

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

THREE IN A ROW

"May be a long time 'fore ere's another fire," suggested onlooker at the scene of Sunday morning's disastrous blaze which gutted the Peoples Cafe. "You know they come in threes!" . . . And there have been three for a fact . . . The blaze in late July which snuffed out the lives of two colored residents of the town, the conflagration which destroyed Hiram Carroll's home and contents, and now the one which bereft Mrs. Emma Isaacs of her business house . . . We didn't know the "three" business applied in the case of fires, but our friend said it did. We had always laid a good deal of store by the hill-country belief that deaths come in threes, and that when the third one has paid the penalty, we're supposed to have fairly clear sailing for a spell . . . And somewhere along the way, we had gathered the hound dog sign . . . That is when the perp sits right down and gazes at the moon and howls, not 'xactly for the heck of it, but just mourns . . . They tell us the pale horse is abroad in the immediate locality.

IN SERIOUS VEIN

Seriously, we share the sorrow of the community on this latest conflagration, which did such great damage to one of our popular business establishments . . . We likewise regret Hiram Carroll's hard luck, and of course the shock of the fatal blaze some weeks ago still lingers, and the horror of the deaths of John Jones and Bessie . . . And in expressing our regrets we shall hope for a fact that the third will be the last.

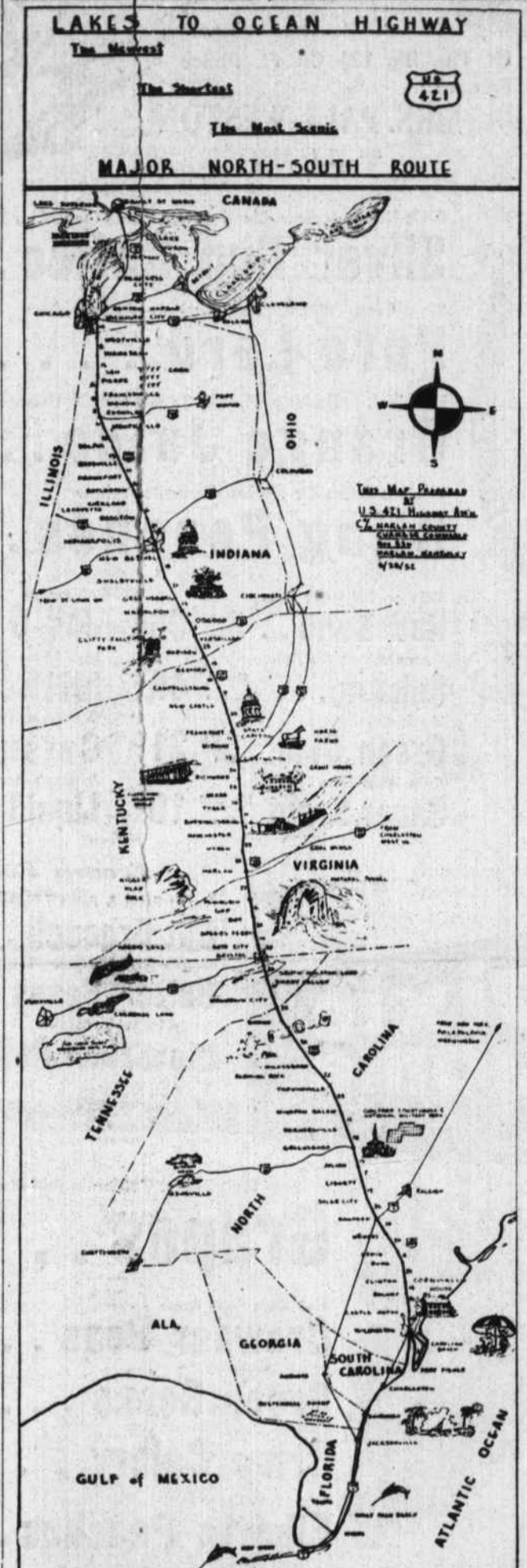
RARE FEATHERED VISITORS

Rev. J. Norton Atkins, of Shulls Mills, tells the Democrat that five white cranes, birds seldom seen in this section of the country, have been "using" along the upper reaches of the Watauga River . . . Rev. Mr. Atkins, who has a love for God's creatures in keeping with his high calling, is enjoying the visit of the beautiful water fowls and we share his hope that the winged visitors will not be molested during their stop-over in Watauga . . . Highway Patrolman R. B. Parker, who finds time to do a bit of back-lot gardening, recently treated us to some excellent roasting eats of "his own raising," which were delicious, and for which he has our full appreciation . . . Mr. Parker, who for several years has enforced the law in this section with tireless loyalty, is being transferred to Charlotte, where he will be in charge of the permanent weighing station, being established on Wilkinson Boulevard . . . The change means a promotion for Mr. Parker, and a better salary, but he expresses regrets at leaving Boone, where he and Mrs. Parker have established so many enduring friendships.

EARLY IN THE DAY

This corner admits never-ending pride in the rapid growth of the Democrat's subscription list in the past few months, and more than this, values the words of praise which we hear on every hand . . . The cash and the compliments, and the prompt reaction if a subscriber fails to get his copy, add up to a highly satisfactory acceptance of the local newspaper . . . We are indeed grateful . . . We take subscriptions on the street corner, in the living room, at various public gatherings, have a few offered in other towns, and regularly expect to have 'phone calls after we get home from folks who want to be squared on the books . . . We take a lot of renewals early in the mornings — 'fore breakfast — but broke a record on this score Sunday morning . . . We had rushed over town when the Peoples Cafe fire was discovered, and were strolling back home at 2:30 . . . As we passed the Tugman house, Grady hailed us and passed along the coin for a year's subscription . . . One of our readers had come by after hours at the Democrat and asked Grady to pass on to us the glad tidings.

Route 421 To Become Main Tourist Highway



MAP showing the course of highway 421, which bids fair to become an important tourist route from the Lakes to the Carolina Coast through Boone.

Mrs. Pritchett Named To YDC Committee

Sanford, N. C.—Mrs. Earlene Pritchett has been appointed as a member of the finance committee for the annual Young Democratic Clubs of North Carolina Convention at Greensboro, September 4, 5 and 6.

The appointment was made by W. W. Staton, Sanford attorney, president of the state clubs.

Mrs. Pritchett, a YDC leader of Boone will assist in the organization and planning for the fall Democratic campaign. The state organization of the YDC for the '52 campaign, plans extensive campaigning throughout the state with the bulk of the local work being done by town and county leaders.

The three day convention at Greensboro will be highlighted by an appearance of all state candidates, council of state, congressmen and senators. Horace R. Kornegay, general chairman of the conclave states that exact convention procedure will be followed.

Elections of officers will be

Work is going steadily forward on the few remaining unimproved sections of highway 421, to the end that in a short while the route will be one of the nation's most important arteries of tourist and commercial transportation, says S. C. Eggers, of Boone, executive vice-president of the U. S. Highway 421 Association.

Mr. Eggers, who has been in the organization since it was formed, supplies the Democrat with the accompanying map which indicates the importance of the highway, to the improvement of which the Association is dedicated.

Starting at Michigan City, the route extends through Boone to Fort Fisher, N. C., on the coast, and would provide this immediate section with another through tourist route, funneling vacationists from Chicago, and other lake-shore metropolitan areas into the Appalachian mountain region and on to the Carolina seaside resorts. In historical significance and scenic attractiveness, the route of 421 is in a class by itself, and many are inclined to the belief that from a tourist viewpoint its local value would be greater than 603. No other road gives the mid-west cities a direct route into Boone.

Mr. Eggers points out that the Association was formed four years ago for the purpose of promoting the development of 421. It is encouraging to note that the entire route is now hardsurfaced, with the exception of short links in Virginia and Tennessee. Work is going forward in Virginia, while Tennessee has let four miles of construction from Mountain City in the direction of Boone.

Mr. Eggers expresses his thanks to the people of Tennessee and Virginia for their fine cooperation with his organization, and says that no effort will be spared to have 421 developed into the finest type of highway, in the years ahead.

Greene Named To Finance State Merchants Assn.

Clyde R. Greene, prominent Boone business man and member of the Board of Directors of the N. C. Merchants Association, has been appointed to serve on the finance committee of the 7,000-member organization, it is announced by B. W. Haigh, Raleigh, president.

The finance committee, according to Haigh, has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the finances of the Association and, pursuant to the Association Constitution, it is required to audit the accounts of the secretary and the treasurer.

Associated with Mr. Greene on the committee are the following: W. W. Kale, Charlotte; Ansel E. Fowler, Winston-Salem; Franklin Biggs, Lumberton; J. G. Pfaff, Salisbury; Paul Johnston, Littleton.

Merchants Will Hold Annual Picnic Wednesday

The Merchants Association of Boone and Watauga county will hold the annual employer-employee picnic at Camp Yonahlossee Wednesday afternoon, September 3.

There will be a watermelon feast at 3:30 and supper will be served at 5:30. Fried chicken and all that goes with it will be served. Stanley A. Harris is chairman of the food committee, with Crayte Teague and Mrs. Von Hagaman.

Bob Cox is chairman of the recreation committee with Mrs. Dallas Hodges and Mrs. Hazel Jones. There will be softball, volley ball, horse shoe pitching, swimming, and possibly shuffle board and table tennis. Burl Greene is chairman of arrangements.

Employees are asked to stimulate as much interest as possible among the employees and when committee members make the rounds selling tickets, buy the limit.

Arnall insists prices will increase in the fall.

V. F. W. Honors Oldest Veteran At Dinner Party



A. W. SMITH

Watauga Mountaineer Post 7031, Veterans of Foreign Wars, held a dinner Monday night at the Gateway Cafe honoring Comrade A. W. (Uncle Ab) Smith. Mr. Smith, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, is the oldest living overseas veteran in this section of the state, and a past commander of the post.

Jack Caldwell of Newland, senior vice-commander of the 15th District, VFW, delivered an address kicking off the 1953 membership drive, and reviewed activities in this district. He urged wives, mothers, and sisters of men who served overseas in time of war to join the Ladies' Auxiliary of the VFW.

Commander John T. King recognized past commanders of the post and commended their service to the organization and the community.

Early Morning Blaze Destroys Peoples Cafe

Fire of undetermined origin raged through the Peoples Cafe building early Sunday morning, destroying equipment and supplies and inflicting severe damage to the building, the back portion of which was completely burned away.

The cafe, owned by Mrs. Emma Isaacs and operated by herself and daughter, Mrs. Velma Tatum, had been closed at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, and since it was believed the fire in the range had died long before the conflagration, the cause of the fire was not readily apparent.

The loss to the stock and building is said to have been partially covered by insurance.

The building is owned by A. E. Hamby.

Floridian Is Club Speaker

The Rotary Club of Boone held its regular meeting last Thursday evening at the Skyline Restaurant with the president, James T. Thompson, presiding. Charles L. Sykes, Rotarian of Miami, Fla., spoke on "The Fourth Avenue of Service—Internationalism."

Rotarians visiting from other clubs included William M. Fulton, of Blowing Rock; Dick Gresham of Rome, Ga.; Gilbert L. Lycan of De Land, Fla.; Charles L. Sykes of Miami, Fla.; and Hugh Williams of Hickory.

Lamb Pool To Ship Lambs Thurs.

The Watauga Lamb Pool will ship lambs from the sheep loading pens in North Wilkesboro on Thursday, September 4. This will be the last shipment from North Wilkesboro in 1952, but we will join with Ashe County in a shipment around the first of October.

Lambs will be graded, weighed and loaded from 7:30 a. m. until all lambs that are on the grounds by 10:30 a. m. are loaded. Payment will be made after proper calculations are completed.

FAMILY SPENDING

The average American city family in 1950 spent about six per cent more than it earned and had to use savings or borrow "several hundred dollars" for living expenses, according to a new Bureau of Labor statistical survey. These figures were after taxes.

'Horn In West' Ends First Year Sunday

Commencement At Local College Slated

The summer commencement exercises are to be held at Appalachian State Teachers college this (Wednesday) evening, August 27, with 211 young men and women due to receive either the Master of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degree.

Speaker for the occasion will be Dr. Gilbert Lester Lycan of Deland, Fla. Dr. Lycan holds the B. A., the M. A., and the Ph.D. degrees from Yale University. He is the head of the department of social studies at Stetson University in Deland and this summer has been a visiting professor in social studies in the graduate school at Appalachian State Teachers college.

Special music for the program will be furnished by Walton S. Cole, pianist, Miss Mary L. Ward and Hoyt Saffit, vocalists. The invocation will be given by the Rev. J. K. Parker, Jr., pastor of the James I. Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church of Boone, and the benediction will be given by the Rev. Joseph Shackford, pastor of the Boone Methodist Church. Degrees will be conferred and diplomas awarded by Dr. B. B. Dougherty, founder and president of the college.

Marshals will be Morris Branch of Hickory, chief; Ray Triplett, Wilkesboro; Betsy Rea, Matthews; Peggy Cheek and William Check, Boone; Louise Wyont, Gastonia; Gladys Carr, Plymouth; (Continued on page six)

Record Crowds Seen For Week

The first season of "Horn in the West" will close Sunday night, August 31, with the 58th performance of the drama at the Daniel Boone Amphitheatre. Through Sunday night, August 25, the drama had been seen by 45,292 persons from 47 states, Canada, Alaska, the Canal Zone and Hawaii.

Advance ticket reservations indicate that the remaining performances of the drama may draw the largest crowds recorded for any single week since it opened June 27, as well as a number of North Carolina's first citizens.

Governor Kerr Scott, Mrs. Scott, Eugene Shaw, state commissioner of internal revenue, and Mrs. Shaw will arrive in Boone Wednesday afternoon to be guests at the drama Wednesday night. The governor was invited to the opening performance of the drama, but was unable to accept. "Horn in the West" will be the first of the state's outdoor dramas he has witnessed this summer.

On Saturday night the drama will be seen by members of the State Literary and Historical Association of North Carolina, the Western North Carolina Historical Association, and the North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians during their two-day meeting at Boone. Fifty-four reservations have been received for Thursday night from the Carlton Yarn Mills of Cherryville, N. C.

William B. Umstead, Democratic nominee for governor of North Carolina, will attend the concluding performance of "Horn in the West" Sunday night.

Last Friday night the 50th performance of "Horn in the West" was dedicated to Congressman R. L. Doughton and Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, when their presence in the theatre was acknowledged.

Total attendance Saturday night was 1,727.

"It now appears that by August (Continued on page four)

Plans Are Made For Annual Calf Show Here

The second annual Boone Feeder calf sale will be held on Monday, September 29, at the Boone Livestock Market. The farmers have voted the following important changes in rules:

1. No calves can be sold that are not nominated and inspected before date of sale.
2. Owner must sign statement showing that calves have been vaccinated for both blackleg and hemorrhagic septicemia before calves can be accepted.
3. No bull calves can be sold.
4. No calves with horns can be sold.

Other rules are similar to the rules used in 1951. If you want a copy of the rules, call at the county agents office or ask for some by mail.

Get your nominations in early so the inspection committee can look at your calves before sale date.

Grant To Address County Baptists



MARSE GRANT

One of the several denominational speakers appearing on the program of the Three Forks Baptist Association this week is Marse Grant, editor of Charity and Children at the Baptist orphanage in Thomasville. His talk centers around the extensive child-caring program which Baptists support.

Health Clinic Schedules Set

The following clinics are held regularly at the Boone office of the District Health Department:

- Weekly Diagnostic Clinic. For foodhandlers, school and pre-school children and other diagnostic work. Each Monday morning, 8:30 to 11:30 a. m.
- Weekly Immunization Clinic. Each Friday afternoon, 2:00 to 4:00 p. m.
- Monthly Mothers and Infants Clinic. Each 2nd Monday in the month, 1:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m.
- Orthopedic Clinic. For crippled and handicapped persons. Every other month, on the morning of the Friday after the 3rd Thursday at 8:00 a. m. The alternate month the same clinic is held at the District Health Dept. Office in the Ashe Memorial Hospital in Jefferson.

Due to the very few requests for services in recent weeks at the clinic held this summer in Blowing Rock, this clinic has been discontinued.

Officer Parker Is Promoted To Charlotte Post

Roger B. Parker, State Highway Patrolman, who has maintained headquarters in Boone since 1947, has been transferred to Charlotte, where he will be supervisor of the permanent weighing station on Wilkinson Boulevard, in charge of the Department of Motor Vehicles, theft bureau. Mr. Parker will be in charge of fifteen men.

Mrs. Parker and daughter, Pamela Dawn, will join Mr. Parker in Charlotte the latter part of September.

Most Schools Of County To Open On Labor Day

All the schools of the county will open next Monday with the exception of Boone, Green Valley and the new Parkway School which will open on Tuesday, in line with former announcements made in these columns.

Superintendent W. H. Walker states that Mr. Alexander, a State Board of Education representative, is in the county at this time making plans for the routing of the 51 buses which will be in daily operation in Watauga this year. This is an increase of seven over a year ago.

Woman's Club Seeks Funds For Children's Home

The annual Junior Woman's Club campaign for funds for the Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Greensboro, is now underway, and a growing membership is badly needed to carry on the society's vital work of finding homes for homeless and orphaned children of the State.

The society was founded in 1902 in an effort "to provide a home for the child who needs a home and a child for the home that needs a child." A volunteer agency, administered by North Carolina citizens, the society receives no tax funds, gives its services free and exists entirely on voluntary contributions. The society has taken care of more than five thousand homeless babies in the State.

Contributions may be mailed to the Children's Home Society of North Carolina, at 740 Chestnut Street, Greensboro, or to Mrs. Charles Wilfong, Boone, N. C.

Mrs. Kirchner At Indiana U.

Through the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation of Indiana University Mrs. Joy M. Kirchner has been invited to direct the opening folk dance session for the widely known health workshop.

Approximately 250 educators from all parts of the United States and a number of foreign countries will be in attendance at the workshop. Last summer Mrs. Kirchner conducted the folk dances for the workshop and as a result she has been recalled on popular demand.

The workshop is an annual affair held during the latter two weeks of August and sponsored by several agencies of the state of Indiana.

Sandra J. Norris Taken By Death

Sandra Jean Norris, aged 15 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coy J. Norris of Boone, Route 1, died at the Watauga Hospital on Monday, August 25, following a brief illness of less than one day. She was playing in the yard on Sunday, it was said, apparently in good health.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Lloyd Cullers. Interment was in the family cemetery.

In addition to the parents, she is survived by a brother, Denny Norris.

Health Office To Close Labor Day

The office of the District Health Department in Boone will be closed on Monday, September 1, for Labor Day.