

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. 53, NO. 38

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1941

\$1.50 A YEAR

STONEMAN RAID TO BE NOTED IN CITY ON STATE PLAQUE

Chamber of Commerce and Department Conservation Unite in Memorializing Raid of General Stoneman; Marker to Be on Main Street

Through the co-operation of the officials of the Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Conservation and Development, a bronze marker, size three by four feet, is soon to be erected here, calling attention to the raid of General Stoneman through the city at the close of the Civil War, at which time two local citizens and three of the raiders were slain.

The inscription on the historical marker will be "On a raid through western North Carolina, General Stoneman's U. S. cavalry fought a skirmish with the home guard at Boone March 20, 1865." The plaque will be erected somewhere along the main street of the town by the state highway commission, the site to be selected by city officials and property owners.

History of Battle

Herman Wilcox, president of the Chamber of Commerce, has compiled the following brief history of the historical incident:

"In 1865 a United States cavalry unit under the command of General Stoneman, made a raid through Watauga county and other counties in North Carolina, and was engaged in a skirmish with the Confederate home guard in Boone. During this encounter Ephraim Norris, father of the late Capt. E. J. Norris, and Jacob Council were slain. The Federals lost four men, whose remains were interred in the city cemetery. The graves are suitably marked. This battle was fought near the large white oak tree back of the F. A. Linney home. It was more or less of a running battle, which covered a considerable area in and out of the city limits of the town."

Boone Debaters To Go To Chapel Hill

Appalachian High Teams Win From North Wilkesboro and Lenoir

The debating teams of Appalachian high school won both debates in a recent triangular contest with Lenoir and North Wilkesboro high schools. The decision was unanimous in both debates.

All debates were held away from home with Appalachian's affirmative, composed of Hope Eller and A. Y. Howell, Jr., meeting the negative team from North Wilkesboro at Lenoir, while Appalachian's negative represented by Tharon Young and Baxter Howell, met Lenoir's affirmative at North Wilkesboro. In the contest held here, Lenoir's negative defeated North Wilkesboro's affirmative.

These debates were sponsored by the North Carolina High School Debating Union and the dual win entitles the Appalachian teams to enter the finals at the University of North Carolina to compete for the Aycock cup. It will be the second trip to Chapel Hill for three members of the local team.

In addition to the speakers taking part in this contest, Appalachian high school is represented in debating by two other teams composed of John Boone and Charles Rogers, affirmative, and Agnes Preston and J. B. Hagaman, negative. All of these speakers have established an enviable record in debates with neighboring schools and in the debate tournament held here recently.

Debating activities in the local school are under the direction of Mr. A. Frank Hamrick, administrative principal, and Miss Cleo Jones, college debater and student teacher. Mr. Hamrick states that he hopes to place debating and public speaking on a definite class basis next year, and that plans are under consideration for including such a course in the curriculum.

Four Are Accepted For Naval Service

C. J. Reinhardt, chief signalman, U. S. fleet reserve, spent Thursday and Friday here, seeking recruits for the navy, and states that four Watauga men have been accepted, subject to passing final examinations in Raleigh at some future date.

Those accepted are: Blaine James Combs, Claude Bodenhamer, Blaine Council Stanberry and Edgar Howell Edmisten. The three last named are now in school and will not report for final examination until after the present school term.

FRANCE STILL HAS A HERO



Among conquered France's big problems is the feeding of thousands of children. Here Marshal Petain, French premier, is welcomed to St. Etienne, by the town's children who look up to him as their national hero and as the man who will in some way provide food. Recently the British blockade has been relaxed to allow some food to enter from the United States.

LIONS HEAR HEAD OF DRAFT BOARD

Chairman Howell and Dr. King Give Interesting Figures on Operation of Draft Law

"Calls may be stepped up to include a new draft of military power every ten days," said Chairman V. C. Howell of the local selective service board, as he addressed the Boone Lions Club at its regular meeting last evening.

"So far," he continued, "we have registered a total of 2,004 at the local board, have inducted 37 into the service, of which number seven have been returned from camp on account of physical defects. The current quota calls for a total of 88 by June 30."

No colored men have been called into the service yet, but four have volunteered in the armed forces of the nation. Recent information from the national board, which included a questionnaire about the number of colored registrants, indicates that perhaps some of them may be inducted soon.

With the physical examination so exacting in the current draft, only about 10% of every 100 persons called in this county have been admitted. One of the reasons for this low percentage is that no married men have been called.

Dr. Robert R. King appeared on the Lions program and discussed some of the reasons for physical rejections. Bad teeth had disqualified over 22%, flat feet rank next in order, while hernia and conditions of blood pressure fall in their respective orders.

"Results of laboratory examinations made during registration," said Dr. King, "failed to indicate a single case of venereal disease." All blood tests made during registration went out of date March 2, he said, and new ones must be made for all future drafts.

MANY ARE INJURED IN ALLIS-CHALMERS STRIKE

Milwaukee, April 2.—Union strikers, using bricks and rocks, and law enforcement officers, armed with tear gas and fire hose, engaged in a two-and-a-half hour battle that sent 31 men to hospitals and emergency wards at the strike-bound Allis-Chalmers plant at suburban West Allis late yesterday.

At least seven men were injured seriously and taken to a Milwaukee hospital. Others were treated at the plant hospital.

Hundreds of windows of the company's main office and laboratory were broken, automobiles, including that of Governor J. P. Heil, were smashed and damaged; an eight-foot fence was torn down and the governor himself stoned as he tried to leave the shop office in which he had taken refuge.

The fight started at 3:30 p. m. and was still in progress last night.

AGED PONY DIES

"Gyp," Shetland pony, which has been in the family of Mr. J. S. Winkler of Boone, for 37 years, died from a broken neck last Sunday. The aged animal, which was well-known throughout this section, was in good condition, and was frisking about the barnyard, playing with a colt, when he fell, with the fatal results.

LIVESTOCK MART OPENS NEXT WEEK

Secretary Predicts Banner Year for Livestock Sales; Many Buyers Expected

The Watauga Livestock Market will hold its first sales of the season Wednesday, April 9, beginning at 2 o'clock, according to word coming from the secretary, Mr. Lester Carroll, and indications are that the initial sale will draw a large number of buyers from a wide territory.

Mr. Carroll says that higher prices are in prospect for stock this year, and that sales are expected to exceed those of the market's banner year of 1940. All kinds of livestock is handled at the local market and the highest prices have always been commanded.

Beginning next Wednesday sales will be held each Wednesday, starting promptly at 2 o'clock.

A. S. T. C. Luncheon Feature of Meeting

A luncheon for students, teachers and alumni of Appalachian College will be a feature of the state convention of the North Carolina Education Association held in Asheville Friday. The luncheon will be given at Broome's cafeteria at 1 p. m.

WATAUGA BOY, 11, DRIVES TRUCK FROM LAXON TO NORTH WILKESBORO

North Wilkesboro, April 1.—Lee Greene, age 11 and small for his age, did the miraculous Sunday afternoon. He drove a pick-up from Laxon in Watauga county to North Wilkesboro. It was his first time driving on a highway and it was a solo trip.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Greene, were away from home visiting a son at Fort Jackson, S. C. Lee was left at home with an older brother, who left some time during the day.

Lee was lonesome all by himself at the home and there stood the pickup with the keys conveniently in the switch. He had driven it a little about the farm but he had never been on a highway. But it would be easier, he said to himself, to drive on nice, smooth pavement.

He had a brother working in North Wilkesboro. He had been to North Wilkesboro; he knew that by getting on highway 421, that broad ribbon of pretty pavement, and going east that he would eventually get to North Wilkesboro, and he did.

He was so tiny that he couldn't sit on the seat and reach the steering wheel, clutch and brakes, so he stood up and leaned back against the seat, not a very comfortable position, to say the least.

There was no one at his home to molest his departure. He got in the highway and proceeded east. Motorists along the highway could not help but notice the small truck, which seemed at times to be out of control of the diminutive driver.

Observers sensed something amiss and someone called Police Chief Walker in North Wilkesboro to be on the lookout for the pickup. Police stationed themselves at Reddies River bridge here, not knowing just

MRS. HARRIS IS AGAIN NAMED ON WELFARE BOARD

County Commissioners to Appoint Second Member of Welfare Organization; the Two Members to Name the Third; Welfare Officer to Be Named July 1st

Mrs. Stanley A. Harris of Sherwood, has been reappointed by the state board of charities and public welfare to the Watauga county welfare board.

The board of county commissioners will choose a second member of the board at its April meeting, while the third member will be selected by the two appointees. The present welfare board is composed of T. C. Baird, Mrs. Harris and Avery W. Greene.

Under a 1941 law, the commissioners may designate one of their own body or any other person. Previously commissioners were not allowed to name one of their own group.

The appointment by the commissioners will be for a term of two years, running from the first of April, the appointee of the state board will serve for three years, and the third member selected by these two will serve for one year. Subsequent appointments will be for a term of two years in the case of each of the three members.

Prior service will not prevent the appointment of a member under the new set-up, but in the future members cannot serve more than three terms or six consecutive years.

One of the chief duties of the new welfare board will be the selection of the superintendent of welfare, who will take office July 1 for an indefinite term under a merit system soon to be installed. Before this year the superintendent was chosen for a two-year term by the commissioners and welfare board.

Honor Roll Given Out At Appalachian College

The honor roll for the winter quarter at Appalachian College has been released by the registrar, H. R. Eggers, and includes 139 students who made an average of "B" on courses for that quarter. Following is a list of Watauga county students on the honor roll:

Frances Canipe, Boone; Mabel Farthing, Sugar Grove; Sarah Wilma Harman, Sherwood; Harold Mast, Sugar Grove; Charlotte Farmer, Boone; Aubrey Payne, Boone; Helen Sherwood, Sugar Grove; David Thurman, Boone; Marie Wellborn, Deep Gap; Helen Winkler, Boone.

There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian language.

of C. Officials



Herman Wilcox, above, and Wade E. Brown, who have been named president and secretary, respectively, of the Boone Chamber of Commerce.

TWELVE TO GO TO ARMY ON FRIDAY

Watauga Men to Enter Service at Fort Jackson; Call Now Every Ten Days

Twelve Watauga county men registered under the selective service act, have been notified to appear at the offices of the local selective service board on Friday, April 4, at 9 a. m., whereupon they shall be sent immediately to Fort Jackson, S. C., for twelve months military training as provided in the defense act. Those required to appear Friday are:

Thurman Lester Price, Blowing Rock; Allen Mercer Norton, Boone; Buster Floyd Triplett, Triplett; Doughton Robert Baker, Boone; Oscar Fred Huffman, Blowing Rock; Lewis Edward Davis, Vilas; Charles Lee South, Sherwood; William Howard Kincaid, Sugar Grove; Thomas Blaine Ford, Blowing Rock; Frank Klutz, Blowing Rock; Raymond Miller, Meat Camp; Linney Howard Winkler, Laxon.

Mr. V. C. Howell, chairman of the local selective service board, states that instructions recently received state that for the time being calls for men will be made each 10 days, and that the next quota of 11 will be on April 12. The new instructions urge the local board to have a reserve of class A-1 men to meet any increase in requirements or frequency of calls.

Notice to Registrants

Attention of all registrants under the draft act is called to the law requiring them to keep in close touch with the local draft board, and notify it promptly of any change in address. All letters sent registrants are required to be answered immediately and penalties are provided for delinquency.

The draft board Tuesday finished sending questionnaires to those in the 700 group.

Attorney Jno. Ragland Is Found Dead in Auto

John W. Ragland, Spruce Pine attorney, and formerly a resident of Newland, was found dead in his car on the Marion highway about three miles from Spruce Pine Sunday morning, March 23. Friends of the attorney said he had visited friends Saturday evening and apparently was returning to his hotel in Spruce Pine when stricken.

A. E. Gouge, the coroner, was quoted as saying death resulted from natural causes. Funeral services were conducted Monday.

WILCOX, BROWN ARE NEW OFFICERS COMMERCE GROUP

J. C. Baskerville Principal Speaker at Banquet Meeting of Chamber of Commerce Held Friday; Says Tourists Revenue Millions

Herman W. Wilcox was named president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce for the third term at the annual meeting of the group held Friday evening and at a meeting of the board of directors held Monday evening Wade E. Brown was named secretary, succeeding S. C. Eggers.

R. A. Manship was elected vice-president, and C. A. Price, treasurer. Wade E. Brown, R. D. Hodges, John Conway, R. A. Manship, Herman Wilcox and C. A. Price constitute the board of directors.

The principal feature of the banquet session of the organization was an address by J. C. Baskerville, publicity director of the State Department of Conservation and Development, who declared that the future of this mountain town depended upon its ability to attract and hold the tourists who are anxious to spend time and money in this area. Mr. Baskerville introduced figures to show that if each person actually known to have passed through Boone in the past year could have been induced to have stayed over one day in Boone and had spent \$5 (the national average is \$3), the returns to the community would have been more than a million dollars. He stated that the trouble with Boone as well as other communities lies in the fact that they have provided no care for the traveler, and that without adequate accommodation and recreation facilities the tourists must travel on.

The full text of the address is as follows:

The Speech

North Carolina has definitely arrived as a tourist state, with the result that during 1940 some 3,300,000 persons from other states visited North Carolina in more than 1,100,000 automobiles, remained in the state for an average of six days and spent more than \$115,000,000 or an average of \$9,500,000 a month. The increase in travel noted during 1940 shows an increase in the amount expended by tourists during the year of at least 10 per cent, or from \$102,000,000 in 1939, to \$115,000,000 in 1940.

These figures are not mere guesswork or stats in the dark. They are based upon actual counts of out-of-state cars on North Carolina highways made by the state highway and public works commission; on counts made by the national park service and the U. S. forest service in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the various national forests and on gasoline consumption figures.

During 1940, for instance, a total of 453,712,653 gallons of tax-paid gasoline was sold in North Carolina, an increase of 31,013,724 gallons over 1939, and 56,700,186 gallons over the amount consumed in 1938, when the total amounted to 397,011,866 gallons. It is estimated that between 50,000,000 and 75,000,000 gallons of gasoline sold in the state in 1940 was purchased by tourists from other states and that these tourists traveled more than one million car miles while in North Carolina.

These figures show that within the space of three years, since the state advertising campaign was started, the travel and tourist business has almost trebled so that it is now one of the biggest business "crops" in the state, ranking next to the tobacco crop in cash value. The 1939 tobacco crop brought only \$121,000,000 or only \$19,000,000 more than the travel "crop." It amounts to almost five times as much as the cash value of the 1939 cotton lint crop, which brought only about \$21,000,000. It has the further advantage in that it requires no fertilizer, does not have to be financed, requires no cultivation, plowing or curing. It is cash on the barrel head and goes into immediate circulation, helping everybody in the state.

Back in 1937, however, when the state advertising program was first started, the travel business in North Carolina amounted to only about \$35,000,000 a year. It should not be surmised, however, that the department of conservation and development claims the credit for all of this increase as a result of the state advertising campaign. It knows that thousands of people would have come to North Carolina anyway, even if there had been no state advertising campaign. It does believe, however, that the advertising done now for three years, reaching

(Continued on page five)