

In Watauga County: One year, \$2.00; six months, \$1.50; four months, \$1.00; Outside Watauga County: One year, \$2.50; six months, \$1.75; four months, \$1.25.

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Entered at the postoffice at Boone, N. C., as second class mail matter, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

"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.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1955

The Parkway And Grandfather

Hugh Morton, one of the few men in the country to own a big, lofty mountain, and who has developed the Grandfather into one of the principal tourist attractions in the State, is vigorously objecting to a plan which would route a section of the Parkway over a slope of his mountain at a spot which would be calculated to harm the peaks as scenic spectacles.

And the highway commission, whose function is to secure rights of way for the Parkway, is also concerned about the matter, and efforts are to be made, as we understand, to negotiate a better deal from the standpoint of preserving the Grandfather in all of its sheer majesty and primeval ruggedness.

And we shall hope that a satisfactory location may be found for the road, which needs to be built as soon as possible, so that travelers may enjoy the country more. But in all regions of scenic appeal, care

should be exercised in preserving the attractions of the country traversed. After all the Grandfather is one of the principal features of a trip through the Carolina Blue Ridge area. Any construction project which would seriously harm the ancient hill, would damage the area, and be mighty unpopular.

Hugh Morton and his Grandfather Mountain have contributed vastly to the popularity of this region among tourists. We know of no man whose developments have meant more to the summer life of the hill country. We have an abiding faith that the final location of the Parkway will skirt the Grandfather in a fashion to make the most of his rugged profile without gashing his slopes to an unsightly degree.

We believe our officials will do everything possible, in line with engineering limitations, to achieve such a goal.

A Community Playground

The ten-acre park and playground area at Blowing Rock is attracting many people from all over the country, who can enjoy the cool breezes while the children play games and otherwise entertain themselves in safety.

Many people from Boone and other towns in the immediate environs enjoy the recreational facilities at the Rock, and an interesting feature of the playground is that it seems to be open to everybody—the people who live in Blowing Rock, as well as those who live everywhere else, and who happen to pass that way.

Dr. Walter K. Keyes who has recently been named year-round supervisor of playgrounds and recreation for the town, points out the following pertinent facts about the playground:

"The park belongs to all the people of Blowing Rock and should never be given to commercialism or discrimination of any kind. Neither race, creed, social, nor fi-

nancial position should ever be allowed to govern its operation.

"It is the best safeguard the town can ever have against lawlessness and juvenile delinquency.

"It is the most used of any of the area's attractions. More than 50,000 people have enjoyed its facilities during the past year.

"With the addition of a swimming pool, fishing pier, putting green, and game room, it will be the best equipped recreation center along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"And best of all, it is open to everybody."

The youngsters are having a lot of fun at the Blowing Rock playground. It's one of the town's most important assets. Folks are growing more anxious for the welfare of their children all the while, and will feel more at ease in a community which provides playground facilities. Blowing Rock has done this in a comprehensive manner.

Rabid Foxes In Alleghany

A report from Roaring Gap says that more than two hundred and fifty rabid foxes have been destroyed in Alleghany county during the past six weeks, and foxes are credited with the deaths of 61 head of cattle and one horse.

Fear is expressed in Alleghany that the epidemic of rabies will spread into adjoining counties, particularly since it is said that hundreds of cats are now infected. Five persons have been given anti-rabies vaccine because they were bitten or scratched by such cats.

Twenty persons reportedly took the treatments in Alleghany last month because they had become infected through contact with foxes or with cattle infected by foxes. The commissioners have employed a man on a full time basis to kill foxes, and heads of various animals sent

to Raleigh for laboratory examination, confirmed the presence of rabies.

Which all adds up to an increased rabies peril. The mushrooming fox population can become quite as much a menace as the homeless dogs in the matter of spreading rabies.

And it might be added that there's about as much dynamite attached to waging war on foxes as on dogs. Many years ago the Democrat was caught in the middle of a letter-writing battle between those who were for and agin' Reynard.

At any rate, the rabies situation remains a problem. Watauga was beset by the malady early in the year, and it may be back. If some of the Alleghany foxes spill over this way it will add immeasurably to a bad situation.

The Moon Shines Bright

St. Louis Post Dispatch

Are high federal taxes on liquor making the moonshine whisky business boom? Business Week's scholarly report on moonshining would suggest that the idea is at least worth a second thought. The magazine says Licensed Beverage Industries, Inc., estimates one out of every three gallons of whisky consumed in the United States is moonshine—some 70,000,000 gallons of it a year.

Moonshine is made, mostly in the South, at a cost of 20 to 40 cents a fifth, and is sold at 50 cents to \$4 a fifth. Business Week says, to customers as far away as New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The circumstances of its production are as unsanitary as they are illegal: A dead hog or chicken is commonly thrown into the mash as seasoning believed to speed fermentation. Yet the product finds such wide acceptance that moonshine stills are valued

as high as \$50,000 and produce thousands of gallons a day.

"Nonpayment of taxes," says the magazine, "is the industry's single support. If there were taxes to pay, the industry would fold overnight. The legal industry has always maintained that the only sure way to squash bootlegging is to lower taxes. If the \$10.50 a gallon federal excise tax were dropped to \$8, the industry says, legal liquor could be priced low enough to attract customers from the moonshine market, roughly half the price being a passing-on of taxes."

Here is indeed an unusual coming-together of problems of taxation, commerce, and public health. Pending a study of it by experts in those fields, the answer to the question of the moonshine industry remains as mysterious as the nocturnal orb from which it takes its name.

By Paul Berdanier



Stretch's Sketches

By "STRETCH" ROLLINS

Looks Like the Stuff Is Here To Stay

The battle of the bottle rages on as it has since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.



Ever since repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment allowing strong drink to be sold over the counter, law enforcement agencies have waged an unrelenting but unsuccessful fight to stamp out competition—the bootlegger. They've won many battles, but not the war, and they probably never will.

And here are two big reasons: "White mule," or bottled-in-the-barn homemade corn, sells for \$1 to \$10 a gallon, depending on the area and quality. The federal tax alone on legal whisky is \$10.50 a gallon. And, points out an article on the subject, the moonshine is not only cheaper than bonded stuff, but there are perfectly respectable people who have a preference for it.

"There is no such thing as a dry county," say the "wets," and they're right. The "dry" forces insist, "Give us a state-wide referendum and we'll close up the liquor stores"—and they're probably right, too. Most country folks, who have no particular liking for "store-boughten likker," anyway, would vote dry, knowing their preferred "white lightning" would still be available.

Meanwhile, Winston-Salem ABC stores are

putting white corn liquor on sale at a price intended to drive Blue Ridge moonshiners out of business. A Kentucky distillery is producing it under the label, "White Lightning Corn Whiskey."

And that's what will defeat its purpose—that fancy label. They'll have to put it up in plain white, "square" fruit jars, no label, and with a little fresh, clean, mountain dirt sticking around the lid, to really meet the competition.

The "oldest profession in the world" may be what they say. But I have a fairly strong suspicion as to what Adam did with the rest of that apple.

SCANTY SKETCHES—A headline says, "Teachers Never Had It So Good." Well, maybe, but a schoolteacher in New Jersey, who operates a bulldozer during vacations, was turned down on a loan application to build a home when he stated that he was a teacher. He resubmitted the application, this time putting down his occupation as bulldozer operator. The application was promptly approved. . . . A judge has criticized sheriff's deputies for disguising themselves to get evidence against bootleggers, as being unfair. (They probably didn't know it was a game, with both sides supposed to have an equal chance to win.) . . . A couple of king cobras in New York's Bronx Zoo have hatched out a family of little cobras. A pair of kings? Doesn't seem like the right combination, somehow.

From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago
July 11, 1895.

At 3 o'clock a. m. on the morning of the 5th the alarm of "fire" was heard in our village, and great was the horror and grief of all to find that the beautiful store building of W. L. Bryan was in flames. When the fire was discovered it was beyond control, and not the least thing out of the stock of goods was saved. . . .

On Monday night the ware room of the government distillery at John Denny's on Elk, was destroyed by fire. There was a considerable amount of whiskey in the room when left by the store-keeper.

The mulatto rapist, Mun Johnson, who broke jail here on the 27th of Feb. was arrested by Jailor Woodring and Jont E. Norris of Meat Camp, near Laurel Bloemery, Tenn., on the morning of the 9th, and he was again placed in jail here.

Twenty-two young men graduated from the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts recently.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago
July 26, 1916.

Owing to the extremely high waters that have been prevailing Chairman T. E. Bingham was compelled to postpone the Republican county convention. It will be held August 7.

The remnant of Camp Nimrod Triplett, United Confederate Veterans, will meet in Boone in annual reunion Thursday and Friday, August 17, 18.

Miss Lizzie Cornell, a maiden lady well up in years, who has been ill at the home of Mr. John F. Hardin for some time, died there Sunday night and was buried in the town cemetery Monday evening.

Just as Congressman Doughton has perfected arrangements with the Postoffice Department for a daily automobile mail service from Lenoir to Boone, our turnpike was almost swept away by the flood.

Judge B. F. Long of Statesville, Messrs T. B.

BY ROB RIVERS

NEW AUTOS . . . COULD BE HIGHER

Industry leaders point to the 1956 automobiles, which will begin to appear on the scene maybe in October, and see a bit of trouble in disposing of the 1955s. . . . With increases in labor and in steel, and other materials used in the construction of cars, it would appear to us that the new models should be even higher. If that's so buyers should remain eager for the 1955 models which are available, as they probably represent just as fine a vehicle as the next year's product, and quite likely the price tag is a bit lower. . . . Besides, if one needs a car, he might as well buy it. . . . You can't always have the newest model.

OLD NEWLAND HALL . . . USED LUMBER

An ad in the Democrat calls attention to the fact that the Old Newland Hall is coming down, and used lumber is for sale. . . . The first men's dormitory on the campus, the old rambling frame building was the pride and joy of Appalachian not too many years ago. . . . Displaced fifteen or twenty years ago by a modern masonry structure, old Newland Hall was shunted to the rear of its former site, and had been used for various purposes since students quit its narrow corridors and crowded rooms. . . . It's a pity that money wasn't available to make of these early college buildings permanent structures. . . . Age contributes to the loveliness of the proper sort of structure.

PARKING SPACE . . . NOT ENOUGH, ANYWHERE

Parking spaces are at a premium along the Street, and along all the other Streets we've seen. . . . On Saturdays, especially, the matter of discovering a spot in which one can poke the nose of a lizzie without crumpling a fender, will tax the genius of the most alert motorist. . . . This being so, it is irritating to find people who've parked their cars so as to take up two, and oftentimes three parking spaces. . . . It's impolite, illegal and deprives other folks of their rights at the curbside.

ANYWAY, WE FIGGER-IT'S THAT WAY

As a product of the hill country, we sometimes interest ourselves in the local mannerisms and sayings. We've noticed ourselves saying "figger," rather than suppose. . . . A mountain man don't expect something to happen, he don't suppose it'll rain, don't presume, believe, reason or estimate, but invariably "figgers" that the sun'll be shining, that the deluge will come or that a lot of tourists will visit the Ridge. . . . And when we don't know how far it is, we always figger it to be about so many miles, which always adds to the confusion of the motorist, especially when he's unaccustomed to driving up hill and down dale, and round hairpin curves. . . .

THIS AND THAT . . . RANDOM THOUGHTS

The bookkeeper had worked long and hard, and when she'd about finished, discovered something wrong with the calculating machine. . . . All the work to do over. . . . "It's about the most cussable thing I've seen," she reasoned. . . . Sealtest's miniature merry-go-round parked by the street, delighting the children. . . . Long strings of automobiles race up and down the mountains over the week end as tourist season reaches peak.

SOWING HIS OATS

The man said 'twas all right for the lad to raise heck about the town. "A matter of sowing his wild oats. . . . He'll settle down in time." Which maybe he will, but we set to wondering how come the "wild oats" expression. . . . It seems that back in the tenth century oats were grown in some of the countries of the world, but when neglected the straws they had reverted to the "wild" stage, growing thick blades, but light heads. The crop was seldom worth saving. . . . It was foolish to sow such seed, but the younger farmers wouldn't listen to sage advice, and usually found out about the crop by experience. Thus, it came about that the sowing of wild oats came to apply to anything a youngster might do, which seemed foolish and reckless to his elders.

Washington Report

By BILL WHITLEY

WOMEN. The fairer sex still has a good way to go in the fight for equality although a lot of ground has been covered since women got permission to vote 35 years ago.

A bill was introduced in the Senate this week by Sen. Morse and co-sponsored by Sen. Scott that would ship away still another inequity under which women are suffering.

Under present law, the children of male government workers who die are eligible to get annuity payments based upon the length of government service of their parent.

The same privilege is not granted to the children of a women government workers who die.

UNFAIR. The measure proposed by Morse would erase this inequality and make the children of deceased female government workers eligible to the same benefits of deceased male government employees.

"I don't see any reason at all for this difference in the present law," Scott said. "I was very surprised to find out that women employees are not given the same treatment as men."

PROSPERITY. A lot has been said recently about prosperity and the thriving American economy. Many people wonder just where all the "prosperity" is being felt. The following figures help show just who and what is at the top of the "prosperity" list. All figures are based on statistics for the past year.

Corporations income rose 18 per

An increase of fifty per cent in juvenile delinquency by 1950 was recently predicted by Judge Philip B. Gillian, court judge from Denver, Colorado, who said that, by that time, most "war babies" will have reached the delinquency age of 10 to 18. "Slippy parenthood, inadequate schools, and untrained social workers" are factors the Judge listed as contributing to the expected increase in child crime.

Borrowed Comment

Original State Tree

Minneapolis Tribune

Missouri names the dogwood as its state tree, with one senator dissenting on the grounds it is an unoriginal choice. A good suggestion for a state tree, familiar to everyone, readily identifiable and of economic value, might be the parking meter.