

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

AND THE SUN BEAMED DOWN

Monday came along warm and sunny and we were glad to see Old Sol putting aside the frost and warming the air a bit . . . Even if the ground hog did see him at the same time! . . . Course everybody in this section knows, that on February 2nd, the tough little mountain critter, known variously as the woodchuck, the whistle pig and the groundhog, pokes his nose out from his burrow, takes an exploratory step or so, and if he sees his shadow, we're stuck! . . . There'll be forty-two more days of bad weather—of "uncommon cold". The pig will make his odd little whistle, which probably means "nix on the whole thing," and retreat into the innermost recesses of his underground habitat and there sleep away the time until spring time comes, and there's some grazing to be had!

VENERABLE PROPHECY

The groundhog system of forecasting the weather during the latter part of the winter, seems to have originated in Great Britain and Germany centuries ago, and the thing came to this country with early-day immigrants . . . At any rate, no man can remember in Watauga, when more or less anxious eyes failed to observe the weather on February 2—and when there were none to believe in the legend of the little wild piggy . . . Then February 2, is Candlemas Day, or the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin—observed by the Roman, Greek and other Churches, and out of this observance comes down through the centuries these lines:

"If Candlemas day be dry and fair,
Winter will have another flight;
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and will not come again."

FUN HORSES, MULES

Dr. Sawyer, of Appalachian College, who when he tires of class room work, takes a walk about town and gathers up the latest wise cracks, and jokes, told us one of the newest over at the postoffice the other morning, and then set to wondering about how the funny tales happen to be . . . We've had the notion that some right lazy guy, reads the newspapers with one eye between naps, and figures out the quips because he just don't know of anything else to do . . . We've had a considerable admiration for these folks who can dope out the ingredients for a smile out of any sort of situation . . . We mentioned to Dr. Sawyer that maybe the shiftest sort of fellows had contributed more to the progress of the country than some of the ambitious souls . . . For instance labor-saving machinery was first conceived in the mind of the man who just couldn't abide the tedium of hand work—or work of any sort, maybe . . . The ambitious one, the firebrand of the age before powered wheels, worked himself to death—didn't care whether there was an easy way or not.

HOSS SENSE

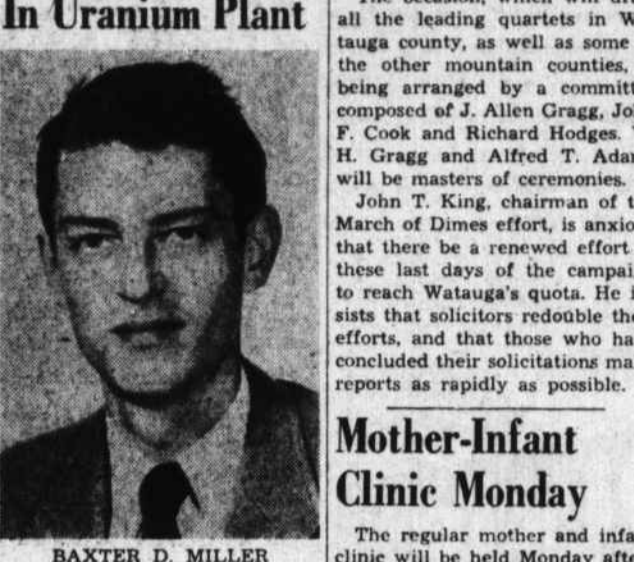
And friend Sawyer interposed the "hoss" sense theory . . . Folks who are rather on the "brainy" side—the old salt of the earth sort of people, are said to have horse sense . . . Which we were reminded is no sense hardly . . . Those who figure out the IQ's of dumb animals, says Dr. Sawyer, that the horse is not an outstandingly cagey beast . . . he's without initiative, a little slow on judgment, and will plod right on down the road, and kill himself eating when occasion arises . . . Not so with the mule, who'll tire of the monotony, and assert himself now and again . . . He's a rugged individualist, who don't change his ways readily and who'll take care of himself. He'll eat only a wholesome amount of food, no matter how much is offered, and diets himself away from the colic which lays so many horses low . . . The Saw-

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March Dimes Songfest Set

The third annual county-wide March of Dimes Quartet Singing will be held at the courthouse and the Appalachian High School Saturday, February 14, at 7:30 p. m., marking the end of the March of Dimes campaign in Watauga county.

Baxter Miller Is Chief Chemist In Uranium Plant



BAXTER D. MILLER
Baxter D. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Miller, of Boone, has recently been named Chief Chemist of the Galligher Co., of Monticello, Utah.

The Galligher Company operates a plant producing uranium for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Mr. Miller graduated from Appalachian High School, and graduated with a B. S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina in June 1950 after attending Appalachian College one year. After attending graduate school for one year he was employed by the Celanese Corporation of America, Rock Hill, S. C. until March 1952. He has been with the Galligher Co. since June 1952.

T. B. Group Acts To Purchase New Mobile X-Ray Unit

Board members and representatives of Alleghany-Ashe-Watauga Tuberculosis committees met in West Jefferson last Tuesday, with William D. Braswell, field secretary of the state association in attendance.

Mrs. J. E. Holshouser, Boone, chairman of the association, called for reports from seal sale activities in each of the counties.

The occasion, which will draw all the leading quartets in Watauga county, as well as some of the other mountain counties, is being arranged by a committee composed of J. Allen Gragg, John F. Cook and Richard Hodges. W. H. Gragg and Alfred T. Adams will be masters of ceremonies.

John T. King, chairman of the March of Dimes effort, is anxious that there be a renewed effort in these last days of the campaign to reach Watauga's quota. He insists that solicitors redouble their efforts, and that those who have concluded their solicitations make reports as rapidly as possible.

Mother-Infant Clinic Monday

The regular mother and infant clinic will be held Monday afternoon at 2 to 4 o'clock, at the Health Department in Boone.

Bids Asked On Nurse Home Construction

Plans for the new nurses' home at Watauga Hospital have been approved by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, and construction bids are to be opened March 5, after which it is hoped that work will start on the new building.

especially the people living in the country, who have not contributed. The treasurer of the fund, Stanley A. Harris, would be glad to receive additional gifts, either in cash or pledges, payable during the year.

"The nurses' home," says Mr. Harris, "belongs to all the people in Watauga county, and everyone should want to have a part in it, especially when we get \$3.00 for each dollar we give."

Spring Parkway Tour Planned In Charlotte

Newspapermen, motor club and civic leaders from over the country will join in the third annual spring tour of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and will visit Boone and Blowing Rock.

Plans for the tour, which will give the participants a chance to see the Blue Ridge Mountains in their spring finery, were made in Charlotte last Friday.

The group of newsmen to be invited from the eastern half of the United States has not been selected, nor have the motor clubs who will send representatives been named, but the tour route was set up during the planning session at the Carolina Motor Club.

Included in the planning group was Sam P. Weems, Roanoke, superintendent and guiding light in Parkway development from the time construction was begun on the super-highway in the hills, to the present, when it has become one of the top scenic attractions in the country.

Others were T. Ed Pickard, vice president and general manager of the Motor Club, who will be responsible for setting up the tour finally; Charles Parker, Raleigh, director of advertising for the N.

\$9,557 War Bonds Are Sold Here

Sale of Series E, H, J, and K United State Defense Bonds in Watauga County for the month of December, 1952, totaled \$9,557.50. This announcement was made this week by County Defense Bonds Chairman A. T. Adams, based on the monthly sales report from Allison James, State Director of the U. S. Savings Bonds Division in Greensboro.

The total figures for North Carolina's 100 counties were as follows: Series E and Series H (combined) \$4,886,420.00; Series J Bonds \$151,056.00; and Series K Bonds \$268,900.00; totaling \$5,298,376.50.

Besides her husband and Mrs. Winebarger, Mrs. Masten is survived by two sons, Frank Masten, (Continued on page six)

Thirty-Eight High Schools In State Band Clinic Here



APPALACHIAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND, which is the host organization to the All-State High School Band Clinic to be held at the College Friday and Saturday.

Wilkes Man Is Fatally Shot On Highway 421

Richard Hardin McGuire, 30, of Summitt, was fatally shot and James Gilbert, 28, of Ferguson, was charged with the shooting in an altercation which took place at a roadside cafe at Wade Harris Bridge, on highway 421, fifteen miles from Boone.

James Gilbert, a son of Wade Gilbert of Ferguson, former Wilkes deputy, surrendered to Wilkes officers at the Wilkes jail. He was quoted as saying that he was trying to stop an altercation at the cafe when McGuire advanced on him with a knife. He admitted that he fired the bullet, a 38-calibre, which entered McGuire's forehead just above the left eye.

Wilkes Coroner T. M. Myers and a physician removed the bullet, which they said went through McGuire's brain and lodged on the inside of the back of his skull. Apparently he died instantly but someone at the cafe carried him to the hospital in Boone.

McGuire, who worked at sawmills, was born March 11, 1922, and was a son of Julius and Cynthia Greene McGuire of Summitt.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. at Greene Cemetery near Summitt.

Gilbert was held in jail on a charge of murder.

Winkler Introduces Bills To Tax Drinks, Enforce School Law

Representative W. L. Winkler of Watauga on Monday introduced in the Legislature a bill which would impose a one-cent tax on all soft drinks sold in the State, and another designed to enforce the compulsory school law in Watauga county.

The State-wide bill, involving the tax on soft drinks, would produce one and a half million dollars in new revenue, in the opinion of its sponsor.

The Winkler school bill would authorize the Sheriff of Watauga county to enforce the compulsory school attendance law. The Sheriff would be declared a special attendance officer and be authorized to employ a deputy to handle attendance enforcement duties.

The Watauga Sheriff would also be authorized to check and supervise the speed and the loading of school buses in the county. The compensation to the Sheriff his deputy for these additional duties would be fixed by the county commissioners.

James Farthing Promoted By Bank

James Farthing, for several years assistant cashier of the Northwestern Bank in Boone, left Saturday for Taylorsville, where he is cashier of the Northwestern Bank there, succeeding Solon Little, deceased.

Mr. Farthing has been employed by the local bank for seven years, and his promotion comes from long and efficient service to the institution.

Hi School Wrestlers Meet First Test Here

Wrestlers of Appalachian High School meet their first test of the year when they play host to the Concord Recreation Center wrestling team February 5, at 5:00 in the high school gymnasium.

This meet, the first for the Blue Devil Grapplers, will show what the charges of Steve Gabriel, former A. S. T. C. mat ace, have accomplished in their three weeks of strenuous workouts.

Here is the 1953 roster of the Appalachian High School mat squad:

- 95 lbs., Phil McGuire
- 103 lbs., J. W. Wellborn
- 112 lbs., Don Cordero
- 120 lbs., Joe Mast
- 127 lbs., Mack Wellborn, Bill Brown
- 133 lbs., Co-Capt. Kermit Ashley, Bill Gilbert
- 138 lbs., John E. Brown
- 145 lbs., Jim Brown
- 154 lbs., Co-Capt. Charles Winkler
- 165 lbs., Charles Taylor
- Heavy weight, Milton Barden.

Annual Meeting Chamber Commerce On February 13th

The annual meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce will be held on the evening of Friday, February 13, in the basement of the Baptist Church with Mr. Marvin Krieger, secretary of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce as guest speaker.

Tickets are now on sale for the dinner which will be served by the Worthwhile Woman's Club. The membership committee of the Chamber will be in charge of selling tickets or they may be obtained in the office of the Chamber of Commerce.

Members are reminded that this is ladies' night and the most important meeting of the year. A record attendance is expected.

Hereford Bull Sale May Be Held

The Watauga County Purebred Hereford breeders decided to hold a spring Hereford "Bull Sale" in Watauga County if enough good bulls can be found.

The purpose of the proposed sale would be to give the bull buyers a chance to buy their bulls at auction without making time consuming trips to one or more farms. It would also save the breeder time as he could show his bull to a large number of people at one time.

The sale will be held the latter part of April, if present plans are worked out. Any purebred breeder that has bulls for sale should notify the County Agent. The number of bulls available will determine whether or not a sale will be held.

Sister Mrs. Winebarger Fatally Hurt In Crash

Mrs. Frank M. Masten, Sr., of Winston-Salem, a sister of Mrs. Clyde Winebarger of Boone, died last Tuesday, following injuries sustained in an automobile accident 36 hours earlier.

The car Mrs. Masten was driving struck a fire hydrant, as she tried to avoid striking another car at an intersection. Mr. and Mrs. Masten were rendered unconscious by the impact. The car ran wild on the street and sidewalk 350 feet, killing two negro boys, injuring a third and a negro woman. The vehicle stopped after hitting the steps and porch of two houses.

It is believed that Mrs. Masten's body or foot held the accelerator down after the original impact. She suffered severe shock, multiple abrasions and facial lacerations and injuries to the chest. Mr. Masten, who is now recovering, suffered a broken nose, facial lacerations, concussion, and severe shock. He is expected to recover.

Besides her husband and Mrs. Winebarger, Mrs. Masten is survived by two sons, Frank Masten, (Continued on page six)



RAYMOND FARTHING, CGM, right, being welcomed by Chief Petty Officer Walter Hardester, as he takes over recruiting duties at the Beekley, W. Va., station. A native of Watauga County, Mr. Farthing is a son of B. W. Farthing, and the late Mrs. Farthing of Valle Crucis and has had eighteen years of active sea duty, visiting every continent on the globe. Raymond said the Farthing family is well represented in the Navy, three brothers, Baxter, Benjy and Lewis, now seeing service with the sailor boys.

Dr. John Martin At Raleigh Meet

Dr. John G. Martin of Boone attended the 15th Annual conference of the North Carolina State Veterinarian Medical Association held last week at State College, Raleigh. The conference is sponsored by the State Veterinarian Association in cooperation with State College.

Dr. Martin heard Asa Winter, chairman for the Bureau of Planning and Coordinating committee for emergency activities of the United States Department of Agriculture, outline the important role veterinarians should play in civilian defense in opposing the threat of biological warfare.

H. Grady Farthing Attends Meeting

Mr. H. Grady Farthing, a member of the State Stream Sanitation Committee, is in Raleigh this week, attending the sessions of the Committee.

The Sanitation Committee is now mapping proposed legislation after conducting intensive stream pollution surveys since its establishment.

High Spots In State Of Union Message Are Given

Here in brief are the salient points of President Eisenhower's State of the Union message, delivered Monday:

The U. S. must spurn any past, secret deals which let aggressive communism enslave free peoples.

The Seventh Fleet no longer will "shield Communist China" by preventing Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists on Formosa from attacking mainland.

Western Europe should take further steps toward practical unity.

Tax cuts must wait until "we show we can succeed in bringing the budget under control."

Price-wage controls should die April 30.

Old age insurance should be extended to millions now uncovered.

A new commission will study ways of getting farmers "full parity of income."

All government agencies are being ordered to weed out any disloyal, unreliable employees.

Present Government Reorganization Act should be extended.

"Corrective" amendments to Taft-Hartley Act ought to be speeded.