

Merited Recognition

The Boone Business and Professional Woman's Club is to be commended for having named the first woman of the year in the person of Mrs. B. W. Stallings.

All too often the fine public services rendered by the distaff side are not acclaimed in proportion to those performed by the male segment of the population.

So, happily enough, hereafter a Woman of the Year will regularly be chosen by a county-wide vote.

Mrs. Stallings represents a logical choice for this honor on the part of her friends. As a teacher, a church worker, and a leader in civic affairs she has rendered splendid public service.

One of the founders of Horn in the West, Mrs. Stallings has been a leader in the promotion of the drama, and its parent organization, the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, and largely through her efforts the gardens are being established on the Horn property with the aid of the Garden Club. The

pioneer cabins being re-assembled on the drama property are likewise tributes to her concern for the further development of the properties and the community.

Mrs. Stallings' efforts in the Garden Club and in the State Club, have been of inestimable value to the community, and she has been the moving spirit behind the organizations of other clubs. Her love for flowers and for trees and all growing things has ensured to the esthetic advantage of the community, and quite often she pitches in herself with spade and rake in helping to beautify public spots about the town.

At the same time Mrs. Stallings is engaged in numerous other club and public enterprises, and yet finds time to be an active partner in a business establishment.

We commend Mrs. Stallings for her many and varied contributions to the good of the community and county, and the ladies of the county for so thoughtfully recognizing her in this regard.

To Aid Accident Fight

Women were called on to help bolster the nation's fight against traffic accidents.

"Women can help strengthen the national economy by stepping up accident prevention programs in their communities," says Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth, Iowa, vice president for women for the National Safety Council.

"Motor vehicle accidents cost the nation \$6.4 billion in 1960 in injuries, insurance and property damage," said Mrs. Sayre.

Speaking of the Carol Lane Awards for Traffic Safety, which the Council makes each year to women and women's and parents' organizations for outstanding contributions to traffic safety, Mrs. Sayre said that the nation's costs from traffic accidents no doubt would have been higher last year if women's organizations had not initiated and supported traffic safety programs in their communities.

The Carol Lane Awards, established

in 1961, are administered by the National Safety Council through a grant. The awards are the only national recognition of women for their work in traffic safety.

Nominations for the current awards program will be accepted by the Council until June 1. Entries will be judged in three categories—rural areas and cities of less than 25,000 population; cities of 25,000 population or more, and state-wide projects.

In each category the awards will be: First place—a \$1,000 Savings Bond and a bronze sculpture symbolizing woman's protective instinct.

Second place—a \$500 Savings Bond and a bas-relief plaque of the sculpture.

Third place—\$250 in Savings Bonds, and a bas-relief plaque of the sculpture.

In addition, certificates of merit are awarded other outstanding entries.

Any American woman more than 18 years of age who is not employed in traffic safety work, or any women's or parents' group, is eligible for the Carol Lane Awards.

Most Families In Debt

Two out of three American families are debtors today, according to The University of Michigan Survey Research Center.

About half have installment debt, one third have mortgages, and one fourth have non-installment credit. Many owe more than one kind of debt.

Following the installment credit spurge of the early 'Fifties, however, most families have taken a more conservative view of this type of debt. While monthly payments remain a highly popular means of financing new cars, appliances and other durable goods, Americans generally have kept their use of this kind of credit closely in line with their income increases during the past six years.

Early last year, half those with installment debt owed \$500 or more, while half owed less than this amount.

These findings are reported in a new book, "1960 Survey of Consumer Finances." This book presents comprehensive data on the distribution of incomes, as-

sets, debts, purchases of houses, automobiles, and other durable goods, as well as consumer attitudes and expectations during the past 15 years.

During the past three years, the proportion of families owing installment debt has not increased. Reflecting rising incomes, however, the proportion of families owing more than \$1000 on the installment plan has doubled (from seven to 14 per cent) since 1955.

Use of installment credit is concentrated in middle income families, those in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 bracket. Families with income of less than \$2,000 are overwhelmingly debt free; only 4 per cent of this group owes \$500 or more. Similarly, those with incomes exceeding \$10,000 annually do not often use this kind of credit.

Interestingly, more than one third of those making monthly payments had liquid assets—cash in the bank, government bonds, and so forth—sufficient to pay off all their installment debt.

Tidal Wave Of Crime

(Newton Observer)

"There is little chance that the dikes of decency and morality in America can long withstand the surging tidal wave of crime threatening our Nation unless every citizen, just as in flood-menaced communities, is willing to pitch in to help stem the tide."

The words are those of an outstanding authority on the subject of crime—J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI. He supports his statement with some grim statistics. Serious crime reached its full-time high last year, showing a rise of 12 per cent above 1959. And in the FBI's vast fingerprint files there are, at any one time, some 90,000 cards which bear small, red tabs. These tabs

mean that the owners of the fingerprints are wanted by some law enforcement agency in connection with crimes. In other words, they mean that 90,000 fugitives from justice are walking in our midst.

The law enforcement ranks are thin, and they cannot do the job alone. In Mr. Hoover's words, "A solid front of citizens behind the law enforcement officer who stands face to face with the criminal is the prerequisite for turning back the forces of crime." Defense—whether against enemies without or criminals within—demands the active support of us all.

Parade Ground Non-Conformist



SOME LOCAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES

From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

April 25, 1901.

Mr. Rudacil Vannoy and Miss Ida, daughter of Mr. Smith Norris, were married at the residence of the groom at Horton on Tuesday morning.

The snow measured ten inches on the level on Howard's Knob Tuesday morning and we are told that snow drifts to the depth of several feet are numerous in some parts of the county. This is the heaviest snow fall of the winter.

We are told that during the freshest last week, the barn of Mr. Quincy McGuire of New River was lifted from its foundation and nicely carried off on the surging waters. Fortunately he was able to get his stock removed before the vessel sailed.

Notwithstanding the incessant downpour of rain last Friday we are told that the closing exercises at Cove Creek Academy were a great success, and the house was well filled at all exercises with highly entertained hearers. The school has done and is doing a great educational work in the county, and we wish for it abundant success in the future.

The commencement exercises at Watauga Academy begin this evening at 7:30. Recitations, declamations, dialogues and songs by the primary department, and debates by the young men. On Friday at 9 a. m. the exercises will be resumed and the programme will not be completed until a late hour at night. Debates and orations by the young men, essays, songs, etc. by the young ladies. It will be an enjoyable occasion and a large crowd is expected.

The number of pupils at Watauga Academy since the last session has increased 50 per cent, there being 100 last session, 150 this. When it is considered that a hundred of these are non-residents of the village, we are of the opinion that there is not another institution of its kind in the western part of the State that can show such a large growth. The school is a decided success—is now a permanent fixture. The people of this and surrounding counties are proud of it and are giving it their support.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

April 27, 1922.

Mr. and Mrs. David F. Greene, Miss Mae Greene and Mr. T. W. Swinson motored to Cranberry last Sunday.

Miss Doris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Greene, who has been under treatment in a Louisville Hospital for the past two months, has returned to her home much improved.

Solicitor Johnson J. Hayes spent Saturday night in Boone, on his way to Avery court, which is in session at Newland this week.

Mrs. Cora Council of Columbia, S. C., with her daughter, Mrs. June Russell, has been visiting her father, Mr. W. L. Bryan since Monday.

From the Elk Park News we learn that Mr. Bynum Hodges, son of Dr. J. M. Hodges of Cranberry, by competitive examination, has won the assistant postmastership at Bluefield, W. Va.

sands of dollars to our people.

Mr. Walter Johnson has purchased the Dr. Jones lot just opposite the Critcher Hotel, now occupied by the Jones drug store, and will erect thereon a large brick garage this summer. Dr. Jones will also build a brick business house adjoining the garage, both buildings to be let in the same contract. The doctor has not decided just where he will move his wooden drug store building which is to be moved somewhere in the very near future.

Levying of additional taxes probably will be necessary to meet the deficit of more than \$350,000 forecast for the fiscal year of 1923 by Secretary Mellon. High officials of the treasury, discussing the expected deficit, said that no consideration has yet been given to means of meeting the lack of funds but that it was apparent that the deficit would have to be met by taxation, as the government "does not have anything to sell."

Sam Ellison, resident of North Fork township is expected to go on trial today in Superior Court on charges of manslaughter, growing out of the fatal shooting of his neighbor, Howard Hockeday, last October. Ellison surrendered himself to the sheriff, and told officers that he fired on Hockeday in self-defense, when Hockeday approached him with a pointed rifle.

Rev. J. C. Canipe, local Baptist pastor, is spending the week in Asheville, Salisbury and Raleigh, making preliminary plans for holding evangelistic conferences at these points during the first week in May.

Mrs. Belle Carico visited in Boone the first of the week, en route from Palm Beach, Fla., where she spent the winter, to her home in Washington, D. C.

Deposits at the local branch of the Northwestern Bank reached a sum of three million four hundred thousand dollars last Friday to set an all-time high record in local banking circles.

The establishment of a highway postal service between Greensboro and Boone, as well as between Hickory and Johnson City, Tenn., is being considered by the postoffice department, and an advertisement is being issued inviting proposals for carrying the mails and railway postal clerks, in motor vehicles especially designed and equipped for the distribution of mail en route, it was learned from Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr. today.

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KING STREET

By ROB RIVERS

In Springtime's Stride . . . Tax Returns In

We often wonder what folks had to concern themselves with in the first promising days of spring in the age before the Federal and State income tax duties had come upon the scene. . . . It is to be sure that other worries were extant in those less harried days, since it is in the nature of man to thrive on vexations of the spirit, and to vow that never have mortals had so many frightening issues with which to contend.

We can recall when our daddy spoke to his sons of the tax structure under which we labored when he paid perhaps about twenty dollars property tax from a skimpy income, and which maybe came harder than that with which his progeny is confronted. . . . At any rate, he said with his usual degree of finality, that there was no use to worry about Federal taxes as such, that working folks would never have to reach down to satisfy a direct levy from Uncle Sam, but that they would continue to have to ante for the tobacco stamp tax, and other such indirect levies. . . . He said the very wealthy would, apt as not, always have to contend with the income tax law, but that after all they were the folks with the coin. . . . And that was very true, for Bob Rivers, the eldest, never would have thought of a day when the long work week was gone, and when skimpy toil was so handsomely rewarded that nearly everyone lived in painted houses with "running water" in them.

And what was once regarded as a tax on the rich now reaches everybody and actually the top layer in the monetary structure gives down with only 12 per cent of the income tax take. . . . Our daddy would never believe it.

We read that people who earn under \$5,000 a year pay 21 per cent; the \$5,000-\$10,000 group pays 39 per cent; the \$10,000-\$15,000 earners pay 77 per cent; the \$15,000-\$50,000 group pays 17 per cent, and the big, big income group trails with 12 per cent.

Which graphically shows the upturn in living standards and the change which has come about in an economy where all those who labor reap a fair share of the national product, and are feasting tolerably high on the hog, after taxes.

The figures don't mean that the very rich are favored—they pay as high as 91 per cent. . . . What it does mean is that there just aren't enough 91 per cent people to foot the big bill which our government builds up.

And those of us who play everything right close to the chest after we've made a final payment on the income tax, should, after all, feel pretty good about the whole thing. . . . Most of us who can recall when income tax levies didn't reach down to us, will also recall that we didn't have anything to speak of, even without taxes. . . . Situations which brought the tax structure seem to have fetched along the money to pay the bill, and leave us with unprecedented high prosperity. . . . And that would appear to be fair enough.

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Court Week . . . Is Attracting Fewer

Watauga Superior Court, in session this week, reminds that the great crowds of other years don't jam the town on these occasions. . . . Before the day of good roads and rapid travel, most county people didn't go through the travail of coming to Boone other than when court was being held. . . . It was then that everyone visited with the folks along the street, with their friends whom they hadn't seen since last session, paid up for the Watauga Democrat, and camped often in wagons about the courthouse square, doing their cooking on an open fire and enjoying the fellowship of the occasion, no end. . . . The September term was best suited for this camping-out, since in March the snows often prevented living in the wagons. . . . Then the hotels and the private homes along the street were filled with friends from the county.

And among those we remember was Kendrick Johnson from Beaver Dam township, who prided himself on never failing to hear a Judge's charge during the years of his majority. . . . A good citizen, Mr. Johnson seemed to gain added strength and wisdom from the court. . . . And the horse traders and the medicine shows did well. . . . And the general stores sold sardines and cheese and crackers and tinned corned beef to those who came without their lunch baskets or who couldn't be accommodated otherwise. . . . It was a great time for visiting, and reflected a profound respect for the system and for the administration of its laws.

Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVARIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

My old lady has been about half hard to git along with fer a week on account of some situation at the church that ain't pleasing her. It could be that the woman playing the organ is wearing too much face paint, or the preacher ain't shined his shoes, or maybe that new lady in the choir is gitting off key.

I reckon among country folks, especial the wimmen, there's more talk about their church than any other subject. About half the folks out our way always has some complaints about their church, the way it's run, or the folks in it. I don't reckon it ever comes to their mind that if their church was perfect, it wouldn't have 'em fer members. I always figgered a church ought to be a hospital fer sinners, not a meeting house fer saints. That's why, when I look around at our church ever Sunday and see that most of us is sinners, I figger we're gitting along pretty good.

Fer that reason, when my old lady gits on the subject of things at the church, I tell her I'm too busy with them Congressmen and the situation in Washington

to give it the proper thought at this time. And I'm always careful not to ask any questions on account of not having all day to set and listen.

We got a mighty fine preacher at our church, but like I told you onct before, he don't stick to his text very close. He'll announce his text, then he'll proceed to preach world wide. Fer instant, last Sunday, he announced his text was from the fourth chapter of Second Timothy and that was the last time he ever got back to it. He devoted the first half hour to the evils of strong drink. He listed eight reasons why a feller drinks. From 'what I've caww, a feller drinks fer two reasons, either to drown his troubles or float his ego. My preacher can have the other six. Then he spent another half hour advising that "turning the other cheek" was the best system. Personally, I think people is gitting too complicated fer that to work anymore. Things is so tough now that if a feller turns his other cheek he's liable to git his block knocked off.

Yours truly,
Uncle Pink