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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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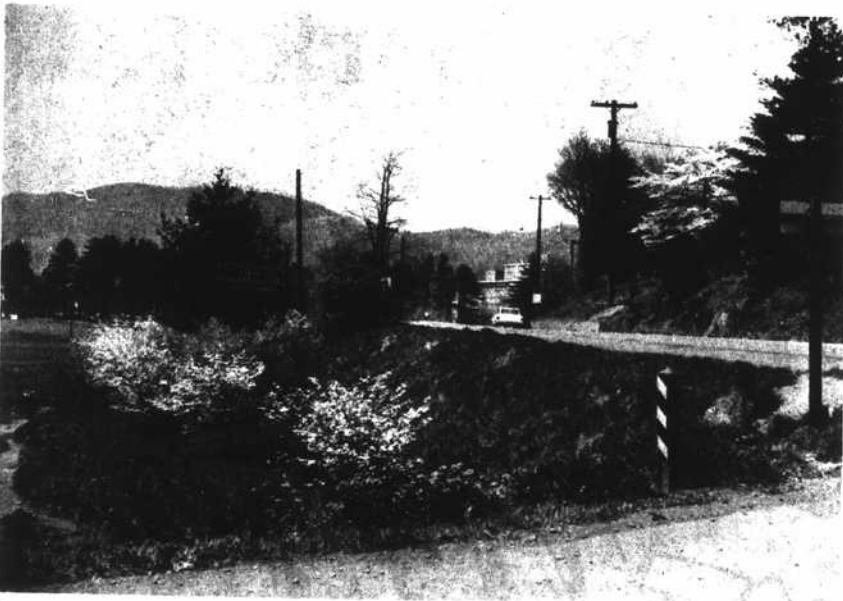
BOONE WEATHER			
1967	Hi	Lo	Snow Prec.
April 18	67	47	.00
April 19	60	38	.00
April 20	69	28	.00
April 21	68	57	tr.
April 22	65	54	tr.
April 23	62	44	.20
April 24	60	45	.15

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Beautifying intersections could be a new concept, but one sure to pay off in heavily traveled regions. This fresh, spring scene at an intersection on Blowing Rock Road is exemplary. (Staff photo)

Institution Of Marriage More Popular In Watauga

Conduct Of Students At Fire Is Probed By Dean

Dean of Men Ronnie Brooks released a statement Tuesday morning on concluding his investigation of Appalachian students at the scene of the fire last week.

Brooks said students told him they were attracted to the fire area from the campus, because from where they were it looked as if Tony's Pizza Place was on fire.

When they got there, the house was burning, and they said they began chanting "Where's the fire truck?"

The students said Fire Chief R. D. Hodges asked them to help keep the sparks down in the woods behind the house and that more than half of them complied with the request.

They told the Dean that the fire truck, which supposedly had gone to Deep Gap, finally got there to the cheer, "Here's the fire truck!" The students said that that, either intentionally or accidentally, several of the students were doused with water from one of the hoses.

Then they began jeering the fireman, and clods of dirt and probably a few rocks were thrown at the burning building, but, according to testimony, none were heaved at any fireman.

In Watauga County, the institution of marriage has been growing in popularity over the years. That is what the latest figures show.

As a result, a greater proportion of the local population is married today than was the case a generation or two ago. This is true despite the rise in the divorce rate.

The trend disproves the widely-held belief that this is an age in which the divorce rate is increasing much faster than the marital rate.

On the basis of data compiled by the Census Bureau in a nationwide sampling, the reverse appears to be true.

It shows that, although the actual number of divorces is much greater in most parts of the country than in earlier years, the rise is not that sharp in terms of population.

It has been more than offset, furthermore, by the rising proportion of people in the "married" column.

Such has been the case in Watauga County. According to the latest government figures, no less than 61.7 percent of the local population, above age 14, are married.

Some 63.9 percent of the men in that age group and 59.5 percent of the women are listed as married.

The Census Bureau's survey, which covers 1966, reveals that 3.2 percent of all (Continued on page six)

Court Clerk Has Heart Seizure

Watauga County Clerk of Court, Orville Foster, suffered a heart attack Friday evening at his home.

Mrs. Foster said he was on the critical list at Watauga County Hospital, but had shown slight improvement by Tuesday morning.

Former State Senator Irwin Belk of Charlotte, noted that he was a member of seven other governing boards of colleges in North Carolina. "There are now 74 colleges or universities in this state," he said, "and I know that Appalachian ranks near the top of this large group in the quality of instruction."

Present for the board's second gathering, in addition to

Eight-Part Effort Ambitious Co. Program Of Improvement Is Discussed

Cleanliness, Beautification Are Among Aims

BY RACHEL RIVERS

The responsibility for community improvement will rest with everyone.

The Watauga Community Improvement group, formed recently by leaders of widespread civic organizations, met Thursday to review a broad program drawn up by their president, Glenn Hodges.

Hodges said he had met with Dan Mackey of the State Department of Commerce and Industry, from whom he received a land development plan for Boone. He also had studied other city plans, including city zoning ordinances.

By giving clubs an opportunity to divide up the program, community improvement can be expanded into a large-scale operation, Hodges explained.

PLAN OF ACTION

The steering committee will ask presidents of clubs to meet with them at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday, May 9, at the Appalachian Elementary School to discuss its eight-point program.

Immediate aims will be to organize a program of action, investigate and analyze conditions, define problems and formulate solutions, derive specific town and County goals and develop the plan accordingly.

As it stands, the program is classified in eight parts: Highway cleanliness and safety would cover public facilities, trash containers, notices of fines for littering.

Training and information would be given for beautification would involve brochures, maps and courtesy classes.

Awards and recognition would be given for beautification and improvement accomplishments.

Under community development and new projects, governmental affairs, such as zoning restrictions, would be examined.

Property clean-up and development would include improvement of lots, junk yards and lawns, and assistance in designing new facilities.

Scouts and 4-H could help with natural resources, helping prohibit dumping of trash on roadsides, helping keep woods along highways clean and sites for parks in Watauga.

Landscaping and beautification would benefit all town and County-owned buildings and, upon request, church properties.

(Continued on page six)



Spectators mill about in foreground as house goes up in smoke. (Minor photo)

Firemen Are Heckled As Wey House Is Destroyed

A blaze of undetermined origin spread through a frame house on Blowing Rock Road Wednesday night, April 19.

Fire Chief R. D. Hodges said the fire, which started on the porch facing the highway, spread quickly and by the time firemen arrived was beyond saving.

The alarm was called in at 11:10 from the Cabana Motel south of the site. The Boone force had been called about five minutes earlier to assist the Deep Gap Volunteer Fire Department at a fire in their area.

Five men, who remained in town in case of a local fire, answered the second call. The

Fire Chief, who was on his way to Deep Gap, was overtaken and returned to Boone, he said.

The owner of the vacant house, Joe Williams, said he had arranged to have the house moved the morning of April 20. Hodges said when the truck arrived, the house already was destroyed, and Williams asked them to let it burn, as long as it would not endanger surrounding property.

Firemen were reportedly stationed between the house and the Horn in the West property, where it was feared sparks could set off a woods fire. Later, said Hodges, the truck was brought around and water was put on the blaze to slow it down.

Several members of a forestry club at ASTC were said to have assisted the Fire Department in watching for "hot spots" near the house.

Estimates of the number of spectators on the scene ranged from 200 to 500 and it was reported that some in the crowd chanted at firemen, at one point hitting them and other on-lookers with mud clods and rocks.

Oscar Danner Jr. was taken to Watauga County Hospital, but escaped serious injury.

The house was constructed by Dr. I. G. Greer, when he was a professor at Appalachian State Teachers College, and was known in late years as the Dr. Herbert Wey place.

Servicemen Are Being Sent Local Paper

Another "letter from home" is on its way to points in Southeast Asia.

Ron Hester, publicity chairman for the Boone Jaycees, says one-year subscriptions to the Watauga Democrat are being sent to 28 servicemen in Vietnam. Families sent names and addresses of men not already receiving the paper on a form published in the newspaper, and first copies were mailed Wednesday.

Postmaster Ralph Beshears points out that mail is being sent by air, as space is available, from ports of debarkation in California. The overflow is being sent by boat mail.

In order to assist the Jaycees, the newspaper arranged to share the cost of the project. The Jaycees conduct community and area benefit projects throughout the year.

Slave Day Aid To Townspeople

Slave Day is coming. Members of the Westminster Fellowship of First Presbyterian Church, Boone, will mow lawns, wash windows and do other household handiwork on Saturday, May 6.

They will work for 50 cents an hour, and their services may be contracted by calling 264-2144 between 6:30 and 8 p. m. starting Monday, May 1. Proceeds from Slave Day will be put into the Church's building fund.

Watauga Schools To Collect Used Clothes

Watauga County schools will participate in a discarded collection on May 10th thru May 18th.

The purpose of the program is to collect donations of used and discarded clothing, rags, shoes, toys and small appliances for the handicapped working and training at Goodwill Rehabilitation Center in Winston-Salem.

The discards make available vocational training and jobs for 250 handicapped persons from many counties of North Caro-

lina. The discards are cleaned and repaired and then sold in six Goodwill stores. Articles gathered dust in the homes of citizens of this area will be much appreciated. Students from the Watauga schools will be glad to receive the donation from parents and neighbors to help fill their Goodwill bag. All donations of discards will be helping a disabled person to get a new lease on life by giving him a means of vocational therapy.

Goodwill Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit agency.

Visitors Board Takes Look At Appalachian

Appalachian State Teachers College's Board of Visitors, in "get acquainted" sessions here Friday and Saturday, received an in-depth look at the institution's academic and administrative activities.

Seven members of the advisory board met with department chairmen to obtain detailed information on the functions of each department. The

board members also were provided a study of administrative practices by directors of each organization.

As the two-day meeting ended, Grover C. Greene of Swarthmore, Pa., summed up the board's general opinion when he said: "This has been a most rewarding, enlightening and constructive session."

Another board member,

former State Senator Irwin Belk of Charlotte, noted that he was a member of seven other governing boards of colleges in North Carolina. "There are now 74 colleges or universities in this state," he said, "and I know that Appalachian ranks near the top of this large group in the quality of instruction."

Present for the board's second gathering, in addition to

Belk and Greene, were Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell and Dr. T. Edgar Sikes, both of Greensboro; Walter E. Wiles of Chicago, Ill.; Dr. L. H. Hollingsworth of Winston-Salem; and Mrs. Paul Broyhill of Lenoir. Unable to attend due to other commitments were J. E. Collette and John M. Ehle Jr., both of Winston-Salem, Terry Sanford of Fayetteville, Lewis Jen-

kins of North Wilkesboro and Edwin Duncan Jr. of Sparta, Major L. P. McLendon of Greensboro was absent due to illness.

Those present first heard brief statements by administrative officers concerning their areas of responsibility. Addressing the board in the initial discussion hour were Dr. (Continued on page six)



PAUL HUNTER WALSH

Paul Walsh Is Named To New Banking Post

Paul Hunter Walsh has been elected assistant cashier of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Burlington.

Hunter is the son of Mrs. Paul Walsh of Sugar Grove and the late Mr. Walsh. He is married to the former Jean Abbott of Chesnee, S. C. They have a son, Paul Hunter III, Walsh, dealer credit manager in the Time Payment Department, became a Wachovia staff member in 1960. From 1962 to 1966 he was Time Payment loan manager. A native of Sherwood, he is a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College. He is a member of the Burlington Jaycees and has worked as a solicitor in the Alamance County United Fund campaign. He is superintendent of the Adult I Department in the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of Graham.

Bloodmobile Will Be In Boone 12th

The Red Cross Bloodmobile's last 1966-67 visit to Boone will take place Friday, May 12.

The mobile unit's previous visit March 3 resulted in the donation of 278 pints of blood, thus establishing an all-time record for a single visit.

"The students and faculty of Appalachian did a fine job on the last visit, and I certainly hope such a turnout will be duplicated May 12," said Mrs.

Goldie Fletcher, executive secretary of the County Red Cross chapter.

Local officials are hopeful that at least 150 pints will be donated next month. Usage estimates for the year already have been exceeded, Mrs. Fletcher noted.

The Bloodmobile will be stationed outside East Hall on the Appalachian campus from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m.



Seven members of Appalachian's Board of Visitors (l-r) Grover C. Greene, Mrs. Paul Broyhill, Dr. T. Edgar Sikes, Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell, Walter E. Wiles, Irwin Belk and Dr. L. H. Hollingsworth.