

# SKETCHES from LIFE

By JIM

Raleigh, N. C.—A land of "milk and honey," where corn and potatoes, burley tobacco and white-face steers, beans and cabbages, fruits, sass of all kinds and folks grow and "ripen" to a high degree of perfection. Watauga's Cove Creek section, of course!

Depression days knocked the props from under those who "spin and weave" in factory towns "down the country" and manipulators of finance turned green about the gills, threw up hands accustomed to the feel of "big dough," and went on relief values shot to pieces, and men of frail moral construction shot themselves. But not so with these hardy Cove Creekers—they could take it.



Cove Creek farm lands had yielded bounteous harvests to succeeding generations of thrifty farm families. The soil, still prolific, was insensible to economic change . . . it awaited the plow and the hoe . . . it could amply support those who carried its favor. Cove Creek farmers, with sleeves above elbows, worked steadily on. They refused to believe that acres like their could be depreciated by panic.

Now it develops that North Carolina's most valuable farm lands lie in Western Watauga. This statement owes its parentage to Llewellyn Cockerham who, during fifteen years as legal counsel for the old Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank, acquainted himself with every nook and cranny of the state.

"Plant a stake in John Blingham's front yard; attach thereto a cord three miles long, draw it around the pole and the circle formed will encompass the highest priced farm lands to be found in Carolina" . . . these are Mr. Cockerham's very words.

In explanation Mr. Cockerham stated that during the post-war deflation of the early twenties, and the history-making panic just recently suffered, farms in the Cove Creek country seldom brought, under foreclosure, less than \$350 per acre. Records of the Land Bank, he assured the writer, will show no other section with acreages regarded so highly by buyers.

And so Cove Creek's fertile valley, its covet and verdant uplands move to the head of the class. The Sketch Man for a long time had wondered where a comparable spot could be found—if at all.

Just a few short years ago county-seat gloomcasters freely predicted that Watauga was selling itself out to the federal government. Farm mortgages held by the Federal Land Bank of Columbia on local acreages had reached an aggregate figure of more than \$380,000. Not a chance to pay such a huge indebtedness—that's what the sons of woe thought, and said. And now word comes that Uncle Sam owns not one single acre of Watauga dirt . . . that every piece of "farm paper" is current . . . that Watauga borrowers ARE meeting their obligations. Seems like this fact, if fact it be, might merit an additional blue ribbon, or gold medal, or something.

## THUMB-NAIL PORTRAITS

A stenographer sits in an office window across the street. A tiny mirror is held in her left hand; deft fingers dab at lips and brows . . . pat synthetic ringlets on millady's nape. A smile, not too fetching, is directed at the mirror, and reflected to milady. A touch of color is added to sallow cheeks, and powder, too. And the plain steno is ready to meet some chap who, in all probability, believes her to be more glamorous than Garbo.

Secretary of State Thad Eure, well known to Watauga people, is Raleigh's No. 1 "it" man. Immaculate of dress, gracious of manner, the Secretary is popular amongst men-folks . . . "adorable" to women. A young lady, one of those kind constantly in the market for political patronage, paid a late-afternoon call on the Secretary recently. Her appointment over, she and her male escort left the office, only to find that the Capitol's doors had been locked. "Looks like we're shut-ins," said the gentleman, as he sought a watchman. "'Twasn't to be so bad," opined the lady; "fact is, I couldn't think of anything more enjoyable . . . Mr. Eure's so sweet!"

Fortune-telling was being discussed. The wife of a Ph.D. loved as if a visit to Madame Palmist insulted the intellect of the visitor. "But," a fellow inclined to belief in things supernatural countered, "governors and senators and other political big-wigs seek the counsel of clairvoyants." With an off-side titter that carried a trace of dirt, Mrs. Ph.D. right out and said, "Why, my good friend, surely you'd not consider politicians to be men of intellect?"

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

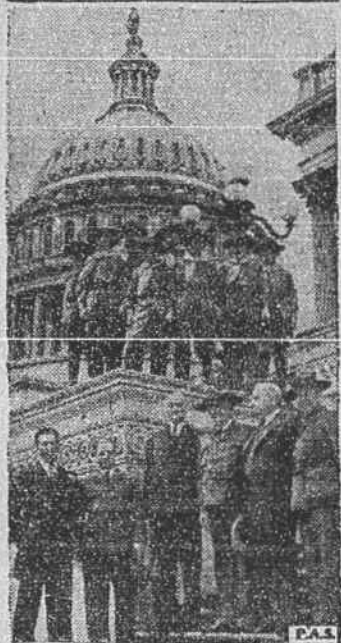
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## Scouts At Jamboree



Washington, D. C.—Boy Scouts greeted congressional leaders who came to attend their jamboree breakfast at the capitol. More than 25,000 Scouts from every state in the Union and 24 foreign countries were present.

## B. & L. GATHERING AT MAYVIEW 23RD

W. H. Gragg of Boone Will Serve on Entertainment Committee for League Meeting

W. H. Gragg, of Boone, secretary of the Watauga Building & Loan association, has been named as a member of the committee on entertainment for the convention of the North Carolina Building and Loan League, which will be held at Mayview Manor, Blowing Rock, June 23, 24 and 25. It is stated that perhaps as many as three hundred delegates will attend the convention, which is the second to be held at the popular summer hostelry within the last few years.

While a detailed program has not been worked out for the convention, it is stated that the whole of Thursday afternoon, the 24th, is left open for entertainment. A golf tournament will likely be arranged, and a tea at Greystone Castle has been proposed. An automobile trip by the delegates over the scenic road between Blowing Rock and Linville will appeal to many of the guests.

Mr. Gragg and others of the committee who are most conveniently located, will gather soon at the Mayview Manor and discuss the entertainment plans with Mr. Craft, the manager. Shortly after that time a detailed program will be issued.

Gragg to Welcome Visitors  
Later information is to the effect that W. H. Gragg will deliver the address of welcome, which will be responded to by Nick Mitchell, vice president of the State Building and Loan League.

The tentative program includes addresses by Frederick Willets of Wilmington; George W. Crone, deputy insurance commissioner, and R. H. Gregory, of Rocky Mount, N. C. A number of others prominent in building and loan circles will speak during the three days session, and a complete round of entertainment features is being worked out.

## MANY STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED

Summer Term at Appalachian Begins Next Tuesday; Record Attendance Anticipated

Likely no less than one thousand teachers will converge upon the campus at Appalachian College next Tuesday at the opening of the first summer term, and it is freely predicted that the term will be one of the most successful in the history of the institution.

Large crews of workmen have been busy about the campus for the past several days, completing the new power plant, making alterations and repairs on other buildings and getting everything in ship-shape for the summer opening. Dormitories have been filled, it is stated, and a list of private homes in town compiled, from which summer school students may obtain suitable accommodations.

## MISS ADAMS GRADUATES AT MARS HILL COLLEGE

Mars Hill, May 30.—Miss Anne Adams, daughter of Mrs. Mollie Adams, of Zionville, was graduated from Mars Hill college on May 28. The class of 1937 is the largest group graduated in the history of the college. One hundred and twenty diplomas were awarded to members of the senior class, eight to academy students, and four to expressionists.

## LOCAL HIGHWAY OFFICE REMAINS

Council Retained as District Engineer; Division Office at North Wilkesboro

At the conclusion of the two days' session of the state highway and public works commission in Raleigh last week, it was revealed that Jas. H. Council, district engineer, would be retained in his present Boone office, and that there would be no change in the personnel of his engineering force. At the same time it was determined that the division office would be located in North Wilkesboro.

The highway commissioners notified the board of county commissioners in 100 counties that they would be available on stated days to discuss highway matters in the divisions under the new setup. Each commissioner set a monthly meeting at his own convenience, with the exception of the sixth division, which was withheld temporarily.

The divisional meetings, at which delegations will appear, instead of coming to Raleigh to present matters to the whole commission, will be:

- First—At Winton on the second Monday in each month.
- Second—At Kinston on the Saturday after the first Monday of each month.
- Third—At Burgaw on the second Saturday of the month.
- Fourth—At Wilson on the second Saturday.
- Fifth—At Yanceyville on the second Monday.
- Sixth—Unannounced.
- Seventh—At Albemarle on the Saturday after the first Monday.
- Eighth—At Wilkesboro on the second Monday.
- Ninth—At Rutherfordton on the second Monday.
- Tenth—At Sylva on the second Monday.

The notices said the commissioners would be available on the designated dates between 10 and 3 until further notice and that special meetings in other parts of the divisions would be arranged from time to time.

## SECURITY ACT WILL COST COUNTY \$6728

Two Hundred and Twenty-four Wataugans Are to Benefit From Pension Legislation

Estimates released Saturday by the state board of charities and public welfare indicate that the social security program will cost Watauga county \$6,728 during the fiscal year starting July 1. One hundred and nineteen persons are thought to be eligible for pensions at a cost to the county of \$4,355, while 195 children are to come in for aid at a local expenditure of \$2,375.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the 100 counties of the state must contribute \$1,301,154 as social security funds. A total of \$601,154, including a \$100,000 equalization fund made available by the state will be for aid to indigent and \$500,000 for aid to children.

The figures, the division said, indicated the total cost of the first year's social security program, exclusive of aid to the blind, would be about \$5,104,616, as the state and federal governments also make contributions.

It was estimated that 24,587 persons 65 years of age or older and 21,837 dependent children would . . . (Continued on page 8.)

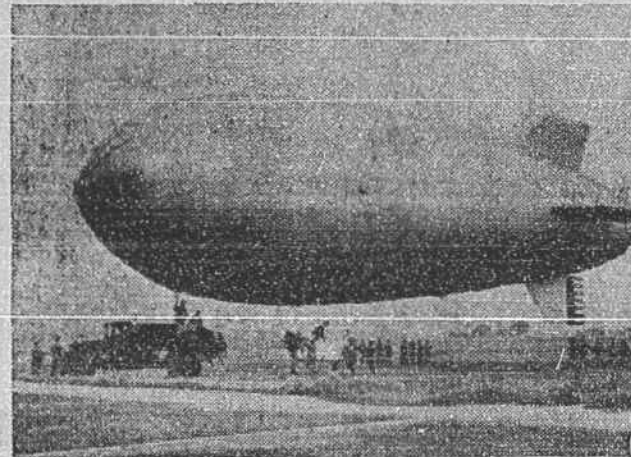
## RECALLS PURCHASE OF FIRST PRINTING PRESS

Mr. Noah Winebarger, who called on The Democrat the last of the week, viewed the Washington hand press, which was used for twenty-five years in the publication of the newspaper, and recalled the day, back in 1888 when the cumbersome machine was purchased in Hickory. Mr. Winebarger states that Leader Hartley and Adam Hodges hauled the press to Boone in wagons, and since there were no improved roads at that time, delivery required several days. The machine, which is one of the valued relics at The Democrat office, weighs about eighteen hundred pounds, and the problem of moving it by wagon, through axle-deep mud, was a grave one. The old press was supplanted by a small power press in 1913.

## WILD FLOWERS ABOUND DURING PRESENT WEEK

Visitors to Blowing Rock and environs during the coming week-end will view the most gorgeous display of mountain flora which has been noted for the past several years. The rhododendron and other flowers are in full bloom and make a picture of rare beauty. Those contemplating a trip to the Rock should avail themselves of the opportunity while the forests are in such magnificent bloom.

## Army New Motorized Balloon



Scott field, Ill.—After six months of experimentation, the war department has decided to construct more of these motorized balloons. They can travel 40 miles an hour under their own power. When anchored to trucks, as shown here, they can be used for observation purposes. The balloons are 100 feet long and cost \$37,000 each.

## LAST SERVICE AT OLD MOUNT ZION

Lutheran Church Built 40 Years Ago to Be Replaced by Modern Structure

Forty years ago, on August 17, 1897, the late Rev. R. A. Yoder, D. D., then president of Lenoir College, now Lenoir-Rhyne, preached the dedication sermon for Mount Zion Lutheran church on Meat Camp, which had just been erected, and of which Rev. J. L. Deaton, now retired and living at Lincolnton, was pastor, and the late Caleb Winebarger was chairman of the building committee.

Last Sunday, May 30, the pastor, Rev. H. A. Kistler, and Dr. W. A. Deaton, former pastor, and a twin brother to Rev. J. L. Deaton, conducted the last service in old Mount Zion church as it is soon to be torn down so that a new building may be constructed at a more accessible and suitable location. The church was filled Sunday for the last service and, while everyone was glad to meet and mingle with friends and relatives, one could sense the feeling of sadness that prevailed, for in this church most of the older, and many of the younger, people present attended services for many years, since this was the first and only church on upper Meat Camp for years. There were about thirty-five present who were there forty years ago for the dedication service. Dr. J. L. Deaton was unable to come but sent greetings through his brother.

At the service Sunday, Dr. Deaton talked of the historical and material side, while Rev. Mr. Kistler talked of the spiritual side, each emphasizing the fact that in razing the old building in favor of a new church building will be a step forward instead of a step backward and, despite the smallness of the congregation, they hope by using some of the old material and co-operation from friends and former members, that they may soon be in the new building.

## Many Trout Are Liberated in County

Fifty thousand brook trout, of finger length, were released in the waters of North Fork, Aho and Beech Creek last week by Charles Smathers of the local fish hatchery, and E. B. Mast, county game warden.

Mr. H. G. Farthing, district warden, states that it is the ambition of his department to thoroughly stock with trout every suitable mountain stream during the present year. All state hatcheries, he says, are now filled with fish, preparatory to the largest scale stocking thus far attempted.

## SURVEY OF SCHOOL BUS ROUTES NOW GOING ON

Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the state school commission, has employed thirteen high school principals to survey all the school bus routes in North Carolina, and C. J. Scott, of Norwood, is taking care of this work in Watauga county during the present week.

Mr. S. F. Horton, of Sugar Grove, another of the appointees, was in Madison county last week and this week is completing a bus route survey of Caldwell county.

## BIBLE SCHOOLS AT THE MT. PLEASANT CHURCHES

The annual daily vacation Bible school will be conducted at old Mt. Pleasant Lutheran church June 7-18. The school will open Monday morning, June 7, at 9 o'clock.

A school will also be conducted at Mt. Pleasant church on the same date, beginning on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Rev. H. A. Kistler, pastor, extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend each school. There will be classes for all ages.

## CLEAN-UP DRIVE WAS SUCCESSFUL

Citizens Co-operate in Effort to Rid Town of Rubbish; Many Hogs Are Moved

Mayor Gragg states that clean-up week in Boone was marked by a high degree of co-operation on the part of the citizenry and that an enormous amount of rubbish was hauled away from home sites, business property and vacant lots. However, it is said that some few have not as yet made their places presentable, and officials insist that an effort be made during the remainder of the week to finish the clean-up before the advent of the several hundreds of teachers who are expected at the opening of the first summer term at Appalachian College.

Hog Ordinance Enforced  
Mr. Gragg desires particularly to express his appreciation and that of the town board for the help of the citizens in enforcing the ordinance against the rearing of hogs within 300 feet of a residence. The mayor states that most of the hog-owners have willingly complied with the town statute and have found quarters for the swine at a legal distance from homes or business places. Officials believe that the spirit of co-operation shown in this respect has been of the most whole-hearted variety they have experienced.

## CHAMBER HEARS RECREATION TALK

WPA Official Addresses Luncheon Meeting Tuesday in Interest of Recreational Project

Miss Elkins, county-wide director of the WPA recreational projects appeared before a luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at Cottrell's Cafe Tuesday, and solicited the co-operation of the organization in her efforts to make the governmental program of the greatest possible benefit to the community and county.

Miss Elkins stated that splendid physical equipment is at hand for her work in this city and that the workers have plenty of talent for the successful carrying out of the program. They will receive thorough training in their respective lines of endeavor, and it is the purpose of the WPA to make of the Boone recreational center something of a model for the district.

Athletics, art and crafts are being taught, said Miss Elkins, who emphasized the fact that adults as well as children are expected to participate in the activities of the center. Dramatic clubs, and other clubs are to be established later.

The board of directors of the chamber have appointed a committee composed of L. T. Tatum, John Conway and R. D. Hodges, whose duty it shall be to pass upon all advertising schemes presented to the business men of the town in the future, and either approve or disapprove of their merit.

Secretary Wade E. Brown stated that the advertising folders would come from the press within the next few days and that the publication would be a most attractive and beneficial one.

## PROSPECT AT MAYVIEW SAID TO BE FLATTERING

Mr. Jack Craft, Jr., assistant manager of Mayview Manor, one of the most widely known hostleries of Blowing Rock, tells The Democrat that indications are for a greatly improved season on the mountain top. The annex is now open, says Mr. Craft, and reservations are coming daily, with the prospect that the tourist season will reach its height somewhat earlier than in former years. Publicity resulting from the building of the scenic parkway and improved economic conditions combine to make the tourist outlook the most favorable in years.

## POWER MERGER TO GIVE AN ADEQUATE CURRENT LOCALLY

New River Power Company and Northwest Carolina Utilities Connect Systems; Boone, Blowing Rock and the County to Be Adequately Served

The Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., of Blowing Rock and the New River Light & Power company, of Boone, have completed a contract whereby the current generated by the five power plants concerned may be used simultaneously, thus giving this area commercial current which will be adequate under all circumstances. The merger has been approved by the state utilities commission, and is the outgrowth of a plan on which officials of the two companies have been working for the past several months.

In approving the utilities contracts, Mr. Stanley Winborne, state utilities commissioner, made the following statement:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th, instant enclosing, and requesting the approval of, a contract between the Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., and the New River Light & Power company, an adjunct of the Appalachian State Teachers College, whereby it is proposed to build a three-phase, 6,900 volt transmission line so as to connect to the lines of the Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., that of the New River Light & Power company, which on the face of contract appears to be mutual and will greatly enhance the electrical facilities of both companies and may eventually prove to be of inestimable benefit to either company in case of drought or breakdown.

"It is hereby authorized and ordered that the line be built in accordance with the contract and as stated in the foregoing it further appears that the approval of the contract and building of the line will enhance the convenience to all customers concerned.

"Therefore, the said contract is approved as hereinbefore ordered."  
The Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., has two power plants, a hydro plant on Watauga River, and a Diesel plant in Blowing Rock. The New River Light & Power company has a hydro plant on New River and a steam unit in Boone, and is now at installing another large steam unit. By connecting the two systems there will be a total of five power plants connected together. The total capacity of the five plants is 1,806 horsepower and is sufficient to carry the connected load of Watauga county for years to come, it is said.

The tie-in line to connect the two systems will be metered and the two companies will buy and sell from each other as the occasion demands. It is stated that they will pool their facilities in order to guarantee their customers more dependable and continuous electric service. By this plan, should an accident occur to the plants in either town, that town would not suffer an interruption because service could be supplied from the other town.

Construction of the tie-in line has already been started and is expected to be completed by the time the new steam unit is put in operation in the Boone plant, about July 1st.

Officials of the two companies state that when an increased load demands more capacity, they will install further units as needed.

## Memorial Services Are Well Attended

The memorial services conducted by the veterans of the Spanish-American War at the Rutherford fish hatchery last Sunday were attended by something like two hundred veterans, members of their families and the general public and the occasion was one of the most enjoyable thus far held, in the opinion of Albert Watson, commander of the North Wilkesboro camp, under whose auspices the annual event is held.

Rev. J. A. Yount, Boone Lutheran minister, delivered the impressive memorial address, while brief remarks were made by Attorney Klutz, of Lenoir, who was a soldier on the fields of France.

A bountiful picnic dinner was spread on the grounds and was much enjoyed by the assemblage.

Uncle Newt Banner, Federal soldier in the Civil War, and Eilhu Luther, Confederate veteran, attended the services as did John H. Norris of Boone, who is the oldest citizen of the town. Few World War veterans were in attendance, due to the fact that other memorial services were being held by the American Legion at the same time.

## MEMORIAL DAY DEATH TOLL MORRE THAN 200

New York, May 31—More than 200 persons died in accidents, most of them on holiday-crowded highways, during the nation's three-day Memorial day vacation.

Texas, where Memorial and Decoration days are not observed generally, led the nation with 23 listed violent deaths.