

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 4

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1932

\$1.50 PER YEAR

DR. DOUGHERTY TO SPEAK AT REUNION OF OLD FAMILIES

Masts, Taylors, Shulls, Hortons and Bairds to Gather at Valle Crucis on August 20th. More Than 500 Expected to Be Present. Program for Annual Event Released. Close Friends Invited to Participate.

Plans for the annual reunion of the Taylor, Mast, Baird, Shull and Horton families, to be held at Valle Crucis on August 20th, are going forward rapidly, and indications at present are that more than five hundred members of the prominent families will be present for the event, which includes an old-time basket picnic at the noon hour.

For the past several years the reunion has been held in the Middle West, where many of the connections reside, and it is expected that a large group from Kansas and Missouri will be at Valle Crucis next month. Mr. J. M. Shull, one of the sponsors, was in Boone Tuesday, and gave out the following program for the reunion, which opens at 10 o'clock a. m.:

1. Song No. 281, "My Country 'Tis of Thee."
2. Prayer by Rev. J. A. McKaughn, pastor of Cove Creek Baptist Church.
3. Address of welcome by Ira T. Johnston of Jefferson.
4. Response by J. M. Shull of Kansas.
5. Song, "The North Carolina Hills," led by Professor I. G. Greer of Appalachian State Teachers College.
6. Peak address by Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College.
7. Remarks by W. H. Gragg of Boone, followed by basket dinner.
8. (1 p. m.) Old-time Love Songs by Professor and Mrs. Greer.
9. Short speeches by representatives of the different families.
10. Discussion as to where the next reunion shall be held.

Individuals of each family are requested to wear ribbon badges, one inch wide and four inches long. The Shulls will wear lavender, the Hortons blue, the Masts green, the Taylors gold, and the Bairds pink.

The Shull family will be represented by J. T. Shull; the Horton family by S. F. Horton; the Baird family by T. C. Baird; the Mast family by D. C. Mast; and the Taylor family by C. D. Taylor.

Mr. Shull states that all friends of the families who wish to take a part in the reunion are cordially invited to do so.

Parks Family Gathers In Annual Reunion

More than one hundred descendants of the late Rev. W. C. Parks, Virginia minister, met in annual reunion at the State Fish Hatchery near Boone last Saturday. Three surviving daughters of Rev. Parks, Mrs. S. M. Greer of Grant, Va., Mrs. E. S. Coffey of Boone, and Mrs. J. F. Spainhour of Morganton, were present for the enjoyable event, which was climaxed by a delightful luncheon served in the hatchery grove. A son of the revered minister, Mr. Fred Parks of Pittsburg, was the only immediate survivor who did not attend the reunion.

Relatives who assembled Saturday came from North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia and other states, only two of those present not being related to the Parks family, either by blood or marriage. The day was spent in renewing old acquaintances, forming new ones, and mingling together in informal fashion. A partial list of those present follows: Mrs. E. S. Coffey and daughters, Misses Ruth and Louise, of Boone; Mr. and Mrs. B. Frank Williams, of Boone; Mr. and Mrs. Baxter M. Linney, of Lenoir; Professor and Mrs. I. G. Greer and family of Boone; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Spainhour and family of Morganton; Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Hamlett and children of Wushli, China; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Nelson Sr., Mrs. M. E. Shell and daughter, Miss Helen, of Lenoir; Mr. Hubert Coffey, of Bryson City; Boatright Britain and family, Seven Mile Ford, Va.; Charles Greer and family of Marion, Va.; Herbert Parks and family, of Roaring River.

Charles Bowers and family, of Bristol; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Robertson, of Madison; Governor and Mrs. R. A. Doughton of Sparta; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barrow, of Bluefield, W. Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Britton and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Cox, of Sattlemire Ford, Va.; Mrs. Cornett, of West Virginia; Mrs. Arthur Parks, of Sparta; Mr. and Mrs. Julius Blair and daughter, of Thomasville, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Shearer and daughter, of Lenoir; Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook, of Sparta; Mrs. Burson of Florida; Mrs. W. C. Field and Mrs. Cox, of Mouth of Wilson, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. James Moore, of Bristol, Tenn.

Habifax County farmers report an abundance of boll weevil in cotton and the harvest of 20,000 pounds of crimson clover seed.

Aerial Commuters



Joe Cannon Jr. and Otto Comp, as they stepped from the latter's plane on the Blowing Rock golf course recently. The two "aerial commuters" used just thirty-five minutes in making the trip from sweltering Charlotte to "breezy" Blowing Rock.

AGED RESIDENT OF COUNTY DEAD

Mr. John Day, Well-known Citizen of Deep Gap Community, Succumbs. Had Been in Poor Health for Some Time. 80 Years Old.

Mr. John Day passed away at his home in the Deep Gap section early Monday morning, after an illness which had been considered serious for several weeks. Mr. Day was 80 years old, and his death was due principally to natural infirmities incident to his great age.

At press time Wednesday funeral arrangements had not been completed, but it was understood that the services would be conducted Thursday and that interment would be in the neighborhood cemetery.

Surviving are ten children, five sons and five daughters: R. F. Day of Fleetwood, N. C.; George Day, Fleetwood; W. M. Day, Lenoir; I. W. Day, Reading, Penn.; Harvey Day, Milton, Oregon; Mesdames A. W. Greene and Wilson Greene of Deep Gap; Miss Mary Day, Deep Gap; Mrs. C. C. Carroll, Jonesboro, Tenn.; and Mrs. Lillard Beech, of the Rich Mountain section.

In the death of Mr. Day Watauga County loses one of her most substantial citizens. He spent the greater part of his life in the community in which he died, and was known throughout this region as a good and just man. In his death there is cause for deep sorrow among those who knew him best.

War Risk Insurance Cases to Be Heard

Several cases of World War veterans of Watauga suing the government for war risk insurance claims are now pending in the Federal Court and Marshal W. H. Gragg is this week summoning the witnesses to appear next week in the cases of Frank Bingham and the estate of the late Paul Spainhour. In both instances, it is said, the plaintiffs seek to recover \$10,000 in insurance issued while they were serving with the American armies during the World War. Whether or not any of the other cases will be tried at the term of Wilkesboro court, convening Monday, is not known.

Local Showers Break Protracted Drought

The drought, which has been playing havoc with growing crops for the past several weeks, was broken in the region around Boone Monday night by a considerable shower, and on Wednesday a hard shower was welcomed in this community.

Farmers state that the potato crop has been damaged by the extremely dry weather, and that many plantings of late cabbage are so retarded that rain even at this time will not be too late to make a good crop. Early maturing varieties of potatoes have not suffered so much, and a good yield is reported from many farmers.

Link in Yonahlossee Road Wins Approval

Among the highway projects to be approved for early construction by the State Highway Commission Tuesday was the 8-mile link of the Yonahlossee from the Avery County line to Linville. Contracts will be let on August 10th and it is supposed that the work will be completed this fall. The unfinished portion of the famed highway has been a source of much annoyance to the hundreds of tourists traversing this section, and has marred an otherwise beautiful thoroughfare.

TEACHERS FROM FIVE COUNTIES TO MEET HERE AUG. 4

Many Important Questions to Be Taken Up at Conference of Elementary Principals. Meeting to Be Held at Teachers College. Over Four Hundred to Attend. Supt. Hagaman Issues Call.

A conference of elementary and high school teachers will be held at the Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone on Thursday, August 4, according to a statement sent out by Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, state high school supervisor. The conference is for five counties, Watauga, Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga, and it is expected that more than four hundred teachers will be present.

Heretofore only county superintendents, city superintendents and high school principals took part in these conferences. This year particular stress will be laid upon subjects of vital interest to the elementary school principals and each one is urged by the authorities to attend.

The conference will be in at 9:30 a. m. County Superintendent Smith Hagaman has sent out the following notice to all school principals in Watauga:

"There will be, by order of Dr. Highsmith of the department of education of North Carolina, a meeting of all high school and elementary principals of Watauga, and other counties, held at the Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone on Thursday, August 4th, at 9:30 a. m. This means all teachers of one-teacher schools and principals of more than one teacher schools, both elementary and high. If you are not able to secure a substitute on this day, you must adjourn your school. It is important that you attend."

"SMITH HAGAMAN, County Superintendent."

Watauga Attorney May Win Special Judgeship

Attorney John H. Bingham, of Sugar Grove, was a visitor in Boone Monday afternoon, and while here told a member of The Democrat staff that numerous party leaders throughout the county have been urging him to make a race for the Democratic nomination for State Representative. Mr. Bingham states that he is not a candidate for any office and, while thanking his friends for their confidence, wishes it understood that he would not accept any nomination within the gift of his party.

The Sugar Grove man has been active in local politics for more than forty years, but has never been a candidate for public office. It is understood here that he has been endorsed by many prominent North Carolinians for the special judgeship made vacant by the resignation of Judge Harwood some months ago. Governor Gardner has not yet appointed a successor to Harwood, but due to the congested condition of State dockets, it is expected that the appointment will be made at once. Among those who have lent their endorsement to Mr. Bingham for the judgeship are Senators Morrison and Bailey, Congressman Doughton, Judge Johnson J. Hayes, Judge Finley and Judge Harding, as well as the membership of the local bar association.

Mr. Bingham, it is said, has heard more reference cases than any lawyer in Northwestern North Carolina, and each and every verdict rendered by him has been sustained by the State Supreme Court. Those who are backing him for the judgeship state that Bingham is eminently fitted for the bench, and that this section of the country, which has been more or less overlooked in the matter of judicial patronage, deserves the appointment.

Mr. Bingham has been a member of the local bar for more than twenty years, and during that time has enjoyed a lucrative practice.

JEFFERSON B. COUNCILL DIES AT FAYETTEVILLE

Jafferson B. Councill, 27, superintendent for the Burlington Mills Corporation, died in Highsmith Hospital, Fayetteville, early Sunday morning following an illness of ten days. He had gone to that city two months ago to take charge of the Puritan Mills rayon factory.

Mr. Councill was born and reared in Salisbury. His father, Dr. J. B. Councill, one of the leading physicians of the Piedmont section and a native Wataugan, died three months ago.

Mr. Councill was a graduate of Clemson College and had made rapid advancement in the textile manufacturing field. His wife and two sisters were with him in his illness. In addition to Mrs. Councill he leaves a 9-year-old son and an infant daughter.

Funeral services were held in Salisbury Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

Laurel Creek Man Kills Himself Rather than to Appear in Court

Choosing death rather than the ordeal of appearing as a witness in Federal Court, Gold Ward, 38, of Laurel Creek Township, this county, shot and killed himself on Wednesday evening of last week at his home on Beech Mountain. Officers investigating the case stated that a 12 gauge shotgun was placed against his heart, the trigger being pulled with a notched stick.

A crudely-scratched note, found in his purse, said: "Dear Folks: I am going to bid you farewell, for I can't rest of a day nor sleep of night. Ben, son, you all can live. I would love to stay with you but I can't; I am not worth anything much any more. Dear wife, of course you will weep, but take it as easy as you can. I will let people talk about me when I am gone. Good bye one and all, I hope to meet you in heaven. My dear wife and children, may God bless you all. Gold Ward."

Ward, who was a Primitive Baptist minister, had served as a Republican

official in the last general election and it is understood had been summoned to appear before District Attorney J. R. McCrary, who was in Watauga the latter part of last week making preparations for the trial of 37 Democrats on a charge of fraud in holding the 1930 election. The cases are to be tried before Judge Johnson Hayes, of the Middle North Carolina District, at Wilkesboro in August.

Several times within the past few days, Ward was said to have told members of his family that he "had rather die than to go to court." A factional dispute among the members of his church, it is claimed, had also caused him considerable worry.

Funeral services were held at the Ward Graveyard Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. L. M. Presnell conducting the rites.

Surviving are the widow, eight children, parents, and several brothers and sisters. The deceased man bore a good name in the community where he had spent his entire life.

DR. DULA LEADS IN MEDICAL TESTS

Son of Watauga Lady Leads Class of 85 to Carry Off Unusual Honors. Educated at University and Vanderbilt.

The following relative to the signal honors won by Dr. Fred M. Dula, of Lenoir, when he took the lead over a large class in the State medical examinations, will be of especial interest to Watauga County citizens. Dr. Dula is a son of the late Dr. A. W. Dula, and since his mother is a native Watauga woman, the many friends of the family, and scores of relatives, rejoice with her and her son upon his noteworthy achievement.

Dr. Fred M. Dula, of Lenoir, successfully stood the State medical examination in Morehead City last week, it was announced, receiving the highest grades in a class of 85, and has received his state license to practice medicine. He made an average of more than 90 on all his examinations.

Dr. Dula is the son of the late Dr. A. W. Dula, eye specialist, and Mrs. Dula, who now lives in Lenoir. He has been studying at Vanderbilt University for the past several years, having first received A. B. and M. A. degrees at the University of North Carolina.

At the present Dr. Dula is in the Nashville General Hospital at Nashville, Tenn., where he is serving his year's internship. He plans to locate in Lenoir in July of next year for the practice of medicine, it was learned today.

Frederick Mast Dula was graduated from the University of North Carolina at the age of 19 years, completing the four-year course in three years. He received his Master's degree at the age of 20 years and was offered the position at that time of Assistant Dean of Students. His average for the three years of college work was sufficient to admit him to the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity, the highest scholastic honor at the university, but the requirements call for four consecutive years' collegiate work. However, he averaged 95 on his M. A. degree work. He stood at the top of his classes at Vanderbilt University and won honors there.

Will Begin Pouring Concrete August 15

Pouring of concrete on the two-mile link of the Boone Trail Highway between Boone and New River will begin about the 15th of August, states Harvey Bunting of the R. G. Lassiter Company, which was awarded a contract for the construction. Only fifteen days will be required, it is understood, for the work, and the thoroughfare is expected to be opened for travel early in September.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION IS TO BEGIN BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

Raleigh—The State Highway Commission is embarking on a program of highway beautification. August 1 has been set as general clean-up day on highways and Arbor Day each year will hereafter be observed in roadside planting with the entire maintenance force taking part.

Each division engineer shall be in charge of beautification in his division and it is hoped that a friendly competition will develop between the divisions to determine which will make the most progress in the work this fiscal year.

Land owners will be asked to cooperate; unsightly advertising signs, motor junk dumps, isolated wrecks and rubbish heaps will be removed from sight of the highways; hideous gullies will be grassed and engineers in clearing for new construction will leave an avenue of trees along the highways.

MRS. S. J. BARNETT PASSES TUESDAY

Prominent Boone Lady Succumbs to Lingering Illness. Funeral Wednesday at Baptist Church, and Interment Here.

Mrs. S. J. Barnett died at her home in Boone Tuesday afternoon after an illness of several weeks. A complication of ailments contributed to her demise, she having never enjoyed good health since the death of her husband about two months ago. She was 58 years old.

Funeral services are to be conducted from the Boone Baptist Church in this city, this (Wednesday) afternoon at 4 o'clock. The obsequies will be in charge of Rev. P. A. Hicks, the pastor, and interment will be in the city cemetery.

Surviving is one son, I. T. Barnett, Boone business man, five grandchildren, five sisters and four brothers.

Mrs. Barnett was a native of Wilkes County, but had made her home in Boone for the past eight years. She had been a faithful and loyal member of the Baptist Church almost since childhood, and during her residence in Boone had won the friendship and esteem of the citizenship generally.

Local Officers Capture Boozie and Make Arrests

Leonard Carlton and Clarence Lewis were arrested by Deputy Sheriff Clint Norris and Policeman R. S. Swift on Thursday afternoon at the home of the former near Devil's Gate, following the finding of five gallons and three quarts of illicit hooch on the premises. The men were lodged in the county jail, and on Saturday waived examination before Justice of the Peace E. N. Hahn, posted bonds of \$500 each for appearance at the fall term of Superior Court, and were released.

Returning to the Carlton home shortly after the arrests were made, Deputy Norris found one gallon and three quarts more of the fluid near the building, before darkness halted his search. The next morning he renewed his investigation and located two and one-half gallons more, and on the same afternoon picked up an additional five pints.

This is the second large haul the local officers have made recently, having captured fifteen gallons of booze a few weeks ago. During the past year Officers Swift and Norris made more than eighty-five arrests, most of them having been for infractions of the prohibition laws.

Pasture Needed By Baptist Orphanage

The Mills Home at Thomasville, orphanage of the Baptist denomination, is sorely in need of grazing for forty to fifty head of cattle, according to I. G. Greer, official of the Baptist Church here. Mr. Greer states that those who have pasture for rent should get in touch with him at once, and any member of the denomination or others who have surplus grazing lands, would meet no objection should they wish to donate some of their excess grass to the child-rearing institution.

OPENS FLY FARM

Bean, Ga.—A three-hundred-acre farm just to produce flies is being developed in this eastern Georgia community. But they're July flies, the kind the game fish like, and the developer, J. M. Moseley, is selling them to fishermen. The farm, abandoned to dog, fennel and weeds, is an insects' paradise and Moseley leased it as a fish bait cafeteria.

WATAUGA JURY TO PASS ON GUILT OF A FORMER SHERIFF

Entire Summoned From This County to Try Jefferson Case. Former Sheriff Being Sued by Ashe County for Large Sum at Special Term of Court. Two Boone Attorneys Are Appearing in Action.

A special venire of Watauga county men left yesterday morning for Jefferson where they will pass on the case being tried at the special term of court there, wherein Ashe County is suing Ex-Sheriff J. W. Hampton for \$70,000, of which, it is contended, the county was defrauded by the consent settlement made by the former officials and the commissioners.

The venire was drawn in Boone Monday and the group of Watauga County citizens, summoned on Tuesday, are as follows:

C. B. Reese, Beaver Dam; D. F. Greene, Beaver Dam; M. C. Brown, Meat Camp; A. C. Mast, Cove Creek; Lloyd Hayes, Boone; Sam Austin, Boone; J. P. Combs, Cove Creek; L. L. Bingham, Boone; W. R. Anderson, Boone; Dave Moody, Cove Creek; R. L. Hodges, Boone; J. L. Shull, Laurel Creek; J. R. Gragg, Boone; W. L. Brown, Boone; John A. Beach, Cove Creek; C. H. Hendrix, Boone; W. Hardin Brown, Boone; W. S. Christian, Boone; W. N. Suddeth, Blowing Rock; Sam S. South, North Fork; Lee Swift, Beaver Dam; C. F. Culler, Meat Camp; H. H. Johnson, Beaver Dam; G. H. Winkler, Boone; W. C. Lyon, Boone; Don Hagaman, Beaver Dam; Scott Swift, Cove Creek.

Clove L. Gross, Boone; H. Grady Farthing, Boone; C. C. Ragan, Meat Camp; A. N. Mast, Cove Creek; Carl Payne, Boone; Bert Mast, Cove Creek; C. J. Farthing, Beaver Dam; W. H. Harbin, Cove Creek; Ed S. Williams, Cove Creek; John A. Lentz, Blowing Rock; A. E. Trivett, Beaver Dam; J. M. Brown, North Fork; R. D. Moretz, Stony Fork; Charles Johnson, Beaver Dam; Lewis Norris, Beaver Dam; J. B. Farthing, Beaver Dam; A. L. Cook, Boone; Luther Hardy, Boone; G. B. Moody, Cove Creek; W. W. Wilson, Beaver Dam; C. G. Stephens, Meat Camp; I. F. Church, Bald Mountain; John A. Spoles, Boone.

The prospective jurors went to Jefferson Wednesday morning and it is supposed that the case will get under way by the afternoon session. John E. Brown, Boone attorney, is appearing for Sheriff Hampton, while Senator W. R. Loyall is on the side of the county. Robert H. McNeil of Washington, D. C., nationally-known attorney who appeared in the Bishop Cannon cases, U. S. Grant Baugaess and Joseph M. Prevette have also been retained by the plaintiffs. Judge Tam C. Bowie, Governor R. A. Doughton, Ira T. Johnston and R. F. Crouse finish out the array of counsel for the defense.

Governor O. Max Gardner called the special term at the request of the board of county commissioners several weeks ago and assigned Judge W. C. Harris to preside.

The civil action to be heard is the outcome of a chain of litigation which had its beginning in March, 1928, when the board of commissioners as then constituted attempted to foreclose on a deed of trust which Hampton and his wife had executed for the purpose of securing the county against any loss. The present action has John A. Weaver, Thomas K. Miller, W. L. Dent, E. A. McNeill, R. W. Hardin, E. A. McNeill, G. M. Donnelly and other taxpayers as the plaintiffs, with Ex-Sheriff Hampton and the present board of county commissioners as defendants.

Dr. Edward Madron Dies at Mountain City

Dr. Edward M. Madron, dental surgeon who for many years resided in Watauga County, died at the home of a son, Dr. Paul Madron, in Mountain City, Tenn., last Thursday afternoon. He had been in declining health for several months and had been critically ill for more than a week.

Funeral services were held at Mountain City Methodist C. Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. G. T. Byrd, pastor, in charge, assisted by Rev. John A. Davis, Baptist minister. Interment followed at the family burying ground at Trade.

Dr. Madron was a man of ke intellect, possessed a pleasing personality, and was well-liked by a large concourse of friends. He was born and reared in Johnson County, near the North Carolina line, but came to Watauga in early manhood where he married a daughter of the late Thomas Bingham. Mrs. Madron died more than seventeen years ago. Survivors include two sons, Dr. Paul Madron of Mountain City, and Dr. Horace Madron, of Butler, and two daughters, both married, who reside in Tennessee.