

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1941

\$1.50 A YEAR

## \$5,000 AWARDED BY JURY IN DEATH OF GLADYS YATES

Family of Girl Who Met Death by Electrocutation Last Fall Win Verdict in Superior Court; Adjudgment Follows Wednesday Afternoon

Relatives of Gladys Yates, who was almost instantly killed when she came in contact with an electric transmission line owned by the Northwest Carolina Utilities Co., won a \$5,000 jury award in superior court last Wednesday afternoon, after a relatively short trial.

The suit was brought on the contention that the electric wire which resulted in the death of the girl, was near the ground due to the decay of the poles on which the wires were strung, while the defendant alleged contributory negligence on the part of the Yates child.

Following the disposal of this case court was adjourned with quite a few cases remaining on the civil calendar. It has not been definitely determined whether or not the June term of civil court will be held.

## Skyline Drive Funds Endorsed

Washington.—The house appropriations committee last Wednesday recommended an expenditure of \$6,000,000 to continue construction on the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace parkways through June 30, 1942.

Although \$4,000,000 in excess of the 1941 appropriation, the amount already had been authorized by congress and approved by the budget bureau.

Of the proposed 1942 expenditure, \$4,400,000 would be available for the Blue Ridge parkway under construction from the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains Park in North Carolina, and \$1,600,000 for the Natchez Trace from Nashville, Tenn., to Natchez, Miss.

The committee explained an effort was being made to complete construction of the Blue Ridge route from Roanoke, Va., to Asheville, N. C.

### Military Routes

A. E. Demary, associate director, told congress in published hearings on the 1942 interior department appropriation bill the scenic highways would offer opportunity for rapid movement of men and materials.

He referred to the 485-mile Blue Ridge parkway and the 454-mile Natchez Trace project, and a 19-mile section of the George Washington Memorial parkway in Virginia.

Demary disclosed the park service planned to spend \$6,000,000 in the next fiscal year on the park ways, an amount already authorized.

Demary explained the Blue Ridge parkway was within one day's drive of approximately 60,000,000 people. He said a 250-mile section of this scenic route was approaching completion between Roanoke and Asheville, with 140 miles already open from Adney Gap, Va., to Deep Gap, N. C.

## JUNE RUSSELL SERIOUSLY HURT IN AUTO ACCIDENT

June Russell was seriously injured Monday afternoon late in an automobile accident on the street near his home.

Mr. Russell had gone into the street to try to save a puppy from injury when he was struck by a laundry delivery truck driven by Jim Ragan. The machine was traveling rather slowly, it is stated, but Mr. Russell suffered a fractured left leg just above the ankle, and serious lacerations of the right thigh. He was immediately taken to Watauga Hospital, where it is said his condition is favorable.

## RED CROSS ACTIVITIES TO HAVE RADIO PUBLICITY

With the entire nation concentrating on national defense, the Red Cross defense activities are to be dramatized in a new series of nation-wide radio programs, beginning March 23.

The series title is "Frontlines of Mercy," and it will be carried by the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company every Sunday for 13 weeks. Broadcast time is 11:15 to 11:30 a. m., e. s. t. The programs will combine drama and brief interviews with nationally prominent persons identified with defense, health, safety and education.

## NEW CITY OFFICIALS



W. H. GRAGG



G. K. MOOSE



KENNETH LINNEY



D. L. WILCOX

Grouped above are Boone's newly-elected city government. W. H. Gragg won over his Democratic opponent, Wade E. Brown, by 87 votes, while Messrs. Moose, Wilcox and Linney received somewhat smaller majorities.

## Appalachian Athlete Meets Death In Crash of Motorcycle Monday

Ernie Safrit, 22 years old, Appalachian College senior and one of the institution's star athletes, was almost instantly killed in the crash of a motorcycle here on Monday afternoon. The accident occurred on the Blowing Rock road near the home of W. R. Winkler, the machine having crashed into a fence post when the front tire burst. Safrit suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries, and died within a few minutes.

Say Ray of Marion, Va., Appalachian junior, who was riding on the machine with Safrit, was not seriously injured.

Safrit was a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Safrit of Albemarle and had spent the week-end at home, where

he received the motorcycle as a graduating present. He would have received his degree at Appalachian Friday.

One of the most popular students at Appalachian State, Safrit was a three-letterman in football, basketball and baseball. He was captain of the baseball team and had been promised a professional career after his graduation.

During the senior class superlatives election, Safrit was named the most athletic member of his class.

Surviving are the parents; one sister Virginia Safrit, and two brothers, Henry and Walter Safrit of Albemarle.

The body was taken to Albemarle for interment.

## MULL TO SPEAK AT COLLEGE FINALS

Speaker of House of Representatives to Deliver Graduating Address

Hon. Odus M. Mull, speaker of the house of representatives, will be the principal speaker at Appalachian College Friday morning when 126 members of the graduating class will receive their diplomas from President B. B. Dougherty.

The exercises will begin promptly at 11 o'clock and the general public is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. Mull, who is a graduate of Wake Forest College, is a forceful orator and has for many years been one of the leading figures in the public life of the state.

Special music for the exercises will be provided by the college symphony orchestra and the a cappella choir.

## CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S CLINIC WILL BE HELD ON MAY 15TH

The crippled children's clinic will be held at the health department in Boone on Thursday, May 15th, at 1 p. m., Dr. Robert R. King, district health officer, announces. Dr. J. B. Gaul of Charlotte will conduct the clinic, and all cripples who have been notified to come should be present at this hour. Any others needing the attention of an orthopedist are invited to attend the clinic.

## TEN GO TO FORT BRAGG FRIDAY

Watauga's Current Military Quota Includes Four Volunteers For Service

Ten Watauga county men will leave next Friday for Fort Bragg to enter military training under the national draft program. Included in the current quota are four volunteers:

Cicero James Proffit, Zionville; Paul Alfred Coffey, Boone Route 1; Charles Potter, Boone R. F. D. 2; Edgar William Eggers, Sugar Grove R. F. D. 1.

The others are: Robert Olen Osborne, Boone; Raymond Prescott Miller, Zionville R. F. D. 1; Ernest David Brown Boone Route 2; Stuart L. Greene Laxon; Ronda Bennett Story, Blowing Rock R. F. D. 1; Jasper Hall Triplett, Blowing Rock Route 1.

The men are required to report at the office of the local selective service board at 8:15 Friday morning.

## PASTORS TO ATTEND BAPTIST CONVENTION

Reverends J. C. Canipe, G. A. Hamby, H. K. Middleton, Vilas Minton and Dwight Edmisten expect to leave next Tuesday for Birmingham, Ala., where they will attend the Southern Baptist convention. They will return home the following Saturday evening.

## REDDEN NAMED AS HEAD OF NEW BLUE RIDGE PARK GROUP

Gordon H. Winkler of Boone is Secretary to the Executive Committee; Initial Meeting of Commission is Held in Asheville Saturday

Asheville, May 4.—Monroe Redden of Hendersonville, was named chairman of the newly-appointed Blue Ridge Parkway at its initial meeting here yesterday.

Five members of the executive committee of which the chairman is an ex-officio member, was named as follows: McKinley Edwards of Bryson City, H. C. Jarvis of Asheville, Dover F. Fouts of Burnsville, C. J. Lyon of Polk and Gordon H. Winkler of Boone.

Gordon H. Winkler was named secretary to the executive committee, following the election of Mr. Lynch as chairman.

John H. Enwright of Asheville, was recommended as executive secretary of the commission, and his appointment to the post was announced by Governor Broughton at the Young Democratic rally here last night.

Members of the commission were called to order by Mr. Redden, who had been designated by Governor Broughton as temporary chairman of the commission. He explained the purpose of the meeting.

After the permanent chairman had been chosen and members of the executive committee appointed, Mr. Winkler, who introduced the bill which created the commission, was asked to explain it.

He demurred, and suggested that Lyles Harris, who had been active in the movement to set up such a commission, explain it. Mr. Harris, who actually drew the bill which was introduced and passed, related various experiences in which he discovered the need for some coordinating agency representing the various communities to work with the National Park service in handling matters connected with the establishment and operation of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

He cited various steps that had been taken to get the bill in shape and said that because it was introduced so late in the session there was no opportunity to provide in the budget for payment of the salary of the executive secretary. He said that this item would have to be cared for through other sources.

Meanwhile, members of the executive committee had retired to select an executive secretary and came in with the name of Mr. Enwright who was chosen unanimously.

Members of the extreme eastern group of counties called attention of the commission to the fact that they had no representation on the committee.

Upon motion of Guy Roberts of Marshall, the chairman was made an ex-officio member of the board and the place thus vacated was filled by a man chosen by the counties in question, all of which were east of Yancey. After a brief caucus the group selected Mr. Winkler, author of the bill, to serve on the executive committee.

## ASHE COUNTY MAN TO HEAD RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Governor J. M. Broughton announced last week that Gwyn B. Price of West Jefferson, who has long been associated with co-operative movements, would be the new chairman of the North Carolina rural electrification authority.

At the same time the chief executive released the reappointments of Ed F. Allen of Lenoir, Dr. Jane S. McKimmon of Raleigh, and W. M. Shrad of Henderson, to the REA board. They and Price will serve four-year terms beginning June 5.

The other two members—D. E. Purcell of Rockingham county, and Prof. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of Chapel Hill—will serve until the expiration of their terms June 5, 1943. They, with the others, resigned some time ago but their resignations were not acted upon and they were requested to complete their terms.

Price succeeds Prof. David S. Weaver of N. C. State College, who has been serving as acting chairman but who requested that he be relieved of his duties.

## TENNIS COURT READY

The tennis court on the property to the rear of the Methodist church is now open to the public, and there are no charges in connection with its use. The only requirement is that those playing use soft soled shoes. The court may be used any day except Sunday.

## Republicans Make Clean Sweep of Municipal Offices in Election Held Tuesday; Watt Gragg Leads Ticket

### COUNTY TEACHERS NAMED FOR YEAR

Board of Education Approves Tutors for Various County Schools Monday

The board of education on Monday gave final approval to the teachers for the various schools of the county for the coming school year.

A complete list of the teachers follows:

**District 1—Appalachian High**  
E. S. Christenbury, principal; Mrs. Martha M. Rivers, Mrs. Lucille M. Nash, Oliver Karraker, Herbert W. Wey, Kelley G. Miles, Philip Cartwright, Miss Billie Happpholdt, Chalmers McCollum, A. Frank Hamrick, Miss Ina M. Bassett, Orby Southard.

**Appalachian Elementary**  
John T. Howell, principal; Miss Eula Todd, William M. Cole, Harry B. Hefflin, Miss Lavinia B. Tyler, Miss Louise Atkinson, Julius Edwin Rivers, Miss Ella Austin, Miss Clyde May Goodman, Mrs. Annie S. Clay, Miss Dorothy Gray, Miss Ruth Robinson, Miss Rachel Mastin.

**Howard's Creek**  
Mrs. Bessie S. Crawford, Miss Maggie E. Moretz.

**Rutherford**  
Mrs. Edith F. Estes, Mrs. Ruby S. Michael.

**Miller**  
Miss Mary L. Winkler.

**Rich Mountain**  
Mrs. Wilametta R. Norris.

**Bamboo**  
Roy Dotson, Mack Cowles, Mrs. Lucy H. Storie.

**District 2—Green Valley**  
Albert W. Michael, principal; O. G. Winebarger, Miss Lola M. Rowe, Mrs. Louise F. Miller.

**Winebarger**  
Arle E. Moretz, Mrs. Louisa Miller.

**Riverview**  
Miss Elizabeth Taylor.

**District 3—Deep Gap**  
Donald C. Thompson, principal; Mrs. Ola T. Thompson, Mrs. Eula C. Cowles, Miss Edith Walker, Mrs. Raleigh Cottrell.

**Stony Fork**  
I. J. Bingham, Mrs. Mary Welborn.

**Mi Paron**  
D. L. Bingham.

**Elk**  
Mrs. I. E. Miller, Miss Pearle J. Cowles, Mrs. Reka Shoemaker.

**Lower Elk**  
Vacant.

(Continued on page eight)

## CALDWELL COUNTY SINGING CONVENTION

The 57th semi-annual session of the Caldwell County Singing convention will be held at the new Rhodhiss graded school building on the third Sunday in May.

The management is arranging to install loud speakers so all can hear. All classes, quartets, etc., from Watauga and adjoining counties are cordially invited to come and take part.

## JOHN D. CLAWSON PROMOTED

Fort Bragg, N. C., May 5.—In orders just issued, Private John D. Clawson of Boone, was appointed sergeant, on the recommendation of his commander. Sergeant Clawson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Clawson and has been in the army since last November 16. Military authorities state that this promotion was based on his attention to duty and soldierly qualities.

## GEORGE HOPKINS

George Hopkins, aged about 60, brother of the late Mrs. John W. Hodges of Boone, died at the home near Mountain City, Tenn., Monday, following a long period of illness. Funeral services are to be held this (Wednesday) afternoon. Mr. Hopkins, who was a prominent farmer and leading citizen of his neighborhood, is survived by the widow and a number of sons and daughters.

## TRIPLETS

A Jersey cow belonging to Mr. Poley C. Wyke set up a new record among the bovines of this section recently, when she gave birth to three white faced calves.

The calves which are almost identical, are practically as large as the usual calf and are thriving. Mr. Wilby Brown of Route 2, has purchased the triplets, and sees no reason why they will not all survive.

## G. O. P. Takes Over Reins of City Government Handily in Election; Gragg Elected Mayor or by 87 Majority; G. K. Moose, D. L. Wilcox and Kenneth Linney New Aldermen

The Republican party made a clean sweep of municipal offices in the election held Tuesday, Watt H. Gragg winning the mayoralty race by an 87 majority over Wade E. Brown, Democrat, and G. K. Moose, D. L. Wilcox and Kenneth Linney winning the offices of aldermen over their Democratic opponents by somewhat lessened majorities.

In the race for mayor Mr. Gragg, according to the official count, polled 470 votes, against 383 for Mr. Brown, making a majority for Mr. Gragg of 87.

The vote for the Republican candidates for aldermen was as follows: G. K. Moose 457, D. L. Wilcox 430, Kenneth Linney 428. The vote for the defeated Democratic candidates was: D. P. Wyke 412, Chappell Wilson 406, W. R. Winkler 410.

Dr. G. K. Moose, one of the new aldermen, is out of town today and it was said the new officials will take their oaths of office immediately upon his return.

All of the newly elected officials are experienced in matters of city government, all save one, Kenneth Linney, having previously served on the council.

W. H. Gragg, mayor-elect, laundry operator and secretary of the Watauga Building and Loan Association, has previously served as mayor of the town, and is one of her most public-spirited citizens.

G. K. Moose, pharmacist, and owner of Boone's oldest retail establishment, has served on the board, as has D. L. Wilcox, successful furniture retailer. Kenneth Linney, son of the late Frank A. Linney, is a hardware merchant and successful business man.

Each of the four men elected have had wide and varied experience and have succeeded well in the management of their own businesses. They are thoroughly qualified to administer well the trust which has been placed in them by the electorate.

## G. C. Robbins Re-elected Mayor of Blowing Rock

In Tuesday's election, Grover C. Robbins, incumbent, was re-elected mayor of Blowing Rock, and the three members of the board of aldermen are S. E. Hartley, B. H. Moody and W. B. Castle.

## T. A. Greene Loses Home By Fire Friday

Mr. T. A. Greene, resident of the Laxon neighborhood, lost his home and almost its entire contents by fire last Friday.

Neighbors have been aiding Mr. Greene on account of his misfortune and considerable lumber has been furnished him to start the rebuilding of his home. Beds, furniture, etc., are needed together with articles of clothing for the family. Any assistance which could be given the family in this regard would be appreciated.

## C. C. C. CAMP TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON FRIDAY

The C. C. C. camp at Mortimer announces that on next Friday afternoon and evening "open house" will be observed at the camp, and Miss Marguerite Miller, county welfare officer, says that she has received a cordial invitation for local citizens to be the guests of the camp management on this occasion. At least 20 guests are wanted from Watauga county. All those wishing to go should notify Miss Miller of their intention at once.

Guests should be at the camp by 3:30 in the afternoon and a feature of the entertainment will be a fried chicken dinner.

## WINS IN SPEAKING CONTEST

Ned Austin, president of the local chapter of Future Farmers of America, won first place in an F. F. A. public speaking contest held at Cranberry on Thursday, May 1. The contest was sponsored by the Parkway Federation of F. F. A. chapters in Alleghany Avery and Watauga counties, and entitles the winner to enter the district contest to be held at Mocksville on May 15.

The title of the winning speech is "Some Effects of the Present World Crisis on American Agriculture."