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\$1.50 A YEAR

JIM RIVERS SAYS REPORTS HE QUIT ARE UNFOUNDED

Boone Congressional Candidate Reaffirms His Candidacy, Following Persistent Rumors He's Abandoned Plans; Says He'll Wage Campaign

Jim Rivers, who last December announced his candidacy for congress, subject to the action of the Democratic primary May 25, tells The Democrat that the rumors that he will withdraw from the primary campaign are without foundation, and that he cannot understand what circumstances gave rise to the rumor. He says:

"During my absence from the city for the past few days I have learned that the report has been circulated and has gained currency not only in Watauga county, but in other sections of the district, that I have withdrawn from the ninth district congressional race.

"Nothing is further from the truth and no recent occurrence has deterred me from my intention of making a vigorous bid for congressional preferment. Those who have urged to refrain from entering the primary have been assured of my intention to go through with my original pronouncement, and this statement is made purely for the purpose of correcting the erroneous reports.

"The news I am receiving from throughout the district is most gratifying, and goes even beyond my original expectations. In due time I shall launch my campaign and further explain my views on matters which I believe to be of paramount concern to the people."

PRESIDENT'S BALL DECIDED SUCCESS

Almost Two Hundred Dollars Gross Receipts; Returns From March of Dimes Incomplete

The President's Ball, which was held in Boone last Friday evening, was a decided success, according to Pat McGuire, the chairman, who states that considering the weather conditions which kept many people away, the benefit event was even better than those held in former years. Mr. McGuire states that almost \$200 gross was received from the ball, which is to be spent for relief of infantile paralysis, but since the returns from the March of Dimes campaign are incomplete, he is unable to give a grand total of the receipts.

A picture show is being sponsored today for the March of Dimes, which will yield a considerable return, and some of the coin boxes distributed over the county have not been received. A statement of the net proceeds will be released by the end of the week.

I. W. Hatley Dies At Blowing Rock

Isaac Wiley Hatley, aged 76 years, died on Monday at the home of a son, Police Chief Fred Hatley, at Blowing Rock, where he had been making his home during the winter months.

Funeral services were conducted from the Shulls Mills Baptist church Tuesday. Rev. Ed Robbins and Rev. Vilas Minton taking part in the rites and interment was in the Mast cemetery at Valle Crucis.

Surviving are five sons and three daughters: George Hatley, Will Hatley, Hudson; John Hatley, Watauga, Wash.; Robert Hatley, Shulls Mills; and Fred Hatley, Blowing Rock; Mrs. Chas. Clark, Banner Elk; Mrs. Polly Townsend, Shulls Mills; Mrs. George Main, Shulls Mills. One brother, Rufus Hatley of Granite Falls, also survives.

Mr. Hatley was a son of the late Josiah and Susan Lowder Hatley and was reared in the Shulls Mills section of the county, where he engaged in farming. He was well known and held in high regard by the people of this section.

J. F. WITTEN TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR AS REPUBLICAN

Salisbury, Feb. 6—Dr. J. Forest Witten of Salisbury, Tuesday announced that he is a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of North Carolina, subject to the party's primary.

Dr. Witten seeks the G. O. P. nomination on a platform that includes elimination of the state sales tax, lower taxes (especially on automobiles and their operation), revision of the election laws, a state referendum on whiskey, and a civil service law for state employees.

Witten is a native of Ohio who has lived in North Carolina for some time. He has participated in past Republican campaigns in the state as a speaker. He is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College and Drew University in New Jersey. During the World War he was chief engineer of the government power plant at Nitro, W. Va. He has taken part in national Republican campaigns as a member of the speakers' bureau of the Republican national committee.

Russian Transport Halted by the Finns



Eastern Finland.—A column of Soviet transport lorries and carriers which was put out of action by Finnish fighters. Russian troops were reported in retreat due to the alleged difficulty they are having in keeping themselves adequately supplied from the rear. This photo, received via England, was passed by a British censor.

BROTHER DEAN RANKIN IS DEAD

Chief of Salisbury Police Succumbs to Pneumonia; Funeral Held Thursday

Robert Lee Rankin, aged 60, brother of Dr. J. D. Rankin and chief of the Salisbury police for 11 years, until his voluntary retirement in 1939, died last Wednesday morning at his home, following an illness with pneumonia. Chief Rankin had been in ill health for two years because of a heart ailment.

Mr. Rankin gained national recognition when on December 31, 1930, he killed the notorious one-armed outlaw, Otto Wood, in a gun battle on a street in Salisbury. Rankin received minor wounds about the face and head in the battle which left Wood dead on one side of the automobile and the chief standing on the other. The outlaw was shot in the neck and head.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon from the St. John's Lutheran church of which the deceased was a member.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Susa Mae Belk, of Rowan county; six sons and daughters: Mrs. Carl Pridgen, Lumberton; Mrs. Robert L. Branch, Asheboro; Mrs. Thomas H. Jackson, Salisbury; R. Grady, Fluke and William Ben Rankin, all of Salisbury; one brother, Dr. J. D. Rankin, dean of administration at Appalachian College, Boone, and one sister, Mrs. J. A. Peeler, Hickory.

D. F. Mast One of Oldest Local Masons

Records of Snow Masonic lodge indicate that Mr. D. Finley Mast of Valle Crucis, details of whose death on January 16, and funeral have been chronicled in this newspaper, was one of the oldest Masons in the county.

Mr. Mast was initiated in Snow lodge February 6, 1892, passed March 12, 1892, and raised April 9, 1892, having been a member for almost 48 years.

An unusually large number of Masons gathered for the funeral which was conducted by W. W. Williams, the worshipful master, with Russell D. Hodges acting as marshal. Rev. E. Dargan Butt, the Masonic chaplain, also took part in the rites. Mr. Mast was one of the county's finest citizens and took a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of the Masonic fraternity.

STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION DATE WILL BE CHANGED

Raleigh, Feb. 6—The state Democratic convention probably will be held May 17, instead of May 18, as planned by the party executive committee last Friday.

Governor Hoyt revealed tonight that Raleigh Memorial auditorium was engaged for May 16, and that R. Gregg Cherry, chairman, would write committee members suggesting the change.

The chief executive explained that long before the committee set the convention date, the N. C. Funeral Directors Association had engaged the for its annual meeting May 14-16 and the date could not be changed.

Final Chapter of Story Is Apparing

The final chapter of the popular serial story which has been running in The Democrat, "Tomorrow's Promise," appears on page four of The Democrat today. It was decided to complete the story today at the last minute, which starts on page seven.

ILL WITH MENINGITIS

Peggy Greene, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Greene of Deep Gap, is a patient at the Wilkes hospital, where she remains seriously ill with spinal meningitis. Reports are that the child's condition is critical.

SHERIFFS TO HOLD OFFICE 4 YEARS

No Election For Law Officers and Coroners This Year, Supreme Court Rules

Raleigh, Feb. 2.—Sheriffs and coroners in North Carolina's 100 counties are serving four-year terms which will continue until December, 1942, the state supreme court held in a unanimous decision today.

The ruling, which had been anxiously awaited by political leaders, relieved sheriffs and coroners from the necessity of running for reelection this year.

The court held that a constitutional amendment increasing terms of office of the officials from two to four years applied to sheriffs and coroners elected in 1938.

The decision reversed a finding of Superior Court Judge Leo Carr, who ruled that the Alamance county board of elections should allow an election this year for sheriff of that county.

In oral arguments before the supreme court, some attorneys had asserted that the amendment did not apply to sheriffs and coroners elected in 1938, since the referendum vote on the amendment and the election of the county officials were held on the same day.

The court, however, held that the amendment had been ratified and was a part of the state constitution on the date that county officers assumed their duties—the first Monday in December, 1938.

Political sources here appeared divided as to the probable effect of the court's action on the total vote to be cast in the primaries and general election this year.

Some sources said that, since coroners and sheriffs would have no contests the total vote would be much smaller than usual. Others said the state-wide vote might be larger, since the county officials would spend more time campaigning for persons running for state jobs.

Lincoln Day Event To Be Held Monday

The Lincoln Day dinner, annual event of the Republican party, will be held at the King Cotton hotel, Greensboro, next Monday evening, and some estimates are that 2,000 people will gather to take part in the banquet and hear the address by Senator Robert A. Taft. Senator Taft is prominently mentioned as a Republican presidential possibility this year, and since this is his first visit to the state, a great deal of interest is attached to his address.

A number of Watauga county Republicans, 20 or more, are expected to attend the Lincoln Day event, and all those interested in making the trip should contact either Russell D. Hodges or Mr. T. E. Bingham in order that reservations may be arranged.

If a thousand old beliefs were ruined in our march to truth, we must still march on.—Stopford A. Brooks.

Merchants' Meet Is Postponed

The annual ladies' night and employees' banquet of the Boone Merchants Association, which was to have been held Friday evening, has been postponed to Friday evening, February 16, according to an announcement made Tuesday by Mrs. Ruby Ellis, secretary of the association.

The postponement came about on account of an unintended conflict with the basketball encounter Friday evening between Eloy and Appalachian at the college gymnasium. The event is to be one of the most spectacular of the current sports calendar and business men of the city want the opportunity of attending. Further announcement as to the merchants' gathering will be made next week.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS LOCAL BOARD EDUCATION

State Board Should Turn Over Loan of \$25,000 to County Board of Education, Says High Tribunal; Money to Be Used at Cove Creek School

The North Carolina Supreme court last week affirmed a verdict for the Watauga county board of education in a suit brought in Wake county against the state board of education. The action hinged on a loan for \$25,000 which the Watauga board made from the state literary fund.

Wishing to construct a new high school plant at Cove Creek, the Watauga board applied for the loan June 12, 1939. The loan was approved June 20 and the notes were signed and delivered to the state board on June 30.

The notes were not turned over to the state treasurer, however, until July 1—the beginning of the 1939-40 fiscal year. Under the debt limitation amendment to the state constitution, Watauga county had retired enough obligations during 1937-38 to contract the new debt, but it had not retired enough obligations in 1938-39.

The court held, however, that the loan from the state literary fund actually was consummated in 1938-39. Since the county had retired \$36,266.75 during the preceding fiscal year, the court said, the loan was valid and the state board should turn the \$25,000 over to the county board.

County Superintendent Howard Walker stated yesterday that a government project has been approved for \$52,000 in connection with the Cove Creek building program, and that work on the magnificent structure will begin in early spring. Ten thousand dollars of this sum may be spent for materials, and the remaining \$42,000 will be used for the employment of relief labor. No estimate was made of the final cost of the building.

COMMITTEE TO WRITE PUBLICITY

Special Chamber of Commerce Group From Blowing Rock and Boone to Edit Publicity

A committee consisting of C. S. Prevette, chairman; G. C. Robbins and Howard Holshouser of Blowing Rock; Wade E. Brown, J. C. Canipe and S. C. Eggers of Boone was appointed at a joint Chamber of Commerce meeting held here Friday evening, for the purpose of gathering material and having stories written for the Trailways Magazine, National Motor Coach Guide and Highway Traveler.

Mr. Howard Holshouser was named to fill the place on the committee made vacant by the tragic death of Ben D. Greene on the following day.

The committee held its initial meeting Monday, and the members are to gather pictures and material for the next few days, and complete the publicity at a meeting to be held the latter part of the week. The deadline for the completion of the Highway Traveler article is February 15.

Mr. Herman Wilcox, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, asks that those having good pictures of scenes in this section, submit them to him or some member of the committee. If the committee has success in securing space in the three publications, it is felt that it will be of incalculable benefit to the Blowing Rock-Boone section.

Ralph Greene Gets Regular Assignment

Ralph G. Greene, who was appointed postoffice inspector some months ago, has now been assigned to the Greensboro territory, which embraces 11 counties in the Piedmont section. Mrs. Greene and children have joined him and they established their home in Greensboro.

Mr. Greene, who has recently returned from a 30-day assignment in the state of Georgia, has received a letter from the chief inspector commending him on his splendid progress.

Textile Convention At Blowing Rock

The Southern Textile Association will hold its annual convention in Blowing Rock in the second or third week in June, it has been announced by Ellis Royal of Charlotte, secretary and treasurer of the organization.

Scout Week Feb. 8-14

Mr. B. W. Stallings, local scoutmaster, states that all Scouts are invited to meet with the college troop Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Scout hut near new dormitory. All Scouts in the county are urged to be present.

Ben Greene Meets Death By Electrocutation Saturday

Hitler's Friend



Folkestone, England.—Miss Unity Milford being carried to an ambulance to return to the home of her parents, Lord and Lady Rehesdale, at High Wycombe. According to an unconfirmed report, she made a suicide attempt for love of Adolf Hitler. Hitler called her the "perfect type of Nordic beauty."

BLOWING ROCK EXPECTS BEST SEASON IN YEARS

Resort Town Continues to Grow in Popularity and Is Now One of the Most Famed of All Mountain Resorts; Many New Entertainment Facilities

(Blowing Rock Special to Charlotte Observed)

Blowing Rock, a resort town important to the vacationists for the last half century, is basking in the glory of its best season in recent years and points to continued progress with the pioneer "climate chaser" returning to join a new clientele in coupling comfort from the heat with social and recreational advantages.

Fifty years ago Blowing Rock was called exclusive, mainly because of the lack of adequate transportation, poor roads, and the expense of clearing ground raised the cost of summering above the average man's level. One or two excellent hotels for the period, notably the Blowing Rock hotel, were the only resorts catering to patrons who could not afford or did not want to build their own summer homes.

It remained for the prosperity of 1925-29 to forecast resort possibilities for the mountain section. The building of Green Park and Mayview Motor hotels signaled a new deal for Blowing Rock in this time, and the resort industry began to increase. With these came the construction of many summer homes and thus to harbor a selective group of vacationists.

Blowing Rock and the immediate section thus developed in accord with the impression of individuals and hotel corporations. Citizens today stand in proud review of its progress and history which dates back to 1858 when Colonel James Harper of Lenoir, built the first summer home. His movement was followed by Len Estes and William Norris along with a number of others who began to entertain primarily as an accommodation. During the years of the Civil War the wives of many Blowing Rock summer colony residents took refuge in the mountains. Watauga county being divided in loyalties, these families experienced some hardships, but the consequent scrimmaging between factions was not destructive.

After the Civil War, Blowing Rock assumed leadership among the mountain resorts of the state. The wild and rugged scenery and cool climate opened to the public by the completion of the Lenoir and Yonah-jossee turnpikes in 1900, initiated a boom period which ran through the prosperous twenties and is still reflected in the new expansion program at hand.

The village gets its name from the natural oddity of the famed Blowing Rock. The giant monolith of granite hanging over Johns River gorge 1,700 feet below is in itself enough to create inspiration to the tourists, yet this is amplified by the winds sweeping up the valley and over the rock to caress the entire landscape. The peculiar phenomenon of handkerchiefs and hats being whisked back into the hands of the sender by the breeze bears legends based on Indian superstitions pertaining to constant winds.

Whereas the early clientele to the resort were primarily "climate-chasers" of middle age and past, interested only in the cool bracing air and the scenic and historic mountains, a new generation is coming up in these times to enjoy Blowing Rock's seasonal and scheduled (Continued on Page Eight)

Efforts to Resuscitate Well-Known Citizen Fails; Was Leading Figure in Civic Life of Blowing Rock; Funeral Services Held Sunday Are Widely Attended

Ben D. Greene, 34-year-old employee of the Northwest Carolina Utilities Company of Blowing Rock, met death by electrocution last Saturday morning as he worked on an electric line in the residential section of West Jefferson.

The accident is said to have occurred when he and other linemen were transferring wires. Winfield Woodie, who was on the pole with Greene when he came in contact with the high voltage lines, released the injured man within a space of seconds, and he was lowered to the ground, and artificial respiration was begun within three minutes. Efforts to revive him were continued for three and a half hours.

The quick action of Woodie saved Mr. Greene from being burned and at first it was thought he might be revived.

Funeral Sunday
Funeral services were conducted from the Blowing Rock Baptist church last Sunday afternoon. Rev. Phillip Fletcher, the pastor, being assisted in the rites by Rev. Sexton Buchanan, Presbyterian minister, and interment was in the city cemetery.

Pall bearers were: Dewey Story, Jack Rainey, M. L. Greene, Don Greene, R. M. Maddux, George Robbins, George Herring, Vernon Moody, Honorary: Members of the Fire Department and C. S. Prevette, G. M. Suddarth, Eugene Story, W. S. Greene, Collis Greene, A. B. Craig, G. C. Robbins, Winfield Woodie, Walter Wyatt, Conrad Pressnell, R. A. Bomgardner, Randall Foster, Paul Coffey, Ambrose Underdown, Frank Leenhour, Cameron Williams, Cecil Critcher, Lloyd Robbins, Duke Custer, C. D. Honeycutt and McKinley Ayers.

A large number of people gathered for the funeral, and the floral offering was one of the most profuse ever seen at this season of the year. The following ladies were in charge of the flowers: Misses Ellen Coffey, Mary Klutz, Kathleen Foster, Corine Knight, Katherine Underdown, Jackie Cragg, Mabel Coffey, Lena Robbins, Louise Prevette, Mary L. Williams, Lucille Coffey, Lina Coffey, Jean Hartley, Jewel Hartley, Ruth Weaver, Blanche Pennell; Messdaones, Joe Greene, Don Greene, Carrie Johnson, George Herring, Bob Hardin, J. A. Pannella, Duke Custer, B. Maddux, Mary Bolek, Beulah Suddarth, Leona Coffey, Bessie Coffey, Anne Council, Cameron Williams, Cecil Critcher, Jack Rainey.

Many Attend Rites
Among those from a distance attending the rites were: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Horton, Mrs. Dave Mast, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Banner, Mrs. Bill Banner, Mr. John Horton and others from Sugar Grove and Valle Crucis; Mr. E. W. Mullikin, Richmond, Va.; W. H. Morrison, Asheville; Ambrose Underdown, E. L. McMillan and Mr. Duval of Lenoir; J. B. Crisp, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Ralph Norman, Johnson City, Tenn.; E. B. Woods, H. C. Bailey, Cecil Angel, Burnsville; Walter Wyatt, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Bumgarner, Sparta; Winfield Woodie, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Pressnell, Mrs. Mae Brown, West Jefferson; Mr. and Mrs. Lotta Johnson, Statesville; Alfred, Ella and Elizabeth Ray, W. I. Fulkerson, Mrs. Mary Patten, Miss Corine Knight and others of Hickory; Mrs. Ratha Wilson, Lenoir; Mr. and Mrs. Max, Sidney and Stewart Cannon, Charlotte; Mr. and Mrs. Don Banner, Elizabethton; Mr. and Mrs. Eddy of Concord; Miss Pearl Dunganer, Mount Holly.

The Survivors
The survivors include the widow, the former Miss Velma Cannon of Blowing Rock; one brother, R. L. Greene of Blowing Rock; three sisters, Mrs. J. R. Puett, Hickory; Mrs. Merline E. Clubine, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. Alma Miller, Blowing Rock. The mother, Mrs. Ben Greene, also survives.

Valuable Citizen
Mr. Greene was one of the most popular young men in Blowing Rock, where he had been employed by the Northwest Carolina Utilities for the past thirteen years. He was secretary of the Blowing Rock Fire Department, director of the Chamber of Commerce, and was actively engaged in all civic movements. He was also a partner with George Robbins in the R. & G. Electric Co.

Clarence Trexler Loses Home in Fire

A blaze which is believed to have originated from a defective flue on Saturday afternoon destroyed the home of Mr. Clarence Trexler at Bamboo. However, through the help of neighbors Mr. Trexler was able to remove all the furnishings from the doomed structure, with the exception of one bed.

The house, which was an old one, was valued at only a few hundred dollars, it is said.