyde R. Greene. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Mack Luttrell and Mrs. Bynum Greene.

BENEFIT MUSICAL CLOSES

The musical program in aid of the Banner Elk State School fund, was brought to a close Saturday night the 12th in the high school auditorium. The engagement had been announced as a contest at which cash prizes would be offered, but owing to the fact there was not enough to meet expenses, the artists were awarded merchandise, which were later exchanged for cash at their option.

Featured on the program was Miss Minnie Greer of Watauga county, the girl violinist, who in addition to her violin numbers, contributed several vocal selections.

Mr. Ray Broadall, with his guitar, accompanied by Mr. Lewis, created interest in their Hawaiian selections. In addition to these string musicians, taking part in the convention was the Hard Thomas string band, featuring the old home musical instrument, the washboard; the Grandfather string band, featuring banjo and guitar music.

The contribution of the Greer sisters, famous mountain girl musicians, received a good hand, especially the duet by Misses Wilma and Minnie Greer.

The concluding item was dancing by several young people called from the audience.

OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER

There will be an interesting play "the old fashioned mother" presented at the Reese School Wednesday night December 23. The public is cordially invited.

DR. G. R. SHERRILL NAMES PRESIDENT POLITICAL GROUP

Former Watauga County Man Signally Honored at Atlanta Meeting. Received Early Education at Old A. T. S. Is Now a Teacher at Clemson College. Book on Criminal Procedure Recently Published.

Dr. George R. Sherrill, former Watauga man, was elected president of the Southern Political Science Association at its annual meeting in Atlanta late in November, according to information received here last week.

Dr. Sherrill was born and reared in the Beaver Dam section, a son of Mr. George Sherrill, and received his early education at the old Appalachian Training School. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree at Wake Forest in 1921, and the Ph. D. from Columbia University, New York, in 1928. During regular session he teaches at Clemson College, Clemson, South Carolina, and for the past four years has been a member of the Wake Forest summer school faculty.

His book, "Criminal Procedure in North Carolina as Shown by Criminal Appeals Since 1890," was recently published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Other officers of the Political Science Association elected at the Atlanta meeting include: Dr. John W. Manning, University of Kentucky, vice-president; Harriet W. Elliott, N. C. College for Women, secretary; and Dr. D. W. Knepper, Mississippi State College for Women, treasurer. The officers are to serve for the ensuing year.

The many friends of Dr. Sherrill in Watauga and adjoining counties will hear of his election to the important post with a great deal of interest.

Carolina Store is Robbed of Small Sum of Money

On Monday night some party or parties, without the fear of the law before their eyes, broke into Carolina Store No. 1, entrance being made through a window in the rear of the building. No merchandise, so far as known without inventory, was taken, but the cash drawer was rifled of about \$10 in fractional coin. It appears that there is no clue whatever as to who the robber was, and most likely the offender will never be apprehended.

DELPHIAN SOCIETY

The Delphian Society met on Tuesday afternoon of this week at the regular place of meeting. A number of very interesting reports on the life and work of the artist Giotto were given by Mrs. Eggers, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Russell Hodges, Miss Bouchelle and Miss Todd. Miss Cora Jeffcoat was leader. During the session the chapter expressed very deep sympathy for Miss Dale, who has just been called home by the death of her father.

After the program the society adjourned for an informal social hour. Hanging over the fireplace with its bright flames was found a stocking for each member filled with nuts and candy. A gift also for each one was under a small Christmas tree.

Later the entire group went to the home of Mrs. J. M. Gaither, who was absent from the meeting, bearing her share of the gifts from Santa Claus.

The next meeting will be held on January 5.

WORTH WHILE CLUB

A very enjoyable meeting of the Worth While Club took place with Mrs. Zeb Farthing at her home on the Blowing Rock Road Friday afternoon. After business, a program on the life of George Washington was rendered, Mrs. W. C. Greer conducting the discussion and making the principal talk: "George Washington, the Boy and Youth." His famous rule for behavior, written at fourteen, was read, and their author's precocity enjoyed once more.

Mrs. Farthing, assisted by Mrs. William Winkler, served a delightful two course luncheon. Plans were made for the Christmas meeting, which is to be held with Mrs. D. J. Cottrell on Dec. 23, at half past seven, at the Cottrell residence on College Street.

YOUNG TAR HEEL FARMERS

The Cove Creek Chapter of Young Tar Heel Farmers met December 11 in the high school auditorium where they were entertained by the History Club. The program consisted of a play giving a part of the life of Lincoln. It was very interesting and the agriculture boys enjoyed it. It is always pleasant to visit some other club and hear their program. Sometimes the program committee has a hard time preparing something interesting for the weekly programs, but this idea of the clubs entertaining each other adds interest and life to the programs.

"She says she thinks she could learn to love me."

"Yet you do not look happy."

"It is going to be expensive. Had her to the theatre last night, with a little supper after-ward. The first lesson cost me \$25."