

REA Renews Efforts To Build Watauga Dam

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

SHERMAN PIPPIN, veteran locomotive engineer, who pulled the throttle on the narrow gauge engines which plied the East Tennessee and Linville River lines for 45 years, and an old friend of ours, came to see us last week, for the first time since that fateful day in 1940, when he took the train out of Boone to Johnson City in a downpour of rain . . . Sherm and his train stayed gone, for the torrential rains took away her tracks while the train was in Tennessee, and the ICC later gave the company the right to abandon the line, which had been such a boon to the people of the area, especially in the days before good roads and dependable automobiles had come into the hill country . . . The gray pated engineer, who recently returned from New York, where he attended the Imperial Council meeting of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, speaks wistfully of his long tenure in the crowded steamy cab of the lurching locomotives which hauled the freight and the passengers across the Mountains, and took away the iron ore, the lumber and stuff exported by the mountain people.

"NUMBER NINE—You know my favorite engine . . . she's gone the way of the flesh . . . They cut her up a while back and made six plates out of her boiler . . . Engine eleven has been scrapped too, and only number 12 remains of the fleet which once numbered up to 14, excluding of course, 13." . . . The narrow gauge only does service out to the rayon plants at Elizabethton and the standard gauge facilities are used . . . Her rails have been taken up from that point on this way . . . and a story of mountain railroading, and of high service to an isolated region is fast going into the limbo of forgotten things.

SHERMAN speaks softly of the going of the narrow gauge lines, and there's sadness in the eyes which had gazed so long down the narrow tracks . . . He admitted that it was a mighty fine train he hauled into Boone back in the time of World War I, when four steel coaches and a brand new engine, straight from the boiler works, made a round trip from Boone to Johnson City daily . . . The rear car was a handsome parlor car, labeled "Azalea," and for a small extra fare one could ride in heavily upholstered chairs—in all the comfort the big roads offered at the time . . . "And, funny thing . . . everybody marveled at it . . . We hauled those 50,000 pound coaches, four of them, over through Linville Gap to Johnson City and back to Boone on four and a half tons of coal . . . Other railroaders couldn't understand how we did it!" . . . Course, we figured that casting four and a half tons of coal into a firebox in one shift, was a good deal of coal, and a hasty calculation showed that some 73,890 tons had been fed the fires during his career at the throttle . . . And we were forced to agree with the veteran of the coughing engine, that when a railroad leaves a town it makes a void which isn't filled right easily . . . We look back with fondness on the days when the high wail of engine nine was heard at Hodges Gap, and the people of the community gathered at the station, to see who came and to get the word from down the line . . . Lots of times Sherm had brought us in some stuff we needed from town, and always had fetched a good sum of information on what was going on at the other end of the line . . . We enjoyed his visit and the memories of the many happy trips down the narrow gauge tracks . . . across the mountain, along the Watauga, into the town, and back again, as twilight came.

FRED CHURCH, genial
(Continued on page four)

President Chamber Commerce To Attend Knoxville Meeting; REA Ready To Act If TVA Will Give Go-Ahead Sign.

The movement to construct another power dam on the Watauga River in Watauga county, has gained impetus, according to word from Herman Wilcox, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, who states that he is to attend a regional meeting in Knoxville, Tenn., next Friday, which will be attended by Mr. Clapp, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority. At this meeting the REA, through the local Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, will seek to purchase power from the TVA. If this request is turned down, the REA will renew its request for a go-ahead sign, so that it may construct its own dam on the Watauga.

Some time ago the REA made application for a permit to build an electric power dam on the Watauga, in line with the requests of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and other interested persons. Since, however, the TVA controlled a good deal of the watershed involved, it balked at the deal. However, it is understood, TVA had expressed a willingness to build the dam on its own, but that sort of action would not be expected for several years.

Subsequently the REA is renewing its requests for authority to build a dam, if power is not available to them, and understanding is that if permission is given by the TVA, the cooperative is ready and anxious to start the big development.

The people of Boone and Watauga, who are greatly interested in this proposed project, will watch this latest development with renewed concern.

Band Clinic Is Held In Boone

The North Carolina Band Clinic for the Western Division was held at Appalachian State Teachers college on Friday and Saturday of last week. It was sponsored by the North Carolina Bandmasters' Association, and Earl Slocum, director of the University of North Carolina band and orchestra, was

Given Highest Scout Award



JODY SHACKFORD

Joseph (Jody) T. Shackford, Jr., 12 year old son of the Rev. Joseph T. Shackford and Mrs. Shackford, has received the Boy Scout's highest award—that of Eagle Scout, Troop 109, Boone. Dr. Lee Reynolds was the awarding Scoutmaster.

Jody began his Scouting on his eleventh birthday at Calvary Methodist Church, Greensboro, under the leadership of Mr. Edwin Sharpe, who was Scoutmaster of his troop, and after he moved to Boone in October of 1950, continued and Dr. Reynolds.

The public award was made at a court of honor during the morning service of the Boone Methodist Church recently. His father is pastor of that church. His mother is the former Miss Virginia Johnson, daughter of A. S. Johnson of Lexington.

Business in 1951 reported little changed from 1950.

Milk Suppliers Are Given Grades By Health Dept.

All milk suppliers in the county have been graded by the Watauga County Health Department in accordance with the grade specifications of the milk ordinance and code governing same.

All consumers are urged to purchase milk on the basis of grade. These grades appear on each bottle cap and placards are posted in every restaurant, soda fountain, etc., where milk is sold, stating the grade of milk sold. Grade A pasteurized milk is the safest milk available to Watauga county consumers, and Grade A raw milk is as safe as can be made short of pasteurization. All

4-H Council

The 4-H County Council meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26, at 10:00 a. m. in the Legion Hut. Mr. Oscar Phillips, assistant State 4-H Club leader, will be guest speaker. Recreation will follow the meeting. All 4-H Club officers are urged to be present.

Football Banquet

The annual football banquet honoring the 1951 squad is to be given at the Skyline Restaurant tonight (Wednesday) at 7 o'clock. Coach Preston Mull of A. S. T. C. will be the guest speaker. Sponsors for the affair are the V. F. W. and the High School Athletic association.

Scout Groups Make Plans For Local Events

Work has begun on plans for celebrating National Scout Week in America by local Scouting officials. Scoutmasters who are mapping out the events for the week February 3 through February 10 are Dr. Lee Reynolds, of the Methodist sponsored group, Crayte Teague of the Explorer group, and Jimmie Greene of the Baptist sponsored group.

February 3 will be Scout Recognition Day in the churches, climaxed by a union service in the First Baptist Church of Boone that night at 7:30 o'clock. An offering will be taken at this service to be used in enlarging the Scout Hut, which is located to the rear of the Baptist and Methodist churches.

Highlight of the week will be the celebration of the birthday of Scouting in America with a banquet in Fellowship Hall at the Boone Methodist Church. Scouts, their parents and friends will attend this supper Friday, February 8 at 7:30. At 8:15, all the Scouts present at the banquet will rise and repeat the Scout Oath—a ceremony which will be shared with Scouts all over America at the same time.

Proceeds from the supper will also be used for the Scout building fund.

Other programs for the week of celebration are being planned but details have not been completed. These are expected to be released by next week.

Mrs. W. E. Shipley Dies In Bristol

Bristol, Tenn. — Mrs. Minnie Woodie Shipley, 73, a native of Watauga County, N. C. died Sunday afternoon at her home here after a lingering illness.

She was the only child of the late James Alexander and Cardis Woodie of Watauga County.

She was a member of the Methodist Church and Bristol's first Gold Star Mother of World War II.

Surviving are the husband, W. E. Shipley of Vilas, N. C.; four daughters, Mrs. T. A. Belk of Mount Holly, N. C.; Mrs. James B. Ward of Neva, Tenn.; Mrs. Claude S. Perry of Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs. Foster W. Bryant of Chatham, Va.; two sons, James E. Shipley of Reidsville, N. C., and Robert G. Shipley of Vilas.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. in the chapel of Akard Funeral Home here. The Rev. Carroll Skeens and the Rev. W. F. Blackard will officiate and burial will be in Glenwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers were W. B. and R. L. Austin, Tadd Woodie, H. P. Gates, Castle Page and Frank Logan.

Women To Conduct Mother Polio Drive

Under the auspices of the Junior Woman's Club, the Mother's March on Polio will be conducted in Boone from 7 to 8 o'clock p. m. Wednesday January 30. In the rural areas the March will be at the same hour under the sponsorship of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A member of the volunteer army of marching mothers will call at every home where a lighted porch light bids her welcome and signifies that the home has a contribution to make in the fight against polio.

Corporal Buchanan Injured In Tokyo

Corporal Wm. R. Buchanan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Buchanan of Boone, has suffered a broken jaw and is now in a hospital in Tokyo, Japan, his parents have been advised. The cause of the injury was not given.

Corporal Buchanan was en route to Korea when he was injured. His return to the States is now expected.

Outdoor Theatre To Be Built On Winkler Farm



MAKE PLANS FOR DRAMA . . . Officials of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association are shown as they met Monday to announce the site for the new outdoor theatre, and to make other plans for next summer's drama. Seated are Mrs. B. W. Stallings, corresponding secretary, and Mr. Samuel Seldon, Director of the Carolina Playmakers, who will produce the drama, "Horn in the West"; standing: R. E. Agle, director, and chairman of the production committee; Kermit Hunter, of the University of North Carolina, author of the mountain drama; Dr. I. G. Greer, president of the historical organization, and Dr. D. J. Whitener, executive vice-president.—Photo by Falmer's Photo Service.

Dimes Quartet Singing Headlines Polio Drive

Plato Moody Passes In Ohio

Arthur Plato Moody, 66, native of Watauga county, and for more than twenty years a Coshocton county, Ohio, farmer, died last Tuesday at his home on West Lafayette, Ohio, Route 1, after an illness of five months.

Mr. Moody was born August 22, 1885 in Watauga county, North Carolina, a son of the late Sheriff William P. and Martha Fletcher Moody, and was married December 20, 1913, to Miss Mattie Danner, who survives. He was a member of the Baptist Church at West Lafayette.

The survivors are one daughter, Mrs. John Bradford, West Lafayette Route 1; four sons, Austin P. Moody, Bristol, Tenn.; Norman M. Moody, U. S. air force, Arthur W. Moody, West Lafayette, and Paul E. Moody, West Lafayette Route 1; eight sisters, Miss Alice R. Moody, Mrs. Grady Graham and Mrs. Raymond Carroll, all of Boone, N. C.; Mrs. Stewart Hayes and Mrs. Leonard Hayes, both of Vilas, Mrs. C. M. Hayes, West Lafayette Route 1, Mrs. D. F. Rogers, Coshocton Route 4, and Mrs. K. T. Odom, Newcomers-town Route 2; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held last Friday at 2 o'clock at the Baptist Church, West Lafayette, Ohio, with Rev. M. F. Bellville in charge. Burial was in Fairfield cemetery.

Mrs. Esther Reeves Dies in Albemarle

Mrs. Esther Reeves, 74 years of age, died at the home of her nephew, Mr. Albert Palmer, in Albemarle, N. C. on January 15. Mrs. Reeves had been in ill health for several years.

Funeral services were held at her home in Lew London, N. C. on January 16, at 3:00 p. m., and burial was in the city cemetery. Rev. Ben Moore and Rev. S. L. Sharpe conducted the services.

She is survived by one brother, Mr. Shelly Palmer of Rockwell, N. C., a nephew, Mr. Albert Palmer of Albemarle, and a niece, Mrs. Howard Cottrell of Boone. Mr. Palmer and Mrs. Cottrell, who were reared by Mrs. Reeves, had been with their aunt several weeks prior to her death.

Reports by the REA indicate that farmers are turning more and more to electric power for labor savings and for help in increasing farm production efficiency.

Vocalists From Wide Area To Take Part; Colored Groups To Aid; Two Auditoriums To Be Used.

Twelve quartets have already definitely promised to take part in the March of Dimes quartet singing Saturday evening, January 26, and information is that the songfest, which is rapidly taking its place as the highspot in the polio campaign, will draw a record crowd this year.



JACK IDOL
Director, March of Dimes

Valle Crucis PTA

Valle Crucis P. T. A. meets Friday night, January 25 at the Valle Crucis School. Make your plans to attend and bring a neighbor.

Urges Improvement Of Pasture Land In Watauga

Farmers of Watauga County can step up milk production, reduce feed costs and conserve soil and water resources by carrying out the pasture improvement practices emphasized in the 1952 Agricultural Conservation Program, says Dwight Cable, Chairman of the County PMA committee.

Mr. Cable points out that, in general, about 38 percent of all feed consumed by dairy cattle now comes from pasture crops, but that far less concentrated practices were carried out.

Assistance under the 1952 ACP will be approved for farms in Watauga County for either establishing or improving permanent pastures with the following pasture seeds: Kentucky bluegrass, orchard grass, fescue, Korean lespedeza, white Dutch clover and ladino clover. Approved mixtures are in the county handbook or are on file in the county office.

To make the most effective use of ACP practices, the chairman

urges each farmer to go over his farm to determine the conservation needs. This checkup should provide answers to the following questions:

Are pastures producing as well as they should? Are weeds taking over? Should the old pastures be plowed up and new ones established? What grass and legume mixture would be best? Will lime and phosphate increase production? How can the ACP (Continued on page eight)

Advance ticket sales have proved most encouraging to the committee members who state that tickets may be secured from business houses in Boone, from March of Dimes headquarters in the Building and Loan Building, and from various stores and filling stations in different sections of the county.

As hitherto announced, the singing will be held at 7:30 at both the courthouse and the Boone High School. It is anticipated that both auditoriums can take care of the crowds. Vocalists from three states, and from many counties in North Carolina, are expected to be present, and new registrants are arriving daily. Included will be some top-flight colored groups.

Walt Gragg and Alfred Adams are Masters of Ceremonies, and the general committee is composed of John F. Cook, J. Allen Gragg, and Richard Hodges.

The quartets are paying their own expenses in coming here to take part in the singing and word from the committee is: "Let's don't let 'em down!"

Polio Fund Ball To Be Held Here

The March of Dimes ball is to be held on February 9th at the Appalachian High School gymnasium starting at 8:30. A good orchestra will be secured and proceeds will be given to the polio fund. Further announcements of the event will be made in the next edition of the Democrat.

Life Purpose Week Feature at College

Life Purpose Week is being observed this week at Appalachian State Teachers college and the First Baptist Church at Boone, sponsored by the Baptist Student Union. The speaker for the series is Rev. Warren C. Carr, pastor of the Watts Street Baptist Church of Durham.

Hunter Submits Portions Of Script For Drama To Be Produced Here Next Summer; List of Those Named On New Committees.

A portion of the James Winkler farm, a 35-acre tract, in Boone, has been chosen as a site for the theatre in which the outdoor drama, featuring the history of the Appalachian mountain region, will be staged, it developed at a meeting of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association held here Monday.

A five-year lease has been secured on the land, which lies between the James Winkler home on Blowing Rock Road, and the State Farm road, and which is said to be ideally located for the development. The building committee is expected to speed plans for the start of the theatre construction early in March, if weather permits. The rustic structure will seat 2,000 persons.

"Horn in the West" At the same time, Mr. Kermit Hunter, professor of English at the University of North Carolina, and noted author, gave a preview of sections of the dramatic script, which has been named "Horn in the West." The promotional symbol will be a man, gun at side, coon skin cap, and holding a horn to his lips.

Mr. Hunter explained that the drama was not built around Daniel Boone altogether, but includes the famous trail-blazer, along with John Sevier and other notables of the 1770-1780 period. In addition to being a dramatic record of some of the mountain history, the drama carries a strong religious undertone, features some of the old sacred songs of the hill country, and traces the later development of the section. Samuel Selden, of the Carolina Playmakers, who will produce the drama, said that in addition to the Playmakers, considerable local talent would be used, and try-outs will be conducted in the early spring.

Dr. I. G. Greer, president of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, presided at the meeting.

Committees A committee to employ a business manager was appointed, and is composed of: Dr. D. J. Whitener, Ralph Winkler, Kermit Hunter, Mrs. B. W. Stallings, H. W. Wilcox.

The building committee is composed of Ralph Winkler, R. D. Hodges, Sr., Estel Wagoner, G. C. Robbins, and Alfred Adams.

First Reports On Dimes Fund

Reports are beginning to trickle in to the March of Dimes office here and Jack Idol, chairman of the campaign, has issued the first figures, covering current receipts. He asks that churches who have taken special offerings send them in as soon as possible.

The initial report follows:

Perkinsville Baptist Church, \$60.00; Shulls Mills Church, \$10.45; Cove Creek Church, \$25.21; Presbyterian Sunday School, \$17.07; Middle Fork Baptist Church, \$9.00; Sandy Flat Church, \$7.00; Boone Circuit Methodist Church, Rev. McKinney, \$17.20; Mt. Zion Lutheran Sunday School, \$27.00.

Groups reporting partial contributions include: Green Valley High School, \$102.77; Appalachian High School, \$87.00.

Deep Gap School held a pie supper which netted \$172.66 for the campaign. Lions Club Mill o' Dimes have reported \$250.00 collected at their stands.

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