

# BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

## TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

MURRAY CRITCHER has passed away, and as we pause to pay tribute to our close friend of many years, the traditional instincts of an exacting craft constrain the Sketch Man to casually "read proof" on the life and works of this fallen "Roman."

Like most of us, Mr. Critcher was not a shining star in the constellation of high finance... his coffers were not glittered with the glittering ore of successful manipulations... he had never sought the coveted honors of political preferment... his earthly passage was characterized by simplicity and reserve.

BUT THROUGH those sixty-five years of earthly endeavor Murray Critcher was laying away, in the treasure house of his soul, priceless jewels of human character... Thousands of down-trodden, poverty-stricken men and women had partaken of food at the Critcher table... hundreds of homeless boys had found shelter and warmth under the Critcher roof... despairing widows, ill-clad orphans, roving hoboes, dregs from the backwash of Life, had been subjects of his patient benevolence.

SELFISHNESS, the despoiler of civilization, the arch-enemy of Christendom, was another of the things that Mr. Critcher failed to accumulate during his sojourn with us. His conscientious practice of charity and friendliness became traditional in the mountain country, and crowded from his very being those greedy impulses common to the genus homo... the hotel-home which he occupied for thirty years became a haven for the younger set of the community... the cordiality of the amiable proprietor, his sound philosophy and winning personality, created a pleasurable atmosphere of good will... an attractive retreat from the cares and disappointments of every-day living.

HONESTY, scarer'n hen's teeth, was another of the Critcher attributes... our lamented brother was imbued with courage: courage that caused him to voice his convictions even in the face of defeat, and raised him high above the stinky realm of hypocrisy. Love, the cardinal virtue of man, was exemplified in his family life, and in his compassion for those among whom he dwelt.

THE "PROOFS" show errors, of course... but they also reveal in bold type the soul-inspiring accomplishments of a man who lived not to himself alone... a heritage which means more to coming generations than the monetary hoard of an industrial giant. Boone has lost one of its greatest men... but, at the same time has garnered brilliant genius for the graven casks of memory. The grief brought by Murray Critcher's passing forbids the customary "cracks" of the Sketch Man... the banter and intended sarcasm, the "bull" and "baloney" can wait... We'll "call it a day" by repeating with a favorite hard these beautiful words...

"There is no death. What seems so is transition;  
This life of mortal breath  
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,  
Whose portal we call Death."

## LOCAL LEGIONAIRES ATEND DISTRICT MEET

The following local World War veterans represented Watauga Post of the American Legion at the officers' conference in Sanford Sunday and Monday: J. Wilson Norris, commander; Lionel Ward, service officer; C. W. Teal, adjutant, and James Gross. Mrs. C. W. Teal, president of the local Legion Auxiliary, also attended the conference.

## LOCAL AFFAIRS

Miss Lucile Moore, of Florence, S. C., is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. W. Teal, in Daniel Boone Park.

Mrs. Albert Watson received severe scalds on her limbs Saturday evening when a kettle of boiling water was overturned. Her condition is said to be improving slowly.

Miss Ruby Parsons spent the weekend with home folks. She is teaching at Maple Springs, in Wilkes County. Reports from Statesville indicate that the condition of Mrs. Lee Teague, who is a patient at the Davis Hospital, is critical.

## FARMERS INTERESTED IN TVA

Western North Carolina farmers are showing a great deal of interest in the land use and conservation program sponsored by the TVA and agricultural extension service of State College. The program is designed to improve farming practices and, in the end, raise the standard of living in the mountain counties.

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## LEADER PASSES



MURRAY P. CRITCHER

## M. P. CRITCHER DIES AT HOME IN BOONE

Funeral Services Sunday for Pioneer Hotelist and Local Civic Leader.

Murray P. Critcher, widely-known citizen and pioneer hotelist of this city, died Saturday, following an illness with an incurable malady extending over several months.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist Church Sunday afternoon by Rev. Canipe of the Baptist Church, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. Eugene Olive of North Wilkesboro and Rev. E. C. Widenhouse of the local Methodist Church.

Pall-bearers were: Earl Greer, Frank Hagaman, A. E. Hamby Jr., Irvin Norton, Bill Casey, Craig Hoiler, Keith Little and Len Wilson.

The beautiful and varied floral offering was borne by the following ladies: Mesdames Stewart Winkler, Frank Robbins Jr., John Horton, Coker Triplett, John W. Hodges Jr., Mack Luttrell, L. T. Tatum, J. B. Hagaman, H. B. Perry, G. K. Moore, Carrie Williams, A. R. Smith, Carrie Bingham, Margaret Coffey, Virginia Rivers, Baxter Linney, Ruth Porter, Annie Coffey, J. D. Council, R. L. Clay, D. D. Dougherty, R. M. Greene, Alice Hardin, F. A. Linney, A. E. South, Jeff Stanbury, Charles Zimmerman, Minnie Winkler, Misses Mary Krider, Jewel Hagaman, Marguerite Miller, June Russell, Robinson, Eric Greer and Annie Dougherty.

The church was filled to overflowing with those who came to hear the rites, many having come from a great distance. Interment was in the city cemetery, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home having charge of the arrangements.

A Native of Watauga

Mr. Critcher was a son of the late Captain A. J. Critcher, Confederate chieftain, and was born in Watauga County. For many years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits here, later taking over the old Coffey Hotel, which for more than thirty years he operated as the Critcher Hotel. For a great part of this time his was the only hotel in town, and through association with the traveling public, Mr. Critcher formed a friendship which extended the length and breadth of North Carolina and into other states. During the administration of President Wilson he served as the postmaster at Boone. He was at different times a member of the board of aldermen and for many years before the streets were paved was in charge of the upkeep of municipal avenues of transportation.

In the meantime Mr. Critcher contributed a share of his time to farming activities, and came to be more or less of an authority on agrarian matters. He was an active believer in the principals of government as espoused by the Democratic party, and freely contributed his work and influence in matters of civic concern and public improvement. He was a kind neighbor, a faithful friend and an upright citizen of unusual value. His passing is mourned over a large territory.

Surviving is the widow, the former Miss Jennie Blackburn, and three children: Louise, John and Roberta, of Boone. One brother, Frank Critcher of Boone, and one sister, Mrs. C. D. Coffey of North Wilkesboro, also survive.

## BELK'S STORE WILL OPEN BRANCH HERE

Information is that Belk's Department Store is to open an establishment in Boone, and a crew of carpenters are now engaged in remodeling the Dr. Jones building for that purpose. A three-year lease has been closed on the property, and it is expected that the department store will open by the fifteenth of April.

Lost in Yellowstone Park, a shepherd dog hiked 700 miles to Denver, where it was identified by its tag and shipped by train to its home in Wisconsin.

A piece of needle broken off in the hand of Mrs. M. J. Mayer of Austin, Minn., thirty years ago, appeared in her great toe and was removed recently.

## BIG MONEY BILLS ARE INTRODUCED IN N. C. ASSEMBLY

Revenue and Appropriation Measures Make Appearance on Thursday in the House.

## LOWER BODY PASSES BILL FOR FIVE PER CENT BEER

Hill Bill Debated for Two Hours in Senate and Sent to Finance Committee. Favorable Report Is Expected by Sponsors.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN (Special Correspondent)

RALEIGH, N. C.—The two big money bills of the General Assembly made their appearance in the House of Representatives last week in rapid succession, the Revenue bill, levying taxes, arriving from committee Wednesday, and the Appropriations bill, spending money, arriving Thursday. The House, after a fight, decided to handle the Revenue bill first, and dissolved itself into a committee of the whole at noon Wednesday and bent to its labors.

However, the House took time to reverse itself on the bill to increase the alcoholic content of beer to five per cent. It had previously killed this bill, but later sent it to a second committee. Then Friday passed it, 55 to 34. The Senate, on the other hand, side-stepped the Senator Hill liquor control bill for the time Thursday and sent it back to committee, this time to the Finance Committee, after debating it, with radio broadcasting, for more than two hours. The proponents of the bill apparently were afraid to risk a vote. They feel that if it should come back with a favorable report, especially if linked with the money bills that are out of balance, it might have a better chance of passage. The House, considered dry, passed the beer bill, which gave additional hopes.

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## COLLINS TO MEET WITH HOG RAISERS

Reduction Contracts Must Be Signed by April 1st. Dates Announced by Agent.

W. B. Collins, newly-appointed county agent, will meet Watauga hog raisers at the following places on dates mentioned for the purpose of allowing hog-corn raisers to sign reduction contracts for 1935:

- Agent's office, courthouse in Boone, Monday, March 25.
  - Mabel at Bert Mast's store, on Tuesday, March 26, 9:00 a. m.
  - Sugar Grove postoffice on Tuesday, March 26, 1:00 p. m.
  - Meat Camp at Hodgson's store, on Wednesday, March 27, 9:00 a. m.
  - Cooks' Gap at T. L. Critcher's store, on Wednesday, March 27, 1:00 p. m.
  - Beaver Dam at Don Hagaman's store, on Thursday, March 28, 9:00 a. m.
  - Deep Gap at A. G. Miller's Store, on Thursday, March 28, 1:00 p. m.
- The agent will also be found at his office on March 30th.

Contracts Explained

Mr. Collins states that farmers who have grown more than an average of ten acres of corn, or raised more than an average of 15 pigs during the years 1932 and 1933 can in most cases sign the corn-hog contract to their advantage.

The 1935 corn adjustment payment will be at the rate of 35c per bushel of yield estimated for the number of acres by which the 1935 corn land area is kept below the 1932-33 average. This yield for basing payments in 1935 will be the average estimated corn yield per acre for all crop land in the farm which has been in corn at least once during the last five years. Corn reductions may be made from 10% to 30% of the 1932-33 average.

Farmers will be asked to make only a 10% reduction in their hogs, and this will be based on the average number of hogs raised for market during the years 1932-33. For this reduction they will be paid \$15 per head for the number of hogs taken out of production.

All 1935 corn-hog contracts must be signed by April 1st.

## FOURTH SERIES LIBERTY BONDS NOW PAYABLE

Liberty Loan bonds of the fourth series, that is bonds ending with numbers 5, 6 and 7, are called for payment by the Treasury Department as of April 15th. Those desiring to exchange these securities for new Government bonds may do so by letting their desires be known before March 27th.

## IMPROVED BUS SERVICE

The E. T. & W. N. C. Transportation Company today announces a greatly improved schedule of motor bus transportation through this city. An additional bus now leaves Boone for Johnson City at 8 a. m., and another for Hickory at 1:45 p. m. Thus three buses each way are now in operation over their lines through Boone. Attention is directed to the complete new schedule published on page eight today.

## A. S. T. C. DEBATERS MAKE FINE RECORD

Team from Local Institution Stars in Two Tournaments of the Atlantic Forensic Association.



RAY STIKE, WINTON RANKIN and CARMON STUART (pictured in order named), students at Appalachian Teachers College, who are champions in forensic attainment. Stike and Rankin have lost but two out of sixteen collegiate debates and have represented their college in two South Atlantic Forensic tournaments, winning over such teams as N. C. State, College of the City of Charleston, and others throughout the South. Mr. Stuart participated in the oratorical division of the last tournament, and won second place among the six states competing. In his oration on the subject "Since Five Lean Years" he was excelled only by the entrant from North Carolina State College.

## TEMPERANCE THE PLEA OF DR. OWENS

Dry Leader Brands Liquor as a Public Enemy. Association Drafts Resolutions.

Intensified local interest in the liquor control controversy has resulted from the address of Dr. J. C. Owens at the Methodist Church Sunday evening at the Methodist Church, when the United Dry Force leader spoke on the subject, "Temperance." Dr. Owens also addressed students of all the county's high schools on the "Effects of Alcohol on the Human Body."

Depicting liquor as public enemy number one, the forceful speaker outlined the trail of ruin alcohol has left in its wake throughout the span of human experience, and answered the arguments of those who would legalize the sale of rum in North Carolina. The arguments put up in favor of Senator Hill's control bill were said to have been "left on crutches." The Durham Senator, the speaker said had been led to show one instance where legalization of whiskey had decreased its consumption, and averred that bootleggers still flourish in states where prohibition laws have been repealed. Closing a powerful plea for total abstinence on the part of his hearers, he asked all who would pledge themselves to abstain from the use of liquor in any form to stand. The response to the request was practically unanimous.

Resolutions Adopted

Following the address of Dr. Owens, the executive committee of the Watauga County Association of the Watauga County Association.

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## REMODELING CONTINUES AT SPAINHOUR'S STORE

Carpenters are still at work remodeling the interior of the Spainhour store, and Mr. A. S. Harris, the manager, is hopeful that the job may be completed by the last of the week. The walls have been papered, new shelf and counter room has been added and furnishings are decorated in silver finish.

The balcony will provide space for the ladies' ready-to-wear department; the shoe department, which is completed, is in the rear on the street floor, and the east side of the building will be utilized for a complete line of mens' furnishings. When completed the store will be thoroughly modern in every department, and will reflect credit on its owners, as well as the community.

## MOUNTAINEERS WILL OPEN BASEBALL SEASON MAR. 29

A complete schedule for the Appalachian baseball team has not yet been formed, said Coach Eugene Garbee Tuesday, however, a number of contests have been arranged, the opening one with Lenoir-Rhyne at Boone on March 29th, weather permitting. If the weather is bad, the game will be played April 1st. Catawba will play Appalachian here on April 23rd.

Games away from home include High Point, April 3, double-header; Catawba, April 4; Lenoir-Rhyne, April 5th.

## HAGAMAN-ISAACS

Married at Mountain City, Tenn., Saturday, March 16th, Mr. Max Hagaman of Forest Grove to Miss Myrtle Isaacs of Mabel. Mrs. Hagaman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Isaacs of Mabel. Mr. Hagaman is the son of Mrs. Grace Hagaman of Forest Grove. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hagaman have a wide circle of friends who extend to them a life of much joy and happiness.

A sentence of five years in a women's reformatory was recently meted out to Mrs. Myrtle Lattimer of Kansas City, Mo. She pleaded guilty to six charges of forgery. For two and a half years she had been concealing the body of her dead mother and cashing her pension checks.

## SEARCHERS FAIL TO FIND HIDDEN CONVICT GRAVES

Legislative Committee Spends Sunday in County Trying to Verify Negro's Story.

## CLAIMED CONVICTS HAD SUCCUMBED TO CRUELTY

Former Convict Says Negroes Were Buried on Stony Fork at Night. Newspaper Files Reveal Story of Alleged Cruelties.

Residents of the Stony Fork section found a source of employment Sunday when members of a legislative investigating committee put a crew of men to work excavating the field where in 1930 stood a chain-gang camp, and where a former convict testified a fellow prisoner died from mistreatment and was buried in a secret grave close by the stockade.

Bob Carter, Mecklenburg County prisoner, guided solons to the spot on the Bone Trail just west of the Wilkes County line, but since the buildings had been torn away, he was bothered as to the exact location of the alleged secret grave. At any rate he said the convict was buried some twenty feet west of the "dark house" where prisoners were punished, and gave his idea as to where the solitary building stood. As neighbors gathered, they, too, had varying opinions as to the exact location of the buildings, and excavations which continued until late in the evening, yielded no bones—just piles of red clay.

Residents Questioned

Representative Stentelle of Brunswick and S. E. Douglas of the investigating committee, questioned residents of the community about the camp, and I. M. Carlton, who was placed in charge of the excavations, said he had never heard of any unusual deaths at the camp. Lindsay Woody, however, a former guard, is said to have reported "bad conditions" that prisoners had been handcuffed at arms length above their heads and that he had heard of one man being beaten to death. Mrs. Lily Best, a storekeeper, said she had heard of one prisoner dying, but from no unusual cause.

The legislative investigation came about after two negro convicts, inmates of a Mecklenburg prison camp, had been forced to have their feet amputated as an alleged result of solitary confinement. They charged that improper treatment had made the operations necessary. Other charges have been made since the investigation started and Solicitor Carpenter of the 14th District, which embraces Mecklenburg County, has asked the Governor to call a special term of court for pressing a judicial investigation of camp conditions.

A Democrat representative, present after the investigation had started, found a pretty general thought among those gathered from the neighborhood that there had been no deaths from unusual causes. There was talk of some shooting early one morning at the camp, the cause of which was not officially disclosed, and one citizen told of a negro having been shot in the leg on the road.

Mr. E. E. Greene, well known citizen.

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## W. B. COLLINS IS COUNTY AGENT

Allegany Man Establishes Office in Court House. Arranging Tentative Program.

## MEETING ARRANGED

Since this story was written arrangements have been made for a meeting at the courthouse next Saturday at 2 o'clock at which the members of the County Agricultural Board and all other farmers are asked to meet with the County Agent and the TVA representative.

Mr. W. B. Collins, newly-appointed county agent, arrived in town last Friday and has opened an office in the courthouse.

Mr. Collins comes to Watauga from Alleghany where he was engaged as farm agent for five and a half years. So acceptable was his work in that county that farmers vigorously protested his acceptance of work in a different field. He was graduated from State College in 1921 and most of the time since has been engaged in agricultural work of a type that eminently qualifies him for duty in the mountain section. He comes highly recommended by State College authorities.

Mr. Collins states that at present he is arranging his office and making acquaintance with the people of the county. The formation of his definite program, he states, is pending a meeting of the county agricultural board, at which time a representative of the Tennessee Valley Authority is expected to be present. Definite plans will be announced shortly through the paper.

## Representative Swift Has Appendix Operation

Representative Dean Swift is showing satisfactory improvement from an operation for appendicitis performed early last week at a Raleigh Hospital. Information is that Mr. Swift expects to be able to return home the latter part of this week. It is thought unlikely, however, that he will be able to return to his duties in the General Assembly for some time yet.

## M. E. CHILDREN TO GIVE JAPANESE DOLL FESTIVAL

Boys and girls of the Week-Day Church School will hold a doll festival Monday, March 25, at 3 o'clock. The festival will be held in the Methodist Church basement. All parents and friends of the children are invited to be present.

The children have been studying Japan. They have constructed a Japanese garden, built a Japanese village, and dressed a "friendship" doll to send to the children of Japan. Along with this doll will be a display of dolls and doll furniture. This will illustrate the doll festival, which is an annual event of great merit in the Oriental nation. The home, social and economic life of the Japanese, as given in the study, has been dramatized and will be given by the children. Tea will be served in Japanese style.

## GROUNDHOG THEORY EXPLODED

A pet groundhog owned by Hugh Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ward, Sugar Grove, has successfully exploded the "Groundhog Theory." On last October 7th the "pig" in question left the Ward home to take up winter quarters on a nearby hillside. Later in the month Mr. Ward discovered his den, decided that the groundhog was not therein, and filled the hole. The incident was forgotten until Tuesday of last week, when Mr. Whistler fore away the barriers of clay and presented himself, in tip-top shape, at the Ward's back door. An examination of the den showed that the pet had not stirred from his hibernation until the 12th day of March.

## SALARY OF SHERIFF TO BE REGULATED

Bill to Allow County Commissioners Right to Increase Pay of Officer Is Ratified.

RALEIGH, N. C.—Representative Dean Swift, of Watauga County, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives on Wednesday of last week to regulate the salary of the Sheriff of Watauga County, by which the County Commissioners may fix the salary at not less than \$900 or more than \$1,800 a year, payable monthly. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate.

On Friday the bill was passed by the upper House and became a law. The text of the bill follows:

"Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Watauga County is hereby empowered to regulate, at its discretion, the salary of the Sheriff of said County: Provided, the salary of said Sheriff shall not be less than nine hundred (\$900.00) dollars nor more than eighteen hundred (\$1,800.00) dollars per annum, payable monthly.

"Section 2. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

"Section 3. That this act shall be in force and effect from and after its ratification."

## Sheriff Captures Small Distillery Friday Night

A 60-gallon distillery was destroyed last Friday night by Sheriff Howell and his deputies along with 125 gallons of beer. The illicit plant was located in the Meat Camp section and appearances indicated it had been in operation for about six months. Located on top of a dry knob, rainwater was caught in an improvised cistern to provide liquid for the operation. The operators were not present as the Sheriff approached.