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\$1.50 A YEAR

Runs For Congress



Walter H. Woodson, Sr., Salisbury attorney, long prominent in the affairs of the Democratic party in the state, announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to congress in the ninth district, following the decision of Representative R. L. Doughton to retire from congress at the end of his present term. The only other candidate in the field as this is written is Jim Rivers of Boone, who announced his intentions several weeks ago.

DOUGHTON MAY DECIDE TO STAY

Washington Information Indicates Veteran Solon May Yield to Demands of Friends

Washington, Jan. 23.—Indications were today that Representative R. L. Doughton might yield to the demands that are being made by constituents for him to reconsider his position and again become a candidate for congress.

Mr. Doughton was today in receipt of more than 100 telegrams from Democrats of the ninth North Carolina district urging him to reconsider the decision. He announced last week that he would retire from congress at the end of his present term.

Among these was a letter from Walter Woodson of Salisbury, who had announced that he would be a candidate for congress. His announcement was based on that of Mr. Doughton. In his letter Mr. Woodson said that under no circumstances would he be a candidate for congress and advised Mr. Doughton to reconsider his decision and run in the next election to succeed himself.

A large delegation was due to arrive in Washington tomorrow from various parts of the ninth district to ask Mr. Doughton to reconsider and become a candidate, but the veteran congressman has asked them to defer their visit to Washington until he can give the situation careful consideration.

Mr. Doughton announced a week ago that he would retire because he was anxious to look after his personal business properties in Laurel Springs.

Parkway Contract Is Let To Nello Teer

Contract for the construction of the link of Parkway between Deep Gap and Blowing Rock has been let to Nello Teer Construction Company, it is learned, and work was to have started on the 15th. Due to the rigorous winter weather, however, nothing will likely be done until after the first of the month.

County Schools Closing Due To Weather, Illness

The eight consolidated schools of the county are closing today (Wednesday) for the remainder of the week, due to the heavy snow, which has rendered highway travel perilous and because of considerable influenza in the county. A combination of these circumstances brought the attendance down to a very small percentage of the enrollment.

The schools closing are Boone high and demonstration, Valle, Crucis, Bethel, Mabel, Cove Creek, Green Valley and Deep Gap. These will reopen Monday, with the exception of Boone, which opens Tuesday. Small rural schools are given the authority by County Superintendent Walker to either close or remain open as they see fit.

Prof. John Howell, principal of the Boone demonstration school, said only a handful of students came Wednesday but that the classes would be conducted during the day.

Mr. Walker asks students to take good care of their health during the period in which the schools are closed so that they will be able to return when classes are resumed.

MRS. WM. J. ELLER DIES SUDDENLY AT SUGAR GROVE HOME

Well-known Teacher Succumbs After Taking Strychnine Tablets by Mistake; Coroner Kelley Investigates Fatal Accident; Funeral Services to Be Held Thursday

Mrs. William J. Eller of Sugar Grove, a teacher in Bethel consolidated school, died early Tuesday evening one hour after she had taken strychnine tablets which she had thought to be a cold remedy.

Coroner Richard E. Kelley made an investigation of the fatal accident and stated today (Wednesday) that the well-known teacher had returned from her school duties in the early afternoon suffering from a headache and other indications of influenza. A member of the household took from a medicine cabinet a bottle of strychnine tablets, believed to have been quinine, and Mrs. Eller swallowed three of the pellets. The mistake was discovered after the victim had suffered a convulsion. Medical aid was summoned as quickly as possible, but death occurred before the doctor arrived.

Mrs. Eller prior to marriage was Miss Mary Austin, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Austin of the Winkler's Creek community near Boone. She was a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College and had been a teacher in Watauga county schools for the past several years.

Survivors include the husband, the parents and the following brothers and sisters, all of whom reside in the vicinity of Boone: James, Frank, Samuel, Henry, Jack and Mack Austin; Mrs. Fred Oxentine, Misses Bessie and Nora Austin.

Funeral services under the auspices of Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, will be held at Cove Creek Baptist church on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. C. Canipe, pastor of Boone Baptist church, will be in charge of the rites. Burial will take place at the Winkler cemetery, just east of this city.

Mrs. Eller's splendid knowledge of primary educational theories and her fine personality had made her one of the county's most popular teachers. As a member of the Forest Grove Baptist church she had also taken an active part in the religious affairs of her community. She was 27 years of age.

OFFICER SEIZES WHISKEY CARGO

Fourteen Cases of Liquor Taken as Gastonia Man is Apprehended Here

Police Chief Edward Mast seized fourteen cases of tax-paid liquor Monday afternoon, and George Horne of Gastonia, one of the occupants of the Ford coupe, which was carrying the illicit liquid, was placed in jail.

Officer Mast noted the car passing through the business section of the town, and his suspicion was aroused. He succeeded in stopping the machine near the Baptist church, where one of the occupants of the vehicle made his escape, and Horne taken into custody. He was carrying a revolver at the time and the weapon together with the nearly new automobile are being held.

Horne, the officer states, carried a bill of lading on the whiskey, showing seventeen cases, three evidently having been disposed of here or at some other point along the way.

At noon Tuesday Horne had not arranged bail.

On Tuesday night Chief Mast seized a Ford car containing twenty-five gallons of blockade corn on the Main Street of Boone. While the officer was making the search of the vehicle the two occupants, identified as Dallas Stansberry and one Woodring, of Butler, Tenn., made their escape. Sheriff A. J. Edmisten and two deputies tracked the fleeing men for some distance in the heavy snow, but failed to make an arrest.

AUTO BODY SHOP TO BE HOUSED IN NEW BUILDING

Ernest Simms, owner and operator of the Boone Body Shop, Friday purchased the Ralph Winkler property on King street in which his business has been housed for the past several years. The price paid for the lot, former site of Boone M. E. church, was not made known.

Mr. Simms stated Tuesday that by early spring he will begin construction of a modern brick building, 34x70 feet, which will be occupied by the body repair shop. He expects to add several new pieces of equipment when the work is completed.

The frame building adjacent to the Boone Body shop, owned by Watauga Building and Loan Association and occupied for the past 10 years by the Christian Tin and Metal Works, will probably be razed next spring, and tentative plans indicate that a new brick building will be built on the site.

Cites His Views



Jim Rivers of Boone, who on Friday announced some of his views on issues which he deems important to the nation, as a preliminary to an active campaign for the Democratic nomination for congress from this district. Rivers made his original pronouncement several weeks ago.

JIM RIVERS GIVES VIEWS ON ISSUES FACING NATION

Boone's Candidate for Ninth District Congressional Seat Makes First Pronouncement on Issues; Says Views Will Be Elaborated in Coming Weeks

Jim Rivers, member of The Democrat staff, and the first candidate to announce his ambitions to fill the ninth district congressional seat, on last Friday gave to the press a statement outlining some of the issues on which he will wage his campaign for the office which is to be vacated next January by veteran Representative Robert L. Doughton. The statement which Rivers said included "the sincere proposals of an earnest, non-revolutionary candidate," follows:

"This is the first time in my life that I've been for myself in a political race. I feel like a country lad standing naked in early spring at the edge of the old swimming hole, trying to muster sufficient courage to dive headlong into the icy waters. Not unlike the rustic nudist, I have gingerly sampled the frigid pool with an extended toe. It doesn't seem to help a bit. So, clamping my teeth closely together, I immerse myself in the untempered. (Continued on Page Eight)

Tour of Mayors To Florida Arranged

Mayor Grover C. Robbins of Blowing Rock, was a visitor to Asheville Friday, where he attended a meeting of mayors and other officials from Piedmont and Western North Carolina, who are laying plans for a tour of Florida, along about the 12th of February, the purpose being to interest tourists in that state in stopping in this area on their return north at the end of the southern resort season.

The Queen City Coach Company has tendered the use of two or three buses, as necessary, to carry the visitors to the sunshine state, and the trip will take about ten days. The governor has been invited to go, together with Grady Cole, radio commentator, representatives of press services and others. Pathe News will also take a photographer on the trip.

Mr. Robbins is expecting to attend one or more persons may go from Boone.

ANCIENT LETTER RECALLS FREEING OF SLAVES PRIOR TO EMANCIPATION

A yellowed scrap of note paper indented with a few well-penned lines was brought to The Democrat office yesterday by Joseph S. Winkler, local business man, and its message again reminds students of history that human slavery was taboo in Northwest Carolina long before President Abe Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation.

Addressed to "Col. E. C. McCarthy," doubtless attached to some frontier military post, and signed by A. W. Finley, prominent Wilkes plantation owner, the brief letter was placed in the hands of the late Joshua Winkler, founder of one of Watauga's leading families, back in the spring of 1859, for the purposes outlined in its text, which follows:

"Col. E. C. McCarthy,

"Dear Sir:

"The bearer of this, Mr. Joshua Winkler, is on his way to Kansas with a few negroes which have been freed by his uncle, Joshua Pennel, with the request that the bearer would take them to some free state and purchase land for them to settle on. Any informa-

PRESIDENT'S BALL WILL BE STAGED ON FEBRUARY 2ND

Plans Are Complete for Annual Birthday Dance Designed to Raise Money for Infantile Paralysis Victims; Dances to Be Arranged at Cove Creek and Blowing Rock

At a meeting of a large number of interested citizens held at Hotel Watauga Monday evening, definite plans were made for the annual President's Birthday Ball, which is to be held on the evening of February 2, at the burley tobacco storage house near the railway depot. Roger McGuire, who is again chairman of the event states that the floor provided is splendid and that the building will be thoroughly comfortable regardless of the weather.

Preliminary reports indicate to Mr. McGuire and the vice-chairman, Marguerite Miller, that this year's ball will be widely attended and one of the most successful yet held here. Fifty per cent of the amount raised from a \$1 per person admission charge will be forwarded to the national foundation for the prevention of infantile paralysis, while the remainder will be used to help crippled children in this county.

Other Dances

It is also stated that dances are to be held at Blowing Rock and Cove Creek and that further details concerning these events will be made known next week.

The campaign against infantile paralysis is being carried on in two ways: A march of dimes campaign is under way this week, through which thousands of coins will go into the fund, while the balls will be held on or near the birthday of President Roosevelt, himself a victim of infantile paralysis.

Hess Orchestra

The Hess Orchestra of Freeze, Va., one of the best known organizations in this region, will supply the symphony for the Boone dance, which will be the usual gala affair. (Continued on page eight)

BURLEY MARKET TO CLOSE FRIDAY

Hardy Brothers Report Successful Season; More Than Two Million Pounds Sold

The Mountain Burley Tobacco Warehouse will close its first season with the sales Friday and Mr. Paul Hardy states that when the final basket is disposed of the sales will have totaled considerably in excess of the two-million pound mark. Mr. Hardy is well pleased with the first season here and states that the poundage is in excess of his expectations. However, he believes the sales would have been even heavier but for the blizzards which have raged since the first of the year, and which precluded bringing the weed to Boone from some of the most distant points of the burley belt.

Mr. Hardy and his brother will be back to Boone next year to conduct the two warehouses which will be available for the opening sales, and incidentally, they may spend a part of the summer in this vicinity.

City Auto Tags Are Now Available

All automobilists of the city are notified that the new city license plates for the year 1940 have been received and must be displayed on all vehicles owned within the city. Police Chief Edward Mast urges all motorists to secure their licenses at once. The price is \$1.00.

Conley Greene Dies As Car Plunges From Highway In Snowstorm; Others Hurt

Borah Is Dead



William E. Borah of Idaho, dean of the United States Senate, who died in Washington Friday from a brief illness. Story on page 3.

BUILDING & LOAN HAS FINE YEAR

Annual Report of Watauga Building and Loan Received by Directors Friday

The Watauga Building and Loan Association enjoyed a most successful year in 1939, according to the audit of the affairs of the institution which was submitted to the board of directors Friday evening, a summary of which is published in the local newspaper today.

The report indicates that the assets of the association have increased \$21,000 during the year, that the usual rate of interest has been paid both to paid-up and installment shareholders, and that \$2,000 was added to the contingent reserve fund, which is set up to take care of any losses which might occur.

The directors are well pleased with the report and a meeting of the stockholders will be called shortly, when a board of directors will be named and such other business transacted as may be deemed proper.

W. H. Gragg, secretary of the association, states that stock is selling rapidly in the new series of Building and Loan which opened on January 1.

BISHOP PURCELL TO PREACH HERE

Noted Divine Will Fill Pulpit of M. E. Church on February 4; Will Also Speak at College

Bishop Claire Purcell of the Methodist Episcopal church, considered one of the denomination's leading figures, will come to Boone on Saturday, February 3, and tentative plans indicate that he will deliver a message to the student body of Appalachian College at the 10 o'clock chapel hour.

On Sunday morning, the 4th, Bishop Purcell will fill the pulpit of the local Methodist church at the 11 o'clock worship period. The theme of his sermon has not been announced.

Rev. Paul Townsend, pastor of the Boone congregation, who more than a year ago extended an invitation to Bishop Purcell to visit here, describes the church leader as a gifted orator, one who makes deep and lasting impression on the minds of his audiences. Mr. Townsend extends a warm invitation to people of all denominations to hear Bishop Purcell.

COVE CREEK YOUTHS ON SEED JUDGING TEAM

Ralph Stokes, John Shepherd, Cap Ward and Lovell South, members of the Cove Creek chapter, Future Farmers of America, accompanied by their agricultural instructor, Mr. Ernest Hillard, were in town Monday, where they participated in seed judging competitions of the Parkway Federation district, which includes groups from the high schools of Alleghany, Watauga and Avery counties, which maintain departments of agriculture. Ralph Stokes and John Shepherd made the seed judging team.

The contest was held at the Boone high school, where the Boone boys placed second. The competition centered about the identification of 55 crop and weed seed, the judging of Irish potatoes and yellow corn.

Prominent Watauga Farmer Fatally Injured in Accident Tuesday Afternoon; Grady Eller Suffers Spinal Fracture; Funeral Services to Be Conducted From Bethel Baptist Church Wednesday

Conley Greene, 54, prominent farmer of the Beaver Dam section of Watauga county, was killed and Grady Eller of the same community is in Watauga hospital suffering from a spinal fracture and other serious injuries received when a light car occupied by them skidded from a slick highway on the east side of George's Gap near Sugar Grove Tuesday afternoon about 3 o'clock.

The automobile left the top of a horseshoe curve near the top of the pass which overlooks Cove Creek valley, and rolled about a hundred feet into the road below. Mr. Greene was dead when help arrived.

Miss Carrie Greene of Charlotte, a daughter of the dead man and a third occupant of the vehicle, sustained minor bruises which were treated by a local physician. Mr. Eller, in unconscious condition, was brought to Watauga hospital, where this morning he was said to have been resting comfortably.

A blinding snowstorm which covered icy roads was held responsible for the tragedy.

Tentative plans indicate that the funeral for Mr. Greene will be held at Bethel Baptist church, of which he was a member, on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and that burial will take place at a nearby cemetery. Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Greene is survived by the widow, who prior to marriage was Miss Rose Eller, and the following children: Miss Carrie Greene, Charlotte, Miss Arlene Greene, a student at A. S. T. C. here; Misses Aline and Willie Grace Greene, who reside at the parents' home. Mrs. R. S. Swift of Boone, a sister, and Dudley Greene of Beaver Dam, a brother, also survive.

Mr. Greene was born in the Beaver Dam section, a son of the late Warren Greene. His splendid traits of character had drawn around him an enviable circle of friends who will bear of his untimely death with deep sorrow.

MAYOR ENDORSES BIRTHDAY BALL

Mayor Lovell Asks People of City to Co-operate in Raising Funds for Fight on Polio

Mayor W. R. Lovell, who has been confined by his home for the past few weeks by illness and who is now improved, tells The Democrat that he is 100 per cent behind the movement to raise funds for the relief of infantile paralysis, through the medium of the President's ball. He says:

"Yes, I stand behind every movement which has as its motive the banishing of human misery, especially the dread disease of infantile paralysis, to which our children are most susceptible. I congratulate the President on sponsoring the event for the first time, and want to assure those who are making arrangements for the Boone ball that I will do anything in my power to assist them. It is a noble undertaking and I call upon the people to lend their support in this humanitarian campaign. If you don't dance, you can drop a coin in one of the boxes about the town, and help in that way."

REV. MR. TRIVETTE ILL

Rev. George Trivette, aged Baptist minister of Villas, is seriously ill with a heart ailment at his home, and much apprehension over his condition has been felt by his many friends. Reports Tuesday evening indicated that he was resting comfortably.

Heavy Snowfall Visits County

The rigorous winter weather of the past few days which sent mercury tumbling to the zero mark, moderated slightly Monday evening and Tuesday morning the big snow of the winter began to fall. By night six inches lay on the ground which during the evening was whipped into drifts by a driving wind. Despite the efforts of highway crews to keep the main thoroughfares open, automobile travel is dangerous, and mails were delayed Wednesday. This morning snow continues to fall with little prospect of abatement.

The snow is the heaviest to fall in this locality since March, 1936, it is recalled.