

Ahead In Carolina
The Democrat led all N. C. weeklies in 1965 Press Assn. contests. Four first place awards included the one for General Excellence.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Seventy-Eighth Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER			
1966	Hi	Lo	Snow Prec.
April 5	44	28	tr.
April 6	45	30	tr.
April 7	54	25	tr.
April 8	53	33	tr.
April 9	42	32	2.23
April 10	46	26	tr.
April 11	55	26	tr.
Snow Given To Nearest Half Inch			

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1966

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24 PAGES—3 SECTIONS



End Of An Era

Having reached the 64-year mark, the old Watauga County Court House soon will be replaced by a new structure, which, County Commissioners last week reported, will cost from \$300,000 to \$500,000. At the Chamber of Commerce directors' meeting last month, Chairman of Commissioners Bynum Greene introduced the idea of the new facility, and stated that the Commissioners preferred to learn the wishes of the people

without entering into a bond election, which costs \$4,000 to conduct. Several Boone businessmen heard as reports were made of increasingly crowded conditions and the Commissioners' concern for adequate space for storing records. Coffey & Annas, Lenoir architects, have been employed to make plans and provide specifications. (Staff photo)

Blossoms On Schedule Parkway Facilities Are To Open End Of Month

Only Two Gaps Are Unfinished On Scenic Road

Superintendent Sam P. Weems today announced plans to have all Blue Ridge Parkway picnic and camp grounds opened by April 30.

Beginning June 10 this year through September 5, a fee will be charged for entrance to Parkway campgrounds by persons 16 years of age and over, but no fee will be charged to travel on the Parkway motor road or to use picnic grounds or other Parkway facilities. The campground entrance fees are authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Weather permitting, the Cherry Hill Restaurant at Mile 257 will open for the season on April 10; Northwest Trading Post at Mile 258.6, on April 15. The Peaks of Otter Lodge and restaurant at Mile 85.6 and the Otter Creek and Whetstone Ridge restaurants at Miles 60.8 and 29 all open for visitors April 29. On May 1, Rocky Knob housekeeping cabins at Mile 175 and the Mabry Mill restaurant at Mile 176 open; also Bluffs Lodge and coffee shop at Doughton Park, Brinegar Cabin, the Parkway Craft Center in Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, Crabtree Meadows restaurant at Mile 339.5, and Pisgah Inn and restaurant at Mile 408.6.

No new Parkway road mileage is expected to be opened for travel this year, Weems said. In Virginia the Parkway is complete—217 miles from Rockfish Gap where the Parkway joins the Skyline Drive of Shenandoah National Park to the Va.-N.C. line. Two gaps remain in North Carolina's 252 Parkway miles: one, a 5 1/2 mile section around Grandfather Mountain; the other, an 11-mile section from US 70 at Asheville to NC 191 which is under construction.

The Roanoke Mountain campground on the outskirts of the City of Roanoke will be opened on May 28. It brings to 9 the total number of Parkway campgrounds, 4 in Virginia and 5 in North Carolina; and to 959 the total number of camp and trailer sites. This newest campground is located 1.3 miles on a spur road from the Parkway at Mile 120.4. The spur continues to a connection with a road which leads to Mill Mountain, a Roanoke City park. Another feature of the new Roanoke Mountain recreation area is the one-way road around Roanoke Mountain from Mile 120.3. Views of the city from the summit are spectacular.

A full program of naturalists services will be in operation by the third week in June. Visitor centers will begin opening the first of May, but on a weekend or 5-day week schedule. In North Carolina, guided walks and evening walks will begin June 18; in Virginia, three or four days later.

Restoration of a lock on the old James River and Kenawha Canal at Mile 63.6 is complete. Exhibits to explain its operation will be added this summer; also walks will be scheduled with a summer naturalist acting as guide from the visitor center on the north bank of the river to the lock on the south bank.

There is no indication that spring bloom is off its usual schedule. Dogwood, shadblow, and redbud appear on (Continued on page eight)



MISS WATAUGA COUNTY, Miss Patti Jones, passes a boxed orchid to her manager, Jaycee Bill Fowler, as the Boone Optimist Club's Orchids for Easter sale gets underway at the Northwestern Bank Saturday. Miss Jones took a break from her Easter vacation to assist in the civic venture. She is a resident of West Jefferson. (Staff photo)

175 Will Face Trial At Watauga Court Next Week

The April term of Watauga Superior Court will convene Monday April 18, with Hon. Francis O. Clarkson, of Charlotte, presiding. Clerk of Court Orville Foster states that 175 cases are to be tried, nearly all of them being in the nature of traffic offenses.

The Jurors
Following are the names of those who have been summoned for jury service during the term:
Joe L. Coffey, Sr., Harve Brown, E. F. Norris, Willard Eggers, Everett B. Fox, Jr., Tracy L. Norris, Billy Main, Walter Lee Brewer, Fred R. Critcher, Kenneth Ragan, Carlton C. Critcher, Lynn Matheson, Vaughn A. Brown, Dexter Yates, J. R. Gentry, Oney R. Johnson, Herman Coffey.

Roy L. Townsend, Collis Austin, E. S. Norris, Johnny Burnett, Fred Hart, Mace Fletcher, William Howard Love, Martin M. Gragg, Edwin Brookshire, Arvil L. Perry, James Arden Wilcox, Arthur Townsend, Wade E. Hampton, Hoyle H. Shook, Clay Tester, Hoyle Hayes, Roy Lentz, Jake C. Mast, Ronda Horton, John Whittington, Rash Aldridge, A. C. Calloway, Roy Miller.

Ed Tester, Harold Jones, Frank Austin, Worth Combs, William E. Greene, John B. Williams, Wendell D. Norris, Everett Lee May, Hal Johnson, Thomas Wade Tugman, Howard James Younce, Dock Cox, Bob Hardin, Thomas H. Coffey, Jr., Troy Cannon, Earl Ellison, Clyde Robinson, Elmer G. Miller, Orrin Sherill, Clarence Swift.

Zip Code Number 28607 Is Explained
Postmaster Ralph Beshears explains Boone's zip code number, 28607.
The digit 2 signifies the region; 8, the fact that Charlotte is the eighth station in the region; 6, that Hickory is the sixth post office from Charlotte; and 07, designating Boone as the seventh post office from Hickory.

Several New Candidates File For May Primary

A number of new candidates have filed for county office since the last edition of the Democrat.

We had intended to give each candidate a front page spot, with a few lines and picture. This week, however, there were too many and reluctantly we had to do the next best thing. That is, to run the office-seekers and their pictures on the front of section B today.

Realizing the great interest in these announcements the Democrat is happy to carry all of them, and attempts to give each man about the same amount of "copy" with his announcement.

Again we are sorry the front of the first section wouldn't contain them this time.

Tester Hearing Set For Saturday

A hearing for Floyd Tester, about age 52, of Sugar Grove, was postponed a second time shortly after 4 p. m. Friday when an Avery County man, Harold Dean Harmon, did not appear to testify before Justice of the Peace Dave Hodges.

Sheriff Dallas Cheek said that Harmon, who is in his 20s and a resident of Beech Mountain, was expected to appear for Tester who was arrested March 5 in connection with the fatal shooting of William McKinley Presnell, 41, of Sugar Grove.

Attorneys Stacey Eggers Jr. of Boone and Bill McElwee of North Wilkesboro were present to represent Tester.
When Harmon did not show, McElwee called for another postponement until Harmon could be there. Hodges said that a subpoena had been mailed to the office of Sheriff Jack Vance in Avery County, but that it had not been determined whether he had received it and served it on Harmon.

H. P. Holshopser, Sr., attorney for the prosecution, representing Mr. Presnell's father, urged that the hearing be held in Harmon's absence. He stated that he believed he had enough witnesses present to bind Tester over to Superior Court, which begins here on April 18, and said he felt the matter should be determined prior to Court.

The defense argued that Harmon, who was driving Tester and Presnell around the morning of the shooting, was the only one who knew anything definite about the incident and asked that the hearing be put off two weeks.

Hodges ruled that a hearing shall be held at 10 a. m., Saturday, April 18, in the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Cheek reported Monday that Harmon was subpoenaed Saturday, brought to Boone and placed under \$500 bond.

Registrars, Judges Are Named For May Primary

John Bingham, Chairman of the Watauga County Board of Elections, announces the appointment of the following officials to hold the May primary in the county's 16 precincts.

The first named in each case is the Registrar, a Democrat, the second the Democrat Judge of Elections, and the third the Republican Judge.

Bald Mountain: John Ragan, John Trivette, Lesley E. Norris.

Beaver Dam: Tracy Bentley, Harve Smitherman, Ray Stout.

Blue Ridge: Rodney Greene, Marion Coffey, George Keller, Sr.

Blowing Rock: Daniel Klutz, Hayden Pitts, Roy Holder.

Boone: Mrs. Jewel H. Mast, Charles Taylor, Ralph Greene.

Brushy Fork: Clyde Tester, Eddie P. Norris, Ralph Wilson.

Cove Creek: John Perry, Blain Norris, Mont Thomas.

Elk: Mrs. Glenn Triplett, Mrs. Bessie Triplett, V. C. Cox.

Laurel Creek: Doughton Tester, Olus Mast, Sidney Harmon.

Meat Camp No. 1: Harry Sud-dreth, Willard Norris, W. C. Byers.

Meat Camp No. 2: Luther Moretz, Odell Culler, Wade Moretz.

New River: Max Norris, Ray Minton, Perry Greene.

North Fork: W. C. South, J. M. South, Ralph May.

Shawneehaw: Ed Chappell, Willie Ruppard, Henry Michael.

Stony Fork: Bill Greene, Bill Moretz, Joe Coffey, Sr.

Watauga: Arlie Hodges, Frank Mast, Stanford Coffey.



JERRY BURNS

Jerry Burns Assumes Editorship Of Rocket

Jerry Burns, a native of Blowing Rock, assumed his duties last week as new editor of the Blowing Rocket.

Mr. Burns replaces Mrs. Nell Greene, whose resignation becomes effective May 1. Mrs. Greene has been with the paper since January, 1964.

Prior to assuming his new duties, Mr. Burns served four years in the U. S. Navy as a hospital corpsman, where he served on the staff of a weekly hospital newspaper.

After service in Chicago, Ill., Pensacola, Fla., and Camp Le-

jeune, N. C., Mr. Burns joined the staff of Blowing Rock Hospital as an assistant in the operating room, laboratory, and x-ray department, where he has worked for the past two and one-half years.

When he is not working, Mr. Burns enjoys playing golf and collecting rare and unusual objects, especially old stamps.

A 1958 graduate of Blowing Rock High School, he is married to the former Pat Maddux of Boone. The Burnses are members of First Presbyterian Church in Boone, and reside on Maple Street, Blowing Rock.

Isaacs Seeks District Seat In Legislature

Newland—Rep. Mack S. Isaacs of Newland will seek reelection to the General Assembly from the new 44th House District of Mitchell, Avery and Watauga counties.

Isaacs, a Republican, is the senior GOP member of the Legislature from Western North Carolina.

A candidate for a fifth term, Isaacs has served four consecutive terms and is one of the ranking Republican members of the General Assembly.

A farmer, he has served on (Continued on page eight)

Congressman To Visit City Next Friday

Following his long-standing practice of visiting each of the counties in the 9th District as often as possible, Congressman James T. Broyhill announced in Washington today that he will hold office hours in Watauga Friday, April 15. The Congressman will be available to Watauga County residents at the Boone Post Office from 8 a. m. to 11 a. m.

"It is my intention," Congressman Broyhill said, "to spend the Easter recess of the Congress in the district in as many of the counties as time permits. I will visit those counties not included in the schedule during weekends in April and May as the work in Washington permits."

These visits are intended to afford residents an opportunity to discuss legislation and personal problems they may be having in their dealings with the Federal government with their Congressman in Washington.

"Discussions of this kind with (Continued on page eight)

Watauga Jail Rates Good; Improvements Being Made

While Watauga County is getting ready to build a new courthouse, seven Northwestern Carolina counties face the erection of new jails if the recommendations of the State jail inspector are carried out. Among the other 74 county-operated jails, the inspector rated 20 as poor, 35 as good, and 19 as excellent.

Watauga county's bastille falls into the "good" category. However the report states that painting is needed, bedding poor and of insufficient supply. Kitchen below standard,

plumbing needed. Should not be used to confine juvenile offenders."

Word from the County Board of Commissioners Tuesday was that painting and plumbing at the county jail have already largely been taken care of, and that the structure will be brought fully in line with the recommendations as quickly as possible.

Among those counties where new jails were recommended, Yadkin is now building, new jails are planned in Wilkes and

Alexander, Stokes and Davie are talking about building, while Ashe and Alleghany don't plan to do anything.

"There's nothing wrong with our jail. The only thing we plan to do with our jail is use it. We don't need a new one," said Floyd Crouse, attorney for Alleghany county.

In Ashe county officials are quoted as saying they don't intend to build a new jail.

Leslie D. Smith of Raleigh said the seven jails in this area should be condemned. In ad- (Continued on page eight)