



CROWDS LINE UP ALONG BOONE'S KING STREET DESPITE FREEZING WEATHER TO SEE THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

## IGNORE ICY HIGHWAYS

# Huge Crowds Enjoy Parade

## 3 Arrested In Jewelry Store Theft

Three out-of-county men have been arrested and charged with the theft of some \$4,000 worth of jewelry from Stallings Jewelry Store in Boone last Sunday morning.

According to B. W. Stallings, proprietor of the store, about 80% of the stolen goods, taken early Sunday when the thieves knocked a hole in the front door of the establishment and crawled through, has been recovered to date.

The three men, according to Boone Chief of Police Hubert Thomas, were arrested last Thursday in Shelby, county seat of Cleveland County. They are Martin T. Gentry, Robert John Frizzell and Dewey Lee Gentry.

A fourth man, James M. Shouppe, was also arrested for questioning in a number of robberies which the four allegedly staged during the past few weeks in a four county area including Ashe, Burke, Caldwell and Cleveland counties. Another man, Don Harrill of Burke County, was being held at last report for Ashe County authorities for questioning in a break-in at Central Food Market in West Jefferson two weeks ago in which the haul included some 20 guns.

Cleveland County Sheriff Haywood Allen said that Harrill had admitted participating in the

## Christmas Fund Is Collected For Orphanage

For a great many years the publisher of the Democrat and other businessmen in the community have solicited funds for Christmas cheer for the little children at the Grandfather Home in Banner Elk.

Since time is growing short, those who wish to help make the holidays happier for these children, most of whom come from this immediate area, are asked to make their contributions at once.

Donations may be left at the Democrat office with Rob Rivers, with James Marsh at Watauga Savings & Loan Association, with W. W. Chester at Belks, or with Guy Hunt at Hunt's Department Store.

Ignoring the ice on highways and streets and the 20-degree temperature, youngsters and their parents from all over Watauga County arrived in Boone Saturday to watch the Christmas parade move along King Street.

Led by the color guard from the Boone National Guard, and the Appalachian High School Band, the parade proceeded along the scheduled route from the "Horn in the West" parking lot to disband at the bus station.

In the parade were floats from the Winston-Salem Fire Department, the Queen City Trailways' Egyptian prize-winning float from Charlotte, the Rhododendron Queen, Miss Watauga County, and Miss Spruce Pine. The girls wore colorful wool coats and warm headresses over their flimsy dresses and crowns.

A stunt automobile brought delighted screams from the children, and Santa rode a small wild-animal train drawn by a tractor with reindeer.

Parade officials expressed amazement at the number of people who defied the weather and the hazards of walking and driving, to come to Boone for the parade.

## Yule Program Is Planned At Greenway

"The Way", a Christmas program of peace will be presented next Sunday evening at 7:30 at the Greenway Baptist church.

This program of song, scripture and pantomime presents Christ as the Way of Peace for all nations of the world.

The service will be under the direction of Mr. Richard Greer and Mrs. Lucille Wallace.

A cordial welcome is extended to all.

## Christmas Store Hours Announced

Herman W. Wilcox, President of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association, announces that Merchants Association members in Boone will continue to remain open for business until 8:30 p. m. through Dec. 23, with the exception of Saturday, when the stores will close at their regular time.

Stores will close at their regular times Christmas Eve, and will be closed all day Christmas day, Wilcox said.

This announcement follows another made earlier this week that all county offices will close at noon Dec. 24 and remain closed all day Christmas day, the 25th.

Postmaster Ralph Beshears

explained that, since "the volume of mail this year, both incoming and outgoing, is running at least 10 per cent above last year," the post office would be open Saturday afternoon (instead of closing at noon, as is the usual custom) in order to take care of holiday needs.

The post office will be closed all day Christmas day, Beshears said, although "mail will be dispatched from the office as on any other holiday."

The Watauga Savings and Loan will be closed all day Wednesday and Thursday, Christmas and the day after, as will Boone's First National Bank and Northwestern Bank.

Town hall will also be closed Christmas and the day after.

## Winners Are Named In Store Window Contest

For the third successive year the merchants in Boone have cooperated with a project sponsored by the Fine Arts Department of the Worthwhile Woman's Club to "Keep Christ in Christmas", by using a religious theme in their holiday windows.

Judging for this year's competition was completed Friday, and ribbons were awarded to the following stores: First—Newton's for originality; second, Church's (artistic display); third, Carolina Pharmacy (theme well carried out); fourth, Mayflower Beauty Shop (shows simplicity and is home-like). The descriptive comments are by the judges.

Two windows were awarded "honorable mention" ribbons—First, Boone Insurance; second, First National Bank.

Rev. Boyce Brooks, Rev. C. O. Vance, Rev. Richard Crowder and Dr. J. C. Canipe were judges and Mrs. W. M. Matheson was consultant.

Woman's Club members serving on the project were Mrs. Herman Wilcox, Mrs. B. W. Ellis, Mrs. Roy Ruffy, Mrs. D. L. Wilcox and Mrs. A. E. South.

## Sr. Citizens Meet Delayed

Because of the Christmas holidays involving varied personal plans of members and of the uncertainties of the winter weather, the December meeting of the Boone Senior Citizens has been cancelled.

## Hickory Explorer Scouts Caught In Icy Blasts On Grandfather

The Hickory Explorer Scouts set out Saturday morning on what they thought would be a routine climb up Grandfather Mountain.

But they were caught by a blizzard, spent the night in sub-zero weather and were being sought by the Watauga County Rescue Squad Sunday afternoon while on their way home.

The boys, Michael Hamman, 16, Robert Little, 17, David Robb, 16, and Paul Allen, 17, were not harmed by their ordeal.

When the boys didn't meet

Hamman's father at 2 p. m. Sunday as they had planned, he called his wife who notified the Watauga Sheriff's Department.

The Rescue Squad was sent to hunt for the boys. Meanwhile, they had descended, told a ranger they were not lost, and were on their way back to Hickory by 4 p. m.

The rescue squad did not learn the boys were not lost until about 5 p. m., according to Oscar Danner, Jr., Rescue Squad Chief.

Hamman said Sunday night

from his home in Hickory that they had wanted to climb the mountain in cold weather "but we didn't expect it (the mercury) to go down to eight below zero."

Hamman, who had climbed the mountain by way of a Scout trail twice before said they planned to get to the top Saturday night, spend the night, and rendezvous with his father at 2 p. m. Sunday.

"We started about 9 o'clock Saturday morning," he said, "but about 1 o'clock we ran in

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## MAN, WOMAN DIE

# Two Killed, One Hurt In Head-On Crash On 421

## West Jefferson Victim Had Been ASTC Visitor

Two persons were killed and another seriously injured in a head-on collision about 6:15 p. m. Sunday on U. S. Highway 421 about five miles east of Boone.

Watauga County Coroner Richard E. Kelley said Miss Clara Ruth Watson, 34, of West Jefferson, Rt. 2, and Richard C. Springs, 18, of Reidsville, were instantly killed in the wreck. Kelley said they died of multiple skull fractures and internal injuries.

Miss Shelby Watson, 24, sister of the dead girl, received lacerations about the face and chest injuries. She was treated at Watauga Hospital. Her condition was listed as serious, but she will recover, doctors said.

The two deaths raised Watauga's highway death toll to six this year, all occurring since September 3. The total is the highest since 1958, when 11 persons were killed on Watauga County highways.

State Highway Patrolman G. L. Morgan said Miss Shelby Watson was operating one car, a 1962 Dodge, traveling east. Springs was operating a 1951 Plymouth and riding alone, traveling west. When the crash occurred on a curve near the Parkway School, reported a witness, the Plymouth was traveling at a high speed on the wrong side of the road.

The Watson girls had been visiting a sister, a student at Appalachian State Teachers College. They were returning home. They are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Turner D. Watson of West Jefferson, Rt. 2.

Springs was a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Springs of Vance Street Extension, Reidsville. He was a student at Lees-McRae College at Banner Elk.

The body of Springs was sent to Wilkerson Funeral Home at Reidsville, while the body of Miss Watson was taken to West Jefferson.



1951 PLYMOUTH IN WHICH RICHARD C. SPRINGS WAS KILLED.



DODGE CAR IN WHICH MISS WATSON WAS KILLED AND SISTER INJURED.

## Democrat Will Come From Press Early Next Week

The Democrat will come from the press next Monday rather than on Wednesday as usual, so that members of the staff may have some time at their homes at Christmas.

Your newspaper will suspend all activities Tuesday and Wednesday, but will be open for normal business Thursday morning.

The Monday edition will be composed largely of Christmas greeting ads. Those who haven't been contacted by one of our salesmen, may place orders for these ads by telephone. Copy and art work will be supplied by the newspaper without added cost.

It is important however that all ads, personal items or other matter for the Monday edition be in our hands by Friday noon, at the latest, to insure publication Monday.

## Cantata, Christmas Program Is Planned

The Blowing Rock Glee Club, under the direction of Fred Poplin, will present a Christmas Cantata at Laurel Springs Baptist Church, Sunday night, Dec. 22 at 7:30.

Monday night, Dec. 23 at 7:30 members of the church will present a Christmas program.

The public is invited to both programs.

## Holiday Celebrations Reach Happy Peak At Blowing Rock

### Registration Books To Open

The registration books will open Saturday December 21, for the benefit of those who need to register for the special election January 14, at which time the redistricting of the State Legislature will be determined.

It had been erroneously reported that the books would open last Saturday.

The books will remain open, says R. T. Greer, Elections Board Chairman on December 28 and January 4. January 11 will be challenge day.

Absentee ballots will be available at the special Elections Board office in the court house. Mr. A. E. South is in charge of the office.

## Mrs. Collins Dies Monday

Mrs. Lee Ella Coffey Collins, age 82, of Blowing Rock, Route 1, widow of William W. Collins, died Monday morning at Blowing Rock Hospital after an illness of a year.

She was born in Caldwell county to Thomas A. and Louise Gragg Coffey and had lived in

Picture on page 6, section C

Holiday celebrations, in number and scope, may reach a new high point in Blowing Rock this Christmas season.

The town park adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce building on Main Street is filled with decorative scenes, and a general feeling of holiday jubilation seems to fill the air along with frequent snowflakes.

Celebrations already held at Blowing Rock included special Christmas parties by the Rotary Club, the Ruritan Club, and the Home Demonstration Club, and a Christmas program given by the Blowing Rock High School Beta Club.

On tap for coming week include the following:

—A PTA Christmas Program Thursday, December 19, at 7:30 in the school auditorium. The program will be presented by the Glee Club, under the direction of Mr. Tom Poplin. This will be the club's annual Christmas cantata.

—A party at the Presbyterian Church at 7 p. m. Saturday.

—A Youth Recreation Christmas play, to be presented at 8 p. m. Saturday.

—A special holiday breakfast for college students Monday morning.

—Special Christmas Eve services at all the churches in town Tuesday night.

## United Fund Campaign Hits One-Third Spot

Watauga County United Fund Chairman James Marsh announced Monday that the 1963 United Fund drive for the county had reached over one-third of its goal, in cash and pledges.

Marsh said that of the \$14,520.55 goal, \$2,823.50 was already on hand and \$3,092.25 had been pledged, making a total so far of \$5,915.75. He pointed out that Watauga has gone over its goal in each of the three preceding years, and urged all citizens to contribute whatever they could to insure that 1963 would be the fourth successful year in the series.

## Roby L. Shull Dies Monday

Roby Lee Shull, age 82, of Route 3, Boone, the Shulls Mills community, died Monday at his home after a heart attack.

He operated a general store in the Shulls Mills community for many years and formerly

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