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# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## KING STREET

BY  
ROB RIVERS

THE MARCH OF DIMES has quickened its pace within the past few days, and the campaign has been taking the spotlight in the conversation along the street. Many have sent in subscriptions over the week-end, and lots of those who had already contributed, are sending in a little more. With the result that the fund is not only about \$177 short of the quota. Just one more week folks, this week-end, and the sum asked will be in hand. But we should have more chip in, remember it's not only a duty but a privilege to be allowed to help a little child lay down his crutches!

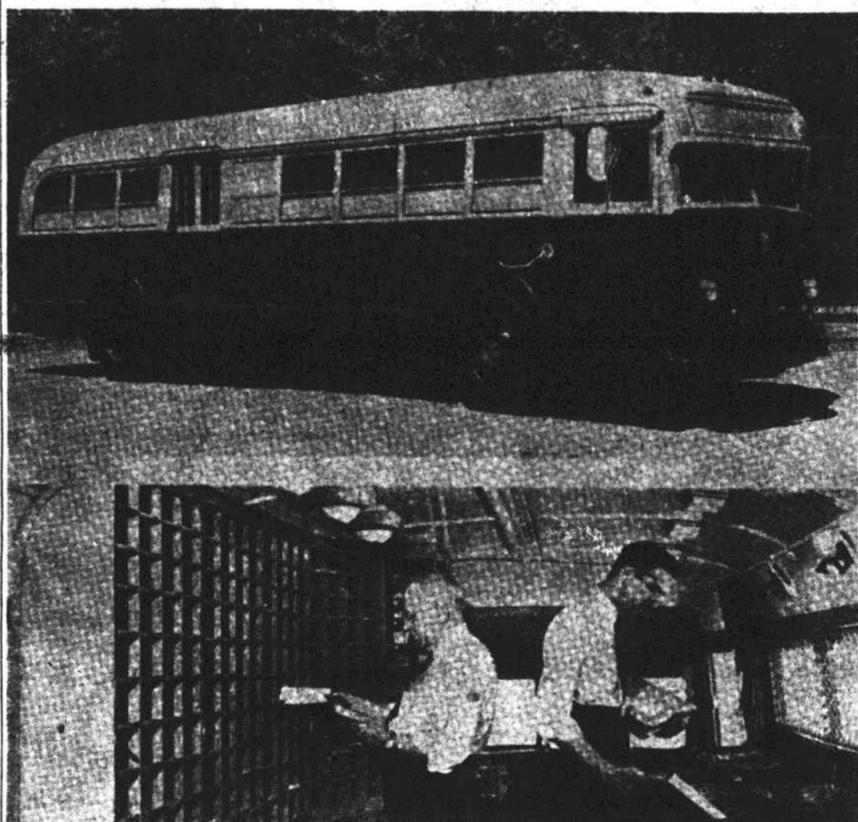
MOST EVERYBODY has been out of step in the cavalcade of the shiny coins, but the school kids, and they have done a magnificent job. We, on behalf of Bob Agle, and the other people who have been working on the polio fund, wish to doff our fringed fedoras to these boys and girls who lent their whole-hearted support to the campaign, and chipped in the sum of more than fifteen hundred dollars, going pretty close to a third above their suggested quota of \$1,200, and making the sum of \$600 asked from them last year seem like "chicken feed." The kiddies nipped into their scanty allowances right along and put daddy on the spot plenty to do this outstanding job. . . . and didn't lack too much of raising one-half the county's quota. . . . The children did without a good many ice cream cones and candy bars to aid their stricken playmates. . . . We ought to at least help them in a creditable way. . . . They have carried too much of the burden! Keep the coin coming!

THE GROUND HOG sallied forth last Wednesday in the bright sunlight of a beautiful winter day, and according to the legend associated with the "whistle pig," he should have scurried back into the bosom of terra firma, just in time to escape the blizzard, which mountain men for generations have believed would last for forty days. . . . We had come to sort of depend upon the tough little rodent to tell us what the weather was going to be, to tell the truth about the matter, but we've been let down. . . . Ground hog day brought about the melting of the snow and a new spell of spring weather, which seems destined to be around for at least a few days yet, and we'll have to go back to the "Ramon" calendar to get the low down on the elements. . . . the hog has lost his cunning "shore nuff."

SENATOR PERRY pays us a brief visit and gives us some of the off-the-record information from down "Rolly" way, and says his bill to return Watauga to absolute prohibition, couldn't survive the committee hearing. . . . Too bad. . . . The senator was right! With the result of the balloting certain, "is a pity that Wataugans couldn't have what they wanted, without the cost of an election. . . . but we also wanted to side-step one of these wet and dry campaigns. . . . Liquor is one subject which will bring out more unreasonable and inaccurate statements from both sides of the fence than any other. . . . We hoped the law could be provided without all this arguing over the historic problem of what to do with alcoholic beverages. . . . Absolute prohibitory laws are what Wataugans want. They should get them back without cost!

"YOU HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY", said our visitor, "promoting individuals in the community to give much time to the promotion of the community. . . . And a quick glance over the headlines of the last few years would bolster the truth of the statement a bit perhaps. . . . but individuals are in fact the community. . . . the city can't progress without somebody heading the procession. . . . Course we grant you, there are folks in every place who crave publicity. . . . facts, most everybody does. . . . from Truman to Thurmond. . . . whether it be in the New York Times or the Woman's Washday Almanac. . . . they just like to see their John Henry's in cold, black letters, but we wouldn't know of any practical way to conduct a newspaper without playing up certain individuals. . . . it just has (Continued on page 4)

## NEW HIGHWAY POSTOFFICE



View of the exterior and interior of the new highway postoffice which is operating daily between Boone and Greensboro, via Elklin, North Wilkesboro, Laurel Springs and West Jefferson. The postal unit made its first trip last Friday, when numbers of local people took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the vehicle. Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., who worked tirelessly to secure the new service for the area, arranged a dinner for the visiting officials and others, which was attended by the following: J. B. McGhee, district superintendent Railway Mail Service; A. C. Bopst, assistant general superintendent, Washington; Thomas R. Leman, president third division, railway mail association; G. D. Martin, assistant district superintendent railway mail service; W. D. Correll, assistant chief of highway postoffice, Washington; C. J. Goldthorpe, White Motor Co. makers of vehicle; J. W. Morrow, R. L. Pugh, W. E. Howell, G. W. Gaulden, Mrs. Ed Anderson, Miss Irene Morphew, Miss Charity Barr, West Jefferson; Morris Walsh, North Wilkesboro Representative of local civic organizations were also present. Congressman Doughton was invited, but the pressure of his legislative duties prevented his attendance.

## Watauga Schools Surpass Their Quotas For March Of Dimes

### Burley Growers Lose \$368,676

Watauga county tobacco growers sustained a loss of \$368,676 during last year by their failure to plant their full tobacco allotment, says R. C. Coleman of the Mountain Burley Warehouse Corporation.

The figures, says Mr. Coleman, are based on the fact that the burley allotment in Watauga county last year was 970 acres and only 550 acres was set out. This means that an additional 420 acres could have been planted. Figuring an average of 2000 pounds to the acre and the average price of \$43.89, which was this season's local average, the loss to the burley farmers amounts to \$368,676.

Mr. Coleman is insisting that all growers plant their full allotments this year in order that they may enjoy the increased income from this crop.

### Lieut. Gragg Is Cited For Handling Truman Plane at Fort Bragg

Lieut. Horton Gragg, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gragg of Boone, was commended for his efficiency in handling the plane of President Truman at Fort Bragg, during the Chief Executive's surprise visit to General Marshall at Southern Pines recently.

The commendation which is signed by Col. Chester L. Sluder, expressed gratification for the work of Lieutenant Gragg, and stated "I wish to congratulate Lieutenants Peak and Gragg, and all other personnel who participated on this occasion, on their creditable performance."

Lieut. Gragg, who is an air force veteran has been stationed at Fort Bragg for some time.

### Deputy To Assist Taxpayers of State

Wade H. Lee of Lenoir, deputy collector of revenue with the State, will be in the grand jury room at the courthouse February 17 and 18 for the purpose of assisting taxpayers with the filing of their State income tax returns.

### Campaign Gains Momentum As Quota Almost Reached; Report of Magnificent Job Of Schools; Some of Other Recent Contributors.

Watauga County schools went all out in their efforts in connection with the March of Dimes drive and raised a total of \$1,542.36.

Last year the schools raised a total of \$600 but due to the increased quota for Watauga county, the schools doubled their quota this year and agreed to raise \$1,200.

Subscriptions, generally, to the March of Dimes, have been coming in rather briskly for the past few days, and now the fund is only \$177.22 short of the goal of \$3,900. The campaign will go on without interruption until the goal is reached.

Mr. Bob Agle and Mr. Herbert Weay visited nearly all the schools in Watauga county and discussed the importance of the drive and all the schools agreed to take part in it. The results of the cooperative efforts of all the school children and teachers in Watauga county resulted in the raising of \$1,200 and then exceeding it by one-third. The \$1,542.36 raised is nearly one-half of the over-all goal of Watauga county.

The students and teachers of this county are to be congratulated on the successful achievement in the March of Dimes campaign.

Blowing Rock schools led the (Continued on page eight)

### Wataugans Hold \$1,189,506 Bonds

Watauga county people now hold \$1,189,506.50 in U. S. Government bonds, according to information supplied Alfred Adams by the savings bonds division of the Treasury department.

The report indicates that during the period May 1941 to December 31, 1948 Watauga county bought \$1,699,293.50 in the government securities. Of this amount \$508,787 were cashed in during the period, leaving the net holdings as of December 31, 1948 at \$1,189,506.50.

### Beer, Wine Bill Dies In Senate

Raleigh—The Senate committee on propositions and grievances last week killed the bill introduced by Sen. H. B. Perry of Watauga to prohibit beer and wine sales in Watauga County.

In a meeting following the afternoon's Senate session, the committee decided to give the bill an unfavorable report.

An election on the question of continuing beer and wine sales in Watauga County is scheduled to be held soon. When he introduced the bill, Perry said he knew the county would vote dry and that he "just wanted to save the taxpayers a little money."

### Dates for Tri-County Tournament Are Set

The Tri County High School Basketball Tournament will open at the College Gym March 2, 3, 4, and 5th. This is the annual high school tournament for high schools in Avery, Ashe and Watauga counties. Avery county schools entering the tournament are Crossnore and Cranberry, Watauga county, Cove Creek, Bethel, Blowing Rock and Appalachian high school. Ashe county schools are Elkland, Fleetwood, Jefferson, West Jefferson, Riverview, Nathans Creek, Virginia Carolina, Lansing, and Healing Springs. Wilkesboro high school will enter from Wilkes county. This tournament will consist of 32 teams 16 boys and 16 girls. Trophies will be awarded to first and second place teams as well as the All Tournament teams of boys and girls. One trophy will be given to the outstanding basketball player displaying the best sportsmanship. The trophy is awarded by Stallings Jewelry Store of Boone.

Last year winners were Jefferson girls and West Jefferson boys. This year the outstanding teams in Ashe county seems to be West Jefferson and Nathans Creek, along with Healing Springs. The Virginia Carolina girls will be out to capture the girls championship.

Publicity reported cash dividends up 14 per cent last year.

## BIDS TAKEN AT COLLEGE HERE FOR SECOND OF NEW PROJECTS

Laundry and Service Building To Be Erected Soon at Appalachian; Giant Smoke Stack for New Power Unit Is Completed; A Vast Program.

Bids were opened at Appalachian State Teachers College last week for the second unit in its permanent building program, the laundry and service building. The three lowest base bids on construction, plumbing, heating and wiring are being checked by the architects before the final contract is let, which is expected to be within the next week or so.

The building will be a two-story structure, 140 feet long and 80 feet wide. The first floor will contain machine shops and a garage for maintaining the college vehicles. The second floor will contain woodworking shop, a large supply storage, and the laundry, doubling the capacity of the present one.

During the past week the 150-foot stack for the new power plant also was finished. The inside diameter of the stack at the top is seven and one-half feet. The state has let the contracts for three overfeed stokers, all of which have been installed recently at the power plant. A steam turbine with engine of 1000 horsepower is to be added, together with a boiler of the same power, to supplement the (Continued on page 8)

## AAA Now Supplying Pasture Grass Seed

The Watauga county AAA Committee is now issuing purchase orders for pasture grass seeds to all farms to the extent furnished on the individual farm not to exceed the money that is available for this purpose. The seeds for which orders are being issued are blue grass, orchard grass, ladino clover, white clover and Korean lespedeza. Credit will be given for red top and alsike clover when seeded for pasture with approved mixtures of the other seeds. All orders expire April 15, 1949 and will not be renewed or filled after that date.

Orders for alfalfa seed will also be approved for those farms on which there will be additional seeding of alfalfa this spring. No orders will be approved for re-seeding or seeding land which has been seeded before. No other meadow grass seeds will be furnished.

The committee is also approving orders for limestone on any farm to the extent needed. Farmers are urged to place their orders now for delivery at any time wanted during the year.

For further information contact the local AAA office.

## Benefit Box Supper Yields Sum of \$150

The box supper held Tuesday night by the Junior Order for the benefit of the hospital, netted the amount of \$150. Hamp Blackburn was the auctioneer and entertainment was supplied by Frog Greene's band. The Juniors have donated approximately \$50 to the March of Dimes campaign.

Jack Storie is the councilor of the Junior Order and Mrs. Edw. T. Cole is presiding officer of the Daughters of America, auxiliary of the Junior Order.

## Valentine Dance Slated by Club

The Worthwhile Woman's club will sponsor a Valentine benefit dance at the Appalachian High school on Friday, February 11, from eight-thirty until twelve o'clock. A local orchestra will furnish the music. Refreshment will be available at small cost. Contests will be held during the evening and prizes awarded.

A "King and Queen of Hearts" will be chosen from among the young guests.

Square will also have a part on the program. It is the desire of the club members that a great number of parents will attend this evening of entertainment along with their young people as promotion of youth activities is one of the primary projects of the Woman's club.

## Agricultural Fair Slated for County

### Hospital Fund Is Nearing Goal

Receipts for the expansion program at the Watauga Hospital have now reached the sum of \$17,175.35, as against the established quota of \$20,000, a major part of the new equipment has arrived and is being installed. Dr. Owsley and family have arrived and established residence in the Joe Conn house in Daniel Boone Park, and the hospital is almost ready to render a full-scale and approved type of service to the area.

Additional room has been provided at the hospital, the trustees say, by moving the nurses from the third floor. Some of them will be housed on the ground floor while a number will live out in order that there may be more bed space for patients.

Four townships have exceeded their quotas in the fund-raising campaign, the first figure given in each instance being the amount raised, and the last the quota:

Elk \$228-\$200; Watauga \$1,055-\$1,000; Cove Creek \$1,032.55-\$1,000; Beaver Dam \$509.52-\$500. The amounts subscribed by other townships are as follows: Bald Mountain \$119; Blue Ridge \$427.13; Boone \$12,794.54; Brushy Fork \$294.85; Laurel Creek \$100.00; Meat Camp \$303.50; Meat Camp No. 2 \$17; New River \$174; Shawneehaw \$110; Stony Fork \$10.

## Solomon Eggers Funeral Is Held

Solomon Eggers died at his daughter's home at Mabel on January 25th, following a short illness.

Funeral services were conducted at Union Baptist church Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and burial took place in the nearby cemetery. Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home in charge. Rev. Payne, pastor of the church and Rev. R. C. Eggers were in charge of the rites.

Survivors include the following daughters: Mrs. Verlie Cole, Mrs. Hazel Greer, Mrs. Wilmetta Thomas, Mrs. Nellie Cole and Mrs. Ettie Sanders all of Mabel; Mrs. Addie White, Yadkinville, N. C. Three sons, Joe Hile and Oley L. Eggers of Mabel and Frank Eggers of Vilas. Also surviving are three brothers, Smith Eggers, Trade, Tenn., George Eggers, Beaver Dam and Monroe Eggers, Hickory. There is one half sister, Mrs. Bessie Adams of Boone. Twenty-one grandchildren and a host of other relatives and personal friends are left to mourn his death.

Mr. Eggers joined Union Baptist church at the age of nineteen. He was loyal to his family, friends and his church.

## Hospital Guild To Be Formed in City

A Hospital Guild will be organized Sunday, February 13 at 2:30 p. m. at the Presbyterian Church. At this meeting Dr. G. K. Moore, president of the hospital board of trustees, Mr. Moore, hospital superintendent, and a registered nurse will discuss the value of such an organization to the hospital.

All women of Watauga county who are willing to give time for hospital aid are asked to attend this meeting. Nurses aides, sewing and mending, and personal service groups will be organized. Those volunteering may select the type of assistance they desire to render.

Permanent officers will be elected and by-laws for the organization will be adopted.

## Earl Cook Now With Winkler Motor Co.

Mr. Earl D. Cook has accepted a position on the sales staff of the Winkler Motor Co., and entered upon his new duties last week.

Mr. Cook, who was the local Ford dealer for five years, has had wide experience in the automobile business, and Mr. Winkler feels fortunate in having procured his services.

Modern planes too costly, synthetic train Navy fliers.

## New Officers Are Elected as Tentative Plans Made for Holding County Fair, Cancelled Last Year by Polio; Farmers Asked To Get Ready.

At a meeting of the Watauga Agricultural Fair officials held last Thursday, officers for the current year were elected, and plans were made for holding the exhibition on September 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The fair, which was interrupted by war's emergencies, and which was revived last year, and cancelled at the last moment due to polio, is designed to supply an accurate insight into the agricultural life of the county, and farmers are asked to begin planning now to have exhibits of field crops, livestock and poultry coming on for the big show. The directors are planning entertainment features also, and it is the plans of the organization to stage a full-fledged agricultural exhibition with all the trimmings.

The fair officials also urged the farmers to plant their full tobacco acreage this year, and pointed to the loss in farm income by leaving too much tobacco land out of production last year.

The fair officials are: Robert Shipley, president; Ernest Hilliard, vice-president; Bernard Dougherty, secretary-treasurer.

## Geo. M. Henson Succumbs Friday

George M. Henson, 74, died last Friday at his home in the Sherwood neighborhood after an illness which had confined him to his bed for the past two months.

Funeral services were held at Henson's Chapel Methodist Church at 2 o'clock Sunday, by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Folger, and Rev. J. K. Parker, of the Presbyterian Church, and burial was in the church cemetery.

The widow survives, with two sons and one daughter: Don Henson, Sherwood; Lawrence Henson, Vilas; Mrs. Aud Ward, Sugar Grove.

Mr. Henson was a son of the late Jurd Henson and Mrs. Henson and was born in Watauga county, where he resided throughout his life. He was a farmer and builder, and had for 62 years been a leading member of the Henson's Chapel church.

## Revaluation May Be Extended Here

A bill to extend the time for making the quadrennial revaluation and reassessment of real estate property in Watauga county until 1950 or 1951 has been reported favorably by the finance committee of the Senate.

The bill was introduced by Senator Pittman for the benefit of Lee county, and was amended by Senator Perry to apply to Watauga county.

## Last Rites Held For L. K. Davis

Funeral services for Lemuel K. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Davis of Valle Crucis, were held at the Holy Cross Church last Thursday. Rev. Mr. Leach, pastor of the church, was in charge of the rites and members of the Watauga Post American Legion conferred military honors at the graveside at the Matney Methodist Church.

Mr. Davis entered the army December 23, 1942 at the age of 20 years and was killed in action on Luzon Island March 28, 1945.

The father and mother, four brothers and four sisters survive. The members of the family express their thanks for the many floral offerings and other expressions of sympathy, and are grateful to the Legionnaires for the part they had in the services.

## TAKES PASTORAL DUTIES

Rev. Harold L. Sanger began his duties as pastor of the Cove Creek Baptist church Sunday, January 29. He was formerly assistant pastor of Calvary Baptist church, Elizabethville, Tenn.