

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## SKETCHES from LIFE by JIM

The publisher regrets that the following from the pen of the "Sketch Man" arrived too late for inclusion in the Golden Anniversary of The Democrat:

Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Democrat:

You were fifty years old Monday, and I hasten to congratulate you, and wish for you many happy returns of the day. Maybe you'd like to use this letter, which will confine itself to the memories which crowd by mind as I glance back over the years I've known you . . . over the years when Boone was a sequestered hamlet, almost unknown to the outside world, and you were a simple, hand-press journal, edited and published by Bob Rivers the elder, and his boys.

Today's edition will tell of the marked progress Boone and her excellent paper have made during the years which have elapsed since July 4th, 1888, when the old Washington hand-press was uncrated, the fonts of worn type distributed in their cases, and the founder launched you on your long career of service. Today's edition will be illustrated with countless pictures which attest the growth and expansion that have taken place in this hectic half-century. But I wonder, as I delve into the dusty tomes of memory, if this progress, which we laud has contributed much to the joy of life and living, whether or not folks in Watauga are as happy today as they were in the primitive past when they lived as one big, contented family, sharing with each other their sorrows and simple pleasures?

Don't believe me to be a cynic, for I'm not. I just wonder! But, frankly, those old days were good days. The roads were nothing more than rocky trails, but folks had no particular desire for travel. They were content to remain at home. Money was as scarce as the proverbial hen's teeth, but money was a minor detail. . . . in fact, folks had little need for it in the mountains. There was corn in the crib, flour in the bin, hog-meat in the smokehouse, and the milk of human kindness flowed freely in the veins of all. Yes, those old days were good days.

Back thirty years ago . . . that's about as far back as the writer can go . . . there wasn't a great sight of ambition in Boone or Watauga, hence there wasn't much selfishness. Clothing was worn for the protection of the body, not to display its seductive lines, and women folks looked mighty pretty in their frocks of calico and gingham. A deck of cards was looked on as an implement of the devil, and dances were called "frolics" . . . "the best people" just didn't go in for either. There wasn't an automobile or a road to run it on if there had been one. Moving pictures had been heard of but not seen. The children got stick candy and chocolate drops at Christmas time, and appreciated them. They got a few toys, too, guarded them as treasures, and they were in good condition when Santa Claus paid his next visit.

We moderns are inclined to wonder just how folks got along back then, what they did for amusement? There's room for this wonderment, plenty of room, for we've allowed ourselves to forget that there was a time when church socials and "pie suppers" were looked forward to with keen pleasure; when a wagon circus was the chief topic of conversation among kids months after its passing; when magic lantern shows and their lecturing operators brought the wonders of the world to the village and plenty of enjoyment to its citizens.

In these days of soda-pop, ice cream and a hundred decorative concoctions to satisfy the palate, where is the boy or girl who knows the deliciousness of "mint tea" made with cold spring water? Or custard, frozen by mother with ice cut from the mill pond last winter? Or gingerbread and apple cider served to lusty youngsters from the back door in mid-afternoon? Or molasses taffy, boiled in a black pot on long winter evenings, and pulled until as fair as a platinum's curls? Or juicy apples roasted in front of a log fire, accompanied by hickory-nuts gathered from the woods?

And there was laughter and contentment, there was a love of family, there was genuine thankfulness for the gifts of Providence and a genuine tear of "the hereafter" . . .

(Continued on page three)

## GRAHAM MEETING DRAWS BIG CROWD

Tennessee Evangelist's Revival  
Bringing People to Boone  
From All Sections

From two to three thousand people are present each evening in Boone to hear Rev. Dan Graham's evangelistic sermons in the tabernacle, especially built by the noted minister, and at no time in the history of the city have so many people evidenced such an interest in church services.

Rev. Mr. Graham's discourses are the straight-from-the-shoulder type and are meeting with the approval of the people of Watauga and adjoining counties. A large number of the able minister's hearers have been converted and it is felt that great and lasting good is being accomplished for the community.

Services are being held each morning at 9:30 and each evening, except Mondays, at 7:30. The meeting is strictly interdenominational and a cordial welcome is extended to members of all churches.

## Reviews Progress of Christian Religion In Mountain Section

Rev. E. F. Troutman of Grace Lutheran church delivered a splendid sermon last Sunday evening on the progress of the Christian religion in the mountain section over a fifty-year period. Taking his text from Joshua, where Calab had come into possession of Hebron forty-five years after he had been sent as one of the twelve to spy out the land, he could look back over that period and note how Israel had been purged of all dissenters and was now ready to go forward with the Lord's work. As a companion text Rev. Mr. Troutman used Paul's message to the Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

In comparison to that far-off time, Rev. Mr. Troutman said in the course of his sermon: "Today one of our sister churches held a service commemorative of the progress made in this section during the last fifty years, and they, like Caleb, can look back with gratification and pride at their own achievement as well as those of other faiths, for like Paul, they 'knew they could do things through Jesus Christ.'"

The simile was apt, as well as beautifully drawn and made a profound impression on his hearers.

Rev. Mr. Troutman is a newcomer here, and a bright future is predicted for him as he labors in his Master's cause. He is young, enthusiastic and wholly consecrated. Mrs. Troutman is a charming, cultured woman and an able helper in his work.

## PRIZE IS OFFERED AT LOCAL CURB MARKET

On July 16, the ladies of the local curb market will give away a beautiful cake to the person who is lucky among the customers who buys a dollar's worth of food. Their name will be put into a box, and at 2:30 p. m. a small child will draw the lucky name. Come and buy your supplies at the curb market. The ladies of the Home Demonstration market invite you.

## SPAINHOUR'S HAVE SUMMER CLEARANCE

Spainhour's, Inc., one of the leading department stores of Northwest Carolina, uses extensive space in the Democrat today to announce its annual mid-summer clearance sale. Manager J. O. Cook says that never in the history of his store have more outstanding values been offered in each department.

## BANK IS PROSPERING

The Democrat carries today a statement of condition of the Northwestern Bank, which indicates that the institution is perhaps the strongest now operating in all the western section of the state. The statement provides interesting reading and the Democrat notes with pride the excellent condition of the local bank.

## A CORRECTION

Recently a story carried in The Democrat stated that Mr. W. E. Shipley of Viles, had bought 22 head of purebred cattle in the west which cost \$1,100. The cattle referred to actually cost \$11,000. The error is regretted.

Mrs. George Henson, of the Cove Creek section, returned to Davis hospital, Statesville, the latter part of last week. Mrs. Henson has been in poor health for several months and is but little improved.

## Heads G.O.P. Publicity



WASHINGTON . . . Franklin Waltham Jr., former political columnist, was appointed Director of Publicity for the Republican National Committee. In his new job, Waltham has as his opponent, Chas. Michelson, the Democratic Publicity mentor.

## SERVICES OF 50 YEARS AGO HELD

### Oldest Active Minister in County Conducts Services at Advent Church

Services depicting the customs and usages of fifty years ago were conducted at the Advent Christian church in this city last Sunday morning and the crowds overflowed the auditorium of the handsome stone structure. Rev. S. E. Gragg, who is the oldest active minister in the community out-of-town people were present for the occasion.

by, delivered an able sermon, and Congressman Robert L. Doughton was here and spoke briefly to the assembly in the afternoon, as did Rev. R. L. Isbell of Lenoir, David P. Allison and W. R. Lovell of Boone. A bountiful picnic dinner was served at the noon hour.

Some of the audience came in wagons and many were dressed in the fashions of fifty years ago. The occasion was one of the most spiritual and enjoyable thus far held in the city.

## Blowing Rock Pet Show Is Big Success

Blowing Rock, July 13.—In what was considered one of the most entertaining and enjoyable events of the season up to this date, Miss Peggy Robbins, five-year-old daughter of G. C. Robbins of Blowing Rock, was awarded by popular acclamation the prize for having the most popular pet in the Blowing Rock Pet Show and Gymkhana which was held here last Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Junior Community Club. Seven prizes were awarded to owners of other entries in the show.

The classifications included the prettiest, the ugliest, the best mannered, the most unruly, the most appropriate, the most unusual and the most popular with the spectators. Following the pet show, the gymkhana was held and the different events such as the ribbon race, potato race, and the jumping contest kept the crowd in an uproar from both mirth and excitement. At the close of the gymkhana, Lloyd Tate, who acted as master of ceremonies, announced that another show would be scheduled for Sunday afternoon, July 24th.

## BLOWING ROCK HAS NEW SKATING RINK

"Scoot and Sit" is the name of the new skating rink opened Monday in Blowing Rock at the site formerly the home of the G. Suddreth Lumber Co., and the children of the resort are now learning to parse a new Latin verb. They can be heard at their play mumbling, "Skato, Skateri, Falli, Bumptus."

A careful check of the department stores reveals that there is not a pillow left in the town and as a consequence Blowing Rock claims the distinction of being the only town in the nation which is profiting from a falling market.

## MR. WALTERS WILL REPRESENT NEWSPAPERS

Raube Walters, who directed the 50th Anniversary Edition of the Watauga Democrat, will remain in Boone as the news correspondent for four state daily newspapers. Watauga county feature stories on interesting places and personalities will be a feature of Mr. Walters' work here.

A number of the group arrived in Banner Elk Thursday and remained at the inn until Saturday.

## COLLEGE AND TOWN WILL BE HOSTS TO SUPERINTENDENTS

### Second Annual Conference of State School Leaders to Convene Here July 26-28; 300 Ex- pected to Attend

The facilities of Appalachian College, the town of Boone, and neighboring resort centers will be thrown wide open to approximately 300 school superintendents and their wives who will be in this city July 26-28 attending the second annual superintendent's conference of this state. Registration for the event opens Tuesday, July 26, at 8:00 p. m. Messrs. Wade E. Brown, secretary of the Boone Chamber of Commerce; W. H. Walker, superintendent of Watauga county schools, and D. B. Dougherty, business manager of the college, are uniting as a committee of placement and entertainment. Private homes as well as apartments at the college and in hotels of the town will house the visitors, and a recreational program of golf and excursions to Blowing Rock, Grandfather and other scenic points are slated as entertaining features.

The program outlined by the state department of public instruction lists participants from almost every department of the state's educational system, as well as the state highway and unemployment divisions. Aside from Mr. Clyde A. Erwin, superintendent of public instruction, who is acting as presiding officer, many state directors are scheduled for discussions relative to their respective divisions.

Tuesday, July 26, at 8:00 p. m., will see the opening of the conference when Dr. B. H. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, delivers the welcoming address. The school heads in attendance will also be privileged to hear Dr. C. V. Reynolds, state health officer, discuss "Health and its Relation to Education," and Dr. John H. Cooke, Women's college, Greensboro, explain "The Teacher Retirement Question."

Wednesday morning the program will reach full stride with one hour and 15 minutes discussion on "The Selection and Distribution of Text-books," a thirty minute lecture on "The Negro in Public Education," and one hour on "Safety Education." Participants in this phase will be H. M. Roland, superintendent of New Hanover county and Wilmington city schools; A. W. Honeycutt, chairman of the high school textbook committee; E. N. Peeler, secretary of the state textbook commission; Dr. N. C. Newbold, director of division of negro education; W. F. Credle, director of division of schoolhouse planning; Arthur Fulk, director of highway safety; Sherwood Brockwell, school buildings; Neil Heater, public and safety education. In the afternoon the recreational program goes into effect.

At 7:30 Wednesday night superintendent W. D. Halfacre, of the North Wilkesboro city schools, will be toastmaster at a banquet to be held in the college cafeteria. Hon. W. P. Horton, lieutenant governor of North Carolina, and Dr. W. H. Frazier, president of Queens-Chicago College, Charlotte, will be the principal speakers. If plans pending mature, Ted Wiegand's orchestra from the Green Park Hotel Blowing Rock, will add their bit to this occasion by rendering music.

Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, director of the division of instructional service, and his assistant, A. B. Conib, Miss Hattie Parrott, Mrs. Mary P. Douglas, H. Arnold Perry, Miss Julia Wetherington and G. E. Spencer will discuss the "Handbook for Elementary and Secondary Schools. Dr. James B. Hillman, director of division of professional service, and C. D. Douglas, advisor of school libraries, will speak in behalf of "Teacher Education and Certification," and Mayne Albright, state director of unemployment, and T. E. Browne, state vocational guidance, will be heard in addresses pertaining to "Guidance in the Public Schools."

## WPA SOCIAL WORKERS MEET AT PINNACLE INN

Banner Elk, July 12.—Thirteen directors of social work of the WPA, representing six districts in Western North Carolina, held a one-day session at Pinnacle Inn Friday.

The group, under the leadership of Miss Attawa Dixon, regional supervisor from Charlotte, and Miss Chloris Kellerman, of the Raleigh office, discussed problems involved in the intake and certification of social workers in the WPA.

Directors attending the meeting represented Asheville, Charlotte, Albemarle, Winston-Salem, Statesville, Greensboro, Bryson City and Franklin.

## ROOMS ARE NEEDED FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

Officials of the placement committee for the school superintendents' meeting here July 26, 27 and 28, have announced that rooms for these visitors are needed. Citizens of Boone who have available rooms and are willing to furnish sleeping quarters without meals at one dollar per person should contact Wade E. Brown or W. H. Walker, members of the placement committee.

## PRESS ASSOCIATION TO OPEN THURSDAY AT BLOWING ROCK

### Watauga Democrat and News- Topic Hosts to Sixty-sixth An- nual Convention of Newspa- permen; Varied Program

Blowing Rock, July 13.—More than 100 editors and publishers of North Carolina newspapers are expected to arrive here Thursday for the 66th annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association, which will be held here July 14-15-16, with the Lenoir News-Topic and the Watauga Democrat as hosts to the state group. Sessions of the convention will be held in Mayview Manor.

A well-balanced program of instructive and recreational entertainment has been arranged by the executive committee of the association, with David Owens, Charlotte business leader; Major A. L. Fletcher of Raleigh, commissioner of labor, and Francis S. Harmon, ranking official of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., as the principal speakers.

The opening session of the convention will be held Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, at which time President W. Curtis Russ of Waynesville, will deliver the president's address and Mr. Owens will speak on "Are We Blazing New Trails?" Committee appointments will also be announced at the Thursday evening session.

H. C. Martin of Blowing Rock, will deliver the address of welcome, the response being made by J. W. Noell of Roxboro.

Friday morning the dailies will meet, with President W. Carey Dowd of Charlotte, presiding, while President Russ, editor of the Waynesville Mountaineer, will preside over the weekly session.

Friday afternoon will be devoted to recreational activities, with a trip to Grandfather Mountain and tea at Linville clubhouse scheduled. Members not wishing to make this trip may fish, play golf, visit other scenic points, or take advantage of other recreational opportunities.

Friday night the annual banquet will feature the address of Francis S. Harmon, first assistant to Will Hays, president of the motion picture group, speaking on "A Small Town Editor Looks at Hollywood."

Saturday morning, W. C. Lassiter of Raleigh, general counsel to the association, will speak on "Legislative Prospects," and Major Fletcher will address the group on "The Press and Labor Legislation."

The election of new officers will be held at 11 o'clock after a round-table discussion of newspaper problems and activities. Memorials will be delivered to Robert Lathan by Charles Webb, J. P. Rawley by Holt McPherson, W. C. Manning by Herbert Peeler, and Rone H. Lewis by James Harper.

Following reports of committees and the completion of business, the convention will adjourn.

Present officers of the association are: W. Curtis Russ of Waynesville, president; H. A. Cecil of High Point, vice-president; Miss Beatrice Cobb, Morgantown, secretary-treasurer; C. C. Council, Durham, L. C. Gifford, Hickory, Talbot Patrick, Goldsboro, W. E. Horner, Sanford, Mrs. E. W. McCulloch, Elizabethtown, and the officers, members of the executive committee.

## Paul Coffey Hurt In Auto Accident

Mr. Paul Coffey of Boone, who is now employed at Reidsville, suffered various cuts and bruises Saturday evening when the car in which he was returning home, was wrecked in an effort to avoid collision with another vehicle near Winston-Salem. Mr. Coffey, it is learned, left the roadway in order to avoid hitting a car which had driven from an intersecting highway. His automobile turned over several times and was almost demolished. Mr. Coffey was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital, where he received first-aid treatment and returned home Sunday morning.

## RURAL ELECTRIC LINES IN COUNTY ARE APPROVED

### One Hundred and Twenty-eight Thousand Dollars Allotted for Construction of Power Lines in Watauga County

W. B. Collins, county farm agent, is in receipt of a telegram from Congressman R. L. Doughton, which indicates that rural electrification is about to become a certainty in Watauga county. The message says: "R. E. A. today allotted one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars for extension of one hundred and twenty-eight miles of electric lines to serve people in Watauga county."

Mr. Doughton has worked tirelessly in the interest of the rural electrification program in the county and his many friends are congratulating him upon his most recent accomplishment.

This news has been received with a great deal of satisfaction by a large number of farmers who have had their hopes for electricity raised and lowered a number of times during the last two years.

These lines will be built as an extension of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation which now serves the rural sections of Caldwell county. Contact has been made with the Caldwell corporation and Mr. Collins has been assured that everything possible will be done to start construction on these lines at an early date.

Preliminary surveys will have to be made, right-of-ways will have to be notorized, and membership fees will have to be collected before construction will begin. It will probably take from 60 to 90 days to do the necessary preliminary work necessary before actual construction starts.

It is understood that the lines can be built in about the same length of time it will take to get ready to begin construction. If this is true, it is hoped to have electric lights in a large number of farm homes of the county by Christmas.

## LAWYERS TO MEET HERE IN AUGUST

### 16th District Barristers Will Gather Here August 5; Six Counties Represented

The Sixteenth Judicial District Bar Association will hold its convention at the Daniel Boone Hotel in Boone on August 5, according to information given The Democrat Tuesday by Wade E. Brown, Boone attorney, who is secretary of the association.

Barristers from Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Burke and Lincoln counties will be present at the convention, and Judge Justin Miller, of the District of Columbia court of appeals, will deliver an address as will Mr. Rose, of Fayetteville, president of the State Bar Association.

During the business session a state counselor will be named to succeed Hon. Walter C. Feinstler, resigned.

## WOULD FORM SOCIAL CLUB AT BLOWING ROCK

A brochure signed by the "Club Organizers" was received in the mail Monday morning. "Blowing Rock has long needed a social club, and it is evident that now is the propitious time to form such an organization," states the folder. From the best information available, since those behind the idea are only trying to "feel out" the sentiment of the other residents, and as a consequence are remaining in the background, it is being promoted purely as a non-profit club by a group of interested townspeople. The folder further states that a maximum of 100 members are necessary to complete the charter membership list and asks that all who are interested in the project to signify same by returning the postal card that was contained in the envelope.

## WINS REFRIGERATOR

Mrs. Evelyn Simpson of Sugar Grove, is the happy possessor of one of the new Servel Electrolux refrigerators which she won in a contest conducted through the Proctor & Gamble Co. The Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., local distributors of the Electrolux, are privileged to deliver the handsome machine to Mrs. Simpson. An advertisement in the paper today carries a picture of the presentation.

Mrs. Lizzie Warr, popular lady of Blowing Rock, is seriously ill in a Rutherfordton hospital, and little hope is held for her recovery.