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BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

THAT ALDERMANIC JINX

Boone's aldermanic body, which alters its personnel as regularly as a chameleon changes its color, is due to undergo another transition Friday evening. Political prognosticators, who have developed flowing beards since first they offered opinions on coming events, are clawing distractedly at snowy locks, trying vainly to figure out the guy on whose lanky shoulders the mantle of municipal authority, recently cast away by Tracy Council for the ermine robes of the Mayoralty, will fall. Each time a prospective alderman's name is mentioned some wise-acre in the audience chirps out that "he don't know a deficit from a surplus," or speaks unkindly of the way the gent combs his hair or shines his brogans. Just what the issues involved constitute, nobody seems to know. Just occasionally, however, a citizen comes to the front who, by his own admission, knows more about defaulted bonds and the scarlet ink of municipal deficiency, than the celebrated Solomon . . . and then, of course, you recognize a potential alderman . . . a kind-hearted, public-spirited person who is willing to sacrifice life and limb and happiness for the common good of the common people.

But only the strong-hearted survive for any length of time on the city council. They enter upon their public career with a colorful flourish . . . they talk freely of municipally-owned hydro-electric plants, of reduced taxes, of white ways and illuminated alleys, of golf courses and airports, and city halls. But those bonds . . . ye gods and little fishes . . . those thousands and tens of thousands that were expended away back yonder for a water system and a few strips of pavement, bob right up in the face of the hopeful councilman—and his beautiful dreams are busted into a million or so tiny fragments. Brokers' representatives plague his footsteps, each yelling for money and, incidentally offering advice on how to run a town's home-owners' trust and rave about the condition of streets, and workers threaten to go to court or get their wages. Then the aldermanic jinx is working . . . and the hopeful one is in a heliuvax, best described by this borrowed verse:

The centipede was happy quite,
Until the frog, for fun,
Said "Pray which leg comes after which?"
Which wrought his mind to such a pitch,
He lay distracted in the ditch,
Considering how to run.

A loafer suggested the other way that if aldermanic timber has been exhausted in the city, it might be a good idea to rope Perkinsville into the incorporation . . . and give Bob Pulliam or Grady Parthing a chance!

LET'S TRY IT ONCE!

Press-time reports reveal that the pastor of a Watauga church openly declares he has no respect for any man or woman who takes even a casual drink of liquor. The sketch man readily agrees with the parson . . . for we believe sincerely that imbibers of North Carolina's post-prohibition corn haven't one particle of respect for themselves, or at least for their digestive organs. But in the meantime, we wonder just how many churches will be built and how many pastor's salaries paid after "casual drinkers" are driven out of the congregations.

SKETCHES FROM LIFE

Billie Cook greeting friend with "are you to'able?" . . . John E. Brown smoking a cork-tipped cigarette . . . George Hagaman eating another apple . . . Will Walker enjoying a light breakfast of pork chops . . . Bud Heffner complaining about "them britches" . . . Rub drinker trying to swap inferior grade of alcohol for a more palatable article . . . Wilson Norris cracking a joke out of the package window at the postoffice . . . Jerry Brewer wondering when those CWA checks will begin circulating . . . Joe Greer getting ready to play Santa Claus for Smithy's . . . Doc Moore looking in cash register to see how business is . . . Love-sick youth purchasing loud silk night-gown for his lady friend . . . Baxter Linney telling how good the NRA isn't working . . . Policeman Gross escorting a souse to jail for the nth time . . . Council Cook pestering folks for their light bills . . . Woman with babe in arms inquiring about Christmas tree . . . Friendly friend advising as to what should be run in a newspaper . . . Letcher Teague trying to inveigle a local swain into using a taxi instead . . . Charlie Zimmerman humming a tune along the Main Drag . . . Dirty-faced children admiring Christmas display in dime store window . . . and gobs and gobs of other things as the show moved on!

Catawba wheat growers who signed adjustment contracts are now receiving rental payments from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Only \$60 Per Week



SHERIFF MAKES ARREST OF 2 ON KIDNAP CHARGE

Former Caldwell County Woman and Detroit Man Held for Taking of Woman's Three Children from Patterson School. Two of Steele's Children Returned. One Goes with the Mother. Trial Next Spring.

The former Mrs. Paul Steele and a man from Detroit, Mich., were arrested near Vilas last Thursday by Sheriff Howell and Deputy Lee Gross, when word was received from Lenoir that the pair was wanted there to answer charges of kidnaping three children of the woman from the Patterson School. The man and woman were taken before the Mayor and counsel arranged for a trial at the Spring Term of Caldwell Superior Court.

According to information, Paul Steele and his wife had been separated for a long time. Mrs. Steele has been making her home in Detroit and Mr. Steele has been rearing the children at Patterson. The former recently decided to gain custody of her offspring, secured the services of the Detroit man as a driver, and proceeded to Patterson, and when the arrest was made they were presumably on their way back to Michigan. The younger of the children was allowed to go on with its mother, while the other two were returned to the father.

Sheriff Howell reports unusual activities in enforcement during the past several weeks, one item of which was the capture of his thirtieth still, Don Dotson, Ron Tester and David James, who came to the still, were captured. The first named was released while the others are serving time on the roads. Forest McGinnis was arrested with six gallons, and Bill and Cecil Bumgarner were tried for possession and transporting. These are a few of the recent arrests the Sheriff mentions.

VACANCIES FOR TRUMPETERS AND DRUMMERS IN MARINES

Savannah. A limited number of boys between the ages of 17 and 18 will be accepted at the Marine Corps Recruiting Office, Postoffice Building, Savannah, Ga., during the month of December to learn the drum and trumpet, it is announced by Lieutenant Colonel A. B. Drum, officer in charge.

Applicants for drum and trumpet must have at least an eighth grade education and be not less than 68 inches in height. In addition to the vacancies for drum and trumpet, 35 graduates of high school between the ages of 18 and 30 will be accepted for general service.

Applications will be mailed upon request to young men of this section who have the above requirements.

LEGION MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT

There will be a special social meeting of the American Legion and Auxiliary on Friday night, December 15, at 7:30 o'clock, at which time it is hoped that every World War veteran and all wives of Legionnaires will be present. Several things of interest to all veterans and their families will be discussed, and it is planned to have a good feed, furnished by the ladies of the Auxiliary, free. Come!

A HUGE CAT STORY

Mr. Sam Adkins of Vilas, N. C., is responsible for this story: "When I moved from Boone to Vilas, I brought the family cat along. Of course he had to make a survey of the new home. Out in the garden he met Parson Trivet's cat. After the usual greetings, they began to climb each other. Up and up they went until they vanished from sight. I cannot say how much hair it rained but the cats returned to the ground the next day about one o'clock."

GREENE-HOUCK

Mr. Lankford Green and Miss Edith Houck, both of the Laxon section, were married in Mountain City, Tenn., on December 9th. The bride is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Houck and the groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Greene. The popular young couple have many relatives and close friends in Watauga who will hear of their wedding with interest.

J. T. MILLER DIES AS AUTO SKIDS ON SLIPPERY PAVING

Former Cashier of Bank of Blowing Rock Fatally Crushed, Miss Helen Underdown, Register of Deeds and Driver of Ill-fated Car, Escapes Practically Uninjured. Funeral Services Held Last Thursday.

J. Thomas Miller, 50 years old, former cashier of the Bank of Blowing Rock and for a few days an official in the National Re-employment offices here, succumbed last Wednesday evening at the Hagaman-Linney Clinic, less than an hour after he had been removed from the wreckage of an automobile which had catapulted down a steep embankment on the Blowing Rock road three miles from Boone.

The accident occurred as Mr. Miller was en route to his home at Blowing Rock, traveling with Miss Helen Underdown, Register of Deeds, and was attributed to the slippery condition of the surface of the road. At a point just above the New River Power Company's hydro plant, the machine skidded and tumbled down the embankment before Miss Underdown had a chance to right it. When the passengers were removed by passers-by, the light sedan rested in the rocky river bed below the power plant and almost a hundred yards from the highway on which it was driven. Miss Underdown and Mr. Miller were rushed to the local hospital, the latter never having regained consciousness. A compound fracture of the skull was said to have been the cause of death. Miss Underdown received only minor cuts and bruises and is carrying on her usual official duties.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday from the Blowing Rock Baptist Church, Reverends P. A. Hicks, W. D. Ashley and F. M. Huggins each having a part in the rites. A large crowd attended and the floral offering was large. Interment was in the Winkler Cemetery near Boone. Surviving are the widow and a small daughter.

Mr. Miller was born in the Meadow Creek section of Watauga County, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Miller, received his education at the Boone college, and accepted a position in the Watauga County Bank, which he held for many years, later assuming the cashiership of the Bank of Blowing Rock which he held until about two years ago. Since he was

an Order of the Moose and at the time of his death had just entered into the service of the Re-employment Office. He was known as an exceptionally fine business man, was widely known throughout this section, and had acquired a wide circle of friends.

NEW STREET WILL BE OPENED SOON

Howard Street to Provide New East and West Thoroughfare Through Boone. Work to Begin This Morning. Funds Provided by CWA.

Howard Street, running parallel with King Street and extending from South Water Street near the old jail to Blowing Rock road, is soon to be opened and work is expected to start on grading this morning.

The new street was made possible through money secured of the Civil Works Administration, and the job of grading and surfacing the driveway is expected to be completed within a short time. The portion which extends from the original Bryan-Rivers line to the Owens Machine Shop has never been open for travel, and the new street will be a decided convenience to citizens of the town as well as the general public since it provides an additional east to west thoroughfare through the city.

OxENTINE CHILD DIES

Little Elizabeth Catherine Oxentine, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roby Oxentine, Blowing Rock, died Sunday, December 3, 1933. The funeral services were conducted in the home on Tuesday afternoon by the Rev. G. Sexton Buchanan in the presence of friends and loved ones. Interment was at the Critcher graveyard near Boone.

The little child was only in the home a few days, but long enough to fill the hearts of a devoted father and a loving mother. To them we wish to extend our deepest and sincerest sympathy and love in this trying hour. We are not forgetful of the marvelous words of Jesus, who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." This should be a source of consolation to every believing heart.—A Friend.

PLAY AT BLOWING ROCK

An interesting play entitled "An Old Fashioned Mother," will be presented by members of the Blowing Rock B. Y. P. U. in the graded school auditorium of that village on Saturday night, December 15, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Proceeds from an admission charge of 15c and 25c will be applied on the church piano. Mrs. Dave Mast is directing the cast, and those who attend are promised an evening of rare entertainment.

Only two bushels of silage spoiled in the trench silos dug and filled in Macon County this season and this spoilage occurred at the top of one silo where the material was not packed down.

National 4-H Leadership Champions for 1933



Doris Ester Clark, 18, of Goodman, Wis., and Hugo Graumann, 20, of Granite, Okla., are the national 1933 4-H girl and boy leadership champions and winners of the H. A. Moses trophies. Doris completed 15 projects in five years and Hugo completed 48 projects in eight years enrollment.

DR. ZEB SHERRILL PASSES AT MARION; FUNERAL WEDNES.

Former Watauga and Eminent Physician Succumbs After a Sudden Illness. Was 70 Years Old, and Had Practiced in Marion for 30 Years. Widow, Also a Physician, Survives. Many Wataugans at Funeral.

Dr. Zebulon V. Sherrill, 70 years old, widely known physician of Marion, Va., and native Wataugan, died Monday after an illness which was described as sudden although he had been in poor health for some time. Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock and interment was in a marion cemetery. Surviving is the widow, who is also a physician. Many near relatives survive in Watauga County, among whom are a brother, Mr. John Sherrill of Boone.

Dr. Sherrill was born in the Poplar Grove section of Watauga County, a son of the late William Sherrill, and was reared in this county. After having received his preparatory education he taught school on Cove Creek, later having entered the Richmond Medical College. Soon after his graduation he located in Marion for the practice of his profession, and succeeded well. He was known as an eminent physician and was also a leader in the civic and religious life of his community, being one of the moving spirits in the Baptist Church there. He was well known by the citizens of his native county, and his host of friends here are grieved at news of his passing.

G. P. Hagaman, Smith Hagaman and Miss Stella Sherrill were among those from this community attending the funeral.

RECORDERS' COURT

Following are the cases which were disposed of before Judge George M. Sudderth in Records Court Tuesday:

- Finley Estep, public drunkenness; costs or 30 days on roads.
- Forest McGinnis, violation prohibition laws; fined \$10 and assessed with the costs; 12 months suspended sentence.
- Don Dotson, violation prohibition laws, dismissed.
- Cecil Bumgarner and Bill Bumgarner, violation prohibition laws; fined \$10 and costs; 12 months suspended sentence.
- Charlie Greene, assault, six months on roads; notice of appeal to higher court filed.
- Wade Stewart, assault, assessed with the cost.

Annual Duke Day Dinner Event Of Interest At Teachers College

Attended by 23 former Duke students and friends, Boone's second annual Duke University Day dinner was held Monday night at 7 o'clock in the dining room of the Lily Dale Home Economics Club at Appalachian State Teachers College. Dr. W. Amos Abrams, professor of English at Appalachian, served as toastmaster.

The following program was rendered: Invocation, Rev. C. C. Graham; poem, Professor J. M. Dowham; music, "The Song of the Sea," by Ruth Ellen Kinsland; Address, Rev. J. H. Brendall; Reminiscences of Days at Duke, former students; Duke songs, alumni and friends.

Girls in the Home Economics Department of the college assisted in preparing and serving the dinner. An attractive decorative scheme was carried out with galax and sprigs of spruce. The following three-course dinner was served during the evening: Tomato juice; tar-

TRACY COUNCIL PRESENT MAYOR; MOORE RESIGNS

Member Board of Aldermen Assumes Leading Role in City Government When J. Frank Moore Retires. Is Expected to Receive Position Under CWA. Council Named Friday. New Member to Be Selected.

Tracy Council, well known dairyman of this city and the youngest member in point of service on the Board of Aldermen, was named Mayor of Boone at the Friday evening session of the city council, when the resignation of J. Frank Moore was accepted. The vacancy on the board caused by the elevation of Mr. Council has not been filled, and this action will probably be the principal item of business at the next meeting.

Mr. Moore, who has served as Mayor or since the May election, it is said resigned on account of his health, and understanding is he will be employed in connection with the Civil Works program in this county. Mr. Council states that he is serving as Mayor only for the "time being" but his appointment seems to have met with the public approval.

STORES REGALED FOR HOLIDAYS

Shopping District Takes on Festive Appearance as Throngs Begin their Purchases. Business Described as Better Than Last Year.

Boone's stores have taken on the holiday appearance, as evergreens, "snow," Santa Claus, etc., appear in the windows, and reports are that the shops are better prepared for the holiday trade than in any recent year. And from talk among the merchants, trade is good this year and is going to be better. Most of the stores report considerable increase already over a year ago, and with the CWA payrolls now beginning to circulate, hopes are high for the best retail business in the history of the town.

Shoppers are being urged to make their selections early as improved trade conditions will cause stocks of some items to be depleted perhaps. The Democrat carries good news for holiday shoppers today, and there's money to be saved by a perusal of the advertising columns.

COURT SENTENCE CAUSES DEPUTIES TO QUIT POSTS

Sheriff's Helpers Not in Accord with Verdict of Court as to Forest McGinnis. Therefore Give Up Their Badges, Solicitor Asks Them to Reconsider, and Assures Them Court Is Doing Its Best.

Six deputies sheriff, who are said to have disagreed with the Recorder in the degree of punishment meted out to men whom they have arrested, tossed in their badges Tuesday, when Forest McGinnis was fined \$10 and placed under a 12-months suspended sentence.

Complaint was made to Charles T. Zimmerman, Solicitor of the Records Court, to whom the deputies explained their position to the effect that it was poor worth while for them to make every effort to apprehend law violators without much remuneration, only to have many of them set free by the court. Mr. Zimmerman says he remonstrated with them, and expressed appreciation for their fine record of service, at the same time urging them to act less hastily in relinquishing their posts of duty.

The immediate cause for the action of the officers came with the trial of Forest McGinnis on a charge of possessing a quantity of whiskey. Judge Sudderth fined him \$10 and the costs, amounting to perhaps as much as \$30, and placed him under a twelve-months suspended sentence, to become active when defendant should be proven to have violated the laws of the State of North Carolina. The deputies had been having trouble with reports as to McGinnis' alleged blockading activities, it is said, and thought he should receive a sentence, while the Judge was following usual procedure in giving a chance to a man who appeared before him the first time.

Sheriff Howell was unavailable at press time, and it could not be learned whether or not the deputies recanted, and assumed their usual duties.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FUND STILL GROWS

Legion Committee Reports Progress in their Efforts to Take Care of Needy Children. Santa Claus to Be Here on December 23rd.

Contributions to be used for supplying Christmas cheer to the needy children of the county are coming in rapidly, according to the report of the special committee of the American Legion which organization has undertaken to play Santa Claus this year to the destitute. It is apparent, says the committee, that the need is going to be great, and the citizens are urged to send in their contributions as rapidly as is possible. Santa Claus will be in Boone at noon Saturday, December 23, and will spend the afternoon here.

Contributions should be forwarded to Ralph G. Greer, Charlie Stevenson or C. W. Teal, the members of the American Legion committee, or may be left with The Watauga Democrat, and in turn handed over to the Legion. Those contributing thus far are:

- Livingstone Club, 25 filled stockings; Mrs. Carrie Horton Bingham, \$1.00; D. L. Wilcox, \$1.00; T. D. Heffner, \$1.00; Five-to-Five Store, \$10.00; H. G. Farthing, \$1.00; Spanhours, \$10.00; G. D. Brinkley, \$1.00; Boone Drug Co., \$5.00; Dr. R. Z. Lanney, \$2.00; Farmers Hardware, \$5.00; B. F. Williams, \$1.00; Watauga Drug Co., \$5.00; Boone Department Store, \$10.00; Council Cook, \$1.00; Smiths, fruits and candies; Owen Wilson, \$1.00.

WATER SHORTAGE LOOMS IN COUNTY

Continued Dry Weather Causes the Springs to Fail, and Acute Situation Described in Cove Creek Section. Some Are Hauling Water.

Continued dry weather is reported to have played havoc with the water supply in some sections of the county, and news coming from Brushy Fork and Cove Creek indicate that the situation has become rather acute. In the vicinity of the Cove Creek School, it is said, springs which have always been lush, have failed, and the five hundred students enrolled there sometimes have difficulty in securing water during school hours. One family is reported to have hauled water a considerable distance recently for household use, and the situation is expected to become really serious unless the weather changes.

FUTURE FARMERS MEET

The Cove Creek Chapter of Future Farmers of America met in regular session on December 8th. Paul Fox made a talk on "Making More Money from Young Chickens." "Keep Your Stock Growing" was discussed by Russell Oliver. He gave some interesting facts about the results of different feeds used in feeding young stock. James Sherwood gave an interesting discussion on "Some of the Problems the Orchardist Has." Jokes were told by Volt Shore.—Reported.

Red raspberries will be planted on 184 acres by farmers of Burke County this winter as a new source of farm income.