

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY RIVERS PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
R. C. RIVERS, JR., EDITOR AND MANAGER  
JEAN RIVERS, ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
An Independent Weekly Newspaper  
Established in 1888. Published for 45 years by the late Robert C. Rivers, Sr.

## Love In Bloom



# KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

## Old Dan'l . . . More Of A Symbol?

We hold to the generally-accepted notion that Daniel Boone lived down by the creek, where one now makes a turn to get to the Conrad Stadium. . . . We've been ready to go to the bat for Dan'l at the drop of a hat, and have contended that he shot squirrels around here, doubtless scooped up trout from the brook, and fellowshiped with Benjamin Howard, as he meandered hither and yon, extending the frontiers or trying to find fresh bear signs.

\*\*\*  
"Uncouth" . . . Says Authority

In late years there's been a lot of contention developed around the misty career of the old hunter and adventurer, even as to where his flesh mingled with the clay, and now a Louisville historian, Robert McDowell, needles the fellow who gave his name to our town, by describing him as "an uncouth, irresponsible hunter, who through a freak of fate was elevated to the role of folk hero in his own lifetime." . . . The Kentucky man adds these epithets for the hero of a mountain man's childhood: "a blunderer, a clod, a dupe, whose reputation is largely undeserved," and says Boone lost his Kentucky land, was tried for treason by his own people and took credit for several historical firsts which belong to others.

\*\*\*  
Otherwise . . . Would Do

McDowell adds that Dan'l was not a leader, wasn't much of an Indian fighter, pathfinder or explorer. . . . But Dr. Thomas Clark of the University of Kentucky takes up for Boone, saying "he was a sweaty old boy but he lived in a time of sweaty old boys." . . . Boone's great contribution, Clark thinks, came from his knowing the Wilderness Road and in blazing the way along it, establishing stream crossings and making it a dependable pathway into Kentucky. . . . Boone's grave is supposed to be in Frankfort though others have claimed he was funeralized in Missouri. . . . Some say he was a Judge, while the rest vow he didn't hold with the laws at all. . . . Taken the worst way, Dan'l has provided a useful symbol of those who pushed back the frontiers as the wilderness and the Indians fell before the Western expansion. . . . He's been an inspiration to the youngsters as they pioneered through mountain woodlots and played in-

dian over the rough hilly terrain.  
\*\*\*

After All . . . He Lived Well

Last summer, while we were driving west of St. Louis to Columbia, where Rachel is in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, we decided to look in on Dan'l Boone's old haunts, took a turn onto a country road through a lush grown-up area, and at last came to the restored Boone home. . . . On a little rise above a spread of black, loamy bottom land stood the great limestone house, three stories, with handsome chimneys at each end. . . . We heard the practiced lecture of the Missouri lady as she conducted an old Boone boy through Boone's house. . . . It wasn't like we expected, except for the kitchen, which looked old-timey and lived in. . . . Rather 'Squire Boone (if the house was faithfully restored) was living in a style befitting his title. . . . Located on a huge lot, the walkways are framed with big trees, clinging vines cover border walls, and it is a place of great beauty. . . . We liked it a lot, even down to the Judgment Tree, where old Dan'l is supposed to have held court. . . . But we couldn't quite equate the frilly canopied beds with the sweaty, hardy Dan'l as we thought of his coming in muddy and red eyed for a snooze, after he'd followed the coon dogs through the brambled creek bottoms, the swamps and the canebrakes, or maybe butchered a bear as the eastern skies were brightening.

\*\*\*  
Anyway . . . A Picture

But we fetched back some pictures we took where Dan'l last gazed at distant horizons, one of which appears on another page. . . . And like a bystander allowed: "He shore had him a nice place, didn't he?" . . . He did.

## Future Looks Bright

The report of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, published in this edition and that of the Boone Chamber which came out in the Democrat two weeks ago, provide good reading and reflect the progress of the two communities as well as the area roundabout, and indicate a remarkable civic effort and accomplishment.

From what we can hear it's going to be another good year. The Ski Slope at Blowing Rock is bolstering the local economy ahead of the normal resort season, another one is being built on the Avery-Watauga line near Banner Elk, the outlook for conventions and for accelerated publicity programs is good, and Watauga Industries' quest for manufacturing enterprises is again bearing fruit.

Of interest too, in the Boone-Blowing Rock, Linville tourist tri-

angle, is the civic resurgence in Avery county. Besides the ski development, a golf course development is in progress, an airport is being constructed, and various other enterprises are being pursued. At the same time, the county, which was without a newspaper for a long time, now has Sherman Pritchard and his Avery Journal, a bright newsy tabloid which is doing good for its owner and for the county.

With its Linville resort and Grandfather Mountain only a few minutes from Boone and Blowing Rock by a modern highway, progress in Avery county will mean added progress for Watauga too, and better things for us all.

Add to all this the phenomenal growth of Appalachian State Teachers College, and the economic future of this northwestern tourist area looks exceedingly bright.

## TVA Progress

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which had been described as an element of "creeping socialism" by President Eisenhower, is doing well, the only objection we have to it being that local electric suppliers can't get the current from that source. Anyway the Hickory Daily Record has given some figures on the mammoth operation which are of local interest, since, after all, we are in the TVA watershed.

The TVA has just reported it paid \$46.5 million into the United States Treasury from its electric power revenues during the year ended last June 30.

Of this amount, \$36.5 million represented interest on outstanding appropriations of \$1,193,000,000 for TVA over the years and \$10 million represented a dividend payment.

In its annual report TVA said that to date it has paid into the Federal Treasury \$348 million from power revenues, plus another \$41.5 million from non power proceeds.

TVA also showed it paid out an-

other \$5.3 million during the year as interest on bonds it has issued to help finance its construction program.

After payment of interest on bonds and payments to the treasury, TVA said, it had \$57.4 million in net proceeds left for investment in plant and other power assets.

TVA also said it paid more than \$6.7 million to States and counties in lieu of taxes and that the State and local taxes and tax equivalents of its power distributors totaled another \$12 million.

TVA emphasized in this year's report that an intensified program had been undertaken to aid tributary areas of the Tennessee Valley in development of their resources.

The Record submits that TVA, in the last thirty years, has contributed vastly to the electrification of rural America—and to doing what Senator Norris conceived: Serve as a yardstick for holding down the cost of electricity to the consumer.

## Ski Safety

Skiing is one of America's fastest growing winter sports. There are ski enthusiasts even in communities far removed from snow and mountains who make annual pilgrimages to winter resorts for a few days on the slopes.

Since the Blowing Rock ski slopes have opened, and folks are becoming ski-minded to the extent that they keep an eye on the thermometer to be sure that the rising temperature hasn't spoiled the fun, the following AMA safety information is passed on for the benefit of those who are starting out their winter sports careers.

Ski experts report that most accidents are caused by the skier's poor physical condition and overconfidence. Thus the basic premise of ski safety is to get and stay in good physical condition and to be realistic in your estimate of your own ability to handle yourself in the emergencies that arise in the mile-a-minute dash down one of the big runs.

Beginning, if possible, eight to

twelve weeks before the ski season, start exercising regularly with half knee bends, toe-walking, toe touching and a few push-ups. Tip-toe walking will help strengthen the lower leg muscles. For thigh muscles, sit on the edge of a table, lift your legs and straighten them out slowly. Then add weights (canned goods in a pillow case will do). When you can lift 35 pounds with each leg in this manner, you're ready for skiing.

Today's Health, the magazine of the American Medical Association, urges that all beginners should receive coaching from a certified ski instructor. Get expert advice in selecting good equipment, especially skis and boots.

A fundamental safety rule is: Never ski alone. If you're hurt, a buddy can go for help. Learn how to control your skiing, and how to check your speed quickly if necessary. And, very important, stop before you become too tired. The fatigued skier is much more likely to fall.

## Phone Calls — 'By The Numbers'

(Christian Science Monitor)

Ah, for the days when one picked up a telephone receiver and, to a pleasant "Number, please," replied something like "Crestview 8134" or "Albemarle 6700." Or when the numbers in a fair-sized town could be catalogued as belonging to either "Maple" or "Walnut" exchange.

This seems to be the sentiment of the Anti-Digit Dialing League in San Francisco. It has appealed to the California Utilities Commission to stop the telephone company there from introducing the all-digit sys-

tem that would eliminate the two remaining letters from metropolitan and not-so metropolitan telephone numbers.

To be sure, 767,3425 looks like a more formidable memory task than RO 7-3425 especially if one can still think of the RO as standing for Rose-trans. But after all, telephone subscribers in some parts of Europe, West Germany, for example, have been using all-digit numbers for several years without apparent hardship.

## From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago  
January 15, 1903

Capt Lovill returned Sunday from a visit to his daughter at Mooresville.

Mr. R. M. Greene returned from Greensboro Sunday, where he had been purchasing a new stock of goods.

The Board of Education was in session on Monday and Tuesday and quite a lot of routine business was transacted.

The weather for the past week has been rough indeed, but Tuesday morning was the coldest, the mercury registering as low as four degrees.

Watauga Academy is certainly booming. One hundred and twenty-three answered to the roll call on Monday morning when the mercury was hovering uncomfortably near the zero point.

At 5:30 p.m. last Sunday, Uncle William Sherrill, one of our most aged citizens, died at home near Moody, after many months of intense suffering. He only lacked a very few days of being 75 years of age, was always cheerful and bright, regardless of his great age. Mr. Sherrill was much liked by all who knew him and he will be

greatly missed by his large circle of friends.

The Board of County Commissioners met in call session on Monday for the purpose of receiving the insolvent tax list from the Sheriff. In this instance one might easily presume that the expense overrun the profits.

The many friends of Mr. J. M. Moretz in Watauga are indeed sorry to hear of his financial embarrassments in Lenoir. He has made an assignment and we are told that the liabilities are far in excess of the assets.

Master Hill Farthing is spending a few days with his brother at Mountain City, Tenn.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago  
January 17, 1924

Little Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Earp, died last Friday, the result of a fall he had a week previous to that time. He was buried in the town cemetery Saturday afternoon. He suffered intensely during the week after his fall, and had no medical attention whatever. Dr. Perry was on the way to see him when the end came. His parents are grief-stricken and have our sympathy.

## Just One Thing

By CARL GOERCH

Ever thought about the principal differences in living in a big town and living in a small town?

In a small town you pay no attention to familiar faces, but every time you see a strange face, you say to yourself: "I wonder who that is?"

In a big town you pay no attention to strange faces, but every time you see a familiar face you immediately become effusive in your greeting.

Sudden thought while looking over a list of the governors of North Carolina: O Max Gardner was the first Governor to part his name in the middle. Only two others have done this: R. Gregg Cherry and J. Melville Broughton.

Governor Ehringhaus had the longest name of any Governor of our state. Hoey, Carr, Ashe and Nash had the shortest.

Every once in a while we hear an expression tossed off in the most casual sort of manner, that is entirely new to us.

For instance, the other day we were talking with a friend about a mutual acquaintance in Durham who has been ill for some time. We made the comment that the last time we had seen him—a month ago—he looked mighty bad.

"Yes," said our friend. "I saw him about two weeks ago and he looked like death warmed over."

Wonder if you ever have heard of a bird that is known as "Johnny Good-God?" Or another one that is known as "Shirt-Tail?"

We hadn't until we received a letter from Ferdie Johnson of Clinton. He says:

"On the swamp side of White Lake last summer I saw a pair of very large red-headed woodpeckers, almost as big as an ordinary hen. We used to call

them 'Johnny Good-Gods,' but I don't imagine that that is the real name. They are about extinct. Can you give me the real name of these birds? The small-size woodpeckers of this type are called 'Shirt-Tails' due to white feathers at the root of the tail. The 'Johnny Good-Gods' are the same type, except much larger."

No trouble at all. The "Johnny Good-Gods" are pileated woodpeckers. However, they're not almost extinct; there are plenty of them in North Carolina. The "Shirt-Tail" is just another name for the common red-headed woodpecker.

(Confession: We didn't have the slightest idea until we'd called up the State Museum and got this information from Frank Meacham and others.)

From Mrs. T. D. Wells, one of our readers down in Paris, Texas:

"It has occurred to me that you might like to publish the following. My mother said it often to us when we were small and it never failed to bring forth much merriment, especially when she said it in an excited tone of voice. Here it is:

"Doctor, mother sent me down to the shotecary pop, quick as blazes, 'cause Bud's sick with the picken chox and she wants a dimbleful of polygolly in this din tipper, for she hasn't got a gottle, and the pint cup's got 'bine witters in it. Ain't yer got any?"

The following classified advertisement appeared in a recent issue of the "Concord Transcript":

FOUND: Lady's purse in my car while parked. Owner can have same by identifying purse and paying for this ad. If owner can satisfactorily explain to my wife how purse got in my car, will pay for ad myself. Box 543, "Concord Transcript."

The last section of the old Blair Hotel property is now being razed to make room for some business buildings that will be built the coming summer. The block of buildings, including the theatre building, will extend from Mr. W. L. Bryan's line to the alley west of the post office, and will comprise another big addition to the town.

The grading on Main Street has been abandoned for the present owing to the unsettled weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, who recently sold their home to its former owner, Mr. Pink Hodges, have returned to Ashe County, and Mr. Hodges has moved into the vacated property.

Attorney E. S. Coffey has moved his law library and office fixtures to the new offices of District Attorney Frank A. Lindsey, and the little building had not been vacated but a few hours until Mr. Stark Lawrence and family moved in.

A difficulty arose a few days ago between Mr. Cleve Johnson and a drummer. The latter struck Mr. Johnson with an iron spoke, and was hastened away before the policemen could arrive. He will be brought back and bound over to court for using a deadly weapon.



DANIEL BOONE'S HOUSE

Fifteen Years Ago  
January 15, 1948

Major J. H. Thomas will leave Sunday for Chapel Hill where he will take examinations for supervisor of a motor vehicle inspection station for the state of North Carolina. He hopes to be situated in a station of this kind in Boone.

Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Hagaman, Jr., announce the birth of a daughter, Barbara Dianne, on January 10 at Watauga Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lewis announce the birth of a daughter, Janice Dare, on January 10 at Watauga Hospital.

Mrs. B. W. Stallings and Miss Colene Bolick are attending the Southeastern Gift Show in Atlanta this week.

(Continued on page six)

## Uncle Pinkney

(MacKnight Syndicate)

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellers at the country store Saturday night was working on a new idea, one that might git your editorial support.

Ed Doolittle claims they ain't but one hope fer this country and that's to cut down on the size of the Congress. Fer instant, says Ed, Senators is too expensive and allows as how we could git along fine with just one from each state.

Clem Webster was strong in favor of this motion, said he was reading a piece in the papers last November where one Senator, at Government ex-

HIS PALAVERIN'S

pense, mailed out 300,000 letters getting re-elected. Clem figured if we cut this operation down to one Senator, the savings would pay off the national debt in about 20 years.

On account of Ed being a Republican, he was advocating that all 50 Senators took off the payroll be Democrats. This caused a little argument amongst the fellers and it was final agreed it would be Supreme Court proper to split 'em Democrat and Republican half and half.

Zeke Grubb said now that we were getting down to the

(Continued on page six)