

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## DOUGHTON WILL INTRODUCE BILL FOR HALF-CENT

Measure Calling for Minting of Half-Pennies Will Be Introduced by Veteran Legislator Within a Few Days. Would Save Consumers Many Thousands of Dollars Each Year.

(By J. W. VAN HOY)  
Washington, D. C.—Not only is the lowly "brownie" coming into his own again during these days of financial stringency, but he is to have a companion and strong ally in a brand-new creature of the mint, the half-cent piece, if a bill now being prepared under the direction of Representative R. L. Doughton becomes a law, for while working on the revenue bill where money is counted in millions and even billions (on paper) it has occurred to this veteran legislator, who is also a practical banker and a student of finance and taxation, that a great saving can be made possible to the buying public by providing a medium for making "correct change" instead of allowing the difference of a half-cent to go to the seller as is universally done in this country.

While no reliable statistics are available, it is estimated that millions of dollars are lost to the retail buyer annually on account of this purely American custom of the seller taking the half-cent in addition to his legitimate charge every time it chinks up in the calculation and every time the purchaser takes one of those articles so frequently priced "two for." In the course of a year's purchases every housewife knows that she loses considerable pin money by this means, even one day's shopping often leaving a pain from this unfair system on American generosity—to the seller. Hence, "Farmer Bob" to the rescue, and he now has the legislative counsel of the House of Representatives and the director of the mint working out the details and will present the bill in a few days and urge its passage.

Half-pennies have been coined in very limited quantities a few times to commemorate some special occasion or event, but it certainly has been a long time since it was in general circulation, if it ever was in our country, though its equivalent is available in all foreign countries where economy and frugality are virtues not lived and practiced by our people. No one can tell how far this apparently insignificant step may go toward relieving the mysterious financial depression that overshadows our land today. Billions of dollars are being diverted from the Federal Treasury into the sagging arteries of trade and commerce as a stimulant but with faint hope of permanent relief, however, when our people begin again to count their pennies and save their half-pennies we will be getting near bed rock in our efforts to remove the cause of our financial ailments—just plain American extravagance.

The most prosperous establishments in trade today are the chain stores selling small articles at large profit—5, 10, 15 25-cent and \$1.00 stores—and there is a reason. The average buyer never stops to think that when he buys one of the numerous articles priced "two-for-five" he pays, if he purchases only one, 20 per cent. profit to the seller over and above the price asked. Figure it yourself. Price 2 1/2 cents, two-for-five. Customer takes one and pays three cents or 1-2 cent over the real price for one. One-half cent figures exactly 20 per cent of two and one-half cents. There you are! If it were the price of an auto or radio it would be different, but as the boy said to his father when given a nickel during the war boom: "Aw, gee, a penny won't buy nothing."

## Travels 139,528 Miles Over Sixteen-Mile Road

Mr. A. M. Banner of Sugar Grove has rounded out twenty-four years as mail carrier on the rural route from Sugar Grove postoffice into the Beaver Dam section, the round trip requiring twenty-six miles of travel daily. Through a simple calculation it was found that over this short link of road, which when he began was scarcely more than a muddy, rocky trail, Mr. Banner has traveled a total distance of 139,528 miles, and is still going strong.

For seventeen years Mr. Banner rode his route on horseback, but with the improved roads came the motor vehicle, and he now makes his round in half a day. When he began carrying Uncle Sam's mail he was a lad less than 21 years old, and through the intervening years he has suffered many hardships, but the mail has always gone through, and he has served the public well.

In the old days, says Mr. Banner, "I had to ford the creek at twelve points, and the river once. Have waded the river when my horse broke through in freezing weather, and certainly know how to appreciate good roads."

## Believe Potatoes Are A Good Bet This Year

A number of farmers as well as business men who follow up agricultural markets and speculate on the future prices, have expressed the opinion that Wataugans would do well this spring to equal or even increase the acreage planted to Irish potatoes last year. The low prices have driven growers in the early yielding belts to greatly reduce their plantings, and it is opined that if Watauga farmers plant a big crop, they will be assured of a more satisfactory income next fall.

## JURORS DRAWN FOR APRIL TERM SUPERIOR COURT

Convenes on April 11 With Judge P. A. McElroy Presiding. Spurling Will Prosecute Heavy Criminal Docket, 75 to 100 Cases, Including Two Homicides, Ed Stokes and Ephriam Wallace to Be Tried.

The regular spring term of Watauga Superior Court will convene on Monday, April 11th, when Judge P. A. McElroy will preside and Solicitor L. S. Spurling will prosecute a criminal docket which will carry from 75 to 100 cases.

Ed Stokes, slayer of Ivy Greene, who was once acquitted in justice's court for the fatal shooting, will be again arraigned, after the Grand Jury returned a true bill last fall. Ephriam Wallace, of the Beech Creek section, is in jail awaiting trial for the alleged killing of Thurston Oliver last December. Sixteen prisoners are now in the county jail, most of them to answer charges of minor infractions of the law.

Following is a list of those whose names have been drawn for jury service during the two-week term:

First Week—W. S. Davis, Russell Vannoy, Bert Farthing, Roy Norris, C. A. Clay, Luther A. Wilson, J. Y. Smitherman, W. B. Castle, Finley Shore, Dan Klutz, Fred R. Critcher, Floyd Hagaman, Hill Hagaman, Chas. C. Rogers, Cecil Miller, A. D. Wilson, W. B. Hodges, Jr., J. B. Cannon, W. W. Graeg, Walter Winkler, John K. Perry, A. N. Mast, E. C. Henson, Lewis Johnson, A. J. Payne, Amos Adams, J. P. Cooke, Zeb V. Harmon, P. R. Shull, A. B. Harmon, Junt R. Ragan, Noah Winebarger, D. W. Cook, Clyde Wallace, Russell Farthing, J. C. Shoemaker, A. G. Miller, C. M. Clark.

Second Week—W. W. Miller, E. J. Farthing, R. T. Greer, Will Sherrill, J. T. C. Wright, Walter Carroll, Alonzo Hodges, Charles Hollars, Don J. Horton, Don Perry, Charles Profitt, John E. Combs, C. C. Greene, Poe Mitchell, E. T. Miller, Russell Trivett, Fred White, O. G. Danner.

## CICERO SHEPHERD KILLED IN WRECK

Death Instantly Follows Auto Accident. Well-known in Watauga. Funeral Services Conducted in Wilkes Tuesday.

Cicero Shepherd, of Purlear, Wilkes County, well known in Watauga, was instantly killed Sunday afternoon about 5 o'clock when his automobile overturned on the Boone Trail Highway near his home.

No one was in the car with him but the accident was seen from a nearby house. He was driving at a moderate rate of speed, when the vehicle swerved into a side ditch. He turned it back in the road and it overturned three times, killing him instantly.

Mr. Shepherd was employed by the State Highway Commission and was returning to his work in Surry County when the accident occurred. Several years ago he was in charge of a crew employed in placing the guard railing on Blowing Rock Road.

The deceased was 60 years of age, and is survived by his mother, widow and five children; also three brothers. Mrs. Millard Hodges, of Blowing Rock is a sister-in-law of Mr. Shepherd. Funeral services were held at Lewis Fork Baptist Church Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and interment was made in a nearby cemetery. Several Watauga people were in attendance.

### MEETING POSTPONED

Due to the extremely cold weather which prevailed in Boone for several days past, the revival meeting which was to have begun at the Baptist Church last Sunday, has been postponed until Easter Sunday. Rev. B. Townsend, pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, will assist Pastor Hicks in the meeting, and people of all denominations are cordially invited to attend.

## W. B. BAIRD DIES AT VALLE CRUCIS MONDAY EVENING

Prominent Wataugan Succumbs at Advanced Age. Ill Four Weeks with Heart Ailment. Was Two-term Sheriff of County. Funeral Wednesday. Seven Children Survive. Well-Known Citizen.

William B. Baird, prominent farmer of the Valle Crucis section and Watauga County's first sheriff of this century, passed away at his home on Monday evening, the 7th, after an illness which became serious about four weeks ago. Should he have lived until April 20th, he would have been 82 years old. A heart attack was assigned as the immediate cause of his death.

Funeral services were conducted from the home the following Wednesday afternoon by Reverend G. C. Graham, pastor of the Valle Crucis Methodist Church, who was assisted by Reverend L. F. Kent, of the Episcopal Church. Interment was in the Baird family cemetery.

Surviving are six children, five sons and one daughter: Charles of Mountain City, Tenn.; John of Johnson City, Tenn.; Thomas J. of Wilmington, N. C.; Cluster and Clay of Valle Crucis, and Mrs. John H. Mast of Raphine, Va.

Mr. Baird was born, reared and spent his entire life in the Valle Crucis community, and was known as one of the most substantial and best citizens. He was a moving spirit in community life, and for two terms was sheriff of Watauga County. He was elected in 1900, and two years later his faithful services were again rewarded by the voters at the polls. He was a long-time member of the Methodist Church at Valle Crucis, and contributed a full share to the good works of the community. In the death of "Bill" Baird Watauga loses another of its fine pioneer citizens, and the occasion is one of genuine sorrow.

## Warm Sunshine Comes In Wake of Blizzard

Wednesday morning Old Sol burst forth to break the icy grip of King Winter, which had held Watauga County in a relentless grip for more than ten days, during which time mercury dropped to four degrees above zero, and highway crews were kept busy by day and by night keeping the roads cleared of the drifting snow. On Monday snow fell constantly throughout the day and at night a sixty-mile gale drove the heavy snow like stinging needles into the faces of wayfarers, and mercury stood at 8 degrees above zero. Plumbing fixtures were broken throughout the community, early budding fruit was killed and buses and motor vehicles were delayed. The Monday blizzard was purely local, a telephone conversation revealing that, in the afternoon, no snow was falling and the sun shined brightly on the east side of the ridge.

On Monday morning at 5 o'clock the sky was cloudless. At 6 o'clock a blinding snowstorm was in progress; and at 7 o'clock the same morning highway crews were on the job clearing county roads. Just another freakish trick of the weather man.

## Banner Elk Civitans Meet With Local Club

A number of the leading members of the Banner Elk Civitan Club met in regular session with the Boone organization at luncheon at the Critcher Hotel last Thursday. Considerable interest was manifest when Mr. Edgar Tufts, one of the visitors and the head of the Edgar Tufts Memorial Association, of which Lees-McRae College is a part, addressed the audience on the advisability of procuring a full-time press agent for this section of the country. Ways and means of financing this new move were advanced by the speaker, who believes that through daily newspaper publicity, northwest Carolina may fully come "into her own" as a great tourist center. Mr. Zimmerman, a member of the Banner Elk college faculty, and Dr. R. H. Hardin of Grace Hospital, also spoke along the same general line.

G. K. Moose and Dr. J. M. Gaither, of the Boone Club, made brief talks, and mentioned the possibility of locating a game bird farm in this section.

The Boone club accepted an invitation extended by the visitors to enjoy dinner with them at the Banner Elk orphanage on the 24th, and in the afternoon to visit the game bird farm, which is proving such a success there.

### MITCHELL CHILD SUCCEUMS

Lois Mitchell, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Mitchell of Blowing Rock Township, died on last Sunday evening, but meager information does not give the cause of the child's demise. Funeral services were to have been conducted on Wednesday.

## Whereabouts of Baby Yet a Mystery



CHARLES AUGUSTUS LINDBERGH JR., son of the famous flyer, who was kidnaped from his Hopewell, N. J., home on the 1st. Police as well as private agencies are using every effort to locate the baby, but thus far all clues have proved fruitless. Photograph was made shortly before the child was abducted.

## Milk-for-Health Campaign Strikes Responsive Chord

### Many County Farmers Apply for Seed Loans

Mr. G. B. Hagaman, chairman of the local committee for the distribution of the Federal seed loan money, reports that 85 to 100 farmers have made applications for loans during the first week of the organization's activity. Mr. Hagaman states that there seems to be a disposition on the part of the borrowers to secure as little money as is possible, and at the same time carry on their planting program as usual. Plans for applying for the loans may be secured from Mr. Hagaman at the bank, or from R. T. Greer or C. M. Critcher, the other members of the committee. Smith Hagaman also has a supply at the courthouse.

## MRS. A. J. M'BRIDE CLAIMED BY DEATH

Popular Lady of the Cove Creek Section Succumbs After Long Illness. Interment Saturday at McBride Cemetery.

Mrs. A. J. McBride, 79 years old, passed away at her home in the Mast community last Friday afternoon, following a long illness. The direct cause of her demise is said to have been a weakened condition of the heart. Interment was at the McBride family grave yard Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Surviving are a husband, one brother, Mr. Asa Wilson of Silverstone, and one sister, Mrs. Nellie Wilson, of Beaver Dam. Mrs. McBride was born in the Cove Creek section and spent her entire life in Watauga County. She was a good woman, a kind-hearted neighbor and will be missed in the community. She was a member of the Advent Church.

## Republican County Convention Is Called

Russell D. Hodges, chairman of the Watauga County Republican Executive Committee, publishes today a call for the county convention which is to be held in the courthouse at two o'clock Saturday, April 2, 1932, for the purpose of electing delegates to the Congressional and State Conventions, to elect an executive committee and for such other business as may be proper.

Precinct meetings are to be held on Friday, April 1, at 2 o'clock to name delegates to the county convention.

The Congressional convention will be held in Taylorsville on April 1, 1932, at 2 p. m., and the State Convention at Charlotte on the 14th at 10 o'clock a. m.

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES TO BE HELD AT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week services in Grace Lutheran Church, East Boone, will begin on Monday evening, March 21st, at 7:30 p. m. and continue all week. A sunrise service will be held on Easter morning at 6 o'clock, at which time the Holy Communion will be administered. Service also at 11 a. m. Easter Sunday. Rev. J. A. Yount, pastor, invites the public to all these services.

## TRIAL OF ELECTION CASE, CONTINUED BY JUDGE HAYES

Watauga County Democratic Election Officials Will Not Be Tried at Wilkesboro Next Week. Motion for Continuance Entertained by Judge Monday. No Further Date Set. Thirty-Nine Under Indictment.

Judge Johnson J. Hayes, of the Middle Federal District, sitting in chambers in Greensboro Monday, allowed a continuance of the trials of Democratic election officials of Watauga, indicted on a conspiracy charge, after a motion had been made for a postponement by counsel for the defense. No date was set for the trial of the thirty-nine local men who were alleged to have been guilty of entering into a conspiracy to prevent voters from freely exercising the privilege of franchise in the 1930 election.

It had been previously arranged by the court for the trial of the Watauga men in Wilkesboro, beginning next Monday. Four townships are represented in the bills of indictment, Boone, Cove Creek, Laurel Creek and Stony Fork.

"When will these Watauga County cases, involving alleged violations of the Federal election laws, be tried?" a newspaper man asked District Attorney J. R. McCrary at the Federal building in Greensboro Tuesday.

"The government," Mr. McCrary replied, "has been making careful preparations for two or three weeks for the trial of these cases. Judge Dan M. Jackson, specially assigned by the Department of Justice for the purpose of assisting in these trials, and Mr. A. E. Tilley, one of the assistant United States attorneys in this district, who drew the original bills of indictment, have been in the mountains for two weeks examining the witnesses and preparing for trial."

"The defendants, through their attorneys, moved last week for a continuance of the cases and that motion was denied by Judge Hayes. The motion was renewed yesterday by Mr. Harry P. Grier, of Statesville, Mr. J. H. Burke, of Taylorsville, and Mr. R. A. Doughton, of Sparta, attorneys for the defendants, and the motion for continuance was granted today by Judge Hayes for the reasons assigned in the court's order of continuance. The government expected to be ready for trial of the cases, but could not controvert the facts set forth in the motion for continuance."

The order signed by Judge Hayes follows:

"The defendants through counsel moved the court last week for a continuance, which motion was overruled. Again this week a motion by the defendants for a continuance is renewed, assigning, among other rea-

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## Evangelist Miller to Preach Here Sunday

Evangelist M. B. Miller, who recently closed a meeting here, will fill his first regular appointment Sunday, preaching in the Advent Christian Church. The newly-organized Christian Church will share the use of this building jointly with the Advent Christians for Sunday School and general usage. Rev. Miller, preaching one Sunday each month. After this month, his regular time will be each fourth Sunday.

Since both congregations are small, it seems a fine arrangement whereby the two can join their forces in this manner. A united budget has been worked out and a financial canvass of both congregations will be made soon.

Rev. Miller is anxious that all the members of the Christian Church, as well as the Advent Christian congregation, be present at all services in the church, and urges a fine showing at his first regular service next Sunday.

## Young People of M. E. Church Give Program

The program at Boone Methodist Church last Sunday morning was in charge of the young people, and several very interesting talks supplanted the usual sermon. Mr. Van Hinson spoke on "The Essential Unity of the Church," Rev. J. T. Houck gave the "Attitude of the Adult Toward the Young People." Miss Pauline Bingham read a paper on "The Attitude of the Young People Toward the Church," and Miss Louise Cox offered "Ten Laws for Church Young People." This program is the modern form of the old Epworth League Anniversary Day.

Rev. J. H. Brendall Jr., pastor of the church, was in charge of the service, which is in line with the new unified program of the conference, which has already been set up according to the modern legislation. Mr. Brendall states that a Local Board of Religious Education, with a complete reorganization of the Sunday School is in prospect for the near future.

Welfare and Civic Organizations Join Together in Extensive Educational Drive. Contests Arouse Much Interest Among Young People. Window Displays in Local Stores. Speakers at All Schools.

The Watauga County Board of Health, through its sanitary inspector, Gordon Battle, and with the assistance of various local committees, has joined wholeheartedly into the Governor's Milk-for-Health movement, and indications are that at the close of this week, Wataugans will have come to a complete appreciation of the part milk and milk products play in their health and happiness. Eight or nine windows in business houses of the town have been decorated especially for the occasion through the genius of Miss Lily Dale of the Home Economics Department at State Teachers College, who worked with the co-operation of the Spaulbear Store; school children are busy finding out all about milk and writing competitive essays and rhymes, business men of Boone have taken advantage of the occasion for newspaper advertising and have cooperated to the extent of making The Watauga Democrat today a "Milk Week special," speakers are preaching the doctrine of good health in the various communities, and the campaign is going over with a bang locally.

### A Gigantic Campaign

Something of the size of the campaign may be learned from the fact that the demand for campaign literature from the State Board of Health has kept the printing press running day and night. Of one pamphlet alone—Milk and More Milk—more than a quarter-million copies have already been sent out at the request of county organizers. Similar demands have been made for other forms of literature.

Just what the campaign will accomplish, it is too early to say. But many counties are already planning to increase their cow population, and at the same time all to their per capita consumption of milk. Craven, Lenoir and Nash counties are making definite steps in this direction. A number of counties are setting up permanent Milk-for-Health campaign committees, the work of which will be to carry on the work set in motion by the State-wide Milk-for-Health campaign. Rowan and New Hanover counties have effected such organizations.

But perhaps the greatest good to be accomplished will be the creation of a great army of milk-drinkers among the school children. And these will know why they drink milk—that is the most nearly perfect food and an essential to the health of their bodies, their teeth and to their mental

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## A. S. T. C. Debating Teams Win Decision

The debating team at the Appalachian State Teachers College won a 2 to 1 decision both at the college here and at Lenoir-Rhyne Tuesday evening, when the query, "Resolved, that Congress should enact legislation for centralized control of industry, constitutionality waived." Leroy Sosamon and Yates Havener supported the affirmative side of the question at Appalachia, while Earl Haywood and Livingston Williams were negative speakers at Lenoir-Rhyne. This was the first debate for the local team of the season.