

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1940

\$1.50 A YEAR

## Deceased Attorney



Baxter M. Linney of Boone and Lenoir, funeral services for whom were conducted here Monday afternoon.

## BAXTER M. LINNEY DIES BY OWN HAND LAST SATURDAY

Well Known Attorney Ends Life at Home of Mrs. E. S. Coffey; Inquest Deemed Unnecessary; Funeral Services Are Held Monday Afternoon

Baxter M. Linney, 36, son of Mrs. Frank A. Linney of Boone, and prominent lawyer of Lenoir, committed suicide Saturday afternoon by firing the load from a 20-gauge shotgun into his heart. Death was instantaneous and coroner Richard E. Kelley deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Mr. Linney, who had been in ill health for some years, had just returned to the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. E. S. Coffey, from a local hospital where he had been taking treatments, and no one was in the room when the fatal shot was fired. No message was left and worry over the condition of his health is believed by relatives to have brought about his tragic death.

Funeral services were conducted from the Boone Methodist church Monday afternoon by Rev. Paul Townsend, the pastor, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. Claude H. Moser of Lenoir. A large number of friends of the family from throughout the state attended the rites, and Judge Don Phillips, holding superior court in Lenoir, adjourned court and he, together with all members of the Lenoir bar attended the rites in a body. The floral offering was one of the most profuse ever seen in this locality.

Active pallbearers were: G. K. Moose, Dean Bingham, Rob Rivers, Dr. W. J. Miller, Wait Gragg, Russell Hodges, John Matheson and Milton Greer. The list of honorary pallbearers was composed of members of the Boone and Lenoir bar, physicians and other professional friends.

The flower girls: Misses Nita Winkler, Ruth Robinson, Ellen Coffey, Pauline McGhee, Maisie Jean Jones, Gertrude Perry, Bernice Gragg, Irene LeQuex, Maude Cathcart, Edna Bingham, Mary Frances Ballew, Mesdames A. R. Smith, James Winkler, Anos Abrams, Richard Kelley, Ruth Edmond, Lucy Greene, Carrie Bingham, Ruth Kennedy, Annie Laurie Whitener, Russell Hodges, G. K. Moose, Grady Farthing, Alice Robbins, Jennie Critcher, Tracy Council, Ronda Hardin, R. L. Clay James Council, J. G. Ballew, Clarence Coffey, Jas. Mast, Maude Spahnour, Edith Conway, Grace Sherwood Bingham, Tom Cushing, Paul Townsend, Pa. McGuire, Joe Crawford, Wm. Matheson, T. M. Greer, W. R. Winkler, Finca Stewart, Joe Hardin, J. E. Holsbuser Mrs. Cook.

Mr. Linney was born and reared in Boone, the son of the late Frank A. and Mrs. Linney, and was educated at Appalachian College and Duke University. He was admitted to the bar in 1933 and was a member of the firm of Bingham, Linney and Bingham in Boone until 1931, when he moved to Lenoir, where he has since practiced.

Mr. Linney was an able lawyer and had taken an active part in the affairs of the Republican party of the state, having at one time been president of the North Carolina Young Republican Club, and had been the Republican nominee for judge of the county court in Caldwell. He was a member of the Boone Methodist church.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Nelle Coffey of Boone; the mother, Mrs. F. A. Linney; two sisters, Mrs. Paul Coffey of Boone and Mrs. P. O. Brewer of Chapel Hill, and one brother, Mr. Kenneth Linney of Boone.

## Garbee Speaks at Lions Club Meeting

Mr. Eugene E. Garbee, of the Appalachian College faculty, was the speaker at the banquet session of the Lions Club held at the Daniel Boone Hotel Tuesday evening. Mr. Garbee graphically described the storm damages done in every section of Watauga county, and described in detail the work being done in the emergency by the American Red Cross.

## HIGHWAYS REOPENED IN BLOWING ROCK VICINITY

With the resort season in full blast at Blowing Rock, the state highway department rushed repairs of storm damages so that vacationers may reach Blowing Rock by the Lenoir and West Jefferson and Boone highways.

Blowing Rock itself suffered little from the storm, and all scheduled and social activities of the summer colony have continued without interruption. The highway from Blowing Rock to Linville was opened Sunday.

No one, not even the governor, can restore a driver's license that has been revoked for driving drunk.

Four bicyclists were killed in North Carolina from January to July, 1940.

## Sixteen Wataugans Lose Lives As Flood Waters Sweep Over County

### WHERE FOUR DIED



Pictured here is the inside of one wall of the home in which Andrew Greene and three daughters, Velma, 14, Creola, 16, and Vernetta, 11, lost their lives as the landslide and flood swept through Stony Fork. Note table, cabinet still standing and pair of overalls hanging on wall. (Photo by Paul Weston, Boone Photo Shop.) Other flood pictures on pages 2 and 7.

## STORM POSTPONES SCHOOL OPENING

County Schools Not to Open Until September 3; No More Saturday Schools Here

The schools of Watauga county, which had been scheduled to open on August 20, will not open until September 2, according to announcement made Monday by W. H. Walker, county superintendent. The postponement came as a result of the flood and consequent damage to roads over which the buses operate.

Mr. Walker states that every effort will be made to have all the school open on the second, however, definite announcement will be made in the next edition of The Democrat.

Boone and other schools which have been operating on Saturdays will operate on Monday instead this year, says Mr. Walker, since the attorney general has ruled against observing Monday as a holiday. Mr. Walker asks that the attorney general's letter be published.

"You state in your letter of August 7 that the public schools of Boone have been operating on Saturdays instead of Mondays for a number of years, and inquire if the school machinery act prohibits such operation."

"Section 4 of the school machinery act of 1939 provides 'a school month shall consist of four weeks and not less than twenty teaching days, no day of which shall be a Saturday, unless in case of emergency, and subject to the approval of the local committee and the superintendent of the administrative unit.'"

## Father of Mrs. Clyde Winebarger Succumbs

Mr. Robert L. Coulter, 68, of Statesville, father of Mrs. Clyde Winebarger of Boone, died last Wednesday afternoon at his home from heart trouble.

Since all telephone and telegraph wires to this section were down and all highways closed, it was very difficult to get Mrs. Winebarger informed of her father's death, which finally came over the Charlotte radio station. Mr. and Mrs. Winebarger left early Friday morning to attend the funeral, returning Sunday.

Surviving besides Mrs. Winebarger are four daughters and four sons, living in Hickory, Durham, Statesville and Winston-Salem.

## MERCHANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL RETAIL EVENT

Members of the Boone Merchants Association are to participate in the National Retail Demonstration to be held the week of September 16 to 21, according to Mrs. Ruby P. Ellis, secretary of the association.

## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

Mr. Clyde R. Greene, secretary of the Three Forks Baptist Association, is anxious to secure photographs of the original Three Forks church building, old officers of the church, and old church buildings of the association. He would greatly appreciate those having such photographs loaning them to him for associational work.

## Red Cross Brings Speedy Relief To Storm Victims

Emergency Organization Delivers Food and Clothing to People of Devastated Areas; No Campaign for Funds Being Made

Mr. W. J. Jones, field representative of the American Red Cross, came to Boone last Friday and in conjunction with the Watauga Red Cross chapter, immediately established emergency headquarters in the John W. Hodges building, and began cataloguing the storm's damage and furnishing food and clothing to those made destitute.

Mr. Jones was in Elizabethton, Tenn., when he received word to come to Boone. He had already established his organization there, when he was ordered to Boone.

There was no telegraph or telephone service left in Boone following the storm and Paul Weston in traveling all of Wednesday night in carrying pictures to a Winston-Salem newspaper finally succeeded in getting the distress message to National Red Cross headquarters from the local chapter.

Mrs. Mildred Taylor Edwards, Red Cross case worker, has joined the local organization and two more workers will come later. Each case will be studied individually and Mrs. Garbee, president of the Watauga Red Cross chapter, and a special advisory committee will pass on the merits of the applications.

At least 53 families had been supplied with food and clothing by the first of the week, and the headquarters was a bee hive of activity. Thirty-two homes are gone, according to the Red Cross survey.

It is explained that the Red Cross relief is strictly an emergency aid to the people and citizens who have suffered hardship from any other cause than the flood, cannot be aided from this activity.

## CITIZENS URGED TO BOIL WATER

Health Department Order Made in Interest of Public Health; Boone Creek Polluted

Residents of the town of Boone are reminded that all water used for drinking purposes should be boiled, as a precautionary measure, pending such time as chemical analysis may be completed and the water supply be returned to its normal condition. The health department will give due notice when the order has been rescinded.

## BUS SERVICE REINSTATED

Regular bus schedules are again being operated through Boone. The Queen City Coach Company is operating between Boone, Charlotte, Johnson City and Asheville, while Greyhound service to Winston-Salem was maintained via Sparta and West Jefferson. Today the Greyhound is operating through to Mountain City and Bristol.

## Welfare Office Gives Victims Food Supplies

Mr. A. P. Langston, director of commodity distribution of the North Carolina board of charities and public welfare, visited Boone Friday and made arrangements whereby a good supply of food for 100 families in the flood area of Watauga county was sent here Saturday. This food has been distributed by the Watauga county department of public welfare. Mr. Langston said that additional food and other available commodities will be sent here for the relief of flood victims.

Food for the regular clients of the welfare department was sent here on Monday of this week, states Miss Marguerite Miller, welfare officer, and will be delivered on the regular days.

## LIVESTOCK MART HAS A GOOD YEAR

Two 10 Per Cent Dividends Paid To Stockholders Last Year; Prices Are Good

Business has been good again this year at the Watauga Livestock market, according to information coming from some of the officials in the organization, and the market which was organized in June, 1939, has already paid stockholders two dividends of 10 per cent each. The sales this year are about one-third greater than they were in 1939 and the market is perhaps the highest in this section of the country.

Good lambs sold on the market week before last at \$9.20, which is fully as good as the prices paid at some of the larger markets.

## DAMAGE AT CEMETERY

Considerable damage resulted to the Boone cemetery from the flood, many plots having sunken far below the level of the surrounding terrain, and the individuals are asked to make arrangements with Monroe Grimes, cemetery caretaker, to repair the damage to their plots.

## MORE THAN THIRTY HOMES DESTROYED IN THIS REGION

Many Take Treatment at Local Hospital for Injuries Sustained in Disaster; Destruction General Throughout the County

## Farm Lands, Highways Are Seriously Damaged

Damage to Farm Crops and Lands May Run Into Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars; Highways Are Opened and Telephone Service Restored; City Streets Are Being Repaired; Railway Lines Still Out; U. S. 421 May Be Opened in 30 Days; Power Plants Damaged in Record Rainfall

## BULLETIN!

A body found in Wilkes county late Tuesday and believed to be that of Nina Todd, who lost her life in the Stony Fork disaster, together with the death of Mrs. Wilburn Greene of Howard's Creek, which occurred in Watauga hospital early this morning, brings the total count of Watauga's death toll to sixteen.

The body, thought to be the remains of Miss Todd, was found in the Yadkin River near Ferguson by a small boy, and was buried in the sand of the river bottom except for one leg and one arm and was on the same plot of land on which the body of Zeb Greene was found. The partially decomposed body is being held for identification.

Mrs. Greene died from injuries sustained in the destruction of her home, wherein two children were killed. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Thirteen Watauga county people are known to have lost their lives, two are yet missing and believed dead, and one is a patient at a local hospital with little or no hope of recovery, as Watauga county checked up over the week-end on the death toll of the worst flood in the history of Watauga county, which destroyed at least 32 homes, numerous barns and other farm structures, inflicted inestimable agricultural losses and left large scale destitution in its wake.

The dead are: Martha Ann Carroll, Andrew W. Greene and daughters, Velma Lee, Creola and Verdetta Greene, Zeb V. Greene and Johnnie Greene, of Stony Fork township.

William Townsend and son, Lee Townsend, of Dutch Creek.

Two children of Bynum Shoemaker of Balm.

Wilburn Roscoe Greene and Joe Hardie Greene, small sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Greene of Howard's Creek.

The seven first named were killed in the huge landslide and flood waters in Stony Fork township. Mrs. Martha Ann Carroll and Johnnie Greene were killed when the Guy Carlton filling station was swept from the mountain by the landslide. The body of Johnnie Greene, nine years old, was not recovered until Sunday when it was found on a pile of driftwood fourteen miles down Stony Fork Creek. Mrs. Willie Greene, mother of the lad, is said to be seriously ill from shock and exposure.

Mrs. Iona Miller, who resided one mile from the Carlton place, is believed dead, as no trace has been found of her since the storm.

Andrew W. Greene and three (Continued on page eight)

## PAUL NORRIS DIES IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Beaver Dam Man Is Killed Monday When Truck Goes Down Mountains

Paul Norris, 33, well-known farmer and produce dealer of Beaver Dam township, died in the Blowing Rock clinic Monday afternoon from injuries sustained in a short while before, when the truck which he was driving left the highway four miles from Blowing Rock and plunged several hundred feet down the mountainside.

The accident occurred near the W. S. Hartley filling station on the Blowing Rock road and was said to have been caused when the rear wheels of the truck hit a muddy spot in the storm-damaged pavement, skidding from the highway. However, when Mr. Ray Breadal recovered the car from the ravine Tuesday he found that a worn connection on the steering column had fallen loose, and expressed the belief that when this occurred the car went out of control and plunged from the roadway. Mr. Norris suffered fractures of his right hip and left thigh in addition to cerebral injuries, which were believed to have been the immediate cause of his death.

Robert Moore, colored, who was accompanying Mr. Norris home from Columbia, S. C., where they had delivered a load of produce, suffered slight injuries and was treated at Watauga hospital.

Funeral services were conducted from the Bethel Baptist church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, by Rev. W. D. Ashley and burial was in that neighborhood.

Mr. Norris, who was a son of Mr. E. N. Norris and the late Mrs. Norris, had resided in Beaver Dam township all his life, where he had engaged in farming. Recently he had been dealing in produce and was a good, industrious citizen.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Mona Greer, and two small sons, Eddie and Johnny. The father also survives.

## HUNDREDS OF FARM FAMILIES DAMAGED

County Farm Committee and Other Farmers Gather Monday to Report on Disaster

About 1,200 farm families suffered the loss of feed supplies and other crops in last week's storm, it developed at a meeting of the county AAA committee and other farmers at the county agents quarters here last Monday.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather the information as to the agricultural situation following the storm and to inform the State College extension service and the farm security administration of the needs of the farmers in this county.

County Agent Harry Hamilton has written numbers of letters asking prices on feed for livestock and he urges the farmers of the county to hold their cattle for the present. Arrangements are being made to provide loans to those unable to buy feed so that as many of the feeder cattle as possible may be kept in the county. Individual farm problems will be analyzed as soon as possible, and Mr. Hamilton urges the farmers to await further information on the situation.

Meantime, state highway forces are doing everything possible to open up community roads so that produce now ready for the market may move.

Twenty-five per cent of the persons killed in traffic accidents in this state from January to July, 1940, were driving at the time they were killed.