

BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

"IMITATION OF LIFE"

Maybe Darwin was right . . . who knows? Anyway, as you casually drift along Boone's one and only business street you can't help but notice imitations that cause your imagination to hark back to long, long tails . . . and coconut trees. For instance . . . a politician trying to act like a statesman . . . a churchman of modest influence posing as a leader of Christianity . . . a newly-hatched school committeeman wearing the troubled countenance of a great educator . . . a jerker of soda who acts the part of a Barrymore . . . a fair lady whose imitation of the charming Garbo is not at all bad; a sixteen-year-old miss who believes, sincerely, that she's as sophisticated as a DuBarry . . . a regular drinker of whiskey engaged in an argument for temperance . . . a non-convincing minister who wishes Spurgeon was half his horse-power . . . second-rate printers, plumbers, painters and carpenters modestly leading the world to believe that they're craftsmen of the first water . . . little girls, little boys, young ladies, young gentlemen, settled men and women of middle years . . . all pretending they're just a notch or two further up the ladder than they really are. Maybe Darwin was WRONG . . . but monkeys, too, are great imitators!

THE PASSING SHOW

Mayor Watt Gragg, gallant as Jimmie Walker and a whole lot larger, likes to entertain the ladies along Main Street (sorta like Clyde Hoey) and he wears a rose . . . morning night and noon.

Dr. George K. Moore for the past twenty years has smoked two cigars each evening before retiring . . . lighting the second from the charred butt of number one.

Ab Mullins came to Boone from West Virginia on account of the good fishing hereabouts . . . went into the grocery business and now is so darn' busy he can't get a chance to enjoy his favorite sport.

Rev. J. C. Canipe of the Baptist Church keeps up with the news . . . political and otherwise . . . and he can make you laugh loud with his funny stories . . . clean ones, of course.

Paul Coffey, since becoming a father and bank cashier, is just a trifle more settled . . . but can still make life "miserable" for his associates . . . when he decides to "pull" one.

Chief Wiley Day and Sergeant Pitts, who comprise Boone's police department, are a couple of Chesterfields . . . elegant fellows . . . they let people sing, in fact, enjoy it . . . but insist that, in the future, vocalists MUST carry at least a part of the tune.

Dr. H. B. Perry knows his sheep . . . last week nineteen out of twenty-eight lambs shipped to the Jersey City market from his farms, brought top money.

A group of ladies, fine ladies from the Cove Creek section, stood high on the cab of a truck outside the fence at College Park . . . and enjoyed a ball game, a la' Scotch . . . at least, that's what's being told!

A former traveling man, who now makes his home in Boone and who wishes his name withheld from public prints, recently gave the Sketch Man an interesting dissertation on the comparative values of liquors, wines, beers, etc. . . . opinions formed during forty-odd years of regular imbibing . . . and he closed by declaring that nothing on the drink list, from beginning to end, can compare with the "sugar-head" of Northwest Carolina . . . and he didn't even smile when he told it! Congratulations, dear county to the east.

FINDS PETRIED TREES

30 MILLION YEARS OLD

SEATTLE, WASH.—Forests of ginkgo trees, now native only of parts of the Orient, thrived in Kittitas County, Wash., 150 miles from Seattle, about 30,000,000 years ago, Geo. F. Beck, University of Washington research student in geology, discovered.

He found scores of petrified logs, some of them turned to stone resembling opal by chemical action of water and lava flows that had covered them.

Federal funds made possible excavations, under Beck's supervision. Other discoveries included the skeleton of a horse, about the size of a Shetland pony, the skull of a rodent-like animal and the leg of a deer-like animal.

The chemical action preserved perfectly the grain of the wood worm holes and eggs of insects. The substance takes a high polish, like quartz or agate.

During the period, Beck said what is now Washington charged from tropical to sub-tropical, to a volcanic waste, to glacial fields, then back to temperate climate again.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOLUME XLVII, NUMBER 3

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1935

\$1.50 PER YEAR

POLITICAL CONFERENCES HOLD STAGE

Grand Old Party, Farmer-Labor Group and "Third Party" Level Their Guns at Roosevelt Administration.



CHICAGO, ILL.—That the 1936 national political campaign gives promise of much action is being indicated these days in the staging of varied political conferences throughout the Middle West. At Omaha, Roy M. Harrop, chairman, called a Farmer-Labor convention to order. At Cleveland, State Senator George H. Rinder, opened the Republican Crusaders Conference which caused considerable comment in G.O.P. circles. And here at Chicago, Alfred Bingham, national secretary, and Paul H. Douglas, right, Chicago University professor and permanent chairman, called a "Third Party" meeting to order.

HUGH HAGAMAN FUNERAL IS HELD

Father of Boone Physician Dies From Heart Ailment. Is Buried in Virginia.

Funeral services for Hugh Hagaman, native Watauga and father of Dr. J. B. Hagaman of Boone, were conducted from the home at Lunenburg, Va., Tuesday afternoon, July 9, by the pastor of the community Baptist Church, and interment followed in the cemetery at Victoria, three miles distant from the Hagaman home.

Mr. Hagaman succumbed on Sunday, the 7th, following a period of failing health extending over a period of years. A heart ailment was given, however, as the direct cause of his demise. He was 72 years old and is survived by the widow and four sons: Dr. J. B. Hagaman, of Boone; D. O. Hagaman, Lunenburg, Va.; H. C. Hagaman, Staunton, Va.; and R. H. Hagaman, Lunenburg, Va.

Mr. Hagaman was born in the Beaver Dam section of Watauga County, but moved to Ashe when a lad of fifteen, and about twenty years ago took up his permanent residence in Virginia. During his residence in this State he became a leader in his community, and had served as postmaster and member of the Board of County Commissioners. He was a member of the Baptist Church, active in his affiliation, and was a model citizen. During the past two summers Mr. Hagaman had visited at the home of his son in Boone, and had made many new acquaintances, who share the sorrow of his old friends in the news of his demise.

HORTON GRAGG OPENS NEW BUSINESS IN SHELBY

Gragg Super-Service, is the firm name of a business enterprise being operated in Shelby by Horton Gragg, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gragg of Boone, who recently was in the employ of the Standard Oil Company. The new enterprise features Texaco products, automobile tires, parts and accessories, greasing, washing, and all other lines found in an ultra-modern filling station. The location is said to be one of the best in Shelby and Mr. Gragg has good prospects for a most successful business. He visited with home folks in Boone last Sunday.

JUNIORS TO SPRUCE PINE

The degree team from the local Junior Order Council is to journey to Spruce Pine Monday, the 25th, to put on degree work for the sister lodge. It has been announced.

LEGION HUT TO BE STARTED SOON

Legionnaires Announce Plan for Developing Properties in Town of Boone.

According to information furnished The Democrat by Adjutant C. W. Teal, Watauga Post of the American Legion has made definite plans for the construction of a hut in Legion Park for the home of the local unit, and materials for the building have already been ordered.

The building, which is to be 30x50 feet, will be constructed of wood, but foundations will be provided looking to the rock-venicing of the structure within the near future. A basement will also be added later on, and the building when completed will be thoroughly modern and a fine improvement to Legion Park.

Volunteer labor by veterans of the World War will be used entirely in the construction project and work is expected to begin within a few days.

MECHANICAL GENIUS

Mr. Roby Owens, veteran local blacksmith, tells The Democrat of having discovered a mechanical genius in the person of Jesse Ragan, 14, Boone boy. The lad, states Mr. Owens, has only worked in his shop for three months, but is now able to make a horseshoe, shoe the horse, and do general blacksmithing in approved style. Mr. Owens says the genius of the lad is beyond his understanding.

BOUND TO FEDERAL COURT

Five residents of the Laurel Creek section were haled before U. S. Commissioner Clyde Eggers last week on charges of having violated the Federal revenue laws. The following were bound over to U. S. District Court, which convenes this fall in Wilkesboro, under bonds of \$500 each: H. A. Hagaman and wife, Hubert Thomas and wife, and Don Dotson. The charges, which involved the sale of non-tax paid liquor, were brought by Special Investigator Burnett of the Alcoholic Beverage Unit.

SPAINHOUR'S SALE

Spainhour's Store utilizes page three of The Democrat today to announce their annual July Clearance Sale, and according to Manager Harris, his firm is holding out unusually attractive inducements to the trade throughout the entire line. The details of the offerings will undoubtedly be of major interest to thrifty shoppers, and careful reading of the advertisement will be profitable.

COL. LUKE LEA IS REFUSED PARDON; OTHER N. C. NEWS

Works Progress Program Begins. Watauga County Is in District No. 6.

GOVERNOR TURNS DEAF EAR TO EXTRA SESSION

Ehringhaus Does Not Think Special Assembly Necessary. North Carolina Soil Sent to Russia. Electric Chair Gets Two.

RALEIGH, N. C.—Colonel Luke Lea, Tennessee publisher, financier, World War hero and Senator, has not completed payment of his debt to the State of North Carolina for conspiracy and misapplication which resulted in the failure of the Central Bank and Trust Company, Asheville, and the request for clemency is "prematurely presented," Governor Ehringhaus states, in declining a parole, commutation or pardon for the distinguished man.

"Everyone has been heard patiently and considerately and without thought or suggestion that the numerous appeals might take on the semblance of an effort to din us into a wearied assent," the Governor says in his statement. "The prisoner has every right to be proud of his friends, though we cannot permit either their prominence or number to influence our action. We must be governed by the record."

Citing that the claim of new evidence establishing innocence is not actual and that all the arguments have been presented in other form before the courts as the case progressed, Governor Ehringhaus states: "It is tragic in its effect upon hitherto respected names and reputations; it is pathetic in its consequences to innocent near and dear; it is touching in its record of the love and loyalty of blood and marriage and service bond; but the facts from which the jury inferred a sinister co-operation and combination still remain and the legality of this inference has been approved by the highest judicial tribunal.

Draws Governor's Sympathy
"There are many elements in this case that commend my sympathy; the prisoner's brilliant war record, his good conduct in prison, and the death of his son, each an all make peculiar appeal. However, I cannot find in this presentation confirmation of the contention that innocence has been conclusively shown."

The statement issued is made, Commissioner of Paroles Edwin M. Gill states, because of the prominence of the prisoner and the publicity attending the appeal for clemency. Wallace Davis, president of the failing bank, has finished his sentence and has been released. Colonel Lea fought his case through the Supreme Court of North Carolina and the United States Supreme Court several times, and on occasion, practically defied the State of North Carolina to try to arrest him.

WPA PROGRAM BEGINS

State headquarters for the new Works Progress Administration are being set up in Raleigh in charge of George W. Coan Jr., former Winston-Salem mayor, and will be in the Raleigh building formerly occupied by the CWA and ERA in about a week. Administrator Coan had a meeting of about 100 relief workers last week, outlining the plans, and said he hoped to have 25,000 people off the relief rolls and on payrolls by October 1st. He announced the director. (Continued on Page 2)

QUADRUPLETS WILL NOT APPEAR UNTIL AUGUST 2

The Keys quadruplets, famous Oklahoma sisters who were scheduled to have made a stage performance in Boone on the evening of August 1st, will not appear until August 2nd, it is announced by officials of the Women's Missionary Society of the local Methodist Church, which is sponsoring the event.

The program, which will consist principally of musical selections, has been most favorably received in other sections of the State, and it is believed that large numbers of Wataugans will avail themselves of seeing the famed quadruplets.

941.1 MILES OF HIGHWAYS COMPLETED IN THE STATE

RALEIGH, N. C.—North Carolina had 941.1 miles of highways completed at a cost of \$9,569,731, had 317.8 miles under construction at an estimated cost of \$3,520,537, and 40.6 miles approved for construction at an estimated cost of \$231,123 from the Federal relief funds up to June 1st, the Bureau of Public Roads reports. In addition, this State had available for new construction \$1,361,226 out of the 1934 fund of \$9,552,293 and the 1935 fund of \$4,840,941, which was available for the regular road system, feeder and municipal projects.

NOT A Highbrow

Illinois High School Girl Wins Trip to Europe.



NEW YORK.—Miss Beatrice Ann Frear, 16 (above), of Evanston (Ill.) Township High School, has just set sail for a tour of Europe, maintaining she is no "highbrow" despite the fact that she won the trip over 10,000 competing students in a League of Nations essay contest. Her ambition is to be a reporter.

DEATH CLAIMS CHARLES HENSON

Well Known Cove Creek Resident Succumbs to Chronic Malady on Friday.

Charles E. Henson, 58 years old and a prominent citizen of the Cove Creek section, died at his home at Anamtha Friday afternoon, after an illness of about six months with an incurable malady.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 2:30 from the Henson's Chapel Methodist Church by the pastor, Rev. G. C. Graham, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. Fletcher of the Baptist Church. Interment was in the nearby cemetery.

Surviving, besides the widow, are nine children: Russell, Mabel, Clyde, Ford, Lucy, Ralph, Vance, Howard and Allen Henson, all of whom reside in this county. Five brothers and three sisters also survive, the brothers all living within a radius of three miles: W. L. Henson, G. M. Henson, J. W. Henson, B. H. Henson, E. C. Henson; Mrs. J. W. Harbin, Tacoma, Wash.; Mrs. S. A. Holler, Charlotte, and Mrs. J. H. Trivett, Piney Flats, Tenn.

Mr. Henson was born and spent his life in Watauga County. He was a son of the late Jordan and Martha E. Henson, united with the Methodist Church early in life, and was faithful in his religious affiliations. He was intensely interested in education, and six of his children are school teachers, while two more have graduated from high school. He was a farmer until ill health forced his retirement, was a good citizen and kind neighbor, and will be missed in his section of the county.

Representative Swift Is Dangerously Ill

Representative Dean Swift is critically ill at the home of a sister-in-law, Mrs. Hill Hagaman, in Boone, where he came to be near his physician several days ago. Information Wednesday morning was to the effect that Mr. Swift was in a coma and practically no hopes for his recovery are being entertained.

Mr. Swift had an appendix operation while a member of the General Assembly last winter, and his weakened condition could not cope with organic ailments which followed. However, he had been thought to be improved up until a week or so ago.

THREE STORES ARE ENTERED MONDAY NIGHT

The stores of John W. Hodges, Smyth's and Pearson's were entered Monday evening, but so far as is known, no great amount of merchandise was taken. Cigarettes were missing from Smyth's, it is said, while the Pearson and Hodges warehouses apparently didn't yield any loot. The identity of the prowlers has not been established.

NEW RADIO AGENCY

The Farmers Hardware and Supply Company has taken over an agency for the Philco radios and announce the receipt of the newest models of the well-known equipment. Attention is directed to an advertisement appearing today.

ROY JOHNSON IS INSTANTLY KILLED IN AUTO COLLISION

Resident Engineer for the State Highway Commission Dies Near Weaverville.

DRONER'S JURY SAYS ACCIDENT UNAVOIDABLE

Boone Citizen Buried in Lenoir Wednesday Afternoon, Following Services at Weaverville. Shock to People.

W. Roy Johnson, 38 years old, resident engineer for the State Highway Commission at Weaverville and for more than ten years a citizen of Boone, was instantly killed Monday evening in an automobile collision on the Weaverville highway near Lake Louise. Mr. Johnson died from a fractured skull, and the car he was driving, which was owned by the Highway Department, was said to have been demolished.

The accident in which Mr. Johnson lost his life was termed "unavoidable" by a coroner's jury Tuesday. Testimony of Clarence Rogers, who saw the accident, and of Raley Elliott who with his brother, Homer, was riding on the truck with which Mr. Johnson collided, was that Johnson was driving at about 65 miles per hour and was in the middle of the road at the time of the accident, while the truck was pulled so far to the right that it broke the guard stake down. Homer Elliott was hurt in the wreck but was not sent to a hospital.

Funeral services for deceased were held Tuesday afternoon at the West Funeral Home in Weaverville and interment is to be in Lenoir today (Wednesday). Many Boone people are expected to attend the obsequies.

Surviving is the widow, the former Miss Eddie Kerley of Blowing Rock, and four children.

Native of Lenoir
Mr. Johnson was a native of Lenoir, and a son of the late Bascomb Johnson, and Mrs. Johnson. For more than ten years he made his home in Boone, where he was engaged for the most part in engineering capacities on the highways, and for a time was operator of an ice manufacturing plant. Mr. Johnson recently moved to Weaverville from Marshall where he had been stationed for several months.

Deceased was well known throughout this section of the State, and the news of his tragic death was the occasion for general sorrow in Boone, where Mr. Johnson was unusually popular. He was a capable and useful citizen and his cheerfulness and neighborliness endeared him to his acquaintances.

AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS ON EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Twenty-seven agricultural students of the Boone and Cove Creek high schools returned Saturday, July 13th, after a six-day educational tour up through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and Washington, D. C. This tour was sponsored by the Daniel Boone and Cove Creek chapters of the Future Farmers of America.

Among places of interest visited on the way up were: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Virginia's State Agricultural and Mechanical College, Court Manor, one of the large race horse breeding establishments, the home of Sun Beau and Sun Briar, one of whom won over \$340,000 on the track; Massanutten Caverns.

In Washington the most important places visited were the Zoo, Museum, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Capitol, Halls of Congress and Senate, White House, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and Naval Yards. The Boone boys visited the U. S. Department of Agriculture experiment farms at Beltsville, Md. The Cove Creek group stayed in Washington a day longer than Boone, and saw a big league baseball game.

The boys from each chapter took their food, cooking equipment and tents. The instructors, G. G. Farthing and R. G. Shipley, agreed with the boys that it was a most enjoyable trip and hope that more boys will be able to take advantage of such trips in the future. The following boys made the trip:

From Boone: Lilly Byers, Turner Gross, Easton Greene, Ernest Houck, Douglas Harrison, John Miller, Morris Miller, Stuart Miller, Jack Moretz, Wilmer Moretz, Earl Tugman, Hesel Scott, Guy Watson. Mr. N. L. Harrison drove the truck.

From Cove Creek: Elmo Brinkley, Ersel Atkins, Shelton Dugger, Bud Mast, James Brown, Louis Farthing, Robert Lewis, Lee McGuire, Tommy Presnell, Lenwood Blair, Gilbert Ward, Ray Wallace, Raymond Donnelly and Howard Rowe. Clyde Tester was the driver.

Once it was a mark of distinction to occupy a penthouse in New York. Now tenants want them so they can have a "garden."