

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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IN TOP RANKS OF CAROLINA NON-DAILIES  
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BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1968

## Labor Day Dangers

While Labor Day will actually be free of toll for most workers, it won't be free of driving hazards which the N. C. State Motor Club warns could kill as many as 26 persons and injure 700 others in more than 1,100 traffic accidents on North Carolina's streets and highways during the long weekend.

The state will count its highway fatalities for summer's last long holiday from 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, to midnight Monday, Sept. 2, a period of 78 hours. Last year's Labor Day toll claimed 30 killed and 693 injured in 1,123 accidents.

Leading driver violations reported were: speeding, 261; drove left of center, 159; failed to yield right of way,

134; reckless driving, 90; and following too closely, 87.

Thomas B. Watkins, motor club president, cautioned that heavier highway travel and congestion created by motorists clogging the roads for their last fling of summer greatly increase the potential for fatal accidents and injuries.

"We certainly are not trying to scare anyone out of that last trip to the mountains or the seashore," he said, "but we are trying to point out the increased dangers of highway travel over the weekend in the hope that it will lead to more careful driving and a reduced holiday toll."

## Come Back In October

This week marks the end of August and heralds the Labor Day period when many families will have their last big weekend in the hill country and the traffic will be extremely heavy in this gala farewell to summertime.

A great many summer residents had already left the area as the school bells rang out and the Democrat is again joining with a number of leading business firms in insisting that summer visitors return in October when the magic of autumn has gilded the forests, brought nippy nights and delightful hazy days. It is then that the Boone, Blowing Rock and Linville scenic triangle has special inducements to those who linger in the fairyland of gold and crimson and purple and green.

More and more this is a year-round resort area. With an increasing number of attractions, better accommodations than ever before, the fall days will be gayer and happier.

## Umstead Aided The Mentally Ill

John W. Umstead, who died on Wednesday at Chapel Hill, did more than any other man to develop North Carolina's hospitals for the mentally ill.

A brother of the late Governor William B. Umstead, he was a member of a legislative appropriations subcommittee assigned by Governor Cherry in 1945 to investigate conditions at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh. Umstead was so disturbed by what he saw that he made it a point to visit every other mental hospital in the state. The outcome of the subcommittee's report was legislation revamping the State Hospitals Board of Control. Later Umstead became its chairman.

From that time on he fought the legislative battles for the mental hospitals. Joe Hunt, former House Speaker who is now chairman of the State High-

way Commission, said, "The thing that has impressed me most about John Umstead is his willingness to slave for the mentally ill who have no lobby or alumni association to front for them."

Umstead also worked hard for prison reform and for the cause of higher education. He served a total of 14 terms in the General Assembly—two in the Senate and 12 in the House.

He and his wife, who lived in Chapel Hill, let numerous students who needed financial assistance stay in their home while attending the University. Every year after he graduated in 1909 he helped some student attend one of the Consolidated University's branches.

In the passing of John W. Umstead North Carolina loses a unique and able public servant. His achievements will long continue to benefit the people of the state.—Asheville Citizen.

## Inklin's In Ink

BY RACHEL RIVERS

In their turn, the Democrats seem to be getting the same going over that the television networks afforded (word used advisedly) the Republicans.

The networks, at least the two who are going at it full-time, are duty-bound to make the necessary hours of routine convention happenings literally blister with interesting observations. And it's alright if you can't watch every slow second of it... They'll be repeating it from time to time.

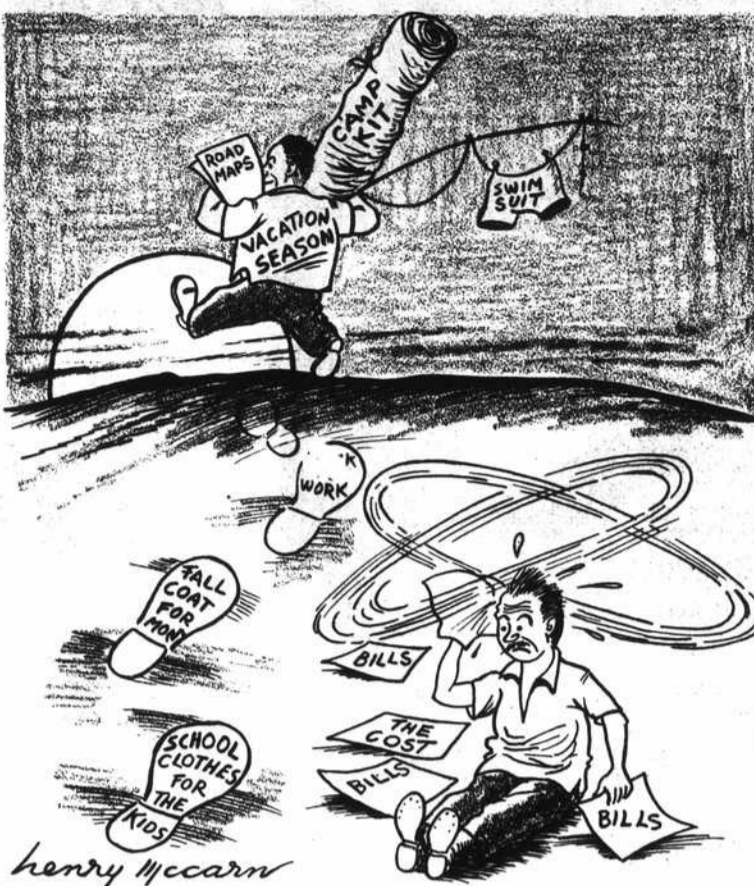
And, of course, to keep someone spell-bound day and night they just about have to harp on possible conflicts. Warnings of deep divisions in a party tend to add a bit of mystery, but then without those deep divisions, which pit groups of party faithful against each other, there would be no need for conventions. And that way, says the amateur observer, the party in question might not always come up with the best possible candidate.

In Miami, television reporters seemed to become so bored that they began to nag some of the people who consented to be interviewed. Remember Governor Romney? He tried to evade what really was an interrogation, but the reporter became impertinent and Romney had to answer, even partially, in order to escape his pursuer. Other GOP leaders got the same harsh treatment from time to time.

Perhaps taking a tip from the goings-on in Miami, the Democrats fixed it so there would not be nearly so many conflict-hungry reporters on the convention floor. This drew a comment from one anchor man that the Chicago convention was a "police state" affair. And of course there's been a bit too much said about the armament thrown up to ward off the threat of convention disruption by as many as 100,000 antagonists, according to one report.

So, when it comes to who looks worse on the tube news, it's just about a toss-up.

## Departing Leaves Him Dizzy



Henry McCann

FROM THE EARLY FILES OF THE DEMOCRAT

## W. W. Kitchin To Address Voters Of Watauga County

Sixty Years Ago

August 27, 1908

Hon. W. W. Kitchin, candidate for Governor, will address the people of Watauga in Boone on Friday, Sept. 4, 1908, which will be absolutely the only opportunity they will have to hear this great orator. Let as many of our citizens as possible come out to hear him. The ladies are also invited and expected to attend.

John C. Jones, of Zionsville, who, by the way, is one of our most scientific and prosperous small farmers, is of the opinion now more than ever, that there is good money in the soil for us if we will only get it out. He has the heaviest corn we have seen this year, and he tells us that he has been offered \$50 for a single acre of the product as it now stands.

Friend James Hardin, of Sutherland, has sold his farm to T. H. Sutherland, and purchased another expensive farm at Limestone, Tennessee, where he, with his family, will make his future home.

Attorneys Ballou and Council, of Jefferson, were in town a few hours last week.

Rev. J. M. Payne has been called to the pastorate of Zionville Baptist Church.

Miss Lettie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Spainhour, of Morganton, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. E. S. Coffey, in Boone.

Dr. Houck and family of Statesville, left yesterday for their home after a visit to friends in the village.

The Three Fork Association now in session at the Forest Grove church, has been much interfered with by the heavy rains.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

August 29, 1929

Rev. W. L. Trivett, who, assisted by Rev. J. L. Isbell of Lenoir, is conducting a series of meetings at Lewis Fork Advent Church, spent Tuesday night with his family in Boone. He was accompanied by one of his members, Mr. Adolphus Taylor of Harley, who was an interesting caller at the Democrat office this (Wednesday) morning.

The Democrat man had the pleasure last Sunday of calling on his old friend, Mr. J. M. Isaacs, of Mabel, who has been in very poor health of late and it was good to hear him say that he is improving. He is now able to walk about the house but has not ventured out yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Phillips of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. H. B. Mason, of Stillhold, N. J., and Mrs. Charles Menzies of Hickory have been visiting for sev-

eral days with home folks and friends in Valle Crucis and Boone. The ladies are the daughters of the late T. H. Taylor of Valle Crucis.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Barnhardt and Mrs. Barnhardt's sister, Mrs. C. E. Vaughn, of Lynchburg, Va., who is her guest, spent the weekend at Black Bear Inn with Mrs. Ada Penn Coffey, who is spending some time there. Mrs. Vaughn remained there for a visit. Lenoir News-Topic.

Fifteen Years Ago

August 27, 1953

Mr. Joe Gaither who has been attending Duke University summer school is visiting his mother, Mrs. J. M. Gaither. His guest is Miss Nancy Hammond of Laurinburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Broome, their daughter, Betty, and Mrs. Hilton, Mr. Broome's mother, are spending a few days with Mrs. Broome's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Blanton, in Gastonia.

## Just One Thing

BY CARL GOERCH

There is one subject on which men can argue whenever they feel like arguing; it is a subject inexhaustible, I think—whether the world is getting better or not. I used to hear it discussed when I was a small boy, when I was a young man, when I reached middle age, and the other day.

There were three men in the group at this last session. One of them insisted that the world is no better now than it was hundreds of years ago.

The second agreed with him. "I was reading just the other day," he said, "that an investigator states that ninety-seven per cent of the men in the world handle the truth carelessly. Just think of that—ninety-seven men out of a hundred!"

"Well," the third man said, "That's encouraging. David wrote away back yonder that all men are liars. We've gained three per cent since the Psalmist's time, anyhow."

Someone sends me this.

UNIVERSAL WANT AD

WANTED—A man for hard work and rapid promotion, who can find things to be done without the help of a manager and three assistants. A man who gets to work on time in the morning and does not imperil the lives of others in an attempt to be first out of the office at closing time. A man who is neat in appearance and does not sulk at an hour's overtime in emergencies. A man who listens carefully when he is spoken to, and asks only enough questions to insure accurate carrying out of instructions. A man who moves quickly and

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cline visited in Jefferson Sunday. Miss Linda Kay Cline, who has been spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Little, returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hudson of Hagerstown, Maryland have been visiting Mrs. Hudson's sister, Mrs. W. R. Richardson and Dr. Richardson.

Mrs. Hal Haverson and sons, Glen and John of Glendale, California and Mrs. Martha Boling and Richard spent the weekend in West Jefferson with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Winkler.

Miss Mildred Pennell, student nurse at Grace Hospital, Morganton, left last week for Asheville, where she will be affiliated with Highlands Hospital for three months.

Mrs. Thelma Dent of Baltimore, Maryland spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Mae Miller. Mike Dent, who has been spending the summer here, returned home with his mother.

AFTER ANOTHER

makes as little noise as possible about it. A man who looks you straight in the eye and tells the truth every time.

A man who does not pity himself for having to dig in and hustle. A man who is cheerful, courteous to everyone, and determined to make good.

If interested, apply any hour, any day, any place, to any employer.

Profanity is often used as a medium for relieving one's feelings but there are some people who can use a style of language which isn't profanity at all but which sounds even more effective.

Kenneth Hoyle, of Sanford, came under this classification, because somebody told me some years ago that on one occasion Mr. Hoyle got into an argument with a fellow-townman and brought the discussion to an abrupt end by calling the other fellow a "rancid old left-handed parallelogram!"

In reading an article the other day we came across the following sentence: "The inn is two and one-half storeys high. Taxes were once paid in North Carolina in accordance with the number of storeys—half-storeys did not count."

"That's wrong!" we said to ourselves, as we looked at that word "storeys."

Later on, however, we began thinking about it; so we went to Mr. Webster and found that the word was absolutely correct. A floor of a house is known as either a story or storey. If you use "story," the plural is "stories," and if you use "storey" the plural is "storeys."

# KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

Continuing The Process . . . With Changes (?)

When this is transferred to the printed sheet the Democrats will be well on the way to nominating their candidate for the Presidency. . . The gathering will be different—very different—on the face of things. . . The stockyards arena will be fenced off and well guarded by police officers, Sheriff's men and National Guardsmen. . . A delegate or other qualified visitor to the extraganza, will be checked three or four times behind the steel fences which have been erected, a modern version of the old stockades built by the Indian fighters of long ago. . . A number of minority groups are to move on the country's biggest convention city, word is, maybe thousands of them, to protest every sort of grievance, imaginary or real and it's a little disheartening that a time-tested political process has to be carried on under conditions of siege. . . But that's the word and to add to the harried situation an effort is to be made by the leadership to ban demonstrations in the vast hall. . . Not that the demonstrations, as such, make any sense, but it's part and parcel of the strange, noisy ritual of national conventions, which may need changing, but let's not do it all at once. . . After all there has to be some way to kill the tedium, in the event that the convention is allowed to proceed without undue harassment.

AT THIS DISTANCE it would appear that Vice-President Humphrey is going into the sweepstakes aboard the donkey and we wouldn't be much surprised if in the finals of the meeting, Terry Sanford isn't chosen for the second spot. . . The wish may be the father to the thought, as we think he'd be a good man for the place. . . Well known over the country, his stature has grown through the years. . . It would be good news to those of us who've been lined up with Sanford all along, and would be good for the party in the South and over the country. . . To our way of thinking he's still a bright light in the political scene. . . We'd like to have him as Governor again if the Vice-Presidency don't interfere.

voids in the string of conversation. . . And here on top of the Ridge we make just as much fuss about 90 degrees, when occasionally that happens, as they do about 100 and over in the lowlands. . . But what we like about a TV announcer is that solacing bit about it being "a very warm 98 degrees," . . . It's always heartening too, in wintertime, when the wind's howling and it's 6 o'clock and we need to stir and the fellow says "it's a very chilly 8 degrees above zero."

## Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVERIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR,

It's like they say, I reckon, great minds run on the same track. Ed Doolittle come up with a problem at the county store Saturday night, and Zeke Grubb come up with the answer.

Ed reported to the fellers he had been doing some reading on this rural-urban life and he was of the opinion folks has got to choose between living and making a living. We've just run out of room where we need it, allowed Ed, and they ain't no way to do both.

Fer instant, said Ed, we got cities with more cars than parking places, more sick people than hospital beds, more folks at conventions than hotel rooms, more mouths to feed than food and more crooks than cops. We run out of sideways space a long time ago and now we was running out of straight-up room. Trouble is, Ed allowed, we got millions of acres with nothing on 'em, then we got millions of people on a few acres.

Then Zeke broke in to say he had done some study on this problem and he had come up with the Zeke Grubb Group Plan. All it is, said Zeke, was what them science fellers calls "mass movement." What had got him on this plan, reported Zeke, was where he had saw that by 1985 we will have an average work week of 22 hours and workers will be retiring at 38 years old.

We got to copy the ants, Zeke explained. Keep the workers in the ant hill cities and git the deadwood out on land that ain't being used. Instead of all that public housing in the middle of the cities where land is scarce, put it out on the deserts and mountains and on all that land in the soil bank. We would have people's pastures for all the worn out folks over 38, was Zeke's words. Take all retired folks out of the cities and we'd have room for them under 38 that has to work.

And the Zeke Grubb Plan, he said, would take care of that problem we got now when retired folks was living so long. Them that had retirement income could take care of the farms and ranches and not starve to death while they was doing it.

Ed butted in to say he special liked the Zeke Grubb Plan on account of the retired folks would have plenty of parking space and more'n 10 foot fer burial space.

All the fellers, Mister Editor, took to the Zeke Grubb Plan. Even Ed said it might work if the Government didn't git ahold of it. I figger the fellers at the county store went along with Zeke on account of we're already out in the people's pasture and the only move we got to make under the plan is to the cemetery.

Yours truly,  
Uncle Dan

## Different Way Of Counting Noses

Ten years will have rolled by again with 1969 and on April 1, 1970 the national census will be carried out. . . But in a turmoil of change, the way of the big count will be different. The man will no longer call on you with the long forms and with his pocket full of pens and pencils, but the count will be made principally by mail, which we'd argue would save everyone time and add tremendously to the efficiency of the project. . . The correctly-filled out forms, we learn, will be fed directly into a computer. . . With the names detached, even a computer expert will be unable to track down any one person. . . By providing such an aura of privacy, the Census Bureau hopes citizens will respond more honestly. . . If you have gotten a job, the word is, a loan or a divorce on the basis of false information, the census can't tell on you. . . You will only appear in census publications as one of millions in any category of age, income, occupations, education, etc. . . One news story says that the Census index of occupations includes that of robber, which is one of 308,497 other "professional, technical and kindred workers not elsewhere classified."

WE REMEMBER AS A CHILD when James W. McGhee was making the census in Boone. . . How he meticulously filled out the forms with a steel pen, which he dipped every word or so into a big bottomed bottle of ink he carried along, with his extra pen points and census forms. . . He was an expert penman which was considered one of the qualifications in those times and he did a beautiful job.

## Other Timely Information

Those who have had difficulty in getting birth certificates due to the fact that their birth dates were before vital statistics information was required in North Carolina are advised that a transcript of one's earliest census entry is legally acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate. . . If you need documentary proof, that after all, you have been born, there's a census bureau office to help you. . . It is located in Pittsburg, Kans. and handles old census records, with names and addresses. . . For a fee of \$4 you can obtain the transcript from them to settle your birth certificate problem.

## Warming Weather Persistent In Hills

If we didn't have the weather to talk about, there'd be great