

# BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

## SOME CANDIDATES

Mr. Theodore F. Cummings, Hickory attorney who seeks the Democratic nomination for Solicitor of the Sixteenth District, came to Boone Monday, shook hands with the public at large, and expressed a keen desire to garner a right big majority of Watauga's vote in the June primary. And I fine fellow he is . . . tall like a pine tree, with an intellectual forehead, a pleasant smile and forceful manner . . . just the type for a State's attorney.

Yes, we liked this aspiring Catawba lawyer a whole lot . . . we admired his sincerity, we admired his friendly method of campaigning. But somehow or other, we couldn't help but cast our thoughts up toward the courthouse, where Solicitor L. S. Spurling, who seeks renomination, is prosecuting a sizeable criminal docket. This man Spurling has been coming to Watauga for the past two years, and the folks around here look on him, using a bit of slang, as "the cat's pajamas." He upholds the State's end of an argument with dignity . . . he looks a jurymen squarely in the eye, and drives home his point with unusual clarity . . . he prosecutes without resorting to persecution . . . and he's as easy to talk to as a neighboring farmer.

The Solicitorial contest is the only matter to be voted on by Watauga people in June . . . but it's a mighty important contest, and should create an unusual interest. Both candidates are amply qualified for this dignified position . . . one of them has proved his worth in the courts of the district. Both are lawyers of unquestioned standing . . . one of them has eight years of unbroken courtroom experience behind him. Both are virile, pleasant individuals . . . one of them has surrounded himself with a large circle of staunch friends in Watauga.

Democrats here in the mountains just have to do a little voting every now and then . . . and it's a safe bet that Solicitor L. S. Spurling will walk away with a nice big basket of Watauga ballots on June 2nd!

## THESE CHANGING TIMES

Court week, so far as Watauga is concerned, ain't what it used to be. Just dig back in the past and take a look at the "first Monday" . . . then compare it with the present. Great long strings of Nissan wagons and Babcock buggies, carefully supervised by a regiment of Henkel's best traders . . . patent medicine men in frock-tailed coats and checkered vests, cracking jokes at awkward hill-williams, exchanging quick cures for shiny dollars . . . herds of women in poke-bonnets and checkered aprons, babes in arms, lining the streets . . . jennets and juckasses and plug hosses tied to every available fence in town . . . Jack Campbell distributing bills for his Great Wonderland Moving Picture Show . . . Mose Harshaw and Rom Linney and Coot Jones and all the old-time lawyers shaking hands with friends en route to courthouse . . . bacon sizzling in a score of skillets as campers prepared their meals . . . tricksters from "fur-placers" betting their cash on "which shell the pea's under" . . . hundreds and hundreds of men and women and children enjoying their first visit to town for a long time.

But this week there wasn't much to it . . . just a scattering of folks summoned as witnesses or for jury duty . . . just a couple of covered wagons behind the courthouse . . . just three or four boss traders trimming the fetlocks and currying the weilded sides of a dozen broken-down, flea-bitten equines . . . just two or three pet-gutted magazine salesmen . . . no patent medicine vendors, no magic-lantern show, no bonnets and crying young-uns, no grub-wagons . . . nothing but court-week, deprived of all its erstwhile splendor! Ho-hum, times ain't improved any!

## STRANGE BUSINESS

The trial of a homicide case, for some reason or other, draws a packed courtroom . . . but why? The drawn, anxious face of an accused killer, lined with the misery of long confinement . . . a heart-broken mother dabbling her swollen eyes with a limp handkerchief . . . the monotonous grind of the justice mill as jurors are selected and witnesses examined and mercy pleaded . . . a fatherless child casting accusing glances at the man who robbed her of parental security . . . and dozens and dozens of other unpleasant, wretched, deplorable phases that people, civilized people, enjoy! No more pitiable sight could be imagined than a young man facing the chair . . . or a life of confinement. Nothing more pathetic could be envisioned than a wife and her children deprived of a husband and father. It's bad business, sad business . . . but, for some unknown reason, there's always a crowded courtroom when a homicide case is tried!

Stranger—What makes your cat so small?  
Boy—I guess it's because we feed it on condensed milk.

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## To Be Heard Here



Mr. W. M. Shuford, superintendent of the Junior Order Orphanage at Lexington, who will speak at the district meeting, Jr. O. U. A. M. in Boone on Wednesday, May 2nd.

## HIGH OFFICIALS OF JUNIOR ORDER TO SPEAK IN BOONE

Third District Meeting to Be Featured by Addresses of State Councilor and Treasurer, Superintendent of Orphans Home to Speak and Present Class of Children. Delegates to Come from Three Counties.

The semi-annual meeting, Third District, Junior Order United American Mechanics, to be held in Boone Wednesday, May 2nd, is to be a noteworthy gathering of the members of the organization, since the session is to be featured by addresses by the State Councilor, State Treasurer and others of high standing in the fraternity.

The business session will be held in the council hall at 3 o'clock. The evening session is to be held in the auditorium of the Demonstration School, will be open to the public, and State Councilor B. C. Siske will be the principal speaker. Gurney P. Hood, State Junior Treasurer and Commissioner of Banks, will tell of the work of the orphan homes at Tiffin, Ohio, and Lexington, N. C. Since Mr. Hood is a member of the board of trustees of the institutions, he is eminently qualified to give first-hand information on their history and operation.

W. M. Shuford, superintendent of the Lexington child-rearing institution, will present a class of children in an entertaining program, which is to be followed by a three-reel moving picture, "Facts About the Junior Order United American Mechanics." The showing is sponsored by C. W. Snyder of Winston-Salem, Field Secretary for Western North Carolina.

District No. 3 is composed of Avery, Mitchell and Watauga counties. The membership in this territory is 332. Each council is to be represented in the business session by three members.

Local officials of the organization state that the public is cordially invited to attend the night session, hear the notables and enjoy the program and movies. There is no charge of any kind.

## Appalachian Teachers

Lose Last Home Game  
Appalachian lost their last home baseball game to Lenoir-Rhyne Tuesday, 8 to 5. The game was close throughout, and home runs abounded in the Bears' victory. Newton, Willett and Mills hit home runs for Lenoir-Rhyne, while Deal got Appalachian's only circuit hit.

Although the Teachers did not make but one error, they played out of position badly, and many throws were wild.

Trippany and Smith led the nitting for the local boys and Newton for the Bears.

## Next Week Will Be Observed as Annual Clean-Up Period

The week beginning Monday, April 30th, has been designated as clean-up week by Mayor Tracy Council, during which period property owners of the city are respectfully asked to lend full co-operation to the officials in their efforts to make the community more sanitary and inviting.

Trucks will be provided by the city for hauling away the rubbish and citizens are asked to place the refuse in boxes convenient to the streets or alleyways in order that removal may be affected with the minimum of speed.

In making the announcement, Mayor Council stressed the importance of the movement, and is especially anxious that property owners do their part in making the city spick and span before the beginning of the tourist season.

## LEWIS GOES ON TRIAL FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER

Alleged Slayer of Police Chief to Be Tried for His Life. Six Members of Jury Chosen at Noon Wednesday. Boone and Beaver Dam Townships Excluded from Jury Service. Taking of Evidence to Begin Thursday.

Rufus Lewis, held in the county jail since last September in connection with the slaying of Police Chief Hill Hagaman, was arraigned for murder in Superior Court here Monday afternoon and Wednesday at the noon recess of court six of the twelve men who will try the defendant for his life had been selected.

As Lewis was arraigned defense attorneys introduced affidavits in an effort to have the trial removed or to summon jurors from outside the county. Feeling engendered, said the depositions, from detailed publicity and from the prominence of the slain man, ran so high that following the arrest of Lewis it was necessary to remove the prisoner to another county for safe keeping. As the suggestion of the State, however, it was agreed that the trial would be before a Watauga County jury, Boone and Beaver Dam citizens being excluded. Officer Hagaman had been reared and lived practically his entire life in these two sections of the county.

A venire of seventy-five men was summoned Tuesday, and Wednesday morning selection of the jurors got under way. As The Democrat goes to press, it is not believed that the jury will have been completed before the afternoon recess of court, and that evidence will probably be taken beginning Thursday.

Without about fifty of the veniremen examined, the following six had been selected for jury service: Robert Hodges, Elk Township; Howard Foster, Meat Camp; J. H. Shoemaker, Shawanah; H. D. Cook, Cove Creek; Coy Yates, Watauga; Charles Span, Blowing Rock. Uncertainty exists about the court as to whether it will be necessary to summon others.

Solicitor Spurling is being assisted in his efforts to secure a first degree verdict by Messrs. Lovell and Zimmerman, while Lewis is represented by Messrs. Trivette & Holmquist and John E. Brown. Perhaps no more than six or eight witnesses are to be examined, and aside from the legal arguments the case is expected to be disposed of within a reasonably short period of time.

Violet Adams, nineteen-year-old woman, is to be tried at this term of court in connection with the shooting of the police officer.

Several cases of minor importance have been tried and a few defendants remanded to jail pending the passage of judgments. The complete proceedings will be published next week.

## Music Week Observed By Local Ladies Clubs

A national Music Week program was presented in the College Auditorium on Monday evening, April 23, sponsored jointly by the Worthwhile Club and the Friday Afternoon Club. Music Week does not come until the first of May, but the date was changed for Boone in order that the college students might have the privilege of being guests of the local clubs.

Thirty young men and young women from among the most talented citizens and students of Boone took part in the event before a large, appreciative audience. The object of this community event, according to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, is "the development of a get-together spirit in communities," and to develop the art of appreciating music, performing music, and creating music.

Following is a list of those who took part in the event: Misses Virginia Brown, Mazie Jean Jones and Charlotte Stallings; Mrs. D. J. White, Carl Plaster, Jake Hagaman, Frank Hagaman, Irvin Norton; Frances Thomas, Jane Tedder, Argie Wilburn, Winton Rankin, Margaret Hamby, Calvin Wright, Virginia Wary; Roy Greene, Paul Mahoney, Guy H. Hill, Norris Perry, Callen Johnson; Mrs. Guy H. Hill, Mrs. Claude Pyatte. A community chorus, directed by Mrs. Hill, was composed of the following: Misses Lalla Clay, Virginia South, Floy Cottrell, Helen Gragg; Messrs. John Critcher, Tom Council, Mack Greer and Paul Hicks.

## Relief Bills Must Be In By First of Month

All merchants and others holding accounts against the local Emergency Relief office, are asked to present their bills to Miss Theodosia Watson, relief administrator, not later than the first of May. In asking for these accounts, Miss Watson states that it is imperative that none fail to render their statements, as instructions call for the settlement of all outstanding bills as of May 1st.

## TWIN VALEDICTORIANS!



Misses June and Jean Bush, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bush of Boone, will be twin valedictorians of the senior class of Boone High School at commencement exercises today. The valedictory address is annually delivered by the student whose scholarship excels that of any other student, and whose citizenship is at least equal to that of any other member of the class. This year, when the measuring stick was laid down, the Bush twins were found to be exactly equal in everything—so both were picked as valedictorians.

## DR. MILLER WILL SPEAK AT A. S. T. C. FINALS ON FRIDAY

Charlotte Editor to Address Graduates at 11 o'clock Hour. Popular Speaker Has Many Friends in This Section. Eighty Graduates Will Receive Diplomas on the 4th. List of Graduates.

Dr. Julian S. Miller, associate editor of The Charlotte Observer, who at the same time is known as a speaker of rare ability, will deliver the address to the graduates of Appalachian College at the commencement exercises to be held Friday morning, May 4th, at the 11 o'clock hour.

Officials at the college feel fortunate in having secured Dr. Miller at this time, as recently he has been one of the most-sought-for speakers in the State. He has many friends in this region.

More than eighty students will receive their diplomas at this time, while more than 125 will have gained Bachelor's degrees from Appalachian at the end of the calendar year. Following are those graduating next week:

Mathematics and Science: Everett Abee, Morganton; Ella Mae Austin, Boone; Moselle Ball, Stony Point; Oscar V. Barker, Butler, Tenn.; Clarence A. Braswell, Collettsville; James Howard Collins, Mooresville; Steve L. Coon (cum laude), Lincolnton; Asa Watt Deal, Statesville Route 6; Veb V. K. Dickson, Helton; Plato W. Greer, Todd; Kern Oder Joines, Sparrow.

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## Water Supply Is Cut As Main Floods Store

A main in the city's water supply system burst without explainable cause Wednesday morning, and for one time the town was rendered as dry as a bone. The fracture of the iron piping occurred directly in front of the Farmer's Hardware Store, and the terrific pressure lifted a section of the street paving two or three inches, finally finding egress into the basement of the hardware establishment. By the time members of the firm opened the store the water stood at about twelve inches over the basement floor, and considerable damage resulted to nails, roofing, wire fencing, etc., stored there. City employees immediately began the job of digging the broken pipe from beneath the paving.

## City Taxpayers Asked To Gather on Friday

Municipal taxpayers have been asked by Mayor Tracy Council to be present at a meeting of the city council to be held in the town hall Friday evening, 7:30 o'clock. The meeting is called to discuss the condition existing as to the banded debt of the town, and to receive suggestions as to ways and means of lifting the city from its defaulted position.

## BANK OPENING IS IN HANDS OF THE PEOPLE OF COUNTY

Special Examiner of State Banking Department Is Here to Stay Until Watauga Bank Is Open. Only Hurdle Comes in Past Due and Neglected Paper in Bank, Says Mr. Allen. Many Loans Being Secured.

In the parlance of Hollywood, the theme song at the Watauga County Bank at the present time is "The Last Round-up." Mr. John G. Allen, a special examiner for the State Banking Department, has been making a survey of the affairs of that institution, with a view to making recommendations to Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood, on which will hinge the issuance of a license to do an unrestricted banking business and also be examined for Federal Deposit Insurance.

"If the people of Watauga County want this bank reopened for unrestricted business with Federal guarantee of deposits," said Mr. Allen when interviewed Tuesday, "it will be an accomplished fact in a very short while. There are a great many notes held by the bank that are past due. The best and most substantial people in this section are either makers or endorsers on these notes, and all of this paper must be brought up-to-date, and in many instances, curtailed to some extent, before such a license will be issued, or before Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation examination will be attempted.

In refinancing and rejuvenating the finances of the Watauga County Bank, all of the officers and directors have been most diligent, and have accomplished a splendid task. However, they cannot accomplish the ends sought by themselves.

"My instructions from Mr. Hood," continued Mr. Allen, "were brief: go to Boone, and stay there until you get the bank open, if the people in Watauga want it opened. It is a simple matter—the only hitch is the past due and neglected notes in the bank. If each note maker and endorser will come forward and attend to their obligations voluntarily, the task is accomplished. If not, action must be taken, and taken at once."

Cashier G. P. Hagaman, in commenting on the situation, states that the local bank is due the R. F. C. \$23,972.09. To partially offset this indebtedness the bank has authorization for Federal farm mortgage bonds in the sum of \$9,500, and Home Owners Loan bonds to the amount of \$8,275. Individuals throughout the county who are indebted to the bank have had many other applications approved for Government money with which to retire their indebtedness to the bank.

## SEED LOAN OFFICE CLOSES

The seed loan office will be closed as of April 30th, according to Mr. Hale, the manager, who insists that there will be no filing for loans after that date.

## OGLESBY BARES CRIME RECORD IN N. CAROLINA

Pagan Nation Would Be Shocked, Declares Jurist, as He Tells of Crime Wave Sweeping State. Citizenship Challenged to Combat Lawlessness. Refers to Inequalities of Enforcement. "Golden Calf" Moulded.

"North Carolina has written a record of crime which would shock the consciousness of a pagan nation," declared Judge John M. Oglesby in his charge to the grand jury as the spring term of Watauga Superior Court opened Monday morning.

Offering figures taken from the records of the Attorney General's office, Judge Oglesby submitted that there had been 525 homicides in the State within a single year, more than 100 within another twelve-month period, that 850 people had perished in one year on the highways of the State, and that within a like period more than 30,000 criminal actions had been tried before the Carolina courts.

"The times have harled a definite challenge at the good, honest, God-fearing people of our State; to the pulpit, to the schools, to the press for the enforcement of the laws of the land," said Judge Oglesby, who stated that the materialistic tendencies of the American people had in his opinion brought the country into the depression, and that many attempts might be necessary to bring the civilization out of the consequent slough of despondency.

"The golden calf which we as a nation have worshipped is no different from that builded by the children of Israel, except that our calf is the larger," declared the eminent jurist, as he lamented the irreverent attitude of the people of today, and deplored that fact that an overwhelming percentage of the population do nothing for the more uniform enforcement of the law.

Swift and certain punishment for criminals was cited as the most effective weapon to be used in stemming the tidal wave of crime, and the seriousness of the responsibilities imposed by the people upon the court and upon the members of the grand jury was paramount.

While refraining from the usual recapitulation of the catalog of crime, Judge Oglesby specifically mentioned the prohibition law, and urged its uniform enforcement so long as it remained on the statute books. He also called attention to the widespread wave of dishonesty, which has made it necessary for a man conducting a small roadside business to guard his property throughout the night with a shotgun. In referring to this condition, His Honor opined that there was no difference in a thief who stood behind the cashier's window of a bank, with his "frozen assets," and one who brandished a revolver as a means of securing his illegal wealth.

"Too many one-gallus white boys and underprivileged negroes," he dragged into court for minor infractions of the law," said Judge Oglesby while those in the higher stations of life violate the same laws on a larger scale with impunity and without prosecution. "This condition must stop," said the jurist, who stated that two little negroes caught shooting craps in a back alley were adjudged guilty of gambling, while the high-ups engaged in passing money across a bridge table, were said to be participating in a social activity.

Judge Oglesby's message was unusually well-received, and he was congratulated throughout the day on his masterful delivery.

David P. Wyke, of Faison, took the oath as foreman of the grand jury.

## Sikes Here in Interest Rehabilitation Scheme

Mr. John H. Sikes, director of public relations, Civil Works Administration, was in town Tuesday, gathering data, and investigating conditions as would apply in the administration of the rural rehabilitation program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

Mr. Sikes states that the new program is in the formative stage and that definite procedures have not been fully worked out. However, he says that the goal toward which the administration is working is to find lands for displaced tenant farmers, and to eventually assist them in financing the purchase of their own farms.

## SOLICITOR L. S. SPURLING TO SPEAK AT LOCAL CHURCH

Solicitor L. S. Spurling, of the Sixteenth District, will speak at Boone Baptist Church on Sunday at eleven o'clock. The subject of his address, which will take the place of the regular morning service, will be "Law Observance," and the public is cordially invited to attend.