

Legislative Report

To the people of Watauga County:

This will probably be the last in this series of reports concerning the 1963 legislature. The General Assembly has set this week for adjournment, and barring the unexpected, this lengthy session will have been brought to a close by the time this report is read.

Senatorial Redistricting redistricting remained this week as the one unsolved problem still facing the legislature. The House and Senate have been unable to reach an agreement concerning the Humber "Piggy-back plan for a Constitutional Amendment, and unless one group surrenders at the last minute, the legislature will adjourn this week without having taken action on what most observers consider the most important item of the 1963 session. The Governor has already indicated that he is prepared to call a special session if something isn't done in this regular session.

The Public Utilities bill has been approved by the legislature, and the final outcome saw a victory for the cooperatives. The REA-backed amendment concerning generating plants was adopted by the House and later approved by the Senate. Also included in the bill is a provision for a Public Advocate, a special attorney who will represent the "public's interest" in hearings before the Utilities Commission.

On the local scene, the much-publicized bill concerning ABC stores for Blowing Rock was killed by a House committee several days ago. As most of you already know, this bill was introduced by a representative from another county and was opposed by your representative. A number of people have inquired as to the reason for this bill, and it is quite proper for them to request an explanation.

In as brief a space as possible, I will try to respond.

Many years ago, North Carolina adopted the "legal control" system for the sale of alcoholic beverages, and this system was established on the basis of "county option". This simply means that each county—rather than the entire state—shall decide whether the county shall have ABC stores. State law sets out the procedure for a county-wide vote on the question, and no local legislation is necessary in order to give the people of Watauga County the opportunity to vote on this issue.

Your representative is elected to represent the entire county, and he fails in his duty if he does not represent the convictions of the majority of the people in the county. Our county has voted once on the question of legal sale of beer and wine, and the voters disapproved it by a margin of nearly 12 to 1. This vote remains a mandate to those who represent Watauga County. Some people feel that the sentiment of the voters may have changed since that 1949 election. If this is true, the door remains open for the filing of a petition to call for a vote by the people of Watauga County on the question of ABC stores (or on beer and wine). No one who believes in democracy would refuse the people the right to vote, but as long as North Carolina continues to have the "county option system", the people of Watauga County have the right to vote on this issue without special legislation.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Holshouser

Character building is almost like the weather, everybody talks about it but very few do anything about it.

A political expert is a guesser who can tell why any election went its way.



An exhibition Scottish Dance Team from Grandfather Mountain Highland Games to be held in mid-July, will perform at the William J. Conrad Stadium at 1:30 p. m. in Boone during the celebration of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary and official opening of the famous outdoor drama, "Horn in the West," Saturday evening, June 29. They will also appear in the big parade at 12:30 p. m.—Hugh Morton photo.

Former C. C. Secretary Returns From Tour

By RACHEL RIVERS

Mrs. T. F. Clear, formerly secretary of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, returned on June 5 to her home here, after a winter of extensive touring in Europe, circling the north, dipping through the Mediterranean to Tangiers, Africa, and back to England.

"I'm not much of a sight-seer," she explained. "I like to pick out the places I'm interested in, and just go!" And that she did.

After dividing a couple of weeks between England and France, Mrs. Clear moved on to Switzerland where she joined a friend, and they went on to Florence, in the dynamic home-

land of the Renaissance, for a month's visit, traveling at leisure in that area.

Asked if she had collected many items of interest during her tour, the lively lady replied, "No, not really." Then she laughed and said: "I didn't go on a buying spree, either." She explained that she had merely gone for relaxation and enjoyment, and that the trip had been quite memorable and pleasant.

From Florence, she traveled to Rome where she remained four months. Around the middle of March, she arrived in Naples for a few days, "taking in the sights"—including the nearby city of Capri.

Then Mrs. Clear sailed the Mediterranean Sea for "three days in three ports"—Genoa, Cannes and Barcelona — and three weeks in Spain. From Spain she took a flight "just 30 miles across from Gibraltar" to Tangiers, Africa, where, she patiently told this confused reporter, she had not noticed any riots. It was Algiers, she thought, where the riots had taken place; but there hadn't been any demonstrations in Tangiers, as far as she knew. And, on second thought, that's absolutely correct.

Once back in Spain, proving ground of the innoculation, Mrs. Clear traveled to Madrid and through other major cities en route to London, via Paris, where she established her pivot for a six weeks tour of northern England.

Then she returned home. And it's good to have her back on the mountain!

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Building Is Booming In Blowing Rock

Nineteen Sixty Three looks like a good year for construction in Blowing Rock.

The number of building permits issued this spring is well ahead of the pace of last year but behind the rate of two years ago.

Through June 13, 25 building permits had been issued this year in Blowing Rock. Through June 16 last year, only 13 building permits had been issued. For the whole year 1962, only 32 building permits were issued.

Seven more permits need to be issued this year to equal the 1962 level. But the number of permits issued probably will not reach the 1961 level of 66.

The estimated cost of construction this spring is \$178,000. This is ahead of last year at this time when the estimated cost of construction was \$95,000. Construction this year is \$83,000 more or almost twice as much as last year at this time.

The total cost of 1962 construction was \$258,000. Total cost of 1961 construction was \$351,000. If this year's construction is to equal last year's, \$80,000 of permits must be issued. If 1963 is to equal the 1961 construction, \$173,000 of construction permits must be issued.

The largest construction projects for 1963 thus far are a \$20,000 apartment building and a \$20,000 house. The largest items in 1962 were three houses valued at a total of \$89,000. The largest item in 1961 was the Blowing Rock Hospital addition valued at \$50,000.

Blowing Rock Now Has Summer Skiing

Summer skiing will come to Blowing Rock next week. Bill Thalheimer, owner of the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge, will use straw thrown on the slope as a surface for teaching basic skiing and use of the tow rope.

Dick Lothrop, who was instructor on the staff last winter will do the teaching. Mr. Lothrop was originally from Schenectady, N. Y., but now lives in Newton.

The lessons will be held from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. every day except Monday, weather permitting. Mr. Thalheimer said he wanted to begin this week, but the ground had been too wet.

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