

# Blowing Rock School Changes Are Noted In County Land-Use Plan

Moving to the new elementary school building is now completed except for the library and the cafeteria.

**School Visitors**  
Mrs. Edmisten, county supervisor, spent Friday at the school. Mr. Angell, county superintendent, was at the school on Thursday.

**4-H Club Meeting**  
Ralph Wood, president, called the 4-H Club to order at its regular meeting January 8. After a short business session, the boys met with Mr. Richardson, assistant farm agent and the girls with Miss Street, assistant home agent. Mr. Richardson talked about the 4-H Poultry Project and gave the boys advice on their projects. The first County Council meeting will be held Saturday, January 19, in Boone. All 4-H members, and especially officers, are urged to attend.

**Basketball Games**  
Jefferson defeated Blowing Rock twice last Tuesday at Jefferson High's gym. The Jefferson boys' team won, 95-52. Shatley was high man for Jefferson with 27 points. Jefferson's girls' team won by a score of 48-32.

The Nathan's Creek boys defeated the Blowing Rock team 58-46 last Friday night. Jones of Nathan's Creek was high with 28 points. The Nathan's Creek girls won 61-57. Bare of Nathan's Creek with 26 points and Reid of Blowing Rock with 42 points were high scorers.

**Mrs. Greene's 7th Grade**  
The seventh grade expresses thanks to Mrs. A. K. Buxton and Mrs. Blanche Ford for their many kindnesses as grade mothers. Mrs. Bill Lentr and Mrs. James Sudderth will serve as grade mothers for the remainder of the school year.

Kenneth Sudderth of Selfridge Air Force Base, Mt. Clemmons, Michigan, and Charles Henson of Fontenbleu, France, were home for the holidays. They visited the seventh grade and gave talks about their experiences in the service.

**Mr. McCurry's 7th and 8th Grades**  
Good citizens for the week ending January 4 were Beulah Harrison and Larry Hodge.

The class thanks Mrs. Lea Coffey and Mrs. Alma Moody for the homeroom party.

"News and Views" is the theme of the current activity board. The students select clippings from newspapers and magazines each day for the board.

**High School Personals**  
Bonnie Jean Payne returned to school after an illness.

Bud Greene, a 1956 graduate, has joined the Air Force. He is now in Texas.

George Hollars and Bill Miller of the 1956 class were recent school visitors.

Seniors welcomed Tom Cannon back after an absence of two weeks. Tom spent part of this time in the hospital.

Those who are observant of changes in agriculture in the Watauga Soil Conservation District see a shift in the land use pattern of the county. Fewer steep fields are being cultivated each year and farmers are becoming more erosion conscious.

This land use trend assures us of more productive soil and a more stable agriculture for the future.

During the year special emphasis has been placed on our forest resources. We realize that most of our woodland is producing very little timber and by better management this can become one of our major sources of farm income. A greater interest in reforestation is evident by the increased orders for seedlings. Within a few years, provided sufficient seedlings are available, from 300 to 500 acres of trees are expected to be planted each year.

Drainage is another practice that has been used extensively in the district during the past year. 16,315 feet of tile drains were installed during the year. One mile of open drainage ditches was also cut. By drainage of wet more level areas that can be used for cultivation of crops, more of our upland is usually taken out of cultivation and used for more permanent types of vegetation. Thus, by drainage permitting a shifting of land use on the farm, erosion becomes less of a problem.

During the year R. G. Shipley of Vilas entered and won the N. C. essay contest sponsored by the Soil Conservation Districts. The subject of the essay was "My Soil Conservation District—Its Value To My Community."

Supervisors are participating in the new Rural Development Program for Watauga county. With additional technical help expected for the county a speed-up in soil and water conservation plans and applied conservation practices is anticipated.

Watauga Soil Conservation District Supervisors wish to express their appreciation to the following agricultural agencies for their support during the past year: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Soil Conservation Service and Vocational Agriculture.

With the continued assistance of the various agricultural agencies and the continued interest of local farmers, the district supervisors anticipate another good year for conservation in 1957.

**NEW-TYPE CAMPAIGN**  
The recent election was preceded by a new-type campaign. The two major political parties did more campaigning by air in 1956 than ever before. The Republican and Democratic candidates for president and vice president, as well as the "truth squads" registered 220,000 air miles. The previous high was the 178,275 in 1952, according to "Plans," official publication of the Aircraft Industries Association.

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## Farm Woodland Income Sought

"North Carolina farmers have immediate opportunities for increasing farm woodland incomes," says John Gray, specialist in charge of forestry extension at North Carolina State College.

One immediate opportunity, says Gray, is through tree planting under the Conservation Reserve phase of the Soil Bank program. For, he points out, farmers can be reimbursed up to 80 per cent of the cost of establishing trees on former croplands. The annual rental on these plantings is 10 dollars per acre.

A second way, says Gray, is through farmer self-employment and hiring help to harvest and market forest products instead of selling standing timber. Gray points out that net wages earned, after subtracting stumpage value and allowing for equipment operation and depreciation, should be slightly over one dollar per hour.

Gray says good management of existing forested areas will greatly increase the profits obtained. He points out that there is no foreseeable limit to the demand for most North Carolina farm forest products over the next 20 to 40 years. He estimates that approximately 70 per cent of domestic production of forest products comes from farm woodlands. Gray says farmers own approximately 63 per cent of the state's private commercial forest lands. Since these are mostly in areas of less than 50 acres, the importance of good management for future production and income can not be overlooked, he adds.

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