

SQUIRRELS . . . no motor cars

The other day I saw a strange object crossing the road in front of my car. It didn't look like any animal I had ever seen. As I got closer I saw it was a gray squirrel carrying in his mouth an ear of corn, larger than he was.

Clearing out the attic in my farm home, I lifted some old boards and found under them hundreds of corn-cobs, remains of stores of food which the red squirrels had cached there through successive seasons.

Last Sunday I idled away half a day watching a tiny pine squirrel gathering his winter's food from the big butternut tree near my house. He would run out to the end of each limb, bite off the stems of the butternuts, then scramble down and pick them out of the grass and hurry away with them, a nut at a time, to some safe storage place.

I marvelled, as I always do, at the sure instinct of the squirrels that impels them to lay in food for winter. But I also reflected that these, and other little creatures of the wild, work a lot harder for a bare subsistence than most humans have to do. The miracle of man is the intelligence that enables him to gain more than a mere livelihood. No squirrel ever bought a motorcar, or saw a movie, no matter how thrifty he and his little tribe may be.

CREDIT in Canada

I shall watch with great interest the "social credit" scheme which the new government of the Province of Alberta, Canada, promises to inaugurate. As I understand it, everybody is to have a credit of \$25 a month, guaranteed by the government.

Maybe it will work. At least the plan is gaining friends all through the British Empire. The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral came over from England the other day to help promote the idea.

Less fantastic than our American "Townsend Plan," Alberta's "social credit" is another effort to abolish poverty. Every experiment in that direction will help toward the ultimate solution, if there is one.

I doubt that any plan will work that does not call for productive labor in exchange for "social credit" or any other sort of subsistence benefits. But some way must be found to insure that no one who is willing to work shall go hungry, otherwise civilization will collapse.

YOGIS know one?

"What," I asked a Hindu scholar the other day, "is a Yogi? Did you ever know one?"

"I have known only four authentic Yogis, in my fifty years," replied my friend, a former Buddhist priest. "Many fakery pretend to be Yogis, but only those who have yielded to the five disciplines are real Yogis."

A Yogi, he explained, is one who has rid himself, first, of all family ties. That is the first discipline. Then he must abandon all thought of personal comfort, submerge all self-interest, cease to value money and property, and, last and hardest of all, give up all sense of himself as an individual. Then and then only is he a true Yogi.

To few men is it possible to achieve that utter selflessness, which is, after all, the ideal of all religious teaching.

THINKING the place

"Fishing," said President Cullen of Colgate University the other day, "provides the only real opportunity for modern men to do real thinking undisturbed."

I agree with him. The most thoughtful men I have ever known have nearly all been fishermen. That is not to say, however, that all anglers are thinkers.

Too few of us are really capable of thinking in any real sense. But to those who have problems and worries that seem to defy solution, I know of no better way than the relaxation that comes from a day's solitary fishing. Whether one catches a fish or not, there is something about angling that effectively clears the cobwebs from the mind.

AUCTIONS on the farm

I know of no better place to study human nature than at a country auction of farm or household goods. I attended one the other day, and talked with the auctioneer after the sale.

"If you want to sell worthless junk at high prices, or get ridiculously low prices for valuable things, put them up at auction," he said. "You can sell anything at auction at some price." I had to agree with him when I saw a cracked water-pitcher sell for \$3 because folks thought it was an "antique," while an almost new bed, springs and mattress fetched only \$2!

One thing, though, stood out. Country folks still have money to spend for what they want to buy.

A marked increase in the production of horses and mules on the farms of McDowell county has been noted by the farm agent. A number of farmers are keeping one or two breed mares from which colts are being raised.

WAR IMPOSSIBLE

World Union Steel Construction Aimed at World Peace



TORONTO . . . V. G. Iden of New York, Sec'y of the American Institute of Steel Construction, in a speech before the Canadian Institute, proposed a world union of steel industries for mutual welfare and thus pave the way for an industrial internationalism that would make war impossible.

COUNCIL IS NEW FARM SUPERVISOR

Former Mayor Takes Over Duties in Rural Rehabilitation Work.

Mr. Tracy Council, former Mayor and leading agriculturist, has been appointed supervisor of Rural Rehabilitation in Watauga and Avery counties, and took over his duties with the Federal Corporation Tuesday morning. The appointment came from J. Paul Shaw of Raleigh, assistant state Rehabilitation Director.

Mr. Council succeeds Mr. D. Grady Moretz, who has been rendering faithful services in a similar capacity for Watauga county, following a general reorganization of the administration. Mr. Moretz has not yet been notified what his new work will be.

Heart Attack Is Fatal To Mrs. L. C. Lewis

Mrs. L. C. Lewis, 61 years of age, died suddenly Sunday night at the home of a brother, Dr. R. K. Bingham, in Boone. She was returning to her home in Statesville from a visit to a sick brother in Tennessee, when a sudden heart attack brought about her death within a few minutes.

The remains were taken to Statesville where the funeral was held Tuesday morning at the residence on North Center Street.

Mrs. Lewis, who was the former Miss Leonora Viola Bingham, was born in Boone, but was reared in Statesville and spent her life there. She was the daughter of the late Major Harvey Bingham, distinguished jurist and instructor in law, and leaves a host of friends and relatives in Watauga county.

She is survived by her husband, L. C. Lewis, and two children, Mrs. Fred Money of Mooresville, and Harvey B. Lewis, of Statesville. She also leaves four sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Laura B. Johnston and Mrs. W. S. Harwell of Statesville; Mrs. C. H. Somers and Mrs. A. R. Sherman of Wilkesboro, Dr. R. K. Bingham, of Boone, and Dr. G. P. Bingham, of Bristol, Tenn.

LENOIR LEADER DIES

Harry W. Courtney, well known merchant, manufacturer, civic leader and politician of Lenoir, died Monday following injuries received in an automobile collision near Apex three days previous.

Mr. Courtney was well known by many Wataugans and was one of the most prominent figures in this section of the state.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon and interment was in Bellevue cemetery.

LARGE MOVIE CROWDS

Perhaps the largest crowds ever to attend a filming of a movie in this city thronged the Pastime Theatre Monday and Tuesday for the screening of "Steamboat Round the Bend" starring the late Will Rogers. The posthumous release was well received throughout the continuous two-day showing, and more than once crowds were turned away. Manager Hamby states that the other new Rogers picture, "In Old Kentucky" will be shown within the next few weeks.

A scientist has succeeded in measuring down to one 600-millionth of a second.

FORMER WATAUGA POLITICAL LEADER PASSES SATURDAY

Lindsay Michael Represented County Three Times in The Legislature.

FUNERAL SERVICES ARE HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Number of Wataugans Journey To Weaverville For Obsequies. Mr. Michael Had Been One of Foremost Local Politician.

Lindsay Harrison Michael, a powerful figure in the political life of Watauga county at the turn of the century, and three times a member of the state Legislature, died at his home in Weaverville last Saturday at the age of 74.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church at Weaverville, with the Rev. L. B. Dendy, pastor of the church officiating, assisted by Rev. G. E. Cox and Rev. F. L. Smathers, pastors of the Weaverville Baptist and Methodist churches, respectively. Interment was in the cemetery of Calvary Episcopal Church at Fletcher.

Mr. Michael is survived by two sons, Frank A. Michael of Asheville, and Fred H. Michael, of Boone, and the following daughters: Mrs. Linney Greene, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. H. E. Sawyer, Weaverville; Mrs. L. A. Ballard, Hammond, Ind.; Mrs. Stanley Walte, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. W. A. Travis, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. G. O. Ingram, Florence, S. C., and Miss Pearl Michael, Asheville. He is also survived by several grandchildren.

Among the honorary pallbearers at the funeral were the following Wataugans, who attended the services: John W. Hodges, Russell D. Hodges, Eller McNeil, Wiley Day, Robert L. Bingham and B. B. Dougherty.

Born In Ashe County

Mr. Michael was born in Ashe county on December 30, 1859. He lived in that county on the farm of his parents until he was 21 years old. He then moved to Watauga county where he married Miss Delphia Clawson, who died several years ago. They lived at Rutherford where Mr. Michael was active in political and educational affairs until 1910, when they moved to Weaverville. He was educated in the common and academic schools of Ashe and Watauga counties and taught there and in Buncombe counties for 28 years.

Mr. Michael, who was a republican leader, served one term each in the following offices: Surveyor of Watauga county, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and superintendent of public schools. In 1894 he was elected a member of the lower house of the North Carolina general assembly. In 1900 he was elected senator from the senatorial district embracing Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties. In 1902 he was again elected to the lower branch of the legislature.

In 1910 Mr. Michael was made statistical clerk for the National Census of that year and served in Washington, D. C. After completing these duties he returned to his home in Weaverville. He served on the board of stewards of the Methodist Church there for several years and was on the board of aldermen for a number of terms and was later elected mayor. He served one term as postmaster at Weaverville and retired to private life because of failing health and eyesight.

In 1928 he moved to Oak Park on the Hendersonville highway and since that time has been a member of the Calvary Episcopal Church at Fletcher. He moved back to Weaverville in 1929. Although in failing health for several years Mr. Michael taught a Sunday School in Weaverville until a few weeks ago.

STORE LEAVES NEWLAND

The Carolina grocery store, which has been in operation in Newland for a number of years, was closed a few days ago without advance announcement and a good part of the merchandise was distributed to the Boone stores, Ralph Lyons, of Boone, who had been in charge of the store for some time, has returned to this city where he will continue to reside.

FIRE AT RIVERS HOME

A fire originating from sparks from a flue ignited the shingle roof of the R. C. Rivers residence in Boone Sunday morning and, but for the quick work of the fire department and other volunteers, a serious conflagration would have resulted. The damage, which was confined almost entirely to the roof and which amounted to about one hundred and fifty dollars, was covered by insurance. A metal roof is being placed on the building.

Last week, 2,242 tobacco farmers in Pitt county were delivered \$102,082.22 in rental checks for cooperating in the AAA tobacco program.

President Roosevelt In Tour Of West Chief Executive on Western Plains With Intent of Returning by Panama. Making Speeches



WASHINGTON . . . Heading West with the intent of returning by the Panama Canal, President Roosevelt is on his swing across the country to San Diego, Calif., via St. Louis, Omaha, Cheyenne, Boulder Dam, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. After viewing the Pacific Exposition at San Diego and delivering the second of his scheduled speeches, The President will board the cruiser Houston for a fishing expedition to Panama Canal, across which he will pass Northward. It is expected that he will land at some southern U. S. port on the Eastern seaboard.

President Restores Funds For Building of Parkway

\$5,000,000 Available For Scenic Thoroughfare as Doughton Visits President; State's Funds Increase; Engineers Strive to Complete Rural Electrical Survey; a Resume of News About Raleigh and the State.

Raleigh, Oct. 1.—President Roosevelt has signed an order restoring the \$5,000,000 formerly earmarked for the Skyline Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina and later shifted to relief to the Parkway construction, as a result of the visit to him last week by Congressman R. L. Doughton, Highway Chairman Capus M. Waynick is assured work will start on the Virginia line—Blowing Rock sections in a short time and then on sections in the Mt. Mitchell area and the Soco Gap road. Of the amount \$4,500,000 will be used in North Carolina and \$1,500,000 in Virginia, unless N. C. uses up her part before Virginia completes her right-of-way, in which case it will be used in this state. Charles Ross, state highway general counsel, made arrangements which will make it much easier to obtain and turn over the right-of-way in this state. Right-of-way for the Soco Gap road will be secured from the Cherokee Indians and the National Park Service, largely, as much of it is through their acreages.

GENERAL FUND INCREASES

The state's general fund increased nearly three million dollars in August, from \$3,306,632.09 at the beginning to \$5,209,573.85 at the end, while the highway and other special funds decreased more than four billion dollars, from \$17,283,400.75 to \$13,131,895.84. The general fund collected \$4,314,275.77 and spent only \$1,411,393.95 during the month, but the \$2,902,881.82 cash balance will be used at the rate of about \$2,225,000 a month for teachers' salaries for the next eight months. The highway fund collected \$3,941,351.56 and spent \$8,092,856.68 during August. The state's bonded debt remains at \$170,664,000.

LIVING DEAD NUMBER 23

Twenty-three defendants have been sentenced to death by the superior courts of North Carolina, largely during the past year, who are still living and whose cases are pending, 22 for murder and one for rape. Four executions are set for October 4, of Robert Dunlop, Buncombe, and Arthur Connell, Robert Thomas and Oris Gunter, Madison county, Bright Buffkin, Columbus, on October 18; James McNeill, Harnett, on October 25, and Jake Johnson, Rockingham, for rape, on December 13. The 16 others have appealed from death sentences. (Continued on Page 8)

Funeral Services For Fred Setzer Wednesday

Funeral services for Fred Setzer, well known farmer of Winkler's Creek, are to be conducted this (Wednesday) afternoon from the home by Reverends W. C. Payne and R. C. Eggers and interment will follow in the Winkler cemetery.

Mr. Setzer succumbed Tuesday afternoon after a several weeks' illness with typhoid fever, and it was believed that pneumonia developed during his last days. He was 37 years old.

Surviving is the widow, the former Miss Lizzie Austin, and four small children.

Mr. Setzer was reared in the Howards Creek section of Watauga county and had applied himself as a farmer for the most of his life, working intermittently in the Lenoir furniture shops. He was a member of the Poplar Grove Baptist Church and consistent in his beliefs. He was a splendid and industrious citizen, and highly respected.

RECORDER'S COURT

Granville Watson and Alexander Hooper, the latter colored, were tried in Recorder's Court Tuesday on charges of assault with deadly weapons and each defendant was assessed with one-half the cost.

Hillary Hartley, Reeves Hartley, Frank Simmons and Paul Green were assessed with the costs on a charge of trespassing.

JUDGE RAISES FREAKS

Judge John H. Bingham presented the Democrat two vegetable freaks in the form of twin apples and twin potatoes. In the case of the spuds one of the tubers was white, the other red, although all the seed planted was of the same kind.

ALDERMEN MAKE DRASTIC CUT IN BOONE TAX RATE

Governing Body Decides People Unble To Pay More Than \$1.50 on Valuation.

TAX RATE FORMERLY \$2.00; SHINGLE ROOFS ARE TABOO

Ordinance Defines Fire Zone; New Motor Equipment Gives Boone More Favorable Insurance Rating; Shingle Roofs Out.

Property holders in the city of Boone will pay taxes at the rate of 1935, instead of \$2.00 as heretofore, as a result of the action of the Board of Aldermen in regular session last Friday evening, who at the same time defined the fire zone, and passed a "no wood shingle" ordinance, which with the addition of a new fire truck will save fire insurance policyholders of the town an average of about 20 per cent. in premiums yearly.

The 25 per cent. cut in the tax rate was made as a result of the unanimous opinion of the board that \$1.50 is the maximum amount the people of the municipality can be expected to pay. The tax books for 1935 were being prepared as the announcement of the tax cut was made, and Mayor W. H. Gragg is insisting, in view of the action of the board in making the public burden lighter, that citizens make an especial effort to satisfy their municipal obligations within the shortest possible time. The official believes that the tax payers can pay in full on the basis of the lowered rate, and shares the opinion of his board that the receipts of the town should not be affected in dollars and cents to any appreciable degree. At the same time a slight increase in valuation within the limits is cited, and the council believes that a more favorable rate will greatly encourage building and subsequently increased tax receipts. Especial emphasis is however, laid on the purpose of the administration to collect the new levy, and to this end the full and complete cooperation of the people is solicited.

Shingle Ordinance Passed

An Ordinance defining the fire zone, and one designed to rid the town of all wooden roof coverings within a period of fifteen years were also passed at the Friday meeting, a way of meeting the requirements of the Southeastern Underwriters Association, which, together with the enlargement of the city fire department places Boone in class two insurance rating rather than in class three, and saves citizens some hundreds of dollars yearly in insurance premiums. Both ordinances are being published today.

Fire Department Enlarged

The Volunteer Fire Department has been enlarged to 14 members and the city, with the aid of contributions from various business interests of the town, has been enabled to effect the purchase of a modern American LaFrance fire engine, which is said to be the last word in fire fighting equipment. The machine has the capacity to pump 750 gallons of water per minute without the aid of gravity pressure, and with it will come the usual ladders, and fifteen hundred feet of high pressure hose. The contract between the town and the manufacturers calls for delivery by January 1.

Fiscal Prospects Brighter

Mayor Gragg tells the Democrat that the fiscal outlook of the town is considerably brighter, and he is heartened by the fact that his administration has cancelled \$10,000 in bonds and coupons since May 1. He extends thanks to the people for their fine cooperation and earnestly asks for its continuance.

Mrs. Boyer Dies in State of Washington

Mrs. T. M. Boyer, 61, former Wataugan, but for many years a resident of Cedonia, Wash., died at her home last Saturday morning after an illness which followed injuries received in a fall from a saddle horse several months ago. The news of her death came in a message to a brother, Mr. W. F. Miller, of Boone, Saturday noon. It would have been impossible for Mr. Miller to have reached Cedonia in time for the funeral which was held Monday. Mr. Miller is the only immediate survivor.

Mrs. Boyer was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Miller and was reared in Watauga county, having lived in the state of Washington for the past 25 years. She was well known throughout Watauga county where she leaves a wide circle of friends.

Twenty-five Duplin farmers have cooperated to purchase over 400 bushels of rye, clover, vetch and Austrian winter pea seed for fall planting.