

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1932

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## HUGE CROWDS ARE EXPECTED AT BIG FAMILY REUNION

Program of Activities for Ingathering of Families at Valle Crucis Has Been Released. To Take Place Saturday. Relatives of Four Families From Many States Will Be Present. Addresses and Picnic Dinner.

A family reunion of proportions thus far unknown in this region will take place at Valle Crucis Saturday when there will be an ingathering of the Shull, Mast, Baird, Horton and Taylor families at the Methodist churchyard in that community.

Messrs. J. M. Shull and S. F. Horton have prepared a program for the occasion, and in their opinion several hundred members of the family connections will be present. Already some of the kith and kin have arrived from Western states, and it is said that no less than 50 are expected from beyond the Mississippi River. A large percentage of the estimated 750 in the county, related to one of the five families will be present, and hundreds of friends will swell the gathering to the greatest family reunion ever known locally.

The members of the prominent and substantial families are to be congratulated upon their enterprise in promoting the event. The complete program of the day is printed below:

**The Program**  
10:00 A. M.—Song, "North Carolina Hills; Invocation, Rev. J. A. McKaughn; Address of Welcome, President Ira T. Johnston; Response, Joseph Shull, Kansas; Vocal Solo, Jim Moore; Introduction of Each Family, Toast to Shulls, Mrs. Ira T. Johnston; Historical Synopsis of Shulls, James Shull, Neva, Tenn.; Toast to Masts, Mrs. Addie Mast Dula; Historical Synopsis of Masts, D. C. Mast; Toast to Bairds, Ernest Moore; Historical Synopsis of Bairds, Wilma Baird; Toast to Taylors, Mrs. Chas. Menzies; Historical Synopsis of Taylors, Mrs. J. Bynum Taylor; Toast to Hortons, W. H. Gragg; Historical Synopsis of Hortons, Mrs. A. R. Barlow; Folk Songs, Professor and Mrs. J. G. Greer; Announcements, J. M. Shull, chairman program committee, Dinner.

2:00 P. M.—Song, "Eliot Be the One that Rides"; Vocal Solo, Miss Annie Dougherty; Instrumental Music, Mrs. Rowland Davis; Address, Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president Appalachian State Teachers College; quartette; Impromptu Remarks by Visitors; Benediction, Rev. G. C. Gramham.

## NEGRO BOY FAILS SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Ransom Horton Has Chance for Recovery After Having Shot Away Portion of Skull. Excessive Alcoholism Is Blamed.

Ransom Horton, young negro man of this community, apparently failed in a suicide attempt Tuesday afternoon, when he fired a small-bore shot gun direct at his forehead, the lead glancing upwards and literally tearing out a wide groove in his skull. He regained consciousness within a few minutes, and after having been attended by Dr. Hagaman was sent to the Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, where it is believed he has a chance to recover.

An illness of several weeks, precipitated by the liberal use of alcohol, is said to have caused the young negro to fire the shot which may prove fatal. He had been out of bed during the day and had assisted members of the family with housework, however there was no one present when the gun was discharged, and so far as is known Ransom has volunteered no information as to his mania for self-destruction.

## Work Going Forward On New Gymnasium

The work on the new gymnasium at Appalachian State Teachers College is being rapidly pushed forward. This building is located in the corner of the athletic field and is 80 feet by 112 1-2 feet. It is to be a combination field house, gymnasium and physical education and health building for men. It contains courts, shower baths, examination rooms and many conveniences for the physical education work. When this building is completed it will leave the present physical education building for the exclusive use of the young women. This building has become a necessity, because of the rapid development of the physical education and health department of the college.

The cost of board has been greatly reduced. Last year it was \$118.00 for the nine months. This year the cost of board for an individual for nine months will be an even \$100.00

## Secretary of Commerce



Roy D. Chapin, Detroit automobile magnate, is the new Secretary of Commerce in the Hoover Cabinet, succeeding Robert P. Lamont, who resigned to enter private business. Mr. Chapin is 52 years old, and has long been a conspicuous figure in the automotive industry.

## REYNOLDS FEELS FIT; IS READY TO OPEN UP HERE

Senatorial Nominee Quoted as Saying He Is "All Set for Firing Opening Gun in Boone." Date Has Not Been Set. Young Voters Plan Spectacular Rally for Mountain Man Who Won in Recent Primary.

Robert R. Reynolds, Democratic candidate for the United States Senate, and perhaps the most colorful figure in State political circles as a result of his unprecedented primary majority over a powerful opponent, tells a Charlotte newspaper that he is fit as a fiddle and ready to make the formal opening of his campaign in Boone. His friends here, however, have not received the positive information from him, and at press time The Democrat was unable to reach the candidate.

Mr. Reynolds last week told The Democrat that Boone was almost assured of the honor of having him fire his first shot in the hectic campaign, and it is expected that the date will be set soon, in accordance with the plans of the State Executive Committee, and after further conferences with his friends here who lost no time following the primary in extending the invitation.

If tentative plans can be carried out, it is expected that "Our Bob" will be given a grand send-off when he comes to Boone the next time. A brass band will likely contribute to the effectiveness of a parade, and there is talk of even making the event a four-county democratic rally and barbecue, to wind up in the evening with a "victory dance" at a local hotel. These dances have been promoted as a means of raising campaign revenue by the Young People's Democratic organizations, and are being given on a nation-wide scale.

No details incident to the anticipated event have been worked out, but it is expected that committees will be appointed and that the culmination of their activities will be the most widely attended political attraction ever staged in this region.

## Revival Service to Begin At M. E. Church Here

A revival meeting will begin at the Boone Methodist Church on September 11th. Dr. E. K. McLarty, who is pastor of Central Methodist Church, Shelby, N. C., will do the preaching. Dr. McLarty is a powerful and effective evangelist as well as a successful pastor. Special music is being planned for the revival, and all old friends of Boone Methodist Church are urged to invite all good singers to join the augmented choir.

## WATAUGA PEOPLE RETURN FROM VISIT TO THE EAST

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Adams and four children returned to their home on Cove Creek Friday night from a motor trip which carried them through several eastern states and into the Dominion of Canada.

Niagara Falls, Gettysburg Battlefield, the Shenandoah Valley, Washington City and Philadelphia were among the places of historic interest visited by the Adamses, who greatly enjoyed their vacation. Mr. Adams stated that while in the Dominion, which is wringing wet, he failed to see one single man who showed the effects of intoxicants, and that the conditions there are much better than in the so-called dry United States.

Mr. Horton Gragg has returned from Mars Hill College where he has been enrolled as a student.

## HODGES BOUND TO COURT IN DEATH OF BOONE YOUTH

Mayor Grover Robbins of Blowing Rock Conducts Hearing into Fatal Affray at Mayview. Testimony of Witnesses Favors Defendant. Bond of One Thousand Dollars Required for Appearance at Fall Term.

On Tuesday morning at the town hall in Blowing Rock, Mayor Grover C. Robbins, after conducting a preliminary hearing into the death of Glenn Wyke, local youth who was fatally injured in a fall from a high porch at Mayview Manor last week, bound Jack Hodges, also of Boone, over to the Watauga County Grand Jury on a charge of manslaughter.

Many witnesses were called by the State during the morning, all of whom testified along practically the same lines, stating that at no time during the fight which resulted so fatally when both boys, grappling with each other, fell over the banister of the porch to the ground, some thirty feet below, had Jack Hodges been the aggressor. However, Henry Rhyne, of Hickory, when called to the stand, stated that, during a lull in the fight, Hodges did move towards Wyke as if to continue the struggle; and it was largely on the testimony of this witness that Mayor Robbins made his decision.

Hodges was represented by Senator Will Lovill, Charles Zimmerman, and J. E. Holshouser, and this council made their plea that the death was an accidental one in that eleven witnesses, including Miss Elizabeth Ross, who was the only person that witnessed the fight from beginning to its fatal ending, stated that at no time did Hodges do anything other than defend himself.

The State's counsel, G. M. Sudreth and Wade Brown, argued that, in view of the testimony of Rhyne, probable cause was shown and therefore it was without the jurisdiction of the magistrate's court to release Hodges.

During the morning there were many testimonials as to the good character of the deceased and Hodges, several people volunteering commendatory words about the defendant.

At the conclusion of the hearing Mayor Robbins stated that he felt that, from the testimony, it was not for one man to decide the matter and had Hodges bound over to the September term of court in Watauga County. Doctor J. M. Hodges, father of the defendant, furnished bond of one thousand dollars, and Hodges was released.

## JUGULAR VEIN IS SEVERED IN BRAWL

Meat Camp Citizen Is Recovering From Almost Fatal Knife Wounds. Fight Occurred at Hopewell on Saturday. No Information.

Claude Davis, citizen of the Meat Camp section, was brought to the offices of Dr. H. B. Perry on Saturday evening, in a weakened condition from loss of blood after having had his throat literally cut from ear to ear, in what is said to have been more or less of a free-for-all fight. The jugular vein was severed, and but for the fact that medical aid was reached at once, death would have soon resulted. Information is, however, that the patient is rapidly recovering from the attack.

No information could be gathered as to who the assailant was, and so far as is known, no warrants were issued. It is alleged that the cutting came as a climax, however, to a general fight in the churchyard during the progress of services. Whiskey was said to have figured to a large extent in the difficulty.

## Jack Hodges Improves From Severe Injuries

Jack Hodges, who has been confined to his bed for the past week, suffering injuries received in the fall at Blowing Rock, is improved, and although he must travel by means of crutches, it is believed he will recover within a reasonable length of time. Severe sprains in the lower limbs, cuts and bruises, comprise his injuries, and at times it was feared he had suffered internal injury.

## Dies from Effects Of Logging Accident

Mayford C. Evans, 32 years old, died Sunday at Banner Elk Hospital, after having undergone an operation for injuries received in over-exertion while logging. Rev. P. A. Hicks conducted the graveside funeral services and interment was in the cemetery near the home of deceased, Whaley postoffice.

Mr. Evans is survived by a widow, two children, father, mother, three sisters and four brothers.

## See Social, Mixed in With Political Battle



Mrs. August Belmont, left, and Mrs. Charles N. Sabin, right, are leading respective forces within the ranks of the Women's Organization for Prohibition Reform. Mrs. Sabin heads the organization while Mrs. Belmont leads a minority group which refuses to be bound by the organization vote to support the Democratic ticket.

## Democrats Name Slate of Candidates On Saturday

Harmonious Session Results in Naming of Able Ticket. Party Affirms Allegiance to National Policies and All Nominees. Sheriff Farthing Lauded in Resolution. Walter Murphy Delivers Masterful Address on the Issues of the Current Political Campaign.

The Democrats of Watauga assembled here Saturday afternoon and after a brief nominating session, void of friction, selected candidates for the various county offices and a nominee for the State Legislature.

Roby T. Greer, who represented Watauga in the General Assembly during the session of 1931, was nominated by acclamation for the legislative post, and T. C. Baird, of Valle Crucis, present chairman of the board of county commissioners, was selected from a field of several candidates to make the race for sheriff.

Miss Helen Underdown of Blowing Rock, who has served as register of deeds for the past four years, was re-nominated for that office. Dr. J. B. Hagaman, present coroner, and Roby Vines, present surveyor, were also re-nominated for their respective offices by acclamation.

Eller McNeil of Rutherfordwood, at present a member of the board of county commissioners; Coy Bilings, Vilas garage man, and Frank Miller, kraut packer of Boone, were selected after a brisk fight as nominees for county commissioners. G. M. Sudreth, Blowing Rock attorney, presided over the convention.

Following the nominating session Walter Murphy of Salisbury, twelve times a member of the General Assembly and twice Speaker of the House, was introduced by State Senator William E. Lovill, and delivered a masterful address on the issues involved in the current national campaign.

Reaffirming his belief in the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of North Carolina, the fiery Rowan orator took his "text" from the latter document, "A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty." Going back to the formative period of the United States government, Mr. Murphy reviewed the records of the two great political parties through the years, and declared that the genius of Thomas Jefferson, whom he termed "the patron saint of democracy," was responsible for the Constitution, "the greatest document since the laws of God were given to Moses."

The speaker carried his large audience through the struggles over tariff legislation during the administrations of Grover Cleveland, during the Wilson era, up to and including the enactment of the Smoot-Hawley act, vehemently denouncing that measure as one of the prime factors in bringing about the present economic slump. "The future prosperity of the country is based on the condition of agriculture and industrialism, and until laws are enacted which will guarantee them profits on their products, there can be no prosperity," Mr. Murphy declared.

"No relief is offered in the Republican National Platform—distinct and inevitable relief is embodied in the platform of the Democracy," he continued. "States' rights have been surrendered to the Federal government, two hundred thousand men and women are now employed in the various overlapping bureaus of the Capital City, centralization is threatening even the governments of your own State, and a recurrence to fundamental principles is necessary in order to preserve the sacred principles on

## Dentist Looking After Needs of County Pupils

Dr. A. J. Pringle of the State Board of Health is at the Critcher Hotel and will remain in Watauga County for four weeks, looking after the teeth of public school children. He is at Deep Gap this week, where he is making examinations, cleaning and extracting teeth, and filling six-year molars when requested. Lectures will be given throughout the county on the care of teeth, diet and systematic conditions, relation of food to the oral cavity, and other invaluable health information.

## ELECTION FRAUD CASES SET FOR TRIAL MONDAY

Thirty-eight Wataugans Must Answer Conspiracy Charges in Federal Court at Wilkesboro as Result of 1930 Election Tangle. Bills Are Drawn in Four Cases and Witnesses May Number as Many as 200

The so-called election fraud cases which thirty-eight Democratic election officials and workers in Watauga County are indicted, are scheduled to be heard in Wilkesboro next week before Judge Johnson J. Hayes, a special term beginning Monday morning having been called for this purpose.

The principal portion of those indicted are Democrats who were in charge of holding the 1930 elections in four different townships, and the charges, which the Government will seek to substantiate, allege intimidation of voters, and a conspiracy to prevent electors from exercising their civil rights.

The bills were returned against the local men several months ago by a Greensboro grand jury, but trial was postponed by defense motion and the cases were removed to the Wilkes court.

A special venire has been summoned from below the mountains from which a jury will be selected, the following counties being represented: Guilford, Alamance, Forsyth, Graham, Randolph, Surry, Person, Chatham, Lee and Rockingham.

The indictments are drawn in four different cases, each case representing alleged irregularities in some certain townships. Laurel Creek, Cove Creek, Stony Fork and Boone, and the respective titles of the cases are: Eddie B. Hagaman, et al; J. S. McBride, et al; C. D. McNeil, et al; Dayton Wilson, et al.

Special investigators from the department of justice, as well as district attorney J. F. McCrory have been in Watauga at intervals working up their cases, while the defense is being represented by an able staff of lawyers, including R. A. Doughton of Sparta, Harry Grier of Statesville, Hayden Burke of Taylorsville, W. R. Lovill of Boone, T. C. Bowie of West Jefferson and G. H. Shuping of Greensboro. It is said that the Government has summoned more than 200 witnesses and the defense will perhaps have no less.

An unusually large crowd of Watauga County citizens is expected to go to Wilkesboro Monday and remain during the trial, intense interest is shown in the case and many who are in no wise connected officially, will attend.

## PAVING ON 60 TO BEGIN THIS WEEK

Mr. Parham Has Arrived and Preliminary Work Incidental to Paving Being Done. Pouring of Concrete May Begin This Week.

Preliminary work, the laying of forms, etc., is going on preparatory to paving the 1.8 mile link of the Boone Trail Highway eastward from the city limits. Stone has been delivered on the local railway yards in large quantities, as well as sand and concrete, and Mr. Fred Parham, of the Guilford Construction Company, has arrived to be in charge of the work.

It is expected that the actual pouring of concrete will begin before the end of the week, and will consume scarcely more than fifteen working days. The concrete will be poured in sections, it is said, rather than continuously, in order that the detours may be properly taken care of.

## Nancy Jurney McGhee Dies Tuesday Evening

Little Nancy Jurney, daughter of Mrs. Velma Rivers McGhee, died at the R. C. Rivers home here Tuesday evening after a brief illness with colitis. Funeral services were conducted from the home Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. J. H. Brendall Jr., and interment followed in the city cemetery. A large group of friends attended the services, and the little grave was covered with flowers placed there by loving hands.

Nancy was only eight months old, but during her brief span of life had brought much gladness into the home. Friends of the family will miss the bright, happy-faced baby and the mother and other members of the family have the sympathy of the community.

## PIE SUPPER

There will be a pie supper at the Mabel school house on Saturday night, August 20th. The proceeds will go for the ball team. The public is invited.