

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. LI, NO. 36

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1939

\$1.50 A YEAR

## SKETCHES from Capital LIFE

By JIM

WASHINGTON, D. C.—There's a bit of spring in the air these last few days. And spring brings joy and rhythmic words to a poet, but nothing more than a feeling of extreme laziness to the draftsman of this alleged column. . . a laziness which attaches to vagrant thoughts of a dark fishing hole back of the building willows. . . thought of small consequence in a capital city where paunchy politicians and patronizing females and cadaverous professors and statisticians and who-have-you-gather-and-fret-and-fuss-and-fume-and-try-to-do-something-about-the-economic-and-social-ailments-of-a-nation.



Jim Rivers

SO LET'S leave all the heavy stuff to the Brain Trust, and sort of wander round. . . just looking, and thinking. Women are sure doing their part of the smoking nowadays. Half the "ducks" along the walkway are tipped with the carmine of milady's lip rouge.

THE SQUIRRELS on the White House lawn get most of the peanuts and at Nick's newly-painted building almost white-oid patriarchy. . . the lower limb of that emerald must have seen at least three different tenants of the executive mansion. Wise looking fellow. Wonder what squirrels think about. . . except peanuts?

STRAIGHT AND TALL, clothing immaculate, eyes clear, every whisker in its place. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes of the supreme court is the embodiment in human form of law. Smart as a whip, too; but he lost the Presidency in 1916 because he didn't believe it necessary to fraternize with California's Hiram Johnson. Thus an ordinary snub, dishd up by the stately justice, probably changed the course of world history. But heading up the court's not a bad job, either.

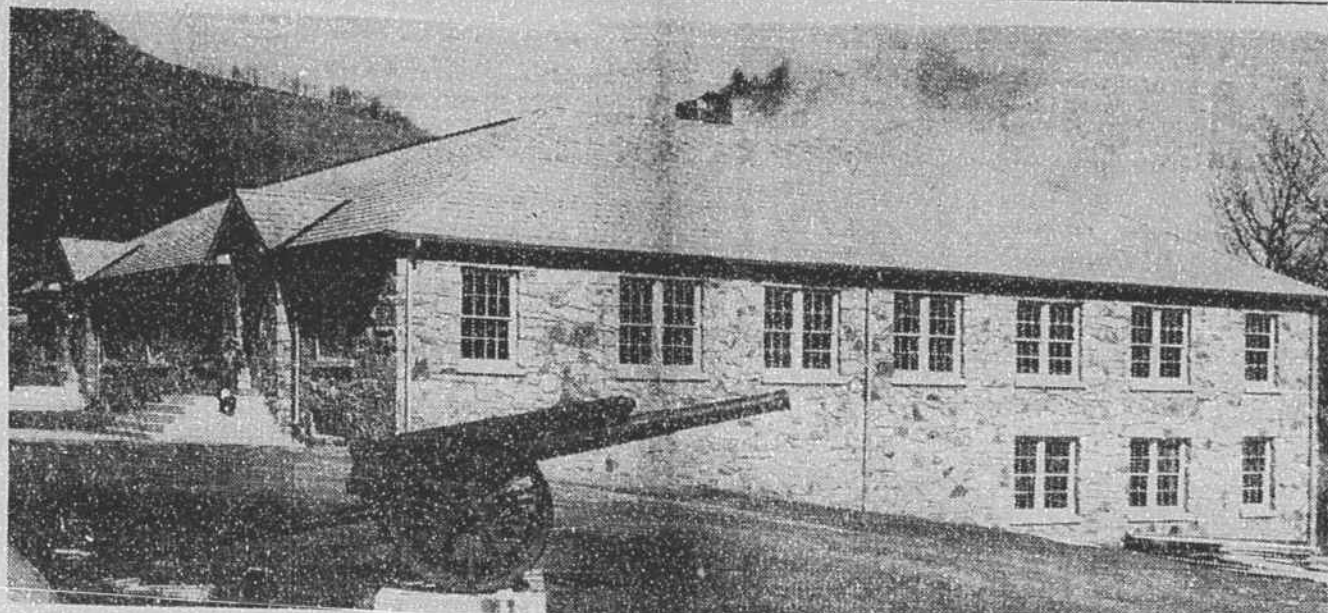
THE MELLON GALLERY of Art, fast taking shape, is a mighty imposing structure. Ten million dollars worth of house is a considerable house, anyway you look at it. Can't help but wonder whether 'twas Gulf Oil or American Aluminum or Medicinal Spirits or some other of Andrew's many enterprises that paid for those giant steel girders.

TAXI DRIVERS are a pretty sharp bunch, and they're almost as accommodating as barbers about dishing up news, and telling their "fares" what's likely to happen come next election. "It's about time these Democrats were getting a licking," said our cabman with a strong suspicion of finality, "but it won't be Vandenberg—he's a stuffed-shirt. I wouldn't be at all surprised if it ain't Tom Dewey or Senator Lodge."

WONDER WHAT BECAME of that house resolution which lodged in the senate last session. . . the one which proposed to appropriately attach the name of Congressman Robert L. Doughton to the Shenandoah-Smoky Mountains Parkway? Could it have been jealousy on the part of Virginia's Senator Byrd. . . or the plain cussedness of somebody else? Of course, Farmer Bob didn't exactly build the road by himself, but some pretty smart folks hereabout will tell you that, had it not been for his untiring fight, this beautiful project would today be in the junk heap with Passamaquoddy and the Florida ship canal.

COTTON ED SMITH, ebullient South Carolina senator, is one of the best cussers in congress. Speaking of the ever-present cotton problem at a public hearing, the peppery Palmetto petrel unwound a few passages that sounded a good deal like this: "It's time we started raising hell around here. We'll never get anything by pussyfooting. We sit around like a bunch of fools and let men write our laws who wouldn't know a stalk of cotton from a jimson weed or a cornstalk from a fishing pole. If a fool-killer ever comes around here there will never be a quorum in the senate or the house!" (Continued on page eight)

## NEWLY-OCCUPIED COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING



The new county office building, which was completed the last of the week and which is housing various departments of the county government. A banquet was held Thursday evening in connection with the dedicatory exercises. (Photo through courtesy of Winston-Salem Journal)

## MERCHANTS PLAN SPRING EVENTS

Treasure Hunt Again to Take Place During May; Trade in Boone Days Announced

The trade promotion committee of the Boone Merchants Association has decreed March 30-31 and April 1 as Trade-in-Boone days, during which period members of the association will make every effort to induce spring trade by offering uniformly low prices by every line of trade. . . At the same time, it is planned to hold Boone's second annual Treasure Hunt during May, at the termination of which many valuable prizes will be given away to shoppers in the city. The distribution of trade tickets will start April 15th, and the treasure hunt will end May 17. Detailed announcements concerning the event will appear soon in the Democrat.

## A. J. WELLBORN DIES AT AGE OF 73

Prominent Citizen of Stony Fork Township Succumbs to Pneumonia; Rites Tuesday

Deep Gap, March 15.—Funeral services were conducted from the Stony Fork Baptist church Tuesday at 11 o'clock for A. J. Wellborn, who died at the Watauga Hospital Sunday night from an illness with pneumonia. Rev. W. C. Payne assisted the pastor, Rev. Vilas Minton, in the rites. Interment was in the nearby cemetery, a brief service being conducted at the graveside. Mr. Wellborn was born January 30, 1866, and died March 16, 1939, aged 73 years. He was married to Miss Betty Triplett April 4, 1891. He joined the Stony Fork Baptist church at an early age where he remained a faithful member until death. He had a host of relatives and friends to mourn his passing. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. L. H. Greene, Deep Gap; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Three sisters, Mrs. Larkin Watson, Mrs. Bessie Brown and Mrs. Mary Glenn, also survive. There are two brothers, Messrs. A. E. Wellborn and D. L. Wellborn, of this county.

## Committee Approves Cotton Guarantee

Washington, March 15 (Special)—The senate agriculture committee Friday unanimously approved a bill guaranteeing cotton producers 12 cents per pound on their 1939 crop in a plan to increase southern income and reduce the 12,000,000-bale carry-over from other years. The measure was drafted by Chairman Ellison D. Smith.

Smith says the bill authorizes cotton farmers to make withdrawals from the 12,000,000-bale surplus, on which the agriculture department has been making loans, in lieu of planting cotton for the 1939 season. His contention is that acreage control, plus diminution of the loan stocks, will bolster prices and eliminate necessity for exorbitant subsidy payments.

Another provision would permit the farmer to withdraw loan cotton for sale on the market when the price is sufficient to pay off the full government loan, plus handling and interest charges.

## PRISON ESCAPEE IS HELD HERE

Man Captured by Roy Keplar Has Criminal Record With Federal Bureau

Sam Clark, about 27 years old, who has been traveling under various aliases, is a prisoner in the county jail, where he was lodged a few days ago on a charge of attempted larceny of an automobile, the property of Mr. Roy Keplar of Boone. Through the efforts of Mr. E. A. Russell, local agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it is found that Clark has a long record of crime with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is wanted by the board of paroles in the state of Iowa to complete a ten-year term for breaking and entering; escaped last June from a North Carolina chaingang, where he had served less than two weeks of a four months sentence for larceny, and has a total record of ten arrests. Most of these are for burglary and thefts of various kinds. Local officers are awaiting word from the Iowa officials before taking further action.

Clark was apprehended by Mr. Keplar when he accidentally blew the horn of the Keplar car, parked near the residence, as he is thought to have been attempting its theft. Mr. Keplar fired at him as he fled, caught him and held him in his residence while Mr. Keplar telephoned the police.

## Funeral Services Are Held for Mrs. Vandyke

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from the Three Forks Baptist church for Miss Ada Cornelia Vandyke, who passed away Saturday afternoon. "Aunt Nelia," as the deceased was familiarly known, had been a partial invalid for 45 years. She joined the Three Forks church at the age of 12 years and always attended church and Sunday school as long as she was able. Her life of patience and loving kindness was an inspiration to all her many friends.

Pallbearers were R. L. Bingham, A. J. Edmisten, Dempsey Wilcox, Chas. Wilcox, Cliff McCounell, Len Storie and Floyd Hagaman. Flower bearers were members of the T. E. L. and Fidelis classes of the Boone Baptist church.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Alice Brown and Mrs. T. Len Cooke of Boone; Mr. W. T. Vandyke of Blowing Rock. Several nieces also survive.

## Blowing Rock Bill Passed By Senate

Raleigh, March 13.—The senate has passed and ordered enrolled for ratification Representative Roby Greer's bill to enable the town of Blowing Rock to regulate seasonal businesses. Mr. Greer's bill permits the town to license, tax and regulate operation of seasonal businesses between April 1 and November 1, and to adopt ordinances providing appropriate fines and penalties for enforcement.

## TWO-HEADED LAMB

A ewe on the farm of Mrs. Francis Miller of Howard's Creek, recently gave birth to a lamb with two heads. The animal died, but the heads were each complete, each being of normal size, and of usual proportions.

## U. D. C. Leader



Mrs. J. M. Moretz of Boone, district director, who is to preside over meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to be held here Tuesday.

## DISTRICT U. D. C. MEETING TUESDAY

Ten Counties to Be Represented at Gathering; State U. D. C. President to Speak

District meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy is to be held at the Methodist church in Boone Tuesday, March 21, at 10:30 o'clock, with Mrs. Ethel Harris Fisher, the state president of the organization delivering the principal address. Mrs. J. M. Moretz of Boone, district director, will preside over the gathering, which will consist of delegates from Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga, Wilkes, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

At the close of the program, to which the general public is invited, a club luncheon is to be served in the church basement by the ladies of the Women's Missionary Society.

The complete program for the gathering follows:

Piano prelude—Mr. J. T. Roberts. Invocation—Rev. Paul Townsend. Southern Songs—Mrs. D. J. White.

Address of welcome—Miss Eula Todd.

Response.

Reading: The New South (Grady)—Mrs. Edgar Cooke.

Violin Solo—Miss Natalie Purdom.

President's address—Mrs. Fisher.

Luncheon.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

A Saint Patrick Day's party will be given in the basement of the Boone Methodist church Thursday night at 7:30, sponsored by the senior group of the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary. Children who attend the Sunday school classes meeting in the basement will be charged 10 cents admission, others 15 cents. Come in Irish costume or wearing something of the green.

Miss Maisie Jean Jones, who teaches in Iredell county, visited with her mother, Mrs. J. W. Jones, over the week-end.

## BEAUTIFICATION OF CITY SOUGHT

Mayor Says Shrubbery Again to Be Furnished at Low Cost to Residents of Boone

Mayor W. H. Gragg states he is particularly anxious that the people of the town get together this spring in a campaign to make the city the most beautiful to be found in the mountains. He is anxious that as many people as possible plan some shrubbery and flowering plants this year, and lend a hand in making the town attractive to tourists and business men.

Mr. Gragg has arranged to get a large number of native shrubs at about half the nursery cost, and is anxious to distribute these without profit to those who want them. Special orders for evergreens and flowering plants can be made through the town at the lowest prices.

## Funeral Held For Stephen Holtzclaw

Stephen L. Holtzclaw, aged 71 years, died at the residence in the Brushy Fork locality last Friday, after a long period of impaired health. Funeral services were conducted from Oak Grove Baptist church Sunday afternoon, Rev. J. C. Canipe occupying the pulpit, and interment was in the Hine cemetery.

The widow, who was formerly Mrs. Lita Norris, survives, together with one daughter, Mrs. R. L. Hayes of Vilas. A brother, Mr. M. E. Holtzclaw, resides in Boone.

Deceased was a son of the late Wesley and Mrs. Holtzclaw of Ashe county, and spent the greater part of his life in Watauga where he was always held in high regard, and where he was known as an upright citizen. He was a painter and paper hanger by trade, and was well known throughout this entire area.

## Political Activities of WPA Being Curtailed

Washington, March 15 (Special)—Drastic curtailment of political activities of WPA employees was announced by Col. F. C. Harrington, WPA administrator, Friday, soon after he had stated "serious reductions" in relief rolls will be necessary unless congress votes an additional \$150,000,000 appropriation before the end of the month.

Colonel Harrington's statement envisaged a slash in WPA employment from 3,000,000 to 2,000,000 if congress persists in its refusal to allot WPA the full sum demanded by the President.

Sources close to the President indicate that FDR will make renewed presentations to the congress this week.

## COVE CREEK FATHER-SON BANQUET HELD FRIDAY

The annual father and son banquet of Cove Creek high school's class of vocational agriculture was held at the school Friday evening. Clarence Berry, president, acted as toastmaster. Talks were made by Sam F. Horton, principal of the school; H. M. Hamilton, farm agent for Watauga county, and Roy Ellison, Lawrence Spavin and Harold Lertwich, members of the faculty. Music was furnished by Hard Thomas, Wheeler and Dick Farthing.

## MANY TAKE PART IN DEDICATION OF CO. BUILDING

County and City Officials, WPA Leaders and Other Prominent Citizens Participate at Official Opening of Elegant Structure; Banquet is Served

A large number of the leading citizens of the county, and surrounding area were present last Thursday evening for dedicatory exercises in connection with the opening of the new \$35,000 county office building, which was constructed by the joint use of county and WPA funds. A banquet was served in connection with the program. W. R. Lovill was master of ceremonies.

Mr. C. M. Crutchfield, area WPA supervisor, introduced Mr. Swartz of the state WPA office, who made the principal address. He referred to the fact that Watauga county had been a good sponsor for WPA projects, leading the state in percentage of contributions.

Mrs. Clara Simpson spoke of the part NYA had played in the construction of the building while brief talks were made by Mayor W. H. Gragg, Commissioners Coy Billings and Ira Edmisten; Clyde Perry, member of the education board; Jim Council, state highway engineer; S. F. Horton of Cove Creek school; C. M. Dickson of Bethel school; Harry Hamilton, county agent; Marguerite Miller, superintendent of welfare, Dr. R. R. King, head of the health department.

Howard Walker, county superintendent of schools, spoke of the methods used in the construction of the building, the cost and its uses. The building, he said, was constructed entirely by WPA and NYA, except for the

factured the rough number. The value of the building is from \$35,000 to \$40,000, but it cost the county less than one-third of this amount. The state school commission helped generously in building the bus garage.

The following agencies moved into the new building Saturday. District health department; welfare department, home demonstration agent, county agent; WPA and county superintendent of schools. The basement is already occupied by the school bus garage.

## Mrs. Martha Brown Dies at Laxon Home

Mrs. Martha Norris Brown, aged 78 years, resident of the Laxon neighborhood, died at the home Sunday after having been ill for some time.

Funeral services were conducted from the Laurel Springs Baptist church Tuesday at 2 o'clock, Revs. W. O. Greene, Levi Greene and W. J. Cook taking part in the rites, and interment was in the cemetery near the church.

Mrs. Brown was one of the oldest ladies of her community, where she was widely known, and where her death brings general sorrow.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters, Arlie Brown, Laxon; N. C. Brown, Dillsboro; K. W. Brown, Boone; Mrs. Ira Brown, Boone, and Mrs. Fred McNeil, Ridley Park, Pa.

## Figures on Local County Home Given

Out of the total of \$713,224 spent by 85 North Carolina counties in the fiscal year 1938 for care of indigent and aged in almshouses, Watauga county had a monthly per capita cost of \$8.50 in taking care of an average daily population of 16, according to figures of a survey by the division of institutions and corrections of the state board of charities and public welfare.

Average annual per capita cost in the 85 county homes came to \$213.54 or \$17.76 a month exclusive of expenditures for permanent improvements, while the average daily population for the 85 homes collectively was 35 inmates.

## M'Ginnis To Succeed Coan as Head of WPA

Information coming at noon Wednesday from the office of Senator Robert R. Reynolds, indicates that Charles C. McGinnis has been named to succeed George W. Coan, Jr., as state administrator for the Works Progress Administration. Mr. Coan's resignation is effective as of April 1. Mr. McGinnis has previously been assistant administrator and the vacated position lay between he and Fred Cohn, the publicity director.