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THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1937

The Democrat is particularly pleased to note that Jim Council, resident highway engineer, is to remain at his usual post in Boone, and that there is to be no change in the office personnel so far as is known. Mr. Council is doing a wonderful work on the county roads, as is evidenced by the fact that no school buses in the county were prevented from traveling last winter, while down state many schools were actually closed because of the desperate condition of the highways resulting from over-abundant rainfall. The people are pleased with the new highway setup. Leastwise in the matter of the Council appointment, they have received just what they wanted, and that is good enough.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

It is understood that there is a movement on foot which would discontinue mail service from Johnson City to Boone over the narrow gauge line, and which, as a result of the lowered revenue to the system, might, at an early date bring about petition for discontinuance of rail service to this city.

Those who are in close touch with the situation believe progress of the town and county would be greatly hampered by such a move. Cessation of railway mail facilities would greatly hinder the mail service in this vicinity, and the territory being served in this way would force the creation of different star routes, which would ultimately cost the postoffice department more than under the present arrangement. Citizens of the town and county should protest this action, for the crippling of the narrow-gauge should not be tolerated.

Recent experience has been that in the shipping of materials involving heavy tonnage, the railway has the truck beaten. In the order of their establishment, the three things which have contributed most to the growth of this city are: Appalachian College, railroad and good highways. Let's join in an active protest against the removal of the mails from the narrow-gauge. Let's not contribute to the downfall of an institution which for years was our sole means of transportation for a greater part of the year and which has hauled the materials into the valley from which a thriving town was fabricated. Write your representative regarding this proposed movement. Let's co-operate with the railway, thus insuring a continued adequate mail service and at the same time keep within our midst a number of families, who are employed by the company, and who contribute a great deal to the good citizenship of the community.

THE SHAME OF A STATE

Dwight Beard, killer, menace to human life and property, is dead. Society has been compensated to some extent for the wrongs he inflicted upon it, but for this avengement it must look, not to North Carolina, but to the state of Texas. To her shame, North Carolina failed to deal with this killer as it

should have dealt with him. In consequence of that failure, Dwight Beard lived on after having taken one life, and found liberty and opportunity to kill again. It is deplorable, of course, that young men like Dwight Beard, whose earlier youth revealed great promise, should take up a career of crime and find the end of their trail in the death house of a state prison. And it is highly regrettable that innocent members of a respectable family must be heart-crushed and humiliated by having one of their loved ones die the death of a felon. But this is only one of the many unfortunate aspects attached to a career of crime. Because of that career, many others must needs suffer. And much as the state might wish to spare the criminal's family, the welfare of society as a whole must remain its prime consideration.

What a pity that the state of North Carolina failed to meet its obligation and responsibility in this case! Had it done so, at least one person less would have sacrificed a life, and the commonwealth would not be required to acknowledge the debt to Texas, which it now owes. *Winston-Salem Journal.*

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

At the luncheon in Wilmington last week honoring notables who were present for the dedication of the new postoffice building there, the subject of representative government was introduced. Reference was made to the fact that early in our national history there was a tendency toward government by direct democracy, through assemblages that gave the people opportunity to express their will when issues arose.

But because of the bigness of the nation, this plan became impractical and we adopted the method of electing representatives to do our will, the only restraint being that after a spell we could unhitch them if we felt they had failed.

Ambassador Daniels observed that one school of thought is that we should elect what we consider competent men to do our representing and turn him loose to make up his mind as to what we need; another holds that the representative is elected for the purpose of doing what the people wish and not what he deems they ought to wish.

One of North Carolina's ablest politicians remains a leader for a long time—until his death—probably mainly because when issues arose he made it his business to "get back home to see how my people feel about this thing." That was his creed and his record shows that he did not always act according to his own judgment, which was right or wrong, according to the way one prefers to look at it.

The masses are not always right, but under our democracy the majority should be allowed to have its way until that way is found to be wrong. This is impossible when elected representatives disregard what they know to be the will of the people, and it becomes doubly offensive and harmful when this course is taken for personal advancement or hoped-for future prestige.

At too frequently there comes along a leader who from his high perch of political preferment boldly says "damn the people," and proceeds to cram his theory down the throat of those who put him on his pedestal. It takes time to yank him down, but eventually he is yanked. In the meantime, though, he has not been representing.—*Statesville Landmark.*

Little Journeys In Palestine

By J. C. CANIPE

We took another side trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and Hebron. The journey from Jerusalem to Hebron is up hill all the way. Our first stop was at Rachel's tomb in the forks of the road just before turning in to Bethlehem. Going inside this tomb we found some women marching around the sarcophagus with smoldering torches in their hands weeping for Rachel. It was a pitiable sight, only equaled by the Wailing Wall.

Turning to the left we soon come in sight of the "little town of Bethlehem." We stopped on the hill overlooking Bethlehem and took a view of the surrounding country. Here David kept his father's flock as a lad; here Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz. Here also the shepherds kept watch over their flocks by night and heard the voice of the angels on the night that Jesus was born. The fields were ripe and just being harvested. We came into Bethlehem and were met by a group of the perpetual beggars. Bethlehem was disappointing in that it was dirty and unkept. We were taken immediately to the place where Jesus was born. It was a grotto in the Church of the Nativity. Descending flights of stairs from the door of the church, one reaches the manger, that was hewn from a solid rock in the side of the mountain. Each visitor is required to carry in his hand a burning flambeau—a little candle to light his way as it is in darkness. The exact spot where Jesus was born is marked in the manger by a silver star. What an inexpressible joy to look upon the

very spot where Jesus was born! The impulse of the moment is to linger and ask His blessing, to kneel where Wise Men from the East knelt to pay adoration to the new born Christ. They have also a monument there to the children that were slain by Herod when he tried to get Jesus. The Bethlehem children were the first to suffer martyrdom for Jesus.

The Church of the Nativity was built by Constantine in 330 A. D. It is owned jointly by the Greeks, Roman Catholics and the Armenians. It is a source of intense jealousy, rivalry and contention among its owners. Neither of the owners dare move a rug on the floor, as it would precipitate trouble. It is lamentably true that where the Prince of Peace was born, nearly two thousand years ago, peace must now be maintained by the sword. Armenians do not believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, but instead that an angel from heaven brought the child Jesus and placed him in the arms of Mary, and she became His mother.

Married women in Bethlehem are required to wear high crowned hats, with long white veils; the unmarried wear low flat hats, as a mark of distinction. As we left Bethlehem beggars still swarmed about our car begging and trying to sell their wares. With all that Bethlehem was the place where the greatest person ever born in this world, was born—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

OPEN FORUM

Readers are invited to contribute to this department. Profit may be derived from these letters. Name of writer must accompany all manuscript and brevity is urged.

Editor Democrat:

Because of rumors afloat regarding my viewpoint on the school situation in Cove Creek district, I desire to give a complete resume of the meeting held for the election of teachers. The meeting was characterized by its utter lack of organization. When I received the letter informing me of my appointment to the school board it stated that T. L. Mast was to be the temporary chairman. The first act of the meeting should have been to elect a permanent chairman and a permanent secretary. This was completely ignored by the temporary chairman. While this is not a matter of extreme importance, it serves to show the hasty and disorganized way in which our teachers were elected. I informed the committee I had not been sworn in, but I was told it made no difference. The county superintendent had instructed me to be sworn in.

When a disagreement arose I begged the committee to wait pending a thorough investigation of the situation, but this they refused to do. Then I offered to compromise with them and make it unanimous for Mr. Pyatte's successor, if, in the other vacancy they would vote for a girl's coach. This, also, they refused to do. Being completely ignored there was no other course for me to pursue but to inform them that I would offer my resignation to the board of education early the next morning. After tendering my resignation to a member of the board, I felt it my duty to inform the county superintendent of my action and to my amazement he informed me contracts were completed and in his hands.

There must be a motive for dropping two well qualified teachers who were giving satisfaction. We, the patrons of Cove Creek, are asking again for the motive. It is interesting to note that Mr. Pyatte refused to contribute to the campaign fund and Miss Worthington was dropped the year after she moved her boarding place. Also, it is interesting to note the number of teachers who are riding in new cars of a well-known make.

The citizens of Cove Creek wonder why a man who is not a resident of this district and who has had no part, either financially or otherwise, in building our school to its present high standard among the high schools of western North Carolina, should be a member of our committee. The patrons who have sacrificed both time and money to build this school appeal for better education.

MARY S. HARRIS,
Amantha, N. C.

MRS. MYRTLE ISAACS

Mrs. Myrtle Shull Isaacs, aged 57 years, resident of the Shulls Mills section, died at Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, last Saturday.

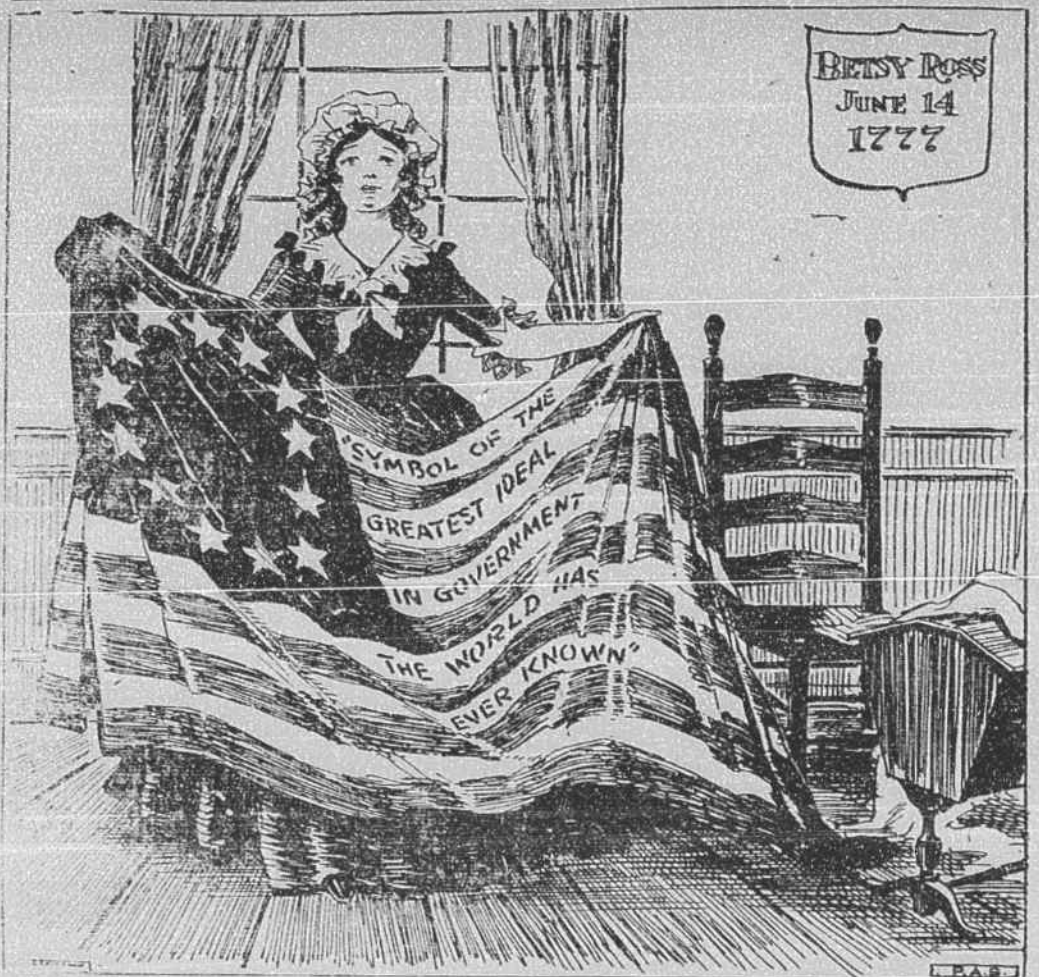
Funeral services were conducted from the home Sunday afternoon by Rev. S. E. Cragg and Rev. Raymond Cornett, and burial was in the nearby cemetery.

Survivors include the husband, Z. C. Isaacs, of Shulls Mills; the mother, Mrs. Ella Hardin, West Jefferson, and one brother, Pete Hardin, of West Jefferson.

REMARKABLE GHOST BOOK

Opening chapters from an astonishing collection of gripping episodes concerning unearthly events, spooks, dreams and eerie happenings. Don't miss this great feature in the June 13th issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine which comes every Sunday with the BALTIMORE AMERICAN. On sale at all news stands.

She Fashioned Better Than She Knew—by A. B. CHAPIN



Fireside Philosophy

(By C. M. Dickson)

The fish that doesn't bite has one advantage—it never gets "hooked." One is sometimes termed "head-strong" when he really has a weak head.

What a wide vision a man has who can, from "afar off," see all his neighbor's mistakes.

If all the branches should grow on one side of a tree, what a "lop-sided" tree that tree would be. One quick way to try the unknown is to "step on the gas."

The "old order changeth" . . . what formerly meant "to dress," now means the opposite.

How charitable for a young fellow to say, "I would just die for you," when he isn't really

able to die for himself. Humanly speaking, should an "eleventh-hour" man receive as much as the "early riser," he should either speed up, or make up his time in the evening.

It doesn't take a "major" profit to tell what the results of continued "sit-down" strikes will be.

Philosophically speaking, the further one goes in the learning process, the further there is to go.

Formerly, people have been notified in crises to "sit up" and take notice; now, it is "sit down" and take it—if they take it at all. According to the spirit of the

Bible, it seems that one needs some repenting unless this is preceded by "metes" worthy of repentance.

If some friend of the "dear" people didn't, in some way, chisel them out of their surplus earnings, our whole nation might be converted into "socialism."

A dummy hasn't much on a mummy. An educated man doesn't have to be labeled.

MOVIE HEROINE PREACHES EVIL OF DOPE

Reporting how a former film favorite, whose career was ruined by drugs, broke herself of the habit and now crusades against the evil. One of many true stories in the June 13th issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine published regularly with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN. On sale at all news stands.



LOOK YOUR BEST!

IF YOUR HAIR ISN'T BECOMING TO YOU . . . BE COMING TO US

PERMANENTS

- Nutritoric \$10.00
- Vitrolox \$7.50
- Eugene \$6.00
- Others \$3.50 and as cheap as \$1.50
- Shampoo and Finger Wave 50c
- Manicure 50c
- Facial 50c
- Rinse 25c
- Hair Cuts 25c and 35c

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Grace Honeycutt, Neil Hendren, Operators.

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and **Bedspreads**

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