

BOONE
1950 POPULATION 2,973
The educational center of Western North Carolina. Home of Appalachian State Teachers College, which attracts hundreds of students annually from all parts of the nation. Modern business district. A good place to live.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

WATAUGA COUNTY
1950 POPULATION 18,341
Leading agricultural and tourist area. Livestock, dairying and truck farming of paramount importance. Blue Ridge Parkway traverses county and touches Blowing Rock, one of the principal summer resorts of Eastern America.

VOL. LXIV—NO. 9

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1951

FIVE CENTS PER COPY

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN focuses attention on the North-western North Carolina Parkway area, where the shadow starts, causing us to think of other eclipses in the days gone by. . . One time there was a fairly deep shadow on the sun which had been predicted for some time by the Atlanta Constition (widely read here at that time), and the residents of the neighborhood assembled in groups along the street to watch the antics of the celestial bodies. . . Mrs. Etta Horton, who in Civil War days had seen an eclipse so dense, "that the chickens all went to roost during the heat of the day," gave us a lot of information about eclipses in general, and patiently smoked broken bits of window glass over the flame of an oil lamp, so that we "young-uns" might gaze with safety into the fiery face of Old Sol.

WE LOOKED WITH SUSPICION and apprehension in those days upon the misbehaviors of the planets, and there were always a lot of tales going the rounds as to the probable meaning of the eclipses, which invariably were reasoned out by the wisecracks in terms of the "end of time." . . . When Halley's brilliant comet flashed across the heavens, mountain folks, or at least a great many of them, bolstered by information gathered from publications of dubious authenticity, vowed and declared that the world was going to catch fire. . . she was coming entirely too close for comfort, and all creation was going up in smoke. . . Of course the informed people of the day laid no store by these superstitions. On occasion some dimwit would talk of seeing writing in the skies, also having to do with the end of it all, and frighten the children with his nonsense. Tales of this sort are unknown in this era of education and progress.

SCHOOL DAYS DRAW NEAR, and the youngsters along the street look to the return to the realms of blackboards and chalk, and the teacher's neat desk, with mixed emotions. . . Some of our friends of the snagle-tooth age are a little reluctant to start the long trip back to the classroom. . . They are having a mite of trouble laying away the fishing pole, the BB gun, the marbles, and the long adventures through flower-decked fields and emerald forests. . . Summer has been too short—as one youngster expressed it, "Didn't get started to play in." . . But the teen-agers, our friends of the high school bracket, as well as the upper elementary classes, appear decidedly more eager to take on the responsibilities of another year in school, and talk to us of their plans for the future, of happy anticipations of college careers, and of taking their places in the various professions and sciences which are seeking the youngsters who demonstrate needed ability and enterprise in their school and college careers.

THESE BIGGER YOUNGSTERS, the ones who are making the plans for way out yonder, see in the return to the school room, a sort of homecoming, and a reunion with their good friends, from whom they have been at least partially separated for three months. . . Since the children are at school far more days than at home, their interests are centered at the school, and that's where the teachers come to "mold the nation's future." These people, who are taking unto themselves the large share for developing the lives of our children, are due the fullest cooperation and gratitude of the folks, and salaries in keeping with their responsibilities and worth to our civilization.

THE STEREOSCOPE, which used to provide enjoyment for the family and visitors through the winter months, and which with a basket full of those double-faced picture cards, was to be found in most all the better homes, is coming back, so we learn, after an absence of more than a quarter of a century. . . A manufacturer is to feature a streamlined model with color pictures, improved lenses, and (Continued on page four)

Sun Eclipse Dinner Draws Astronomers, Other Leaders to City

Representative Robert L. Doughton, Dr. I. G. Greer and Paul W. Stevens, the latter from the Astronomical League, Rochester, N. Y., are among those who have accepted invitations to the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored eclipse dinner August 31, 7:00 P. M., at the Skyline Restaurant.

Kenneth A. Shepherd of the Forsyth Astronomical Society, Hugh Morton, Gwyn Price and George C. Ross of the Department of Conservation and Development, and Roland Potter and Doris Brown of North Wilkesboro, owners of station WATA, will be present. Representatives of daily newspapers and leading national magazines have been invited.

Invitations have also been extended to the governors of North Carolina and Tennessee.

Dr. Greer and Representative Doughton are slated to appear on the program for the dinner, which will be open to all members of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and their wives. Reservations should be made as soon as possible.

Residents of this area have practically a once-in-a-lifetime chance to view the eclipse, since

Farm Bureau Is Seeking 80,000 Members In N. C.

Farm Bureau leaders from Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Caldwell and Mitchell counties were on hand today (Wednesday) at the Watauga County Courthouse in Boone for their Annual District meeting. C. A. Clay, Vilas, President of the Watauga County Farm Bureau, presided during the day-long session.

President Clay said that the purpose of this meeting was to organize the membership work in the County Farm Bureaus for the fall drive, which calls for 80,000 North Carolina farm families for 1951.

Among the outstanding speakers who appeared on the program were: R. Flake Shaw, Greensboro, Executive Vice-President of the North Carolina Farm Bureau; Will H. Rogers, Greensboro, Farm Bureau Director of Organization; Mrs. Irby Walker, Summerfield, Administrative Director, Farm Bureau Associated Women; Dr. James Hilton, Raleigh, Dean, the School of Agriculture, N. C. State College; and E. Y. Floyd, Raleigh, Chairman of the Agricultural Foundation's Enabling Act Committee.

(Continued on page eight)

4,000 Children To Begin Trek To Schools Monday

School Health Is Topic Of Nurses

Nurses from Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties met on August 27 at the Health Department in Boone to discuss the problems of school health.

Dr. Mary B. H. Michal led the discussion which centered on work in the schools and with the teachers in finding and correcting children's defects.

Coordination of the school health program in the three counties in this health district was also discussed.

Plans Are Made For Use Of School Health Funds

Plans for the use of available school health funds were laid when school principals, doctors and representatives from Watauga hospital, the Welfare Department, county farm agencies and the Health Department met at the Demonstration School on August 27.

The meeting was called by Mr. Howard Walker, superintendent of schools, for the purpose of summarizing the use of last year's funds and planning the disposition of the grant for the coming year.

The legislative grant through the school health coordinating fund provides for fifty cents per school child plus \$1000. With additional grants the total last year used for school health was \$3316.42.

The money was used for supplementary nursing service in the schools for the primary purpose of finding and correcting defects.

By means of this program, 75 children had their tonsils removed, two had major dental work done while many had minor dental defects corrected, eye corrections were taken care of through school findings and audiometry testing was carried on in the schools.

In the coming year most of the grant will go to continue this program. Initial receipts from the grant available for this purpose will be \$2945.

List Of Teachers For All Schools Given Out By Walker.

It's back to school again next week for Watauga kiddies, and on Monday and Tuesday more than four thousand elementary and high school pupils will return to the classrooms.

Most of the schools of the county will open on Monday, but Boone, Green Valley, and Deep Gap schools will not open until Tuesday, it was learned at the office of County Superintendent W. H. Walker.

Last year 4,086 were enrolled in the county school system, and no increase is anticipated this term.

The Teachers

Following is the list of teachers for the various schools:

District No. 1—Boone

Appalachian High: Herbert W. Wey, principal; Margaret E. Gragg, Theo. Wells, Fred T. Hollis, Martha G. Hawkinson, H. C. Tripp, Robert Lancaster, Robert Noian, James F. Leek, Mabel Brister, Roy Blanton, R. L. Tait, Kathleen McDonald, Dr. John R. Shaffer, L. Leroy Rogers, Elizabeth Guy, Howard S. Barranger, 8th Grade: Mary E. Hamby, Robert Jenkins, John Sides, Betty Sue Tilly.

Supplementary teachers paid by A. S. T. C.: William C. Ross, Herbert Stallworth.

Boone Demonstration: John T. Howell, principal; Carl Day, Earl Petrey, Melvin M. Lashure, Lavert Walker, Isabel Mason, Grace Buckland, Clyde Goodman, Mary E. Gibbs, Bessie S. Crawford, Leafybelly B. Broome, Ella A. Be-shears, Ennis R. Davis, Velma M. Cottrell, Grace M. Council.

Rutherford: Louisa L. Miller, Ruby W. Hartley.

Bamboo: Helen E. Trexler, Lucy H. Storie.

District No. 2—Green Valley

Earl Greene, principal; H. C. Mowetz, Jr., John Marsh, Ruth L. Winkler, Imogene B. Barden, (Continued on page eight)

Watauga River Dam Is Sought By Civic Leaders

More power for Watauga county has become the battle cry of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and a group of Watauga leaders. In an effort to have the Tennessee Valley Authority develop a new dam on the Watauga river near Boone, this group has enlisted the aid of Representative Robert Doughton.

Representative Doughton agreed to investigate the possibilities and to recommend to Mr. Gordon R. Clapp, chairman of the Board of Directors of the TVA, that the authority sponsor the project.

Mr. Herman Wilcox, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, believes that the Watauga Gorge, located just west of Sugar Grove on Highway 603, offers several excellent sites for such a dam.

Interest in the project stems from the fact that it would increase the county's power supply, making it more attractive to industry, which in turn would increase the county's population by keeping high school graduates at home who now leave in search of jobs.

In addition the dam would furnish a lake, another opportunity for increasing Watauga's tourist trade.

County leaders believe that the shortage of power has crippled both big and small business. Industries which might locate in the county are scared away by the limited power supply and the higher rates.

It is believed that the dam would provide all the power which the county would need, with a surplus to help ease the power shortage in Ashe, Caldwell and Avery counties as well.

Mrs. Joe C. Mast Dies in Lincolnton

Mrs. Joe C. Mast, of Valle Crucis died in a Lincolnton hospital August 6, following an illness with a heart ailment.

Funeral services were conducted at Mount Gilead and interment was in that neighborhood.

The husband survives, and one sister, Mrs. Grace Abernethy of Lincolnton.

Among those from Valle Crucis attending the funeral were: Mrs. Howard Mast, Mr. and Mrs. Hillary Hobby, Mrs. B. G. Leake, and Frank Baird.

Bean Festival To Occur September 6

The annual Johnson county Bean Festival scheduled for September 6 at the Mountain City Fairgrounds promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

Included in the day's events will be a horse show, the annual county 4-H Club Fair, a beauty contest, and a parade which will feature nine floats and three bands.

A carnival and the festival ball to be held in the new tobacco warehouse will round out the day's entertainment.

Joel B. Fort, Jr., vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Ga., will be the main speaker, while Parke Brinkley, L. Y. Ballentine and Edward Jones, Commissioners of Agriculture of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee will act as judges in the beauty contest.

Mr. J. Q. Thomas is chairman of the festival this year.

Eclipse Viewers For Grandfather

Linville. — Astronomers and sight-seers from all over the nation are expected to flock to Grandfather Mountain, soaring 5,964 feet near the Blue Ridge Parkway, for a sunrise view of the annular eclipse on September 1.

Towering Grandfather is the highest mountain east of the Great Smokies and Black range in the path of the eclipse, which is expected to occur at 5:57 a. m., or shortly before sunrise in the lowlands.

Path of the eclipse will be northeast, swinging out to sea between Elizabeth City, North Carolina and Norfolk, Virginia. Astronomers say the show should last in different phases for an hour as the shadow of the moon crosses the sun.

To facilitate observers reach (Continued on page eight)

Boone To Get Good Sum Under Terms Powell Bill

The town of Boone is soon to receive the sum of \$9,985 from the State for the benefit of its streets, says Mayor Gordon H. Winkler, as this city's share of the funds provided under the Powell bill.

The controversial act, which passed the last Legislature, gave the cities a comparatively small share of the State highway funds, which will be used for general street expenses, and which funds are in addition to the State's maintenance of city streets which are a part of the State road system.

Two Boone Girls Get Nurse School Diplomas

Miss Ennis Dare Brown and Miss Gladys Julia Brown of Boone received diplomas from the Davis Hospital School of Nursing in Statesville at the graduation exercises held August 21.

The award of the best bedside nurse, presented annually by the Davis Hospital Alumnae Association of Nurses, who won by Miss Ennis Brown, while second best was a tie between Miss Gladys Brown and Miss Katie White of Elkin.

In the address to the graduating class, Rev. Charles C. Holland of the Front Street Baptist Church of Statesville where the exercises were held, paid tribute to the noble profession of nursing, referring to the young nurses before him as "white-robed angels of mercy."

Auxiliary Meets

The Auxiliary of St. Luke's Episcopal church met at the home of Mrs. Charles Smoot at Blowing Rock on Wednesday, August 22.

Proposed Co-op Dam Is Opposed

Bluefield, W. Va. — Protests from civic and business leaders have developed in this area against a proposed stream diversion plan by a North Carolina power cooperative.

The Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation has proposed damming waters of the South Fork of the New River and diverting the flow through a 13,000-foot tunnel into streams carrying it into the Atlantic Ocean.

The New River wanders through North Carolina and Virginia, finally joining the Gauley River in West Virginia to form the Great Kanawha River.

If the plan now pending should be approved by the Federal Power Commission, the diverted waters from the fork would be turned into Mud Fork of the Reddies River where the cooperative proposes to build a hydroelectric plant.

Opponents of the plan here claim the project would curtail the flow of New River in neighboring Giles County, Virginia, by about 10.6 per cent.

Fair Meeting

The superintendents of the Blue Ridge Fair are requested to meet at the county agent's office on Friday afternoon, August 31, at 1:30. This is a very important meeting to make definite plans, so try to be present.

Postoffice Exam

Applications for the position of Custodial Laborer at the Boone, North Carolina, post office will be received until September 12, 1951. Additional information and forms relative to this position may be secured at the local post office.

North Carolina has nearly 200,000 colonies of bees.

Mrs. Richard Fisher Funeral in Hickory

Mrs. Richard R. Fisher, 48, died Sunday morning at a Hickory hospital, following a stroke suffered two weeks ago.

The former Miss Closta Mae Hartley, Mrs. Fisher was a native of Boone. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hartley and had resided in Hickory for 31 years.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 11 o'clock and interment was in Barger's cemetery at Hickory.

A brother of the deceased, Mr. Ralph Hartley, and Mrs. Hartley of Boone, attended the rites.

Miss Carter, Teacher, Dies from Scalding

Services for Miss Cornelia Carter, 70, member of the Appalachian Summer school faculty, were held Monday at 11:00 a. m. at the First Presbyterian church in Morganton with Rev. Joseph B. Clower officiating. Burial was in the Forest Hills cemetery there.

Miss Carter died in Watauga hospital August 25 from burns received four weeks ago when she slipped and fell into a bathtub of scalding water.

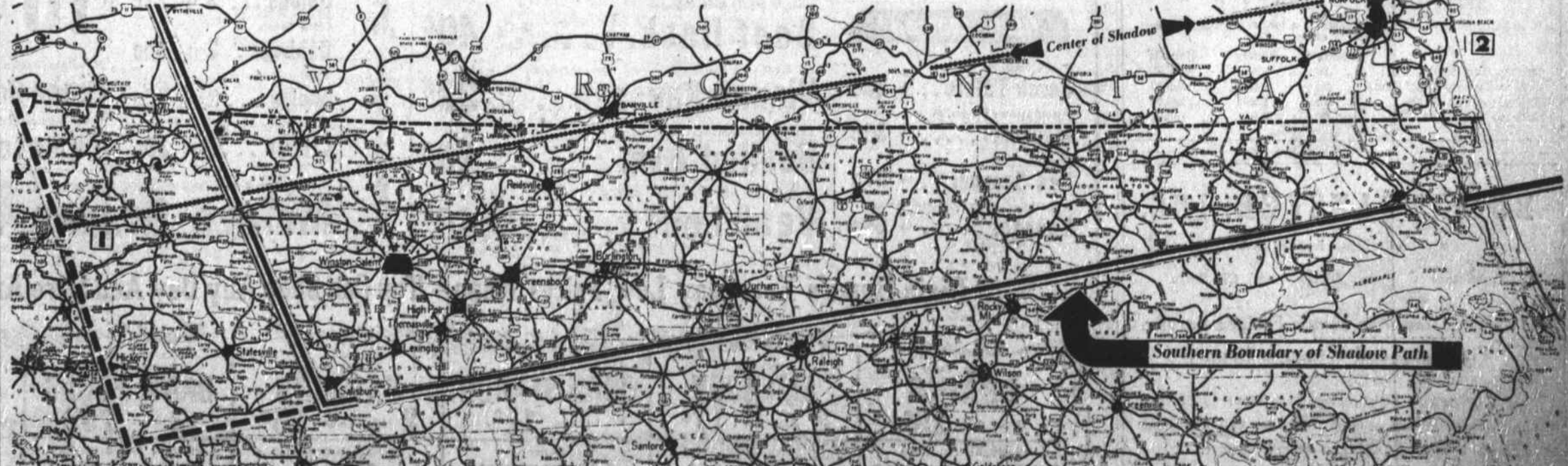
She was a teacher in the Morganton schools from 1905 to 1925 and served in various capacities in the Charlotte schools from 1920 to 1950, retiring last year as supervisor of the primary schools there.

Survivors include a sister, Miss Ophelia Carter of Charlotte.

Water Shortage Is Acute

The water shortage in Boone has become so acute that filling stations were asked Friday to discontinue washing cars temporarily, and householders were warned against watering lawns during the emergency.

Mayor Winkler states that the water shortage is the most serious perhaps, in the history of the water system here, and that the supply from the reservoir is practically nil, nearly all the water being supplied from a well. The Mayor states that the rain-



PATH OF THE ECLIPSE—Sun-watchers at suitable points within the shadow path—a rectangular area covering parts of the two states—will see the annular phase of the eclipse on September 1 at 5:57 A. M. Only the outer edge of the sun will be visible. The double line on the map shows the southern and western limits of the shadow path, while additional observation posts can be found in the area west of the shadow path (broken line). The eclipse will begin in the Deep Gap-Boone area (1), with the annular phase taking place as the

sun rises. The annular phase will occur about 30 minutes after sunrise in the Norfolk-Virginia Beach area (2). The dotted line shows the center of the shadow which will move out to sea after passing through this area.—(Map, courtesy Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel.)