

Merry Christmas

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Seventy-Third Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER				
1960	High	Low	6 pm	prec.
Dec. 13	16	4	12	46 31
Dec. 14	42	10	33	48 22
Dec. 15	41	32	35	55 26
Dec. 16	35	19	22	*tr. 59 41
Dec. 17	35	19	28	*tr. 69 37
Dec. 18	41	19	27	51 46
Dec. 19	36	23	32	49 25

*trace of snow.

FOR BEST RESULTS

advertisers invariably use the columns of the Democrat. With its full paid circulation, intensely covering the local shopping area, it is the best advertising medium available.

VOLUME LXXIII.—NO. 25

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1960

EIGHTEEN PAGES—THREE SECTIONS



The Publisher And Other Members
Of The Staff Of
The Watauga Democrat
Extend Sincere Good Wishes For
A Very Merry Christmas

Howard Steelman, Jr. Is Slain By Unknown Gunman In Boston

Car Tags To Go On Sale Here Jan. 3

Automobile license tags will go on sale at the Chamber of Commerce office January 3.

In order that motorists be served promptly and efficiently, it is asked, that the following rules be observed:

Be sure to remove card from envelope.

Write name of your county in space provided on front.

Sign insurance declaration on back.

Have correct amount of money ready, including one dollar for driver training fee.

Tags will be on sale between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. Monday through Friday and 9 a. m. to 12 noon Saturday.

No checks will be accepted. President Wilcox states that more than seven thousand tags were sold here for 1960 and there were over six hundred transfers of tags. People from adjoining counties came here for this service.

Mrs. Rachel Klutz and Mrs. Kathryn Harmon will again be in charge of the license bureau.

Democrat To Have Vacation

The Watauga Democrat will observe its annual Christmas vacation by remaining closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. Business will be resumed as usual Monday morning.

Boston, Mass., detectives have been conducting an investigation into the "snow-ride" slaying of Seaman Howard S. Steelman, Jr., of Deep Gap.

Sailors attached to the guided missile frigate Farragut, tied up at Boston Naval Shipyard, on which Seaman Steelman served, and other acquaintances of Steelman are being quizzed for a clue into the tragedy.

The body of Steelman was discovered in a snowbank in the Roxbury section of Boston early Thursday morning. He had been shot twice, through the left temple and below the left ear, press dispatches indicated. Police have theorized that the body may have been dumped from a car, due to the position in which it was found. Local residents heard no shots.

Robbery had been ruled out as a murder motive, since Steelman had some money.

A wide-spread search has failed to turn up the murder weapon. Examinations indicated the shots were fired at close range.

Seaman Steelman was on liberty when slain. The entire crew of his ship has been questioned.

Mr. Steelman, 35 years old, was reared at Deep Gap. He had been in the radio and television business in Boone, served for a time as police officer here, and was letter carrier at the Boone postoffice.

Funeral Wednesday
Funeral services were held at the Gap Creek Baptist Church Wednesday at 2 o'clock, and burial was in the church cemetery.

His divorced wife resides in Thomasville with his four daughters: Rebecca Jane, Linda Frances, Martha Joan and Susan Janet Steelman.

Roe Keller Dies Sunday

Roe Wilburn Keller, 78, of Route 3, Boone, died December 18 at Watauga Hospital.

Funeral services were held December 20 at 2 o'clock at Oak Grove Baptist Church by Rev. R. C. Eggers, Rev. E. F. Troutman and Rev. W. W. Jones and burial was in Oak Grove cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Addie Hodges Keller, a son, Frank of Hudson; and a daughter, Maggie McMahon, Boone. There are four grandchildren.

U. S. to offer NATO new nuclear plan.

Adenauer, ill, cancels Paris and London visits.

Phone Book Indicates Community Growth

A measure of growth of Watauga County is the increase in the number of Telephone Directories being distributed here this week to local subscribers.

Approximately 3,700 of the December 1960 issue will be delivered to homes and businesses according to H. M. Inabinet, manager of Southern Bell Telephone Company, compared with 3,300 when the last directory was delivered in December, 1960.

The new Telephone Directory has many new and changed listings and

Seal Sales Continue

The 1960 Christmas Seal Sale Drive continues in the three county area served by the Alleghany-Ashe-Watauga Tuberculosis Association with the sale goal being a little better than half reached.

Mrs. Ruth T. Draughn, executive secretary for the association reports that to date \$2,957 has been received in this year's Seal Sale from individuals and businesses in the tri-county area. The total funds received since the mailing of seals in November are about 60% of the amount the association has set as necessary to carry on a successful tuberculin program.

Dr. H. M. Cooke, Watauga County Seal Sale Chairman, reminded citizens that it is through the TB Association, cooperating with the State Board of Health, that each year free X-rays are offered here in the county. Funds collected from the sale of Christmas seals make possible these X-ray programs which detect tuberculosis as well as other lung and chest disorders.

"Each year when you and I buy Christmas seals we help support the TB Association as they carry on their vital work. The work is (continued on page four)

A woodworking conference held at the Appalachian State Teachers College in April was sponsored by the Boone Chamber of Commerce. This was well attended.

New four-mile extension of Blue Ridge Parkway opened near Blowing Rock.

This year was marked by a larger volume of tourist business with about a 15% increase.

Highway 603 was completed and officially opened and was later changed to Federal Highway No. 321 which made a direct route to Johnson City, Tenn.

Addition to Shadowline, Inc., which increased their employment 200 persons.

New and modern bank building, now giving us two branches.

Squire Boone Cabin, located on the Horn in the West grounds, opened to the public.

CHAMBER COMMERCE REPORTS

Boone Has Experienced Year Of Marked Growth

Area Has Had Best Tourist Business Ever

The Chamber of Commerce has had an active and particularly fruitful year, according to a report made to the membership by Herman W. Wilcox, president.

Some of the many accomplishments of the Chamber during the year are listed, together with some projects completed by other institutions and individuals:

Sponsored Appalachian High School Wrestling team to Knoxville, Tenn., where they won the crown.

Among the multitude of feature articles in the daily newspapers and the state and national magazines, was a front page picture of a local scene on the Saturday Evening Post which created much interest and inquiries.

Paint-Up, Clean-Up campaign was held, which was one of the most successful. One of the prize winners was the garden decoration in front of the entrance signs on the 421 Highway entrance east.

Most of the 1960 Chamber programs were built around recognition of our local industries.

The building of the driveway at the post office from King to Queen streets for the entrance of the highway post office buses was approved.

Farm-City Week was a huge success, with almost 400 in attendance. This annual affair is considered one of the most outstanding goodwill builders.

There were 7,100 vehicle tags sold and 615 license transfers handled through the Chamber of Commerce office in 1960.

New and modern A&P Tea Company super market built.

The Chamber of Commerce was host to 46 people from 24 different states, who were making a guided tour in connection with the Carolina Motor Club of Charlotte. This was followed up by sending them 2,300 promotional folders of various kinds.

The Chamber of Commerce assisted the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company of Winston-Salem in making a movie of Watauga county. It was presented to the Northwest North Carolina Development Association. It was shown at the December membership meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

The North Carolina Educational Association held their annual convention here September 23, with approximately 2,000 visitors.

A woodworking conference held at the Appalachian State Teachers College in April was sponsored by the Boone Chamber of Commerce. This was well attended.

New four-mile extension of Blue Ridge Parkway opened near Blowing Rock.

This year was marked by a larger volume of tourist business with about a 15% increase.

Highway 603 was completed and officially opened and was later changed to Federal Highway No. 321 which made a direct route to Johnson City, Tenn.

Addition to Shadowline, Inc., which increased their employment 200 persons.

New and modern bank building, now giving us two branches.

Squire Boone Cabin, located on the Horn in the West grounds, opened to the public.

(continued on page four)



CHILDREN'S PARTY.—Professor Leo K. Pritchett, of Boone plays Santa Claus at annual Christmas party of Grandfather Home, Banner Elk.—Photo Flowers' Photo Shop.

County Committee Members Named By Carolina Development Group

The Board of Directors of the Northwest North Carolina Development Association for Watauga County appointed the following to serve on the County Committee for the coming year:

Community Development Division
Chairman, Jerry Adams, Sugar Grove; Miss Jean Childers, Boone; Herbert Aldridge, Rt. 1, Banner Elk; Clyde A. Tester, Reese; Mrs. T. R. Snyder, Blowing Rock.

Youth Division
(To work with 4-H, FFA, HFA, Scouts, Churches, etc.)
Chairman, Eric DeGroat, Boone; Jack Groce, Boone; David Spainhour, Boone; James Moore, Boone; W. O. Teems, Boone.

Agricultural Division
Beef Cattle and Sheep
Chairman, Howard Edmisten, Sugar Grove; R. G. Shipley, Vilas; Henry Taylor, Valle Crucis.

Dairying—Grade A
Chairman, I. B. Wilson, Zionville; Dick Winkler, Rt. 3, Boone; Vance Keller, Rt. 1, Boone.

Dairying—Manufactured Milk
Chairman, Fred Tester, Reese; W. R. Vines, Sugar Grove; Hal Cook, Banner Elk.

Burley Tobacco
Chairman, M. L. Shepherd, Sugar Grove; Clint Eggers, Zionville; Ned Glenn, Sugar Grove.

Poultry
Chairman, Sam Moretz, Rt. 2, Boone; Sanford Creed, Reese; Homer Critcher, Rt. 3, Boone.

Swine
Chairman, Stewart Simmons, Triplett; Cecil Swift, Reese; Fred McGuire, Reese.

Forestry
Chairman, Dr. Ray F. Derrick, Boone; Crayte Teague, Boone; Edgar Greene, Boone.

Apple Production and Marketing
Chairman, D. T. Brown, Zionville; Johnson Christenbury, Valle Crucis; Walter Coffey, Rt. 2, Boone.

Small Fruits and Vegetables
Chairman, J. C. Goodnight, Boone; J. C. Stanbury, Rt. 1, Boone; Rev. Rhett Winters, Valle Crucis.

Travel and Recreation Division
Chairman, L. H. Smith, Boone; Joe Maples, Boone; Harold Rice,

Boone. The Board of Directors for Watauga County are James Marsh, W. C. Richardson, and Stanley Harris.

Stores Close Next Monday

Most of the stores of the city are expected to observe Monday of next week as a Christmas holiday and remain closed.

The Northwestern Bank and the Watauga Savings and Loan Association will be closed Saturday and Monday as will the City and Watauga County offices.

Mrs. Austin Dies At 94

Mrs. Delia Greene Austin, 94, died December 14th at her home, Route 1, Blowing Rock.

Funeral services were held on the 15th at 2 o'clock at the Cool Springs Baptist Church, by Rev. Clyde Cornett, and Rev. Bob Shores and burial was in the Winkler cemetery.

Mrs. Austin was the widow of William Austin. A foster son, W. W. Austin of Blowing Rock survives.

Top Ten Scholars Are Listed At Appalachian

Names of the "top ten" in academic standing of the 2,466 students at Appalachian State Teachers College have been released by Herman Eggers, registrar.

Each of the ten has maintained an average of 379 quality points or better out of a possible 400 in his studies so far at the college. A straight "A" average is equivalent to 400 points.

The top student is Betty Jean Davis with 394 points. She is a freshman from Waynesville.

Barbara Susan Shepard, a senior from Burnsville, ranks second with 393 points.

Robert Alden Blanton, a senior from Gastonia, and Susan Hunt,

Weed Sales Closed For Christmas

The Boone burley tobacco market closed for the Christmas holidays Wednesday, December 21 with what warehouse officials described as a very satisfactory pre-Christmas sale.

Poundage through December 19 totaled 3,104,234 for an average price of \$66.60 and a gross sale of \$2,067,654.44. This is \$9.20 above the average pre-Christmas selling price of a year ago, and even with fewer selling days in this year's sale, poundage runs very close to the same figures as on last year's longer selling period.

Tobacco continued to arrive at the warehouses, although there was a noticeable slack in activity as selling operations came to a holiday halt. Warehouses will be open to receive tobacco through the holiday period, it was learned.

Boone and Watauga County's chief source of income during the winter months is from the tobacco market. With the higher-than-ever prices this season more farmers will be able to enjoy Christmas with the feeling of ease that the

(continued on page 3, section C)

Groce, a junior from Winston-Salem, tie for third place with 392 quality points.

Others in order are:

John Lett, 389 points, Boone.

Robert Grady Beach, 384 points, a freshman from Boone.

Mary Ellen Blevins, 382 points, a freshman from Crumpler.

Mary Louise Avery, 381 points, a freshman from Morganton.

Sallie Todd Davis, 381 points, a freshman from Boone.

Ramona Lee Craig, 380 points, a freshman from Lenoir.

Elizabeth Anne Clear, 379 points, a senior from Saltville, Va.

Lella Naden Sadler, 379 points, a sophomore from Charlotte.