

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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R. C. RIVERS, JR., EDITOR AND MANAGER  
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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, SEPTEMBER 12, 1963

## Voting Day Draws Near

It's about time to vote on the question of issuing bonds for the building of a new consolidated high school, and for the erection of a new hospital building, and as the campaign goes into the home stretch there is a high degree of interest in the two proposals.

Again the Democrat is carrying a large amount of space promoting the two issues, and with our uncommonly good circulation coverage we feel that the people, by and large, will have the information. Again a number of letters are also carried in these columns, radio coverage is being afforded, and various meetings have been held in the interest of the proposals.

Like we have said before, our purpose has been to do our share, in every way possible, to bring these issues to the attention of the voters, and when the people of Watauga

County have been fully acquainted with an issue, they have always responded in good fashion on all matters looking to the well-being of the towns of Boone and Blowing Rock, as well as the county at large.

The mammoth advertising campaign which has been developed adds further impetus to all which has gone before and currently in our news columns and we shall be surprised if a heavy vote doesn't ensue. Those who have worked so diligently in acquainting the people with the merits of these causes are to be commended for their enterprise. No question remains, in our mind, but that an adequate case has been made both for the hospital and for the school. We shall hope that the voters respond accordingly.

Tuesday's the day. Be sure to vote.

## School Bus Conferences

Three regional conferences have widely been arranged for the County Superintendents of Schools in North Carolina, which are designed to improve the administration of the nation's largest school bus fleet and the safety of some 575,000 North Carolina school children who ride the buses.

As a part of the meetings the Superintendents will get two days of instruction ranging from the school transportation law to the role of the principal in school bus administration.

Under the setup, the school bus drivers, 90 per cent of whom are students, are selected and supervised by local school officials. The Department of Motor Vehicles, in turn, trains the drivers.

Cooperating in the conferences are the Institute of Government, the

N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education and the N. C. Association of Insurance Agents. Sponsor of the expense-paid workshops is the N. C. Traffic Safety Council, Inc.

The sessions for this part of the State will be held in Asheville September 24-26.

Topics to be discussed include supervision of school bus maintenance, the selection, training and supervision of school bus drivers.

This is good. An intelligent effort has been and is being made for the greatest efficiency in our school bus operation and the greatest degree of safety. It can be fairly said that local school bus drivers have made excellent safety records over the years.

## Hunter Safety Stressed

Hunting season brings a rash of accidents and death in its wake and the Wildlife Resources Commission, through William L. Hamnett, educational representative, is reminding that anyone who forgets the lethality of firearms, even for a moment, may be one of the 2,500 who die each year in accidents.

Hunters are being asked to observe the ten commandments of shooting safety, which are printed in the public interest:

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun.
2. Watch that muzzle. Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.

3. Unload guns when not in use.
4. Be sure barrel is clear of obstructions.
5. Be sure of target before you pull trigger.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
7. Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun.
8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water.
9. Store guns and ammunition separately beyond the reach of children.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before or after shooting. Never go with hunters who drink while hunting.

FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

## Our Life And Hard Times

The other afternoon a friend picked us up for a drive in his new air-conditioned car.

It not only has all the main appurtenances, like an engine and four wheels, and gadgets like push-button windows.

You can also flick up the steering wheel to escape stooping while getting in the driver's seat, and there's a button to adjust the outside mirror without having to stick your arm out in the summer heat.

At his house we had a push-button martini over ice cubes that come out of a spout; none of this wrestling with trays.

Later the prepackaged dinner came out of an automatic oven that rang a cheerful bell and cut itself

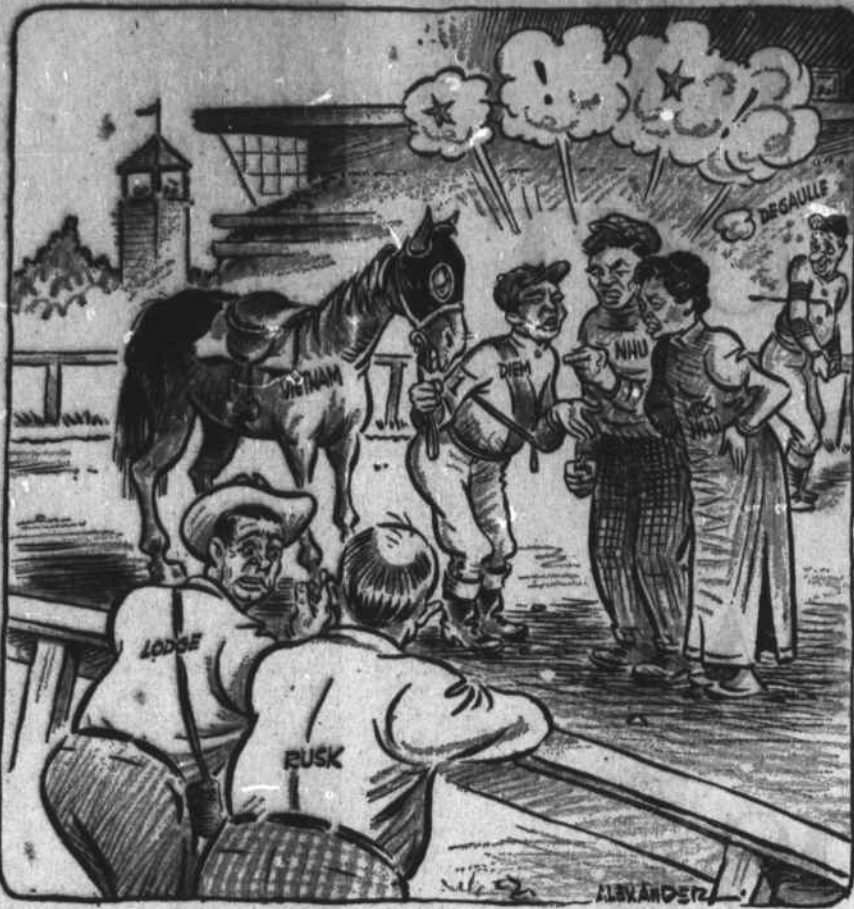
off. Over the coffee, while still at the dining table, we watched a couple of television programs selected by our host from a little switch in his hand.

The dessert dishes, incidentally, did not even have to be put in the automatic washing machine; the dishes themselves were edible.

It was all pretty impressive for a fellow who remembers cutting up firewood for the kitchen stove and hauling in drinking water from an outside pump.

But on the way home in that shiny new car we discovered we had to reach across the dashboard and pull out the ash tray by manual labor. It just about spoiled the evening.

## 'And We Have 3 Billions On Its Nose'



## From Early Democrat Files

### Sixty Years Ago

September 10, 1903.

There will be a prayer meeting organized at the Methodist Church in Boone tonight. All are cordially invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Blackburn, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Miller and several younger people are off on a trip to Grandfather.

Young Mr. Cook, carpenter, has bought a nice lot of Dougherty Bros. near the parsonage and is delivering the lumber to build a neat cottage thereon.

T. J. Sullivan is just now putting the finishing touches on the pretty residence of W. L. Bryan, and a pretty job of painting it is.

Prof. D. D. Dougherty is erecting another neat five room cottage near the building now occupied by Mr. C. J. Cottrell.

The lumber to be used in the Training School building is being delivered rapidly, and is being cut on the farm of J. W. Farthing.

Register of Deeds May is again able to be at his post of duty, and we are truly glad to see him out again.

Mr. John Blair has purchased the C. S. Young property at Blowing Rock, and will move there soon.

Mr. Henry has practically abandoned his brick machine, but he is on an average the week through making 14,000 per day by the old process.

The question of a bank of Boone is beginning to be talked right lively by our people, and there are indications that something along that line will be done within the next year.

### Thirty-Nine Years Ago

September 11, 1924.

James Rivers is in Wilkesboro this week assisting the Wilkes Patriot through a rush period.

It is claimed by some that the power plant on Middle Fork will be in operation within less than two weeks. Let us hope this is true but it seems almost impossible after having waited so long.

On Friday and Saturday mornings last this section was visited by frosts that would have done full justice to December—something very unusual for Watauga. Reports from various sections of the county are to the effect that the late buckwheat is badly damaged and the corn crop is more or less damaged.

Married last week, Mr. Luther Bingham to Miss Lucy Mast, daughter of Mr. J. J. Mast of the Cove Creek section. The bride is well and favorably known in Boone, having attended school here for a long while. Luther is also a native of Cove Creek and has many friends locally.

Masons are rushing the work on the beautiful brick bungalow of Mr. H. W. Horton which is being erected on a lovely elevation just east of the Daniel Boone Hotel. The foundation is laid of rough stones shipped in from the Cranberry iron mines and will add much to the appearance of the pretty summer home. Mr. Horton and family spend the winters in Miami, Fla. where Mr. Horton is engaged in the real estate business and he plies the same

trade in Watauga during the summer months.

Dr. L. E. Farthing of Wilmington with his wife and John Watts, has been spending a few days vacation at the home of his mother Mrs. J. W. Farthing on Route 1. The Dr. came through in an auto, and says there is more business activity in Boone than in any other town he has seen in the state.

### Fifteen Years Ago

September 9, 1948.

Mrs. Hazel Macaulay of Vilas has returned home after a few days visit with her brother, David Love, Jr. of Raleigh, N. C.

Prof. and Mrs. A. R. Smith and daughter, Ann, spent last week with Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Johnson in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rhyner of Statesville were week end visitors with Mrs. Rhyner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Greene.

Mr. and Mrs. Heath Jefferies from Charlotte spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Will Carter.

Mr. Allen Norton, who has just returned from Alaska, spent the week end here with his mother, Mrs. A. M. Norton.

Mrs. Lindsay Taylor, Mrs. Rubin Watkins and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hogwood of Oxford were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hodges, Jr.

Mrs. C. M. Stiles and daughter, Miss Cynthia Stiles have returned from a visit with relatives in Ketter Point, Me., New Haven, Conn., and Charlottesville, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Howell Edmisten announce the birth of a son, Wayne on August 26, at the Ashe Memorial Hospital, Jefferson.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Hawkins of Silver Springs, Md. spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Maliba at Poplar Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Greene Sr., Janet and Bill, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Greene Jr., of Greensboro, Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Greene of Norfolk, Va. spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Greene.

Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Greer and Mr. Mack Greer returned home Sunday after spending a week with Mr. A. J. Greer of Washington, D. C. and with Mr. Lloyd Eiler of Sykesville, Md. They also visited different points of interest in Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin L. Smith Jr. and baby boy and Mrs. B. L. Smith Sr. and daughter, Miss Mary Blair Smith joined Mr. Smith Sr. on Friday for the closing days of his vacation at the home of Dean and Mrs. J. D. Rankin and Prof. E. J. Abernethy. They all returned to their homes in Greensboro on Monday.

Miss Lucille Margaret James and Mr. Eillard Glenn Cornett, both of Sugar Grove, were united in marriage September 3d in the office of Mr. J. M. Moritz, JP, who performed the ceremony.

Mrs. Margaret Phillips Hughes announces the marriage of her daughter, Margaret Eleanor, to Mr. Maurice Joseph Fagan, Jr. on Sunday, August 8, at Baltimore, Md. The young couple is making their home in Philadelphia, Pa.

# KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

## At The Postoffice . . . We're Handed Letter

Everybody goes to the postoffice, sometimes at least. . . . We have to go often, and at the time of the greatest activity it's sort of like it used to be when we went to the depot for the arrival of the passenger train, in that we see a lot of people, and find out a great many things. . . . Fact is a good deal of our information originates there. . . . The other day we were talking to a friend, while depositing a good deal of a mountainous pile of mail in the Federal wastebasket, when Dr. John J. VanNoppen handed us a pen-written letter. . . . The Professor of English at Appalachian State Teachers College, who is known simply as John to us and others of his friends, wrote:

"TO MR. BOB: Among the finest sources of Americana are the newspapers in small and medium sized towns. . . . They reflect and reveal, as do few other materials, the lives of the grass-roots people—the inhabitants of small towns and of their neighbors who live in the surrounding countryside.

"ONE OF THE BEST SUCH PAPERS is the Watauga Democrat. . . . William Allen White of the Emporia Gazette and Louis Graves of the Chapel Hill Weekly made their papers famous. No less fortunate is the Democrat in having Bob Rivers—our 'Mister Bob' as its Editor. . . . Every great weekly paper has had a great Editor who wrote an exceptional column. . . . One of the best of these columns, throughout the length and breadth of the United States is Bob Rivers' 'King Street.'

"KING STREET is full of wisdom, homey philosophy, humor, gentle satire, folk lore, and it reveals the life and times of the people of our county as does no other source. . . . Bob Rivers is a great newspaperman and we in Watauga county can be justly proud of him and of our Democrat. . . . Recently I visited my daughter in Texas. She is an avid reader of the Democrat—in fact, she knows many things about people in Boone and Watauga County that I did not know, so the influence of Mr. Bob and the Democrat are felt in places over a thousand miles from Boone.

"TO ME, BOONE and the mountain area are among the most beautiful and delightful sections in the world. This summer Mrs. VanNoppen and I conducted a group of friends on a tour of Europe. I told a number of people that the scenery around Lucerne, Switzerland, was the only place we saw that might possibly surpass in beauty the loveliness of Boone, Blowing Rock, Linville, Grandfather Mountain, Rich Mountain, Howard's Knob, the Blue Ridge Parkway and our own Watauga.

"AND I KNOW OF NO ONE who has done as much as our 'Mr. Bob' and the Democrat to make Boone and Watauga County a mecca for tourists and one of the most beautiful places in which to live.

"THIS IS AN UNSOLICITED TRIBUTE to Bob Rivers: friend, neighbor, columnist, editor and great lover of Boone and Watauga County."

We thank you, John, no end, for your lavish appraisal of our efforts.

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### Big Vegetables

MR. F. R. BUMGARDNER brings us some fine vegetables Monday morning to get our week started out in good shape. . . . There are two giant potatoes, about as large as the little golden pumpkins we used to raise in the corn rows. . . . He says if we find a hollow spot in the middle of them, that it is just nature's way of providing a place to put a dab of butter. . . . Also in the box were two huge golden tomatoes, and a can of mushrooms packed in Kennett Square, Pa., where Mr. Bumgardner has a daughter who is connected with the mushroom industry. . . . We are greatly obliged to our good friend for the choice food, which grew so large and deliciously in the rich black Watauga soil. . . . We shall enjoy them, and shall cherish the friendship which prompted the delightful gift.

\* \* \*

### Fly Paper Strips

From the Greensboro News we learn that Howard Mast's general store at Valle Crucis still sells fly ribbons—the long strips of goosy paper which used to be hung from

the ceilings to catch flies. . . . We believe these strips followed the old Tanglefoot, the big sheets of fly paper which we used to buy at M. B. Blackburn's store and lay on tables about the place to snare the hordes of flies which came along, and cause them to literally buzz themselves to death. . . . We'd almost forgotten the trouble we were put to with flies in the days before screens were prevalent. . . . We had a luxurious old lilac bush which grew plenty of leafy sprouts mama used to fan the pesky insects off the food at meal time. . . . We don't recall who "minded" the flies when it came mama's time to dine.

## Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVERIN'S

REAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellows that writes them big headlines in the daily newspapers has long ago lost the common touch. Ever day we get a steady diet in big black type about the Reds pushing the line a few mile in Laos, or JFK and Bobby taking a stand on Civil Rights, or DeGaulle being again this or that, and about once a week we get a headline on how things is going in the British Parliament.

Actual, this don't sell no newspapers on account of the people ain't interested. Everbody knows the Reds is always pushing the line a little here and there. In Cuba, fer instance, they got it pushed just 90 mile from Florida. What do we care about a few mile in Laos? And with a election coming up next year, JFK and Bobby has got to take a stand on Civil Rights about twice a day to keep the iron hot. And ole DeGaulle has been agin everthing except fresh air and sunshine since he took office. Scandals in the British Parliament is nothing to what we got in Government here at home. See what I mean Mister Editor?

They was at least a dozen items buried in the big papers last week that was big headline news and would've sold papers like hot cakes to the average American.

Fer instance, it was decided in North Carolina that counties would have to quit charging \$3 a head tax on mules. The Governor allowed as how anybody "afflicted with a mule" shouldn't have to pay tax on the varmit. A headline across the top of the Chicago Tribune saying "N. C. Cuts Taxes" would create a sensation. This is probable the first real tax cut in this country since the Pilgrims landed.

The Russians has started building a \$2 million Embassy in Washington. This item was buried back with the want ads. As tight as them Russians can git with a dollar—they was now 4 year behind with their U. N. dues—this is absolute proof the Russians ain't got no idea of ever dropping a bomb on Washington. But took where the papers put this item!

Then they was this little item buried back in the papers about a Sheriff in Georgia. He run on a platform that if he was elected he'd make the county so dry you'd have to prime a feller twice afore he could spit. The bootleggers put a time bomb in his car and blowed it to heaven. But the timing was bad and the Sheriff wasn't in it. The insurance company immediate cancelled the Sheriff's policy but he bought hisself two more guns and said he didn't need no insurance. Now these is the kind of items, Mister Editor, that'll sell papers. People just ain't excited no more about Laos, DeGaulle and Bobby.

\* \* \*

Uncle Pink