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CHARLOTTE HAS \$350,000 BLAZE

Sunday Morning Fire Totally Destroys Trust Building and Other Buildings Damaged. Origin of Fire Probably in Furnace of Wrecked Structure.

Early Sunday Morning fire completely destroyed the Trust Building of Charlotte and caused thousands of dollars damage to offices and stores in the Piedmont and Blockmann buildings. The first alarm was turned in at 4:30. The damage is estimated at \$350,000 to \$400,000.

Temporary office quarters will be provided for those who were put out of business.

It is believed that the fire started in the boiler room of the Trust building where the furnace was fired by a stoker, using crude petroleum as fuel. It is thought that a large storage tank, filled with oil was ignited, soon after the fire started. The cause of the fire cannot be determined exactly until some of the debris has been cleared away.

The Fire Department responded promptly and but for its heroic work, the blaze would no doubt have destroyed more property.

It is interesting to note that the Trust Building, 18 years old, was the first building in North Carolina to use electric elevators, and for a long time was the tallest one of its kind in the State, while the Academy of Music had been pronounced at that time one of the finest theaters of its size in the country.

SOME THINGS ABOUT WATAUGA COUNTY

By W. L. Winkler
Watauga County was formed in 1849 from Ashe, Caldwell, Wilkes and Yancey.

Its population in 1850 was 3,242 whites; 29 free negroes; 129 slaves. It had to vote with the Counties it was taken from until 1853 when she was entitled to a separate representative.

Riddles Knob, in this county, derives its name from a circumstance of the capture of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, during the revolution, by a party of Tories. Cleveland had been a terror to the Tories. Two notorious of their band, (Jones and Coil) had been captured by him and hung. Cleveland had gone alone on some private business, to New River. On his way he was captured by some straggling Tories at the Old Fields on New River. They immediately demanded that he furnish passes for them. At best Cleveland's penmanship was very poor, but on this occasion it was not only poor but so bad that they would kill him as soon as the necessary papers were drawn up. It was a difficult matter for him to write legible. While thus struggling his brother, Captain Robert Cleveland, came up with a party of the hunt for the colonel. Before the Tories knew what was taking place they were fired upon. Colonel Cleveland fled off the log backwoods, to prevent being shot, while the Tories fled in terror.

Some time after this, this same man Riddle and his son were brought before Cleveland who, after taking the evidence against them, had them hung near a little church known as Mulberry Meeting house, now Wilkesboro.

While General Lenoir was on some business errand at the above hanging had taken place, he was informed that some mischief was going on with his horse. As the General approached a man ran off from the opposite side of the horse. Lenoir halted him but, just then his legs were taken. The Colonel followed in hot pursuit and when the Tory was overtaken it was found that he had stolen one of the stirrups. He carried him to Colonel Cleveland who ordered him to place his thumbs in a notch prepared for that purpose in an arbor fork, and hold them there while he received fifteen lashes. This peculiar punishment was administered by Captain John Beverly who did not stop at the required number. After the fifteen had been given Colonel Hernden ordered Beverly to stop, but he continued whipping the culprit until Colonel Hernden drew his sword and had it not been for the intervention of friends no doubt something fatally would have resulted. This gave origin to the phrase "to thumb the notch."

There is a tree on the old Wilkes road that to this day bears the name "Shad Law Oak," because said Law was forced to "Thumb the notch" on this noted tree.

It is wonderful how we have advanced from the primitive ways of punishing criminals. Instead of "Thumbing the notch" now is a fellow has plenty of money and a little prestige it is almost impossible to punish him at all. It is the general consensus of opinion that the lax way of dealing with criminals now is rapidly making violators of the law.

GRANDFATHER AT BANNER ELK

When the idea was conceived to start the Grandfather Orphanage near Banner Elk there was only one dwelling on the farm on which the orphanage is now located, and when Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Holcomb took charge there was room for only eight or ten children, and when applications began to come in for the admittance of more children, work began to enlarge the dwelling so as to accommodate others; and now there is a dormitory for the girls, a dormitory for the boys, the "Baby Cottage" for very young children, a school building and a mechanic shop, and I believe that there are 52 children in this institution at this time.

Four teachers are employed at the orphanage and the children attend school during the fall and spring, and assist in making gardens and crops during the spring and summer months. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb teach the children to be industrious, and in order to give them a balanced ration they prepare all kinds of canned fruit during the summer; the small children pick a sufficient quantity of blackberries to put up 1,000 cans or more each year, and while the smaller children are picking blackberries the larger boys are preparing wood for the winter, or doing some kind of work on the farm. A sufficient quantity of potatoes, beans, onions and other varieties of vegetables are produced for the entire year, and hay, corn, rye, buckwheat and other farm crops are produced and the boys do this with but little other help.

A number of milch cows are kept on the farm and a few beef cattle are kept so that the children can have fresh meat, but there is not enough pasture land to keep many through the summer and have meadow to make hay to feed through the winter. But Mr. Holcomb is trying an experiment on about 130 acres of cut over land. This boundary was heavily timbered land a few years ago and when the timber was cut and removed a quantity of tree-laps, brush and other inflammable matter was left, and when the fire caught into this almost every tree and shrub was killed and the land left bare, and soon the briars, bushes and weeds sprang up, it became to be almost a jungle. As the second growth of young trees is of such a character that it would never reforest with valuable timber trees, and the land being useless in its present condition and being expensive and hard to clear, Messrs. Tufts and Holcomb concluded to inclose the boundary with a woven wire fence and put a herd of goats on it, so they put up 600 rods of wire fence and about a year ago they purchased a herd of 15 goats, and after killing three goats for mutton, they have a herd of 41 goats and the greater number of these are Angora goats.

There was such an accumulation of brush, briars and weeds in such a quantity and the number of goats being large enough, the effect of these animals upon the thickets is so perceptible as it will be when the herd is greatly increased in number, and in many places it will be found that the goats have eaten the tender shoots of the briars, and when the old stalks die there will be no young shoots to replace them.

It is only a matter of time until the goats will clear this cut-over boundary of fifth and grass will come in its stead and then there will be more pasture for sheep and cattle. It should be remembered that goats consume very little grass if they can get to briars, shrubs and different varieties of weeds, and they will strip the bark from many kinds of saplings during the winter months and thus they kill a number of small trees in this way, and they seem to take delight in stripping the bark from apple trees, but care should be taken to exclude goats from orchards.

This herd of goats should prove to be profitable for many reasons; first, they will assist in the clearing of the cut-over land with very little expense; secondly, those not desirable to be kept may be slaughtered and furnish a most excellent quality of fresh meat occasionally; thirdly, the hides may be nicely dressed and sold for rugs at from \$4.00 to \$5.00 each and the expense of dressing the hides would not be exceeding \$1.00 each; fourthly, it will be seen from the ratio of increase from 15 to 41 in one year, when it is to be considered that it requires so little feeding even during the winter months; and in inclosures where goats have been kept for two or three years, not an elder, Canada thistle nor many other obnoxious shrubs and weeds can be found.

L. D. LOWE.

Bricklaying at Christmas in Watauga is something unheard of before, but it is going merrily on as this item is written. The winter, so far, has been ideal, in the main, and work has been pushed right along. The road force throughout the county have been doing good work.



As the Christmas season draws near, not so much because it is a custom, but because we are grateful we wish to extend to our many friends, our kindest appreciation for the courtesies shown us during the past twelve months. Because of your loyal support we have been enabled to put in your midst a model plant so that we can comply with all your demands on us in the future with a greater degree of efficiency and dispatch. You have something to be proud of and your interest in it is our great source of pleasure.

With the hope that this festive holiday season may be very merry for you, and that happiness and good fortune may be yours throughout the coming years, we seek to merit your continued confidence, and aim to serve you helpfully in the future.

THE PUBLISHERS.



OBSERVATIONS

(By County Superintendent)

Of course you would not expect to find a great difference in the people of the different sections of the county, however, there is a noticeable difference with a greater difference in the country.

It is convenient, in fact, I have the habit of thinking of our county by townships. A township is more or less a logical unit for a number of things.

When I was a boy I thought of Beaver Dam as the best part of our county, and I rather think this is as it should be with every boy. Every child ought to be taught to love his home and home community and think them the best in all the country.

Beaver Dam has a good citizenship made up largely of native stock of about two or three generations. It seems that Beaver Dam's second generation has just passed. There was never a time, doubtless, in the history of the township when there were, comparatively, so few old men. I am quite sure a little higher percentage of the people of Beaver Dam are church members than any other section of the county, with Cove Creek following a close second.

Beaver Dam is the only township in the county that does not have a one-teacher school. Bethel and Timbered Ridge districts have recently voted a special tax for the purpose of building new school houses.

Beaver Dam, with its many fine features, is just now in very bad need of better roads. Its roads, with the exception of the Georges Gap road built road, are in bad condition. The good people of this section ought to have a big meeting-all the folks present-and devise ways and means of improving these roads so that every citizen might have a better way of getting into the highways being built through the county.

We will now cross Georges Gap on a good automobile road to Cove Creek, in many ways, no doubt, the best section of the county if not the State. Colonel Olds, who knows every corner in the State, has repeatedly told me that it is the beauty spot of North Carolina.

The soil is fertile. In many sections of Cove Creek the rock has a very good percentage of potash which makes a very fertile soil. Its people are awake educationally, they have just about completed a splendid brick school building, with real accommodations. Three hundred students. This school is located on the great Daniel Boone Trail Highway which

leads from almost anywhere to anywhere. This is destined, I believe, to be one of the great schools of Western North Carolina. I am confidently expecting to see in the no great distant future, the necessity for enlarging of the building if the State's present educational program is carried out.

I hope Enoch Swift and James Horton, Watauga's grand old school men, will live to see this school in full bloom. Cove Creek's future is bright, great because of the greatness of its co-operative citizenship in a great country.

Cove Creek ought to be full of good cattle, good sheep and big fields of clover for soil improvement. In fact Watauga needs very little commercial fertilizer.

Would like to tarry longer on Cove Creek, but must move on. We pass up Cove Creek over the Boone Trail Highway to Tennessee line where we hit a bad road through a corner of Tennessee for about three miles, when suddenly the road broadens into a fine highway; This is North Fork township. This fine road extends from the Watauga line to the Ashe County line. North Fork township has, doubtless, more fine grazing land, considering its size, than any other in the county, and perhaps more good cattle.

Near by, at Sutherland, Ashe County has established a high school that will give this section of our county good school advantages.

Smith Hagaman.

TWELVE THOUSAND QUARTS WILL BE DESTROYED

Accompanied by a deputy, United States Marshal R. W. Ward, left at noon Thursday for Wilmington with the order of Judge H. G. Connor, United States District Court, to destroy the twelve thousand or more quarts of whiskey which formed the cargo of "The Message of Peace," seized at Ocracoke a year ago, and which was declared confiscated by the government this week.

The confiscation of the whiskey was one feature of the agreement which ended the prosecution of Captain Arthur Coleman, and supercargo, Walter Claude Graham. The cargo of a thousand cases of whiskey, said by Capt. Coleman to represent an original cash investment of approximately \$32,000 is now estimated to be worth on the basis of prevailing prices for bootleg whiskey around \$100,000. Its actual value, however, with Marshal Ward swooping down on it with a detail of United States marshals is nil.

A GREAT MERCHANT

(New York World)

When the news of John Wannamaker's death reached the managers of his New York and Philadelphia establishments more than 25,000 employees were detained for the day. To this gigantic statue had grown the little venture of the Philadelphia man who began by delivering goods in a hand cart because he could not afford a horse.

Many of those 25,000 aids had a personal relation with Mr. Wannamaker. All of them must have felt a sense of loss in his death. For a merchant dealt more directly both with his working force and with the public than most modern masters of big business. Even to his customers Mr. Wannamaker's "editorials," written by his own hand for use in advertisements, conveyed a sense of his strong personality.

Mr. Wannamaker did not content himself with merely dealing with a public over a counter. Before he was twenty years old he had founded one of the most famous Sunday Schools in the world. His interest in local charities and public movements was continuous and intelligent. His hotel for employees succeeded where A. T. Stewart's had failed. He was a pioneer in profit-sharing setting an example which has been widely followed. Shrewd enough to decline political honors offered by bosses who would profit by his prestige, he was also patriotic enough to accept, in becoming Postmaster General, an opportunity to render substantial public service by devoting to it his unusual business gifts. His famous epigram that there were "four reasons" why a parcel-post system was not established—the four reasons being the four big express companies—had more to do with the final establishment of that service than any other single argument.

Mr. Wannamaker was as a merchant more successful than Stewart and enjoyed in general a finer career, escaping the fatality and failure that dogged many of Stewart's untakings outside of his business. He had not the opportunity of Marshall Field in a newer section of the country. The skill, patient industry, the unvarying probity and the touch of genius with which he achieved a signal success in a field already ably occupied marked him as among the great merchants of all time.

OFFICER SEIZES MUCH WHISKY

Federal Agent, James Bingham, Makes Notable Raids in Burke and Watauga—Four Plants Destroyed.

On Wednesday 13th, Federal Prohibition officer, James Bingham, assisted by agents Kennedy and Ray, made a remarkable raid on the moonshiners.

About twelve miles out from Hickory in the South Mountains of Burke two copper stills of about 80 gallons each were captured together with 3000 gallons of beer, 65-gallons of corn liquor, and all necessary equipment for operating first class distilleries. 600 lbs of sugar was also confiscated. The two were only about half a mile apart and it is reasonable to suppose were operated by the same people. An additional 500 gallons of beer was found cached at the third place. Mr. Bingham gave one offender a good chase, but he made his escape and no arrests were made. It is estimated that the bootleggers entailed losses of \$1,500 of more as a result of these activities.

On Friday the 13th, the same officer captured a 20 gallon outfit on Sampson, this county, and about 150 gallons of beer.

Mr. Bingham is making a wonderful record for himself in the enforcing of the Dry Laws, and with enough men like him on the job, prohibition would soon really prohibit.

TRAINING SCHOOL

Rev. F. M. Huggins conducted devotional service at the Training School on Saturday.

A basket ball game on Fri. afternoon between Mountain View Institute and the Appalachian Training School teams resulted in a score of 4 to 14 in favor of the Training School.

Two social gatherings were given by the four literary societies on Monday evening, the 11th, one at Justice Hall by the Watauga Society, and one at Lovell Home, the Euterpean entertaining the Appalachian Society, to both of which members of the faculty were invited.

President B. B. Dougherty one day the past week gave a vivid description of his trip from Boone to Raleigh by automobile, and recited some of his experiences while in Raleigh, to the pleasure of those present. He was off to Johnson City, Tenn., and other points the latter part of the week.

The scene that surrounds your correspondent while writing this is one that those east of Ridge rarely or never witness. The dampness from the air has crystallized on valley and hill and mountain, making the forest look like crystal and creating a picture such as no artist can portray, it is so wonderful and insensitively beautiful.

The following announcement tells its own interesting story in regard to the teachers of the Training School: "Mr. Langston Cheves Haskell invites you to be present at the marriage of his daughter, Kate Calhoun to Mr. Arlie Raymond Smith, on Thursday afternoon, December twenty-first, at three o'clock. At home, Abeyville, South Carolina." Their many friends wish for them the best on life's journey.

WATAUGA HOSPITAL IN OPERATION

It is gratifying to know that at last Boone has hospital facilities. The Watauga Hospital is no open, at least one patient is taking treatment and a large number want to gain admission as soon as the institution is a little better prepared.

The hospital is to be modern throughout, the building is well appointed, and this section is to be congratulated upon the enterprise of the local physicians and surgeons who made it possible.

SOME TRAPPER

Mr. Amos Adams, of Vilas, who was being much bothered with hawks that were making bad inroads on his poultry fell on this plan for their destruction, and it worked. He took a dead hen and nailed her fast to a stump, and set thereby a steel trap, and the total caught was five hawks and a house cat.

A CORRECTION

In our last issue we noted the fact (or thought we did) that Mr. L. N. Perkins's brother William had died at Hailey, Idaho. Oh! Horror! When the paper was off the press, we were surprised to see that we had printed the death of Mr. Perkins mother William. This was of most unparadise but mistakes will occur, even on a hectotype.