

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them."—Thomas Jefferson.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1957

## College Term Opens

The Democrat takes this occasion to welcome the students and teachers to the summer term of Appalachian State Teachers College.

As this is written they are beginning to converge on the campus, housing accommodations are already beginning to become scarce and again street crowds and business activity is headed back toward normal, after the usual dip between terms.

Indications are that there will be a record number of enrollees when the registration is completed. More and more teachers are coming to Appalachian where they may do their required work in an institution of fully approved status, with a unique setting amongst the beautiful mountains where the temperatures are

cool, the people friendly and the setting ideal for a pleasant summer.

As usual, many of the teacher-students, as well as members of the faculty will come from widely divergent points, a large number of states are represented, and the story these folks carry back with them is vital to the publicizing of the college and the community.

So we should have our best foot forward, so that our visitors will like us and want to return, to contribute further to the culture, the progress and prosperity of the best small city in the State.

We are glad the students are here and hope their stay will be pleasant and profitable.

## Highway Work Progresses

Work on vital highways leading into Boone is now being pushed, and officials hope that work can proceed with the minimum of delay from the elements.

Businessmen in the tourist area, who depend on the summer months for their year-round livelihood, are always concerned when roads are being improved lest their business will be hurt in the time of the construction.

And it may be that their concern and fear are sometimes well-founded. However, roads can't be built in the winter time, obviously, and the highway department and the contractors are making every effort to carry on their work with the minimum of inconvenience to the travelers.

The sub-standard, one and a quarter mile link on the Blowing Rock-Boone road, which constitutes a bottle neck of the worst sort, is being built, but the word we get is that arrangements will be made whereby travel will proceed on this important artery right along, with the least

possible delay. And we think everybody will agree that the value of getting this road section up to par will far outweigh the temporary construction disadvantages.

Highway 421, the Shouns to Trade, Tennessee section of which has been closed for many months, should be open before long, we are told. Some of the travelers on this stretch are using the Trade to Shouns detour through Ashe county, while others are going through Beaver Dam, and still others down 603, where four miles of unimproved road is to be traversed.

The road from Elk Park toward Roan Mountain and Hampton is being rebuilt too.

We're getting a lot of needed roadwork in the area this year, to make the section more attractive to tourists and to further enhance local commercial travel, and it is good to know that the in and out movement of visitors and freight will not be seriously hampered.

## REA Co-Op Has New Building

The Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, which since its inception here twenty years ago, has never had altogether adequate quarters, is now in its handsome new building on Blowing Rock Road and today (Wednesday) is entertaining at an open house event from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

The building which presents a modernistic appearance to travelers on the busy highway, contains adequate offices, spacious parking area and a drive-in window where one can pay his bill without leaving his vehicle. Payments may also be made through the use of a night depository at the pay window.

Visitors will be shown around the new structure, and shown the efficient methods of conducting the electric co-op.

More than five thousand customers are served by the Blue Ridge Corporation in the Watauga district, it is said, and we know of nothing which has contributed so generously to the convenience, progress and well-being of our people as this facility. It has constantly expanded its facilities to take care of the ever-increasing power load, and may be expected to serve the area adequately on through the years.

We are glad the co-op has secured its own building, so that it may better carry out its vital services, and where its customers may be more adequately served. The fine new structure is a stand-out addition to the rapidly-growing area on Blowing Rock Road, outside the city limits.

## You-All Again

(The Asheville Citizen)

A columnist in The Watauga Democrat recently raised two questions about grammatical or dialect usage in speech and writing, one a question long and more or less inconclusively debated. Here is the passage:

"Right often of late we hear a new expression. . . The man will say 'we'll see you,' when there's no one else with him, reminding of the you-all, which is singularly used farther down South."

If the columnist is to be challenged on his unqualified statement about the use of you-all as a singular pronoun, let the challenger be a recognized student of the American language, and one of conceded impartiality in such controversies. The late H. L. Mencken is the man, his remarks about you-all appearing in his "The Amer-

ican Language, Supplement Two," as follows:

"... Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, to be sure, you-all indicates a plural, implicit if not explicit, and thus means, when addressed to a single person, 'you and your folks' or the like, but the hundredth time it is impossible to discover any such extension of meaning."

In 1928, Mencken continues, Miss Estelle Rees Morrison, "pledged her word" that she had heard you-all used in the singular in Lynchburg, Va., and also in Missouri. Mencken observes: "The Southern brethren were baffled by this, for the Confederate code of honor forbade questioning the word of a lady."

Mencken compiles evidence to show that you-all is sporadically used as a singular, even as far from Dixie as Illinois.

## Junior Good At It, Too

By Alexander



## Stretch's Sketches

By "STRETCH" ROLLINS

### Downing Street Approves Nonsense - Picnic Fizzles In Fog

"DON'T TELL ME of a man's being able to talk sense; everyone can talk sense—can he talk nonsense?"

The above is attributed to William Pitt, when he was Prime Minister of England. So have some nonsense.



They've revived the cigarette - lung cancer controversy once more, and it recalls the one about the man who boasted to his Good-Time-Charlie friend: "Today I'm celebrating my 20th anniversary of giving up smoking, drinking, staying out late, and all forms of dissipation." And the friend asked, "Celebrating it? How?"

IT'S BEEN FOUND, an article states, that more men who smoke die of lung cancer than men who do not smoke.

They'd probably find, also, that more men who smoke do not die of lung cancer than men who do not smoke. Reason: there are more men who smoke than there are men who do not smoke.

AN EXCERPT from the same article: "Regular cigarette smokers die from lung cancer 10 times more frequently than non-smokers." (So stop smoking a'reddy, and die from lung cancer

only once!)

PICNIC—Had "company" last weekend. They'd never been on Grandfather. Planned to pack picnic lunch and take 'em up there Sunday. Same dawned foggy, rainy, and cool. Ruled out Grandfather. Decided on Doughton Park. Maybe it would clear up. Maybe it was nice over there, anyway. Drove all the way in fog and rain, headlights and heater on. Arrived but couldn't see buildings from road. Still foggy, rainy, and cool. Everybody hungry. Stubbornly groped way to picnic area. Ate lunch in car. Could hear other picnickers nearby, but couldn't see them. Cracked wan jokes about stupid people, but didn't laugh at jokes. Had ice cold lemonade in thermos. Engaged guide to lead us to coffee shop. Drank hot coffee. Saw blackboard on information office next door. Made out words, "Weather: Fog and Rain—Driving Conditions Poor." Laughed for first time. Hollowly, though. Returned home and watched television.

A WRITER WONDER, "What is the difference between the 'public' and the 'general public'?"

Yeah. And does it cost any more to "own your own home" than just to own your home?

DO IT EVERY TIME—For some reason, the fellow who in the course of a conversation says, "Not changing the subject, but"—always does.

## From Early Democrat Files

### Sixty Years Ago June 10, 1897

Some communications crowded out of this issue but will appear next week.

I will not be undersold by "Cheap John" merchants. A trial is all I ask. M. B. Blackburn. Miss Stella Gragg and her brother, of Globe, have been visiting their uncle, Esq. Jim Blair, of New River.

We have been having most splendid rains for some days past, and the growing crops are very much revived.

Died:—On Monday or any other day in the week, with Putnam Fadeless Dyes. Goods will not fade either by sunlight or washing. Sold by J. A. Edmisten, Blowing Rock.

Mrs. L. W. Triplett, who had her skull fractured by the kick of a mule some time since, and Mr. M. Triplett, who had been very low with fever, are both improving, so we are informed by Dr. Parlier.

Friday of this week is the day set apart for the public picnic at Elk Knob Academy on Mead Camp. There will be some temperance speeches made during the day. All are invited to attend, taking well-filled baskets.

H. Moody, the mail-carrier on the Patterson route, informs us that on Monday of this week, a man by the name of Clarke was killed at Henry Coffey's mill on Mulberry by one Penley. Clarke was stabbed in the breast and only lived a few hours.

Simon Gragg, charged with the killing of Moore and Barman on John's River over a year ago, has been found guilty and will be hanged on the 16th of July. The Franklin case is now on trial.

### Thirty-Nine Years Ago June 13, 1918

Born to Mr. and Mrs. H. Neal Blair on last Monday, a baby boy.

That little amount YOU are due on subscription would certainly be appreciated.

The work on the railroad extension to Boone is progressing nicely, and the force of hands is holding up well.

Mrs. Lella Winkler has received a card announcing the safe arrival of her son, Fred, over seas.

Sorry to learn that Mr. Jesse F. Robbins has been a very sick man at his home near Poplar Grove for several days.

Mr. Russell Hodges, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hodges, of Boone, who recently graduated

at a business college at Knoxville, Tenn., and volunteered in the United States Navy, is at the home of his parents in Boone awaiting his call which he is daily expecting. His examination was held in Nashville, Tenn., and he passed the physical test perfectly, but was found to be four lbs. below the required weight, and was given a few days in which to gain the much-coveted pounds that would put him into the regular service of Uncle Sam. He put himself on a diet of sweet milk, bananas, etc., and when the day for the final test came, he had not only gained the required pounds, but two more to his credit. Good for the patriotic young man! He is made of the kind of grit the government is looking after. No slacker blood there.

Miss Fae Greer, of Mabel, recently returned from the State Normal, is a guest this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson on the Green Height.

Fifty men are wanted at once to cut timber and peel tan bark. Wages \$2.50 per day. Apply to Boone Fork Lumber Company.

### Fifteen Years Ago June 11, 1942

John Elmer Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Miller of Shawneehaw township, was drowned Sunday afternoon while swimming with a companion in Watauga River near Valle Crucis.

Rationing of coffee, tea and cocoa is "likely," a high war production official said today, but clothing rationing will not be necessary this year.

Edgar H. Tufts, president of Lees-McRae College, is critically ill in Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, it was reported Tuesday.

The state prison camp near Ingalls in Avery county has been closed for the duration of the war. The prisoners who have been kept there have been transferred to Kinston. These men, all negroes, were used to work the Avery county roads, both farm-to-market and highways, and will be replaced by local labor.

Meager information reaching relatives here Saturday told of the injury of Mrs. Joe Hardin in an automobile accident near Reno, Nevada, and she is a patient in a hospital in that city, where she is being treated for a slight concussion and injuries.

Mr. Coker Triplett of St. Louis, and his brother, Hooper, of Columbus, Ohio, were called home last week on account of the illness of their mother, Mrs. Charles Triplett. Mrs. Triplett's condition is said to be quite serious, there being little improvement.

## KING STREET

By ROB RIVERS

### TRAILERS... THE PLACE TO PUT THEM

The nomadic peoples of another age, traipsed back and forth over the land, camping here and there, finding shelter from the storms and sun in tents; later the pioneers rode atop the provision box in the covered wagon, pushing back the frontiers, and using the wagon bed for cargo, sleeping space and dining room. . . . With the coming of the gas motors and the automobile, the trailers came into being to supply a note of luxury undreamed of by the ancient travelers. . . . Nowadays, these houses of the open road have all the conveniences of a stationary home, and can be established here and there where housing is at a premium. . . . The Boone Trailer Court, one of the local businesses about which little or nothing has been said publicly, fills a need in this regard. . . . Located on Howard Street and Blowing Rock road, and managed by one of the owners, Mr. C. H. Blackburn, Jr., the court takes care of about twenty or so of these trailer families. . . . The trailers pull into their allotted space where the electricity, water and sewer connections are made, and there you have it—all the comforts of home, right in town, with even a sizable yard for each vehicle, to provide a spot on which to relax at the end of the day and enjoy the cool zephyrs. . . . The local Court is well populated at the present, it is a great convenience for those who have a housing problem, and represents an improvement in the terrain since a rough and unsightly lot has been changed into a neighborhood of nice people, who are contributing their share to the growth and progress of the town. . . . Mr. Blackburn and his associates are to be congratulated upon this fine contribution to the welfare of the city.

### BIG STRAWBERRIES... FROM LINVILLE

Mr. Joe Hartley, the sage of the Grandfather Mountain, who's now carrying on the promotion work for the 33rd Singing on the Mountain, at Linville, came over the other day and fetched us a quart of his strawberries, which he's grown commercially for many years, some of them bigger than walnuts, juicy and sweet. . . . Mr. Hartley has our thanks, and our best wishes for the success of the singing which he established, and which became a nationally-known attraction. . . . He expects a record crowd to gather on the slope of the Grandfather, come the fourth Sunday, when there'll be speech-making and singing, and preaching and fellowship. . . . It's a big event.

### THE ADS... THEY ARE ALSO POPULAR

The Democrat is grateful for the many words of approval given the various features carried weekly—the news, the society stories, and other material. . . . We are also happy for those who tell us of the enjoyment and profit they get from reading the advertisements. Time and again they say, "We read every word in the paper." . . . Mr. C. W. Bolick of Blowing Rock, says he reads the ads, and Paul Winkler will be glad to know how much he's enjoyed the Insurance ads he runs under the heading, "Paul Says to Mr. Ed." . . . Mr. Bolick says: "As long as Paul's been talking, it seems to me it's about time Mr. Ed had a word. . . he's doubtless plenty to say. . . there's a lot of good material in this ad." . . . Mr. Bolick told us something of his school days, when Monroe Francum had charge of the chalk box, and wielded the wyth over the unruly youngsters of another generation. . . . Prof. Francum taught long through the mountain area, knew most of the answers of his day, and developed many choice bits of philosophy, such as "nothing lasts but poverty and dirt." . . . Mr. Bolick says during his days under Mr. Francum he liked geography the best, "cause more leaves had been torn from the book I had."

### COULD BE WORSE... THEY WERE

The State Magazine used these anonymous lines the other week:

One day as I sat musing, sad and lonely,  
Without a friend,  
A voice came to me from out of the gloom  
Saying:  
"Cheer up! Things could be worse!"  
And so—I cheered up, and sure enough,  
Things got worse.

## So This Is New York

By NORTH CALLAHAN

Sitting next to Judge Edward Kennedy at Rotary Club, I asked him what was wrong that there were so many murders and similar crimes in families around here.

"It's open season on parents," he replied with a grim smile. Then he explained that while a wave of such offenses now seem to exist, in reality there are no more than usual, just a few more colorful ones. Discipline by parents has broken down to a great extent, he commented. A good paddling now and then would prevent much vicious mischief. The judge, from his long experience, recommended team work such as advocated by our old mutual friend, Grantland Rice. In particular, an organization called Family Service seems to be doing much good, he said. When family problems get burdensome, they should be taken to experts such as those this organization represents, lawyers, doctors, and ministers. Self-analysis and some sound advice go a long way.

It's a good thing that editors and authors have a sense of humor—yes, and composers and linotype operators too! James M. Burns, author of "Roosevelt: the Lion and the Fox" received a letter from a Pennsylvania woman asking his help in finding a writer to whom she could relate the story of her dog, Walter Yust, editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia Britannica remarked that most of his reading was done in bed. "I pre-

fer a light-weight book," he added, "because if I go to sleep it falls on my chest and doesn't wake me up."

The Hotel Edison here is all ready for the June brides and in anticipation of the many details which she has to think of, has arranged for special matrons to attend the young ladies from the moment they arrive in New York. The management announces that it will take care of every emergency except finding a lost bridegroom. Apparently lots of folks believe in this idea of matrimony. Lester Dill, director of the Mera-mee Caverns of Stanton, Mo., writes that he will furnish young couples with their wedding outfits free if they will get married in his cave.

There is a six-foot Manhattan dentist who goes by the name of Randy Starr who now is best known for his song, fitting at this time of year, "After School." This is his first song-writing effort and it has caught on well especially on recordings. This is not Randy's real name, however, for the American Dental Association advised him to keep his songwriting and dentistry distinctly apart.

There are many wavs, a local psychiatrist said, in which a communication can be misunderstood or misinterpreted. To illustrate the point, he told the story of a (Continued on page 4, 2nd section)