

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them."—Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1952.

## The Parent Of REA

In the passing of G. Finley Messick of Caldwell county, it is truly said that the father of the Rural Electric Cooperative in this immediate area is dead.

Back in the mid-thirties, when electric lights and motors could be seen revolutionizing the farm life of northwestern North Carolina, Fin Messick, who used to go to school down at the "Training School," when we knew him as "Captain" Messick, became obsessed with the idea of forming a cooperative to use Federal funds to bring about the new day in Caldwell, envisioned by the folks who established the Rural Electric Administration.

Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany people were interested too, and meetings were held in the Boone courthouse and elsewhere, but the job seemed hard and the workers few.

Meantime, Messick was getting the Caldwell county Co-op organized, and when he saw that the mountain counties weren't going to the bat, he included them in an overall setup and the present Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation had its beginning.

We are not saying that Watauga would never have worked out her part of the REA deal. She would have, in time of course. But fact is, she didn't. It remained for Fin Messick to be the moving force in the brightening of the homes and the lives of our people, and we acknowledge with a sense of sorrow the death of one, whose activities resulted in such bountiful public fruitfulness.

## "Whom The God's Would Destroy..."

Opponents of Senator Taft's campaign for the Presidency point to the huff of the Ohioan in the case of the New Jersey primary, and are freely voicing the opinion that Mr. Republican is bowing himself out of the running.

Since anger and destruction, poetically and actually are tied rather close together, we would agree that the Senator has weakened his cause by whimpering because the New Jersey organization is aligned for Eisenhower, and more especially by his thrust at Governor Driscoll, who in the Taft handbook, has gone back on his word.

In Watauga, where Taft is the odds-on favorite of the Republican voters, there is a pretty general feeling that the Taft cause was not enhanced in this instance, but in recent days there is the belief that his organizational abilities will be fully shown when some of the other big states vote, and that he will still be the elephant boy of 1952.

We still nurture our old belief that Eisenhower is being unwittingly cast in a stop-Taft role, and that a campaign is actually being made in behalf of the dark horse who is to get the call, if or when the top-flighters run into a deadlock. But Taft can push himself out of the picture if he continues to conduct himself angrily and childishly in the highly competitive game of party politics.

## News Items Of Boone Elementary School

### Mrs. Cottrell's First Grade

We enjoyed Gary Lee Parson's birthday very much. His mother gave us ice cream and cookies.

We are studying birds. Our drawings are exceptionally good. Mrs. Cottrell and Mrs. Goss chose some good ones and put on the bulletin boards in the front hall.

The "Spring" bulletin board is our room is very pretty. We made boys flying kites, baby lambs, flowers, trees with bird houses, and many birds flying about. Bobbie Jean McGuire drew a good house and Gay Kirchner drew a little boy riding on a horse. We like all of it.

Max Fletcher brought a nice bird house which he and his father made. He took it back home to paint it. Then he will put it up for the little birds to live in.

Mrs. Martha Goss is our student teacher this quarter. We like her very much.

We are having fun painting our toy train which we built while we studied about trains.

### Mrs. Councill's First Grade

Bonnie Scott is out with mumps. Carolyn Hoover, Joe Todd, Ala Sue McGuire, Jimmy Cannon, Lynn Carter, Bartlett Dougherty and Mary Ruth Church are still sick. We miss them and hope they will soon be back.

### Mrs. Davis' Room

We have been having visitors from the college. We have been making poems about our helpers. Terry Edminsten's father came to see us. Eva Danay Erneston's father came by to see her before he left on a trip.

### Mrs. Beshears' Second Grade

We were all pleasantly surprised last Monday, March 17, when Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Hager and son Bany dropped in our room for a birthday party for their daughter, Elaine. They served ice cream and cookies to the class. Elaine was celebrating her eighth birthday.

Jimmy Agie has given us two surprises this week. First, he brought some maple sugar candy for us. We had read in our "Weekly Reader" how the maple tree gives us the sap and how it is boiled until it became candy. It was very good. His other surprise came on Saturday morning when he brought his radio to school so that we could hear the Children's Hour over WATA.

We all hope that Robert Stevens will be well and back to school soon. We miss him very much. We hope that Willard Presnell will be back with us soon too.

Most of our seed packages have been sold. Those selling the most seeds are: Hilliard Shackford,

### Linneus Derrick, Jimmy Cook, and Larry Gragg.

They sold forty packages each. The entire room has sold nearly \$22.00.

Bette Broome brought her record player Thursday and we listened to some records. We enjoyed that very much.

We are happy to have with us these next few months Miss Faye Setzer of Dallas, N. C., and Appalachian State Teachers College. This week she is helping us make a farm scene on our bulletin board.

### Mrs. Crawford's Third Grade

The following people gave good talks at our "Show and Tell" Wednesday: Rachel Rivers, Jane Hodges, Charley Marion, Joe Minor, Lana Turner, Charles Harmon, Mary Wey, Wanda Cooke, Reid Cottrell, Linda Mast, and June Hopkins. This time is one to which all the children look forward each week.

We are glad to have Margot Cobb back in school.

We sold candy this week to buy a book on "Good Manners." These children brought candy and cookies to sell; Jane Hodges, June Hopkins, Joe Minor, Linda Mast, Maxine Brown. We hope we can buy another book.

We are beginning a Science Corner in our room. The children volunteered to bring plants and insects. Maxine Brown made a lovely plant garden. Joe Minor will bring leaves, Wanda Cooke is to bring pictures of fish. Lana Turner and Jackie Townsend will bring pictures of birds and butterflies.

We are learning new words from a science list.

Mary Wey told the group an interesting story during story hour.

### Mrs. Buckland's Fifth Grade

Everyone is looking forward to playing out on the playground again. Jimmy Hayes, Kenneth Hollars, Dayton Teague, Bruce Bumgarner and Ben Teague have already been busy organizing baseball teams in the room.

All winter long many of our students have been absent due to sickness. Even now Margaret Parrott, Robert Braswell and Ralph Cornett are sick. We hope they will be well soon.

Mr. McDaniel, our practice teacher, has been teaching us many things about the Philippine Islands. Next week we will study Canada.

We are preparing our bulletin boards for Easter now. The boys will give the Easter party.

### Mr. Love's Sixth Grade

We are very glad to see warm weather again. The boys have a well organized baseball team and the girls are all set to begin soft-

## Celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lyons celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary with their children giving them a surprise dinner Sunday, March 16. The dinner was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Lyons. A bountiful dinner was served on a beautifully appointed table, with a gold and white anniversary cake centering the table. The family consists of six children, twenty grandchildren and

## HARRIS

Continued from page one: area and the road from the Oak Street entrance was almost completed at the first of the week. Also nearing completion is clearing of ground on the theatre site and the moving of the large rhododendrons where necessary to permit building of amphitheatre and stage.

Casting for "Horn in the West" and the hiring of technical assistants is also proceeding on schedule. A crowd estimated at 300 gathered at the men's gymnasium at Appalachian State Teachers College last Wednesday night to try out for roles in the play, fill out applications and be interviewed by Director Samuel Selden, Associate Kai Jurgensen and Stage Manager Gene Graves, who were here from the University of North Carolina. Decisions as to those chosen for parts or technical rehearsal have not been announced. Rehearsals for the drama begin June 3 and selection of singers will not take place until then. Mr. Selden expressed deep appreciation of the interest and enthusiasm evidenced by the large group present for the try-outs.

In announcing that Mr. Harris had accepted the business management for "Horn in the West," Dr. Whitener, executive vice president of the historical association, praised the work which Mr. Harris has already done as chairman of the finance committee. Under his leadership this committee has secured bond subscriptions amounting to over \$57,000. He will continue to supervise the sale of bonds in addition to his new duties.

Mr. Harris says that he has accepted the business management on condition that the complete cooperation between the

seven great grandchildren, most of whom were present.

The children are Mr. Hardie Lyons of Hickory, Messers Leslie, Clarence and Earle of Boone, and Mrs. Earle Norris of Boone, Route 2, and Mrs. Jake Moretz of Deep Gap.

The Rev. E. F. Troutman and Mrs. Troutman were invited guests. The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons wish them many more years of happiness.

various committees, the board, the association members, bond holders and all others interested in the success of "Horn in the West" would continue.

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## Mrs. J. G. Vannoy Taken By Death

Mrs. J. G. Vannoy, 80 years old, died on March 16, after an illness of six days with pneumonia.

She was a daughter of Callaway and Sarah Greene Hodges, and her husband had preceded her in death twenty years. She is survived by seven sons and daughters:

Mrs. Leon Day and Mrs. C. L. Smith of Boone, and Mrs. T. R. Thomas of Plainfield, N. J.; Elbert, Thomas and Ernest of Boone and George of Fresno, Ohio. Also surviving are twelve grand children and one great grandchild, two sisters, Mrs. J. P. Hodges and Mrs. E. M. Cook of Boone and two brothers, H. L. Hodges and T. C. Hodges of Hodges Gap.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at the Advent Christian Church of Boone of which she was a member, by Revs. S. E. Gragg and Everett Ransom, her pastor.

The large concourse of people and profusion of flowers bespoke

the high regard in which she was held in the community.

Her life had been a very beautiful example of all Christian virtues and piety—such a life is a great blessing to any community.

Those from out-of-town attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Thomas and daughter, Donnie of Plainfield, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. George Vannoy and sons, Jimmie and Bobbie, of Fresno, Ohio; Hal Hannon from Boston, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Asher and son, Jimmie, of Winston-Salem; R. S. Vannoy, Robert Vannoy and son of Damascus, Va.; and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Vannoy of Glade Springs, Va.; and Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Vannoy of Bristol, Tenn.; Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Greene of Granite Falls, Mrs. J. R. Mast, Mrs. Vance McGuire, Mrs. Clarence Berry, Mrs. Frances Angley and Mrs. John Holloway of Lenoir; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bingham of West Jefferson; Miss Stella Sherrill and Jack Hodges of Mt. Pleasant, and Mrs. J. M. Hodges, Mrs. Ben Moody, Mrs. A. I. White and J. H. Winkler of Blowing Rock.

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## Martha Spears Succumbs Sunday

Mrs. Martha Emaline Spears, 88, of Laxon, died March 23 at her home.

Funeral services were held at the Laurel Springs Baptist Church by Rev. R. C. Eggers and interment was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter: Rom Spears, Hayes, N. C.; Andrew Spears, Laxon; Mrs. Helen Phillips, Laxon.

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