

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. LI, NO. 33

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1939

23, 1939

\$1.50 A YEAR

SKETCHES from Capital LIFE

by JIM

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The sweetest, juiciest, most luscious plum on the tree of patronage may drop into the lap of a North Carolinian, if political forecasters here know their stuff. J. D. Chalk of the state's conservation department, a visitor to the capital last week, is one of five men being considered by President Roosevelt for appointment as United States commissioner of fisheries, to succeed Frank T. Bell, who recently resigned. A salary of \$9,000 per annum, a winter home on the Potomac, a summer residence in New England, yachts on both occasion and plenty of time to use them is the remuneration for this pleasant job . . . or maybe we'd better call it "position."

SOUTHERN REBELLION—It took place last week at a closed caucus, called by Speaker Bankhead and Majority Leader Rayburn, to promote harmony in the Democracy's ranks. These bulwarks of the New Deal urged the "boys" to attend sessions of the house a little more regularly, pointing out that their lassitude during recent weeks has been responsible for several Republican victories on minor and routine legislation.

of the conservative southern clique which has been veritably a thorn in the administration's side during this session, then gave birth to a harangue which had to do with Mr. Roosevelt's failure to consult so-called "reactionaries" on questions of policy. "If he (the President) Cox is quoted as saying, 'would consult with us he'd get all the co-operation he needs to put over his program.'"

"DUTCH STUBBORNNESS" to which the President himself pleads guilty, has played a big part in recent administration reverses. FDR's attempted "purge" of last summer, his apparent unwillingness to forget small differences of opinion and forgive minor party derelictions, are to be blamed in part for the attitude of down-south members, who have always been a little grain on the stubborn side, too. But, to tell the honest truth—truth without trill or furbelow—Dixie's "conservative clique" is made up of old-time Democrats who can't quite get accustomed to a Presidential advisory board composed of Corcorans, Cohens, Hopkins and the like . . . men whose political pedigrees, if any, carry back no farther than the Hoover era. And lots of the southerners will tell you, point blank, that they're unwilling for the future of their party to rest in the hands of these fledgling inner-circle-men, politicians not yet dry behind the ears. Hence the laxity in house attendance, and opposition to certain pet administration measures.

THE MIND CHANGE—Politicians, like women, occasionally change their minds . . . and it's perfectly all right for there's no law against it. Just to prove this assertion is correct, let's ramble through the printed proceedings of the 1938 Philadelphia national convention (a voluminous document it is), and extract a wee small sample from a rhetorical masterpiece offered by the Honorable Josiah William Bailey in seconding the nomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt for the Presidency:

"We hail him (Roosevelt) as the political redeemer of the American republic, the vindicator of the rights of the voiceless millions, the restorer of the national faith and the national unity in that faith, the preserver of democracy and free institutions in our land in a period when they were failing throughout the earth; the man who proved himself the man for America in her darkest hour, the man by every test for her millions as they emerge from the pit and the night, once again, thanks to his mighty leadership, and proceed to regain the way to their happy destiny.

"We love him for his manifest sympathy with the people he serves and leads; for his inspired statescraft in grappling with problems and overcoming difficulties and perplexities that threaten to engulf our nation; and we LOVE HIM ALSO FOR THE ENEMIES HE HAS MADE . . . We

(Continued on page four)

Spanish Refugees in France



Perthus, France.—A pathetic group of Catalonian refugees, pictured here recently after they crossed the frontier from Spain. The women are finding relief in tears.

FRANK MORPHEW DIES AT ELK PARK

Grandson of Late W. L. Bryan, Esq., Succumbs to Long Illness; Funeral at Elk Park

Frank W. Morphey, aged 45 years, died Monday afternoon at Elk Park, where he had been ill for several days.

Funeral services were conducted at Elk Park Tuesday afternoon and interment was in a cemetery there.

Survivors include one brother, Robert Morphey, Bristol, Tenn., and a sister, Mrs. Fred K. Paxton of Knoxville.

Deceased was a son of the late Dr. M. F. Morphey and Mrs. Julia Bryan Morphey, and was reared at Marion, N. C.

W. L. Bryan, Esq., of this city and a nephew of Mrs. Cora L. Council, Mr. James H. Bryan and Mr. Bart Bryan of Boone. He had spent considerable time in Boone visiting with relatives and was well known in this section, having at one time operated a drug store at Blowing Rock. Lately he had been associated in business at Elk Park with Mr. Jack Norman.

PLAN SUBMITTED FOR BALANCED STATE BUDGET

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—A sub-committee of the general assembly's joint finance committee today recommended a nine-point program to "balance the state's budget," including previously rejected proposals to increase liquor taxes and to extend the sales tax to "basic" building materials.

Almost immediately after hearing from the subcommittee, which had labored since last Friday on its recommendations, Senator Unstead of Orange, countered by offering an amendment providing for an increase of approximately 16-23 per cent in the income tax. No action was taken.

Despite a motion by Senator Boyette of Moore, that the subcommittee's report be adopted immediately the committee decided to defer action and to hold hearings Thursday on all new taxation proposals.

The program, as presented to the full committee by Representative Bryant of Durham, follows:

1. Increasing the estimate of returns from the inheritance tax by \$75,000 a year.
2. Increasing the levy on machines vending soft drinks from \$15 to \$30 a year to net \$45,000 a year.
3. Increasing tax on chain stores either by increasing rate or by adopting the Louisiana plan of taxing chains on a basis of total stores, regardless of where they are located—\$50,000 a year.
4. Raising an additional \$35,000 a year from filling station operators either by boosting the levy per pump from \$4 to \$6 or by a gallonage tax.
5. Boosting the estimate of the state's share in the intangibles levy by \$50,000 a year.
6. Removal of the sales tax exemption on basic building materials—\$400,000 a year.
7. Increasing the tax on liquor from 7 to 10 per cent of gross sales—\$200,000 a year.
8. Increasing the levy on installment papers from one-fourth to one-half a cent on the \$100—\$90,000.
9. Reducing the levy on beer from 1 1/2 to 1 1/4 cents per bottle with the revenue estimate the same.

TO HOLD BANQUET

The annual mother-daughter banquet of the home economics class of Cove Creek high school was held Wednesday evening. A program was given by members of the class.

SURPLUS FOODS AID WATAUGANS

1,375 Local People Receive Grants of Surplus Commodities During January

There were 269 cases representing 1,375 persons certified by Watauga county welfare authorities as eligible to receive surplus commodity products during January, 1939, Arthur E. Langston, state director of commodity distribution with the state board of charities and public welfare, announced last week.

A state-wide total of 197,083 persons represented by 42,691 cases were certified during the month, Langston said. Seven hundred and fifty-one cases, which were certified to receive surplus commodities during the month.

VILAS YOUTH IN HOSPITAL

Oscar Hollars, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hollars of Vilas, is a patient at the Watauga hospital. He suffered a broken arm and leg when he was struck by a car near the Vilas service station Friday. The accident was said to have been unavoidable, as he stepped from behind a truck into the path of the automobile.

LIONEL WARD INJURED

Lionel Ward of Boone, is still confined to his bed from injuries received a few days since when a rolling log struck him as he worked in the timber in the American Legion Park. Understanding is that the pine log started to roll in the direction of a child, Mr. Ward tried to intercept it with a peevie and was caught by the timber. Some ribs were fractured and perhaps internal injuries sustained.

TO ASSIST TAXPAYERS

Mr. J. S. Sink, collector for the N. C. department of revenue, will be in the office of the clerk of the superior court on March 2 and 9th for the purpose of assisting state income taxpayers in filing their returns.

News From the Legislature

By EMMETT ADKINS

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—As the general assembly this week swung into its seventh full week of work, two salient points were apparent to close observers of the thus-far mild and relatively unproductive session. First, that the legislature will very likely be in Raleigh until well into April, instead of breaking up toward the middle of March as was expected at the outset, due mainly to the increasing schism between the two money committees and their inability to make the revenue and spending bills jibe. Second, the more astonishing, is the fact that to date no strong leadership nor co-ordinated group has displayed itself in the house. As a rule, by the end of the first four weeks of the session, some leader has emerged on the floor of the house with a fairly solid bloc behind him, a definite program in mind, and the momentum and co-operation of his group to push his program through to a concerted, if not early, finish.

The men who were expected to emerge as leaders this session with a definite program in mind have so far shown no indication of grasping the reins. The absence of any leadership in the house has caused the session to be one of apparent listlessness, with house members floundering without any leadership behind them to unite, and without the necessary impetus to drive through a united

FUNERAL IS HELD FOR MRS. ROBBINS

Blowing Rock Resident Succumbs Friday in Lenoir Hospital

Mrs. W. Lee Robbins, aged 57, prominent resident of Blowing Rock, died Friday at a Lenoir hospital, where she had recently underwent a serious operation, and from which she never rallied.

Funeral services were conducted from the late residence Sunday afternoon by Rev. G. Sexton Buchanan, of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. W. D. Ashley, Baptist minister. Burial was in the Winkler cemetery near Boone.

Surviving are the husband and the following sons and daughters: Mrs. Paul Klutz, Mrs. Randal Foster, Mrs. W. F. Rainey, Blowing Rock; Mrs. T. C. Beach, Boone; Edward and Charles Robbins Blowing Rock; Lee Robbins, Jr., San Diego, Calif. Three brothers and seven sisters also survive: Sam, George and William Austin of Boone; Mrs. McMillan, Mount Holly; Mrs. Martha Futman, Valmead; Mrs. Ben Groove, Mrs. W. S. Pendley, Mrs. Sarah Keller, Blowing Rock, and Mrs. James Groove of Bristol.

Mrs. Robbins was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam Austin and was born and reared in the Blowing Rock section. She was a member of the Baptist church and lived a consecrated Christian life, being held in the highest esteem by the people of this section. The funeral Sunday afternoon was attended by a large number of people.

A. H. S. A. CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES HERE ON FRIDAY

The games to determine the winner of the A. H. S. A. will be played Friday evening at 7:30 in the Cove Creek high school gymnasium. Cove Creek girls, members of the Watauga-Avery division, will meet Healing Springs girls, winners of the Ashe division of the Association. The boys game will bring together Cove Creek High and Virginia Carolina, the winners of the Ashe division of the Association. The Ashe county teams are considered by many as odds-on favorites but the teams from Cove Creek can be figured on to give any team an interesting night on their own floor, so great battles in both games are to be expected. A skating party will be held following the games.

BOONE HIGH BLUE DEVILS SPONSOR BLIND TOURNEY

Thursday February 23, Boone High School is staging a blind tourney. Four of the leading teams in this section of the state are to meet at the Boone High gym. The teams are: Boone Blue Devils, Miller's Creek, Cranberry and West Jefferson.

Promptly at 1:30 Thursday afternoon, Boone Blue Devils will meet West Jefferson and at 2:30 Miller's Creek will play Cranberry.

Thursday evening at 7:30 the two lasers in the afternoon games will play for third place. The winners of the afternoon will play at 8:30.

A beautiful trophy will be awarded the champion. Stewart and Hudson will officiate.

One Hundred Wataugans Urge Legislators to Assist Greer in Banning Beer

Pension Advocates



Washington.—The house ways and means committee called advocates of old age pension plans to testify on their various pension schemes. Photo shows Representative Ralph O. Brewster of Maine (left), who testified in support of the Townsend pension plan, and Dr. Francis Townsend.

MERCHANTS IN ANNUAL MEETING

Ladies Night to Be Observed by Retail Group; Chamber Commerce in Joint Meeting

The Boone Merchants Association and the Chamber of Commerce will gather in joint meeting Thursday evening, March 2, in the annual ladies' night event, it was determined at a meeting of the directors of the organizations, Friday.

The merchants will probably provide an outstanding speaker for the occasion, but the retailers will have little of business to transact at the meeting, while the Chamber of Commerce is to elect a new slate of officers and a board of directors for the ensuing year.

A special committee from the two organizations is working on plans for the banquet which will likely be at the Baptist church.

MISS HODGES TAKES COURSE IN WEAVING

Miss Floy O. Hodges is in her third week of a ten weeks' course in weaving and other handwork at the Watauga Handicrafts Center. Miss Hodges is a graduate of the State School for the Blind in Raleigh, which has an excellent industrial arts department. She is proficient in basket-making.

The Lions Club of Boone has made arrangements to let her take this course at the Watauga center, through Mrs. Inez Wall of the North Carolina Commission for the Blind.

DEACONS AND PREACHERS TO GATHER HERE MARCH 6

The monthly deacons' and preachers' meeting will be held at the Boone Baptist church Monday March 6, at 2 p. m., and Messrs Z. T. Greene and W. J. Cook have issued the following program for the day:

Devotion: Raymond Hendrix.

The Value of Forming Fields by D. M. Edmisten, (open discussion.)

What Can a Layman Do in Helping to Form Fields?, by S. C. Eggers, (open discussion.)

Exposition of the 23rd Psalm by Rev. J. C. Canipe.

31 BIRTHS REPORTED IN WATAUGA TOWNSHIP

There were 31 births and 13 deaths in Watauga township during 1938, according to Mr. Hard Thomas, who was in town the other day to file the vital statistics records for his community.

Miss Helen Underdown, register of deeds, to whom the blanks are returnable, asks that all those who have not made returns in this connection, do so at once.

At the present time, American automobile factories require only seven men to make one car a week, whereas, in the early days of the industry, 52 men were needed.

All Sections of County Represented as Drive is Made to Secure Passage of Greer Prohibition Measure; Four Speakers Are Heard in Public Finance Committee Hearing; Drays Are Encouraged by Reception

A delegation of about one hundred ministers, laymen, business men and farmers from every section of Watauga county, went to Raleigh Tuesday where it appeared before the house finance committee in an earnest appeal to the body to give a favorable report to Representative Roby T. Greer's bill to stop the legal sale of beer and wine in this county. The delegation is described as one of the largest and most aggressive to appear at any committee hearing during the present session of the assembly.

Wade E. Brown, young Boone attorney, was the spokesman for the delegation, which included nine Gospel ministers, and each member of which wore a white ribbon, with the bold inscription, "Watauga Dry."

In the absence of Chairman Fenner of Nash county, Representative W. Pat Kimzey of Transylvania, presided over the finance committee at the public hearing.

terian minister of Blowing Rock, long active in the fight for temperance in this section, told the committee that the sale of wine and beer in his resort town brought about a most unsatisfactory condition. He referred to the fact that the majority of the citizens of Blowing Rock were unalterably opposed to the legal traffic in intoxicants, and appealed to the legislature to help the cause of temperance by giving favorable action to Representative Greer's proposal.

Mr. Brown next introduced Clyde R. Greene, a business and civic leader of Boone, who has long been deeply interested in prohibitory measures relating to alcoholic beverages. Mr. Greene stated that the freedom-loving people of the Carolina mountains like to make their own decisions—to take a position and stand firmly by their convictions. From the early history of the county, he said, Wataugans had been against strong drink, and introduced figures to show that in 1908 his county had gone dry by more than 85 per cent of the vote cast, while in 1933, when abolition of the eighteenth amendment was sought, 81 per cent of the county's vote had been on the dry side. He made an earnest and impressive appeal to the committee to give a favorable report to the prohibition bill, and thus take the first step toward giving Watauga people the right to govern their county in line with the wishes of the vast majority of voters. Mr. Greene referred to the last campaign, in which he was the Republican candidate for the assembly. Both he and Mr. Greer pledged the voters their best efforts to rid the county of wine and beer, and the speaker declared the issue was non-political, that the overwhelming majority of all the people wanted the bill passed.

(Continued on page five)

ATTEND DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Eggers, Messdames Archie Qualls, D. L. Wilcox and L. T. Tatum were among those from Watauga county attending the district Sunday school meeting held in Lenoir Tuesday. Large delegations were present from the 15 counties in the district and a number of state Sunday school leaders appeared on the program.

RICHMOND COUNTY VOTES AGAINST LIQUOR STORES

Rockingham, Feb. 21.—The voters of Richmond county today rejected the proposal to establish legal whiskey stores. The majority against the ABC stores was 1,045, out of a total vote of 4,009. The vote was, Against, 2,527; for, 1,482. The 4,009 total vote compares with 7,121 cast in the Democratic primary last July, and 2,974 cast in the general election last November.