

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLIII, NUMBER 27.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 1932.

\$1.50 PER YEAR

## FEWER WEDDINGS DURING LAST YEAR RECORDS REVEAL

Sales of Marriage License at Court House Reach New Low Level During 1931, When 42 Were Issued, 62 in 1930. June Lags Behind as Favorite Month.—The Complete List of Licenses.

The depression which characterized 1931, found its way into Dan Cupid's mart and there was a notable decrease in the number applying at the office of Miss Helen Underdown, Register of Deeds for marriage licenses, her records show, 42 couples applied for the nuptial papers during 1931, it is shown, as against 62 in the year 1930. It also develops that June lagged behind as the favorite month for the tying of the conjugal knots, losing by a sizable number its popularity in this connection to bleak November, and making an even break with December. The complete list of those securing licenses during 1931, as taken from Miss Underdown's records, is as follows:

- Jan. 7—Joseph Roberts, Jr. Christianburg, Va. and Mildred Bishop, Christianburg, Va.
- Jan. 20—B. F. Wilcox, Blowing Rock, and Delia McGlamery, Brownwood.
- Feb. 12—Thurman Gragg, Shulls Mills and Lydia Coffey, Gragg.
- Feb. 28—J. M. Harman and Pearl M. Brown, Beech Creek.
- Feb. 28—Claude Minton, Valle Crucis and Blanche Hayes, Vilas.
- March 14—Odus Wilson and Nora A. Mast, Zionville.
- March 18—Raleigh Blackburn and Helen Haire, Hopkins.
- May 1—Tine Greenwell, Butler and Elsie Guy, Beech Creek.
- May 15—J. Andrew Morgan, Cary and Elsie Farthing, Boone.
- May 24—Jas. P. Sawyer, Greensboro and Margaret Shintberger, Norfolk, Va.
- May 30—Dell Greer, Brownwood and Ruth Main, Zionville, N. C.
- June 3—John Howell and Irene M. Dade, Boone.
- June 4—Ralph Askew, Richlands and Hattie Greer, Blowing Rock.
- June 9—B. Frank Williams, Asheville and Carrie Coffey, Boone.
- June 20—Charles M. Holler, Boone and Margaret M. Bower, Jefferson.
- June 25—Russell Henson, Amanda and Lula Austin, Banner Elk.
- July 20—Oliver Barter and Ella Hall, Penley.
- July 25—Graden N. Harmon and Pearl Smitherman, Peoria.
- July 31—Rout Baker Alexander, Charlotte and Sarah Wheeler, Charlotte.
- Aug. 19—E. Merle Dye, Winston-Salem and Katie Holshouser, Blowing Rock.
- Aug. 23—T. Clyde Church, Purlear and Virgie Dancy, Wilbar.
- Sept. 11—John Ward and Tine Harman, Mathey.
- Sept. 13—Mason Randolph Maddux, Kenbridge, Va. and Dorothy Hayes, Blowing Rock.
- Sept. 12—Lane Idol, and Anna Watson, Deep Gap.
- Oct. 3—Joseph H. Green and Lucy Pearson, Blowing Rock.
- Oct. 19—Daily Presnell and Lina Stines, Rominger.
- Oct. 21—Spencer Rominger and Ota Hicks, Mathey.
- Oct. 24—Carl Moretz and Hollie Miller, Meat Camp.
- Oct. 24—Boyd Greene and Bessie Barnes, Zionville.
- Oct. 30—Roy Whittington, Vilas and Roberta Parker, Sugar Grove.
- Nov. 2—George Smitherman and Elfa Greene, Peoria.
- Nov. 5—Tom Cushing and Elizabeth Crow, Boone.
- Nov. 13—Harrison Townsend, Banner Elk and Mae Townsend, Balm.
- Nov. 14—Stanley Ward and Pauline Ward, Shulls Mills.
- Nov. 19—Carl McClellan and Hazel Wright, Bristol, Va.-Tenn.
- Nov. 20—Archie Hodges and Wilma Hayes, Vilas.
- Nov. 20—Rowland Davis, Seven Springs and Blanche Horton, Vilas.
- Dec. 14—Huston Shearer, Boone and Ella Devore, South Carolina.
- Dec. 19—Chas. Ford Henson, Amanda and Thelma Rominger, Sugar Grove.
- Dec. 23—Rowland Hollers, Boone and Ina Gragg, Boone.
- Dec. 23—Ray Swift and Leota Norris, Reese.
- Dec. 28—Robert Yates, Boone, to Allie Herman, Valle Crucis.

## Tobacco Yields Profit in One Watauga Case

Mr. Wade L. Greene of Peoria is one Watauga farmer who is pleased with the outcome of a small venture in the raising of burley tobacco. Mr. Greene told the Democrat Saturday that he sold \$82.00 worth of the weed from a piece of ground which yielded in 1929 11 bushels of corn, which was worth at that time \$11.00. Mr. Greene says that the cost of producing the corn and tobacco was nearly the same.

Mr. Conley Grason of North Wilkesboro, visited at the Jim Rivers home in Boone Saturday evening.

## "Iron Man" at 86



William Muldoon, famous old-time wrestler, trainer of John L. Sullivan, member of N. Y. State Boxing Commission, as he appeared just before going to hospital for a "looking over" after a fall from a railroad station platform.

## HIGHWAY 28 GETS ATTENTION FROM STATE COMMISSION

Important Highway Has Been Extended, and Has Been Dubbed the "Crest of the Blue Ridge Highway" A New Link in the National Park-to-Park Highway System.—Traverses Watauga County.

The State Highway Commission at the December meeting extended highway 28, which runs through Hendersonville, so as to reach from the Tennessee line west of Murphy to Virginia, north of Twin Oaks.

The new extension of highway 28 follows No. 10 from Old Fort to a point two miles west of Marion and follows 19 to Woodlawn. From this point to Linville No. 194 will be eliminated and 691 to Twin Oaks will be dropped, and No. 26 from Twin Oaks to the Virginia line dropped, making one continuous route from Virginia to Tennessee, covering a distance of 338 miles.

The assistance of the state highway commission has been sought in making application for a federal number to cover the entire route, making connection with U. S. 11 in Virginia and Tennessee.

The state highway commission has been looking with favor on extension of this thoroughfare, for some time, it is learned, and Chambers of Commerce in the sections traversed have been active in this connection for the past several months. The route, it is stated, holds out great possibilities from a scenic viewpoint, running as it does along the ridgepole of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Chairman Jeffries of the state highway commission has suggested that the road be known as the Crest of the Blue Ridge Highway.

The highway will pass through the Pisgah National Forest, as well as the Nantahala forest in Macon county. The route will have the distinction of having the two highest incorporated towns in eastern America—Blowing Rock and Highlands. It maintains an altitude of 3500 feet between Blowing Rock and Linville and crosses the Blue Ridge Mountains eleven times over a distance of eight miles between Blowing Rock and Grandfather Mountain.

Number 28 will be the eastern border line in North Carolina of the new National Park-to-Park Highway from the point where it enters this state north of Twin Oaks to Old Fort.

## BANNER ELK WOMEN'S CLUB SPREADS HAPPINESS AT XMAS

Many children in the community were made happy with Christmas stockings filled with candy, nuts and toys by the Banner Elk Women's Clubs. Also food and clothing were given to several families. A Christmas box was sent to Nancy Remsey who is in the State Hospital at Raleigh.

Messrs Charles and Gilbert Lowe have returned to their home after spending Christmas with Miss Alice Payner of Mayack, N. C., who returned with them to visit Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Lowe.

Mrs. J. H. VonGanon, Charles and Carolyn, have returned from a visit to Mrs. T. W. Simpson of Bristol, Tenn.-Va.

Mrs. J. S. Guignard and son Charles have returned after spending the holidays with Mrs. Anna Jones and daughter Elizabeth of Johnson City. Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Hardin have returned after spending a few days during the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Hardin's mother, Mrs. Austin, in Charlotte, N. C.

## MILLIGAN COLLEGE PILOT RED HARMAN HEAD IN ADDRESS TELLS OF HAZARDS TO STUDENTS HERE IN ETHERIAL VOID

Well Known Tennessee Educator A Visitor at Appalachian College and Delivers Address on "Power of Influence." Which is Described as the Most Powerful Force Known to Modern Man.

Speaking on the "Power of Influence", Dr. H. J. Dietrich, president of Milligan College delivered an address before the student body at the Appalachian State Teachers College last Thursday.

"More powerful than steam, than all the combined forces of our modern electricity," declared the speaker, "is this invisible force of influence. Even the small thing of a picture, in one instance for which I can personally vouch, was instrumental in changing the whole course of the lives of three people. It brought them to the church, and one of them is now a missionary in India, while the other two are ministers here in the United States.

"No person, it matters not how mean or how good he is, is without this great power of influence. And I fully believe this power of suggestion inherent in the human race is today the most important force with which man is in constant contact.

"On one occasion I was waiting at a railroad terminal for a train which was already 90 minutes late. A man beside me was swearing by all the powers that this train had ruined his appointments for the day, and from this our conversation developed. It culminated in the agreement—since I was not in the habit of betting—that within three minutes I could have everybody in that crowded terminal out on the platform expecting the train, without saying a single word. Two of these minutes I sat through in silence. And then with one glance out the nearest window, I made a dash for the door as if that train were already pulling out for the next station. Looking back from the platform, I found every last man of them crowding behind me; and the fellow with whom I had made the agreement was right at my heels!

"I hope as students and future teachers," said Dr. Dietrich in conclusion, "that you will come to realize the tremendous power of your influence, and that it may at last be written on every one of your tombstones: 'He Died Climbing.' But I also hope that it will not be written there for the next 90 or 100 years at least."

## JIM GRIMES DIES IN JOHNSON CITY

Respected Colored Man Succumbs to Heart Attack. Funeral Services Here Sunday Afternoon.

Jim Grimes, a former colored resident of Boone, who for the past twenty years has made his home in Johnson City, died suddenly in that town last Friday morning at 8 o'clock. The body was brought to Boone late Friday night and funeral services were held Sunday morning at the colored Baptist church, following which the body was interred in a local burying ground. The deceased man is survived by four young daughters and eight brothers and sisters, several of whom reside in Boone.

Grimes, whose age was around 63, had worked as a teamster during the whole of his adult life, and was for many years an employee of the late Captain Tom Coffey. On Friday he harnessed his team to begin his usual duties. Complaining of a pain in his wrist he turned the team over to a stable boy and told him to drive the horses out of the alley way for him. Stepping aside for the team to pass, he staggered and fell to the ground. Medical aid was summoned but life was extinct before its arrival.

Jim Grimes was a hard-working man, and had perhaps as many friends among the white race as among the folks of his own color. While his life had been devoted to work of a rough nature, it had been usefully spent, and his passing is deplored by a large concourse of both white and colored acquaintances.

## INTEREST IN LOCAL CHEVROLET BUSINESS SOLD TO MAX HOUCK

Mr. Max Houck, of Boone, has become half owner in the garage and sales business of the W. R. Chevrolet Company of this city, but the consideration was not made public. Mr. Houck is a disabled veteran of the world war and has made his home in this city for several years.

Officials of the local agency, announce a good business since the initial showing of the new Chevrolets recently. This model, they say, has won immediate approval, and a number of them have already been disposed of.

Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Brendall, Jr. returned Friday from Greensboro and points in eastern Carolina where they spent the Christmas holidays.

## PILOT RED HARMAN TELLS OF HAZARDS IN ETHERIAL VOID

Flyer Who is Well Known in Boone Here on Brief Visit. Lure of Barnstorming Still Holds Young Lieutenant. Tells of Hairbreadth Escapes Since Last Visit Here. May Come Again in Warmer Season.

Lieutenant "Red" Harman, accompanied by Mrs. Harman and Jim Connelly, spent several hours in Boone Monday evening visiting with friends made during their extended stay in the city last summer, with the Good Will Flyers. The Harmans have spent the intervening period in Eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee, and only two weeks ago hopped back into North Carolina.

Red recounted several hair-raising incidents which he has experienced during the past few months while piloting the big five-place J-5 Standard plane. At Paintsville, Ky., the amiable birdman took his ship aloft to give denizens of those parts a few chills and thrills in the form of barrel rolls, loops and Immelmann turns. Near the close of his hazardous performance he put the plane into a series of inside loops. Poking his head out of the cockpit to see how things looked, he discovered that one side of the landing gear had broken loose from the struts and was laying up in the guy wires. A sickening sort of feeling enveloped Red but he decided to try and make the best of his predicament. Heading back for the field, which he described as being about the size of a "shirt-tail," he leveled off, brought the ship to the ground on one wheel and the skid, held her there as long as he could and when the speed had diminished sufficiently, let the crippled side down. The plane did a couple of spins on the left wing and stopped, right-side-up, with only a small torn place in the fuselage. And out popped Red, feeling lots better.

Only a few days ago, while flying from Chattanooga to Marion, N. C., across the Blue Ridge, Harman encountered a severe storm. A few of the "gadgets" on the instrument board which were put there for blind flying were out of commission and the pilot was again in a pickle. All he could see was the tips of the wings and a bit of the tail. The altimeter showed that the ship was soaring at an altitude of around seven thousand feet. The pilot felt his craft go into a tail spin, and when he got it righted he had lost a thousand feet. The rain was pouring and the propeller became an almost indistinguishable whirl of mist. Another tail spin and another thousand feet of altitude lost. Strapped to Red's back was his four-year-old parachute which has never been jumped. Things looked black for the birdman. Any moment he might strike a mountain top. Fifty minutes of blind flying had destroyed his sense of balance, so he made up his mind to bale out and apply for membership in the mythical caterpillar club. He folded his map, loosened his safety belt, gave his clean shirts, Christmas toys and other paraphernalia which rested in the front cockpit a longing thought and made preparation for his first jump. Just then the ship broke through the storm, cruising along level with the mountain tops; so Red remains a novice at the parachute game.

Two hundred and twenty hours of flying time have been added to Harman's log book since his stay in Boone but no new lines have appeared on his ruddy cheeks. It just seems that he belongs up there flirting with the clouds and the elements. He expects to spend the remainder of the winter in South Carolina and Georgia and promises to pay Boone another visit when warm weather arrives.

## Improvements Noted on the College Gymnasium

The throngs that annually pack the gymnasium of the Appalachian State Teachers College here during the basketball season have an added thrill awaiting them this year; that is, if all the hammering and noise arising from that vicinity during the past week can be taken to mean anything.

New iron posts to support the balconies in order to give greater visibility have already been installed and new portable bleachers are expected here tomorrow, so that they can be put in place in plenty of time for the first scheduled game for the season, with Union College Kentucky, here, Saturday night.

All work is expected to be completed by Friday noon, according to workmen who have been engaged in the remodeling.

## JAMES FOSTER DEAD

James E. Foster, of Linville, 47 years old, died at Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, Sunday after an illness with pellagra. Funeral services were conducted at Linville Tuesday members of the Moose order being in charge and interment was by the Moretz Funeral Home.

Surviving Mr. Foster are a widow and six children and a number of other near relatives.

## Seeks Congress



Mrs. Cornelia Erice Pinchot, wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania, announces that she will be a candidate for the place now held by Representative Louis T. McCadden.

## CHRISTMAS SEAL DRIVE IN COUNTY NETS 80 DOLLARS

Report of Chairman Indicates Record Sale of Stamps. American Legion Auxiliary, With Mrs. Harris as Chairman, in Charge of Campaign. Funds to Be Used to Combat Tuberculosis.

Mrs. Stanley Harris, county chairman for the anti-tuberculosis Christmas seal drive, reports the sale of eighty dollars worth of the seals during the brief period preceding the holidays, and it is understood that several substantial contributions were also received. The sale was conducted through the local American Legion Auxiliary and Mrs. Harris wishes to thank the canvassing ladies and also those who purchased the stamps for their generous aid.

Seventy-five per cent of the money raised will be kept in Watauga for local relief work, and the remainder will be sent to the state organization. During the past few years great good has been accomplished by the fund and this year's total which is three times greater than that of any preceding year, is expected to go far toward combating the white plague. Last year's campaign netted over twenty-seven dollars, and nothing but a super-human effort on the part of the ladies during the past month could have brought such gratifying results.

## DATA OF INTEREST IN ANCIENT RECORD

Figures on Schools of Long Ago in Marked Contrast to Present-Day Methods of Learning

In looking over the school records of this county, covering the years past Superintendent Smith Hagaman uncovers some figures which provide interesting reading.

In the year 1885, there were 22 teachers holding first grade certificates, 16 second grade and nine third grade. There were 54 white districts and five colored.

At that time there was a total of 3280 citizens between the ages of 6 and 21, with 1871 enrolled in the schools. There were 140 colored students. In the year 1931, comparison reveals, there were only 140 colored pupils.

The average price paid white teachers was \$20 per month, while colored tutors received \$16.00.

The average attendance for each white school in 1885 was 17; Average length of term for whites; 10 weeks; for colored, 8 weeks; Public school property was valued at \$3,140; I. W. Thomas was the County Superintendent and Thomas J. Coffey was the Chairman of the Board of Education.

## Injured by Shot Which Was Fired at Rabbit

Graham Teague, local young man, received gunshot wounds while rabbit hunting near the city with Harvey Bunting, also of Boone. The accident is said to have taken place when Mr. Bunting raised his gun to fire at a rabbit. The shot was fatal to the cotton tail, but Teague, who was in range of the firearm, also received a part of the load. Twelve shot were removed from the injured man's lower limbs by physicians and latest advices are that an early recovery is expected.

## Over Six Hundred Tags Sold at License Bureau

James D. Horton, in charge of the local license plate bureau of the Carolina Motor Club, reports the sale of a few more than six hundred tags since his office opened the middle of December. Many of the tags, have gone, he says, to adjoining counties, especially Ashe and Avery, and Watauga motorists have purchased fewer than three hundred of the plates.

## FIVE ARRESTED ON COMPLICITY COUNT; SLAYER AT LARGE

Matney Men Are Arraigned Before Justice Hahn on Charges Growing Out of Fatal Shooting of Thurston Oliver. Three Are Bound to Court Bonds of \$1,000 Each. Wallace, the Alleged Slayer, Eludes Officers.

Forest McGhinnis, McKinley Ward, Sherman Baird, Lloyd Presnell and Walter Church, all of the Matney section of Watauga county, arrested Thursday on warrants charging complicity in the murder of Thurston Oliver on December 26, were given preliminary hearings before Justice of the Peace Edw. N. Hahn on last Friday, the trial continuing until Saturday noon. The cases as to Church and Presnell were not prosed, but due to a preponderance of evidence against McGhinnis, Ward and Baird, the trio was bound to the spring term of Superior court under bonds of \$1,000 each. Bail was immediately given and the men were released.

The case was closely contested and long arguments were presented by both sides. The State was represented by W. R. Lovill and T. E. Bingham while John E. Brown appeared for the accused men.

Ephraim Wallace, who allegedly fired the fatal shot is still being sought by local officers. The charges of complicity against the five men tried Friday grew out of a minor quarrel which is said to have taken place earlier in the day of the tragedy.

## Arlie W. Brown Faces Charge of Contempt

Greensboro News, Jan. 2.—Arlie W. Brown, Watauga county resident, who is alleged to have failed to file his schedule of liabilities and assets in a voluntary proceeding in bankruptcy, has been cited to appear before Judge Johnson J. Hayes in federal court at 10 o'clock on the morning of January 15th, to show cause why he should not be adjudged in contempt of court.

Judge Hayes Friday issued an order for the arrest of Brown on a charge of contempt of court as a result of the defendant's failure to appear before Archie Elledge of Winston-Salem, referee in bankruptcy, on December 22 as required by law.

(Note—Local physicians state that Mr. Brown on December 22nd was confined to his home with an acute attack of appendicitis, from which he is just recovering.)

## Warden Cites Sections of Game Laws Violated

County Game Warden H. Grady Farthing, issues the following timely statement regarding violations of the game laws:

The squirrel season closed on December 31.

It is a violation to set dead falls and those who are persistently doing so are going to be prosecuted when apprehended.

It is a violation of the law to buy fur without a license. If you are a merchant and buying fur that comes to your store, and expect to purchase less than \$500 worth, you are required by law to have a \$1.00 for dealers' license. If you expect to buy more than \$500 worth of peltry you are required to have a \$10.00 county fur dealers' license. Anyone who goes out of his place of business and buys any amount of fur is required to buy a \$10 county fur dealers' license.

Any of the license mentioned will be furnished you by the County Warden. Send your name and address with the money and your license will be mailed to you.

## Wilson Local Chairman Victory Fund Campaign

Mr. A. D. Wilson of Boone Monday wired his acceptance of appointment as head of the Democratic Victory Fund Drive for Watauga to C. L. Shuping, Greensboro, state chairman of the committee, who notified the local man of his selection last week.

Mr. Wilson states that he will begin at once to make organizational plans in the several townships of the county, and that all Democrats will be urged to make at least a small contribution to the fund which is to be used in this year's national campaign. He is now being solicited in every section of the United States, it being the purpose of the national committee to have as many voters stockholders in the party as is possible by the time the campaigns open late next summer.

## ENJOYS HOME PAPER

F. G. Moody, former Watauga resident of St. Paul, Minn. writes as follows: "Herewith check for another year of 'enjoyment.' I hope you enjoyed editing the Democrat as much last year as I enjoyed reading it, and that this will be your most happy and prosperous year of all."