

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

A few days ago one of the press wire services carried the story of a Chicago taxicab operator, who shuttled worshippers back and forth between their homes and the churches on Sunday mornings. . . . The story rated a prominent spot in the daily press, but such service is an old, but appreciated custom with Letcher Teague, who has been in the taxi business in Boone for thirty years. . . . For over seven years Letcher has specialized in transporting folks to church Sunday mornings "for free" . . . All it takes is a phone call, and one of the friendly drivers will gladly escort the citizen to the church of his or her choice, and in the case of old or disabled passengers will assist them from the cab and into the church if necessary. . . . Yes, it's an old custom in Boone—originated by Letcher Teague, and deserves notice as well as commendation from the public. . . . Incidentally, Letcher who operates, with his son J. G., the "Jay's Cab" enterprise down Depot Street opposite the bus station, does a lot of other chores for the public without charge. . . . He furnishes comfortable quarters for those waiting for buses, both early and late; watches for the safety of children trying to get across the congested street corner. . . . has a kind word for the wayfarer, ministers to the sick and needy, and is a walking encyclopedia of things that happen in the neighborhood. . . . We recognize, with pleasure and sincerity, the many good things Letcher Teague does for the folks in this locality.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Mrs. D. P. Laviets, writing from Brooklyn, of her husband's illness, adds: "Will you be kind enough to say in your paper that we wish our Boone friends, a Happy New Year" . . . Mr. Laviets faces a long struggle, we learn in his fight for restored health. . . . A former Boone smoking pipe manufacturer, Mr. Laviets was likely offered too little encouragement in Boone. . . . The plant moved to Sparta, has recently been sold to a New York firm, and we hear by the grapevine that a couple of hundred people are being employed there in Boone.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Mr. Winthrop L. Biddle, 808 North 26th Street, Philadelphia, send season's greetings, and a message which brings back memories of the short spell in which Shulls Mills was the metropolis of Watauga county. . . . When the railroad had been built there from Pineola to handle the lumber from the Whiting band mill, and a boom town flourished up near the head of the river. . . . He says: "Greetings: Had the pleasure, 35 years ago, to spend several months in your beautiful town, estimating standing timber for the Boone Fork Lumber Co., and was more or less under the guidance of a great old lawyer—Will Lovill. The railroad was not through from Montezuma at that time. . . . Will never forget the hospitable people we met in Boone and the beauty of Watauga county scenery. . . . Deeply appreciate if you will send me a copy of the paper and let me learn if the scenic narrow gauge railway still runs up from Johnson City? . . . Spent the better part of two years in Shulls Mills (1915-1917). Hope to pay a return visit. Cordially, Winthrop L. Biddle."

PRAYER OF THE AGES

St. Francis of Assisi wrote a prayer 1,500 years ago, which came on down through the ages, and is widely used at New Year's time. . . . Relatedly, it is reprinted herewith:

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me show love;
Where there is injury—pardon;
Where there is doubt—faith;
Where there is despair—hope;
Where there is darkness—light;
And where there is sadness—joy.

© Divine Master, grant that I
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All-State Band Clinic Will Be Held In Boone January 18-19

100 Students from 28 High Schools Expected To Attend Clinic; Gordon Nash, Roy Blanton, Co-Chairmen.

The western division of the All-State Band Clinic for high school students will be held in Boone for a second time this year, on the campus of Appalachian College.

Approximately 100 students from 28 western Carolina high schools will attend, this number not taking into account the band directors and other guests who will come to observe the clinic band.

Mr. Earl Slocum of the University of North Carolina, will conduct the clinic band, Mr. Gordon Nash and Mr. Roy Blanton, Appalachian music officials, are co-chairmen of the clinic.

Students will register for the clinic Friday at 9 a. m. and will attend rehearsals Friday and Saturday in preparation for the concert which will be staged in the new music and arts building Saturday evening.

Local musicians selected to attend the clinic are: Jimmie Holsinger, M. J. Councill, Guy Hunt, Jr., Evelyn McCracken, Harry Farthing.

Band members will be housed and entertained by interested townspeople and the college.

Eating Places Rate Grade 'A'

The Health Department announces that the following establishments rated Grade A during the period of June through December 1951:

Cafe

Angel's Cafe, Boone Drug Company, Carolina Pharmacy, Daniel Boone Hotel Dining Room, Grand View Lunch, Kay's Ice Cream Parlor, Luther's Luncheonette, Parkway Hotel Coffee Shop, Skyline Restaurant, Watauga Inn Dining Room.

Markets

Dixie Home Stores, Winkler's Grocery.

Public Establishments

N. C. State Prison Camp.

Summer Camps

Camp Catawba, Camp Sky Ranch, Camp Yonahlossee.

Tourist Homes, Courts, Hotels

Black Bear Tourist, Blowing Rock Tourist Court, Blue Ridge Motor Court, Blue Ridge Tourist Court, Buxton Hall, Carolina Hotel, Country Club Manor, Daniel Boone Hotel, The Dogwood Tourist, Efficiency Apartments;

Gordon's Apartments, Grand View Cabins, Green Inn, Green Park Hotel, Hamby's Tourist Court, Hart's Motor Court, Hemlock Motor Court, Kenney's Pine Lodge, Lakeview Tourist, Larmae Guest;

Longvue Motor Court, Maple Lodge, Mountain Motel, Norvell Cottages, Parkway Hotel, Rock House Guest Tourist, Suits Me Tate Tourist, Sunshine Inn, Tarry Acres Inn, Watauga Inn, Watauga Tourist Court.

Many establishments are working hard to improve their sanitation and ratings, the Health Department pointed out. Several establishments have changed management lately and some places were not graded due to their short season. Due to these and other difficulties, a complete list is not available; therefore only those who received Grade A are being announced at this time.

Snyder warns of high tax level for a long time to come.

Troutman Named Head County Ministers Group

Representatives of the various churches in the county met at the First Baptist Church in Boone Monday to organize a county-wide association of ministers and Rev. Edwin F. Troutman, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church of Boone was elected president of the group which includes the ministers of all denominations.

Other officers elected were: Rev. Joe L. Thomas, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Blowing Rock, vice-president; Marvin T. Culbreth, director of local activity at the Boone Methodist Church, secretary-treasurer. The association will meet quarterly on the first Monday at the Boone Baptist Church.

The group endorsed a motion by Rev. J. T. Shackford, pastor of the Boone Methodist Church that the organization promote the Watauga County unit of the Allied Church League, and a committee to work on this project consists of Rev. Shackford, chairman, Rev. A. C. Moody and Rev. Everett Ransom.

The naming of a committee on plans for the annual Blue Ridge



REV. EDWIN F. TROUTMAN

Chairman Greene Issues Soil Conservation Data

By D. F. GREENE
Chairman, Watauga Soil Conservation District

Interest in soil conservation continues high and the supervisors of the district feel that this has been a good year. More and more people are becoming familiar with the district program and are asking for its services.

Eighty soil and water conservation plans were made in the county this year, bringing the total to 169 active plans covering 13,955 acres. With less than two years operation the supervisors feel that a good start has been made.

In an effort to reach more farmers the initial and advanced agreements, as recommended by Soil Conservation Service, were adopted by the district. It is through this system of planning that we can aid those farmers with only a small job to do and prepare them for a basic plan at a later date.

The permanent type practices of strip cropping and tree planting were added to the 1952 PMA program for payment. It is believed that with added compensation farmers will establish a larger acreage to these practices.

Through the efforts of the supervisors an educational program has been pushed in some of the local schools. Material on soil conservation was distributed through the superintendent of the Board of Education office to all schools in the county. Mrs. Henry Taylor, teacher at Valle Crucis school, completed a study of the material with her second grade students and was supplied with other materials for continued study on the subject.

A tour was held by the farm veteran teachers of Avery, Mitchell and Watauga counties to observe some of the soil conservation work in the district.

Most weeks of the year, newspaper articles on soil conservation have appeared in the Watauga Democrat to keep the district program before farmers and the public.

We, as supervisors of the Watauga Soil Conservation District, feel that considerable progress has been made during the past year and are planning and looking forward to a better program for 1952.

Miss Lou Dugger, 79, Dies on Thursday

Miss Lou Dugger, 79, died Sunday at her home at Vilas.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 2 o'clock at the Willowdale Baptist Church by Rev. C. O. Vance, and burial was in the Howell cemetery.

There are no immediate survivors.

Pie Supper To Be Aid to Polio Fund

There will be a March of Dimes pie supper at the Deep Gap School Wednesday, January 16, under the sponsorship of the PTA and the churches of the Deep Gap area.

New FHA Hours

The Farmers Home Administration office hours will be from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., effective immediately; Jennings B. Robinson, county supervisor, announced this week. The office will no longer be open Saturday mornings.

Mrs. J. M. Moretz, 78, Well Known Resident, Dead

Mrs. Ida Farthing Moretz, prominent resident of this city, died suddenly early Tuesday morning. Mrs. Moretz is believed to have suffered a heart attack. She was 78 years old.

Funeral services are to be held this (Wednesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock at the First Baptist church of this city. Dr. W. G. Bond, the pastor, will conduct the rites, and burial will be in the family plot in the community cemetery.

A daughter of the Rev. Harrison Farthing and Mrs. Farthing, of Beaver Dam township, Mrs. Moretz was a member of one of Watauga county's oldest and most prominent families. She had resided in Boone for more than fifty years, where she was actively interested in all worthy enterprises and activities.

She is survived by her husband, J. M. Moretz, two sons and two daughters: George Moretz, Asheville; Robert Moretz, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Mrs. W. A. Davis, Rock Hill, S. C., and Mrs. G. B. Triplett of Lenoir. There are three brothers: Dr. J. C. Farthing, Carter J. Farthing, Boone; T. Hill Farthing of Lenoir.

Special Drama Meeting Slated

There will be an important meeting at the Skyline Restaurant Monday evening at 6:30 o'clock, relative to the production of the drama to be presented next summer. This meeting pertains to the further development of the drama and all members and friends of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association are cordially invited.

Splendid progress has been reported in making arrangements for this event, and this meeting is said to be of vital importance. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the business session will begin at 7 o'clock.

Murray S. Eggers Claimed by Death

Murray Spurgeon Eggers, 62, resident of Boone, died Friday, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held at the Rich Mountain Baptist Church and burial was in the Culler cemetery. Taking part in the rites were Rev. Albert Tester, Rev. Art Greer and Rev. W. C. Payne.

The widow, Mrs. Jennie Eggers survives, with three sons and two daughters: Blaine and Clay Eggers, Cleveland, Ohio; Elwood Eggers, Boone; Mrs. Gray Hodges, Boone; Mrs. Earl Brown, Union Grove, N. C.

Gift from Florida

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Thompson of Vilas, have returned from a trip to Winter Beach, Fla., where they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Fred McEwen. The publisher of the Democrat thanks them for the gift of a lemon of huge proportions, nearly as big as a child's football, together with some big grapefruit and oranges.

Farm Shop To Open

The Agricultural Shop at the Cove Creek High school will be open each Monday night until further notice for farmers to repair farm equipment.

The number of persons working on farms in October, 1951, was 5 per cent less than in October, 1950.

Leaders Over the State Praise Plans for Drama



CHURCHILL CONFERS WITH TRUMAN—Washington—President Truman (left) smiles and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill is serious but good-humored as they ride together for a meeting on problems confronting both nations. Churchill's visit is connected with Britain's dollar needs.

March of Dimes Quartets To Sing Here January 26

Plans for the second annual March of Dimes quartet singing are well under way, due to the excellent work of John Cooke, Richard Hodges, Allen Gragg and many others who did such an excellent job last year.

Present plans, says Jack Idol, March of Dimes director, are for holding the singing at the courthouse and at the High School auditorium Saturday night, January 26, at 7:30 o'clock.

Watauga County Again Has Rabies Infections

Watauga County is again experiencing cases of rabies, and, Cove Creek township is now under quarantine. The last case was reported Christmas day with a child now taking treatment.

Public health service authorities say that it is possible to eradicate this "mad dog" disease, but to do this it would take every person doing their part. Every dog would have to be vaccinated and quarantine rules followed.

Rabies, or hydrophobia, is an acute infectious disease which is 100 percent fatal both for man and beast. Once the disease has developed there is no known cure. The Pasteur treatment, a series of injections with anti-rabies vaccine, prevents the disease in most cases if it is started soon enough and continued long enough; but, the vaccine is dangerous, often causing a paralytic condition of the central nervous system and death takes one in three of the persons so affected.

Measures for the control of rabies:

1. Annual vaccination of all dogs, designed to prevent the disease.
2. Impounding and "humane" destruction of all stray and (Continued on page four)

Cove Creek PTA To Meet Monday

The Cove Creek Parent-Teachers Association will meet at the High School lunch room Monday evening, January 14, at 7 o'clock.

Mrs. Taylor, 80, Taken By Death

Mrs. Nelia Norris Taylor, 80, mother of Mr. J. Wilson Norris, died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Richard Thomas, in Washington, D. C., Monday night.

Funeral services will be held at the Boone Methodist Church Thursday at 11:00 o'clock. The body will lie in state from 10:00 to 11:00 a. m.

She is survived by the following sons and daughters: Wade F. Norris of Todd; Fred Norris, of Warner, Alberta, Canada; J. Wilson Norris of Boone; Clyde M. Norris of Medford, Oregon; Joe H. Taylor of Mt. Pleasant, S. C.; Mrs. Richard Thomas of Washington, D. C.; and Mrs. Frank Robertson of Greensboro. She is also survived by three sisters: Mrs. Milt Norris of Dillard, Oregon; Mrs. W. A. Cowles of Boone, Route 1; Mrs. J. F. Greer of Bristol, Tenn.; 24 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Interest Mounts in Local Venture; Newsmen, State and National Officials, Business Leaders Offer Support

Interest is growing daily in the coming production of Kermit Hunter's outdoor drama, which will probably be named "Wilderness Road," and which will be built around the life and travels of Daniel Boone, at the same time preserving the heritage of the people of the Appalachian Mountain range.

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association, which is sponsoring the drama, states that leading figures from far and near have tendered their support of the venture and offered words of high encouragement.

Below are listed some of those who have agreed to serve on the advisory committee for the association, together with a number of quotations from letters received by the organization:

Mrs. Charles Cannon, Concord and Blowing Rock, president of the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities; Sanford Martin, Winston-Salem, editor of Winston-Salem Journal; A. Fuller Sams, Jr., Statesville Theater Corporation;

Rupert Gillette, associate editor of The Charlotte Observer; D. Hiden Ramsey, Asheville Citizen-Times Co.; Clyde A. Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Raleigh; Dr. Amos Abrams, North Carolina Education; Hugh M. Morton, Wilmington and Linville;

Marshall I. Pickens, The Duke Endowment, Charlotte; John A. Kellenberger, investment and real estate, Greensboro; W. H. Neal, Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Winston-Salem; E. L. Davis, Security Life and Trust Co., Winston-Salem; Senator R. Grady Rankin, Gastonia; Hon. Clyde R. Hoey, U. S. Senator, Shelby;

Hon. R. L. Doughton, Congressman, 9th N. C. District; Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Raleigh, secretary of State Department of (Continued on page three)

Issues Appeal For Polio Fund

As the March of Dimes drive for polio funds swung into its second week here today, campaign director Jack Idol issued this appeal:

"We're rolling at high speed but not fast enough." Reports reaching campaign headquarters showed that thousands in every community across the country were enthusiastically working to make the 1952 March of Dimes the outstanding event in the history of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. This is necessary, the county director said, because:

"The March of Dimes has not kept pace with the march of polio." "For four straight years," he explained, "the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has been running into debt, due to the terrific number of cases of infantile paralysis needing aid."

"The National Foundation cannot carry on its work efficiently if it has a reputation for 'slow pay' in meeting hospital and treatment bills for polio cases. The National Foundation, moreover, must continue to keep its promise to the people that no case of this crippling disease shall be denied adequate medical care for lack of family funds."

"The time for giving to the March of Dimes is right now. Contributions are urgently needed and everyone is asked to give as much as can be spared."

The coming week will be of vital importance to the drive, according to the campaign director. There are just three more weeks to cover this community and make sure that every contribution is collected. Those working in the campaign are trying to make it easy for people to give. In other words, they are ready at all times of the day to receive donations, the chairman said, adding:

"The sinews with which we fight this war against polio are found in local fund-raising activities. Upon the strength and scope and support of these campaign programs will depend the strength and scope and support of all our projects."

Aims, Purposes, Plans of Historical Group Given

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association, whose immediate purpose is to produce an outdoor drama in Boone, has given out the following detailed explanation of the organization and what it proposes to do.

It is hoped that readers of the Democrat will give this information their attention, since it gives the answers to all the questions which might arise relative to the new enterprise.

The bulletin says: When the Watauga Centennial was observed in 1949 and the pageant, "Echoes of the Blue Ridge" was presented so successfully, many people began to dream of the possibility of a great drama based on the historical background of Watauga County and Daniel Boone.

In 1950, Mrs. B. W. Stallings, of Boone, and Mrs. Charles A. Cannon, of Blowing Rock and Concord, spent a great deal of time discussing this possibility. Then, in 1950, Kermit Hunter wrote and Sam Selden and the Carolina Playmakers produced "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee. It was a tremendous success, both as a play and from a commercial standpoint. Mr. Hunter also wrote "Forever This Land," which was produced at Salem, Ill., and was equally successful. He agreed that he would write one more drama and decided that we

had the best background to make it a success. Following these discussions, the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc., was organized and incorporated, and agreed to produce the drama in cooperation with Kermit Hunter and the Carolina Playmakers.

I—WHAT IS IT?

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc., is a non-profit corporation. It is composed of members who have paid an annual membership fee of \$10.00 or more. The management of the affairs of the corporation is under the control of the Board of Directors, chosen by the membership at the annual meeting which is held in December of each year. If and when the corporation makes a profit, such profit will first be used for redemption of bonds, and thereafter will belong to the association for developing further projects of an historic and educational nature, no part of which will be distributed to its members.

II—WHAT DOES IT PLAN TO DO?

The purposes of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc., as listed in the charter, cover a wide range of activities, including historical, cultural, educational, social and economic programs.

a. Historical

As the name indicates, this association is primarily interested in collecting, preserving and transmitting the historical heritage of the people of the Southern Appalachian Area.

The heritage of the Southern Appalachian is, in a very true sense, the heritage of America. Here was preserved longer the purest Anglo-Saxon culture. The love for private ownership of land, the love for freedom and the hatred of oppression of all kinds was dramatized especially in the life story of Daniel Boone. The Battle of Kings Mountain was a tribute to the men of this region. Here was written the first constitution by Americans—The Watauga Association. Here was organized the first state after the original 13 colonies, the "State of Franklin." Here lived the leaders who planned and carried out the conquest of Tennessee, Kentucky, and other states farther west. The Southern Appalachian Mountains served as the focal point for western expansion.

The historical heritage of this region needs to be preserved and, indeed, to be taught to all America. b.—A great historical outdoor drama

The immediate objective of the association is to (Continued on page three)