

B. F. STATON REPLIES TO CO. COMMISSIONERS

Says no "Bank Dictatorship" Planned, and Asks Commissioners Pertinent Questions.

Editor of The Times:

A letter signed by W. P. Bane, G. B. Hill and John T. Staton, County Commissioners, has recently been published, in which the commissioners undertake to "explain the situation."

They are quite emphatic in their statement that at the recent session of the Legislature bills were introduced by Representative Clarke, and supposed to be supported by Senator Oates, amending the county road law, appointing road trustees, and also appointing a board of audit and finance, to consist of J. O. Bell, C. E. Brooks, F. S. Wetmur, Harry M. Roberts and myself. They seem much impressed and considerably "riled" that Clarke, Oates, Bell, Brooks and Wetmur all have some connection with one or other of the Hendersonville banks. They cannot, and do not, charge that I am even a stockholder in any bank, but they say I have a brother, R. H. Staton, who is connected with a bank.

After directing particular attention to one of the bills introduced in the Legislature, they say it is a "reasonable inference" that the purpose was "to perpetuate a bureaucratic bank dictatorship for Henderson County," whatever that may be.

It is not unusual, when appointments are made on important public boards, that men should be selected whose business experience and success are such as to give some assurance that they are capable of handling the affairs which will come before them. I am not making any claims of this kind for myself, but, rarely, if Mr. Wetmur for instance, had the business ability to build up a thriving automobile business, and if Mr. Bell had had the business ability to successfully manage a large cotton mill enterprise, and if Mr. Brooks had had the business ability to serve as tax collector of the county and mayor of the town; and if these three men have earned such reputation for integrity and ability as to be elected to official positions with one or other of the Hendersonville banks,—all these facts, as it strikes me, would only serve to emphasize their fitness for a position on a public board.

Now, if the commissioners' letter was meant to imply that Senator Oates or Representative Clarke corruptly used their positions, as members of the General Assembly, for the purpose of obtaining legislation in the interest of the local banks; or if it was meant to charge that Mr. Bell and Mr. Brooks and Mr. Wetmur had lent themselves to a scheme of this kind so that the interests of the banks would be enhanced, I leave it to the people of the County, regardless of politics, to answer that. These men can speak for themselves and are amply able to do so.

But, speaking only for myself, and with no authority to speak for anyone else, I wish to say as emphatically as I can, and as plainly as the English language can express it, that if the Commissioners think and intend to imply that, because my brother is connected with one of the banks, I would allow any banking or other interests to control my actions as a member of a public board, such charge against me is an absolute falsehood, worthy only of the man who would make it.

The main feature of the Commissioners' "Explanation" is the things it doesn't explain. I am sure that I am one of many citizens of Henderson County who have for a long time been waiting for a real explanation from the commissioners. What the Commissioners think about the banks, and the bank officials and myself and the other proposed members of the road and finance boards, may be interesting to some people, and it is evidently vastly interesting to the writer of the Commissioners' letter; but if the Commissioners are not blind and deaf they must know by this time that there are many important matters which the people want explained, and which they do not even refer to in their letter.

Since the Commissioners have undertaken to "explain," will they now proceed to explain the following matters:

1. Did the Commissioners pay more than \$3400.00 of Henderson County's money to one Charles Moore, of Tennessee, in connection with his "audit" of the county books?
2. Did the Commissioners pay Frank Carter, or the firm of Carter, Shuford and Hartshorn, over \$600.00 for "professional" services and expenses? And how much of this was in connection with fighting the proposed legislation which would have restricted the Commissioners' powers?
3. Did the Commissioners hire a man to go to Tennessee to try and find their late "auditor," Moore? How much did this search cost the County? Did they find the auditor, and did they get from him what they sent for?
4. Even supposing Moore's audit to be of some value, have the Commissioners got it and all the papers pertaining to it, or have some of the papers been removed from the State and scattered, rendering the audit completely worthless?

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the court house done? Did Commissioner Bane's men, or the men he usually employs, do this work?

6. What did the court house work cost the County? Was the entire job advertised for bids, and whose was the lowest bid?

7. Is it a fact that a considerable part of the expense of the court house work was paid without any claims or vouchers being issued in regular course, but paid direct from the tax collector's office merely upon Commissioner Bane's order or O. K.?

8. Is it a fact that bonds have been issued by the County Commissioners for certain specific purposes, stated in the order and in the bonds themselves; and the funds, or a part of them, used for other purposes?

If the County Commissioners will answer these questions fully and without evasion, there are some of us who will regard it as a more important "explanation" than the one they have recently allowed their names to be signed to.

B. F. STATON.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARTY

(Mrs. W. P. Whitmire.)

Last Friday evening, Feb. 10th, was the date chosen by the juniors of the high school for their annual complimentary reception to the senior class of the same institution. Upon this occasion a masquerade banquet was the type of party decided upon and a miscellaneous assortment of costumes, including Gipsy, Japanese, Dutch, Valentine and many other distinctive ones, made the scene very spectacular.

In the junior room blue and gold, which are the class colors, were used extensively in the decorations while in the second lavender and white, the senior colors, predominated.

Among the games played the more prominent were "magic writing" and the "compliment" one. Each afforded considerable amusement. The real features of the evening, however, were the "grand march" and the dance of "My Geisha Girl."

As Miss Margaret Francis played appropriate music the guests, in couples, formed into two lines of march each preceded by the class presidents, Misses Wylma Clevenger and Edna Byers, senior and junior, respectively. In a slow, dignified manner the march was made through the rooms and the costumes worn thus shown to fine advantage.

In "My Geisha Girl" dance Mrs. Burgard played on the piano the "Japanese Sandman" and its rhythm was faithfully and beautifully reproduced by the nimble feet of the girls who took part. Miss Margaret Francis represented the "Sedan girl," Sarah Valentine and Louise Falkner, "coolies," Edna Byers, Emily Moore, Aileen Wilkins and Katherine Valentine, "Japanese ladies." The performance was very artistic and reflected much credit upon those who gave it.

Chicken salad and saltines, followed by cake and ice cream, was later served in buffet style.

MRS. JOE KING DEAD

Mrs. Joe King, formerly of Hendersonville, died last Sunday after an attack of pneumonia at her home in Spartanburg. Interment followed Monday in Oakwood cemetery in Spartanburg.

The deceased is survived by six children, O. O. King and J. G. King, of Hendersonville; D. L. King, Woodruff, S. C.; Mitchell and Dean King, Spartanburg, and Mrs. C. A. Thomas, Fayetteville, N. C. A sister and brother, Mrs. John Sales, Fletcher, and L. B. Case, of Spartanburg, and a niece, Mrs. Odell Thompson, of Hendersonville, and many other relatives in the city, also survive.

Mrs. Odell Thompson, Carl Garren, Mrs. J. G. King and Mrs. Fred Garren went to Spartanburg Monday to attend the funeral.

WALTER SHOOK KILLED

AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT

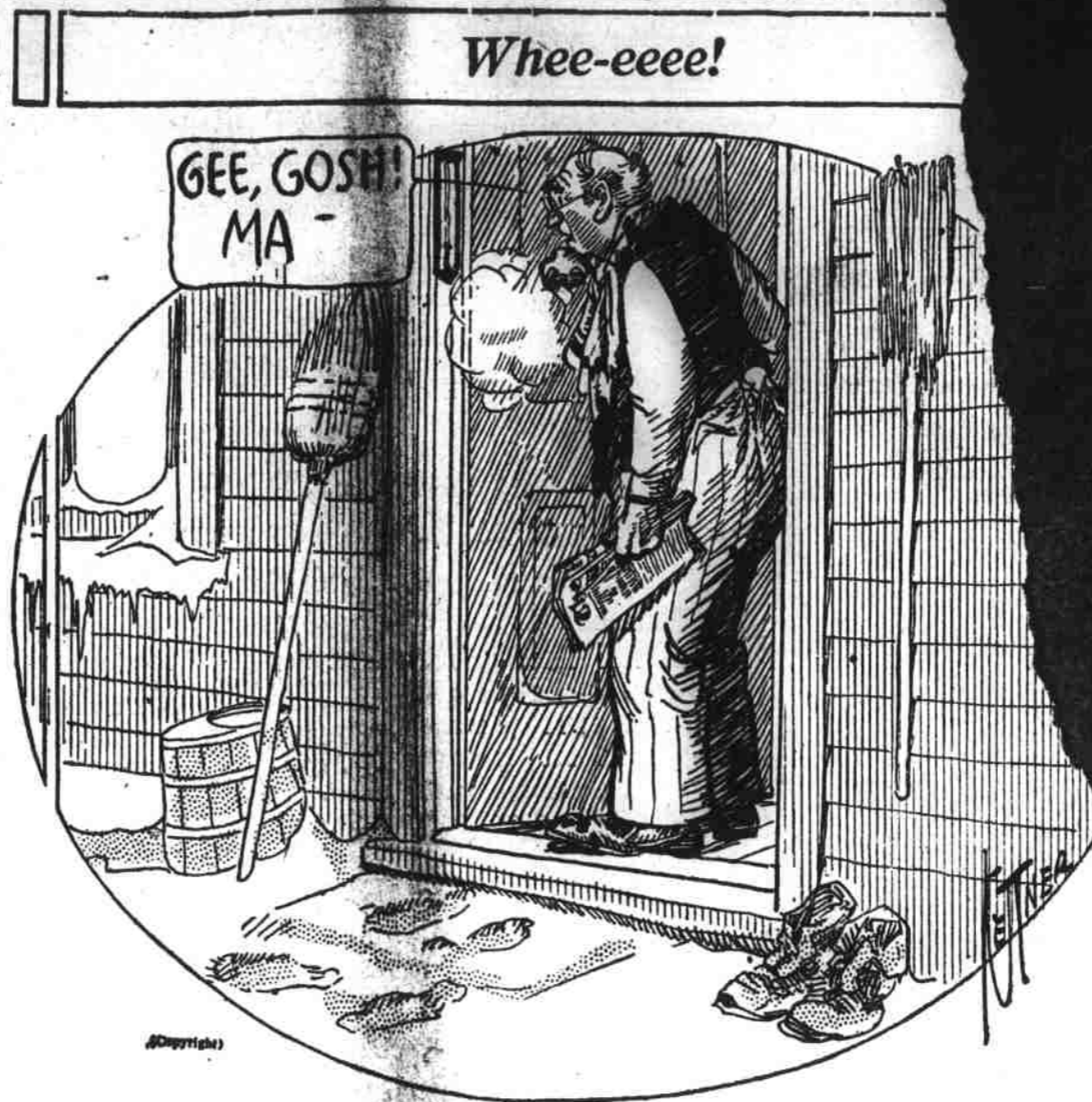
Walter Shook was a victim of a railway accident last Wednesday at Pisgah Forest. Mr. Shook was employed by the Carr Lumber company and it is understood he was coupling cars on a logging train when the tragedy occurred. In some manner his head was caught between the bumpers as the cars came together and death resulted instantly. The deceased is survived by his wife, who was Miss Beatrice Morris, of Pisgah Forest, and one baby. Interment followed Friday in Oak Grove cemetery at Pisgah Forest.

AUXILIARY MEETINGS

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church is conducting a week of prayer this week, the services being held each afternoon, except Wednesday, at 8:30 o'clock. On Wednesday afternoon the service was omitted because of prayer meeting following in the evening.

SEEDS

One sure sign that spring is here is the arrival in Hendersonville of all kinds of garden seeds. The packages are bright and new and doubtless the seeds will prove to be the best quality they show up to be.



LADIES ENJOY FINE BANQUET

Women's Get-Together Banquet at Kentucky Home Was Hilarious Occasion.

(Mrs. W. P. Whitmire.)
The woman's get-together banquet is now of the past but the memory of it will long bring pleasure to all those who availed themselves of the privilege of being present upon that occasion.

By 8 o'clock the Kentucky Home lobbies were thronged with some 160 of the most representative women in the city. Cordiality and co-operative spirit was the keynote which was clearly dominant over every other interest manifested.

A four-course dinner, with broiled chicken as the central feature, was announced at 9 o'clock. It was then that the toastmaster, Mrs. R. P. Freeze, came into her own. With wonderful cleverness, ably assisted by Mrs. Frank Ewbank, she, with much graciousness and humor, carried the program through to a most delightful and successful climax.

During the course of serving helpful and interesting talks were made on the various women's activities in the city and between them original jokes told and songs sung kept the spirits high. Not a moment lagged.

A blessing on the dinner and occasion was invoked by Mrs. E. E. Bomar after which "America the Beautiful," with Mrs. Chas. Morrow leading, was heartily sung by all present. "What Women Are Doing," Mrs. L. M. Colt; "The U. D. C's.," Mrs. L. R. Barnwell; "D. A. R's.," Mrs. J. S. Brown; "Climate," Mrs. M. A. Brown; "Hospital Assn.," Mrs. Trenholm; "American Legion Auxiliary," Mrs. J. W. Williams; "What a Club Would Have Meant to Us," Mrs. Mable Baughman; "Our Schools," Mrs. A. W. Farnum; "Parent-Teachers' Association," Mrs. Broadbent Estes, and "Woman's Club, Its Past and Future," Mrs. W. R. Kirk were topics ably discussed. The jokes were presented in a very happy manner by Mrs. J. F. Brooks, Mrs. A. H. Morey, Mrs. M. A. Brown, Mrs. W. P. Whitmire, Mrs. L. M. Colt, Mrs. Noah Hollowell, Mrs. J. W. Baily and Mrs. L. R. Barnwell.

One of the most pleasing features of the evening was the excellent musical program. Aside from numerous parodies on "Carolina Home," the "Long, Long Trail A-Winding," and others, which were made the more effective by the piano accompaniment as played by Mrs. A. W. Honeycutt, Miss Evah Blythe and Miss Virginia Siler, accompanied respectively by Miss Margaret Butman, of Fassifern, and Mrs. Honeycutt, delightfully and efficiently rendered two violin solos each. Miss Martha Wright sang with marked effect and Mrs. Chas. Morrow was captivating in her presentation of the old favorite, "A Gipsy Love Song." A beautiful tribute was made to "Our Sons," by Mrs. R. N. Pratt which was followed by one no less impressive to "Our Daughters," by Mrs. Siler.

So the hours sped away and each one felt when the evening ended as though something of good fellowship had been gained and something worth while in Hendersonville progress had been achieved.

As the big clock in the dining-room pointed "12" with one accord the guests arose and, as a parting shot at the men, sang:

"To our husbands"—
"We won't go home until the morning
"Till daylight doth appear.
For our husbands are minding the children
So we will all stay here
Till the sun is in the sky
Till the sun is in the sky
Till the sun is in the sky"

MAKING PLANS FOR CONVENTION

Baraca-Philathea Executive Committee Meets to Plan for Convention.

The executive committee of the Hendersonville Baraca-Philathea classes, arranging for the state Baraca-Philathea convention which will be held in Hendersonville June 15-18, met at the Kentucky Home Monday evening at 7 o'clock and was presided over by A. W. Honeycutt, general chairman. With the exception of two the full committee was in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. N. Buckner, of Asheville, were present and Mrs. Buckner, who is state secretary of the Philathea-Baraca work, interested each chairman in his duties and was promised enthusiastic support from all present.

The following is a list of the various chairmen:

A. W. Honeycutt, general chairman; C. S. Fullbright, co-operating chairman; John T. Wilkins, finance; Miss Mary Rector, housing; Mrs. F. A. Ewbank, music; Miss Florence Justus, decorations; Rev. E. E. Bomar, devotional; Noah M. Hollowell, advertising; Mrs. M. A. Brown, social; A. S. Truex, assignment; C. F. Bland, reception; Miss Emma Sample, badges; L. J. Pace, transportation; Mrs. John A. Forest, information; Misses M. Sullinger, Evah Blythe and Lottie Dixon, name and slogan.

Name, "Land of the Sky Convention," slogan, Nos. 13-30 "Let us go up and possess it, for we are well able," convention, Hendersonville, June 15-19, 1922.

LEGION MEMBERS PLAN TO GIVE COMEDY PLAY

"All a Mistake," a comedy in three acts is to be presented at the city hall in the near future by the Hubert M. Smith Post of the American legion for the purpose of raising funds to pay the legion subscription to the county nurse fund.

At a meeting Wednesday night it was decided to begin preparation at once and Earl Penny was selected as director. It is said that the play is a scream from the time the curtain goes up at the beginning of the first act until the finale.

The characters have been selected and the date will be announced in the next issue of The Times.

"WHOSE LITTLE BRIDE ARE YOU?" TO BE GIVEN FEB. 22

A play entitled "Whose Little Bride Are You?" is to be presented at the opera house February 22 by members of the high school senior class. It is stated by those who are in a position to know that the play lives up to the expectations which the title arouses. At first there is but one bride. When the end of the last act comes, the place is fairly over-run with them, and no one knows to whom they belong.

The purpose of this play is to help supply funds for an annual, to be called "The Land of the Sky," which the senior class is getting out this year.

RECEIVE SEEDS FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

To the farmers of Henderson county The Times has received through Honorable Zebulon Weaver a consignment of seeds for free distribution and will be glad to deliver them in accordance with instructions to all who will call for and use them.

A SYNOPSIS OF NEW STATUTES

New Statutes Enacted by State Legislature Affecting the 10th District

(By M. L. Shipman)

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 15.—Two thousand copies of the captions of the Acts and Resolutions of the special session of the General Assembly last December have been released by the public printers and are ready for distribution. A brief synopsis of the new statutes affecting the counties of the tenth congressional district follows:

An act authorizing the town of Marion to issue \$50,000 in bonds for street improvement.

An act amending the charter of Hendersonville which sets out new boundaries.

An act authorizing an additional issue of bonds for road improvement in Macon county not to exceed \$20,000.

An act limiting the number of rural police in Polk county to not exceeding two for any township.

An act to validate an election held in Killebrew school district, Rutherford county, and authorizing an issue of \$25,000 in bonds for school purposes.

An act pertaining to the working of the public roads of Rutherford county, tax rate for the purpose not to be less than five cents.

An act for the protection of pheasants in Rutherford county. Full protection until January 15, 1929. Fine not less than \$10 nor more than \$50 for each pheasant killed and each nest or setting of eggs destroyed. One-half fine to be paid to officer making arrest.

An act to prohibit the dumping of saw dust into the streams and creeks of Graham county. Fine \$50 for each offense, and making each day's dumping a separate offense.

An act amending the public school law in its application to Buncombe county, setting out that tax rate shall not exceed 60 cents on the \$100.

An act to prohibit the trapping of bear and other game with steel or metal traps in Jackson county. Fine not less than \$10 nor more than \$25; or imprisonment not less than ten nor more than twenty-five days.

An act allowing the commissioners of Jackson \$5 per day and mileage for service rendered the county.

An act to validate and authorize the issuance of \$150,000 McDowell county court house bonds and to provide a sufficient tax for the payment of principal and interest thereof. Authority is given to reduce the rate of interest to 5 3-4 or 5 1-2 percent.

An act relative to the closed season for quail in Polk and Rutherford counties. It is now February 15th to November 15th.

An act to authorize the commissioners of Swain to levy a tax not exceeding 5 cents for the support of the county poor.

An act to authorize the town of Tryon to issue bonds for the improvement of streets and sidewalks and to extend the sewerage system. Bond issue of \$100,000, subject to election, is provided; one-half of cash improvements to be levied on abutting property.

An act to separate the offices of tax collector and treasurer of Henderson county and authorizing the county commissioners to designate a bank or trust company as financial agent to serve for a term of two years without compensation.

An act making the office of city

"night" probably plates sold were. That they appreciated the compliment and enjoyed the hospitality offered them was heard on all sides.

Two out-of-town guests present, who responded when called upon for a "speech" were Mr. and Mrs. Buckner, of Asheville. They spoke of the co-operative spirit plainly manifest in Hendersonville and its result in the development, past and future, of the city.

The program was concluded at 10 and at 11 o'clock, after a further indulgence in jest and laughter, the banqueters found themselves homebound.

EPWORTH LEAGUE SOCIAL

On Wednesday evening, after a devotional meeting at the church, about 30 members of the Epworth league, gathered at the home of Miss Elenor Plank, where they held their regular monthly social meeting.

Games were played and two contests were engaged in one a puzzle contest; in which Miss Elizabeth Faeman proved the lucky winner, the second was a contest of "Pitching Hearts" in which Nojan Faulkner succeeded in capturing the prize, the prizes were dainty little baskets filled with hearts.

Toasting marshmallows was one of the features of the evening, Cocoa and cakes were served at the close. Everyone expressed himself as having spent a most delightful evening.

CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH RELIEF STILL CONTINUES

Hendersonville has so far subscribed about \$850 for the Jewish relief fund. The amount allotted to this county is \$1200. Reports from other sections of the county have not yet been received here, but it is thought Henderson county will subscribe and pay the amount assigned without trouble.

The committees have made a house-to-house canvass and have met with encouraging results. The canvass will probably close this week and when reports are all in it is believed enough funds will have been subscribed to carry this county over the top.

GERRALD SHIPMAN DEAD

News of the death of young Gerald Shipman, in San Diego, Cal., has just been received. Efforts are being made to locate Mrs. Shipman, who is en route to California, that she may return home and meet the body when it arrives here.

Young Shipman is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Z. A. Shipman, formerly of this city but now of Asheville. The deceased at the time of his death was in the United States navy and was located in San Diego, Cal., where he was in training.

C. C. RICHARDS DEAD

C. C. Richards, 49 years old, an honored citizen of Hendersonville, died Monday night at 8 o'clock at his residence on Fleming street after an illness of two months. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 2 o'clock at the Presbyterian church by Rev. J. F. Ligon and burial followed at Oakdale cemetery.

Mr. Richards, with his family, came to Hendersonville about five years ago from South Carolina. With his brother-in-law, Mr. Burges, he engaged in the mercantile business on Sixth avenue in a store formerly owned by S. J. Harris. Later he became interested in lumber and was traveling salesman for the Atlantic Coast Lumber company up to the time of his resignation about Christmas when his health failed him.

Mr. Richards was a member of the local Presbyterian church and a professional Christian since early youth. He was a man of pleasing, happy personality, was much given to wit and had a cheering word for all with whom he came in contact. He is survived by his wife and three small daughters, Mattie, Isabelle and Cecil; two sisters and one brother, I. E. Richards, of Savannah, who is too ill to come to Hendersonville at this time. Tom Burgess, brother of Mrs. Richards, has been able to be with the family for some time.

(Continued on page 10.)