

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Spenders of Yesteryear
Gone With Their Billions
Paris Hotels Empty
England Learns Also

Europe learns that political experiments cost money. England decided to prevent Mussolini taking Ethiopia, camping along the imperial British highway, and controlling Lake Tana, source of Nile water. The attempt failed. England backed out of that situation hastily, after her war department had assured our so-called war department in Washington that Mussolini could not possibly conquer Ethiopia in less than three years, probably not at all.

When the dust had settled and England, with her chicken-feed assortment of 51 league nations, had apologized to Mussolini and tossed Haile Selassie into the waste-basket, England found her foreign commerce much damaged. She had missed Mussolini, and shot herself in the pocketbook.

For a little while she will copy Job: "I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once I have spoken... yea twice, but I will proceed no further."

Paris, which is France, decided to sing and dance a new carmagnole with Russian dressing; clenched fists raised in air a la Russe; red flag waving; the doleful strains of the Communist hymn, "Internationale," and its Communist injunction, "Arise, ye Prisoners of starvation," excellently sung from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Bastille.

You can hardly imagine what fire, fury and enthusiasm thousands of young and old French gentlemen put into that hymn, although many of them showed few outward signs of starvation.

There were, and are, manifestations everywhere. Now in the chamber of deputies, Monsieur Gaston Gerard, practical French statesman asks, "What has become of our foreign tourists and their spending money?"

M. Gerard tells the deputies something must be done. In 1927, 2,135,000 foreigners from all over the world visited France, spending much money. Visitors now number only 700,000; as a rule with little money to spend—oysters containing no pearl; many that come to help sing "Internationale bring no money."

Foreign visitors, says M. Gerard, used to give highly paid employment to half a million French men and women; spent 500,000,000 francs for French railroad and steamship tickets; scattered throughout France from 12 to 15 thousand millions of francs.

Fifteen billions, even in francs, are "real money" here. M. Gerard tells the chamber French prices are too high. There is something in that, with the four-cent franc costing six to seven cents in the United States—a comic-opera situation, considering the relative wealth of the two nations.

M. Gerard thinks there should be some cabinet official to look after foreigners, with better propaganda and fewer vexatious taxes on foreigners; there is nothing in that.

Foreigners do not voluntarily travel and spend money where they feel they are not wanted. The cosmopolitan, educated Frenchman is as polite and hospitable as ever, but ask him what sort of reception the crowd gives to the foreigners, British especially. It offends the British ear to hear A bas les Anglais!—"Down with the British!"

An innocent American, in an innocent average American automobile, sallied forth on July 14 to help France celebrate the destruction of the Bastille, and perhaps give a few feeble cheers for Lafayette, or Woodrow Wilson, or somebody.

Great crowd in the Champs Elysees, especially around the innocent American car, with new paint, shiny chromium and several cylinders. A polite policeman says monsieur should know better than to appear in a car of "grand luxury" on such a day. Such luxury cars you may see by the thousands and millions on American roads.

Nothing happens to the car of grand luxury; it crosses the Avenue of the Champs Elysees, about 300 feet, in less than twenty minutes. The French, newly self-identified as "prisoners of starvation," are interested in the auto American, which is careful not to bump anybody.

The bourgeois, the "rich," an extinct species, although it does not yet know it, are nervous. In a vague way they feel that they are held responsible for all those "prisoners of starvation," with their strong voices, deep chests, powerful fists and pink complexions.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED TO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

A one-year scholarship to State College will be awarded by the National Cottonseed Products Association to the North Carolina 4-H club member who grows and exhibits the best dairy calf at the State Fair this fall.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

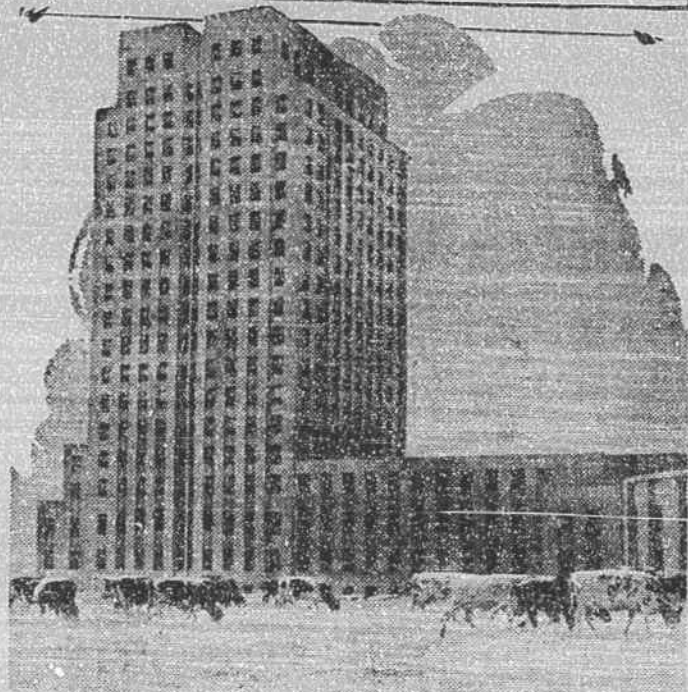
An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOLUME XLVIII, NUMBER 7.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1936.

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Drought Cattle Invade Capitol Grounds



Hungry cattle whose rangelands are now barren dust-covered plains, finally invaded the state capitol grounds at Bismarck, North Dakota, last week, nibbling at such sparse grasses as had survived the scorching heat which gripped the state for weeks.

FATHER AND SON COLLEGE HONORS STUDY AT DUKE ONE OF TRUSTEES

Prof. Roy Dotson and Son Of Boone Continue Their Educational Progress.

Durham, Aug. 15.—A father and son who in 1933 received their bachelor's degree together are continuing their side-by-side educational progress in study this summer at Duke University.

The father, Roy Dotson, of Boone, superintendent of the high school division of Appalachian State Teachers' college, and the son, Hugh Hight Dotson, teacher of English in the Durham central junior high school, have virtually completed requirements for their master's degrees through three consecutive summer sessions at Duke. They expect to receive their degrees together at Duke's next commencement.

Three years ago the two were graduated from Appalachian State with the bachelor of science degrees. At the same time, a daughter, Mrs. Oia Dotson, of Concord, received her degree, and her son was the class mascot.

Mr. Dotson is 51 and his son 23 years of age. The father, a public school teacher and official for a number of years, had lacked but half a year receiving his degree when he decided to complete his undergraduate requirements and receive his long-deferred diploma with his son and daughter. The father has specialized in education and the son in English.

With the completion of their master's degree requirements the two will part ways as fellow students. The son plans to continue courses leading to the Ph. D. degree, while the father intends to devote all his time to his professional work.

Paralytic Stroke Is Fatal To Ben Miller

Ben F. Miller, aged 57, well-known citizen of the Laxon neighborhood, died at his home Monday as a result of a stroke of paralysis.

Funeral services and burial were at Pilot Mountain Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Two sons survive, Elmer of Boone and Erley of Laxon, together with five brothers and one sister: Harrison, Tilden Miller, Laxon; Wayne Miller, Fleetwood; Jim Miller, Idlewild; Charlie Miller, Brownwood and Mrs. Bettie Blair of Butler, Tenn.

ANOTHER STILL SEIZED

Tuesday evening Sheriff Howell and his deputies seized a whiskey distillery and destroyed a quantity of beer in upper Meat Camp township, thus bringing to sixty-nine the number of such outfits taken by the sheriff during his tenure in office. Thirty-eight men have been arrested in connection with the operation of these plants.

Six stills and five men have been taken within the past seven weeks, and the sheriff states that the county bastille has been crowded with prisoners during the past 30 days.

RETURN TO CALIFORNIA

Mrs. E. P. Marsall and two small children, E. P., Jr., and Mary Lee, left Friday morning for their home in Santa Maria, California. They were accompanied by Miss Maude Mcretz, of the Meat Camp section.

OFFICIALS REA TO GATHER HERE FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Looking to Inclusion Of Watauga County In Rural Electrification Program to Be Held On First; Doughton to Be Present.

Twenty leading citizens of Watauga County went to Lenoir Monday to attend a session for dissemination of information regarding the Rural Electrification program of the Federal government, and following a conference with Congressman Doughton, who spoke at the meeting, and with Chester Lake, REA official from Washington, it was decided to hold a similar meeting at the courthouse in Boone at noon September 1, at which time it is desired that there be a full attendance of the local citizenships, particularly from those rural sections where electric lines are desired and badly needed.

Mr. Doughton and Mr. Lake will both be present at the Boone meeting, and it is explained that Watauga likely can receive such benefits from the Rural Electrification Administration as are desired by her citizens.

Understanding is that under the proposal of the Federal agency electricity is made available to the residents of the rural sections of the country without obligation on the part of the citizens other than to use the current provided. A local cooperative is formed, it is said, money is provided for the construction of the lines, which must have as many as three customers to the mile, the government sets a low rate on the current consumed, which would be figured to take care of the indebtedness at the end of twenty years, together with three per cent interest. When the indebtedness is lifted the power system becomes the property of the local communities. It is to be understood that the only security the government has, is a lien on the lines it constructs.

Congressman Doughton expresses his desire of cooperating to the very fullest extent in bringing this important development to Watauga county, and stresses the importance of there being a large attendance at the meeting in Boone. If the people desire rural electrification, with the accompanying possibilities of increased development of this county, it is believed that a program to that end may be approved within a reasonable time.

Residents who will be benefitted should be prepared to indicate their intention of approving the venture, which would carry with it the most far-reaching benefits of any proposal thus far offered this region.

HOME ECONOMICS GATHERING HELD

Watauga Vocational Teachers Attend State-Wide Meeting In Raleigh Last Week.

The annual Vocational Home Economics Conference for North Carolina was held in Raleigh August 13-15 at the Carolina Hotel under the direction of Miss Catherine T. Dennis and Miss S. Frances Mauney of the State Department of Vocational Education.

Teachers of Vocational Home Economics gathered at this time for the purpose of planning the teaching program for the coming school year and discussing its relationship to the Federal Program for Vocational Education. Watauga County was represented by Miss Annie Dougherty and Mrs. Wade E. Brown.

Many outstanding speakers were heard on the program. Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer and a member of the Federal Board of Vocational Education, spoke to the group on Home and Community Beautification. T. E. Brown, State Director of Vocational Education, spoke on the joint Home Economics and Agricultural Program.

Among other prominent speakers were: Clyde A. Erwin, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Miss Margaret Edwards, Dean of the School of Home Economics, Woman's College.

Vocational Home Economics is made possible through the cooperation of the local school board with the State and Federal Departments of Vocational Education. One-half of the expenses for the maintenance of such a department for a ten-months-period is reimbursed through the use of Federal and State funds. The other half is taken care of by the local administrative unit.

There are 112 white departments for Vocational Home Economics in the state and 8 colored departments. It is expected that a substantial increase will be made in the coming year. (Continued on page 8)

Our Speed Girl



The United States' flying speed girl, Helen Stephens, of Fulton, Mo., who broke the world's record for women in the 100 meter dash in 9:11.5 seconds, to win the Olympic crown in Berlin, Germany.

FIRST SCHOOLS TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

Dates For Starting Various Institutions Given By County Superintendent.

The various schools of the county are to open August 27, 31 and September 1, according to information coming from the office of the County Superintendent Wednesday, and parents are urged to send their children the first day in order that they may get organized without delay.

Books will be available for rent and the procedure will be about the same as last year, and the books will be placed in the hands of the teachers for rental. Books for sale will be in the county superintendent's office, but Mr. Walker does not believe many will want to buy, in view of the likelihood of free text books next year.

The following schools will open Thursday morning, August 27: Oak Grove, Howards Creek, Liberty Hill, Brushy Fork, Aho, Winebarger, Rich Mountain, Bamboo, Lower Elk, Bradshaw, Penley, Cook, Elk, Stony Fork, Mount Paron, Cove Creek, Kellerville, Windy Gap, Rominger, Presnell, Cool Springs, Valle Mountain, Valle Crucis, Clarks Creek, Dutch Creek, Shulls Mill, Foscoe, Grandfather, Bethel, Timbered Ridge, Forest Grove, Reese, Mabel, Silverstone, North Fork, Zionville, Tracy, Pottertown, Riverview, Castle and Blowing Rock.

Green Valley and Elkland schools will open Monday morning, August 31 and Boone, Rutherford, Miller and Deep Gap will open Tuesday, September 1; Beaver Dam colored August 27 and Boone colored September 1.

OCTOGENARIANS LOSE CHICKENS

Town's Oldest Residents Lose Flocks To Thieves On Recent Night.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Norris, Boone's oldest inhabitants, who have reached the respective ages of 86 and 87 years, and who have celebrated their sixty-third wedding anniversary, believe they have been the victims of the thievery of the world's meanest man. Mr. and Mrs. Norris who do all the housework and the odd chores about the place, were proud of the fine flock of chickens they had raised this summer, and couldn't conceive of anybody being so ornery as to molest the fowls. However, a visit to the poultry house one recent morning disclosed the loss of the entire flock, scarcely as much as a feather being left. Mr. Norris says he thought Uncle Sam was feeding practically everybody and that it wasn't altogether necessary to molest the fryers of a couple "mighty near a hundred years old."

Mr. and Mrs. Norris, who besides being the oldest, constitute one of the most esteemed couples of the town, are hale and hearty and enjoying a remarkable degree of health.

CRAIG-COOKE

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Cooke announce the marriage of their only daughter, Hilda, to Mr. Frederic Wilson Craig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Craig, of Lenoir, on Aug. 16, 1936, Burnsville, N. C.

RIFLE BALL IS ONLY CLUE TO DEATH OF LLOYD PRESNELL

Laurel Creek Man Dies From Bullet Wound While Hunting With Two Friends; Bullet May Solve Mystery; Sheriff Discredits Suicide Theory.

Lloyd Presnell, 18-year-old resident of Laurel Creek township, was shot and killed Monday afternoon, and Allen Mast, 16, allegedly a companion of the slain man on a rabbit hunting trip, is being held in the county jail, while an official investigation is being made to determine whether or not Presnell was a suicide. Young Mast is expected to have a preliminary hearing next Tuesday.

The shooting, according to Sheriff Howell, occurred in a thicket below and not far from Rominger Post-office. Presnell, Mast and Clarendon Hicks, it is said, each armed with a .22 calibre rifle, had earlier in the day entered the woods in quest of game, and Hicks had become separated from his two companions, Mast, says Sheriff Howell, states that he was walking a few steps in front of Presnell, when hearing a shot turned to find that a bullet had struck his companion in the left forearm, ranged out of the flesh and entered the region of the heart. The incarcerated man did not seem to know whether the wound was self-inflicted or not.

Sheriff Howell is inclined to discredit the suicide theory. The gun carried by the slain man had an unusually long barrel, he states, and he thinks it impossible for him to have placed it in such position as to have fired the ball into the forearm in such a direction, that upon emerging the bullet would have pierced the heart. Following the coroner's inquest, Mast was taken in custody and the three rifles involved in the fatal hunting expedition, were seized. The bullet was removed from the slain man and will be taken to a ballistic expert in Charlotte, who will seek to determine from which rifle it was fired.

Funeral services for Presnell were conducted in the home neighborhood Tuesday, but the details are not available.

Sheriff Howell states that so far as he was able to learn, Presnell, Mast and Hicks enjoyed good reputations, and that he has been unable to uncover any evidence which would indicate that there was any ill-will between either of the three.

Cove Creek School To Open Next Week

Mr. S. F. Horton, principal of the Cove Creek High School states that the institution's regular term will open Tuesday of next week at 9 o'clock, and he is anxious for as many patrons as possible to be present for the opening. Books, he says, will be available for renting and children are asked to come prepared to take care of the rentals, so that they may get their books on the opening day.

Mr. Horton asks that the teachers meet at the school Wednesday at 2 o'clock.

BUS DRIVERS AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS MEET TUESDAY

On Tuesday morning, August 25th all county school bus drivers and school principals who have a bus or busses under their supervision will meet at 8:00 in the Cove Creek high school building to discuss the state transportation system. The drivers will receive complete instructions regarding the system and the routes which they are to follow before the buses are released to their care.

On Tuesday morning, August 25th all county school principals (one teacher school principals also included) will meet at 10:00 in the Boone Demonstration school building to discuss organization plans for this school year. School attendance, teachers' salary ratings and the state textbook rental systems will be discussed. Teachers who are not principals are invited to attend this meeting.

PROGRESS BEING MADE MABEL SCHOOL BUILDING

The modern new school plant at Mabel, should be completed within two more months, according to Mr. Wilfred Davis, construction foreman, who states that the roofing is now on, the frames all set, and that the stone veneering is well under way. The building, which is being constructed jointly by the WPA and the county school board, will be thoroughly modern in every detail, and will fill a long felt need on the part of the citizenry of the Mabel section.