

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1941

\$1.50 A YEAR

TWO ARE HELD IN SHOOTING OF WILL COFFEY MONDAY

Coffey, Almost 60 Years Old, is Seriously Injured by Loads From Shotgun, Allegedly Fired by Henderson Gragg; is Given Chance to Recover

W. Henderson Gragg, 57, and son, Arthur Gragg, 21, are being held in the Caldwell county jail at Lenoir on charges of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and have been denied the privilege of bail, pending the outcome of shotgun wounds allegedly received by Will Coffey at their hands Monday morning in the Coffey's Gap section a few miles from Blowing Rock in the edge of Caldwell county.

Coffey, who is nearly 60 years of age, is quoted by the Lenoir News-Topic as having told Sheriff J. F. Parlier that Gragg stopped him on the road near Coffey's Gap, and told him he was going to kill him.

Coffey, who was alone, said that the elder Gragg pointed a 12-gauge shotgun at him and snapped it. He alleges he struck at the gun, knocking it downward, the shot entering his right leg.

Coffey said that Gragg then shouted to his son, "Let's kill him," after which young Gragg was said to have struck him on the back of the head with a mattock handle. Coffey got to his feet and started running, he said. The elder Gragg then fired twice, according to information given by the injured man, peppering Coffey's back and neck with shot.

The wounded man was taken to his home, where his condition is said to be serious. However, he is given a chance of recovery.

The Graggs were arrested at their home by Sheriff Parlier, Detective John Walsh of Lenoir and Chief Fred Hatley of Blowing Rock. Both are said to have denied the shooting and declared they had spent the day at home, cutting wood.

Neighbors told officers that bad feeling had existed between the Graggs and Coffey for some time, over the location of a road.

Campfire Groups To Have Service Sunday

The Campfire Girls organization here will participate in the observance of the 29th birthday of the organization next week and it is announced simultaneously that two new Campfire groups have been organized here, details of which will be announced later.

The Y.W.C.A. and the two Campfire groups at the college invite the general public to worship with them at a religious service in the college auditorium Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 p. m. All the churches of the town will hold their Sunday evening services with them and music will be rendered by the Appalachian A Cappella choir, under the direction of Miss Virginia Wary. The ministers of the city will assist the Campfire girls with their program.

Chamber Commerce to Observe Ladies' Night

The annual ladies' night meeting of the Chamber of Commerce has been scheduled for March 28th, and it is expected that the guest speaker for the occasion will be Mr. J. C. Baskerville, head of the publicity division of the North Carolina department of conservation and development.

Mr. Baskerville has spoken here before, and those who heard his discourse say he is one of the south's most outstanding after-dinner speakers.

While the detailed program for the banquet meeting has not yet been arranged, it is requested that all members bear the date in mind and plan to attend. The program will be released soon.

Charles Brown Dies From Shotgun Wound

Charles Brown, aged 65, son of the late Stephen Brown of Shouns, Tenn., and well known in Watauga county, was accidentally killed at his home in Montana, when a shotgun which he was cleaning was accidentally discharged. Meagre information reaching this city failed to give funeral details other than that the rites were held last Wednesday.

Mr. Brown, who had resided in Montana for many years, is survived by the widow, two sons and three daughters.

Record in Office



Cordell Hull, pictured above, has now held the portfolio of U. S. secretary of state longer than any other man in history. Recently he passed the seven-year-363-day record established by William Seaward who served under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

GARDEN PEAS MAY BE MARKET CROP

Inquiries Come to Watauga From Canneries Seeking to Secure Peas Here

Garden peas may in the next few years become a commercial crop in Watauga county, and large canning corporations are seeking to get local agrarians to experiment with the culture of peas on a marketing scale.

The Black-Carter Marketing Co., which operates throughout the South Atlantic region, is reported as being interested in the new farming activity, and they state that there should be a ready sale for Watauga-grown peas between June 15 and July 15, at which time the only peas available come from the state of Colorado. This concern says it would handle all the peas produced here, and that they always bring a higher price per bushel than beans, which have been grown commercially here for many years.

Any farmer interested in planting an experimental acreage to peas this year is asked to inquire at the county agents' office or at the Farmers Hardware & Supply Co.

Father-Son Banquet Held Friday Evening

The sixth annual father-son banquet of Daniel Boone chapter, Future Farmers of America, was held last Friday evening in the Appalachian high school cafeteria. Ned Austin, president of the chapter, officiated as toastmaster, delivering an address on "Some Effects of the War on Farming in Watauga County."

The banquets heard an address by Dana Tugman, who reviewed the chapter's activities during the year. Dr. Orby Southard, agricultural teacher, presented a movie film, "A Day at Appalachian" and "The River," the latter depicting damages to farm lands in eastern America because of soil erosion near the large rivers.

Other features of the enjoyable evening were renditions by George Farthing's string band and singing by the fathers and sons.

Square Dance To Be Held at Blowing Rock

A square dance will be held at the Blowing Rock high school gymnasium Saturday evening March 22, from 8 to 12, under the joint sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce of that city and the WPA recreation project.

George Farthing's well-known band will play for the occasion and Jerry Wilson will call the dance. The proceeds from a small admission charge will be used to buy playground equipment and games for the new gymnasium.

Comfort Project To Be Operated Here

Miss Elizabeth Bridge, home demonstration agent, has received notice that material for 2,000 comforts will be furnished Watauga county.

Work will begin on the comfort project about May 1, when Miss Bridge expects to be finished with 6,000 mattresses that are now being made in the county. About 30 mattresses a day are being turned out on this project or an average of 160 a week.

RAILWAY BONDS TO BE CANCELLED

\$7,000 to Be Charged Off Boone Tax Bill When Narrow Gauge is Scrapped

Superintendent Blackwell of the Linville River Railway has advised Mr. Herman W. Wilcox that when the final salvage of the rails and other equipment of the narrow gauge railway into Boone has been completed, it is the purpose of the company to immediately cancel the remainder of the bonds voted by Boone township for the construction of the road, which amount to about seven thousand dollars.

It is stated that a final routine notice from the interstate commerce commission to permit the scrapping of the scenic narrow gauge line is expected at any time, and that the salvage work will start soon. Mr. Blackwell advises that when the track is taken up the right-of-way will revert to the original land owners, with the exception of the station site in Boone and adjoining properties, for which the company holds deeds in fee simple.

Plans Completed for Dramatic Contest

There will be plenty of entertainment for everyone on Saturday night at eight o'clock in the college auditorium when three high schools present three spirited comedies to decide which school shall represent the fourth district in the Carolina Dramatics Association festival in Chapel Hill on March 30. Dobson high school will present "Caline," a folk comedy of eastern North Carolina. Union Grove will present a laugh-provoking play, "Ringing in the Groom." Appalachian high will give "Utter Relaxation," a comedy showing how to take care of a husband.

Professor Antonakos' Playcrafters are sponsoring this event, and the students will have charge of the staging of all the plays. The high school dramatics classes will have charge of programs, tickets and house management.

Tickets are now on sale by the high school group. Student tickets are 10c and adult tickets 25c. Proceeds from these plays will be used to defray the expenses of the schools and judges attending.

Judges have been invited from Lenoir, Wilkesboro and Blowing Rock.

Appalachian high school students who are participating in "Utter Relaxation" are Lorraine Bridge, Dare Bond, Lucille Cooke, Ned Austin, Charles Rogers and James Marsh.

Mrs. Kephart Heads Camp Directors' Assn.

Mrs. A. P. Kephart of Camp Yonahlossee, Blowing Rock, was elected to the presidency of the Southeastern Camp Directors Association at their last meeting at Montreat on March 1st. This section is the largest in area of the 25 sections in the United States and Canada and the fifth in membership. Mrs. Kephart has been secretary-treasurer and always an active member of this section and the national association.

The section includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. This also makes Mrs. Kephart a member of the board of directors of the national association. Dr. Kephart has also been president of this section three terms. Mrs. Kephart succeeds Mr. Frank Bell, director of Camp Moudamin for Boys at Tuxedo, N. C.

Postal Receipts Show Large Gain

The receipts at the Boone postoffice for the months of January and February, 1941, were \$2,908.55 as against \$2,673.56 for the same period of last year, according to Postmaster W. G. Hartzog. This is almost a 10 per cent gain over the first two months of 1940.

GOODFELLOWS CLUB

There will be a meeting of the Goodfellows at the Gateway Cafe Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, dinner will be served and setback enjoyed. The plates are to be 50 cents, and all those intending to be present should make reservations with the cafe or with Mr. T. M. Greer, secretary of the club.

Swastika Enters Another Balkan State



German Panzer (motorized) troops are pictured here crossing a pontoon bridge over the Danube from Rumania to Bulgaria. Following this move, Britain broke diplomatic relations with Bulgaria and Russia rebuked the Bulgars for "allowing" the Nazis to enter Greece, via Turkey, appeared to be the schedule of Hitler's legions.

Opens New Store



Mr. R. A. Manship, Jr., for several years a leading figure in the business life of the community, where he managed the Crest store, has resigned his position with this firm and announces in this issue of the opening Friday of the Elsie Shop, a man's clothing establishment and ladies' shoe parlor in newly-appointed quarters in the Qualls building. The advertisement today gives the details of the new enterprise. Mr. Manship is associated with his father-in-law, Mr. W. M. Burwell of Henderson, in the new venture. Mr. and Mrs. Burwell are making their home for the time being with Mr. and Mrs. Manship.

Forensic Tourney Begins on Friday

Eleven high schools have accepted invitations to enter the first annual Western North Carolina High School Forensic tournament sponsored by Appalachian College. Activities in this event will begin at the high school auditorium with registration of visiting debaters and coaches on Friday, March 14, at 4 p. m. The first round of debating will begin at 8 o'clock on Friday night and at least three rounds of debating will be held on Saturday.

The eleven high schools will be represented by at least thirteen full teams, and a total of more than fifty high school debaters will participate in discussions on the question, "Resolved, that the United States should adopt a policy of requiring one year of military training before they reach the age of twenty-three."

Schools accepting invitations are North Wilkesboro, Lansing, Forest City, Granite Falls, Newton, Cove Creek, Blowing Rock, Ronda, Bakersville, Glen Alpine and Appalachian high school.

The tournament is under the general direction of Prof. A. Frank Hamrick, administrative principal of the local school, and Miss Cleo Jones, assistant coach of debating. Members of the college forensic club will assist as chairmen of various activities and as judges.

IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. James H. Horton of Glade Springs, Va., was taken to a Marion, Va., hospital Saturday afternoon for two serious operations. Mrs. Horton will be remembered as the former Miss Myrtle May. She is getting along very nicely.

EDUCATION GROUP IN COUNTY TO HAVE 3 NEW MEMBERS

Omnibus Bill Names Five Members Watauga County Board of Education; Two Incumbents Remain in Office; Deaton, Cottrell and Green New Members

The omnibus bill now pending before the legislature carries the names of a five-member board of education for Watauga county, composed of J. B. Horton and Clyde Perry, incumbents; Raleigh Cottrell of Boone, Dr. W. A. Deaton of Meat Camp township, and Collis Greene of Blowing Rock, new members.

Representative Gordon H. Winkler had the first two appointed for a term of four years, while the three new members are to serve for a period of two years. All laws and clauses of laws heretofore enacted with respect to the appointment of the board of education of the county and their terms of office were repealed.

Messrs. Horton and Perry have served on the board for a number of years, and are leading citizens of their communities. During their terms of office and that of their fellow officials, the school system in Watauga county has experienced remarkable progress and growth.

The new members are likewise fine citizens. Mr. Cottrell, who is a member of one of Boone's oldest and best families, is responsibly employed by the Boone Steam Laundry and has twice been elected to the office of justice of the peace in this township. His record of service in this connection is splendid and he became known as one of the most sincere and able magistrates of the county. He has been a leading figure in public activities and is well liked.

Mr. Greene is one of Blowing Rock's best citizens and has considerable experience with the school system through his membership on the local school committee. He has the confidence and esteem of the people of his community and county.

Dr. W. A. Deaton of Meat Camp, has resided in Watauga county for many years, coming here from Catawba. He is a retired Lutheran minister, and has always taken a keen interest in public affairs, having twice represented Catawba county with distinction in the general assembly. He is widely known and exceedingly popular in his home neighborhood as well as the county at large.

The new officials will take office the first Monday in April, it is understood.

Watauga Man Held On Liquor Charge

Troy Manus Greene of Watauga county, who led four federal agents on a long chase through four counties one night recently, was bound over to the spring term of federal court at Statesville in a hearing before United States Commissioner W. L. Clinard of Newton.

The Watauga man was taken to the Newton jail where he failed to post the \$500 bond Mr. Clinard set. Tax Unit Investigators C. S. Felts, R. C. Reece, C. E. Webster and Charlie Steelman, all of Wilkesboro, chased Greene through Wilkes, Alexander and Caldwell counties and into Catawba county before finally capturing him.

Prof. Garbee To Teach At N. Y. University

Prof. E. E. Garbee, head of the health department of Appalachian College, and member of the physical education department, has accepted a position as a member of the teaching staff at New York University for the coming summer. Prof. Garbee will assist Carl Nelson with recreational arts and crafts and will supervise wood, leather and metal work.

This will be Garbee's second year as a member of the summer staff. Last summer he worked there at the college camp, which is situated on Lake Segago, 30 miles from New York City. This summer term starts July 1 and will end August 8.

HURT IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Mr. W. M. May of Glade Springs, Va., former resident of Sherwood, is in Lee Memorial Hospital, Marion, Va., as a result of injuries sustained when struck by an automobile on February 9. It is feared the amputation of the right leg might become necessary.

INITIAL MEETING CITIZENS GROUP

Dr. Kephart President Watauga County Citizens Committee; Moose is Secretary

A group of Watauga citizens met on March 4th and set up a new county organization to be known as The Watauga County Citizens Committee. The following officers were elected: President, A. P. Kephart; secretary-treasurer, Dr. G. K. Moose; vice-president, Ivy B. Wilson.

The purposes of the association are as follows:

1. Informing citizens about all matters pertaining to local, state and national government, and more particularly about their rights as voters, and about local conditions and needs.

2. Organization and effort toward fair, legal and non-partisan (as far as possible) registration of voters and elections.

3. Organization and effort directed toward non-discriminating administration of local government, taxation, relief and relief work.

The president was authorized to proceed to incorporate the organization and secure a charter. The executive committee was authorized to select a time and place for a meeting early in April for completing the organization throughout the county.

Eastern Star Chapter Is Being Organized

There will be an institution of Snow chapter of the Order of Eastern Star at the Masonic Lodge hall, Sugar Grove, Monday, March 24th, at 7:30 p. m. All persons who signed the petition for dispensation and any other Master Mason, wife, daughter, sister, mother or widow of a Mason, who wants to become a charter member of this chapter must be present at this meeting.

The chapter will be instituted by John L. Orr, worthy grand patron, assisted by the worthy grand matron and other grand officers of North Carolina.

The institution will be performed by members of the Cranberry chapter.

Anyone eligible for membership and desiring to become a member of the chapter are asked to contact Beach Keller at the college cafeteria, or T. M. Greer at the Dixie store immediately.

Three Forks Association Will Meet on April 11th

The spring session of the Three Forks Association will meet on April 11 at a place to be designated in next week's issue of The Democrat. In accordance with a motion passed at the last association meeting it was decided to have a one-day session of the association sometime in April.

At a meeting of the executive committee it was decided to hold this session on April 11, Good Friday.

It is hoped that Mr. I. G. Greer will be able to deliver the closing address at the meeting. In the meantime, all churches are asked to begin electing delegates for this session.

A good program is in process of preparation by the committee which will be announced soon.