

By J. C. R.

HERE WE ARE! A fellow never knows just how he will handle a bear until he meets the gentleman face to face...

GLIMPSES EN ROUTE A large motor bus roared on through the night, and its capacity load of "crumpled" passengers shifted wearily in their seats.

MEASLES! A couple of the kids at our house... in fact the only two kids in the whole wide world who call us "daddy"...

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOLUME XLV, NUMBER 37

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 15,

\$1.50 PER YEAR

RALPH G. BINGHAM HAS FATAL HEART ATTACK THURSDAY

Prominent Young Lawyer and Former Assistant District Attorney Succumbs to Stroke in Raleigh, Where He Was Attending to Legal Business. Able Lawyer and Political Leader. Funeral Saturday.

Ralph G. Bingham, 35 years old, native Wataugan and former assistant United States Attorney for the Western North Carolina District, as well as a prominent young leader of the Republican party in the North-western part of the State, died suddenly at noon last Thursday in Raleigh, where he had appeared in litigation before the State Supreme Court.

The well known and popular young attorney had accompanied Attorney J. M. Brown to Raleigh Wednesday to argue cases before the Supreme Court and remained over Thursday on other legal business. Following an appearance before the Pardon Commissioner the two attorneys had returned to their room to prepare for the homeward journey. Suddenly clutching at his breast, Mr. Bingham said, "Mack, I'm sick," and immediately laid down on the bed. Mr. Bingham was dead before a physician could arrive, the immediate cause of his demise being given as acute dilation of the heart.

Funeral at Cove Creek

A brief service in charge of Rev. Seymour Taylor and Rev. C. W. Robinson was held at the residence in Wilkesboro on Friday afternoon, following which the body was taken to the home of the father-in-law of deceased, W. F. Sherwood, at Sherwood, Watauga County, and final rites were conducted from Henson's Chapel Methodist Church Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. The obsequies were in charge of Rev. G. C. Graham, pastor, who was assisted by Rev. Seymour Taylor of Wilkesboro. During the course of the service Professor I. G. Greer of Mills Home, Thomasville, paid eloquent tribute to the life of his deceased friend. An immense crowd attended the services, from different sections of Watauga, and large groups of friends came from Wilkes County. The floral offering was unusually impressive. Interment was in the cemetery near the church.

Active pallbearers were: Pressley E. Brown, J. M. Brown, W. B. Somers, Ab Somers, Old Wiles, Baxter Llaney, Ralph Reins and H. C. Kilby. The honorary pallbearers were: W. H. Gragg, J. R. Henderson, J. H. Lecture, R. E. Pharr, J. R. Barber, J. B. Sheets, W. H. Starr, C. Y. Miller, J. W. Neel, Marcus Moore, C. H. Cowles, R. C. Miller, Dave Mink, J. B. Williams, A. F. Kilby, Buel Brooks, F. C. Forester, T. M. Foster, Dr. F. C. Hubbard, J. H. Alexander, George Blevins, D. C. Castevens, W. F. Absher, W. O. Blackburn, McKinley Blackburn, Jack Hoot, C. C. Hayes, R. E. Prevette, George Elledge, E. M. Blackburn, A. S. Cassel, R. M. Erame, O. F. Eller, Dr. G. T. Mitchell, all of Wilkes County; Dr. G. K. Moore, W. R. Lovill, Russell Hodges, Clyde R. Greene, G. B. Miller, John W. Hodges, of Boone, and I. G. Greer, of Thomasville. (Continued on Page 8)

SHULLS MILLS ROAD MAY BE REBUILT

Sigmund Expresses Belief That Important Thoroughfare Will Be Taken Up as Regular Project. Manifests Interest in Other Local Roads.

Mr. Ross Sigmund of Salisbury, a member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, in an interview with a representative of The Democrat in Greensboro Friday stated that the road leading from Blowing Rock to Shulls Mills, draining and surfacing of which was to have been a CWA project, is to become a regularly Highway job, and that, in his opinion, the important link will be under construction within the near future. He also expresses a desire to have some work done on the road from Shulls Mills to Foscoe and believes prospects are bright in this connection.

As to the Laurel Creek highway, Mr. Sigmund did not believe that the project could be included in the present allotment of Federal aid funds because of its immense cost, but expressed himself favorable to the road which, he believes, would become one of the State's most important arteries.

Funds appropriated for the construction of a prison camp near Boone are not yet available, and the official declined to give an opinion as to when construction might be undertaken.

Mr. Sigmund is a summer resident of Blowing Rock, knows Watauga and her transportation needs, and is tremendously interested in several road projects which he believes ultimately will go through.

New N. E. A. Head



Cleveland, Ohio.—Edison E. Oberholtzer, superintendent of the Houston (Texas) schools, is the new president of the National Educational Association. He was born at Patricksburg, Indiana, and is fifty-four years old.

MRS. ALDRIDGE IS DEAD AT AGE OF 82

Well Known Resident of Foscoe Community Had Been Ill with Pneumonia for One Week. Funeral Held Tuesday Afternoon.

Mrs. James A. Aldridge, 82-year-old resident of the Foscoe community, died at her home there Monday afternoon after an illness with pneumonia, which had appeared serious for the past week.

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in Foscoe cemetery Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering of friends and relatives. Rev. Stout, Christian minister, being in charge of the services. Reverends S. E. and E. M. Gragg assisted in the conduct of the last rites.

Surviving is the husband and ten children, six sons and four daughters: John S. Aldridge of Boone; Kelsey, Kinksport, Tenn.; Blaine of Tacoma, Wash.; Harry of San Juan, Calif.; Fred of Norfolk, Va.; Linville of Foscoe; Mesdames J. R. Gragg of Boone, D. P. Wyke, W. C. Calloway and W. J. Wagner of Foscoe. All the children except the two in the far west were present for the funeral. Two brothers, Elijah and Sam Gragg of Foscoe, and sisters, Mesdames Pink Coffey and Abe Johnson, also survive.

Mrs. Aldridge was the former Miss Sallie Gragg, daughter of the late Johnson Gragg, and had spent her life in this section. She was a devout member of the Christian Church, and until ill health forbade was very active in religious work. She was much admired by a wide circle of friends throughout this section, and was a good Christian mother and helpful neighbor.

Civil Works Employees Now Number Only 212

There are now only 212 workers on the Civil Works Administration payrolls in Watauga County, it was revealed by the local administrator yesterday, the authorized cut of twenty for this week, which goes into effect Friday, bringing the total down to this number. Thirty-five were taken from the rolls last week, and now the employed represent less than fifty per cent of the original quota.

The rule of making the most drastic cuts in agricultural sections is being closely followed by the State administration.

Huge Cooperative Project TVA For Mountain Region

The Tennessee Valley Authority has selected Watauga, Avery and Mitchell counties in North Carolina in which to work out intensive trials of co-operative agricultural and industrial activities intended to give the people of this section a better and more abundant standard of living. From the results of these intensive trials undertakings it is expected to be able to determine kinds of farming and types of industry that may be successfully applied in most of the highland parts of the Tennessee Valley.

Such co-operative projects as are being started in these three counties now under the sponsorship of the Tennessee Valley Authority are to be on a strictly self-supporting basis. They are in no sense of the word charities, make-work projects nor in any way crutches to the local communities. Tennessee Valley Authority has furnished through its subsidiary, Tennessee Valley Associated Co-operatives, the basic capital. But the bulk of the funds needed will be obtained locally and through various agencies of the Federal Government, especially the Farm Credit Administration.

BAPTIST WOMEN SUPPLY A LARGE AMOUNT OF FOOD

Mills Home Acknowledges Receipt of More than Twenty-six Hundred Dollars Worth of Canned Goods from Members of Three Forks and Stony Fork Associations. List of Contributing Churches Listed.

Charity and Children, Baptist publication, has recently made public a list of the contributions from the Three Forks and Stony Fork Associations of Watauga County, in the form of canned goods during the past season, and refers to the campaign conducted by the Baptist women of Watauga as "unprecedented."

"It was a beautiful thing that the women of these associations did last fall," says the publication, which adds that the preachers encouraged the enterprises and the laymen assisted in every way. The canned goods were forwarded to Mills Home, Baptist orphanage, and of especial interest is the list of the churches, the amount and value of the contributions which amounted in dollars and cents to \$2,658.85:

- Antioch, 19 1/2 dozen half-gallon jars valued at \$53.50; Bethel, 22 dozen, \$66.00; Beaver Dam, 22 dozen, \$66.00; Bethany, 5 dozen, \$15.00; Blowing Rock, 14 dozen, \$42.00; Boone, 14 dozen, \$42.00; Brushy Fork, 42 1/2 dozen, \$126.75; Cool Springs, 19 dozen, \$57.00; Cove Creek, 54 dozen, \$162.00; Forest Grove, 9 dozen, \$27.00; Gap Creek, 22 1/2 dozen, \$66.75; Howard's Creek, 15 dozen, \$45.00; Laurel Springs, 4 dozen, \$12.00; Meat Camp, 33 dozen, \$99.00; Middle Fork, 47 1-6 dozen, \$67.70; also several quart jars; Mt. Lebanon, 25 dozen, \$75.00; Mount Ghield, 20 dozen, \$60.00; Oak Grove, 12 1/2 dozen, \$36.75; Pleasant Grove, 82 dozen, \$246.00; Poplar Grove, 29 dozen, \$87.00; Proffitts Grove, 16 dozen, \$48.00; Rich Mountain, 8 1-3 dozen, \$25.40; South Fork, 31 1/2 dozen, \$93.75; Stony Fork, 32 1/2 dozen \$97.50; Three Forks, 32 dozen, \$86.00; Timbered Ridge, 34 dozen, \$102.00; Union, 15 2-3 dozen, \$47.60; Willowdale, 18 1/2 dozen, \$56.25; Zionville, 32 5-6 dozen halves and 2 11-12 dozen quarts, \$102.00; Zion Hill, 28 dozen, \$84.00; Zion Fork, 23 dozen, \$69.00; Mount Vernon, 20 1/2 dozen, \$60.75; Mt. Ephraim, 27 dozen, \$81.00; Fenley, 13 dozen, \$39.00; Rockview, 7 dozen, \$21.00; Watauga, 11 dozen, \$33.00; Sandy Flat, 1 dozen, \$3.00.

Mrs. Boyden Honored By Society of Poets

Mrs. Donald J. Boyden of Blowing Rock has been unanimously elected to membership in the North Carolina Society of Poets it was learned here yesterday. The Society, which is very exclusive, in thus honoring Mrs. Boyden recognizes her excellent contributions to magazines and also to a number of newspapers.

RECORDER'S COURT

Following are the cases disposed of in Judge Suddeth's court Tuesday. Charley Greene, larceny; bound to Superior Court. Ham Main, public drunkenness, 60 days on road. Joe Presnell, violating dry laws, not guilty. Jack Dwer, violating dry laws, one-half cost of action. John Kilby, violating prohibition laws; six months suspended on payment of cost.

Dilling Sheriff



Crown Point, Ind.—Sheriff Lillian Holley, who ruled over the "escape proof" Lake County jail, from which John Dillinger, notorious killer and bank robber, made his escape with a wooden pistol he had whittled out during spare moments.

GEOLOGIST READY TO TEST MINERAL

Michener Provided with Assistant and Urges Co-operation in Uncovering Prospective Veins. Valuable Formations Already Found.

Mr. Howard A. Michener, TVA and CWA geologist who for several weeks has been stationed at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, has been provided with an assistant in the person of Mr. David Keppel of Columbia University, and is very anxious to get in touch with landowners who suspect mineral deposits on their property.

Mineral examinations can only be made by Mr. Michener in Avery, Watauga and that part of Ashe County lying south of Copper Knob, it is explained, but since the survey is now supplied with government transportation, the geologists will gladly call on anyone who desires mineral deposits listed by the government. It will be a great advantage if land owners will partially open up any mineral outcrops they might have.

Mr. Michener has traced fine amorphous graphite in Avery County, has found high-grade magnetic iron in Avery County, with good prospects of the same in Mecca Mountain, Watauga County. Asbestos is showing up on the western slope of Rich Mountain in Watauga, and prospects for beryllium are noted in Meat Camp township, along with soapstone, mica and evidences of underlying asbestos.

The survey expresses the desire of hearing from those who suspect deposits of magnetic iron on their property, and states that the presence of this substance may be determined by passing a magnet through some of the powdered ore.

HOME LOANS NOW BEING APPROVED

More than Nine Thousand Dollars Have Been Approved, Attorney Wade E. Brown Says. More than Sixty Apply from Watauga.

Loans actually closed amounting to \$9,149.26 in the Home Owners Loan Corporation were reported the first of the week by Wade E. Brown, attorney for this territory, who stated further that loans approved and in the final stages amount to \$12,748.75. More than sixty applications have been sent in from this county, it is said, and others are being forwarded daily, totalling more than \$115,000.00.

Mr. Brown urges all those interested in securing loans to take up their present mortgage indebtedness, to make their applications at once, and says that two pictures of the home must be included in the application.

The President has recommended to Congress that the bonds used to take up mortgages be unconditionally guaranteed, which will put them on the level with other government bonds, and thus increase the demand for the securities.

Many persons burdened with the fear of losing their homes are taking advantage of the help offered by the Government and it is the wish of the President that no deserving home owner lose his or her home because of present financial handicaps.

Any further information or help in filling blanks for home loans (not farms) may be had by seeing Wade E. Brown, Boone.

MRS. HILL PASSES

Mrs. James N. Hill, for many years a summer resident of Blowing Rock, died at Greensboro on Tuesday evening following a brief illness. Funeral services will be conducted at Lenoir today, and interment will take place there. Mrs. Hill during her long residence in the mountains surrounded herself with a host of friends who will learn of her passing with sorrow.

MISS WATSON NEW RELIEF AUTHORITY AND HEAD OF CWA

Well Known Educational Leader Gets Position Made Vacant by Resignation of Mrs. Smith Hagaman, which Goes Into Effect Today. Has Been Teacher in County Schools for Eleven Years.

Miss Theodosia Watson, of Boone, well known teacher in the county schools and in the Appalachian College for a number of years, today assumes the directorship of the County Emergency Relief Administration, which automatically carries with it the duties of local CWA Administrator. The announcement of the appointment was made Monday from the offices of Mrs. Thomas O'Berry in Raleigh.

Mrs. Smith Hagaman, who has held the positions since their inception, resigned a few days since, and under the terms of her resignation, Miss Watson takes over the office today. No other changes in the personnel of the organization are contemplated, it is said. Mrs. Hagaman will remain at her home in Boone for a few days before joining her husband, who is the newly-appointed head of Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem.

Well Qualified

Miss Watson came to Watauga from Robeson County eleven years ago, since which time she has been constantly engaged in teaching capacities in the schools of the county and in Appalachian College, being a graduate of the latter institution. During her residence in this county she has been a leader in educational thought and has voluntarily engaged in relief activities in different sections of the county. She made a special study of social welfare work in the Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and was engaged in such work in that city as well as in Robeson County. She has always been intensely interested in welfare endeavors and it is felt that this, together with her training, makes of her a worthy successor to Mrs. Hagaman.

JASON SHERRILL DIES THURSDAY

Well Known Resident of Beaver Dam Passes from Pneumonia. Funeral Held Saturday and Interment in Home Neighborhood.

Jason Sherrill, 76 years old, and a member of one of the county's most prominent and best families, died at his home near Reese postoffice, in the Beaver Dam section last Thursday evening. Mr. Sherrill had been suffering for some time with a weakened condition of the heart, but the immediate cause of death is given as bronchial pneumonia.

Funeral services were conducted from the Beaver Dam Baptist Church Saturday morning at the 11 o'clock hour by Rev. Ed Hodges, pastor, and a large crowd of friends gathered to pay their respects to the memory of deceased.

Surviving in the immediate family is one daughter, Miss Ollie Sherrill, who resided with her father. Mr. John Sherrill of Boone is a brother of deceased.

Mr. Sherrill was reared in Watauga County, where he engaged in farming enterprises throughout his long life. He was a consistent member of the Baptist Church and had contributed a full share to the religious life of his community. He was a good and just man and had a host of friends throughout this section.

DOWD SUCCEEDS GRAGG AS MARSHAL

Boone Man Retires from Government Service After Two Years Tenure. Resident of Sanford Sworn in Before Judge Johnson J. Hayes.

William T. Dowd of Sanford took the oath of office as Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina before Judge Johnson J. Hayes in Greensboro, and immediately assumed the duties of the office, together with four newly-appointed deputies. Mr. Dowd, who succeeds W. H. Gragg of Boone, was the choice of Senator Reynolds for the position, and is well known to a number of local people who feel that he is eminently qualified for the high post of duty.

Mr. Gragg, who has held office as Marshal for two years, declines to make public his plans for the future at this time, other than to state he has made business connections. He has been extremely popular in his governmental capacities and has made many friends throughout the district. His method of conducting the affairs which go with the marshaling has resulted in favorable citation both at home and from official Washington.