

**IMMORTALITY** . . . step away  
I am glad that a national movement has been started for a memorial to Will Rogers. Vice President Garner is the chairman, with ex-President Hoover, Henry Ford and a long list of other prominent men on the committee. Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, will receive subscriptions.

I cannot think of any man in my time, not in public office, who endeared himself to so many millions of people. I saw Will Rogers' last picture the other night, "Steamboat 'Round the Bend." I could not believe that he is not still living. One of the miracles of our times is the power of the motion picture to preserve the illusion of life. It is the next thing to immortality.

I am sending my dollar today to Jesse Jones for the Will Rogers memorial. I hope everybody who has ever enjoyed one of his pictures will do the same.

**MOTORS** . . . and depressions  
We had a depression in 1907. That was the year in which Henry Ford put out the first low-priced automobile, bringing motoring within the reach of everybody. The automobile industry broke the back of the hard times.

We had another depression in 1921. That was the year in which installment sales of cars became general. Once more the automobile industry lifted the nation out of the hole.

This year, 1935, we are coming out of the worst depression in nearly a hundred years. The automobile business is the biggest since 1929. More than 3½ million cars will have been made and sold before the end of the year. For the third time the motor car is the main instrument in restoring prosperity. Other things have helped, of course, but I give automobiles first place.

**RELIEF** . . . a liability  
A short time ago one of my wealthy friends, who owns a large country estate, asked me to recommend a good house painter. He was going to repaint all of his buildings, a job which would run to several thousand dollars.

I told him Ed Pixley was the best painter I knew in our part of the county.  
"Has he been on relief?" asked my friend. "If he has, I don't want him. I am all through hiring men who have been on relief. They have all become too lazy to be interested in doing real work."

I met Ed Pixley in front of the bank that afternoon. He told me that all the family were working at whatever they could find to do, and were managing to scrape along. "We haven't gone on relief yet, and we are not going to," said Ed. I told him about my friend. Ed cranked up his old car and started right after the job. He got it.

I have heard other employers say the same thing about workers who have been on relief.

**INDEPENDENCE** . . . spirit  
I stopped on Forty-second Street, New York, the other day, to have my shoes shined. Out of the long row of bootblacks one boy attracted my attention.

I got the boy talking. He had come from California, he told me, with his invalid father, who had been offered a job in New York but couldn't hold it. So the boy—he was fourteen or so—had got himself a shoe-shine kit and was supporting his father and himself.

"Is your father on relief?" I asked. "Not for a minute," he replied. "I wouldn't let him, even if he wanted to. We're getting along . . . Hey! Here's your change, Mister."

I had slipped him a quarter instead of the regulation nickel. "I don't want any money I haven't earned," he said. There is more of that American spirit of independence left than most folks think.

**GRIT** . . . still pays  
I heard the other day, from a friend in Moultrie, Georgia, of an example of pure grit in the face of adversity. An elderly minister, too old and feeble to fill a pulpit any longer, was facing starvation. The mortgage on his little country home was about to be foreclosed. But neither he nor his aging wife was willing to apply for relief.

The wife took charge of the situation. She persuaded the local banker to lend her \$150. Forty dollars went for a mule, the rest for seed, equipment and fertilizer for a five-acre tobacco patch. Last month she finished selling her tobacco. It brought \$1,000. The mortgage and the back taxes are paid and something over to live on. She found the road to independence in old age.

**STATE MISSION PROGRAM**  
Mr. Carl Triplett, Sunday School Director of the Stony Fork Association says a State Mission program will be rendered at Laurel Fork Baptist Church Sunday night, October 13 at 7 o'clock.

Farms in Rockingham county on which no lespedeza was grown four years ago now have from 5 to 25 acres each.

## THREE YOUTHS GO TO DEATH; LETHAL GAS METHOD NEAR

Fishing Licenses Bring In Large Sum; Bar Association Meeting.

### OPINION HANDED DOWN ON GAMBLING DEVICES

Other News Brevities As Reported Weekly From the State Capital By Special Democrat Correspondence.

Raleigh, Oct. 8.—Three Madison county youths went to their death Friday in the state's electric chair, bringing to 159 the number claimed by that hot seat which will soon give way to a lethal gas chamber. They were Robert Thomas, 23, Oris Gunter, 20, and Arthur Gosnell, 20, who died for the murder of a great uncle of Thomas and Gunter, William Thomas, 75, Madison county merchant.

Thomas and Gunter were thin, small and apparently anaemic; Gosnell was a strapping mountaineer, weighing 185 pounds. Thomas and Gunter were penitent; Gosnell was defiant. Neither Gunter nor Gosnell could read or write, but Thomas had reached the grammar grades. A streak of insanity is said to have been present for several years in the Thomas and Gunter family; Gosnell was said to have actually struck the blow that killed the aged merchant.

Appeals were made for clemency for the young men, who, it was claimed, never had a chance in life. Governor Ehringhaus declined to interfere with the sentence of death. Parents were here to claim the bodies, but had no money or means of getting them back to the mountains for burial.

Work is expected to start at once now on the lethal gas chamber as the new means of inflicting the death penalty imposed by the state, and it is expected to be ready for use by the latter part of November. Those sentenced to death by electrocution will cause use of the chair until they are all dead, some of the electrocutions overlapping the gassing. After all so sentenced are out of the way, then the gas chamber will be used for death penalties entirely.

### FISH HATCHERIES BENEFIT

Fishing licenses for this calendar year have already brought in \$28,204, or \$4,082 more than the \$24,122 collected for the entire year 1924, and through October 1 the collections were about one-third more than for the first nine months of last year. The increase is due in part to having available daily permits at 60 cents each for residents and \$1.10 for non-residents, and a larger number of fishermen buy state-wide rather than county licenses. Many are able, through better economic conditions, to go outside their home counties to fish, which requires the state-wide licenses. The funds are used at fish hatcheries and result in more and better small fish for stocking streams.

### SPEAKS TO LAWYERS

William L. Ransom, New York City, president of the American Bar Association, will be the principal speaker at the one-day meeting of the N. C. State Bar in Raleigh, Oct. (Continued on page 7.)

### REV. SHERWOOD SUPPLIES DURING ILLNESS OF PASTOR

Rev. Arthur Sherwood of Erwin, Tenn., will supply for Pastor W. R. Davis at Willowdale Church next Sunday morning. The public is invited to hear him.

Rev. Mr. Davis, his many friends will be glad to note, is showing a rapid recovery from a serious illness and is now convalescing at his former home in Williston, S. C.

## SOUTH HOME IS RAZED BY FLAME

Luther South Loses Structure and Furnishings In Saturday Night Blaze.

A large frame house, the property of Mr. Luther S. South, located on the road toward Howards Knob, was completely destroyed by fire during the early evening hours Saturday, the loss having been estimated at three thousand dollars or more, a small portion of which is said to have been covered by insurance.

The fire, which was thought to have originated from a faulty flue, was well under way when the fire department reached the scene, and the elevation was such that there was no gravity water pressure. The house was a good one, well constructed and completely furnished. A very small amount of the furniture was salvaged as the flames gained headway.

## DECEASED LEADER



Mr. Lindsay Michael, three times a member of the general assembly of North Carolina from Watauga county, whose death was chronicled in these columns last week. (Photo Courtesy Asheville Citizen.)

## J. H. PENNELL IS FATALLY INJURED

Father of Mrs. Ed. Farthing, of Boone, Is Struck By Passing Auto.

James H. Pennell, age 76, a former member of the Wilkes County Board of Education, was fatally injured Saturday afternoon when he was struck by a motor car as he walked along the Boone Trail Highway three miles west of North Wilkesboro and near his home.

News of the death of the prominent citizen came to a daughter, Mrs. Ed G. Farthing of Boone, Tuesday morning. Mrs. Farthing had gone to the parental home following word of the accident and was on a hurried trip back to Boone when death came. No funeral details are available.

According to witnesses to the accident Mr. Pennell was walking on the dirt shoulder of the highway on the left side when a car going in the same direction passed another vehicle and swerving off the pavement, struck the aged man.

Oscar Owens, the driver of the car, who was reported as intoxicated, was arrested and is being held in the Wilkes county jail. Mr. Pennell was knocked a distance of several feet and examination revealed a badly crushed leg, with other injuries. His condition was regarded as extremely critical from the first.

## FORESTRY TOPIC OF GATHERING

Extension Forestry Specialist Will Be With Farmers at Friday Meeting.

The following Forestry meetings will be held in the county on Friday, October 11: at Mr. Stacy Ford's farm in the Aho Community at 9:00 a. m.; and at Mr. Hard Mast's farm, Sugar Grove, at 2 p. m.

Mr. R. W. Graeber, Extension Forestry Specialist, Raleigh, will be present at these meetings to instruct the farmers in the thinning and care of the farm forests, and now to estimate the amount of lumber that can be cut from a boundary of timber.

The timber resources of Watauga county are being rapidly depleted and it will not be a great many years until there will be a shortage of timber for building purposes, as well as a shortage of firewood on some farms unless something is done to replenish our present forests.

All the farmers in the county are cordially invited by County Agent W. B. Collins, to come to the Forestry meeting closest their home, bring their axe, and give a hand in starting a real forestry demonstration.

## Jones Ashley Injured Seriously; In Hospital

Press time reports from Johnson City indicate that Mr. Ashley's condition is extremely grave, and members of his family have gone to his bedside.

Jones Ashley, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Ashley, of Boone, is reported as being in a serious condition in a Johnson City, Tenn., hospital, following injuries received when he fell from a horse on the southwest Virginia farm of a relative.

The accident which occurred Sunday afternoon, is said to have left young Mr. Ashley unconscious, and information Wednesday morning was to the effect that no change was noted in his condition. Much anxiety is felt over the outcome of the young man's injuries.

## WATAUGA MAN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE STABBED SHERIFF

Paul Baker Charged With an Assault on the Sheriff of Caldwell.

### JAILOR SUFFERS TWO JABS FROM SAME KNIFE

Sheriff Tolbert's Condition Following Operation Said to be Serious. Baker Held Pending Outcome of Injuries.

J. C. Tolbert, Sheriff of Caldwell county, lies in a hospital stabbed deeply in the left abdomen, and Chief Deputy Felix Parlier is confined with two knife stabs, according to the Lenoir News Topic, the injuries having been received Sunday night, as the two officers arrested Paul Baker, 35-year-old Watauga native.

Baker, it was said, was arrested on a charge of drunkenness, being lodged in jail before they drove to the Caldwell hospital for treatment of their injuries. Their alleged assailant is being held in jail, without privilege of bond, pending the outcome of the officers' injuries.

Not Critical  
Sheriff Tolbert's condition is described as serious but not critical. The next 72 hours it is said, will determine whether complications will arise. Jailor Parlier, stabbed in the back and in the left abdomen, is recovering satisfactorily.

According to Mr. Parlier, he and the Sheriff received a call to investigate circumstances surrounding a ditched truck on the Greasy Creek road, west of Lenoir. Upon arrival they found Baker and his wife beside the truck and learned that a man by the name of Jerry Greene had left the vehicle to obtain aid to pull the truck out of the ditch.

As the Sheriff and jailor arrested Baker, says the newspaper report, and as they were putting him into Sheriff Tolbert's auto, the accused allegedly whipped out a knife and began wielding it. The first blow struck Sheriff Tolbert in the left abdomen, severing the intestines. Jailor Parlier received two wounds, one in the back and one in the abdomen, before he knew of the Sheriff's injury.

Baker was soon overpowered and brought to jail, the officers proceeding to the hospital. They had lost quantities of blood, it was indicated. Sheriff Tolbert underwent an operation within a half-hour, and was resting as well as could be expected at last reports.

## Blowing Rock Case Continued To Nov. 2

A hearing to be held in Newton Saturday in court proceedings, involving a small piece of privately-owned land at the entrance of Blowing Rock, was continued by Judge Wilson Warlick to November 2, at which time the hearing will be held before him at Lenoir.

Mrs. J. M. Bernhardt, of Lenoir, owner of the land, is seeking an injunction against the State Department of Conservation and Development to halt proceedings the department brought in an effort to open to the public without charge the principal scenic attraction at Blowing Rock.

## PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED BY MAYOR

Fire Prevention Week Subject For Declaration by Mayor Gragg.

This week having been set aside by official proclamation of the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina as Fire Prevention Week, Mayor W. H. Gragg of Boone, Wednesday issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas, the increasing destruction of property and life by fire is a matter of the most vital concern, and that this wanton destruction can be curbed to a large extent by reasonable care of our citizens, and

"Whereas, the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina having proclaimed Fire Prevention Week, now,

"Therefore, I, W. H. Gragg, Mayor of Boone, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7-11 to be FIRE PREVENTION WEEK with the hope that during this period or as soon as possible all existing fire hazards in the city shall be corrected, that all inflammable waste matter and trash be removed, and that our people shall be aroused to the need for greater care along this line. The fire department and the city administration earnestly solicits the cooperation of the people of the town in this regard."

## HEADS LEGION



IDA GROVE, Ia. . . . A royal reception greeted J. Ray Murphy (above), Iowa State Insurance Commissioner, upon his arrival home from the annual American Legion Convention where he was elected National Commander.

## HARTZOG CITES POSTAL GAINS

New Clerkship Created For Expanded Business at Boone Post Office.

Receipts at the Boone post office have shown an 18 per cent. increase for the quarter ending Sept. 30, as compared with the same period last year, according to Postmaster W. G. Hartzog, who announces the addition of a new clerk to help take care of the expanding postal business.

Receipts for the quarter referred to were \$3,098.47 in 1924 and \$3,655.22 this year, and an auxiliary clerkship held by Mr. Ralph Greene, was made permanent as a result of the 40-hour week requirement and the increased business. Mr. Greene's promotion resulted in the appointment of Mr. L. E. Bingham, a former postal employee, as clerk.

Mr. Hartzog believes that the large increase in postal receipts can indicate nothing other than a generally bettered condition of business. While the college accounts for considerable of the postal business, the Postmaster notes that business from that source would only reflect a small gain.

## CRASH ON BOONE TRAIL KILLS TWO

Wilkes County Women Die From Automobile-Bus Collision Sunday.

Mrs. Edith Canter, age 23, and Miss Wilhelmina Triplett, 29, both of Purlear, Wilkes county, received fatal injuries when the automobile in which they were riding ran head-on into a Greyhound bus between Boone and North Wilkesboro Sunday afternoon.

Another occupant of the car and Mrs. Gunter's two children escaped uninjured.

According to reports of those investigating the crash the car had rounded a curve going west, struck the shoulder of the road, swerved across the road into the left front wheel of the bus which was traveling toward North Wilkesboro. The driver of the bus was placed under bond pending a hearing and further investigation.

Both the deceased ladies were prominent in Wilkes county, and Miss Triplett, the daughter of Dr. W. R. Triplett, had a number of relatives in Watauga.

### MAMMOTH TOMATO

Mr. Dean Reese of Reese, has grown the champion tomato so far as the Democrat knows, having left one with the editor last week of a yellow variety which weighed two and a quarter pounds. Mr. A. C. Miller of Matney, brought in seven fine specimens which weighed even seven pounds.

## NEW PARSONAGE BEING ERECTED

Baptist Congregation Constructing Modern New Pastor's Home.

Ground has been broken for a modern new structure to be used as the Baptist's pastor's residence, and according to a contract signed with Miller & Jenkins, Jefferson contractors, the nine-room residential building will be completed and ready for occupancy in sixty working days.

The walls are to be constructed of brick, with full basement, excavation for which has been completed, a steam heating plant will be installed and the building will be thoroughly modern in every respect. The site of the parsonage is next door to the New Baptist Church Sunday School rooms on College Street.

## CONSTRUCTION OF SCENIC PARKWAY WELL UNDER WAY

Additional Lettings on North Carolina Side Expected by November 1.

### \$6,000,000 ARE ALLOTTED SCENIC THOROUGHFARE

More Than Three-Fourths of Huge Sum to Be Spent in North Carolina Construction. Construction in Sections.

Washington, Oct. 10.—The national park service announced last week a \$6,000,000 construction program for the Shenandoah-Great Smoky mountains national parkway, with major links planned for North Carolina to cost approximately \$4,500,000 and the remainder held for Virginia sections.

The program was announced as President Roosevelt formally approved restoration of the projects \$6,000,000 appropriation impounded a year ago for relief purposes.

Hilroy A. Tolson, assistant director of the park service, said the key links ultimately would fit into the completed parkway to cost approximately \$20,000,000.

### Work Underway in N. C.

Construction in North Carolina already is underway, and other sections will be contracted by early November. Virginia's right of way difficulties were said to be delaying the construction start in the Old Dominion.

With the other funds the park service contracted for the first link of the parkway several months ago. It is a stretch of about 10 miles, running south from the Virginia line into North Carolina below Roanoke. Bids on another North Carolina section of 8 miles from Roaring Gap to Air Bellows were advertised a week ago. Advertisement for bids on sections from Air Bellows to Deep Gap, 42 miles, will follow within the next few weeks.

Another section will run from So-co Gap to Cherokee, 13 miles, if the Cherokee Indians will grant the required right of way through their reservation. Park officials said they expected still another section between Buck Creek Gap and Bull Gap, near Asheville, 31 miles, to be under construction within a few months.

Thus far, the park service said, it had received deeds for neither the 200 foot parkway right of way nor the additional scenic basements in Virginia, and construction can not be started without these deeds.

Virginia was said to be awaiting legislative authorization to condemn land for scenic easement, but park service officials said it was possible that they could start construction if the state would convey to the Federal government deeds for the 200 foot right of way with a guarantee from responsible state authorities that an effort would be made in the General Assembly meeting in January for legislation allowing condemnation of land for scenic easement purposes.

The Virginia program, ready to be started as soon as proper deeds are received, includes construction from the southern boundary of the Shenandoah National Park to Rock Fish Gap, thus adding a park way extension to the present skyline drive, for 10 miles to the Charlottesville. (Continued on page 5)

## Jacob Dougherty Dies At Home In Tennessee

A phone message early this (Wednesday) morning, to Mrs. R. M. Greene of Boone, tells of the death of her last surviving uncle, Jacob Dougherty, at Mill Creek, Tenn. Funeral services are to be conducted at Piney Grove Church today at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Dougherty was a brother of the late D. B. Dougherty of Boone, and also an uncle of Dr. B. B. Dougherty of Boone.

### J. T. BAITY SUCCEUMBS

John Thomas Baity, esteemed citizen and former Mayor of Mocksville, father of Mrs. Wade E. Brown, of Boone, died at his home Saturday following a paralytic stroke several weeks ago. Mrs. Brown had been with him during his entire illness.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Monday morning by the Reverends Dodd and Fulghum and interment was in Rose cemetery.

Survivors in the immediate family include the widow, three daughters, Mrs. J. P. Newman of Winston-Salem; Miss Hazel Baity of Mocksville, and Mrs. Wade E. Brown, of Boone. Mr. Baity spent most of his life in the mercantile business in Winston-Salem and Mocksville. In early life he joined the Baptist Church and took great interest in its work, being at the time of his death a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mocksville Baptist Church. Mr. Baity was known as a quiet, unassuming gentleman, much admired for his integrity and high ideals.