

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The robins straggle in from the south, as March, with her high winds, her gusty showers and her genuine ill temper, rules the land, and paves the way for the glad springtime. . . . The buds begin to show on the lilac bushes, and the dainty little golden bells seem to be taking just a tiny peek to see whether or not it is safe to walk out into the tempering air. . . . The daffodils, inseparable partners of spring showers, and singing birds, and human gladness, break through and bud. . . . And on the darker side, the buzz of the big bottle-nosed fly, who adds his rasping note to the first timid rehearsals of the spring-time serenade.

THE BISHOP APPEARS

Bishop Costen J. Harrel, was with the local Methodist Church over the week-end, and the fact that the eminent divine has jurisdiction over more than 800 churches made his visit a kind of red-letter occasion for local Methodism. . . . Like in the days when the visit of the "presiding elder" was the occasion of most concern in Methodist homes, the visit of the Bishop brought a pretty good "turn-out" of the faithful. . . .

A BACKWARD GLANCE

Bishop Harrel was discoursing on the sad estate of the nations of the world, of the wars and the pessimistic attitude held by many as to the future of civilization, and injected a bit of past political history which we enjoyed. . . . The Bishop, then a young pastor, attended a meeting in Raleigh in 1913, when William Jennings Bryan, the celebrated Commoner, and peerless orator, addressed a large throng. . . . It was just before the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson, and Josephus Daniels, Raleigh Publisher, was on the rostrum. . . . It had been generally known that Mr. Daniels was to take over as Secretary of the Navy, and the Nebraskan was to be Secretary of State. . . . "in the optimism of the late Victorian period," Mr. Bryan chided publisher Daniels for being a "man without a job." There was to be no more wars, so the author of the celebrated "Cross of Gold" oration concluded. . . . "Why," said the Nebraskan of mighty mane, "it will cost one thousand dollars to fire one of those Naval guns of yours! . . . The business men of this country will never stand for it. . . . And even at the moment world war I was in the making and should have been seen by the leaders of the day. . . . Fact is, the orator-Pacificist, who believed peace to be cheap at any price, resigned from the cabinet to keep from being a part of the world-wide holocaust. . . . Which goes to show that in those days of isolation, and of easy complacency, and of faith in the defenses of great distances, we couldn't see danger until we were all but engulfed. . . . The politicians of this day have no monopoly on short-sightedness."

SCHOOL DAYS RECALLED

Herman McNeil, son of our late townsman, Bynum McNeil, who resides in Mansfield, Pa., visits in the county, and recalls that he and this scribe started their schooling together down at the old Academy building, when the relatively few students gathered for a peek at the three r's under conditions which would be considered primitive in this day of improved facilities, facilities and methods. . . . He recalled that we opened the lid of the first reader under the eagle eye of a lady by the name of Trotter, who appeared to be a little mad at the youngsters most of the time. . . . Dwell on the administration of the late John S. Williams, and daughter, Miss Mamie, and the year Miss Margaret Combs taught. . . . "Specially the day Miss Margaret wielded the beech sprout with such a vim, when a big six shooter dropped from the frayed garments of the lad who "desked" across the aisle. . . . We liked the quick meeting with the lad we used to know, and enjoyed the brief reminiscences of the happy days down where the college now stands (Continued on page four)



DRAMA OFFICIALS—Officials of the Cherokee Historical Association are seen conferring with "Horn in the West" leaders in Boone relative to the staging of the local drama, and pledging full cooperation during the coming season. Left to right: John Parris, public relations director for "Unto These Hills"; Dr. D. J. Whitener, executive vice-president of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association; Carol White, general manager of the Cherokee drama, and Samuel Selden of Chapel Hill, director of the "Horn in the West."—Photo by Palmer's Photo Service.

Construction of 'Horn' Theatre Is Started

Construction of the outdoor Daniel Boone Theatre for "Horn In The West" began this week after the approval of the building plans by the board of directors of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association. Greene Construction Company of Boone is building the theatre and the adjacent parking areas, as well as the dressing rooms, concession stand, ticket office and rest rooms.

Designed by students of the State College department of landscape architecture and Charlotte landscape architect John B. Lippard, the amphitheatre provides for 2,500 spectators. Parking facilities will accommodate 1,000 automobiles. Buildings will be of board and batten construction, while the stockades and pavilions of the stage will be of log.

The center line of the theatre has been staked out and other locating survey begun. Perry Greene of Greene Construction Co., said that actual ground breaking would begin by the middle of the week. An interesting feature of preparing the theatre site is the moving of giant clumps of rhododendron from the ground to be used for actual buildings or seats to other locations where they will add to the beauty and seclusion of the area.

Self-Employed Are To Pay Security Levy

Dr. Anders Is Given Honor

Dr. McG. Anders, of Gastonia, former Boone physician, has been chosen by the Gaston County Medical Society as Gaston County's Doctor of the Year. Dr. Anders' name will be entered in state competition in May and if he is chosen state winner he will be entered in the American Medical Society "Doctor of the Year" judging in the summer.

Self-employed people whose work is now under social security must report their 1951 earnings for social security and pay the social security tax when they turn in their income tax returns for 1951. This reminder came today from Louis H. Clement, manager of the Salisbury social security office. "Our telephone has really been jumping lately," Mr. Clement said, "We have had literally hundreds of calls in recent weeks about this. So for the benefit of self-employed people in this area, I have asked the Watauga Democrat to list below a few essential facts about social security and the self-employed."

Election Board Nominees Given

Three Watauga county men have been recommended to the State Board of Elections for appointment to the county board of elections as representatives of the States Rights Democrats.

Here are the main points reported out by Mr. Clement:

1. A 2 1/4% tax on net incomes up to \$3600 must be paid at the same time the final 1951 income tax report is sent in—no later than March 15 of this year.
2. The report will be made on "Schedule C," which is available in offices of the collector of internal revenue.
3. If the net income is not at least \$400, make no report.
4. People who pay the taxes will be building social security old-age and survivors benefits for themselves just as people employed in commerce and industry have for years.
5. You will need a personal social security account number. If you don't have an account card already, all your social security office.
6. Your occupation may be automatically excluded. Ask your social security office at Salisbury, N. C. for a copy of Do You Work For Yourself, a free booklet on the self-employed.

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First Red Cross Report Is Made

At noon Monday \$693.98 had been reported collected toward the county quota of \$2415 for the 1952 American Red Cross fund raising campaign. Dr. G. K. Moose, county chairman, and Charlie Wilfong, campaign chairman, urged workers to continue their work and turn in money promptly either to the bank or to Paul A. Coffey at the Parkway Company.

GIVES UP HIKES

Indianapolis, Ind.—The Rev. Alvin Couchman has decided to give up his daily 10-mile walk for two reasons: One is that he's 93 and the other is because a truck struck him and broke his right leg on his last outing.

Phone Co-Op Membership Totals 149 For Watauga

Many Volunteer To Aid Drive Against Cancer

Mrs. John D. Davis, campaign chairman for the 1952 Cancer Drive, announces the appointment of the following local volunteers who will assist in soliciting contributions to the Cancer Fund:

Earl D. Cook Is New G. O. P. Chairman

Earl D. Cook, was named chairman of the Republican Executive Committee at the county convention held Saturday afternoon, succeeding Mr. I. B. Wilson.

Number Still Short of Goal

The Watauga membership in the Skyline Telephone Membership Corporation has been increasing for the past three weeks until now there are 149 members who have paid in ten dollars each, to indicate their good faith and interest in receiving modern dial telephone service from their cooperative.

Mrs. Howard Williams, Mrs. Bob Congleton, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Robinson, Mrs. William Smith, Mrs. Tex Craven, Mrs. Carl Fidler, Miss Madeleine McCain, Mr. Leonard Eury, Mrs. Ellis Edwards, and Mrs. A. D. Dickerson.

Mr. J. E. Broyhill was endorsed as national committeeman from North Carolina, and James Baley of Marshall was endorsed for the State chairmanship. The convention was presided over by Stacy Eggers, while Fred M. Gragg acted as secretary.

While this is a good start toward the number of memberships needed, it is short of the goal which must be reached before the construction of rural telephone lines may be started, and T. G. Miller, Jr. and E. P. Holmes, field representatives for the State REA, have been in the county assisting the membership campaign workers. They will be in the county alternately for the next few weeks until the present survey is complete.

Farm Loan Group To Meet Here

The annual meeting of the North Wilkesboro National Farm Loan Association will be held in Boone on June 20th, it is announced by S. C. Eggers, president of the organization.

C. Of C. Board Asks Tax Hike Election

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce has recommended the sponsoring of a city election looking to the levying of an additional ten cents per one hundred dollar valuation, for financing a new program of progress for the Chamber and the town, it is revealed by Herman W. Wilcox, president of the organization.

Meantime the following statement is issued from the office of County Agent L. E. Tuckwiller: "Are you one of many who is interested in receiving dependable telephone service but has hesitated to sign an application with the Co-op? If so, it is very important that you make such arrangements in order that you can be assured that the system will reach you when construction starts. Those who pay in ten dollars on their membership before the loan can be approved are the ones to receive telephone service first. Those folk making application for service after construction has begun may not receive telephones as soon as they desire. Can we, as helpful citizens of Watauga County, afford to pass (Continued on page six)

Civic Meeting Set For Tonight

There will be a special meeting at the Skyland Restaurant Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock for the purpose of giving full information on the progress of the plans for the outdoor drama.

The official bulletin mailed to the membership by Mr. Wilcox states that the city council is willing to call the special tax election if the general public desires it.

Field Crop Meeting Slated For March 19

Dr. E. R. Collins, in charge Agronomy Extension, Roy R. Bennett, Extension Tobacco Specialist, Sam H. Dobson, Extension Pasture Specialist, and F. R. Farnham, Extension Dairy Specialist, will assist with a meeting on field crops at the Courthouse, Boone, on Wednesday, March 19, starting at 9:30 a. m.

Bethel Junior Play On Friday

The Junior class of Bethel High School will present a three act comedy, "Aunt Samantha Rules the Roost," Friday evening, March 14, at 7:30 o'clock in the school auditorium.

Dr. Collins will discuss corn production, taking up such topics as fertilization, side-dressing, cultivation, weed control, hybrids, and land preparation. Roy R. Bennett will discuss tobacco and will give special attention to plant bed preparation, weed control, disease control and prevention. He will tell us how to keep the serious diseases, black shank and Fusarium wilt from getting into our soils. Should black shank get in our soils it could make tobacco production unprofitable for the county, as we have no resistant varieties.

Chamber Officials Attend Area Conferences

The Boone Chamber of Commerce was well represented at the Western Area Conference of the North Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives which convened in Salisbury on Thursday, March 6, at the new Rowan County Library.

Actors, Singers Being Sought For Drama

First call for actors, singers, and technical assistants for "Horn In The West" has been issued by Samuel Selden, director of the outdoor drama which will be presented at Boone this summer.

Sam Dobson will show how to improve our pastures and make them pay more for the mosey we have invested in them. Mr. Farnham will discuss the importance of a good feed supply and how to use it. In the afternoon a meeting will be held at Howard Edmisten's farm at Sugar Grove to show the steps in pasture improvement. Mr. Edmisten will tear up an old pasture, apply the proper fertilizers and seed the grass and clover.

Those representing the Boone Chamber included: Mr. Herman W. Wilcox, president, and Mrs. Wilcox; Mrs. Roberta B. Ray, secretary; Mrs. Connie Mae Phillips, chairman housing committee; and Mr. Stanley A. Harris, who attended in the interest of publicizing the drama production, "Horn in the West."

Marvin Wallace Taken By Death

Mr. Marvin Melton Wallace, 40 years old, died Monday night at the home of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Wallace, of Banner Elk. He had been in declining health several years.

NCEA Meets At Mabel

The Watauga County unit of the North Carolina Education Association met Wednesday evening, March 5, at Mabel School. Mrs. John Horton, president of the unit, presided at the business meeting. She welcomed the guests, who included the members of the County Board of Education. An important business item was the appointment of a nominating committee, which is to present to the unit a slate of officers to serve the organization in the coming school year.

Funeral services will be conducted today (Wednesday) at the Liberty Methodist church, Matney, N. C., at 2 o'clock, by Rev. Robert Allen. Survivors, in addition to the mother, are four brothers and six sisters. Mr. Eph Wallace of Kingsport, Tennessee, Mr. Custer Wallace of Boone, Mr. Homer Wallace of Rominger, N. C., Mr. Roy Wallace of Banner Elk, N. C., Mrs. Sallie Gillespie of Banner Elk, Mrs. Dora Church of Ft. Hood, Texas, Mrs. Odene Perry of Minn., Minnesota, Mrs. Naomi Shoemaker, Mrs. Mamie Watson and Mrs. Marie Hicks, all of Rominger, N. C.

Everyone is invited to come out for an evening of good entertainment.

Actors, Singers Being Sought For Drama

All persons interested in working with "Horn In The West" are urged to be present, whether or not they have had previous experience in acting, or work with properties, lights, scenery, or costumes.

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Funeral services will be conducted today (Wednesday) at the Liberty Methodist church, Matney, N. C., at 2 o'clock, by Rev. Robert Allen.

Emphasizing that these tryouts are scheduled so that local people and residents of the surrounding area will have first chance for employment in the play, Mr. Selden said: "The whole project of presenting 'Horn In The West' is an enterprise of the southern Appalachian highlands and we want to employ as many people as possible from this region with the show. For this reason, we are having the first auditions here in Boone before opening them to people in other parts of the state. Good attendance at the tryout March 19 is important to the success of the play."

The cast of "Horn In The West" requires about 75 persons of all ages to play the part of pioneers and their families, as well as soldiers, explorers and Indians. Some of these will sing early American folk songs, and ballads, and hymns; others will take part in English folk dances and the square dances popular with the early settlers. "Horn In The West" will open June 27 and be given six nights weekly through August 31. Rehearsals begin June 3. A part in the play or a place on the technical staff means salaried employment for the entire summer.

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