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The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, June 27.—Although the interiors of the Capitol and the White House are air-conditioned, as are also the sumptuous offices of senators and representatives, the temperature of out-door Washington has been running well above 90 degrees by the official weather bureau thermometer, and over 100 at street level, for several weeks. And there, fellow citizens, you have one of the real reasons, if not the most forceful, for the sudden spurt of law-making activity on Capitol Hill.

The boys want to go home, and the President wants them to go home. However, they have been loafing on the job so long that it doesn't seem likely that they can get through before the middle of July with the things that have to be done, and there's a good chance that it will be some time in August before they get away.

There is ground to expect long-drawn-out battle in the senate on a vitally important piece of legislation, the revision of the neutrality laws.

The house of representatives is practically "sold" on the administration's neutrality proposals, drafted by Secretary Hull. In the senate, however, there is a block of at least 20 senators who have united to fight the Hull proposals to the bitter end, and it may turn out to be the battle of the session, dragging the proceedings along toward September.

Chinese Problem Analyzed
On Capitol Hill much less attention is given to possible entanglement in a European war than to the situation in China. The fear of doing something which might help Japan is a powerful motive for the opposition to any program which would permit that nation to buy war supplies to be used against the Chinese. The Hull plan, its opponents declare, would do just that, since Japan (Continued on page eight)

Sinclair Oil Station Will Open on Fourth

The new Sinclair oil station, on the original W. L. Bryan main street frontage, which was completed last week by the Farmers Hardware and Supply Co., at a cost of several thousand dollars, will be opened on July 4th, according to an announcement made today.

Mr. Douglas Redmond has leased the property from the Sinclair people and Mr. Stewart Winkler, local man, will be actually in charge of the station.

Special inducements are being made to the motorists on the opening week, and a complete automobile service is promised. The building is one of the finest in this entire area, being constructed of brick with white painted stucco, and contains all the appliances to be found in any modern servicing plant. Sinclair oil products will be handled exclusively.

BANNER ELK POLICE CHIEF ROBBED OF \$219

Banner Elk, June 24.—Roy Chappell, police chief of Banner Elk, said today that he was held up last night by two masked bandits and robbed of \$214 in bills and \$5 in change.

Chappell said the holdup occurred about 9:30 at the driveway going up to his house. He had closed up the filling station in which he works and taken the money home with him but found a log across the driveway. When he got out to move the log two men, who had apparently been hiding nearby, stuck guns in his back and ordered him to hand over the money.

The men, he said, made their escape in a car driven by an accomplice. Mr. Chappell was of the opinion that the crime was committed by a local person with outside aid, but he had no proof as yet.

WORTH WHILE CLUB IS MAKING DRIVE FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Worth While Club is preparing to make a drive for new members. Plans are being made to organize four active clubs within this one federated club. Mrs. John Conway, president, states that this is an active club in which all women of Boone should be interested. The club is planning an open house meeting to be held at the Legion hut on July 7, to which all ladies of Boone are cordially invited. At this meeting a well-planned musical program has been arranged. Further details of the meeting and the program will be given in next week's issue of the Democrat.

BUSINESS ACTIVE AT BLOWING ROCK

Resort Property is in Great Demand This Season as Tourists Flock to Rock

Mr. C. S. Prevette, who for the past twenty years has been engaged in the real estate business at Blowing Rock, tells the Democrat that business is better in the resort town than at any similar period of the season since the early twenties. Mr. Prevette reports an increased business in both rentals and sales, and has only recently disposed of three homes to summer residents.

Mr. Prevette says that when the crest of the tourist season is reached in July that a record-breaking volume of visitors is in prospect.

Mayor G. C. Robbins, who has created a beauty spot out at the Rock itself, is also most optimistic over the outlook, and states that far more people are coming to the mountain top than during June of last year. Scores of people who had formerly visited the state's beaches are now turning to the hills, says Mr. Robbins, who believes that Blowing Rock is entering upon a banner season.

FARM PROGRAM IN MARKED PROGRESS

Watauga Farmers Showing Increased Interest Yearly in Soil Building Practices

The agricultural conservation program has made a great deal of progress in Watauga county during the past three years, reports Harry Hamilton and George Warthig, county agents.

Farmers throughout the county have been showing an ever increasing interest in soil building practices, such as the use of lime, phosphate, legumes and green manure crops on their farms. Last year farmers owning 68.4 per cent of all cropland in the county co-operated with the program as compared with 62.7 per cent in 1937 and 43 per cent in 1936. These farmers who co-operated with the program earned an average of 82.3 per cent of their maximum soil building payments in 1938, as compared with 74.9 per cent in 1937 and 71.1 per cent in 1936.

These soil building payments were earned largely by the use of ground limestone, superphosphate, 16 per cent phosphate, and by plowing under green manure crops as well as seeding approved legumes and grasses.

The soil building practices which have shown the largest increase during the last three years are the use of limestone, phosphate and green manure crops, say the county agents. Applications of ground limestone totaled 3,668 tons in 1936, 6,066 tons in 1937, and 6,416 tons in 1938. Applications of 16 per cent phosphate totaled 43.9 tons in 1936, 378.3 tons in 1937, and 671.1 tons in 1938. The amount of triple superphosphate used is as follows: 59.5 tons in 1937 and 127.7 tons in 1938. The number of acres of green manure crops turned under the last three years are as follows: 209 acres in 1936, 283 acres in 1937, and 430 acres in 1938. Prior to 1938 the acreage seeded in winter legumes, consisting chiefly of crimson clover, was negligible, however, last year a total of 224 acres of crimson clover were seeded for winter cover as well as green manure. The number of acres seeded in legumes and grasses for meadow or pasture during the last three years has remained approximately the same.

Present indications are that 1939 will be a banner year for progress of the agricultural conservation program in Watauga county. Last year 1,022 farmers, or approximately 40 per cent of all farmers in the county, co-operated with the program as compared with 1,700 farmers, or approximately 65 per cent who are co-operating with the program to date this year. This represents an increase of 66.3 per cent to date in number of farmers co-operating with this year's program as compared with the number of co-operators last year.

Applications of ground limestone to date total approximately 15,000 tons as compared with 6,416 tons last year, while the total amount of triple superphosphate used, or applied for to date, is 325 tons as compared with 127.7 tons last year.

It seems, the agents conclude, that the farmers of the county are realizing more and more that two of the basic stepping stones toward better farming are lime and phosphate.

Today, the birth rate of England and Wales is less than 15 per 1,000 of the population, as compared to 25 per 1,000 in 1911.

Stores to Close On July Fourth

In accordance with long established custom and the bylaws of the Boone Merchants Association, the various stores and business houses of the city will observe a complete holiday on next Tuesday in celebration of the Fourth of July. The only places to remain open in the city on that day will be service stations, drug stores and cafes. Service will be suspended at the bank, postoffice, city hall and courthouse.

Patrons of Boone business establishments are asked to visit Boone on Monday and make their purchases so that no inconvenience will result from the observance of the holiday.

POSTOFFICE WILL BE COMPLETED 8TH

Contractors Rush Work as Finishing Touches Are Being Put On Federal Building

A large force of carpenters, painters and other mechanics is working overtime in putting the finishing touches on the new federal building for Boone, and Construction Superintendent Brown tells the Democrat that, barring unforeseen delays, the building will be finished by July 8.

The postoffice is of native stone and is one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture and workmanship to be found in the state. The trim is painted in a light buff. The spacious lawns have already been seeded and concrete walkways and steps have been completed.

The interior will be beautifully appointed. The floor is terrazo marble chips, Watson of Tennessee Tavernele Clair, with base of dark cedar marble. New fixtures are to be installed throughout.

At the dedicatory ceremonies, tentative plans call for the attendance of Postmaster James A. Farley, but it is not definitely known whether or not he will be able to attend.

Watauga Fair To Be Held In September

The ninth annual agricultural fair for Watauga county will be held in the Cove Creek high school buildings at Sugar Grove September 28, 29 and 30, according to an announcement made by Ernest Hilliard, one secretary, who states that the Bullock Amusement Company will again furnish the midway attractions.

Each farmer of the county is being urged to make exhibits and help make the fair a successful one. Now is the time to begin preparing the exhibits, says Mr. Hilliard.

The exhibits will be under similar classifications as formerly.

COTTAGES AND ROOMS ARE SOUGHT BY MANY

Wade E. Brown, secretary of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, states that many inquiries are reaching his office concerning cottages, rooms and boarding houses in this vicinity.

Mr. Brown asks all those having houses and rooms for rent to let him know of the accommodations offered, so that he may pass on the information to those interested.

LOCAL BLIND GIRL FINDS PLACE IN LIFE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF MANY CRAFTS

By RUBY ELLIS
Miss Floy Hodges, blind craft artist and weaver, has found her place in life.

Through a determined and persistent effort she has learned an interesting and gainful occupation, and she is being helped to carry on this work through the patient assistance given her by Miss Elizabeth M. Lord, director of the Watauga Industries. She weavers rugs, mats, coverlets, baskets and other useful articles and sells them through the help of Miss Lord.

Miss Hodges has been totally blind since she was four and partially blind from her birth. She was born in Ashe county and later moved to Bamboo, about three miles out of Boone.

Until she was 18 years old she could neither read nor write. Realizing how handicapped she would be without training, her parents sent her to the State School for the Blind in Raleigh.

There she learned the Braille system and to write words and sentences in ordinary penmanship, so

CITY AUTO TAGS MUST BE BOUGHT

New Ordinance Requires Registration of Motor Vehicles in the Town of Boone

At a meeting of the city council last Thursday evening an ordinance was passed, under the provisions of which automobile owners within the corporate limits of the town of Boone will be required to register their vehicles at the city hall and receive from the proper official a town license plate.

Licenses, under the ordinance, must be secured on or before July 15 at a cost of \$1.00, and will expire December 31, at which time plates for the entire year of 1940 will be issued. Five hundred plates have been purchased.

All persons failing to display license plates in accordance with the terms of the ordinance, shall be guilty of a violation of same and punished as provided by law.

The act does not apply to persons, firms or corporations operating motor vehicles for hire who do not have their home office or headquarters in Boone.

716 ENROLLED AT APPALACHIAN

Eleven States Are Represented on Local College Campus, Survey of Registrar Reveals

Seven hundred and sixteen students from North Carolina and 11 other states are in attendance at the first summer term of Appalachian College, according to figures issued from the registrar's office by Prof. J. M. Lowman.

According to the survey 319 students are present from 73 North Carolina counties, while 97 come from ten other states. There are 562 women and 154 men enrolled.

The term closes on July 15, while the second semester opens July 18, closing August 25.

Annual Merchants Meeting On July 10

The annual meeting of the Boone Merchants Association and their employees will be held at the Baptist church at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, July 10, according to an announcement made by Mrs. Ruby Ellis, secretary of the organization, at which time new officers will be elected, and an address delivered by Mr. Willard L. Dowell, secretary of the state merchants association.

A banquet will be served to the business men and their employees and reports of the secretary-treasurer, etc., will be heard.

Postal Employees to Gather in Raleigh

The joint convention of postal employees of North and South Carolina will be held in Raleigh on July 3 and 4, and predictions are that the gathering will be the largest and one of the most entertaining thus far held in the southeastern states. Many distinguished visitors and departmental officials will appear on the program, and a big time is promised all who attend.

Messrs. Wilson Norris and Tom Moore of the local postoffice, expect to attend the convention.

Local Tobacco Warehouse Proposal Gains Favor At Meeting Of Business Men

NEW POSTOFFICE TO CONTAIN MURAL

Treasury Department Announces Competition for One Painting for Each State of Union

The section of fine arts, the procurement division, United States treasury, has announced a competition for a mural painting in each of the forty-eight states of the union, and information given the local news, paper by the department indicates that the mural for North Carolina will be placed in the Boone postoffice, which is now in process of completion.

The mural is to be 11 feet, 8 inches wide and 4 feet, 6 inches in height and will be located on the end wall of the public lobby over the postmaster's door, and artists from every state in the union are expected to submit designs in an effort to "procure the finest living art for permanent decoration of public buildings." No limit has been set on the number of designs an artist may wish to submit, and 48 commissions will be given out as a result of the anonymous competitions.

"This procedure," according to a treasury department bulletin, "serves to make the public in every section of the country an active patron of the best art that America affords. It continues the policy of the section of fine arts in selecting artists to decorate federal buildings throughout the country on the sole basis of quality determined through anonymous competition."

Any artist may compete for either of the 48 postoffices, depending on his knowledge and interest in the region in which the building is located. The subject matter for the mural will likely be of local significance.

Designs entered in the all-state anonymous competition will be forwarded to Washington by October 2, 1939, and will be judged by a jury of distinguished painters.

Alleghany To Get Electricity Today

The first of Alleghany county's REA lines are to be energized today, when the directors and a large number of citizens of Alleghany, Watauga and Ashe counties will gather at the home of Congressman Doughton at Laurel Springs to participate in appropriate ceremonies as the switch is thrown which will bring electrical energy to the firesides of hundreds of people in that mountain county.

Congressman Doughton's home will be the first structure in the county to be lighted, and the gathering will commemorate the veteran congressman's outstanding achievement in bringing electrical service to the people of Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Caldwell. A number of Boone people are attending.

NOTED FARM AUTHORITY TO APPEAR IN WATAUGA

Dr. T. B. Hutcheson, agronomist at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., has accepted an invitation tendered by the local county agents to deliver an address to Watauga county farmers in Boone on August 1, and a definite hour and place for the county-wide farm meeting planned for that date, will be announced later.

Dr. Hutcheson is a nationally-known authority on agricultural practices, and is an associate editor of the Progressive Farmer. His address will be of immense value to local farmers who are expected to gather in large number, and at the same time they may ask Dr. Hutcheson any question they may wish along agricultural lines.

REV. ISBELL TO LECTURE

Rev. R. L. Isbell of Lenoir, will lecture in the Shulls Mills Baptist church on his travels through the Holy Land Sunday, July 2, at 8 o'clock p. m. The public is cordially invited.

Attorney J. E. Holzhouser attended the convention of the State Bar Association at Wrightsville Beach last week.

Messrs. W. H. Gragg, Grady Farthing and C. M. Critcher are attending the convention of the North Carolina Building & Loan League at Wrightsville Beach this week.

Tennessee Leaders Pledge Active Support to Boone Burley Market at Enthusiastic Meeting of Local Chamber of Commerce; Survey Among Farmers Continues; Night Depository at Bank is Urged

Prospects for the establishment of a burley tobacco market in Boone within the next few weeks, grew brighter Tuesday evening, when representatives of practically every business house in the city gathered at the Chamber of Commerce meeting and heard the reports of the local county farm agents who have been making a survey of Watauga and surrounding counties, seeking to determine whether or not sufficient poundage of burley can be assembled in Boone to warrant tobacco manufacturers in sending buyers here.

Tennesseans Present

The high spot of the meeting came with the remarks of W. B. Mount, leading stockman and farmer of Shoups, Tenn., and Mr. Jack Shoun, also a Johnson county cattlemen and tobacco dealer, who are intensely interested in the movement to establish the warehouse here. Mr. Shoun, who has been assisting in making the survey in Johnson county, stated that more than 80 growers, representing about 125 acres of the weed, have pledged themselves to sell their tobacco in Boone, provided the price here will be as good or better than elsewhere. Mr. Shoun stated that not a single Johnson county grower had refused to co-operate in the movement.

Mr. Mount brought forth the suggestion that a stock company be formed and that two, rather than one warehouse be constructed. One of the structures could be used for storage, while sales are being conducted in the other, and farmers could readily unload their tobacco, without the necessity of waiting around for a period of days until the floor space was made available.

Mr. Mount stated that the people of Johnson county are overwhelmingly in favor of the Boone warehouse and that in his county it would be possible to raise the funds for the construction of two or three warehouses, as for that, but expressed the belief that for the proposition to be most successful, stock should be subscribed by farmers and business men in each of the four counties which will be depended upon to supply the bulk of the product.

Hamilton Reports Progress

Marry M. Hamilton, county agent, who heads the Chamber of Commerce committee on the warehouse proposal, reported splendid progress in his survey of the probable amount of the weed which could be brought to Boone in the event the warehouse is established. When this information is assembled it will be submitted to the tobacco manufacturers as a basis for their sending buyers here. Two million pounds is the amount which is suggested as a minimum.

Cards Should Be Returned

Mr. Hamilton states that many Watauga farmers have failed to return their cards in this connection and asks that this be attended to at once. He reports splendid interest in the proposal among Ashe county farmers, while he is promised practically 100 per cent co-operation in Alleghany.

Mayor W. R. Lovell spoke briefly to the gathering, as did several others.

Wade E. Brown, secretary of the chamber, reported the receipt of numerous inquiries from warehousemen who were interested in the construction or operation of the local buildings.

It is hoped to have the warehouse built in time for the tobacco market this fall.

Night Depository

President Wilcox named a committee composed of the secretaries of the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association and the Lions Club to confer with officials of the Northwestern Bank in regard to the establishment of a night depository at the local branch.

Before the conclusion of the meeting about \$85.00 in Chamber of Commerce membership fees were collected.