

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

DECORATORS place flags and bunting on the fronts of most all the stores and shops on the street as the streamers flutter over King from one end of town to the other, providing a colorful backdrop for the big parade expected to feature the start of the celebration Tuesday.

THE STYLES OF YESTERYEAR



Sunbonnets and long skirts, and the frills and furbelows of another day are shown, as local women revert to ancient fashion notes to celebrate the centennial.

WATAUGA MAN MAKES 10,000th MEMBER R.E.A.; EVENT NOTED

Ceremonies Are Held as Ed Yates Becomes Ten Thousandth Rural Resident To Get Power from Cooperative; Local REA Unit Largest in State.

An important milestone in the history of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation came Wednesday afternoon when Ed Yates, Watauga County farmer whose farm lies in the shadow of Beach mountain a few miles from Banner Elk, became the 10,000th member of the REA co-op as electric power was turned on at his farm.

Ceremonies held at the Yates home in connection with the event celebrated the growth of the co-operative, established in 1938, into the largest REA unit in North Carolina and one of the biggest in the country, with offices in Sparta, West Jefferson, Boone and Blowing Rock, and general offices in Lenoir.

Somewhat startled by the size of the group that gathered at his farm for the occasion, big Ed Yates excused himself long enough to change overalls, then posed for pictures showing him and his family and various Blue Ridge E. M. C. officials.

Cecil E. Viverette, manager of the co-op, was master of ceremonies. He first introduced J. C. Goodman, retired professor and dairy farmer who lives in West Jefferson. As president of the co-operative, Mr. Goodman presented Yates with a certificate of membership.

Gifts presented the 10,000 member by appliance dealers in Boone and Blowing Rock were made next. These included a floor lamp, electric clock, automatic electric iron, radio, electric blanket and a radio.

Manager Viverette then introduced North Carolina REA Chairman Gwyn B. Price as "the man who has done more than anyone else to extend electric service to rural areas in the state, a former director in Blue Ridge E. M. C. and still a member of the co-op."

Speaking informally, Chairman Price expressed pleasure in being able to leave the heat of Raleigh long enough to enjoy the "air-conditioned" climate at Mr. Yates' farm, which is situated at an altitude of about 4,000 feet.

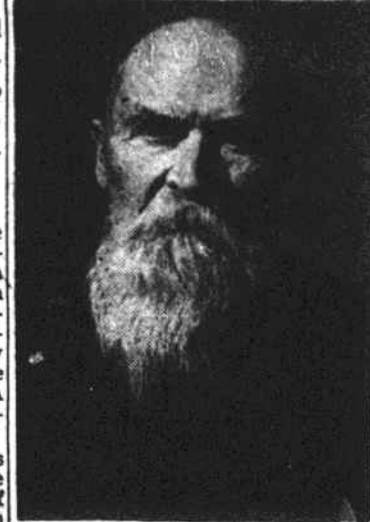
The REA Chairman praised Yates for the wide diversity of farming at his place, which has in addition to such crops as cabbage, potatoes and burley tobacco, an abundance of dairy and beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry. He said there is a need for more such diversity in the state, since about 55 per cent of North Carolina's farm income is derived from tobacco.

Welcoming the Watauga farmer and family into the largest of the 34 REA co-ops in the state, he pointed out that as a member he owns as much stock as anyone else and that he was investing in a possession that could be passed on down to his children.

"I am not being profane," he said, "when I say that the coming of this electricity into your home is second only to the light from heaven above." He termed (Continued on page 3)

Colorful Parade, Gay Pageantry To Mark Start Of Celebration

PIONEER AND QUEEN CHOSEN



Rev. S. E. Gragg, who won the Pioneer title in the Centennial voting which close Tuesday, and Mickey McGuire, who was designated Queen of the Centennial.



Speeches, Baseball Game, and "Echoes of the Blue Ridge" Will Highlight Centennial Activities.

A huge parade Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock will launch the official celebration of Watauga County's founding 100 years ago. Governor W. Kerr Scott will be here and will make the opening address at the College field. Miss Mickey McGuire will be crowned Queen of the Centennial at 7:45, and the mammoth spectacle, "Echoes of the Blue Ridge," will have its first performance following the crowning of the Queen. Tuesday will be known as Governor's day, a day set aside to honor present and past governors in this section of the country.

The parade will include covered wagons, ox carts, floats, surries, horses, and other reminders to on-lookers of days gone by, according to Centennial officials.

The pageant will depict in episodes the settling, and progress Watauga county has made in 100 years. Approximately five hundred persons are included in the cast.

On Wednesday, Pioneer and Homecoming day, pioneers of the county will be honored and former Wataugans welcomed home. A baseball game between the County All Stars and league leaders, Bamboo, is scheduled at 3 p. m. Carroll Reece, former head of the National Republican Committee, will speak at the College Athletic field at 2 p. m. Rev. S. E. Gragg, Shulls Mills, who was voted as Watauga's Pioneer, will be especially honored. Those returning home are requested by Centennial headquarters to register at Colvard's showroom on Depot Street.

"Echoes of the Blue Ridge" again will be presented at 7:45 p. m., as it will be on each succeeding night. On Thursday and Saturday nights new episodes will be added to the production, depicting the part education and farming have played in the history of the county.

Thursday will be a full day of activities with a special service at 11 a. m., honoring the founders of Appalachian State Teachers College. A dinner will be held in the college cafeteria, with Commissioner of Agriculture, L. Y. Ballentine scheduled to act as master of ceremonies. The state's two senators, Frank Graham and Clyde R. Hoey, will be here to help with the celebration that day. Many other notables are expected, particularly those interested in the field of education.

Friday, July 8, another parade will be staged, this time a children's and their pets' parade. Dr. I. G. Greer, a native of the county, will speak in the afternoon honoring the youth of the county. The Queen's Coronation Ball will be held Friday, July 8, at 10 p. m., in the college gymnasium, with reservations being made for dancing couples and spectators.

Saturday, July 10, Farmer's Day, at Ashe County Day, will see contests between farm folks and exhibition of their products. Games played by old-timers of the county will be played. Commissioner Ballentine will speak to the gathering in the afternoon. "Echoes of the Blue Ridge" will be presented for the last time at 7:45 p. m.

Sunday, July 10, will conclude the celebration with the churches of the county joining together in worship and singing on the college athletic field.

All sessions are scheduled at the Athletic Field of ASTC. Time for the activities are: afternoons 2 to 4 o'clock; nights 7:45 to 9:45 o'clock, unless otherwise announced.

Parties managing the event state that they have been exceedingly fortunate in securing the famous Meyers Air Circus featuring some of the best aerobatic pilots in the country together with their specially constructed planes.

Mr. H. C. Sisk, Jr., manager of the Morganton-Lenoir airport, and one of the parties promoting the air show, advises a petition has been entered with the Civil Aeronautics Administration requesting waiver of government regulations prohibiting low-level aerobatics. Since the Blair airport is unique in being isolated from any concentration of buildings, it is more or less certain the waiver will be granted in which event those attending will be privileged to witness an extraordinary exhibition of aerobatics involving loops, slow rolls, snap rolls and upside-down flying at heights only a few feet above the ground and directly over the runway.

In addition to the planes participating in the show itself, a large number of visiting pilots and their planes are expected to fly in for the day to see the widely heralded Meyers troupe perform.

Purchasing agents say downturn is not general.

Rev. Gragg Is Pioneer; Mickey McGuire Queen

SECRETARY



Miss Billie Badgett, efficient secretary to the Centennial committee. Miss Badgett was also nominated by the Watauga American Legion Post as the candidate for centennial queen.

Voting Closes Tuesday; The Standings of Other Nominees Given.

Rev. S. E. Gragg, Shulls Mills minister, won first place in the centennial pioneer contest, and Miss Mickey McGuire of Boone, was chosen Queen of the event, it was revealed Tuesday afternoon, following the close of the balloting.

Rev. Mr. Gragg, one of the county's oldest ministers, farmer and banker, received 169,250 votes to win the coveted pioneer title, as the candidate of the Boone Rotary Club. The votes received by the other candidates are as follows:

John W. Hodges 82,500; J. M. Moretz 13,250; B. B. Dougherty 47,000; W. W. Mast 13,250; Jake C. Norris 17,250; D. C. Mast 23,250; Newton Greene 11,500; W. R. Lovill 4,000; Norva Rominger 1,000; Charlie Mast 7,500; Joe Norris 3,000; N. T. Minton 250; Charlie Dougherty 1,000; Harrison Coffey 1,000; J. W. Green 1,000.

Miss McGuire, an employee of the Boone Drug Company, and one of the town's most popular young ladies, led the field in the queen contest with 96,500 votes. The tally of the other candidates was: Barbara Jones 58,500; Rebecca Shoemaker 29,500; Annie Mae Carroll 39,000; Katie Sue Farthing 20,250; Dorothy Norris 55,750; Rachel Ann Vance 6,000; Billy Badgett 45,250; Shirley Max Swift 28,250; Ruby Moody 20,750; Velma Brumly 40,500; Joan Aldridge 4,000; Mary Helen Teague 1,000; Janet Farthing 1,000; Virginia Moody 6,250; Virginia Jones 2,250.

The queen will be crowned and the pioneer citizen appropriately honored at the Centennial celebration, and the Queen's ball will be held Friday evening, following the pageant.

Voting had originally been set to close the 30th, but was advanced last week by W. H. Gragg, pioneer committee chairman, in order that the results could be published prior to the celebration.

Announcement has been made of an air show to be held at the newly constructed Blair airport in Boone on Sunday afternoon, July 10.

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Mail Service Is Improved Here

On July 1 the mail service from Boone will be improved by the establishment of a late dispatch at 6:20 p. m. in lieu of the 3:20 p. m. dispatch giving the patrons an advantage of three hours to mail and advance the mail to points of destination by 24 hours. Connections are made in Salisbury to Train No. 37 for Southbound mail at 1:57 a. m., arriving in Charlotte at 2:45 a. m., Atlanta at 8:25 a. m., New Orleans at 8:25 p. m., Northbound mail will leave Salisbury on Washington and Charlotte Train No. 40 at 1:40 a. m., arriving in Greensboro at 2:38 a. m., Lynchburg 5:13 a. m.; Washington, D. C. at 8:55 a. m. and New York by 2 p. m.

Mail for Asheville and vicinity will arrive there at 4:00 a. m.; Raleigh and vicinity at 8:40 a. m. This improved service will give overnight service to most all points in North Carolina (except local), Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia.

This is the latest dispatch to the main lines of the railroads this office has enjoyed.

Important Notice to Democrat Advertisers

The publisher of the Democrat suggests that those wanting advertising in the Democrat next week, will need to have copy in the hands of the printer by the end of the current week, since the closing of the stores on Monday will preclude the usual solicitations at that time.

While of course, the Democrat will feature the centennial right on until the curtain drops on the big event, there will be no other special edition. However, it is necessary for everything possible to be done on the next issue this week. Cooperation of advertisers and contributors alike will be appreciated.

Board of Education To Meet on Tuesday

The Watauga county board of education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 5, due to the fact that the regular meeting time falls on July 4th, a national holiday.

Blowing Rock Highway May Open On Saturday

SUCCUMBS



ARCHIE G. QUALLS

Archie Qualls, 41, Has Fatal Attack

Archie G. Qualls, age 41, died at his home in Winsor-Salem Friday, June 24, of a heart attack after having been seriously ill with diabetes for the past few months.

He was born August 17, 1907, at Crossville, Tenn. When he was 13 the family moved to Boone. He received his education at Boone and Wake Forest college. He passed the bar in 1931 and began his law practice in Boone. Moving to Charlotte in 1939, he was with the U. S. Casualty company for several years.

During the war he was an attorney for the Office of Price Administration for the western half of North Carolina, with offices in Charlotte. He handled many litigations in the Federal courts. Mr. Qualls practiced law in the state from 1931 until he was appointed by the war department as a senior attorney for the war criminal trials at Manila. After his return from Manila he moved to Winston-Salem where he accepted a position as the North Carolina attorney for a New York firm.

On February 1, 1930, he was married to Miss Sheila DeVault, who survives. Other survivors include one son, Robert Archie Qualls; three daughters, Barbara Lee, Cora Elizabeth, and Sheila Anne Qualls, all of the home; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Qualls and one brother, E. S. Qualls of Boone.

He was a member of the First Baptist church at Boone, where funeral services were held Sunday, at 2:30 p. m. The service was conducted by the pastor, Dr. W. G. Bond. Interment was in the Boone cemetery.

\$50.00 Be Given To Oldest Person at Show

Parties planning the air show here Sunday, July 10, have announced a prize of \$50.00 for the oldest Watauga resident attending. It is planned to carry him on an aeroplane trip over any part of the county desired after which he will describe the experience to the audience over the public address system now being set up to announce the show.

This feature of the show is expected to create much interest and a large number of the county's older citizens are expected to be on hand and to compete for the honor.

Engineer Says Every Effort Being Made to Get Surface On Road.

The Blowing Rock road, which has been again closed to travel while surfacing operations proceed, is to be opened Saturday morning, July 2, if there is no unforeseen hitch in the schedule, Mr. Z. V. Stewart, district highway engineer of Lenoir, told the Democrat Saturday.

Mr. Stewart says that everything possible is being done to open the stretch of road, that highway officials are pushing the contractors every way possible, that telephone lines have been kept hot trying to rush materials to the job, and that now, weather permitting, it is expected traffic will be turned on the highway Saturday. Asphalt shipments, which had been delayed, are to arrive Tuesday, and the surface can be laid down, Mr. Stewart says on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Stewart expresses great concern over the local highway bottleneck, which occurred right at the tourist and centennial season, and wants the people to know that no effort is being spared to open the highway.

HOUSING POSING CIVIC PROBLEM

Adequate housing facilities for the centennial celebration visitors are being sought by Mrs. H. N. Adams, chairman of the special committee, who states that every available spare bedroom in town will need to be utilized if the visitors to the town are to be cared for.

Mrs. Adams insists that all those having rooms which can be made available for this purpose, call her immediately at the Bank, or call Mrs. C. H. Phillips at the Carolina Hotel, that the accommodations may be listed and occupants assigned.

Youth Recreation Day Slated for July Eighth

All children of the county are being invited to participate in playground activities Friday, July 8, at College field and High School field, which will include all children from the first through the seventh grades.

Students from the first, second, third, fourth and fifth grades will meet on College field, while those from the sixth and seventh grades will gather at the High School field. A group picture will be taken of the first graders and the winners in the contests.

Co. Library Displays Historical Documents

Various historical documents have been given to the Watauga county public library by the State department of archives and history, and will be on display during next week's celebration of the founding of the county.

The collection features early maps, a photocopy of the legislative act which established Watauga county, and other documents which will be of general interest at this time.

Local Youth Makes Carolina Honor Roll

W. B. York, Jr., of Boone, has recently been congratulated by the Dean at the University of North Carolina, for having made the honor roll at that institution during the spring quarter. Young Mr. York, who has completed his first year at Carolina, is spending the summer at his home here.

MISS BILLIE BADGETT, secretary to the centennial corporation, deserves recognition for her contribution to the success of the celebration.

Efficient, courteous and obliging, Miss Badgett has aided Mr. Harris tremendously in taking care of the office work, and answering the queries of the hundreds of callers at the celebration headquarters. We always try to remember our manners and thank those who do us a favor, or extend a courtesy and have noticed the variety of responses to our "Thank you."

Most folks say "yes sir" others trim it down to "yep," some acknowledge with "not at all," and others bring in "no occasion" when we felt positive there was one. A few use the western "you bet" and the ones who shrug you off with "don't mention it," making us a bit sorry we went into the thing at all while the majority of those whose kindnesses we appreciate, say "uh-huh." Rarely does anyone give down with the more wholesome "You're welcome!"

Incidentally, are reminded that the old southern "howdy" has been lost in the maze of "heys," "hellos" and "how yee doins'!"

RUFUS COLVARD buys an emaciated mule, which he proposes to work into the Centennial parade. . . the ancient beast is a reasonable facsimile of the one used on Gill Phillips' centennial window transfers. . . and Rufus is on the lookout for a single-barreled shotgun, a hound dog and a banjo, to round out the paraphernalia of the rider of the mule. . . which in the meantime, is taking a stroll in the clover, with an occasional shot of "lassy feed" so that he may "be on the mend" by the time the band starts playing.

CHERRIES reddening and blackening under sunny skies, as pie-time looms. . . Charlestonians thanking us for some wooden nickels and expecting to be back here next week. . . Merchants conversing with sidewalk gathering during business lull on hot afternoon. . . need to do some work inside," said he "but haven't the heart to go in—might wake up my clerks." . . Georgia students vigorously deny being Talmadgeites as they depart with a bundle of Democrats. . . nonchalant driver cuddles the girl with right arm, throws away cig with left and spits on the pavement before resuming his hold on the wheel. . . highway department puts squeeze on contractor as desperate effort is made to open the Blowing Rock road before the Fourth. . . Weather permitting, looks as if this can be done. . . Judge Coggins, holding civil term of court, hurriedly signs some judgments and adjourns court, when he learns that the Governor has named his successor on the bench. . . Court officials and others who became acquainted with the Salisbury jurist, liked him a lot, and regret that he is being replaced. . . Merchants alarmed at the increasing number of causes to which they are required to contribute, and believe that the advertising committee of the Merchants Association could do a great deal to screen the solicitations down to the most worthy.