

WIFE OF POPULAR OFFICER IS DEAD

Short Illness Is Fatal to Mrs. S. D. Ollis; Funeral Is Held Saturday.

Morganton, N. C., April 3.—Mrs. S. D. Ollis, for seven years a resident of Morganton, died at 5:30 o'clock Thursday morning at Grace Hospital after a serious illness of one month with heart trouble and high blood pressure.

Her condition became critical and she was taken to Grace Hospital last Sunday.

Funeral services will be held at Pisgah Methodist Church in Avery county Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in charge of the pastor, Rev. F. R. Barber. A brief service will be held at the home on White street at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, conducted by her pastor, Rev. J. M. Varner of the North Morganton Methodist Church.

Mrs. Ollis, who was nearing her 46th birthday, was a native of Avery county, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Franklin. She was born April 16, 1890, and before marriage was Miss Addie Lillian Franklin.

Mrs. Ollis came here with her family seven years ago. For five years her husband was a popular member of the Morganton police department. Recently he accepted a post as policeman at Boone and was to move with his family there after the closing of school. Since coming here Mrs. Ollis had been a member of the North Morganton Methodist Church.

Mrs. Ollis is survived by her husband, S. D. Ollis, five daughters and five sons: Mrs. Wilson Mace, of Morganton; Margaret, Dorothy, Georgia, Ann, Allen, S. D. Jr., Colen, Ray Dickey and Billie Ollis, all at the home.

She leaves also her parents, three brothers, Elgie Franklin, Lloyd Franklin and Ernest Franklin, all of the Crossnore section; Mrs. Ethel Pession of Altamont, Mrs. Milligan Wise of Crossnore; Mrs. Arthur Dellinger of Altamont; Mrs. Manley Williams and Mrs. J. B. Roberts of Morganton.

Preachers Meeting Is Now Progressing

The Northwestern North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Conference is now in progress. It begins at 10 o'clock Thursday morning and will run through Saturday noon. Some of our speakers and visiting ministers are Dr. M. A. Huggins, Secretary of the North Carolina Baptist General Board of Raleigh; Rev. M. O. Alexander and assistant to Dr. Huggins; Rev. R. E. Hardaway, Pastor First Baptist Church, Lenoir; Rev. Eugene Olive, pastor First Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro, and others. The night sessions of the conference will be of a public worship nature and are open to all the people. Friday night will be a special union service of all the churches of the town. We will have an Easter sermon by one of the visiting ministers. Preachers from Watauga and many surrounding counties are here attending the conference. The meeting is being directed by the pastor, Rev. J. C. Canipe.

Sheep Growers Asked To Gather Here 16th

(W. B. Collins, County Agent) The following men will speak to the sheep growers of Watauga county at the courthouse at Boone on Thursday, April 16, at 10 a. m.: Mr. Paul Fletcher, Manager of the Eastern Livestock Co-operative Marketing Association, Jersey City, New Jersey; K. A. Keithly, Manager of the United Wool Growers Association; and L. I. Case, Specialist in Animal Husbandry, Extension Division, Raleigh.

These men will explain to the sheep growers of the county the advantages to be obtained from pooling their lambs and wool, as well as give them valuable information on producing high-grade lambs and wool.

At this meeting officers will be elected for managing the lamb and wool pools for 1936.

This will be an important meeting for the sheep growers of the county and it will be well worth any sheep grower's time to come out and hear these men. It is also important that the sheep growers get together at this time and elect good committeemen to operate their lamb and wool pools this year.

REPORT OF DROWNING

Meagre reports coming to the Democrat state that a son of Joe Wilson is to be buried in Tennessee, near what was formerly known as Key Station Wednesday morning. Rev. Ed Hodges of Boone being in charge of the services. The report indicates that the boy was drowned but no particulars could be secured, not even his name or age.

KILLS HUGE HAWK

Mr. Marion Thomas of Mabel tells the Democrat that Mr. Arlie Eggers of the same community, recently shot a chicken hawk, which measured 51 inches between wing tips. The huge bird had been playing havoc for some time with the poultry pens in that section.

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PHILOSOPHER

Educator Regular Contributor to Newspaper



C. M. Dickson, principal of the Bethel High School and one of the foremost educators of this section, whose writings under the heading of "Fireside Philosophy" are regularly published in these columns. The contribution to the local journal has won favor with its readers.

CITES ERRORS IN HOMICIDE REPORT

Mother of Slain Man Tells Democrat of Erroneous Reports About Killing.

Mrs. Henderson Gragg, mother of John Gragg, who was fatally injured by a knife in the hands of Sherman Henderson during the month of February, was a visitor in town Thursday and calls the attention of the Democrat to erroneous reports published in these columns relative to the tragic affair. As was stated in the original story the reports were such as had reached the sheriff's office at the time, and the corrections are hereby made as Mrs. Gragg suggests:

1. The implication that "an old grudge over a girl precipitated the slaying is denied, as is a subsequent one to the effect that "bad blood was thought to have existed between the two on account of some girl." Mrs. Gragg says these statements are altogether untrue.

2. With reference to that part of the story dealing with the court record of the deceased, it is explained that he was cleared of rape charges in Newton, and that in a case involving larceny of an automobile horn he was acquitted at the court in Boone.

Mrs. Gragg desires for it to be known that no trouble had ever existed between her deceased son and Sherman Henderson at any time previously, about anything.

The Democrat had no thought of making misstatements concerning the altercation and published such reports as it was able to gather. The corrections are gladly made, and the original errors deeply regretted.

Others File Suits Against Bank Heads

Last week the Democrat carried a story in regard to a suit filed in Superior court and in which W. L. Cook of Boone was seeking to recover a sum of money as a result of alleged mismanagement of the affairs of the Peoples Bank, the former directors of which were named as defendants. The publisher has since been informed by R. L. Ballou, attorney for Mr. Cook, that suits have also been filed with the same allegations for G. W. Barnes, W. H. Jones and Kelley Osborne. The attorney states that the only difference in the complaints for the other three defendants is in the amounts they seek to recover.

SPANISH WAR VETERANS TO MEET N. WILKESBORO

Mr. Albert Watson of Boone, district commander of the Spanish War Veterans, gives out the information that State Commander L. L. Merchant of Asheville, will be the principal speaker at a meeting of the veterans to be held in North Wilkesboro on April 11, and a cordial invitation is extended to all the comrades in this section to be present. Mr. Watson states that in his district, comprising Ashe, Watauga, Caldwell and Wilkes there are 30 veterans, about 13 of whom reside in Watauga county.

BANK CLOSED MONDAY

The Watauga Bank will be closed for the transaction of usual business on Easter Monday, it was announced by officials.

REID COFFEY HELD IN DEATH OF UNCLE

Slain Avery County Deputy Was Native of Watauga and Well Known Locally.

An Avery county coroner's jury on Monday found cause for holding Reid Coffey, 21 years old, without bond, on a charge of slaying an uncle, Hardy Coffey, 51, a deputy sheriff and native citizen of Watauga County, the fatal shot having been fired through a window of the latter's home Sunday evening.

The jury also found sufficient reason to hold Ronald McKee, 17, under a \$500 bond as a material witness at the present or some other term of superior court of Avery county.

Mr. Coffey was slain while he and other members of the family were gathered about the fire-side singing hymns, and rapid-fire investigation on the part of the officers led to the arrest. According to reports reaching Boone, the accused man had been arrested by the slain official on a larceny charge and was to have been tried at the superior court term now going on, the deputy sheriff to have been a witness in the action. This fact, it is said, led to the discovery that a shotgun owned by the nephew was gone from his home as was he. The gun was found in the woods, the reports continue, and a short time later its alleged owner was apprehended. The weapon is being held for fingerprint investigation.

Mr. Coffey was the son of the late Thomas Coffey of the Coffey's Gap section of Watauga county, and was well known in this section. Among the survivors are four sisters: Mrs. L. M. Farthing of Boone; Mrs. Emory Young of Blowing Rock, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Dula of the Boone's Fork section.

Details as to the funeral, etc., were not available.

Government to Buy Property in Watauga

Washington, April 4.—Announcement by the Resettlement administration that it had accepted options to purchase 8,500,000 acres of poor land to cost \$35,815,852 revealed that 153,000 acres have thus far been contracted for in North Carolina to cost \$1,156,000.

The areas upon which options have been obtained in South Carolina is 171,803 acres costing \$1,250,000.

The expenditure of \$2,316,000 in the Carolinas to convert worn out land into forests, parks, wild life refuges, and grazing areas shows that the states will share bountifully as purchases are closed on this property and additional areas are acquired. This is the first complete outline thus far made public of the program in the Carolinas.

Part of Parkway In Alleghany, Surry, Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, and Avery counties 7,000 acres have been purchased. This area will be doubled later. It is one of the 137 projects being carried out over the country.

This area is to be made a part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, linking the Shenandoah National Park and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BOONE HIGH SCHOOL

- 1. Junior-Senior Reception, April 10, in Girls' Gymnasium at 7:30.
- 2. Operetta, April 13, on Campus at 3:30.
- 3. Senior Play, April 17, in College Auditorium, at 8:00.
- 4. Sermon, April 19, in Baptist Church, at 7:30. Preacher, Dr. W. W. Rowe, Lenoir, N. C.
- 5. Senior Class Exercise April 25, in College Auditorium at 2 o'clock.
- 6. Commencement Address, April 25 in College Auditorium at 8:00. Speaker, Dr. W. D. Halfacre, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

THAD EURE A VISITOR

Thad Eure of Winton, formidable contender for the democratic nomination as Secretary of State, spent the week-end in Boone, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and generally getting the drift of the political winds in this section. Mr. Eure, who has frequently visited Watauga county previously, has many strong personal friends here, who are glad to hear that his campaign is making a satisfactory headway.

DIXIE STORES COMBINE

The two Dixie Stores in this community have been consolidated at the location in the Hahn building, the stocks in the building next the Democrat office, which comprised one of the original stores of the Carolina chain, having been moved the last of the week. Mr. T. M. Greer, the original Carolina operator in this city is manager of the store, while Mr. Rex Hagaman continues with the firm in the capacity of assistant manager.

BRUNO HAUPTMANN IS EXECUTED

German Carpenter Goes to Death Without Shedding Full Light on Sensational Kidnap Case.



Richard Bruno Hauptmann, who went to death in the electric chair at Trenton, N. J., Friday evening for the kidnap-slaying of the Lindbergh baby. Hauptmann uttered no word in the execution chamber but his last statements reiterated the plea of innocence so often expressed. The body was removed to a New York crematory for simple services and the ashes are to be distributed in a forest of his native section of Germany.

FARM MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY

Soil Conservation Program Will be Explained by Expert to Local Farmers.

(W. B. Collins, County Agent.)

The 1936 soil conservation program will be explained to the farmers of Watauga county, at the courthouse at Boone, on Tuesday, April 14, at 2 p. m., by E. Y. Floyd of the Extension Division, Raleigh.

In the 1936 soil conservation program the tobacco growers will be paid at the rate of 50 cents per pound of the tobacco which they take out of production, up to 30% of their base pounds.

By meeting certain requirements, farmers will be paid at the rate of about \$7.00 per acre for taking out of production, soil depleting crops such as corn, potatoes, cabbage and truck crops.

In the 1936 soil conservation program farmers will be paid at the rate of one dollar per acre for planting soil building crops such as clover and legumes, if these crops are left on the land or turned under for soil improvement.

This program will benefit a large number of farmers in the county if they will co-operate with it. It will be of special benefit to those farmers who have been cropping large acreages of land.

It is hoped that a large per cent. of the farmers of the county will attend the meeting at Boone on April 14 at 2 p. m., hear the program explained, and find out if it is applicable to their farms.

Dougherty Predicts Completion Hospital

Speaking before a dinner gathering of the Boone Chamber of Commerce at Daniel Boone Hotel Tuesday evening, Dr. B. B. Dougherty said he thought himself safe in saying that the Watauga Hospital would be open this summer. Dr. Dougherty spoke at length on the school and taxation system and reiterated his devotion to the welfare of the community, county and state.

Mayor W. H. Gragg spoke of the improvements needed in the town and particularly stressed the desirability of a concerted effort to clean up the community and make it appear sightly and attractive. Wade E. Brown, president of the Chamber, presided at the meeting.

Garden Club Formed At Meeting Last Week

A garden club for the community was formed last week at a meeting of a number of the ladies of the community at the home of Mrs. W. F. Miller. The purpose of the organization is to promote the planting of evergreens and flowering plants about the town and to make of the community the most beautiful town in the country. Much interest is being shown in the new organization and by next week it is believed something definite may have been done in this regard. Further details of the laudable movement will be published as they develop.

CHILD PERISHES IN FLOOD WATERS OF BRUSHY FORK

Four-Year-Old Betty Jo Mast Loses Life in Stream Swollen By Downpour.

BODY RECOVERED AFTER 22-HOUR SEARCH BY 100

Tragic Death of Vilas Child Shocks People of This Section. Funeral Services Wednesday Afternoon.

A 22-hour search of the muddy and swollen waters of Brushy Fork Creek ended about eight o'clock Tuesday morning when the body of Betty Jo Mast, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clint Mast of Vilas was taken from Cove Creek, about four miles from the point where the child was thought to have slipped from a foot-log into the raging torrent.

Throughout the day Monday the community and county were enveloped in gloom as reports of the tragic occurrence spread, and more than a hundred men waded in water for hour after hour, mile after mile, in an effort to locate the child's body. As night came on some thought it might be possible that it had been carried on into the Watauga River by the swiftly flowing waters, but Tuesday morning, the little body was found by searchers near the J. Y. Walker place below Sugar Grove.

Betty Jo, according to reports had sought to accompany an uncle to Vilas postoffice at about ten o'clock Monday morning, but was required to return home from a point near the creek, which had reached flood proportions due to the heavy rains of the night before. The relative proceeded to Vilas, under the assumption that the child was safely at home. Some time later the mother called for the child and upon discovering her absence from the home quickly investigated to find if she had accompanied her uncle. When she discovered she hadn't it was deduced that the child must have fallen into the murky waters of the creek, and men from the neighborhood and from other sections joined in the intensive search, which culminated near a full day afterwards.

Funeral services are to be conducted from the Willowdale Baptist Church, this (Wednesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock by the pastor and interment will be in the home neighborhood.

There are no survivors in the immediate family except the grief-stricken parents. Little Betty Jo was a delightful child, exceptionally bright and attractive, the idol of the home, and had won for herself a place in the collective heart of the neighborhood. The circumstance which brought about her untimely death has shocked the county to an extent seldom ever known, and in Boone the little girl has been the principal single topic of conversation since her disappearance from the home was discovered. There is genuine and general sympathy for the parents.

NEW FIRE TRUCK BOUGHT

An order has been placed by the town for a brand new eight cylinder American La France fire engine, with pumps capable of throwing five hundred gallons of water a minute and delivery of the new truck is expected within a short time. Another machine of the same brand was recently delivered, but since it was a rebuilt outfit, tests did not indicate that it would prove satisfactory, and it was traded in on the new equipment, which is described as the last word in fire-fighting apparatus.

YATES INFANT

An infant son of Robert and Mrs. Yates of Boone, died Tuesday at the Wilkes hospital and interment is to be at Valle Crucis Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The baby was nine weeks old.

Five members of the Roosevelt family have served the nation as assistant secretary of the Navy.

Write Your Letter Today and Win Prize

As this is written a number of letters are coming in to the Democrat in response to the contest page which appeared last week and which is published again today. Those who haven't written are urged to turn to page three at once, read the ads and the prize list on the opposite page, then write as many letters as you wish about as many different firms as you care to. The contest closes Saturday, and prompt action is desirable. You have a mighty good chance to win a valuable prize.

Thomas Bentley Commits Suicide

Despondency over ill health is believed to have been the cause of the death of Thomas Bentley, 40 year old resident of Matney, who was found dead Tuesday afternoon with a rifle bullet in his head, and who was adjudged a suicide.

Mr. Bentley, who resided with relatives on a farm on the Valley Mountain near Matney was said to have been in ill health for some time and to have grown despondent. Reports reaching Boone are to the effect that on several occasions he had sought to take his own life. Funeral details had not been arranged as this was written.

TROUT SEASON TO OPEN FIFTEENTH

County Game Warden Predicts Good Season; Licenses Are Now Being Offered.

The trout fishing season will open in Watauga county on April 15, according to county game and fish warden, Edward Mast, who further states that a splendid angling season is in prospect. Mr. Mast states that 100,000 fingerling trout were added to the streams during last season. He further states that bass may not be legally taken until June 10.

Fishing licenses may now be procured at the following places: J. A. Mullins, Farmers Hardware Co., A. E. South, Boone; R. L. Greene, Blowing Rock; C. I. Billings, Vilas; John Isaacs, Mabel; V. D. Ward, Sugar Grove; W. W. Mast, Valle Crucis; Ed Harbin, Shulls Mills; W. R. Greene, L. W. Greene, Boone; Harrison Baker, Meat Camp; Clyde Perry, Sugar Grove; Judson Hodges, Triplett; E. H. Greene, Stony Fork and R. N. Brooks, Sherwood.

Mr. Mast states that twice as many hunting licenses were disposed of during the past season as a year ago, and the fees thus collected amounted to \$550.

GROUND HOG STORY

Mr. Gardner Winkler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roby Winkler of the Rutherford section, did the unusual a few days ago, when with the aid of his dog, he took 8 full grown groundhogs from one den. The circumstance has caused speculation as to whether the severity of the winter caused the woodchucks to hibernate in this unheard-of number.

STORM TAKES 400

The storm-lashed South compiled a list of more than 400 dead from recent spring tornadoes, and subsequent torrential rains have added to the horrors of the devastation. The known fatalities for the latter storms which ripped through six states, including Mississippi 219; Georgia 183; Tennessee 12; Alabama 11; Arkansas 1, and South Carolina 1. Thirteen had previously been killed in a hurricane which struck Greensboro, N. C.