

Legislative Report

To the people of Watauga County:

The "Absentee Ballot" bill has now passed both houses of the legislature and has become law. Under the new law, only the voter will be allowed to apply for an absentee ballot, and all applications will be passed on by the entire Board of Elections at a public hearing.

Senatorial Redistricting remains on the House calendar. The "Currie Bill" will be presented on Wednesday of this week for its third and last reading. As amended, Watauga will be in a new district with Caldwell and Burke counties. Senate action on this bill remains in committee, where a bitter battle is being waged to get the bill out of committee to the Senate floor.

Highway safety legislation continues to meet opposition in the House committee. The "Breathalyzer" test for drunk drivers and the mechanical inspection measure have both been sent to subcommittee for more study. The bill calling for special restrictions for teenage drivers under 18 years of age is moving ahead, however, and may become law this week. This bill would require these young people to pass a driver's training course before they would be allowed to apply for a driver's license. It also provides for early suspensions of licenses for those teenagers who are convicted of two or more motor vehicle violations.

The House subcommittee on court reform is expected to make its recommendations to the full committee within the next ten days, and it now seems likely that the subcommittee will recommend that a drafting commission be selected to prepare legislation which would be introduced in the 1965 General Assembly.

The Joint Subcommittee for Appropriations has now completed its report, and full committee meetings were set to start again Tuesday. The complete Appropriations Bill may pass the Legislature this week. "Horn in the West" is slated for State funds, and it now appears that ASTC will receive the largest state appropriation in the history of the college.

While state-wide legislation continues to be of concern to all of us, I am sure that local legislation is of particular interest to the people of Watauga County.

As I am sure many of you already know, Mr. Clyde Harris of Rowan County introduced a bill last week which would change the method of selection of nominees of the Watauga

County Democrat Party. The bill provides for nomination in a convention, rather than the present system of a primary election. While I was not asked to introduce this bill, I have been contacted by a great many Democrats since the bill was introduced by Mr. Harris. At their request, I arranged for a public hearing in the House Elections and Election Laws Committee, in order that this group might be heard in opposition to the bill. While I have a very definite opinion as to the advisability of returning to the convention system, I feel it is my duty, as the Watauga County Representative, to allow the Democrats of Watauga County to select their nominees as they think best. I urge those of you who are interested in this matter to contact your representative and your senator, so that we may know your wishes.

Sincerely,
Jim Holshouser

Senior Citizen Meeting Friday

The Boone Senior Citizens' Club will meet Friday at 3 p. m. at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Rankin, 306 Hardin Street.

There will be an unusual program pointing to a feature of the June meeting which will consist of an interesting tour, to be followed by a series of such tours in later months.

Those who are responsible wish to emphasize again that this is a state-wide organization for older people of all faiths or no faiths at all.

The organization and the meetings are for social opportunities of various kinds and the programs are varied. The monthly meetings may be held in different places each time and notice of that will always be given either directly to members and through this newspaper.

Dr. A. P. Kephart said, "We are not struggling for numbers, for membership involves no dues or costs of any kind but only interest, attendance, and cooperation when opportunity presents itself. This provides a pleasant social outlet and hundreds in this county should avail themselves of the opportunity."

If transportation is needed to attend the meetings, call or write Mrs. Pearl Bingham at the Daniel Boone Hotel.

More than 7,000 medical research projects in all fields of medicine are being conducted by the Veterans Administration.

Test Program Aids Students

Watauga County high schools participated this year in the National Guidance Testing Program, "NGTP," as the program is popularly known, is designed to enhance the usefulness of test results to individual students, and to reduce the costs of school testing through provision of low cost scoring service.

Students in grades 10 and 12 took SCAT—short for School and College Ability Tests—and a series of achievement tests—the Sequential Tests of Educational Progress (STEP).

"SCAT helps us to estimate a student's capacity to do academic work," John Gibson, director of guidance, explained, "while STEP tests evaluate the student's skills in reading, writing and listening and his ability to apply what he has learned to the solution of new problems in mathematics, science, and social studies."

INDONESIA CHOOSES

High American officials are now counting Indonesia's Communist party—the largest outside of the Iron Curtain countries—in Peking's camp in the leadership dispute between the Soviet Union and Communist China.

Sources said that the switch of Indonesian Reds to the Chinese side must be considered a major Soviet disappointment of the past year.



EDWARD J. HAYES

Edward J. Hayes Receives Award

A University of Detroit ROTC student, Edward J. Hayes, has been named the "Distinguished Military Student" there.

Based on leadership, character and academic excellence, the honor was presented by Lt. Col. Granville W. Bussey, U. of Detroit professor of military science.

Hayes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Hayes, 2266 Leslie, Detroit, is an English major and a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is a 1959 graduate of Central High School.

James is a native of Boone, having lived here with relatives until he had finished elemen-

State Funds Asked For Homeplace

Raleigh, May 16—The state was asked yesterday to appropriate \$15,000 to restore and maintain the Daniel Boone Homeplace in Davidson County.

Rep. Eugene Snyder of Davidson put in a bill asking the funds for improvement of facilities at the Boone's Cave Park on the Yadkin River in Boone Township.

Boone's family lived in the area when the famed frontiersman was a young man.

More than six million GI loans have been made in the Veterans Administration's GI loan program. They total nearly \$5 billion.

The Veterans Administration is the third largest employer among the Federal agencies, with more than 170,000 employees.

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