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COLLEGE TO HAVE HUGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PUPILS

Registrations for Fall Term Begins Wednesday Noon and Students are Pouring in From All Sections. Both Men's Dormitories Full for First Time in History and a Thousand May Enroll.

The administration building at the Appalachian State Teachers College was awfully at noon Wednesday as a large staff of workers began the task of registering what is expected to be the largest number of students ever to seek admission for the regular fall term. While no official information was available as to the influx of students from all over this and other states, it is worthy of note that for the first time in the history of the institution both the dormitories for men were filled Tuesday night, and still they continue to come. Heretofore male students have comprised relatively a small percentage of the total and with estimates that the female population of the campus is going to hold its own or better, it is scarcely to be doubted that there will be far more students here for the start of classroom duties than came for the opening of the spring term this year. From 900 to 1,000 are expected to be enrolled within the next few days.

There has been a notable influx of students from the higher priced institutions of learning over the State to the local college, due to the fact that the same training may be secured in Boone as in the other colleges at a greatly lowered cost. Good board is now provided in the dormitories for \$100 for the full nine months. This is largely made possible by serving quantities of food produced on the college's fine farm on New River.

Cove Creek School to Open Monday, Sept. 5

The Cove Creek High School will open for the 1932-33 session on Monday morning, September 5th. Parents are urged to send their children for the opening day in order that they may secure their books and arrange their schedule of work. All patrons and friends of the school are extended a cordial invitation to be present for the opening exercises. Prospects are bright for a successful year. Several improvements have been made in the physical equipment and the high school library has been greatly improved. A new encyclopedia has been added and the card catalog and index system has been adopted. Tables, magazine and newspaper racks have been installed and it is hoped that the library may be increased in usefulness to the student body.

High school pupils will this year be transported to Cove Creek from Shulls Mills and Foscoe schools, in addition to the schools transported heretofore.

The faculty is composed of the following: S. F. Horton, principal; W. Y. Perry, Mathematics; Roy Ellison, science; Constance Shoun, history; Mrs. Dave P. Mast, English; Mrs. Edwin Dozier, civics; W. H. Walker, agriculture; Annie Dougherty, home economics; Mrs. P. G. Spainhour, music; Mrs. Howard Simpson, art; Dean Swift, seventh grade; Blanch Stokes, sixth grade; Mrs. Hattie S. Johnson, fifth grade; Annie Mae Sherwood, fourth grade; Winnie Thornburg, third grade; Mrs. W. T. Payne, second grade; Mrs. J. C. Mast, first.

Teachers will meet Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock for the first faculty meeting.

Cove Creek is an accredited high school whose graduates are entitled to enter any college. Courses are offered in agriculture and home economics, in addition to the regular academic subjects. A large number of elective courses of study are offered.

North Carolina Jurist Is Taken by Death

Fayetteville—Judge Cameron F. McRae, of the North Carolina Superior Court bench, was stricken with a heart attack here Sunday and died almost immediately after being taken to a nearby hospital. He was 56 years old.

Judge McRae, who has made his home in Asheville for many years, came to Fayetteville, his birthplace, Saturday, and was a guest of his sister, Mrs. J. Lilly. He planned to leave Sunday afternoon for Mocksville, where he was scheduled to have opened court Monday.

He had complained of not feeling well, but there was no indication his condition was serious. He suffered the attack about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon and was taken to the hospital at once.

He was appointed a Superior judge by Governor Angus McLean, and upon the expiration of his term was reappointed by Governor O. Max Gardner.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at Fayetteville.

I. G. GREER MAY SUCCEED KESSLER

An intense movement is under way throughout the Baptist churches of the State to have Professor I. G. Greer named as superintendent of the Thomasville Orphanage, to succeed Dr. M. L. Kessler, deceased, it was learned Wednesday. It was found that the churches of Wilkes County have endorsed the Boone man for the high position, and that the feeling was general below the mountains that he would be tended the appointment. Professor Greer could not be reached at press time, but members of his family knew nothing of the report. Professor Greer has long been identified with the orphanage in the capacity of trustee, and it is quite likely that if he so desires, he may fall heir to the important post.

DATE ANNOUNCED FOR COVE CREEK COMMUNITY FAIR

Second Annual Agricultural Exhibition to Be Held September 24th at High School Buildings. Unusual Event Expected. Premium List is Now Being Prepared by Howard Walker.

The second annual Cove Creek Agricultural Fair for Watauga County will be held at the Cove Creek School on Saturday, September 24th, according to announcement made Tuesday by Howard Walker, secretary of the association and director of agricultural training at the local institution.

The fair was promoted solely to aid in the advancement of the agricultural enterprises of this county, and the initial efforts surprised even the promoters. All farmers and livestock growers are urged to exhibit their best products, the only requirement being that agricultural exhibits shall have been produced in this county and that livestock shall be owned by Watauga County exhibitors.

Mr. Walker is now engaged in getting the premium list ready for the printers and prizes are being offered under many classifications. All exhibits, no matter how great or how small, will be welcomed, and the fair officials respectfully solicit suggestions for the improvement of the institution.

Trout Fishing Season Comes to Close Today

September 1st marks the closing of the trout fishing season in North Carolina, and in Watauga County several exceptionally fine catches have been reported. Conservation officials report that, with very few exceptions, sportsmen have co-operated wonderfully throughout the year, and the streams are believed to be in exceptional condition at the closing of the season.

Charlie Smathers, superintendent of the Rutherford hatchery, has reared and liberated in Watauga waters more fingerling trout than ever before, and Warden H. Grady Farthing is of the opinion that the sport will be greatly improved during the 1933 season. The open season for bass in Watauga and Ashe counties has been extended to October 1st.

The opening date for squirrel hunting is September 1st, and the season will remain open until December 31. A \$5 reward will be paid to any citizen who will furnish convincing evidence against anyone violating the hunting law. Warden Farthing states that the penalty, as provided by the State statute, is \$50 fine or thirty days in prison for the breaking of any part of the game law.

Hunting licenses are now on sale in every section of Watauga County. The prices are as follows:

Resident county hunting, \$1.25; resident State hunting, \$3.25; non-resident hunting, \$15.25; resident county trapping, \$2.25; resident State trapping, \$3.00; resident county hunting and trapping, \$2.75; resident State hunting and trapping, \$5.00; resident State hunting and fishing license, which covers this year's hunting and next year's fishing, \$4.50.

Warden Farthing asks that every citizen help in some way to enforce the conservation laws.

City Schools Will Start September 13th

The Boone High School and the Demonstration or graded school for the city will begin their regular terms on the 13th of September, it was announced at the office of the Board of Education Wednesday. Dr. Hill has been engaged as the principal for the high school this year, while the demonstration school will be again under the direction of Professor Chappell Wilson of the college faculty.

Eight Acquitted in Election Fraud Tangle; Cove Creek Being Hear

Laurel Creek Defendants Are Given Freedom by Jury Monday Morning

Eight Watauga County Democrats, who were on trial throughout last week in Wilkesboro Federal court on charges of conspiracy to prevent citizens from exercising the privilege of the franchise, were acquitted by the jury in a verdict announced five minutes after the court convened on Monday morning. The verdict was announced by J. R. Donnel, foreman, of Greensboro and was received without demonstration. In rendering the verdict the juror thanked Judge Johnson J. Hayes and the attorneys for their consideration, and His Honor in turn complimented the twelve men for their careful attention given the trial. The case was given to the jury at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, and it was not learned when the verdict was reached, although it was understood six ballots were taken.

The most of the defendants shook hands with the jurors as they filed out to prove their attendance and expressed their happiness at having been freed. They were: Eddie B. Hagaman, Jerd Shull, Claude Edmisten, Joe Ward, Charlie McConnell, Will Rominger, Walter Ward and Hard Hagaman. They were represented by J. Hayden Burke, Judge Tam Bowie and Ira T. Johnston, of Jefferson; Governor R. A. Doughton and R. F. Crouse of the Alleghany bar; W. R. Lovill, of Boone; Spencer Blaylock, of Greensboro and Harry Grier, of Statesville. District Attorney J. R. McCrary and his assistants, T. C. Carter, A. E. Tiley, Hobart Morton and Allen appeared for the Government.

A resume of the evidence given since the Democrat's report last week follows:

The Government continued offering testimony Thursday morning by placing Charles E. Trivette on the stand. He stated that he heard Edgar Edmisten say to Eddie Hagaman, the registrar, "Take Alvin Cannon out of here and have him arrested." He further stated that itagaran said, "We are going to in a few minutes."

Alvin Cannon, the Republican judge in the precinct, was recalled to state his reasons for refusing to obey orders of the Democratic registrar and serve at the table at which ballots were to be distributed. Cannon said that he could not serve under the arrangements at that time, because he could not be in position to see that a fair and honest election was held.

Government Rests Case

When the government rested the case District Attorney J. F. McCrary ordered all government witnesses to remain at the trial until further notice. The defense took an exception to the ruling of Judge Hayes on the motion for a directed verdict, or non-suit. Twenty-six witnesses, including the defendants, were sworn for the defense.

Eddie B. Hagaman, a defendant, was placed on the stand shortly before adjournment at noon. He said that he, with others, went to the voting place on the day preceding the election and set up the voting paraphernalia. He arrived early next morning and when Jerd Shull, the Democratic judge, and Alvin Cannon, Republican judge, arrived they were sworn in and he said he was ready for the election to open. He assigned Shull to be on duty at the ballot boxes and Cannon at the table near the entrance for distribution of ballots. It was then, he said, that Cannon said he was appointed to watch the ballot boxes, inspect the tickets

(Continued on page 4.)

NAVAL OFFICER PAYS VISIT TO RELATIVES IN WATAUGA

Chief Ship Fitter Fred Aldridge, for nearly fifteen years a member of the United States Navy, is spending a brief furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Aldridge, at Foscoe. Following his enlistment in 1917 Mr. Aldridge spent several months with a destroyer fleet in the North Sea, and speaks interestingly of his experiences during the Great Conflict. After the Armistice was signed he was transferred to the Pacific Fleet, and during the years which followed has spent much time cruising in Asiatic waters.

Mr. Aldridge for the past several months has been stationed at San Pedro, Calif., as chief fitter on the U. S. S. Arizona, but has recently been transferred to Norfolk, Va., where, following his furlough, he will resume service as chief fitter of the U. S. S. Idaho, which is being reconditioned.

Eclipse of Sun Over Eighty Per Cent Here

The eclipse of the sun Wednesday afternoon reached its greatest intensity at 3:10 insofar as this territory was concerned, and many gazed through smoked glasses at Old Sol, while she was more than 80 per cent obscured. Old timers recalled having heard talk in childhood of an eclipse in 1844, which was total in Watauga, and which caused talk of the "end of time," the majority of the people not knowing of the cause of the phenomenon.

As the solar planet began to be obscured, the thermometer under the Democrat's maple tree, registered 91, the highest of the season. The eclipse caused mercury to drop to 87 within the space of ten minutes.

DAVE RAGAN FIRES BULLET INTO BRAIN

Well Known Young Man of Todd Section Dies at Home of Uncle in Boone. Funeral Services Held Sunday Afternoon.

Dave Ragan, 21 years old, died Saturday evening at 10 o'clock at the home of his uncle, James Ragan, in Boone, from the effects of a self-inflicted bullet wound made two hours earlier near his home at Todd. Young Ragan was brought to Boone immediately, but medical aid would have been futile, the bullet having penetrated into the brain.

There were no eye-witnesses to the tragedy which occurred within two hundred yards of the home, but it is believed to be a clear-cut case of suicide. The report of the small-bore rifle was heard at the house, however, and Will Holman discovered the victim a few minutes later with the bullet wound in the center of the forehead. No motive is assigned for the suicide other than that the young man had been suffering with a severe toothache, and had taken about thirty aspirin tablets within twenty-four hours.

Mr. Ragan was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ragan, was well known locally and had spent his life in this section. He had many friends who are shocked at his tragic death.

Funeral services were conducted at Meat Camp Baptist Church Sunday at 3 p. m. by Rev. Winkler, who was assisted by Reverends Saxton and Blackburn, and interment was in the nearby cemetery.

New Dry Goods Store Will Open Saturday

The Boone Department Store is the name of the town's newest business enterprise, and will open its doors to the public next Saturday, according to detailed announcement carried in The Democrat today. The new dry goods emporium is located in the postoffice block.

Mr. G. G. Stephens, local business man of long experience is at the head of the new store, and is associated with Mr. Teale, who has had years of experience in merchandising. They have just returned from the markets where a brand new stock was purchased to supplement Mr. Stephens' line, and they state that the prices being offered are the lowest thus far offering to the buying public of this section. Thrifty buyers will find their ad of interest.

Special Legion Meeting Will Be Held on Friday

A joint meeting of the Watauga Post, American Legion, and Legion Auxiliary will be held Friday night at 7:30 at the Legion Hall, according to announcement made Tuesday by officials of the organizations.

The ladies of the auxiliary will serve refreshments, music will feature the program and several pertinent talks will be made by the members. A full attendance of legionnaires, their wives, sisters or girl friends is being urged.

W. M. U. ANNUAL MEETING

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Three Forks Association will hold its annual meeting in the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, beginning on Saturday morning, September 10th, at 10 o'clock. The session will continue throughout the day and dinner will be served at the church by the local society. All members are urged to attend, and the public is also invited.

Government Finishes Testimony in Cove Creek Case; To Jury Thursday

Information from North Wilkesboro Wednesday noon is that the Government's evidence has been completed in the Cove Creek case and that J. S. McBride, registrar, is giving his testimony, which largely refutes that offered by the prosecution. The defense expects to complete its testimony Thursday morning and it is believed the case may go to the jury by adjournment in the afternoon.

It was further stated that the Boone case will not be called until Monday, and that in the event a verdict is secured in the Cove Creek case by Friday, the court will recess over the end of the week.

The second case in the 1930 election conspiracy tangle opened Monday morning in Federal Court in Wilkesboro, and a jury was selected from a special venire of Piedmont Carolina citizens to try eight Democrats in connection with the holding of the polls in Cove Creek Township. They are: J. B. Horton, J. S. McBride, J. L. Wilson, Ed S. Williams, A. A. Perry, Henry J. Hardin, C. B. Moody and John E. Brown, and are represented by the same counsel as was employed in the Laurel Creek case.

The twelve men selected to pass on their guilt or innocence are: J. T. Shaffner, O. F. Ross, John Paacvit, J. W. Barker, M. H. Farrell, T. Frank Rlynt, James Carson, Ernest Doub, R. E. Stinson, C. J. Jones, R. W. Fuller and James P. Kemp.

Eight Cove Creek men are charged with conspiracy to defraud the voters of that precinct of their vote, it being alleged that they with others conspired to place the ballot boxes on a small platform in such a manner that the Democratic judge could take the ballot which the voter handed him and while in the act of slipping the initials and number from it exchange it for a ballot already marked for the Democratic party. It is also alleged that this conspiracy was carried out. It was over his insistence that he be allowed to serve at the ballot boxes and his refusal to serve anywhere else that Byers was arrested.

Byers Takes Stand

Niley Byers, in his testimony, recounted the events that took place at the voting site on election morning in 1930 up until the time he said he was arrested on a bogus warrant and taken to jail about 8:30 o'clock that morning. He said that J. S. McBride, Democratic registrar, told him to serve at the table for distribution of ballots and further stated that McBride said he was instructed to carry out such arrangement by Henry Hardin, chairman of the board of elections at that time and one of the defendants named in the case.

When he did not accede to McBride's instructions a warrant was served on him by Lee Mast, an officer, and Ed Williams. He said that the warrant charged him with disorderly conduct and holding up the election and that Mast and Williams told him the punishment would be one day in jail. He was carried to jail and released about 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon, he stated.

Commissioner Testifies

S. C. Eggers, United States Commissioner at Boone, testified as to a conversation that Ed Williams had with him about one year before the 1930 election. He said that Williams came into his office and voluntarily told him that he was satisfied with the way things had been going and that he was going to tell him the scheme the Democrats had to carry

(Continued on page 4.)

AGED CITIZEN IS ILL

Mr. James Hodges, resident of the Mount Vernon section, is seriously ill at his home and advice from his bedside are to the effect that the well-known citizen is showing no improvement whatever. He is 84 years old, his mind badly deranged and it is said that those attending him have been unable to get him to take nourishment for several days. Friends and loved ones hold out little hope for his recovery.

SINGING TO BE HELD OCT. 5

By request and consent of the leaders of the different classes of the Watauga County Singing Convention, the next session of that organization has been deferred until Sunday, October 5th, at 9:30 a. m.

Leaders and classes did much credit for themselves at the last convention and everyone is anxious to hear them again, together with a number of new classes that are expected to take part.

REPUBLICANS TO HOLD NOMINATING CONVENTION 10TH

Chairman Issues Call for Assemblage. Precinct Meetings Held on Day Previous to Convention. Arrangements Being Made to Have Prominent G. O. P. Leader to Deliver Address.

The Republicans of Watauga County will meet at the courthouse at 1:30 Saturday, the 10th, for the purpose of nominating a slate of candidates for the different county offices, it was announced today by Russell D. Hodges, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee. The chairman of the different townships are asked to hold their precinct meetings on Friday, the ninth, at 2 o'clock and name delegates to the county convention on the basis of one for each 25 votes cast in the last election for Governor.

Negotiations are now under way looking to having one of the leaders of the Republican party present to deliver an address for the occasion, and while it could not be definitely stated, Chairman Hodges believes that Hon. W. S. Williams of Concord will fire the opening gun for the Republicans. Mr. Williams is a former legislator of considerable note and is known as one of the ablest stump speakers within the Republican Party.

While there is little sign of active campaigning, it is said that there is a record number of partisans seeking the nominations, no less than three having been understood to entertain hopes of being named candidate for Sheriff.

BENEFIT CONCERT PROVES A SUCCESS

Blowing Rock Vacationists Enjoy Music of the Hills, and Considerable Money is Raised for Worthy Causes.

The mountain music concert staged at Blowing Rock Monday evening drew a large gathering from the summer colonists, who enjoyed to the fullest the presentations of the melodies of the hill people, and at the same time contributed something more than \$100 for the benefit of Dr. Mary Warfield's baby clinic and the community club relief fund.

The program which was presented under the direction of Tom Cushing, included various stringed and vocal renditions of numbers familiar to the mountain people, but more or less unknown to a large part of the audience. Local bands included the Hard Luck Boys from Shulls Mills, the Cook Sisters from Rutherfordwood, and the Green Sisters of Boone. The latter group won the noisiest acclaim of the evening with "When I Came Home Last Night as Drunk as I Could Be," while Roe Greene and "Poss" Foster were roundly applauded as they executed the old time buck and wing dances.

Preceding the enjoyable program, which lasted for more than an hour, Dr. Harry Schmeisser made a stirring appeal for the clinic and lauded the splendid work being done by Dr. Warfield.

Mrs. Blum Triplett Dies After a Brief Illness

Mrs. Blum Triplett, 33, died at her home in the Middle Fork section on Friday, August 18th, following an illness of several weeks' duration. Funeral services were conducted on the day following at Middle Fork Baptist Church, with Rev. Robert Shore, pastor, in charge, and burial took place in a nearby cemetery.

Mrs. Triplett was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, and was born and reared in the Mount Vernon section. Since young womanhood she had been a faithful member of the Baptist Church, and had been a regular attendant at its services. Throughout her brief life, Mrs. Triplett was known to a host of friends as a charitable, neighborly, Christian lady, and her untimely departure has been the cause for genuine sorrow.

Surviving are the husband, eight children, including a four-weeks-old infant, and several brothers and sisters.

PREPARE FOR OPENING GAME

Banner Elk, N. C.—Donald King of Johnson City, recently elected football coach of Lees-McRae College, will arrive here August 31st to begin football drills promptly on September 1st. A week of intensive drills will be accomplished before the formal opening of the college September 7th.

Coach King's eleven will make its first public appearance on the gridiron at Spruce Pine September 22nd, in what promises to be an exciting clash with the Crossnore machine.