

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1950

FIVE CENTS

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

ALFRED ADAMS, the new cashier down at the Northwest Bank, had a pretty firm hold on the note case, and a rather grim look on his face as long lines of customers waited to renew their notes, borrow a bit more, ask about the current interest rates, or just plain pass the time of day right at the wrong time . . . And we were silently mapping a plan of attack on the business end of the local banking institution when Lawyer L. H. Smith called our attention to the fact that Mr. Adams had moved a larger desk into the ante room, where the notes are signed and the interest figured out, and the past due notices mailed to those who didn't come across . . . Sure enough, Mr. Farthing's well-worn desk, which always looked far too small, had given way to one much larger . . . We chided the new cashier about the expanded oaken surface, as he thumbed through the notes, selected a nice fat one, and made a calculation . . . Lawyer Smith wondered just why the old desk had so quickly been outgrown . . . Mr. Adams smiled broadly:

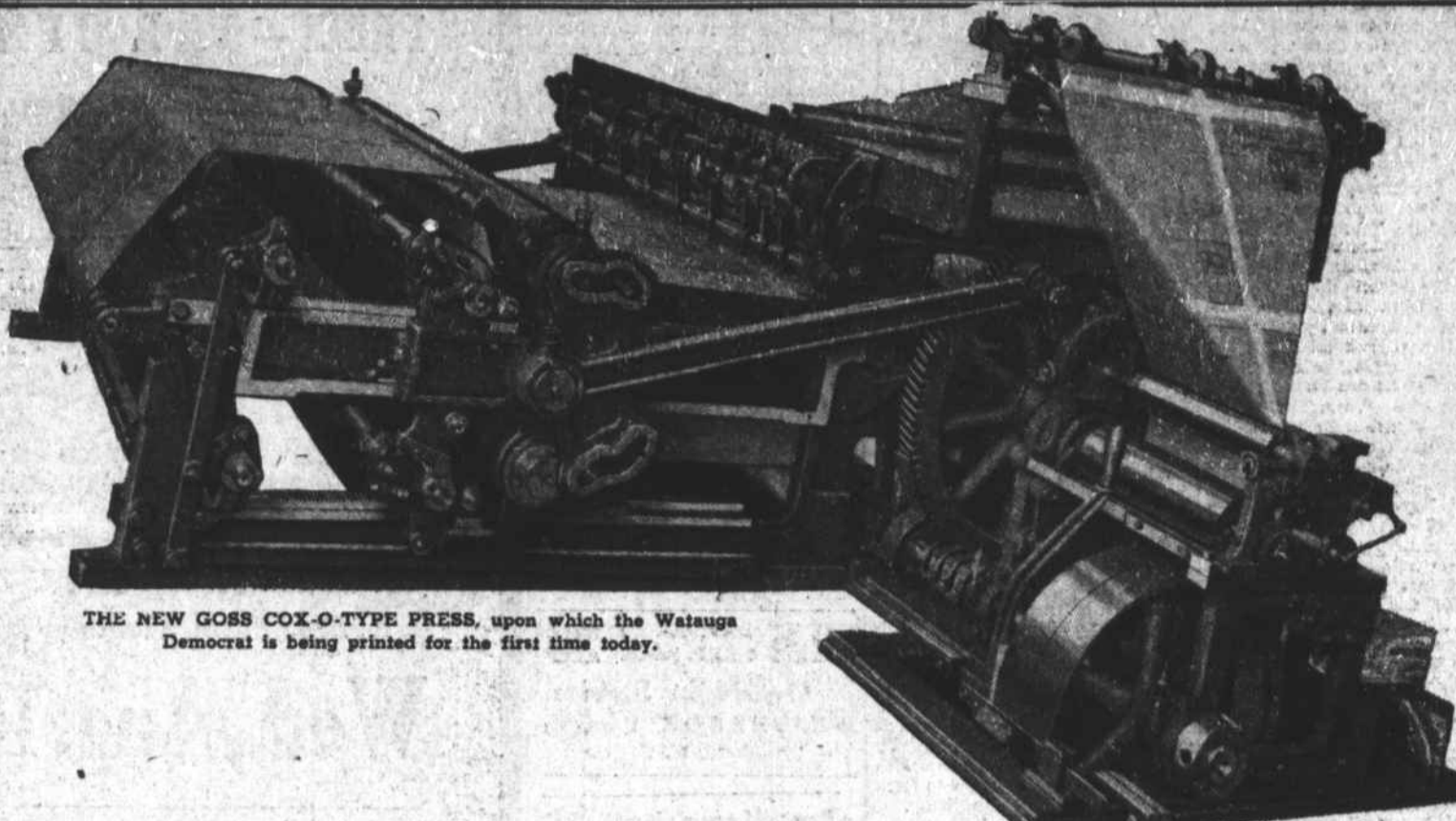
"YOU KNOW," he said, there is a quotation from Hamlet which fits the situation at hand: 'Give a little man a little authority around a big place, and pretty soon he's cramped for room!' . . . And those waiting smiled and the genial banker settled back down to his notes and his interest figures, and the serious business of saying yes and no to the various persons who came by the desk to seek a bit of cash, or to ask advice, or to say they just didn't know what the heck to do!

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT comes forth today from a brand new press, the fourth to publish the local newspaper during its sixty-two years of continuous publication, and we look back to the old days when a tiny sheet was regularly printed on the old Washington hand press by the late Robert C. Rivers, Sr. . . . This old machine which still is used at the Democrat for proofing purposes was manufactured by R. Hoe and Co. about the year 1845, and had seen 43 years of service when it was hauled from Hickory across the rutted mountain to Boone in the year 1888. One year later Bob Rivers began the publication of the newspaper and for more than 24 years worked the old hand lever, the movement of his feet having twice worn through the pine boards of the floor in the old building . . . In fact Bob Rivers was an expert at running the old machine, and Josephus Daniels, Sr., used to chide him about his claim that he had been able to produce 200 impressions per hour on the crude machine . . . Daniels said it just wasn't done in his day.

"I DON'T KNOW," wrote Mr. Daniels, "whether or not Bob Rivers' family has a coat of arms—at any rate it should have, and I would suggest that the crest carry in relief a Washington handpress rampant, the name 'Rivers,' and underneath in gilded letters '200 Per Hour.'"

AT ANY RATE, the old press was used until 1913, when Bob Rivers bought a tiny cylinder press, which could manage a couple of six-column pages at the rate of seven or eight hundred per hour . . . Sears Roebuck and Co. supplied a one horsepower gas engine, and indeed the cup of the venerable publisher runneth over . . . There being no gasoline sold around town in those days, the late Walter J. Lenoir, in the hardware business across the hill, sent us over a five gallon can of gas, and a gallon of motor oil, which lasted quite a spell for the circulation of that day . . . The little machine, chronicled the first world war, the coming of the railway to Boone, and the initial expansion at the Appalachian College . . . In 1922, the big Babcock drum was placed in operation, when it finished its grind down at the Gastonia Gazette, and since that time has unfailingly produced the local newspaper through thick and thin, fair weather and foul, and will soon be moved away to take up the grind again on another sheet . . . The old press covered the local happenings of the roaring twenties, the Al Smith campaign, the depression, the Roosevelt era, the second war and the wonders of the machine age . . . It told of the death of Bob Rivers and his wife, who operated the newspaper for so long, of the growth of the town into a small city, of the passing along of such faithfuls as Capt. Lovell, M. B. Hightbrin, E. S. Coffey, D. D. Blackberry, Crack Council, W. L. Bryan, M. P. Critcher, Dick Fletcher, John Hardin, Ben Council, Dr. Jones,

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THE NEW GOSS COX-O-TYPE PRESS, upon which the Watauga Democrat is being printed for the first time today.



MRS. MINTON

Mrs. Minton, Watauga Pioneer, Dies At 100

Local Man Gets Model Car Award

Albert Wineberger, Jr., Route 2, Boone, last week was declared winner of an honorable mention award in the Senior Division of the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition.

With three other North Carolina youths in the Senior Division, who won similar awards, Wineberger received a model builders' tool chest.

In addition to the tool chest, cash awards totalling \$600 went to six North Carolina winners . . . Other winners in the state were:

Senior Division: 1st place (\$150) Laurence Alspaugh, Greensboro; 2nd place (\$100) Robert Tucker, Jr., Greensboro; 3rd place (\$50) Willard Marshall, Maple.

Honorable mention: William Whisman, Charlotte; David Brown, Henderson; James Lilly, Jr., Charlotte.

Junior Division: 1st place (\$150) Ben Taylor, Maple; 2nd place (\$100) Tim Hendrix, Maple; 3rd place (\$50) Jack Myatt, Burlington.

Honorable mention: Jimmy Smith, N. Belmont; John Till, III, Asheville; Clifton Williams, Jr., East Bend; Eddie Parker, Rocky Point.

Mrs. Martha E. Arnett Is Taken by Death

Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Arnett, 80 years old, resident of Sugar Grove, died Monday at Watauga Hospital.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday at the Bethel Baptist Church by Rev. Ed Farthing and Dr. Wiley Smith and interment was in the Norris cemetery.

The husband, Jake Arnett survives, with one son and one daughter: Thomas Arnett, Reese; Mrs. Mima Hicks, Sugar Grove.

Deep Gap Man Injured In Korean War Theatre

Pvt. Roser B. Watson, son of Mrs. A. G. Watson of Deep Gap has been wounded in action in the Korean area, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Three other North Carolinians were also listed as wounded in action on the Korean peninsula. They are: Pvt. Charles R. Hunt, son of Ralph N. Hunt of Charlotte; Pfc. Adell Spicer, brother of Elsie Mae Meadows of Mayesville and Pfc. Wayne W. Wilson, son of Mrs. Julia H. Wilson of Oxford.

Louis definitely set for comeback; seeks fight in September.

NEW PRESS USED FIRST TIME TODAY

Today's Watauga Democrat is the first edition of the local newspaper to be printed on the publication's new Goss perfecting press, and an eight column format is being used, to bring the page-size up to present-day standards.

The new machine, which is the last word in newspaper presses for non-metropolitan journals, was built for the Democrat by the Goss Printing Press Company of Chicago, and Messrs. Bill Baar and Rudolph Polz have been engaged for the past ten days in erecting the equipment and getting the necessary adjustments made. The machine prints and folds the Democrat at a speed of more than 3,600 per hour, prints from rolls rather than flat sheets, and more than doubles both the capacity and speed of the discarded equipment. It is the first of these advanced-type machines to be brought to this immediate section, and marks a forward step on the part of the local newspaper, the first in its contemplated long-range expansion program.

During the time the press is being finally adjusted and the first runs made, some imperfections in print are quite likely, but it is hoped that the journal will be able to come out on schedule during this transition period in the mechanical department.

Merchants To Fete Employees

The members of the Boone Merchants Association will play hosts to their employees at the annual picnic which is scheduled to be held at Camp Sky Ranch at Blowing Rock, Wednesday, August 23, and members of special committees are busily engaged in working out the details for the outing.

The afternoon's festivities will start at 2 o'clock, and a program of games and other entertainment will precede the picnic which is slated for 6:30.

Members of the committees in charge of the merchants' picnic are:

Food: Miss Patsy Swift (chairman); Mrs. Billie Church, Miss Bumgarner and Burl Greene.

Program: Mrs. Winnie Hodges, chairman; Miss Bonnie Isaacs, Mrs. Kathleen Hodges.

Program details will be complete by the next edition of the Watauga Democrat. Meantime, all employees of merchants association members are expected to attend.

Blois Grissom New Grid Mentor

Big Blois Grissom, heavy duty tackle on Appalachian State Teachers College football eleven for the past three seasons, has been named by E. C. Duggins as coach of the Mountaineer JV team this fall. He will be assisted by Roy Smith, also an ex-Mountaineer gridder.

Grissom, a 1941 graduate of Henderson High School, gained his first college football experience under Coach Wally Butts of Georgia, going to the Rose Bowl with the Bulldogs in 1942. Snapped up by military service in the spring of 1942, he served as a sergeant in the Marine Air Corps, finding time to play football with an all-star South Pacific aggregation.

Entering Appalachian State in the fall of 1947, he earned line (continued from page four)

Boone Flower Show Will Get Underway Thursday



REV. S. E. GRAGG

Local Minister Is Given Honors

The Rev. S. E. Gragg of Shulls Mills was one of three church leaders honored Sunday at the Tabernacle Advent Christian Church in Lenoir, the other ministers being the Rev. Robert L. Isbell, pastor of the church, and the Rev. N. W. Harrison of Four Oaks. The combined ministerial service of the three totals 168 years.

The service was the fourth annual event marking the many years of service by the three outstanding ministers of the Advent Christian denomination. It lasted throughout the day, with a picnic dinner being served in the church yard at the noon hour.

Rev. Gragg, who is perhaps Watauga County's oldest active minister, spoke briefly at the afternoon service.

Local Leaders at Wilmington Meet

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Winkler and Mr. S. C. Eggers, vice president for North Carolina of the highway 421 commission, were among those present for a director's meeting of the commission July 28, at Wilmington, N. C.

Promotion of "The Coast to Great Lakes Scenic Highway" is expected to get under way within the next few months, according to plans drawn by the board, a membership drive to enlist all municipalities and establishments along the highway from Fort Fisher to Gary, Indiana, being the first step.

Stressed in the program will be the three-fold potentialities of the route—as a military road, linking Ft. Bragg with the sea and back to the interior of the continent; as a road through which commercial and agricultural products of the area it crosses can be tapped; and as a route leading to top-quality resorts.

Among the localities represented at the meeting were Dunn, Watauga, Sampson, and Randolph counties. This was the third such session which has been held. The first was in Boone and the second in Sanford.

Bloodshed Boxscore

Killed Aug. 1 thru Aug. 3 8
Injured Aug. 1 thru Aug. 3 86
Killed thru Aug. 3 this year 508
Killed thru Aug. 3, 1949 453
Injured thru Aug. 3, 1950 6,709
Injured thru Aug. 3, 1949 5,194

No Military Demand Yet Made on County

TEACHERS ARE APPROVED FOR CO. SCHOOLS

Most of the Teaching Positions in the County Have Been Filled for the 1950-51 Terms; A List of Teachers; Schools To Open Aug. 29.

County superintendent of schools, W. H. Walker, has released the list of teachers for the various county schools, as approved by the board of education, and practically all the teaching positions in the county have already been filled for the 1950-51 term.

All the county schools will open on August 29, Mr. Walker states, and following is a list of the teachers who have been employed:

Appalachian High School
Herbert W. Wey, principal; James Leek, Mrs. Margaret E. Gragg, Miss Theo E. Wells, Edgar Beatty, Fred T. Hollis, Robert O. Nolan, Mrs. Martha G. Hawkins, Miss Charlotte E. Adams, Miss Mabel V. Brister, J. Frank Randall, R. L. Tait, Miss Kathleen McDonald, Miss Betty Sue Tilley, William Ross, John Sides, Mrs. Elsie Erneston, Nicholas Erneston, Russell Blanton. A vacancy exists in the girls' physical education department.

Appalachian Eighth Grade
Robert Jenkins, H. C. Tripp, W. Paul Bingham, Mrs. Mary F. Hamby, Mr. Ewell Hopper, Miss Nadine Gragg.

Boone Demonstration
John T. Howell, principal; D. C. Thompson, Earl Petrey, Ben H. Horton, Jr., Melvin M. Lashure, Miss Isabell Mason, Miss Clyde Mae Goodman, Miss Mary E. Gibbs, Mrs. Bessie S. Crawford, Miss Christine H. Innings, Mrs. Ennis R. Davis, Mrs. Ella A. Beasleys, Mrs. Grace M. Council, Mrs. Velma M. Cottrell, Mrs. Louise W. Horton, Joan Hope, Mrs. Grace Buckland. Vacancies exist in the fifth grade and health and physical education department.

Rich Mountain
Mrs. China R. Lavender, Rutherford.

Bamboo
Miss Pearl J. Cowles, principal; Mrs. Helen E. Trexler, Mrs. Lucy H. Storie.

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Orphans Home Day On Sunday

Four of the country's outstanding singing artists and a noted pianist will present two traditional programs in Blowing Rock this weekend.

The Evening of Music will be observed Friday evening at 9 p. m. at the Blowing Rock Country Club, and Grandfather Home Day will be held at the Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning.

This year's program will feature Miss Genevieve Rowe, soprano, Miss Helen Olheim, contralto, John Baker, baritone, Ernest McChesney, tenor, and Stuart Ross, pianist. All proceeds from the Evening of Music will go to the Blowing Rock Hospital and contributions at the Grandfather Home for Children at Banner Elk. Last year more than \$1000 was raised.

Misses Rowe and Olheim and Mr. McChesney are all internationally known for their vocal ability, each having sung throughout the world with the finest opera companies. Mr. Baker, returning to Blowing Rock for the second time, is one of the leading young baritones with the Metropolitan Opera Company. Pianist Stuart Ross has for many years been one of America's most noted musicians. He will be in Blowing Rock for the seventh time.

David Owens, Charlotte industrialist and a Blowing Rock summer resident, each year makes complete arrangements for both programs. This year will mark the thirty-second year that the Grandfather program has been presented. Mr. Owens secures the artists through the Community Concert Association in New York each year and he pays all costs for bringing the musicians to the mountain. In turn, all proceeds are turned over to the hospital and the orphanage, thus multiplying many times Mr. Owens' contribution.

Local Draft Board Is Opened As Service Records Arrive; Mrs. Robbins Is In Charge

Watauga County Selective Service quarters were again activated last week as service records arrived and Mrs. Alice C. Robbins was placed in charge of the office in the County Building. State induction centers, however, have still made no manpower demands on the county, despite the fact that 5,200 youths are scheduled to be examined in the State this month to procure the September quota of 1,525 set for North Carolina.

The Watauga draft board is composed of Joe Todd, chairman, H. J. Cottrell and Paul Coffey.

Approximately 150 men went through pre-induction processing Monday, Raleigh, Fayetteville, and Charlotte recruiting stations handling 50 each from Wake, Lincoln, and Harnett counties.

On Tuesday 75 men were examined at each of the three induction stations, 71 activated draft boards of the North Carolina total of 101 sending inductees.

On Wednesday 325 men were examined, with the program expected to hit full stride today when 379 inductees began their trek through the three induction centers. Calls will continue five days per week through August 25 at today's rate. The men found acceptable will be called in late September.

Many of the youths due to report for pre-induction examinations this week will come from the 24 and 25 year age groups—the groups at the top of the 18-25 year draft brackets. Since most of the 25 year olds and a high percentage of the 24 year olds served during World War II, relatively few of them are eligible for draft under the present law. The majority of the 25 and 24 year olds who were not in uniform during World War II have physical, education, or mental defects which probably will result in their remaining out of uniform again.

Davis Child Is Fatally Burned

Joe Lee Davis, 1 year old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Davis of Reese, died in Watauga Hospital last Wednesday from burns he received the day before when a vessel of boiling liquid was spilled from the cook stove in the Reese home. The child died from burns about the shoulders and chest, it was said.

Funeral services were conducted Friday from the Beaver Dam Baptist Church, and interment was in the church cemetery.

The parents survive, and a brother and sister, Ralph and Martha Jean Davis, of the home.

Fred H. Michael, 58, Victim Heart Attack

Fred H. Michael, 58 years old, died suddenly Saturday at his store in the Rutherford section. A heart attack was given as the cause of his death.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday at 3 o'clock from the Rutherford Baptist Church by Rev. F. C. Eggers and Rev. W. J. Cook, and graveside rites in the Rutherford cemetery were in charge of members of Ashler Masonic Lodge.

Besides the widow, two sons and four daughters survive, as follows: Fred Michael, Jr., Newport News, Va.; Gladys Michael, U. S. Army, Germany; Mrs. Ed Litchford, Lenoir; Mrs. Edna Michael, Newport News; Mrs. Edna Michael, Newport News; Mrs. Edna Michael, Newport News; Mrs. Edna Michael, Newport News.