

## GREASED LIGHTNING

During the electrical storm of Monday afternoon things happened fast and furious at the home of R. L. West in the Poplar Grove community. The Wests were enjoying their evening meal as the torrents of rain descended from coal-black clouds. The lamp had been lighted to chase away the gloom of the premature twilight.

Jupiter Pluvius, or whoever it is that has charge of the lightning and the thunder and the rain and the snow, decided to pass out a few "fireworks," and it was a "treat" that called for no encore. A streak of forked lightning split the sky, dipped its fiery fangs into the Wests' garage, tore out a portion of the roof, bored a hole through the family auto, scattered a pile of miscellaneous tools, sprayed five gallons of oil hither and yon, and then jumped over to the spring-house.

A couple of two-by-fours in the building were splintered quicker'n a fly could bat its eye, and the "stroke" took a running go right into the dining room, where the mister and missus and all the children were eating their biscuits and gravy, and what-not. That ball of fire burst right square in their faces, says Mr. West, and the report fairly lifted the diners from their seats. No casualties were reported, and the damage amounted to only a few dollars, but Mr. West, who incidentally saw a lot of service during the World War, vows and declares that an exploding shrapnel shell is a tame coincidence compared to a good-sized streak of "low-down" lightning.

## A FULL LIFE ENDED

It was only a font of harmless, unattractive, broken-down matrices, corroded by time and constant use... combinations shot to pieces and cars battered by their twelve years' travel through The Democrat's linotype machine... but as they were run from the magazine for the last time en route to the "hell-box," and shiny new letters clinked merrily into their places the Sketch Man heaved a sentimental sigh and conjured in his mind (if any) a little obituary for his departed "helpmates."

Since way back yonder maybe a million or so years ago, the "printed word" of the written word has been accepted by the genus homo as something undeniably true, something infallible. Grieved as we are to make the confession, those worn-out matrices to which we pay this tribute of praise were not as truthful as "Little George"—in fact they embellished reality with the careless abandon of a modern Ananias. They spoke of "charming ladies" who were, in truth, uglier'n the devil; they raved about the "sterling qualities" of young men who were just plain, ordinary, no-account lounge-lizards; they gritted their teeth and swore by the sacred eye-brows of Allah that "the dear deceased brother," who might have been as pestiferous during his earthly sojourn as Pharaoh's frogs and lice, was "the town's foremost citizen, a pillar in the church, and a high-type gentleman whom everyone loved."

But let's excuse these abandoned matrices for those sins; they were merely smoothing the wrinkles out of the road for somebody... bringing blissful smiles to the face of a homely woman... erasing tears from the cheeks of a sorrowing widow... and patching the broken heart of a kind old mother or a fine old father. Little white lies, that was all, and they did a sight more good than harm.

During those dozen years a lot of things happened, and the type talked a lot. A couple or three presidents died and they told the folks about the "distinct shock" registered thru-out the nation. And the world's oldest monarchy toppled, and the king fled to alien shores, while the flying matrices chronicled his unceremonious reduction to the proletariat. The "Lone Eagle" took a long hop across the briny deep aboard a flimsy, man-made bird... the Japs licked the Chinks... Einstein discovered a yard stick wasn't a yard long... the Wizard of Menlo skipped by the light of the moon to ethereal realms... the Tea Pot bled over... the Methodist bishops ranted and raved about poor old Al Smith... Capone took a little journey to the big house... the stock market soared and took a tanspin... women, bless their pretty faces, quit wearing petticoats and such... prohibition languished, and the Sahara of Volsteadism was irrigated by a sparkling flood of Rooseveltian brew.

And all the time those little old matrices were being baptized with hot lead, as the enlightened countryside and the country folk with narrations of passing events. They traveled hundreds of miles in this unselfish work of their, and now they are ready for the Goldbergs or the Fishers or the Cohens... or whoever it is that runs the junk-shop. They've dropped by the wayside, scarred and battered and torn... soon to be forgotten.

OFFICIALS MOVE  
TO THE OPENING  
OF PEOPLES BANK

Officials in Raleigh Laying Proposition Before Banking Commissioner, Asking for Opening of Local Bank. Action Follows Stockholders Meeting. Officials Do Not Give Probable Opening Date.

The stockholders and depositors of the Peoples Industrial Bank gathered at the bank building Saturday for the purpose of considering means of reopening the bank. A committee was named, officials stated, to draw up a plan for submission to the State Bank Commissioner, and R. T. Greer, president, and G. D. Brinkley, cashier, went to Raleigh Tuesday on this business.

Officials do not give out a probable opening date for either the Peoples Bank or the Watauga County Bank, stating that if there are no complications, it is probable that both banks might be in a position to open at about the same time.

Memorial Day Service  
Draws Large Crowd

The Memorial Day service, held at Blowing Rock Presbyterian Church last Sunday, was well attended. The edifice was beautifully decorated with native flowers and evergreens with a display of U. S. flags and the Watauga Post colors. An interesting program was rendered consisting of appropriate songs, recitations by some of the Blowing Rock school children, a very pleasing solo by Miss Virginia Wary, and two short but impressive addresses by Rev. L. F. Kent and Rev. Ralph Eskew.

The Legion wishes to thank the people of Blowing Rock and other parts of the county for the hearty cooperation shown in this service.

In the afternoon the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary decorated the graves of Watauga's World War veterans.

A meeting of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will be held at the hall on Friday night, June 2nd, 7:30 o'clock. The ladies of the Auxiliary will furnish entertainment at this meeting. Commander Ralph G. Greer urges all ex-service men and their wives to attend.

STUMP OF TREE  
CUT BEFORE THE  
WAR STILL LIVES

Mr. B. S. Gragg of Shalls Mills, while visiting with the Democrat Wednesday, told an interesting story of a hemlock stump which stands near his old home on Johns River in Caldwell County, and which is still green despite the fact that the tree was cut before the Civil War. The stump, which stands about 3 feet high and which is 18 inches in diameter, continues to live, and bark has formed almost across the top, but there has never been a sprout. Mr. Gragg states that he has known of the freak of nature for 65 years, and that the tree, which presumably was cut by a hunter, has long since succumbed to the ravages of the elements, but, believe it or not, the stump is just as much alive as it was the day when the woodsman's axe was wielded.

gotten. But for many, many years, we hope, those stories they told, those praises they sang, whether true or false or otherwise, will be cherished in the hearts and minds of a multitude.

## Tom Mooney Today



Tom Mooney, after serving years in San Quentin prison, saw his first "outside" sunshine a few days ago, as shown here, when taken to San Francisco to be tried on an old murder indictment.

COUNTY BOARD  
IS FOLLOWING UP  
REPORT OF JURY

Grand Jury Strikes Responsive Chord in Recommendations Made as to Public Properties at Last Term of Court. Repairs Being Made on the Courthouse and County Home and Grounds Being Improved.

The Board of County Commissioners is moving to heed the recommendations of the Grand Jury at the spring term of court, when that body called the attention of the court to numerous repairs and improvements needed in connection with the property of the local government. The sewage system to the jail, which has been a source of constant worry and expense, is being revamped and modernized, public toilets are being placed in first-class condition, and numerous lesser repairs are being made on both the courthouse and the county home in accordance with the suggestions of the jury.

At the same time the woodwork and plaster in the interior of the temple of justice is being refinished, the unsightly fence around the lawn has been removed, cows are banished, and citizens of the county are being urged to co-operate to the extent of supplying some evergreens for the premises. Officials state that June 23rd has been set aside as a day to do the planting, and ask that all those who are willing to contribute to bring the shrubs to Boone on that day.

The improvement program is made possible largely through the use of relief funds, supplying jobs to relieve the needs of the people and at the same time giving the county the advantage of permanent and worthwhile improvements.

Young People's Rally at  
Boone Advent Church

The Loyal Workers of the Piedmont Advent Christian Conference will meet in an inspirational rally at the Boone Advent Christian Church June 2nd to 4th, according to announcement made Monday by Rev. J. T. Greene, pastor.

Registration will begin Friday afternoon at 2:00. Special messages will be delivered by visiting ministers at 8:00 each evening. Throughout the week following, there will be preaching services and lectures after each service. These will be delivered by Rev. Clarence L. Kieby, of Saluda, South Carolina.

The public is invited to attend the rally and the services each night after the rally.

SHERBURN-HARRIS NUPTIALS  
DESCRIBED IN BOSTON PAPER

The following account of the Sherburne-Harris wedding ceremony is taken from a recent issue of a Boston, Mass., newspaper:

"The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Sherburne was the scene of an attractive marriage ceremony Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, May 13th, the contracting parties being their daughter, Isobel, well known in Woburn, Mass., and Aaron Sanders Harris of Boone, North Carolina.

"The bride entered on the arm of her father, Mrs. Charles B. Eliot of Washington, D. C., sister of the bride, was the matron of honor, and Mr. Fraser A. Sherburne was the best man. The bride carried a large shower bouquet of white roses and lily of the valley. The matron of honor, attractively gowned in dark brown or gray, carried talisman roses. Miss Sally Elizabeth Sherburne, niece of the bride, acted as train-bearer.

"An informal reception followed the ceremony, after which Mr. and Mrs. Harris took a train for New York, en route to Boone, N. C., stopping over in New York and Washington for several days.

"The Reverend C. C. Garland of the Methodist Episcopal Church officiated at the ceremony."

## BOONE ROUTE 2 NEWS

We are glad to see Mr. Claude Norris back in the community after a two-weeks visit with his sister, Mrs. J. N. Kobler, in Roanoke, Va.

Misses Epsie Greene and Flossie Moody of Meat Camp spent the past week-end with Miss Greene's brothers, Messrs. B. B. and C. C. Greene.

Mrs. Ruby Brown, who has been seriously ill for some time, is gradually improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Rich Whittington and little daughter, of Wilkesboro, spent the week-end with Mrs. Whittington's parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Barnes.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Norris and son, of Aberdeen, N. C., are visiting Mr. Norris' sisters, Mrs. N. M. Greene and Mrs. S. O. Stanberry in Boone.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Triplett of Lenoir have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Greene on Boone Route 2.

New York plumbers call themselves sanitary engineers.

## First Farm Loan to Illinois Farmer



The first loan under President Roosevelt's \$200,000,000 Emergency Farm Loan Bill was made at the St. Louis office of the Federal Land Bank. Photo shows E. A. Purvines of Pleasant Plains, Ill. (right), receiving a \$3,500 check from Commissioner E. J. Bodman (left), as Mrs. Purvines looks on. In the rear is Wood Netherland and O. J. Lloyd, president and vice president of the St. Louis Federal Land Bank.

Gory Knife Battle Takes  
Lives Of Frenzied Men

Bad blood had existed between Jim Eggers and Arlie Norris for a long time, according to residents of the Beaver Dam community, where they made their home. Just a few months back they quarreled and made threats. Their families knew that something bad was going to happen.

Saturday morning about 9 o'clock Eggers, apparently under the influence of liquor, passed Norris' house, and they renewed their old argument. A small child clung to Norris' coat, and he called his wife to take the youngster out of the way. Knives were drawn and the two men fell in a deadly clinch. As the wife and mother looked on, Eggers dropped to the ground, still and lifeless. Norris, bleeding profusely from seven gaping

wounds, slowly made his way to the house, called for a drink of water, kissed his two kids, and lay down—dead.

Dr. J. B. Hagaman, coroner, held an inquest early Saturday afternoon, and found that Eggers had died from an internal hemorrhage, that the fatal wound on the body of Norris was a long gash that severed an artery in the thigh.

Funeral services were held Sunday for the two men. Each is survived by a large family. Eggers was about 50 years of age; Norris 33. Both were born and reared in the Beaver Dam section, were industrious farmers, regular attendants at church, and were very popular among their friends.

Crops Laid Waste in Wake Of  
Torrential Downpour Tuesday

The most devastating rainstorm to visit Watauga in many years came to the western section of the county Tuesday and reports indicate that untold damage has been done to growing crops in three townships, telephone communication is out, and highways have been greatly damaged.

The storm formed on the high slopes of the mountain range between Beaver Dam and Cove Creek and Laurel Creek townships, and when the deluge of cloudburst proportions reached the lowlands, babbling brooks were turned into roaring torrents, bringing destruction in their wake and playing havoc with growing crops in the truck-producing area.

The principal damage, it is reported, was in Laurel Creek, where many acres of tomatoes, onions, potatoes and corn were inundated, in some instances the crop being actually washed from the land, and in

others hopelessly covered with mud and debris. Lumber, logs and in some cases cross-ties were deposited on the farms, and some of the farmers have to start all over again with their planting.

The new highway into Laurel Creek Township, it is said, was seriously damaged, the rock surfacing having been completely washed away at some places. This work had only recently been done and was made possible largely through aid received from the relief offices. Telephone communication into three townships was still cut off Wednesday noon. No estimate is available as to the monetary damage, but old residents describe the storm as the worst experienced in their lifetime.

A storm of unusual proportions came to a large portion of the county Monday but little damage was reported.

Boone High School to  
Hold Summer Term

Under the principalship of Professor E. S. Christenbury, Boone High School will conduct a summer term for students who have scholastic deficiencies. Those who wish to attend are asked to be one hand Monday, June 5th, from 9 till 10 a. m., for the purpose of registration. Classes will begin at 8 a. m. Tuesday, and two hours attendance per day will be required for each half-unit course taken. The school day will end at 12 o'clock.

Credits may be earned in any of the following courses: English, first, second, third or fourth year; Algebra, first or second year; World History or American History; French, first year only.

Professor Christenbury states that expenses will be held to the smallest possible amount. A small tuition must of necessity be charged, since no other funds are available for the operation of the school. This tuition charge will be \$3 for those taking one-half unit of work and \$5 will be the fee for those taking two half-units of work.

## BERRY GROWERS PROSPER

The 15 strawberry growers of Claremont, Catawba County, who recently organized a small selling association, sold over \$1,000 worth of berries during the third week of operation. The berries are in demand because of their high quality and good pack.

SUMMER TERM AT  
COLLEGE OPENS  
ON NEXT TUESDAY

Officials State that Large Enrollment Is Expected Despite the Fact that Requirements for Summer School Attendance were Weakened by New School Law. Climate and Economical Training Uphold Institution.

Dean J. D. Rankin of the Appalachian State Teachers College believes that the influx of teachers for the opening of the first six weeks of summer school, next Tuesday, will be altogether satisfactory, despite the fact that the Legislature removed the hitherto stringent requirements that tutors should attend these sessions.

Dr. Rankin was unable to give an estimate of the probable number who would enroll next week, but stated that the desire of the teachers to further improve themselves regardless of statutory requirements, together with the economical training given in the superb mountain section, would continue to bring hordes of teachers to the local institution.

In previous years the enrollment has ranged from 800 to 1,000, and records for all terms were broken this winter when about 1,100 came for the regular spring term.

The term beginning Tuesday will last for six weeks, and the second term of equal length will begin July 17th.

Commissioner Fletcher  
Sends Out Bulletins

Raleigh. Commissioner of Labor A. L. Fletcher has sent out his first bulletin to the manufacturers of North Carolina, informing them as to the provisions of three new provisions in the labor laws enacted by the 1933 General Assembly, as they relate to posting copies of the labor laws, inspection of plants and grading plants following inspection. The bulletin reads as follows:

Posting Laws: Chapter 244 requires that every manufacturer in the State keep posted "in a conspicuous place in every room where five or more persons are employed" a printed notice containing the provisions of the labor laws. The Commissioner of Labor is required to furnish as many copies of this notice as may be needed. Addressed postal card enclosed for your convenience. Please fill it in and return at once.

Inspections: In the matter of inspections, you should instruct all employees to admit our inspectors, bearing proper identification cards, without delay, day or night. It is not wise always for an inspector to report at the office and have the management furnish a guide, or some official, to accompany him. Frequent complaints come to me that "the inspector saw only what the management wanted him to see." For your protection, therefore, place no restrictions on the inspector. I promise that he will not abuse your confidence or cause you any unnecessary trouble and that he will leave with your superintendent a written "Report of Inspection." This report will show in detail any defect or violation he may have found and, if your superintendent desires it, he will discuss every phase of the report with him.

Grading: Beginning July 1st, 1933, our inspectors will grade every mill which they inspect. They will take into consideration compliance with the Labor Laws, cleanliness of premises, ventilation, lighting, heating, safety appliances, safety education, and first-aid training, drinking water, general working conditions, etc. The inspector will leave with the superintendent a certificate of grade, showing how it was arrived at. It is believed that this service will prove helpful to all manufacturers who are interested in maintaining a high standard along these lines. May yours be a "Grade A Mill."

## AN APPRECIATION

The pie supper at the Blue Moon Service Station Saturday night, May 27th, for the benefit of the base ball team was a great success. I want to extend to the people of Blowing Rock and Boone our sincerest thanks for their co-operation. To A. Cory, owner of the station, we are very grateful for the use of his building, and for ten gallons of ice cream donated and delivered free of any charge from his ice cream parlor in Winston-Salem. To the people of the community we are also grateful for every kindness shown our team since its organization.

JAY COFFEY, Team Captain.

William Pierce of Weldon will grow a supply of flour for himself and the tenants on his plantation from a field of 72 acres in wheat. He has killed and cured enough meat to last through the year.