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NUMBER EIGHT

DEATH TAKES ISAAC KEENER

Died at His Home on Ellijay Last Week—Was Prominent and Respected Citizen.

Isaac Ulric Keener, prominent and highly respected citizen of this county, died at his home at Higdonville, Thursday morning of last week about 7:30 o'clock, following a serious illness of only a brief duration. Death was attributed to asthma, from which Mr. Keener had been suffering for years.

Mr. Keener was a merchant, and had been postmaster at Higdonville for the past 16 months. He took a prominent part in the affairs of his community and the county, and was highly respected as a man of character and integrity.

Born in Rabun county, Ga., and reared there, Mr. Keener moved to Macon county nine years ago, and had made his home at Higdonville since that time.

He is survived by his widow; two daughters, Misses Maud and Lois Keener; his mother, Mrs. M. J. Keener, of Thompson, Ga.; four brothers, Emory, of Otto, this county, Ed, of Chicago, Claud, of Albany, Ga.; and Oscar, of Thompson, Ga.; and four sisters, Mrs. Maud Greer, of Atlanta, Mrs. Parrie Smith, of Washington, Ga., Mrs. Belle Thompson, of Thompson Ga., and Miss Mollie Keener, of Greenville, S. C.

The deceased had been a member of the Methodist church since he was 16 years of age, and was also a member of Higdonville council of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

Funeral services were held from the Sugarfork Baptist church at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, and interment was in the Sugarfork cemetery.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. J. C. Strickland, Methodist minister, and the Rev. G. C. Steed, pastor of the Franklin Baptist church.

GRAHAM COUNTY HAS NEWSPAPER

First Issue to Appear February 28—C. B. Lane Editor and Manager—Called Graham County News.

Graham county, until only a few years ago, isolated from the remainder of the world, a "lost province" in the most literal sense of the word, is lost no longer; and Graham is celebrating the end of its isolation with a remarkably rapid progress.

A few years ago the first step was taken, when the State highway system penetrated the fastnesses of Graham, and built a road from Top-ton to Robbinsville, a road offering scenic effects of grandeur and variety hardly equalled anywhere in all Western North Carolina.

Then came the railroads—almost simultaneously lines entered Graham from Maryville, Tenn., and from Top-ton—the county's first railroads. It is the Top-ton road, however, that means most, for it goes directly to the county seat.

Next came the county's first bank, opened a few weeks ago, with deposits—in coin and currency—of \$15,000 the first day. And, along with its other progress was the building of two fine new school buildings, together with consolidation as rapidly as road and housing facilities would permit.

The latest step is a newspaper—Graham county's first journal.

The sheet will make its initial appearance on Monday, February 28, it is announced, and weekly thereafter. It was felt by progressive citizens of the town of Robbinsville and of the county that the time had come to advertise the advantages of the town and county to the people of Graham itself, as well as to the world. And such the Graham County News will seek to do, its management announces.

C. B. Lane, Robbinsville real estate man, is editor and manager.

The paper will start with 400 copies weekly.

THREE INJURED IN AUTO WRECK

Car Leaves Highway and Cuts Down Telegraph Pole—Bob Smart Seriously Injured.

Robert Smart, injured, possibly fatally, it was at first thought, in an automobile wreck near Otto last Saturday afternoon, is on the road to recovery, and Harry Brown, also taken to a local hospital as a result of the wreck, is improving. Brown was less seriously hurt. Sam Jacobs, the third occupant of the car, was only slightly injured.

The wreck occurred about two miles south of Otto. The Hudson coach, property of Smart, in which the three were riding, left the pavement at a point where the highway is approximately on a level with the field adjoining. Careening down the field, the car cut down an eight-inch telephone pole, and continued its course for from 150 to 200 yards, finally turning back toward the highway, and crashing into a fill, in which it practically buried itself.

The car did not turn over, and was not greatly damaged, it was said.

As a result of the accident, Mr. Smart suffered a broken thigh and a fractured skull, it was stated at the hospital, while Brown's face was badly lacerated. Jacobs was not hurt seriously enough to make it necessary for him to go to the hospital.

The accident occurred at 2:30 Saturday afternoon, when the car was coming in the direction of Franklin, over highway No. 286.

Mr. Smart left the hospital Tuesday and returned to his home on the Georgia road.

BELGIAN CITIZEN STUDIES THE CHEROKEE LANGUAGE

Cullowhee, N. C., Feb. 21.—Dr. and Mrs. Frans Olbrechts, of Belgium, now staying at the home of a Cherokee, Indian in the Cherokee Reservation, visited Cullowhee Normal School Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Dr. Olbrechts gave an interesting talk before the Cullowhee Community Life Club upon the subject of "The Educational System of Belgium."

Dr. and Mrs. Olbrechts have been at Cherokee for several months. They are interested in philology, and are making a thorough study of the Indian language. Dr. Olbrechts is a graduate of Louvain University, to which American students have contributed a million dollars, and has studied at Columbia University.

Truck Gets Bullet

The fourth vehicle to reach Franklin from the direction of Georgia, in recent months bullet unctured, was the truck in which Ed. Curtis and Connie Rice, who gave their addresses as Asheville, were riding when the truck was stopped and searched for liquor here Monday night, according to Chief of Police R. M. Coffey.

A bullet hole through the right front light attracted the officers' attention. They had been "tipped," they said, that the truck contained 160 gallons of liquor, but no liquor was found. The truck, however, bore no license plate, and the two men were arrested on this ground.

The shot was fired before the truck crossed the State line into North Carolina, the officers were told, they said.

It was the firing into the car in which three youths were riding recently which resulted in the issuing of warrants for Coffey and two other officers by Zeb Shope. The warrants as yet, have not been served. The boys charged that one of the officers fired into the car.

The officers have intimated that it is their opinion that cars are being fired into with a view to casting the blame upon the officers, because of their activities in enforcing the prohibition law.

Hogs! Hogs!

The county agent is contemplating the shipment of a carload of hogs in the near future. Those having hogs for sale are requested to communicate at once with the county agent giving number of hogs, approximate weight and condition. Recent market quotations were approximately 12 cents for corn fattened hogs. Several farmers have recently stated their desire to sell their swine, consequently the county agent is desirous of ascertaining whether or not there are sufficient hogs in the county for a car shipment. Write at once.

LARGE NUMBER FISH COMING

Macon County Streams to Be Restocked With Speckled Trout—Highlands Lake Gets Portion.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 speckled trout will be placed in the Mountain streams of Macon county, as a restocking project, sometime next month.

The fish have been ordered from the government hatchery at Erwin, Tenn., by Z. B. Byrd, forest ranger, connected with the office here of R. W. Shields, supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest, and Mr. Byrd anticipates that the hatchery will supply between 5,000 and 10,000 for each of the nine of 10 streams, it is proposed to re-stock.

Streams to be re-stocked from the supply of government fish include Wayah, Winespring, Peek's, Tesenta, Coweta, and Tellico Creeks, as well as Horse Cove Creek, southeast of Highlands, the lake to be created by the Highlands municipal power dam, and the head of the Cullasaja River.

The fish will be distributed by interested citizens from various parts of the county, co-operating with Mr. Byrd. Individuals from the different sections, under the arrangement, will meet the car of fish here at Franklin, take them to the specified streams, and turn them loose.

Every effort will be made, following receipt of the fish, to give adequate protection to the streams re-stocked.

LADIES OF WESTERN MISSIONARY ZONE TO MEET AT ANDREWS

The first meeting of the women of the Western Missionary Zone of the Waynesville district, Methodist Episcopal church, South, since the district was divided into zones, will be held at the Methodist church at Andrews Friday, February 25, according to an announcement just received here from Mrs. J. R. Long, of Bryson City, zone secretary.

The Waynesville district was divided, in so far as missionary work is concerned, at a conference at Waynesville last fall, and the women of the western zone will organize and take part in a missionary program at the Andrews meeting Friday. The Western zone embraces Macon and Cherokee counties.

The meeting will be opened at 11 o'clock, with the devotional services, to be conducted by the Rev. J. R. Church, pastor of the Andrews Methodist church. Other features of the morning session will be a talk by Mrs. J. Dale Stentz, of Asheville, district secretary, and the organization and election of officers.

Following a recess for luncheon and a social hour, the afternoon session will be opened with devotional exercises, led by Mrs. Geo. A. Jones, of Franklin, to be followed by a talk on stewardship by Mrs. W. B. Fisher, of Andrews. Other talks will include one on social service, by Mrs. Weaver McLean, and one on mission study and publicity by Mrs. Elkin.

Special music and an open discussion will be other features of the afternoon session. All ladies of the zone and others who are interested are being invited to attend the meeting.

The program follows:

- MORNING**
11:00 Devotional, by Rev. J. R. Church.
11:20 Talk by Mrs. J. Dale Stentz.
11:40 Organization and election of officers.
Hymn.
12:30 Lunch and Social hour.
AFTERNOON
1:30 Devotional, by Mrs. Geo. A. Jones.
1:45 Talk on stewardship, by Mrs. W. B. Fisher.
2:00 Talk on social service, by Mrs. Weaver McLean.
2:15 Special music.
2:30 Talk on mission, study and publicity, by Mrs. Elkin.
2:45 Open forum.
3:00 Benediction.

Reservations At Cullowhee

President Hunter announces that reservations for room at Cullowhee State Normal School for the spring quarter promise to go far beyond the reservations for any previous spring. It now appears that the two dormitories will be taxed to the limit, and that rooms may have to be secured in the community in order to take care of the new students. The authorities are planning to make every possible effort to accommodate all who may wish to attend. The spring quarter begins March the seventh.

SOLESBEE BILL PASSES HOUSE

Bill Would Have One Man Responsible For Roads In County—Delegation In Raleigh to Defeat Bill.

A bill which would give practically unlimited powers, in so far as roads in Macon county are concerned, to one man, to be appointed every two years by the legislature, has been introduced in the legislature by Representative A. S. Solesbee, passed by the house, and held up in the Senate, at the request of various individuals here.

The bill was first introduced with the provision that S. A. Munday should be the highway commissioner. At the request of citizens here, the bill was withdrawn by Mr. Solesbee, and an almost identical bill was later introduced. The second measure, however, would name W. D. Barnard highway commissioner, instead of Munday.

A large number of telegrams went to Senator R. J. Roane on Monday, requesting him to kill the bill, and a delegation of citizens, of both political parties, left Monday afternoon for Raleigh to further urge upon Mr. Roane that the bill was not what the citizenship of the county desired.

The opponents of the measure voiced their opposition without regard to personalities, they said, but simply on the belief that the bill, as drawn, was unworkable, that no one man should be given the authority the bill would grant a county highway commissioner, and that in no event should an official so empowered be appointed by the legislature, where politics would be likely to enter into appointments, and where the people would have no direct say-so in the matter.

Information from Raleigh Tuesday afternoon indicated that the measure would not pass the senate.

Briefly, the bill would provide for appointment by the legislature of a county highway commissioner, for a term of two years, at a salary of \$1200 per year, and five cents per mile traveling expense; it would transfer to him all authority with reference to roads and road funds now exercised by the county commissioners, the township road trustees, the county treasurer, and other officers; and would leave to him, practically without check, authority to handle the highway business of the county.

The bill's opponents argued, in discussing the measure, that the highway commissioner, under the provisions of the law, would be subject to no official or body, and subject to no check as to how or why he spent the road funds of the county and townships. They also asserted that the bill was contradictory, pointing out as one example of this that it provides for the contracting of road building and road maintenance, and elsewhere provides for supervision of such work.

Chevrolet Trucks

Attaining a production of 112,499 commercial vehicles during 1926, an increase of more than 132 per cent over the preceding year, the Chevrolet Motor Company is now the world's largest manufacturer of gear shift trucks, according to figures just announced by company officials.

The increase is a gain of 64,200 over the 1925 production of 48,299 trucks.

This enormous increase is attributed in no small degree to the numerous refinements and lowered prices of the new trucks. Dealers everywhere reported an enthusiastic reception by the public of these new models.

The 1925 production in its turn had more than doubled the 1924 output of 23,134 trucks.

According to present manufacturing schedules an even greater monthly production is contemplated for the truck division during the coming months to insure dealers a sufficient supply to meet the growing demand.

Production during January, 1927, totalling 15,927 trucks, also broke all truck production records for a single month in the history of the company. The previous high mark was in September, 1926, when 12,845 trucks were manufactured.

County Agent Arrives

Mr. Lyles Harris, the newly chosen county agent, arrived here last Sunday and assumed his duties Monday. Next week the Press hopes to publish an interview with the new agent, outlining his plans for demonstration work in this county. Since his arrival Mr. Harris has been exceedingly busy making himself acquainted with the work of the former county agent, and getting acquainted with the farmers of the county.

861 PRISONERS ARE ILLITERATE

Church Members and Non-Members Equally Divided Among 1,486—Crime Headed by Manslaughter.

By Brock Barkley

The state prison's population of 1,486 contains almost as many church members as non-members and almost as many married persons as single ones, but it rates low in education.

Statistics included in the prison's biennial report, which was delivered to Governor McLean today, classify the population as follows:

Illiterates

The population has almost an even break as between those classifications, but in education the illiterate have a big majority. Of the 1,486 in confinement at the time the report was prepared, 861 could neither read nor write; 115 could read but could not write, and 510 could both read and write.

The statistics show, however, that the educational opportunities of the great mass of the prisoners were exceedingly poor. Only one college graduate is listed out of the entire population, five prisoners went through the junior year of college, eight went through the sophomore year and 16 finished the freshman year. Four are high school graduates, 64 finished the first year of high school. Of the rest of the population, only 415 went as far as the second grade of grammar school, while 494 never attended school.

Many Drinkers

The whiskey drinkers far outnumber the abstainers; 1,020 used whiskey prior to their commitment 425 listed themselves as abstainers while 41 used drugs.

Nearly half the population, or 776 prisoners, were common laborers in their days of freedom. The report lists 160 farmers, eight merchants, two preachers, two doctors, three traveling salesmen, two printers, three bookkeepers, one clerk of superior court, three bankers, one lawyer, 10 barbers, one insurance agent, one engineer, one real estate dealer and one teacher. Other trades also are represented.

Manslaughter First

Manslaughter heads the list of crimes for which prisoners were committed, 137 now serving for this offense. Second degree murder stands next with 132 prisoners, 126 are serving time for larceny, 32 for attempted criminal assault, 49 for forgery, 19 for burglary, 21 for robbery, 22 for highway robbery and 40 for storebreaking. All the other crimes in the classification of felonies are also represented.

Overhalf the population is composed of persons under 30 years of age. Three hundred and ten prisoners are between 14 and 20 years old, 495 are between 20 and 30; 240 between 30 and 40; 85 between 40 and 50; 48 between 50 and 60; 12 between 60 and 70; while two are over 70 one of them being nearly 80—Charlotte Observer.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN PARK ASSURED

The Smoky Mountain National Park bill became a law Tuesday, when the house of representatives passed the measure. It had already passed the senate.

That the bill would pass the lower house was definitely indicated Monday, when the bill passed on second reading by a vote of 78 to 6.

The enactment of the measure, in fact, became practically a certainty when its proponents adopted certain amendments suggested by Governor McLean, and the executive gave the bill his approval.

The bill carries an appropriation of not to exceed \$2,000,000 for the purchase of land in North Carolina to be given the national park for development as a park. The amendments suggested by Governor McLean prevent expenditure of this money until it is an assured fact that sufficient additional funds have been raised to purchase enough land to assure actual developmental work by the federal government.

By a strange co-incidence, the representative in the house from Franklin county bears the name of Macon; stranger still, he was one of the six opponents of a measure in which Franklin and Macon county are so vitally interested.