

Descend Among Bicycles
Many Strikes and Worries
Two Flags That Clash
Two National Hymns

This column, like others to follow, written in Europe, traveling about by automobile, will represent an effort to see things clearly, and describe them simply, according to the old formula.

You descend from the ship at Havre into a world on wheels, bicycle wheels, a change from the world on automobile wheels left on the other side of the Atlantic.

Here working men and women, thousands of them, ride to and from work, ten to thirty abreast, depending on the width of the street.

They have the right of way, properly, in a democracy.

So it used to be in America, when automobiles were new, small boys shouted "Get a horse," and New York state law compelled the automobile driver to stop his car and engine, while a farm wagon passed, if the farmer raised his hand, or even lead the farm team past his machine if the farmer requested it. Here the car stops, while bicycles circulate around it on both sides. Similarly, you stop, later, meeting flocks of sheep, on roads across the salt marshes of the Venetian.

France is a land of bicycles, of many political parties, and, at the moment, a land of strikes. Like all other European countries, it is a land of permanent war scares. America looks upon war as a distant, improbable possibility, and when it comes spends billions on airships that do not fly, ships that never go to sea, and similar evidences of patriotic dollar-a-year efficiency. Europe's nations live in a state of fear, as an American family might live if it knew that, at any moment, well-equipped gangsters from next door might enter, "shoot up" the household and set fire to the house.

American travelers leaving the boat by railroad, descending in Paris at the Saint Lazare station, were surprised to find crowds fighting each other, not waiting for Germany, crowds made up entirely of Frenchmen of different political opinions.

Some wore ribbons with the red, white and blue colors of the French flag; others, more numerous, wore the plain color red. One side sang the "Marseillaise," national hymn of France since the revolution.

Others wearing small red flags sang the "Internationale," official song of the Communists the world over, from Moscow to Harlem. Crowds grew bigger, the Frenchmen sang the two hymns at each other more and more violently, with excellent voices, not one out of tune, all knowing the words of their respective hymns. The "Marseillaise" says, "Let us go children of the fatherland, the day of glory has arrived"; the other says, "Arise ye prisoners of starvation; arise, ye wretched of the earth."

It was a scene never to be described, now that Dooley is dead, and Artemus Ward. Nobody bothered the descending foreigners from across the water. A few Frenchmen hit other Frenchmen, not hard, then agents of the Surete, whom we should call policemen, gradually dispersed the crowds, that met and sang at each other again the next day. They live in the suburbs and work in Paris, or vice versa, and, meeting in the railroad station, it engages them to encounter those that sing the wrong hymn and wear the wrong colors.

Those singers have chests like drums, complexions that reveal countless billions of red corpuscles and voices that could be heard, almost from Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

One of them broke off at the sad word "starvation" and said to your narrator, who had politely congratulated him on his vigor: "Tenez, tenez mon bras, et j'ai soixante sept ans"—meaning, "Here, feel my muscle, and I am sixty-seven years old."

The muscle rose in a biceps like a small melon.

The duty of a visiting foreigner is to observe, describe and not comment; but this writer, had he accepted the invitation to speak at the American club in Paris recently, would have suggested that the French, whose only earthly possession is France, should be careful not to tear that property apart, especially with Germany ready to gather up the pieces.

This crosses the water by mail, is not new, and not news, when you see it. Only heaven knows what might happen in a week.

BELK'S SALE SUCCESSFUL

Mr. John Conway of the Belk-White Company is gratified at the results of his firm's Clearance sale, which started last week. Particularly satisfying to Mr. Conway were the receipts at the end of the week. Incidentally, Democrat advertising was used freely in publicizing the event.

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

VOLUME XLVIII, NUMBER 3.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1936

\$1.50 PER YEAR

AVERY CO. YOUTH SENTENCED TO DIE ON MURDER COUNT

Reid Coffey to Be Executed in Gas Chamber For Murder of His Uncle—Notice of Appeal to Supreme Court Given.

Showing no outward emotions as a jury returned a verdict of first degree murder for the slaying of his uncle last April 5, Reid Coffey young Avery county boy, was sentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber in the state prison September 11, by Judge J. H. Clement presiding over the Avery Superior Court last Thursday afternoon, according to the Tri-County News.

The verdict climaxed a trial lasting two days and is the first time in the history of Avery county that a first degree murder verdict has been rendered in the county.

According to the state's contention the young defendant slew his uncle, Hardy Coffey, a deputy sheriff, as he sat in his home teaching his children music on the rainy Sunday evening of April 5, 1936. The elder Coffey was slain by a charge of No. 5 shot from a shot gun, the load striking him in the back just below the left shoulder blade. A shot gun belonging to the father of the defendant was found next morning in a clump of laurel some two hundred yards from the home of the slain man together with an empty shell that had been "rung" with a knife to keep the load from scattering. The state produced in evidence a knife taken from the defendant the night of his arrest that had on the blade a sort of fibre contended by the state to be the same as that on the "rung" shell found near the gun.

It was in evidence that young Coffey had made threats against his uncle some time previous to the killing. (Continued on page 8.)

MRS. HORTON DIES AT AGE OF NINETY

Pioneer Watauga Citizen Succumbs At Vilas—Funeral Services Held Friday.

Mrs. James W. Horton, more familiarly known throughout this section as "Aunt Polly" Horton, died at her home at Vilas last Wednesday after an illness which had its beginning with a paralytic stroke something like a year ago. Mrs. Horton had passed her 90th birthday anniversary a little more than a month ago.

Funeral services were conducted from the Henson's Chapel Methodist Church on Cove Creek at 10 o'clock Friday, Rev. J. W. Parker, the pastor, being in charge of the obsequies, assisted by Rev. R. A. Taylor of Winston-Salem, a former pastor, and Rev. Mr. Fletcher, Baptist minister.

The following grandsons of the deceased acted as pallbearers: James B. Mast, James D. Horton, Ben Horton, Howard Horton, Don Henson, Jack Henson, Robert Horton, Jim Horton, Clark Horton, Ernest Hubbard.

The large and impressive floral offering was borne by granddaughters: Mary Jeanette Horton, Merle Horton Campbell, Mary Sue Horton, Nell Henson Mast, Amy Henson, Marnie Henson Mast, Pearl Horton, Myrtle Mast, Sarah Horton, Thelma Horton, Beulah Henson Horton, Kathryn Horton Billings and Billie Mast. Special music was directed by Mrs. Maude Spainhour.

Interment was in the cemetery near the church.

The survivors include two daughters and four sons: Mesdames N. L. Mast, Amanda; W. J. Horton, Farrell, Pa.; J. B. J. F., and Don J. Horton, Vilas.

Member of Pioneer Family Mrs. Horton was born at Vilas, in what was known as the first brick house ever constructed in Watauga county, the daughter of the late Benjamin and Mrs. Council, pioneer citizens of this country. She was married in 1869 to James W. Horton who preceded her in death more than 12 years ago.

Mrs. Horton was a devout member of the Methodist church for the greater part of her adult life, and manifested an intense interest in the welfare of the community from a religious standpoint. She was kind and neighborly and her life was spent in going about and doing good. Unselfish and charitable, "Aunt Polly" was uniformly loved by all those who knew her.

REV. GRAHAM TO PREACH

Rev. Dan Graham, widely-known revivalist will conduct preaching services at the courthouse in Boone Saturday at 11 a. m., it has been announced.

NAMES MANAGER



WATT GRAGG

CONGRESSIONAL MANAGER NAMED

Clyde Greene Will Be In Charge Of Republican Candidate's Campaign

Watt Gragg, Mayor of Boone and Republican candidate for congress in the Ninth District has announced the appointment of Clyde R. Greene, local political leader and business man, as his district campaign manager. Headquarters have been opened at 85 Main Street, and Mr. Gragg states he will conduct a vigorous campaign throughout the district.

Mr. Greene, who has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., for the past eleven years, has been prominently connected with Republican political activities in this county for many years. He is secretary of the Republican Executive Committee here, a director of the State Merchants association, District Deputy Junior Order, a Mason and is an active member of the Boone Baptist Church.

It is stated that district headquarters will be kept open here throughout and that Mr. Gragg's campaign throughout the district, which is soon to start, will be managed from the Boone office, and vigorously prosecuted. Mrs. T. E. Bingham will serve as secretary to the campaign manager.

Gov. Landon Will Be Notified On Thursday

Governor Landon of Kansas will be officially notified of his nomination as Republican candidate for the presidency in a ceremony in Topeka on Thursday of this week, and the usual speech of acceptance is to be delivered the same evening over a nationwide radio connection. The broadcast will begin at 9 o'clock and is expected to continue until 10.

SHERIFF SEIZES WHISKEY PLANT

Four Moonshine Stills Taken During Past Three Weeks; Has Taken 67 In All.

Sheriff Howell and Deputies Carter Ragan, J. K. Brown and Alex South participated in a raid in the Beaver Dam township last Thursday, which netted them a complete liquor making plant, it being the first such outfit taken in that immediate section for many years.

A run of whiskey had just been made when the officers arrived, and one man was taken into custody near the illegal manufactory. Following the raid, however, and for the lack of eye-evidence, the man was released pending further investigation. The still and fifty gallons of beer were destroyed.

This is the fourth still that has been captured by the sheriff's office in the past three weeks, five arrests were made in connection with this operation, and sixty-seven such plants have been taken since Sheriff Howell was placed in office. Thirty-five men have been captured for taking part in the operation of the stills. On Saturday evening the Sheriff reported the arrest of Tom Pennell after having found three gallons of liquor on the premises. One man was taken as he left the house with whiskey in his possession. A number of minor arrests were made over the week-end.

MANY ARRESTS MADE

Policemen F. E. Litten and Wiley Day effected the arrest of eleven persons over the week-end, who were charged with public drunkenness. This is perhaps some above the average number, especially where no holiday or special occasion is involved, but the officers report that those taken had not allowed their inebriation to

TRAGIC DEATH OF COMELY CO-ED IS BAFFLING POLICE

Young New York University Student Had Visited In Boone Shortly Before Tragedy—Uncle Well Known Here.

The finding of the pajama-clad body of Helen Clevenger, 18-year-old Staten Island co-ed in an Asheville hotel last Thursday morning, a bullet wound through the chest and the face brutally cut with some sharp instrument, has furnished the resort city police a murder mystery, which, despite strenuous efforts, has thus far fallen short of a solution.

Miss Clevenger, who was an honor student at the University of New York, was visiting the mountains of Carolina with an uncle, Prof. W. L. Clevenger of State College, Raleigh, and it was he who found the body of his niece, in a reclining posture, the legs crumpled under the torso, and a bullet wound from a .32 calibre revolver through the body. The face was badly mutilated as if a combat had ensued before the fatal shot was fired. Some of the guests of the hotel had heard screams during the night, but since a terrific electric storm was raging, it was not deduced that death stalked the corridors of the hostelry. The police have been unable to establish a motive for the slaying although some of the employees of the hotel and other persons who were in the locality at the time of the slaying have been held, and rigidly questioned. Officials believe, however, that progress is being made and that the murderer will be brought to justice within the space of a few more days.

The news of the brutal slaying carries with it a tinge of local color since it is revealed Prof. Clevenger and his niece visited Boone on their sojourn in the mountains. It is further recalled that Prof. Clevenger is quite well known in this section, where he often visited in company with "Cheese" Wilson and F. R. Farnam, who established the cheese-making industry in Watauga many years ago. This work was largely directed through the State College Extension Service.

SAYS THREE CANS BEER HIS UNDOING

Defendant Pleads Guilty to Driving While Under Influence of Foamy Suds.

John Blair, Caldwell County man, arraigned before Judge Bingham in Recorder's Court Tuesday on a charge of driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor, protested his innocence of the charge, but did submit to operating his car under the pressure of three cans of beer. He was required by the court to pay a fine of fifty dollars and the cost.

Other cases disposed of were: Roy Lentz, public drunkenness. Fined \$10 and assessed with one-half the cost.

Lawrence Banner, driving while intoxicated, \$50 and the cost. Frank Watson, assault with deadly weapon and violation of prohibition laws, \$10 and the cost.

Arthur Thomas, reckless driving, cost.

Green Horton, public drunkenness, cost.

W. E. Buchanan, violation of prohibition laws, \$10 and costs.

Mr. and Mrs. Greer To Appear At the Rock

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Blowing Rock Presbyterian Church has announced that Mr. and Mrs. I. G. Greer, of Thomasville, will appear in a program of ballads and folk songs at the Mayview Manor ballroom, Blowing Rock, July 31 at 8:15 p. m. The admission price of 25 and 50c will constitute a fund to be used for church purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Greer have won wide favor with their vocal and stringed renditions of the folk songs of the Blue Ridge mountains, and the sponsors of their Blowing Rock appearance feel very fortunate that they have consented to appear there at this time.

FARTHING-MILLER

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Mr. Donald Farthing to Miss Mildred Miller of Cranberry, the ceremony having been performed at that place on the fourth of July.

Mr. Farthing is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Don D. Farthing formerly of Boone, and now holds a responsible position with the Tennessee Light & Power Company in Elizabethton. The newly-weds are making their home in that city.

HEADS DEMOCRATS



J. Ed Butler, of Morganton, who was elected president of the Young Democratic organization of the state at the convention which closed in Greensboro Saturday. The convention was described as being an enthusiastic one, and went on record as being heartily in accord with the national administration.

WATER SHORTAGE GROWS ALARMING

Continued Dry Weather Cuts Down Supply Of Water At Intake to Minimum.

The city water department has busied itself for the past few days in an effort to find new sources of water to supplement the rapidly dwindling supply at the city reservoir. The reservoir, which was constructed to hold a supply of something like two million gallons of water in reserve, is dry, and the main leading from that point, eight miles away, is carrying the stream with less than one-half its capacity. The quarter-million gallon reservoir in the city is partially filled during the evening hours, and Monday workers succeeded in placing two pipe lines into it from mountain springs, which have considerably improved the supply. Even at that, however, folks who live on the higher eminences have for many days been unable to get water from their spigots.

The city has put a taboo on washing automobiles, watering lawns and other use of water which is not entirely necessary, and although the shower of Tuesday augmented the supply slightly, there is still need of strict conservation. Workmen have been busy for the past day or so inspecting fixtures in the houses of the town and stopping leaks in the plumbing, and every possible precaution against loss of water is being taken by the city.

Citizens of the town are again being urged to use water during this emergency only as is necessary, and full cooperation is asked.

HAYNES HEW HEAD LOCAL LEGION POST

Officers Are Named and Delegates Selected to State Convention Last Friday.

Mr. Roey I. Haynes of Boone was named commander of Watauga Post American Legion for the ensuing year at a meeting held last Friday evening. Other officers named were: Vice-Commander, R. L. Gentry; Vice-Commander, T. A. Weaver; Vice-Commander, Sam Adkins; Adjutant, L. D. Woodard; Finance Officer, B. K. Osborne; Service Officer, Lionel Ward; Guardianship Officer, Spencer Miller; Sergeant-at-Arms, R. L. Church; Chaplain, W. C. Greene; Historian, C. L. Young; Athletic Officer, G. Nile Cook; Child Welfare Officer, C. W. Teal; Americanism Officer, J. W. Norris; Graves Registration Officer, Lionel Ward; Employment Officer, John Dugger; Membership Chairman, R. G. Greer; Publicity Officer, C. W. Teal; Chairman Sons of Legion, Cleve Gross.

Roey I. Haynes, Lionel Ward and L. D. Woodard were named as delegates to the state convention in Asheville, July 27-28, and R. L. Gentry, J. W. Norris and R. J. Church were chosen alternates.

MRS. ELLISON DIES

Mrs. Minnie Blanche Ellison, aged 22, died Sunday at her home in the Meat Camp section.

Funeral services and interment were in the Meat Camp cemetery Monday morning, Rev. D. S. Miller being in charge of the rites.

Surviving are the husband, two sons and one daughter: John, Henry and Eva Lee Ellison.

TEMPERANCE DAY MEETINGS BRING OUT THOUSANDS

Gatherings in County Sunday Are Enthusiastic; State Dry Leaders Are Greatly Encouraged by the Intense Interest

Temperance "field day" was observed in the churches of Watauga County last Sunday, and judging by the number of persons attending the gatherings and the enthusiasm manifested, the event has been described as a red-letter day for the cause of temperance in this county.

No less than three thousand persons, or one out of every five of the total population, gathered at fifteen different points for the temperance day addresses and it was clearly discernible from the enthusiasm of the different audiences, that the interest in the cause of temperance is now on the upgrade.

Rev. M. A. Adams and Cale K. Burgess of the United Dry Forces of North Carolina, were in the county; Mr. Adams speaking at four places and Mr. Burgess at three. These gentlemen were assisted by a fine body of local helpers, who rendered most excellent and highly appreciated service. Local people delivered the addresses at all other places.

A new county-wide temperance organization was formed with Mr. T. E. Bingham as chairman; Mrs. D. P. Coffey, vice-chairman and Miss Annie Dougherty, secretary-treasurer. Rev. Dwight Edminsten and Mr. Clyde Greene were named as trustees and will meet soon and name one person from each township, who will compose the executive committee for the county.

Mr. Adams, who is district director of temperance education for the State Dry Forces desires to express his sincere appreciation for the fine cooperation given him by the people of the county in connection with the temperance field day. The local offering for the work is expected to reach seventy-five dollars, when it is all reported.

Delinquent Tax List Is Now Being Revised

County Tax Collector A. D. Wilson states that a revised list of the properties of delinquent taxpayers is now being prepared and that the realty involved will be advertised according to law during the month of August, the sale to take place on the first Monday in September.

Mr. Wilson is very anxious that as many as possible get their receipts this month, and spare themselves the extra cost in connection with the advertisement and sale of the property.

Mrs. Minnie Hayes Passes Last Friday

Mrs. Minnie Hayes, wife of O. E. Hayes, died at her home in the Brushy Fork section Friday from a sudden illness. She was 38 years old.

Funeral services were conducted from the Brushy Fork Baptist church Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Rev. W. C. Payne, Rev. W. J. Cook and Rev. Grady Minton took part in the rites and interment was in the Adams cemetery.

Surviving are the husband and three children: Grace, Mollie and Willis Hayes.

Deceased was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver and was born and reared at Mable. She was well known there and in the community where she established her home, and was popular with her acquaintances. She was a loyal member of the Baptist Church.

Avery Man Sentenced For Crime Of Long Ago

Jurd Hicks was sentenced in Avery superior court a few days ago, to five years in state's prison for the slaying of Charlie Winters, of the Elk River section, in a drunken brawl which took place twenty-six years ago. Hicks, who did not know his age, but who relatives said was in his seventies, submitted to a charge of manslaughter.

He was arrested in Burke county last May after having been a fugitive from justice since the day of the fatal altercation.

SPAINHOURS SALE

The Spainhour Store is featuring its annual July sale this week and Manager Harris states that his firm is now offering some of the most outstanding bargains in its local history. He desires that the details of the big merchandising event as published in this issue, be thoroughly read, and believes a chance for the practice of real thrift is being offered.