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# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1947

FIVE CENTS A COPY

## KING STREET

...By...  
Rob. Rivers.

Dr. R. K. Bingham, genial physician of the city, friend to the folks, and connoisseur of the hind quarters of prime mountain porkers, staged his annual "ham dinner" at the Legion hut Tuesday evening, out of deference to the court officials, lawyers and other friends about the town and the event was one of genuine pleasure. From appetizer to apple pie, the food was delicious, the fellowship sincere, and Dr. Bingham and all the others who had a part in the happy occasion, are being thanked sincerely for their hospitality.

Following the dinner a ludicrous make-believe court scene featured Judge Alley on the bench, trying Solicitor Farthing and Probation Officer Young Howell on charges of grossly slandering the court, and finding two veteran barristers, Hayden Burke and W. R. Lovill, as the legal staff. . . . The meeting wound up as a sort of testimonial dinner to Judge Alley, both defendants delivering touching tributes to the character and ability of the beloved champion of human justice, whose shadow on life's highway no longer slants toward the westward, but whose love and appreciation of his fellowman has not been lessened by the weight of the passing years.

"A good time was had by all," to use the stereotyped language of the country newspaper of a few years ago, and we wonder if such strictly informal sessions of the men folks aren't one of the very best tonics for faltering humankind, with a multiplicity of ailments . . . mostly of the mind.

Sheriff John W. Hodges and Hayden Burke talking of the Superior Court judges of a bygone age . . . Watt Gragg stating Rob Rivers is the oldest man born in the city limits of Boone and still living therein . . . scribe has no banking for verifying this information . . . Kenneth Linney passing around the coffee and rust, having a good time . . . Russell Hodges advocating "flow-ers for the living," and less to do at funerals . . . Clay Folk presiding over the kitchen, Lanel Ward giving the glad hand to his many friends, and each one going home with a little kinder feeling toward his neighbor.

## WE THANK YOU

Mrs. Ollie Reese of Zionville, one of the Democrat's best friends, came to town the other day, and didn't forget the dingy denizen of the Democrat office, bringing him some of the choicest numbers from the shelves of her pantry—black-berry preserves, apple butter, jelly, etc.—such viands as come in their perfection only from the kitchens of southern housewives . . . We appreciate this gesture of friendship on the part of our good friend, such acts of kindness and appreciation, do much to make the path smoother and the outlook brighter, and are worth far more than words which might be spoken some day which can't be heard, or flowers brought which can't be seen. Again we thank you.

Down at the park commission banquet the other day, Chairman Charles E. Ray of Waynesville, told a tale, which we remembered . . . It seems that a discussion was going on as to whether a certain convention should hold its meeting at the seashore or in the mountains. The exponent of the Blue Ridge cause, eloquently championed the attractions of his country, and concluded: "Why you can stand on the lofty peaks of the mountains, lift high your hands toward heaven's blue, and actually tickle the feet of the angels." A little fellow, it was related, who had no particular fondness for the land of lofty landscapes, slowly took the floor with this invitation, "Come down to Wrightsville Beach. For there you can have an angel on each knee and tickle them any d—place you want to!"

Seen in passing . . . Veterans of the home front teasing expectant father . . . Spud Whitener getting down to business on the college paper . . . Watauga Sales and Service putting finishing touches on new building on (Continued on page 8)

## COVERED WAGON DAYS



The Colorado delegation to the 48th national encampment of the Veterans of Foreign Wars arrived in Cleveland with a prairie schooner of the type used by the pioneers in the drive to the west.

## STOCK MARKET SETS RECORD

Biggest Sale in Dollars and Cents Ever Held at Live-stock Market

The Boone livestock market established a new dollars and cents record at its auctions last Wednesday, when cattle sold to the amount of more than \$35,000.00, it is stated by Lester Carroll, manager.

High prices are still prevailing in livestock circles, there is a large number of buyers at the local yards each Wednesday, and the demand for cattle is continuing unabated, Mr. Carroll says. At the same time growers are bringing their stock to the local market from an ever-widening area, and the prospects are that the turnover will continue to be heavy and the prices high.

One-third more has been added to the building at the stock market in an effort to take care of the needs of the farmers, and every effort is being made by the management to take care of each transaction carefully, with the view to getting the most money possible for the grower. The record number of buyers coming here recently, is a good thing for the farmers, and tends to promote continued high prices.

## To Sponsor Silver Tea and Fair at Local School

Mrs. Crawford's third grade and Miss Gibbs' fourth grade of the Demonstration School will sponsor a silver tea and fair on Tuesday afternoon, September 30 from two until four o'clock. The tea will be in the third grade basement room and the fair will be in the adjoining fourth grade room. This is being done in an effort to raise funds for supplies needed by the two grades.

The public is cordially invited to attend the tea and fair. School children will be admitted to the fair at two o'clock for 2 cents each.

The exhibitions at the fair will show products of Watauga farms. Many unusually large or oddly shaped vegetables and fruits will be on display along with canned goods and hand work made by the children of these two grades will also be shown.

For beekeepers who plan to have not more than a half dozen colonies, production of chunk comb honey probably will be most satisfactory.

## Cool Weather Heralds Winter

Mercury took a sort of nose dive Monday evening following the warm September weather, and temperatures in the upper thirties prevailed in the community, causing householders to fire up the turnaces which had been idle, and bringing about speculation as to the severity of the winter, which isn't far away.

The cold spell, which is probably an aftermath of the southern hurricane, is said to extend over a wide area. In Boone this morning, however, the mercury stood in the low fifties, and rain was falling. Overcast skies have prevented frost.

## No Bill Against Robert Hayes

Robert Hayes, Boone man, held under bond in connection with the death of Robert Ragan, which occurred on the main street of Boone during the progress of a fight early in the summer, was freed by the Grand Jury in Superior Court last week, no true bill having been found. Young Ragan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ragan, died of slashes from a knife, in the melee in which he, Hayes, and others are alleged to have engaged.

## AREA MEETING AT LEGION HUT

District Meeting to Feature Officers of American Legion

American Legion members from Avery and Watauga counties will hold a district meeting at the Boone Legion Hut on Friday night, October 3, beginning at six o'clock in the evening. A dinner is being planned for the visiting Legion members from the five posts that will be represented, and it is anticipated that the gathering will total several hundred Legion members.

State Commander Ray Galloway, State Adjutant Wiley M. Pickens, and other high state officials will be here, in addition to the officials and members from the posts at Newland, Elk Park, Boone, Blowing Rock and Deep Gap.

A big program including plenty of music and other entertainment is being planned by the Boone Post, and all members of the American Legion are urged to attend. The Boone Post in 1947 had an all time high membership of 400 members, and this big rally is designed to start the drive for 600 members in 1948.

A very important meeting will be held this Friday night, September 26th to plan for this district caucus. All members of the Auxiliary and wives of Legionnaires are urged to be present.

## Mrs. Elvira Vannoy Succumbs on Friday

Mrs. Elvira Brown Vannoy, 53 years old, died at her home in the Bamboo section last Saturday, after an illness of more than two years.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 2 o'clock from the Mount Vernon Baptist Church by Rev. R. C. Eggers and Rev. Will Cook and interment was in the Vannoy cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, Letcher Vannoy; a brother, Milton Brown of Blowing Rock; two sisters, Mrs. Mollie Yates, Boone, and Mrs. Epsie Arnold, Fig. N. C.

P. T. A. MEETING  
P. T. A. meeting at Appalachian High School building Sept. 29th. This is the first meeting of the year and will be a dinner meeting. Patrons are asked to bring a covered dish. New teachers will be introduced and plans made for the coming year.

Senator Lodge, back from Europe, shocked by lies about us.

## CONE ESTATE ADDS SCENERY TO PARK ROUTE

Public Recreation Area to Be Made of Estate of Late Moses H. Cone at Blowing Rock; Scenic Highway to Be Built Through the Estate

Blowing Rock—Travelers down the Blue Ridge parkway next season will find a brand new and major attraction along the way.

Under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. Moses Cone, member of a wealthy textile family of Greensboro, her beautiful 3,500-acre mountain estate is to be turned into a public recreation area. The estate, situated in the highlands of this area, contains a large mansion, a lake, and miles of the best riding trails in the south. The trail system, complete and wellkept, lies in portions of the estate in which automobile traffic is forbidden. For some years, Mrs. Cone has permitted the public to use the trails freely, and they have comprised one of the most important attractions of this resort town.

Currently, the state of North Carolina and the National Park Service are discussing with administrators of the will what agency is to administer the new park. One plan is to make it a part of the Blue Ridge parkway, which is to be built through the estate, but it is possible that the acreage will be made into a new North Carolina state park.

Because of the intricate pattern of riding trails, the new Cone park would become the first large public area in the south devoted largely to horsemen, though tentative plans also call for development of water sports, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities.

The mansion might be made into a lodge with overnight accommodations for visitors.

## Jr. Order Gives Flag, Bible to School

In an outdoor ceremony on Monday afternoon, September 22, the Daniel Boone Chapter of the Junior Order of American Mechanics presented to the Demonstration School a Bible and flag. The high school band, directed by Mr. Gordon Nash, played as the students and faculty of the school were assembling on the lawn in front of the building for the program. This was followed by the playing and singing of "America" by the group. R. D. Hodges, Jr., who presided, then introduced Jack Story, who presented a Bible to the school. Rev. Edwin Troutman led the invocation and accepted the Bible on behalf of the faculty and pupils. Clyde Greene, following a speech of presentation, gave the flag to the school. Beth Eggers, seventh grade pupil, accepted it. As the flag was raised, the band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The names of the Boone business men thus far cooperating in the Farm Bureau movement are: Goodnight Brothers Produce Co., Home Electric Supply Co., Stallings Jewelry Store, S. C. Eggers & Co., The Fashion Shop, Wilson Feed Store, Mountain Burley Warehouse, Inc., Valle Crucis Co., Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., Inc., Northwestern Bank, Belk-White Co., Boone Drug Co., Skyline Restaurant, Winkler Motor Co., Colvard Auto Parts, Inc., Hunt's Department Store, Colvard Chevrolet Co., Watauga Building & Loan Association, Watauga Insurance Agency, Frank M. Payne, Lyon's Thrift Shop, Peoples Cafe, Hollars Grocery, Watauga Democrat, Boone Tire & Bargain Store, City Shoe Shop, Parkway Co., Moretz Furniture Co., Watson & Cook Garage, Barnett Motor Co., Maddux Easo Service, Hollars Produce & Fertilizer Co.

## Correction

Through error it was reported in the Democrat last week that M. A. Nichols was convicted in superior court of driving drunk, and fined \$25 and the cost, with a 60-day suspended sentence. Mr. Nichols was really fined on a charge of reckless driving. The error is regretted, and this correction gladly made.

Securities offerings in first half of year well below 1946 level.

## Former Boone Man Tells Father Of Hurricane's Force in Florida

Fred H. Hodges, son of former sheriff John W. Hodges, who now resides at West Palm Beach, Fla., was situated in the path of the recent hurricane which lashed the south and southeast, and the following are some excerpts from a letter which the father has received: "The 'Big Blow' as they call it down here is over and we are still living. They may call it 'Big Blow' but I have another name for it. You can't imagine one of those things unless you have been through one. The estimated rate of the wind was 125 miles per hour. The instrument they measure it with broke, but I am sure it made every inch of 125. "We sat here for two nights and a day watching limbs, curtains, pans and other things pass the house. Trees were breaking and being pulled up by the roots. A coconut tree in our yard broke off about half way up but we had very little damage to the house and yard. "People that have lived here a long time say that these things only come once and awhile but I can assure you that that is too often. The wind there in Boone in the winter time is merely a play thing by the side of this. They estimate the damage in this county at ten million dollars."

## CONGRESS FLOODS EUROPE



One of the many congressional committees now touring Europe on fact-finding missions, is this committee headed by Representative Herter, Massachusetts. This committee is touring on a fact-finding mission in connection with the Marshall plan.

## FARM PICNIC TO BE CLIMAX BUREAU DRIVE

County-wide Gathering of Farmers to Be Held in Boone Saturday, Oct. 4; Drive for Members of Farm Organization Meets Success

A county-wide farmers' picnic will provide the highspot of the campaign for new members being conducted locally by the Farm Bureau, the gathering to be held on the courthouse lawn Saturday, October 4th at 11 o'clock, it is revealed by George G. Farthing, area Farm Bureau agent, who is assisting local officials in the current effort.

The picnic will be supplied by the bureau, there will be band music, an address will be delivered by one of North Carolina's outstanding Farm leaders, and reports of the various neighborhood membership committees will be heard.

The membership campaign got under way Monday with G. D. Barnett, chairman, and I. B. Wilson, chairman of the Associate membership committee, and a list of business firms cooperating is being published herewith. It is hoped that all business men of the county will cooperate in the movement.

Mr. Farthing reports a large meeting at Green Valley School Monday night, with an address by R. G. Arnold, regional organization director for the Farm Bureau, and there was a program of music. A similar meeting was held Tuesday night at Deep Gap School with wide interest. Other meetings to be held are: Bethel September 25; Bamboo, September 26th; Shulls Mills, September 29; Matney, September 30; Windy Gap, October 1. All meetings are at 7:30 p. m.

The names of the Boone business men thus far cooperating in the Farm Bureau movement are:

Goodnight Brothers Produce Co., Home Electric Supply Co., Stallings Jewelry Store, S. C. Eggers & Co., The Fashion Shop, Wilson Feed Store, Mountain Burley Warehouse, Inc., Valle Crucis Co., Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., Inc., Northwestern Bank, Belk-White Co., Boone Drug Co., Skyline Restaurant, Winkler Motor Co., Colvard Auto Parts, Inc., Hunt's Department Store, Colvard Chevrolet Co., Watauga Building & Loan Association, Watauga Insurance Agency, Frank M. Payne, Lyon's Thrift Shop, Peoples Cafe, Hollars Grocery, Watauga Democrat, Boone Tire & Bargain Store, City Shoe Shop, Parkway Co., Moretz Furniture Co., Watson & Cook Garage, Barnett Motor Co., Maddux Easo Service, Hollars Produce & Fertilizer Co.

U. S. holds 457,590,800 acres in public land, survey shows.

## METERS TO BE INSTALLED ON CITY STREETS

City Council Takes Action in Effort to Relieve Parking Situation; 200 Meters to Be Installed on King Street During Next Month

The city officials have closed a deal with a large manufacturer of parking meters, whereby a large number of the coin devices will be installed on King Street between October 1 and 15th, in an effort to ease the parking situation on the main thoroughfare, and at the same time to provide additional revenue for continued street improvement projects.

The decision to give the meters a try-out was reached after officials discussed the matter with a large number of the leading business men of the city, who seemed to share the opinion that customers of the respective stores had rather deposit a nickel in the slot and perhaps be able to park, and transact their business, than to finally secure lodgment for their vehicle far away from their destination without cost.

Plans call for the installation of 200 meters between the Smithey Store and the old Smithey building, and it is believed that local residents may be induced to leave their cars in the family garage during business hours, and thus leave the spaces for farmers and others who are anxious to do business here. There is no cash outlay for the meters, and the contrivances will gradually be paid for by the 50% take which the manufacturers get.

Meters are being installed in most of the smaller cities of the state and investigation by local officials indicate that the people generally are highly pleased with them, when they become accustomed to the system.

## Named as Attacker After Car His Boy

Hickory—Less than 14 hours after his automobile struck and gravely injured a six-year-old boy on Highway 70-A east of Hickory Friday, Lawrence Sigmon, 28, of 631 Chestnut Avenue, was arrested on charges of raping a 31-year-old Watauga county woman at Lake Hickory and taking \$215 from her.

Police Chief E. W. Lentz said that soon after the Watauga woman signed warrants accusing Sigmon of rape and larceny from the person he was taken into custody Sunday on Ninth avenue here. The chief added that money which the woman said belonged to her was found in the rear of the same car that had struck Thomas Campbell, son of Mrs. L. L. Vinson of Hickory, Route 3 Friday morning.

The woman charges—according to Chief Lentz, that Sigmon ravished her on City of Hickory property at Lake Hickory and stole \$215 in cash from her around 7 o'clock Friday evening.

Sigmon is being held in jail without privilege of bond on the rape and larceny charges. Deputy Sheriff Glenn Allen of Hickory said today that no charges had been preferred against him in connection with the accident on highway 70-A pending the outcome of the condition of the Campbell youngster. Meanwhile, attaches at the Richard Baker hospital reported the child conscious and his condition greatly improved.

## Rev. Polk to Preach At Union Services

The regular monthly union service of the five churches in town will be held Sunday evening at 7:30 at the Advent Christian Church. It will be the concluding service of a series of meetings being held in that church this week.

Rev. Richard Polk, pastor of the First Advent Christian Church in Lenoir, will preach the sermon. The members of all five of the participating churches are urged to attend and all others interested in hearing the Gospel of Salvation preached.

Oats are good feed for starting calves but are to bulky to make up a large part of the ration.

## FEW REGISTER FOR CITY VOTE ON RECREATION

Books Open for Two More Saturdays to Vote on Proposed Tax Levy for Start of Recreation Program; Fiscal Proposal is Clarified

Registration for the special election to vote on providing a relatively small sum for the start of a recreational program in the town, got under way last Saturday at the city hall, and interest in the proposal seems to be rather light, since only about thirty-five qualified voters placed their names on the books. The books will be open next Saturday and the following Saturday for the registration of voters, while Saturday October 11th will be observed as challenge day.

It is again emphasized that this is a brand new registration, and no one will be allowed to vote who doesn't appear at city hall during the period set aside, and get his or her name on the books. The vote will be against the registration, that is, a majority of the registered vote will be necessary to carry the proposal.

Coach R. W. Watkins, local recreation director points out that the enabling act needs clarification, as to the amount of money which the taxpayers will be required to spend in the event the proposal is approved, and states: "The law specifies that if the recreation vote is carried the taxpayer will pay TEN CENTS ON EACH ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PROPERTY EVALUATION. For example, if your property evaluation is \$500, your assessment will be only fifty cents more with the passing of the recreation vote. Legally the money provided can be used only recreational purposes by authority of the Recreation Commission."

## Local Band Gets Letter of Praise

Rev. E. F. Troutman, president of the High School Band and Parent-Teacher Association, has received the following letter from Clarence E. Greever of the Johnson County Bean Festival committee, Mountain City, Tenn.: "I am writing you with reference to the Boone High School Band which so graciously took part in the recent Bean Festival here in Mountain City.

"In addition to the fine music so well rendered and so well conducted, was the courteousness and co-operative spirit shown by every single member of the group.

"Please express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the band, its director, Mr. Nash, and to any and all who help sponsor these fine young people. "We are hoping to have them with us on a similar occasion next year."

## BIG APPLES

The Democrat appreciates the gift by Mr. A. C. Miller of Matney of 9 apples of the Wolf River and Gloria Munday variety, which weigh a total of 11 pounds, by far the largest we have seen this year.

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended August 30 totaled 268 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.