

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

WATAUGA COUNTY
1886 POPULATION 18,341
Leading agricultural and tourist area.
Livestock, dairying and truck farming
of paramount importance. Blue Ridge
Parkway traverses county, and includes
Blowing Rock, one of the principal
summer resorts of Eastern America.

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12 PAGES — 2 SECTIONS

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

FOOD STORE PIONEER

T. Milton Greer might well lay claim to being the town's pioneer grocery merchant. . . . As he talked the other day of some of his experiences back in the twenties when the Carolina Stores were doing a land office business, we thought of his independent store, owned by him and Charlie Eller, and which was known as the J & E Self-Service Store. . . . Thus, so far as we know, was first brought to Boone the idea of a customer gathering up his "vitels" by himself, paying somebody at a central point, and getting on out. . . . Mr. Greer managed the Carolina Store, which was part of a chain originating in Lenoir, and presided by D. W. Turner, and was Boone's first really thorough-going, exclusive food store. . . . It was established along about the time the folks were up in arms against chain stores in general—the radio had come about and a fellow by the name of Henderson was promoting Al Smith, and cussing all the chains, and the folks in small towns were about of the mind to build themselves a Chinese wall and keep these mass merchandisers out. . . . At any rate the Carolina store, flourished for a while, and was then succeeded by the Dixie Store, which Mr. Greer has so capably managed since its establishment here. . . . Food merchandising has gone a long way since Milton Greer began to sell groceries "a little cheaper" up by the creek, where the Democrat building stands, but the genial purveyor of good things to eat, has changed little through the years. . . . He is still seeing to the needs of the pantries of the town and county, passing a joke when time permits, and enjoying his work, as time has brought him a brand new generation of customers since he sacked his first sugar, and rang up his initial sale along the Street.

HOW'S IT DONE?

We are grateful to the many folks who read this column—we've always wondered why there are so many of them—and are warmed by the many phone calls, and letters, etc. which bring words of commendation. . . . Amongst those who follow this distillate with more than the usual interest, the stock question is, "how do you do it?" . . . It's just a matter of jotting down a few of the notions one has as he goes to and fro along King Street, a few things about some folks we see, and some things we feel. . . . As another country journalist said to us along time ago, "one doesn't have to be wacky to do this, but it helps." . . . At any rate when ideas are scarce and the March winds have blown the folks off the street, and there's little to be seen, one can always meditate on his job.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED

It used to be that the country newspaper publisher used up a good share of his space telling of the troubles he had, of belittling his profession and talking up his hard luck. . . . That has all changed as country journalism has grown up and expanded, as the newspapers have become better, and taken their places as going concerns in the life of the community. The editor has quit lamenting, but at the same time he'll always wonder about some of the things that happen. . . . For instance, the fellow who, by the very nature of things, comes to be a regular feature in a newspaper, who's promoted year in and year out, seldom offers any sort of acknowledgment. . . . On the other hand a man whose name appears just once in the personal column, quite often likes the thing so well he'll come in an offer to pay. But returning to the columning, one of the strange quirks of the strange business, is that once in a while a fellow has what he considers a dilly of a notion. . . . He toys with the thing for weeks, dreams about it a couple of times, and finally lays her on the sheet. . . . He reads it again and again, throws out his chest and feels like the guy who has turned up the other ace. . . . When this happens, his production seldom causes a ruffle. He don't get a raise. . . . But let the day come, when a column just can't be born, when it's wrench-

(Continued on page four)

Women's Debating Teams Win Honors

The debate teams of Appalachian State Teachers college have returned from participating in the South Atlantic Forensic Tournament which was held at Lenoir-Rhyne college March 5, 6 and 7. The women's teams from Appalachian won top tournament honors, and the men's teams likewise acquitted themselves well, according to Professor Leo K. Pritchett, the coach of debating. The question for debate was: Resolved, That the Congress of the United States should enact a compulsory fair employment practices law.

In the women's division of debate the teams consisted of Jo Ann Hardin of Boone and Jean Hopkins of Beaufort, affirmative; Hope Dyson, Taylorsville, and Joanne Aldridge, Boone, negative. The women won eleven debates and lost three. The affirmative won from George Washington University, East Carolina College, Lenoir-Rhyne college, Tennessee Tech, Maryville college, and the United States Naval Academy. They lost only to the Wake Forest men. The negative team won from Maryville college, George Washington University, Milligan, Tennessee Tech, and Roanoke college, men. They lost only to the University of Florida men, and Lenoir-Rhyne college.

In the men's division of debate, the affirmative team was Bill Blackburn of Boone and Richard Zuber of Hickory. The negative team was John Howard of Concord and Marion Cox of Boone. The affirmative team won from Carson-Newman, Maryville, Millsaps, and Duke University. They lost to Davidson, University of Florida, and Bridgewater. The negative team won from Mary-

ville, Bridgewater, Carson-Newman, University of South Carolina, and lost to V. P. L. Davidson, and Roanoke college.

In the women's individual contests, Joanne Aldridge won first place in problem-solving; Jo Ann Hardin won second place in radio extemporé; and also third place in radio newscast; and Jean Hopkins won second place in poetry reading.

According to Mr. Pritchett, 21 colleges and universities were represented at this famous southern debating tournament. There were 56 debating teams, represented by 120 debaters who participated.

Mr. Pritchett announced, that he is now preparing to take four debaters—two men and two women, who will be chosen from the eight debaters who went to Hickory—to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for participation in the National Tournament of Pi Kappa Delta. Colleges and universities from all over the United States will be present for this tournament. The tournament will take place at Kalamazoo College, April 5 through 9th. The debaters who participate in this tournament will have to debate both sides of the question.

SCOOTER TRIP

Burkeville, Va. — Larry and Betty Mertsching, a young Burkeville couple, recently took off by motor scooter for Oakland, California, hoping to make the trip in thirty days. The scooters will be equipped with sidecars, which, among other things, will carry a gasoline stove, a portable icebox, lanterns, sleeping bags, portable radio and camera. "Baby," their pet cat, will also go along.

Rape Charges Made; \$5,000 Bond Is Given

An itinerant radio repairman is being held under \$5,000 bond in Watauga County jail on charges of assaulting a 25-year-old mother of two children at her home in the Meat Camp section last Wednesday night.

Sheriff Earl D. Cook said that the man, identified as Lester Lee Hamby, about 44, of Johnson City, Tenn., will be tried at the April term of Watauga Superior Court.

He said the man was identified from business cards on his person, which also said he was a radio and TV repairman, and by the victim of the assault.

Sheriff Cook said the man stopped Wednesday night at a store near Meat Camp, and on asking for business possibilities was told that a woman living about half a mile away wanted her radio fixed.

The sheriff said that on the following morning the woman, whose husband died last summer, ran to the store and asked the storekeeper to call officers, because the man had just left her home after terrorizing her and her children all night with a gun

and raping her three times. He fixed the radio between assaults she said, and tried to persuade her to fall in with a plan to hire someone to drive them out of the county, then dispose of him and take his car.

She said he left the house the next morning after locking the front door and nailing the back door shut, but she escaped through a window.

Officers spotted the man driving a 1941 truck in North Fork township and followed him until the truck ran off the road as he was looking back and apparently trying to get his gun out, the sheriff said. They then brought him to Boone and lodged him in jail.

Sheriff Cook said the man had in his possession a .45 Colt pistol, a shotgun, and a reaping hook.

The sheriff said he was informed that the woman came to his office Monday morning during his absence and asked to have the warrant against the man withdrawn, but was told that it was too late to stop due processes of the law in the case.

Appalachian College Choir Starts Spring Concert Tour Next Sunday



The Appalachian College choir, of forty-five voices, under the direction of Virginia Wary Linney, starts its annual spring tour into various sections of North Carolina and other states the end of this week.

The choir will appear at Bristol, Va., on the evening of the 15th, at West Jefferson on the

22nd and at Mount Airy on the 23rd.

Organized in 1929 the choir is widely known, and each year presents the Christmas section of Handel's "Messiah" to a nation-wide radio audience.

This spring the choir has been asked to sing numbers from Handel's "Judas Mac Cabaeus" with

Pre-School Clinic Dates Are Released By School Board

The Watauga County Board of Education announces the following schedule for pre-school clinics:

Parkway, March 5, 9:00-12:00; Green Valley, March 5, 12:30-3:30; Watauga Consolidated, March 9 and 16, 9:00-12:00; Boone Demonstration, March 17, 1:00-3:30; Bethel, March 16, 1:00-3:00; Valle Crucis, March 18, 9:00-12:00; Mabel, March 19, 9:00-12:00; Cove Creek Elementary, March 19, 1:00-3:00; and Blowing Rock, March 20, 9:00-12:00.

All of these clinics will be held at the school with the exception of Watauga Consolidated which will be held at the health department office.

Parents are urged to take their children who will be old enough to enter school next fall to a clinic. A physical examination will be given each child who attends by Dr. Michael, the local health officer.

Last Rites Held For N. M. Harrison

Nathan Marion Harrison, of Boone Route 1, died on Saturday, March 7, in Watauga Hospital. He was 78 years of age.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Sunday, March 8, at the Harper's Chapel Methodist church of Patterson. The Rev. Will Cook and the Rev. Raymond Hendrix officiated at the rites.

He is survived by three sons, Odell Harrison, Boone, Hill Harrison, Lenoir, and Romy Harrison, Charlotte; two daughters, Mrs. Len Greene, Boone, and Mrs. Walter Moretz, Lenoir; and two sisters, Mrs. Frenia Bolick and Mrs. Kelly Bryant, both of Lenoir.

James G. Hodges Taken By Death

James Gilbert Hodges, of Boone Route 3, died March 7 at the age of 77 in Watauga Hospital.

Funeral services were held Monday March 9 at the Oak Grove Baptist Church, with the Rev. C. O. Vance in charge of the rites, and burial was in the Hines Cemetery.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Emma F. Hodges, Boone Route 3; five sons, Curtis Hodges, Cleveland, Ohio, Jones and Grady Hodges, Hickory, Ernest Hodges, Baltimore, Md., and Dewey Hodges, Boone; three daughters, Mrs. James Moore, Lenoir, Mrs. Ollie Greer and Mrs. Dwight Hayes, both of Boone.

ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT

Kansas City, Mo. — Finding themselves marooned atop a 140-foot brick smokestack, two workmen solved their problem of how to get down by working their way down—brick by brick. It took them most of the day. Nobody complained, however, because they were supposed to help dismantel the stack anyway.

Hickory Firm Offers Bid Of \$53,950 On Nurses' Home Job.



RED CROSS LEADERS—Major J. H. Thomas, right, chairman of Watauga Chapter, American Red Cross, is shown shaking hands with the Rev. E. F. Troutman, Red Cross fund campaign chairman. At the left is R. W. Watkins, College chairman of the campaign, and Mrs. H. W. Wilcox, co-chairman of the county campaign.—Photo Palmer's Photo Shop.

Red Cross Campaign Started In Watauga

The 1953 Red Cross fund-raising campaign for Watauga county was officially started at a kick-off breakfast at the Gateway Cafe last Thursday morning, and the county has been thoroughly organized in an effort to raise its quota of \$3202 in the shortest possible time.

Major J. H. Thomas, chairman of the Watauga Red Cross chapter, states that the Rev. E. F. Troutman is heading the campaign this year. Mrs. H. W. Wilcox is vice-chairman, while R.

Owsley Addresses Cancer Society

Dr. Lawrence H. Owsley, chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society of Watauga County, called a luncheon meeting at the Gateway Restaurant Thursday. This was the first meeting held since Mrs. Dean Andrews was appointed county commander.

Dr. Owsley stressed the importance of the educational program in regard to cancer. He said, "Education is the most effective weapon because it makes the affected person conscious of the danger. This awareness on the part of a person with suspected cancer, is necessary before he will appear for an early diagnosis."

Plans were made for the educational program to cover the entire county. All residents of Watauga county will be given a chance to see films about cancer.

Plans were also made for the cancer drive in April. Mrs. John Davis is campaign chairman. All the directors were present except Mrs. Davis and Mrs. R. C. Rivers.

Consumer demand is seen heavy for spring footwear.

Highland Scot Will Be On Lyceum Series

As announced by Dean Rankin, of Appalachian State Teachers College, Donald Grant, a Highland Scot, will be on the campus next Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17, as lyceum speaker. Mr. Grant, a world traveler and student of world affairs, has given much of his time during the past fifteen or twenty years in visits to colleges of Great Britain, the United States, and Canada.

Mr. Grant has been invited to the United States frequently by the Institute of International Education, New York, as guest lecturer to American students on world conditions. His visit to Appalachian next week, however, will be the first to the local campus.

Among the questions which Mr. Grant is discussing on his present tour of colleges are these: "Power and initiative have moved from London to Washington. What are the causes and consequences of this historic shift?"

"Balance of power, 1814-1914, meant a century without a big war. What factors constitute power today?"

"Can the U. S. A. and U. S. S. R. come into balance? Is this desirable? What is the alternative?"

"What changes must Britain make in her program to retain power and a high living standard?"

"Germany and the German people, a question mark of Europe?"

"Africa. What of Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya (Mau-Mau) Malan's

MAIL 43 YEARS LATE

Greenfield, Ohio.—While sorting mail the other day, Mrs. Minnie Hester, postmistress at neighboring South Salem, noticed a postcard addressed to Mrs. Charles Matthews, who had died several years ago. Mrs. Hester looked over the card, written by a niece of Mrs. Matthews, and noticed it was postmarked from Austin, Ohio, 10 miles away. The card was dated May 27, 1909.

Turkey and Yugoslavia have signed a \$70,000,000 trade and payments agreement.



DONALD GRANT

South Africa? A serious report."

Because Mr. Grant welcomes opportunities to discuss such questions and others informally, his schedule at Appalachian includes several class and group meetings.

The meeting on Monday at 8 p. m. will be open to the public. This discussion is sponsored by the Religious Council and the International Relations Club.

1,000 High School Students Take Part In Choral Contest

Approximately 1000 high school students will participate in the Boone District Choral contest held today in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College. Boys Glee Clubs, Girls Glee Clubs, and Mixed Chorus will be judged throughout the day. Judging of bands will be held Thursday, with approximately 750 students participating. These following thirteen high schools: Hickory, Valdese, Spruce Pine (Harris), Morganton, Glen Alpine, Canton, Marion, Tipton Hill, Wilkes Central, Cliffside, Mount Airy, Newton-Conover, and Appalachian.

Mr. Gordon A. Nash, chairman

of the Boone District contest, will be assisted by Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney and Mr. Hoyt Safrir, of the college music faculty, and Miss Mildred Simpson and Mr. John Allen, graduate assistants, who will work with the choral groups. Working with the bands will be Mrs. Dorothy E. Kemp, Mr. William Spencer, and Mr. Nicholas Erneston, of the college music faculty, and Miss Helen Winkler, graduate assistant. Assisting with the piano contest will be Mr. Walton Cole and Mr. James Rooker, of the college music faculty.

The music students, members of the college chorus and band, and members of the Appalachian High School chorus and band

Bids Tendered To N. C. Medical Care Commission

Bids for the Watauga Hospital Nurses' Home were opened as advertised at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, March 5. Only one local contractor bid on the general contract. Unfortunately his bid was some \$3,000 higher than the best bid. Elliot Building Company of Hickory bid \$53,950 on the general contract; J. R. Ham & Sons, Mooresville bid \$8,220 on the heating; Miller and Smyre, Hickory, bid \$4,972 on the plumbing; Ralph Duncan, North Wilkesboro, bid \$1,612 on the electrical work, making a total of \$68,754. This does not, of course, include the furnishings, the architect's fee, or the other incidentals.

The Board of Trustees met immediately following the meeting of the building committee and contractors and recommended these bids to the North Carolina Medical Care Commission and the Federal Public Health Service, which has to approve them before the contract is finally awarded.

This indicates the necessity of raising about \$4,000 additional and anybody who has not had the privilege of contributing to (Continued on page seven)

College Holstein In Production Test

Brattleboro, Vt., March 6—With 424 pounds of butterfat and 12,163 pounds of milk to her credit, Spring Farm Spotty Meg, a registered Holstein-Friesian cow owned by Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, North Carolina, has completed a 365-day production test in official Herd Improvement Registry.

She was milked 2 times daily, and was 10 years, 11 months of age when she began her testing period.

Her record averages approximately 16 quarts of milk daily for the period covered by her test.

Testing was supervised by North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, in cooperation with the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Spelling Bee Promoted By Band Parents Group

Who is the champion speller of Watauga County? This question will be answered March 27, 7:30 p. m. at the Appalachian High School auditorium. Mr. Bob Agie, chairman of the Band Parents Association, states that plans for an old fashion county wide Spelling Bee have now been completed.

Mrs. Herman Eggers, chairman of this event, lists the following information concerning the Spelling Bee:

The Spelling Bee is open to all, young and old, of all ages. Each contestant will be sponsored by a business firm, civic club, or any

organization. The contestants will wear placards bearing the name of the sponsoring business. Five valuable prizes will be awarded the winners. Admission of 25 and 50 cents will be charged. All proceeds will benefit the school bands.

Committees appointed by Mrs. Eggers are now busy contacting sponsors and spellers, and over one hundred entries are expected. Anyone interested in sponsoring a person, or anyone interested in entering the spelling Bee, contact Mrs. Herman Eggers at telephone number 193-W.