

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888.

VOL. LVII, NO. 45

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1946

5 CENTS A COPY

J. ELIHU LUTHER, LAST CIVIL WAR VET, DIES AT 102

Watauga's Last Surviving Follower of Lee, Succumbs Last Thursday; Funeral Services Conducted Saturday at Gap Creek Church

Jesse Elihu Luther, Confederate veteran, Watauga county's last surviving soldier of the Civil War, and one of the state's most aged citizens, died at the home at Deep Gap last Thursday at the age of 102 years.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon from the Gap Creek Baptist Church, by Rev. Mr. Stevens of Todd, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. E. C. Hodges of Hendrix. Interment was in the Gap Creek cemetery, Reins-Sturdivant being in charge of the arrangements.

Surviving are a son and two daughters: John E. Luther, Deep Gap; Mrs. Ida Welch, Mount Zion, and Mrs. Cora Moretz, Fleetwood. There are 25 grandchildren, 84 great grandchildren and 19 great-great grandchildren.

Native of Randolph County
Mr. Luther was born in Randolph county September 10, 1843, the son of William and Mary Loflin Luther, and the family moved to Wilkesboro when he was 12 years old. He served in the Confederate army during the Civil War period, having been enlisted in Wilkesboro May 10, 1862, and assigned to Colonel Barber's regiment. Later he served in A. P. Hill's division, Lane's brigade, with General Stonewall Jackson commanding. He participated in a number of campaigns, including the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville, and the Second Battle of Manassas. He suffered three wounds, two inflicted in skirmishes, and one in the fighting at Spotsylvania Court House.

Taken Prisoner
Mr. Luther was taken prisoner while serving on picket duty at Chafin's farm in Virginia, after he had been surrounded by 25 Union soldiers, who were concealed at this point. He was taken to the Federal prison at Camp Lookout on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, where he was confined for a period of eight months. When he was paroled from prison and returned home it was at the time Stoneman, a Yankee officer, came through this section of North Carolina and he was arrested and carried before Stoneman. When it was revealed that Mr. Luther had been given a furlough to return home, he was released.

Mr. Luther, who had lived at Deep Gap for 73 years, had served as postmaster at that place for near 25 years, and had served in this capacity at a salary of \$24.00 per year. During his last tenure however, in 1934, he received \$800. Prior to his first postmastership, he carried the mail from Wilkesboro to Boone via horseback, was a carpenter and mason by trade, and a successful farmer. He served as deputy sheriff in Watauga for four years, and was a justic of the peace for thirty or more years. He was a member of the Calvary Methodist Church at Fleetwood.

Mr. Luther has been honored by friends in Watauga and Wilkes county on his last birthday anniversary, and last year when he celebrated his 102nd anniversary large crowds gathered in his honor. On one of these occasions he was asked to what he attributed his long life, and answered in these words: "Well, I have never done any drinking or smoking; I've worked hard and have always tried to keep regular hours; I've spent a lot of time out of doors, breathing deeply of this grand mountain air, and I've tried not to worry."

Baptist Association Being Held on Friday

Attention is again called to the spring session of the Three Forks Baptist Association which will be held with the Poplar Grove Church on Friday, May 10.

The associational officers are urging that each church in the association be represented by the pastor and at least three delegates or messengers.

American Legion Post Will Meet on Friday

Watauga Post No. 130, American Legion, will meet at 7:30 p. m. Friday, May 10. Officers are to be elected at this time, therefore it is important that all members be present.

Crippled Children's Clinic Set for May 15

Dr. John S. Gaul of Charlotte, will hold a crippled children's clinic in the district health department on Wednesday, May 15. Anyone who wants a free examination should register in the health office on that day at 1:00 p. m.

DIES AT 102



JESSE ELIHU LUTHER

ERNEST CLINE IS VICTIM ROBBERS

Hickory Taxi Man Robbed Near Vilas; Officers Fail to Locate Assailants

Ernest Cline, Hickory taxicab operator, was held up and robbed by two unidentified highwaymen near Vilas Monday evening, and State highway patrolmen are making every effort to locate the four occupants of a New York automobile who perpetrated the holdup.

According to C. M. Jones, local state patrolman, the taxi driver was en route to Hickory from Elizabeth, Tenn., when he noticed the Buick automobile, carrying New York State license plates. The vehicle had been passed by Cline a time or two, and would subsequently pass. The strange conduct of the driver of the Buick led Cline to believe that the occupants of the car, being from outside the State, were not sure of being on the right road, so he readily stopped near Vilas to offer his assistance when one of the women flagged him.

He was immediately covered by a sub-machine gun in the hands of one of the men, while the other deliberately aimed what appeared to be a 30-30 carbine. Cline surrendered about \$20 in currency and checks, in addition to personal effects, and was allowed to proceed.

Officer Jones immediately secured the short-wave broadcast of the information about the robbery, but thus far State police have been unable to apprehend the highwaymen.

Parkway Funds Cut By Senate Committee

Washington, May 7.—A \$15,000,000 appropriation sought by the National Park service to finance 1946-47 work on four national parkways, including the Blue Ridge parkway, was cut to \$7,500,000 today in recommendations of the house appropriations committee.

The committee recommendations, embraced in the report to the house on the 1947 interior department appropriation bill slated for consideration beginning tomorrow, will, if adopted, substantially cut an allocation to the Blue Ridge parkway which Rep. Zebulon Weaver of Asheville, had expected to reach a minimum of \$5,000,000.

Veterans Foreign Wars To Be Organized Here

A local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to be organized here at a meeting to be held in the courthouse next Saturday afternoon May 11, it is stated by Charles T. Zimmerman, local attorney and veteran of the recent war.

It is stated by Mr. Zimmerman that there are already seventeen paid up memberships, and that A. C. Ingram, adjutant quartermaster, High Point, will be present to assist in the organization of the new post. All veterans of the county are urged to attend.

Farm Intentions To Be Filed by June 1

The closing date for filing 1946 Farm Plan intentions under the agricultural conservation program has been extended to June 1. Watauga county farmers who have not filed their intentions and still wish to carry out practices under this program should contract the local AAA office before the closing date.

Demonstration School To Present Operetta

The Boone Demonstration school will present the last program of the school year on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock in the college auditorium. The program will feature a Mother Goose operetta in appropriate costume. No admission will be charged, and the public is invited.

BRIEF ILLNESS PROVES FATAL TO HENRY J. HARDIN

Former County Official and Prominent Farmer Succumbs at Wilkes Hospital Friday; Funeral Service Held Sunday

Henry J. Hardin, 57 years old, former county tax supervisor, election board chairman, and member of one of Boone's most prominent families, died in a North Wilkesboro hospital Friday from an illness of three days.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Boone Methodist Church, by Dr. E. K. McLaury, and an unusually large crowd from this and other sections of the state gathered for the rites.

Interment was in the Hardin family plot in the community cemetery by the Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home. Active pallbearers were: Roby Brown, Steve Brown, Wilson Brown, Lee Greene, Colen Cottrell and Max Norris.

Surviving, in addition to the widow, the former Miss Grace Blackburn, are one son, Joseph Hardin, a commercial air pilot, who is now located in China, and one daughter, Mrs. Martha Crowell Boliag, of Boone.

Mr. Hardin was a son of the late William Hardin and Mrs. Sarah Winkler Hardin, and for many years was a leader in the agricultural, business and public life of Watauga county. For a number of years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Boone, entering upon this activity at the death of his father-in-law, Mr. M. B. Blackburn, a leading merchant here. Subsequently, he was chairman of the Watauga county board of elections, and for three terms county tax supervisor. He was named to this position by the state legislature when the office was created by the 1929 assembly. When Mr. Hardin retired from public office he devoted the remainder of his life to his agricultural and business interests. He was widely known for his many unselfish contributions to the life of his county and community.

English War Bride Is Fond Of Carolina

"I love it here and would like to stay here forever," was the opinion expressed by Mrs. Patricia Brixton Scoggins, English war bride of William A. Scoggins of Henderson, Mrs. Scoggins, whose home was in Aylesford, Kent, England, arrived in New York April 19 on the USS Washington, and she was met by her husband there. After a shopping trip in New York and a week's stay at Nag's Head, the couple came to Henderson April 28. Mr. Scoggins is a brother of Mrs. Joe Crawford, of Boone.

The charming English miss and Bill Scoggins were married at Mardstone, Kent, England, on Oct. 27, 1945, while Bill was on furlough from duties with the 9th air corps in Germany. They plan to make their home in Henderson where Mr. Scoggins, who is the son of Mrs. W. L. Scoggins and the late Mr. Scoggins, is employed at the air field. Mrs. Scoggins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Brixton, of Aylesford, Kent, England, and attended Cross and Passion college at Ballystate, County Antrim in northern Ireland. For four years during the war she worked as civil service draftsman for the Southern Railway.

With a delightful English accent, she stated that clothes and food were still scarce items in England and that her trips through the New York stores were delightful. She expressed regret at not being able to eat the delectable food aboard ship during the oceanic trip for the rough passage caused a siege of sea sickness. She revealed a particular fondness for southern fried chicken, stating that she had only had boiled and roasted chicken before coming to North Carolina and the United States.

She was among the 900 English war brides aboard the USS Washington as it made the Atlantic voyage from Southampton to New York.

STRIKE PUTS 800,000 WORKERS OFF JOBS

Unemployment resulting from the 38-day soft coal strike skyrocketed past 800,000 yesterday as the fuel shortage put a tight stranglehold on the nation's industries.

The Association of American Railroads reported about 51,000 railroad men had been laid off because of the strike and estimated industries served by the railroads have laid off another 250,000.

The Ford Motor Company announced a shutdown last night of "virtually all operations," affecting an estimated 106,000 workers.

DUGGER NAMED MAYOR IN VOTE AT ELK PARK

Ben Dugger was named mayor of Elk Park in the municipal election held Monday. The vote was light and there was no opposition for the offices to be filled. Mr. Dugger received a total of 50 votes.

Named to the board of commissioners were J. H. Pedson, Geo. W. Nesbitt, R. L. Brinkley, T. L. Harmon and Joe L. McCurry.

MERCY WHEAT DRIVE ON



Northwest grain farmers are responding to the appeal for their wheat to feed the starving millions in Europe and Asia. This scene at the Farmers Union Co-op elevator at Flasher, N. D., shows a group of the neighboring farmers who have just brought in their wheat. They are taking U. S. government certificates which give them a year in which to choose the time they wish to convert it into cash.

TO APPEAR HERE



JUDGE HUBERT E. OLIVE

OLIVE TO SPEAK AT BLOWING ROCK

Lexington Jurist Chosen to Deliver Memorial Day Address For Legion

Judge Hubert E. Olive of Lexington, will deliver the Memorial Day address Sunday afternoon May 26 at 2 p. m. at Blowing Rock, it was announced this morning by Cleve Gross, chairman of the program committee of Watauga Post no. 130, American Legion.

The program for the annual memorial day exercises, sponsored by the legionnaires of the county will be published at a later date.

Mr. Gross feels fortunate in having been able to secure the service of Judge Olive on this occasion.

The Lexington jurist is a graduate of Wake Forest College, practiced law in Lexington, was judge of the Recorder's court there for three terms, represented Davidson county in the House of Representatives 1933-35; State manager for Governor Clyde Hoey in his gubernatorial campaign 1936. Served two years and three months in the first world war, with one year overseas as second and first lieutenant 317th FA, 81st division. He has been a Superior Court Judge since May 20, 1937.

Capt. Farthing Talks to Mother From Germany

Captain Glenn Farthing, executive officer with the third army, in Heidelberg, Germany, called his mother, Mrs. R. A. Farthing, of Valle Crucis, by long distance telephone some days ago. The call came direct to the Farthing home over the Sugar Grove party line, the connection was perfect, and Mrs. Farthing was able to hear her son's voice distinctly.

4-H CLUB COUNTY COUNCIL TO MEET SATURDAY A. M.

There will be a 4-H Club county council meeting in the home agent's office in the county building Saturday morning, May 11, beginning at 10 o'clock. The officers of all 4-H Clubs are urged to attend.

First noted 100 years ago as a "harmless weed" in this country, lespedeza now is recognized as one of the nation's greatest soil building legumes.

51 TO GRADUATE AT COLLEGE TODAY

Hon. Brandon Hodges to Deliver Address to Appalachian Graduates

Fifty one members of the senior class will be awarded their B.S. degrees at commencement exercises held at Appalachian State Teachers College this (Wednesday) morning, and Hon. Brandon Hodges, distinguished Asheville lawyer, will deliver the annual address to the graduates.

The commencement program and the list of those who will receive degrees follow:

Professional—College Orchestra, Holy, Holy, Holy—Congregation, Invocation—Rev. J. K. Parker, Jr., College Chorus—Miss Virginia Wary.

Address—Hon. Brandon Hodges, College Chorus.

Conferring degrees and awarding diplomas—Dr. B. B. Dougherty.

Benediction—Dr. E. K. McLaury.

Recessional—College Orchestra.

Those students who will be awarded degrees and diplomas for their achievement during the past four years are: Dale Atwood, Lena Brown, Rosedna Bowmal, Ruth Brittain, Ellen Burris, Lois Merle Butler, Mrs. Freda Grubbs Cline, Vivian Cline, Clara Cooke, Alma Crowder, Ruby Dancy, Mildred Easton, Carrie Lee Farthing, Amanda Ferebee, Rosalyn Francis, Betty Gabriel, Nellie Gabriel, Pearl Gold, Julia Gray, Betty Jean Griffin, Bonnie Jean Hamrick, Helen Horne, Bernita Hughes, Mildred Ingram, Margaret Lineberger, Helen Martin, Gloria Matkins, Martha V. Miller, Dorothy Lee Moore, Curtis Murray, Ellen Philbeck, Mrs. Una Perry Probst, Evelyn Ray, James E. Reece, Mary Ellis Reece, Peggy Rogers, Bonita Rominger, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Shaw, Frances Sherrill, A. J. Smith, Mary Eloise Smith, Helen Sossamon, Paul N. Sowell, Worth Sweet, Claudia Tharpe, Mary Lillian Wilcox, Nina Wilson, Juanita Young.

Peace Came To Europe Year Ago

Reims, France, May 7. — Peace came to Europe a year ago today in the "little red schoolhouse" at the outskirts of this cathedral city where Gen. Eisenhower maintained supreme headquarters.

The clock pointed to 2:41 a. m. a year ago when dejection Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl, chief of staff of the German army, scrawled his signature to the surrender after nearly six years of the most savage war in history.

The little red school house, whence the decisive military strokes from the west were directed, is preserved just as it was last year. The surrender occurred in the famous "war room" of supreme headquarters, allied expeditionary forces, with the maps, charts and battle orders on the walls surrounding the table and the 13 chairs where the capitulation was discussed and sealed.

The room now is a French national monument and shrine and a symbol of peace.

The anniversary was almost unnoticed in Reims.

German prisoners of war, 24,000 of them, work in the huge American stockpiles around the surrender city. There is still much work to be done in closing out the vast quartermaster depots.

PUPILS OF ELKLAND SCHOOL TO PRESENT PROGRAM MAY 10

Elementary grades of Elkland school will present a program with a Mother's Day theme, on Friday, May 10, at 8 o'clock. There will be no admission charge.

WATCH the LABEL

on your paper as it shows the date your subscription will expire and the date your paper will be stopped unless sooner renewed. The Democrat is operating strictly on a cash in advance basis. There are no exceptions to this rule.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF BIRD CLUB THIS WEEK

North Carolina Bird Club to Hold State Meeting in Boone Saturday and Sunday; Perhaps 200 or More Will Attend

Perhaps more than two hundred bird students from all parts of North Carolina, together with guests from a number of other states will be entertained jointly by the Boone Bird Club and Appalachian College, in the annual spring meeting of the State Bird Club, which will be held on Appalachian College campus next Saturday and Sunday.

The following detailed program, arranged by the Boone club and sent to all members by State President Clara Hearne, of Roanoke Rapids, will be carried out:

Saturday, May 11
11 to 2:30 p. m.—Registration, lobby Administration building, Appalachian College.

11 a. m.—Meeting of Executive committee.
12:30—p. m.—Luncheon Carolina Cafe.

2:30 p. m.—General meeting, auditorium Administration building, A.S.T.C.

4:15—Tea.
5:00—Tour of points of interest in Boone.

6:30—Annual dinner, cafeteria, A.S.T.C.

8:00 p. m.—Evening lecture, Randolph Ashton.
9:00 p. m.—Social hour, college girls' gymnasium.

Sunday, May 12
The general public is invited to attend the lecture Saturday evening. Mr. Ashton is a brilliant lecturer and authority on bird life, and the State Bird Club hopes that as many persons as possible will take advantage of the opportunity to hear this outstanding speaker.

The afternoon meeting is also open to the public and will consist of technical papers on birds of North Carolina and activities of the State Bird Club.

Bird hikes.
A few reservations for the annual dinner are available to former members and persons interested in birds. All members of the Boone club and guests wishing to attend this dinner should notify Miss Cora Jeffcoat, 504 Grand Boulevard, Boone, by 12:30, May 9.

Boone Lions Club Holds Weekly Meet

The Boone Lions Club at its regular meeting Tuesday night, staged a "liar's contest," the program being in charge of Taitwister Howard Cottrell. First prize went to champion liar Clyde R. Green, with Dr. R. K. Bingham as runner up.

Gordon Winkler, chairman of the ticket committee for the Lions show, reported that gross receipts amounted to \$575.97. He expressed special thanks to Bob Agle of the Appalachian Theatre, for his splendid co-operation in making the show a success.

Plans are being made to send six delegates to the state convention of Lions Clubs in Raleigh in June.

President R. C. Busted appointed a committee to nominate a slate of candidates for club officers for next year, the committee to report at the next meeting of the club.

Gene Garbee reported on the Boy Scout camporee held at Camp Winkler last week-end. Of the ten patrols present, seven won blue pennants for skill in camping.

Guests for the evening included Col. Smith, Ben Miller, David Rollins, Harry Cutts, Lewis Reese, H. O. Dowling and Rev. E. F. Troutman.

Government Efforts Fail to End Coal Strike

Washington, May 8.—The government failed Tuesday in an informal attempt to get 400,000 idle coal miners back on the job and end a 37-day strike which is progressively crippling the nation's economy.

Both miners and operators made plain they did not expect any speedy settlement.

The union's 250-man policy committee voted to stand by John L. Lewis' original demands.

"We'll stick it out," a union spokesman said, concerning demands for a special welfare fund and contract permitting foremen to organize.

"Then," he said, "we'll settle down and discuss wages."

Theatre is Sponsoring Novel Courtesy Contest

A courtesy contest is a novel feature of the activities at the Appalachian Theatre this week, and a prize of 20 free passes to the show-house will be presented by Mayor Gordon H. Winkler Thursday evening, to the winner.

A group of judges, says Manager Bob Agle, will determine the winner, who will be the person who is adjudged to have exercised the most consistent courtesy in his or her contacts with the public.