

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOLUME XLIX, NO. 40

BOONE WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1938

\$1.50 PER YEAR

## LAUREL CREEK ROAD IS URGED

Tennessean Tells of Advantages Which Would Enure From Building New Highway.

Commenting on the need for the completion of the highway from Sugar Grove to Butler and Johnson City, Mr. Finley P. Curtis, writing in the Johnson City Chronicle, has this to say:

Many comments have been received on a recent column concerning the suggestion of "a highway or sort of skyline drive" from Johnson City to Boone, N. C., by way of Elizabethton and Butler and through Beech Creek and Cove Creek valley, to be built by North Carolina and Tennessee jointly. I have received several requests to write more on the subject.

Well, of course, a whole lot might be written on it, but in my opinion the most important thing is the practical need for it. This immediate section especially needs it, for there is no good direct route in this end of Johnson or Carter county from Butler to Boone and other towns and cities in North Carolina. To reach any such towns or cities from this vicinity one must travel either by way of Mountain City or by way of Hampton and Roan Mountain, which routes require many miles of additional travel.

The present road from Butler to Beech Creek, N. C., which has been the only road in use for fifty years or longer, usually is in such bad condition that it cannot be traveled with a satisfactory degree of speed, safety, comfort or pleasure. During winter-time it is practically impassable; hence, it is not very much help. Tourists, if they were on the way to Boone or other towns or cities in North Carolina, would not even stop to consider this road, although they had to travel more than a hundred miles out of their way to reach their objectives. It would be the same if tourists in towns or cities of Western North Carolina wanted to reach certain towns or cities in this section of East Tennessee. Many miles of additional travel would separate them from their objectives.

As suggested in the recent column referred to, such a highway from Johnson City to Boone, N. C., by way of Butler, would open a vast territory almost unbelievably rich in forests, farming and grazing lands, natural resources of many kinds and inexhaustible waterpower. At least three miles on Watauga river, six to eight miles from Butler, long have been considered especially important as sources of water power. It now appears there is some good prospect of harnessing Watauga's current for practical use.

And as for the natural scenery to be viewed along such a highway, I dare say it could be rivaled hardly by any other section of the country. To travelers its wild and rugged beauty would furnish a constant breath-taking sight. Flower and fauna, mountain and gorge, rock and stream there vie in such a picture of riotous beauty as to render tongue and pen inexpressible with wonder. No artist could duplicate it on canvas.

A serious and concerted effort on the part of all the people in the communities which would be chiefly benefited is needed to create general interest in such a project, and the people should keep right after it until some definite action is taken. Writing about it and talking about it may be good selling points, but considerably more is needed. Action always speaks louder than words. Highways built on paper cannot be traveled.

## Two Million Allocated For Secondary Roads

Raleigh, April 11—Governor Hoey, for the second time in less than a year, today allocated \$2,000,000 from the highway fund surplus for the improvement of secondary, or farm-to-market roads.

The appropriation, the governor said, was made possible because of a large highway surplus and "because the state generally is in good financial shape." He added, however, that it still was likely that some highway money would be diverted for general fund expenses before the end of the 1937-39 biennium.

## SHRUBBERY AVAILABLE

Mayor Gragg tells The Democrat that there are still some choice evergreens at the city hall, which are available to the residents of the city at wholesale cost. He insists that those who desire to further beautify their premises take advantage of the opportunity to get the very best nursery-grown stock at the lowest possible price.

## BETTER HOMES WEEK ANNOUNCED

Miss Bridge County Chairman of National Event; Clean-up Campaign Urged

Miss Elizabeth Bridge, county home demonstration agent, has been appointed county chairman of Better Homes Week, which will be observed April 24 to April 30. Miss Bridge asks that every organization and individual co-operate in observing the period as a "clean-up week." She says:

Better Homes in America is a national non-profit organization devoted to the development of a better appreciation of home and family life, made possible by a grant from a well known foundation. Its purpose is to co-ordinate the work of various agencies and to create a real psychology for better homes and better citizens.

So the primary purpose of Better Homes in America is education. Since it is a nation-wide in its activities it renders a public service by directing attention to various methods and aspects of home improvement. It provides a medium of organized effort which seeks to help communities and their families to have better and more attractive homes. Its purposes are to:

1. Provide our citizens with information on the best standards of home building, home furnishings and equipment.
2. Encourage families to study their housing needs and to plan, build and furnish their houses in accordance to these needs.
3. Disseminate information on home ownership, saving for home ownership, methods of financing, and to acquaint families with the benefits to be derived from owning a home of their own.
4. Promote and encourage the building of single-family houses.
5. Acquaint families with the best methods of reconditioning old houses and the improvement of home grounds.
6. Make communities housing conscious in order that all sub-standard housing eventually may be eradicated.
7. Supply knowledge on more convenient methods of housekeeping, the elimination of drudgery and waste in household operation, and the fundamentals of household management.
8. Encourage music, reading and recreation in the home; the building of character and better family relationships.
9. To develop an appreciation of all arts for the real pleasure to be found in them.

Annual Better Homes campaigns are organized as a means of concentrating public attention on the above objectives of the various agencies which are working for better homes and better home life.

## I. G. Greer Will Address Graduates

Mr. I. G. Greer, superintendent of the Thomasville Orphanage, will deliver the baccalaureate address to the graduating class of the Boone high school at the Baptist church Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

There will be service at the other churches in the town and the public is cordially invited to attend.

## Notice to Burley Tobacco Growers

Every farmer in the county who has not grown burley tobacco before 1938 and who has sown a plant bed in preparation for growing burley tobacco in 1938, should call at the county agent's office immediately to apply for a base, if they have not already made application.

Those farmers who grew tobacco before 1938 and who have not signed a work sheet should call at the county agent's office immediately and see that their tobacco acreage is listed correctly.

W. B. COLLINS,  
County Agent.

## REFUNDS TO BE MADE TO TOBACCO GROWERS

Mr. W. M. Thomas is in receipt of a letter from Mr. C. H. Robertson, collector of internal revenue, in which it is stated that those who sold tobacco under the provisions of the Kerr-Smith tobacco act, have the privilege of filing a claim for the refund of taxes paid. Mr. Robertson has furnished Mr. Thomas with a supply of the blanks necessary for securing the refunds, and he will be glad to render the farmers such assistance as he can in this connection.

## Deceased Physician



Dr. Logan E. Farthing, prominent Wilmington physician, whose death brought sorrow to a wide circle of friends in Boone, where he was born and reared.

## WILL ADDRESS LOCAL FARMERS

Control Measures for Cabbage Diseases are to be Discussed by State Authorities.

J. O. Rowell, extension entomologist, and Dr. Luther Shaw, extension plant pathologist, will be at the courthouse in Boone on Tuesday, April 19th, at 2 p. m., to talk to the cabbage growers of the county on control measures for cabbage diseases and insects. County Agent W. B. Collins announced yesterday.

Every cabbage grower in the county should attend this meeting and get the latest information on controlling cabbage diseases and insects. Mr. Collins says there are a number of diseases and insects which cause considerable damage to the cabbage crop in the county. The farmers of the county could avoid most of this damage if they would find out how to control the diseases and insects and then apply the measures required for control.

It is hoped that a large number of cabbage growers will attend the meeting at the courthouse here on Tuesday, April 19th, at 2 p. m.

## Middle Fork To Be Opened For Angling

Much interest is being shown in the announcement that the Middle Fork of New River will be open to fishermen April 20, and it is said that a large number of anglers from distant points have indicated that they would be present when the ban is lifted from the famous trout stream.

At the recent meeting of the Middle Fork Fishing Club, which controls the stream from the power dam to the Cone estate, it was stated by Mr. H. G. Cook that something like 50,000 trout have been released in the stream during the closed season of the past year. Many of the fish were ten inches and longer, it was said.

The club is a co-operative organization, being formed by the land owners along the stream. Daily permits will be sold by Warden Earl Colvard, Farmers Hardware & Supply Co., Boone; H. C. Hayes, Blowing Rock; or Wade E. Brown, Boone, who is executive secretary of the club.

On the opening date it is proposed to give a prize to the fisherman landing the largest trout, and to the one who gets the largest string of fish.

## New Lutheran Minister Will Arrive Soon

Rev. Edwin F. Troutman, who is the new pastor of Grace Lutheran church, and the Boone-Watauga parish, is expected to come here with his family the last week in April.

Rev. Mr. Troutman is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and a graduate of the Southern Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C. He has been engaged in the ministry for 12 years, 11 of which have been in home mission work. He is said to be an excellent speaker and a splendid pastor. Mrs. Troutman is also a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne.

## FOOD SALE

The ladies of the Laurel Springs Baptist church will conduct a food sale at the Boone Bargain House next Saturday. The proceeds of the sale will go toward the erection of a new church building.

## TOBACCO QUOTA PLAN DEFEATED BY WATAUGANS

Local Farmers Vote Against Burley Tobacco Quota; Crop Control Plan is Carried in Nation By an Overwhelming Majority

Watauga county burley tobacco growers turned thumbs down on the proposal of the federal government to apply quotas to the production of the weed, when they went to the polls last Saturday. One hundred and thirty-nine votes were cast in favor of the AAA measure, while 282 were tabulated in opposition to the proposal.

Voting was conducted at three points in the county. In Cove Creek, the vote was 79 for and 171 against; Laurel Creek 22 for and 68 against; Beaver Dam, 38 for and 43 against.

The vote in the other counties was as follows:

	Yes	No
Alleghany	72	9
Avery	25	12
Buncombe	973	213
Clay	37	4
Graham	62	189
Haywood	886	41
Henderson	32	12
Macon	23	2
Mitchell	216	103
Swain	13	3
Transylvania	17	8
Yancey	759	49
Madison	1281	495
Ashe	300	388
Jackson	40	1
Cherokee	41	1

Washington, April 10.—The AAA arranged today to apply marketing quotas to burley tobacco as the result of a referendum among growers Saturday.

In the fourth election held since crop control law was enacted in February, the tobacco producers voted by a top-heavy majority to permit the government to regulate sales of this year's crop.

Virtually complete returns gave 136,507 for and 19,497 votes against the quota system, or an affirmative majority of 87 per cent. The law requires approval by two-thirds of those voting.

Under the quota system, sales of 1938 grown burley tobacco will be limited to 305,000,000 pounds, or about 100,000,000 pounds less than the 1937 crop. Producers who sell in excess of their quotas will be subject to a penalty tax of half the market price.

The unofficial returns by states:

	For	Against
Ohio	3,349	1,862
Indiana	3,489	2,054
Missouri	410	264
Virginia	4,449	1,452
West Virginia	525	178
North Carolina	4,196	1,542
Kentucky	91,934	8,162
Tennessee	27,445	3,693

## Safety Director At Blowing Rock

Mr. Walter Y. Hosier, safety director of the Carolina Motor Club, which is affiliated with the American Automobile Association, was a speaker at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Blowing Rock Tuesday evening, at which time plans were made for the inauguration of a safety campaign, which will be featured by an address by Mr. Hosier at the school building at Blowing Rock on April 19, at 10 a. m.

A branch of the Carolina Motor Club has been established at the Hob Nob inn at Blowing Rock, and Mr. Rufus Coffey of the Shell service station will attend to the garage work which goes with membership in the organization. Besides the regular services which go with triple-A, the Hob Nob inn is distributing folders giving full information concerning all the resorts in the United States, Canada and Mexico. This service is free and will be of great value to visitors on the mountain top.

## JUNIORS HOLD MEETING AT ELK PARK SATURDAY

The district class initiation of the Junior Order U. A. M., was held at Elk Park Saturday evening and the three degrees were conferred upon 15 candidates by the degree team from the Burkemont Council at Morganton.

The attendance was the largest in recent years and a banquet was held in connection with the meeting.

Those attending from Boone were: R. E. Kelley, W. O. Robertson, Howard Shore, Russell D. Hodges, R. D. Hodges, Jr., N. C. Greene, T. A. Weaver and Clyde R. Greene.

## Oldest Citizen



Benjamin J. Council, the oldest native-born citizen of Boone, who died recently. Mr. Council was a member of Boone's pioneer family, members of which had been leaders in the development of this section since Revolutionary War days.

## FARM LOAN GROUP MEETS ON TUESDAY

Report Indicates 96% of Federal Loans in County in Current Condition; Officers Named

The annual meeting of the Sugar Grove National Farm Loan Association was held on Tuesday in the courthouse here with a goodly number of the membership present.

Charts showing the financial state of the association as of March 31st, showed the association to have net assets of \$17,268.27, and the operating statement showed a surplus for the past year and the condition of the loans were most gratifying, as 96% of loan installments were paid and loans in current condition. Real estate activities showed the association at the present time owns but one farm in the county and that the association now has a membership of 215 with loans aggregating \$360,000.

The stockholders were well pleased with the showing made by their association for the past year. The organization offers credit facilities to the farmers of its territory for long term loans at the cheapest interest rate ever known for long-term loans. The charts also showed that there were six applications for loans now pending, aggregating more than \$15,000.

The following officers were re-elected: A. G. Miller, Deep Gap, president; James T. Gross, Adams, vice-president; O. H. Bracey, North Wilkesboro, secretary-treasurer, and the following directors: A. G. Miller, James T. Gross, Dr. H. B. Perry, Boone; S. C. Eggers, Boone, and R. M. Ward, Sugar Grove.

Three prizes were given away at this meeting to those holding the lucky number—\$5.00 first prize, \$3.00 for second prize and \$2.00 for third prize. These prizes were won by Lonnie Greene, Vilas first; Will Wilson, Reese, second, and Mrs. Sarah Miller, Meat Camp, third prize.

## Postal Receipts Show An Increase

Receipts at the Boone postoffice for the first quarter of 1938, as compared with the same period of 1937, have increased 12.4 per cent, according to a statement made to The Democrat Monday by Postmaster W. G. Hartzog.

The postal receipts during January, February and March of 1937, were \$3,143.33, as compared with \$3,532.83 for this year, it is stated.

## COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM AT OAK GROVE SCHOOL

The commencement program at Oak Grove school will be rendered Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. One of the most interesting features of the program will be the dramatization of the life story of Old Black Joe. A number of shorter plays and dialogues will feature the entertainment and there will be music by one of the largest and best string bands in the county.

The public is cordially invited to attend. There will be no admission charge.

## BENEFIT PLAY

Come see the play, "Farmer Brown's Conversion to the Doctrine of Stewardship," at the Boone Demonstration school Thursday night, April 14, 8 o'clock. Ten cents to everybody. Proceeds will go to building new church at Laurel Springs.

## POSTOFFICE TO BE CONSTRUCTED OF NATIVE STONE

Grading is Completed on Site of Federal Building and Contract for Erection of the Structure May Be Let at Early Date

Postmaster W. G. Hartzog received a telegram from Congressman R. L. Doughton Tuesday, in which it was stated that the procurement division of the treasury department had definitely decided to use native stone in the construction of Boone's new \$75,000 postoffice building. The action came after a concerted effort on the part of the local citizens to have the structure built from the stones of the neighboring hills.

The lot has been brought down to grade in accordance with the specifications of the federal engineer, and it is thought that the contract for the actual construction of the building will be let within the next few weeks.

It is said that the building will be one of the most imposing thus far erected in any small city in the state.

## Election Called Off At Blowing Rock

The election, which was to have been held at Blowing Rock Tuesday for the purpose of passing on a bond issue of \$85,000 for the purpose of extending the water and sewage system of that city, has been indefinitely postponed, according to word reaching The Democrat Wednesday.

A meeting of the town officials, the Chamber of Commerce and other interested citizens was held and it was decided that an effort would be made to secure aid from federal sources for the much-needed improvement. A committee was appointed to go into the details of the matter and is composed of G. M. Smither, G. C. Brinkley, C. S. Prevette, G. C. Robbins and George Robbins. It is stated that in the event the federal grant is not secured to aid in the project the election will be held at a later date.

## Rites For T. S. Coffey Held at Blowing Rock

Final rites were conducted Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for T. S. Coffey, 56-year-old brother of Mayor D. P. Coffey, of Blowing Rock, who died Wednesday morning.

The services were conducted from the home with interment following in the Blowing Rock cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. G. Sexton Buchanan and Rev. G. E. Ashley.

Mr. Coffey was a native of Blowing Rock, being the son of the late J. P. and Mattie Coffey. He married the former Miss Lily Hillars and to this union three children were born, all of whom survive, as follows: Alfred of Blowing Rock; Mrs. Oscar Howell of Granite Falls, and Mrs. Grover Turner of Morganton.

Also surviving are one brother, D. P. Coffey of Blowing Rock, and two sisters, Mrs. J. Lee Hayes of Lenoir, and Mrs. M. C. Johnson of Blowing Rock.

## Hospital To Be Open To Visitors

The Watauga Hospital will be open to visitors Sunday, April 17, from 2 to 5 p. m., according to Miss Heinzerling, the superintendent. People of the community and county are cordially invited to inspect the modern hospital building.

## AMATEUR PROGRAM IS ANNOUNCED FOR FRIDAY

Clarence Shadwell, "the Old Shepherd," will be the master of ceremonies when the Young America Amateur program is held at the courthouse in Boone Friday evening April 15, at 8 o'clock.

All amateurs in Watauga and adjoining counties under the age of 17 are eligible for entrance. The four winners in the contest will get a free trip to Charlotte and an audition over radio station WBT.

The entertainment is sponsored by the Boone high school band and the department of vocational agriculture, and is given under the auspices of the Farmers Hardware and Supply Co., who sell the famous Norge refrigerators.

An admission charge of 25 cents will be made, and the public is cordially invited to hear and see "The Old Shepherd," WBT musical clock announcer in person.