

Opera Performance To Benefit Hospital

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

SHE KEPT ON TOOTIN'

The narrow gauge Tweetsie train, which has figured in song and story for so these many years, is chugging down the slim rails again on the hobby line of some Virginia rail enthusiasts in the vicinity of Harrisonburg. . . . We had been mighty proud that the no. 10 engine and some of the coaches which used to run into Boone from Johnson City, had been bought and that the new owners would use the rolling stock to provide some training just for fun, so that the scenic rail line which used to be the pride and joy of this region, would at least partially survive. . . . Last Saturday however, we had the high privilege of seeing the no. 10 engine and her "string" balling the jack over the short line, through the NAM television program, and we yelled for the missus to come and get a long delayed look at "our" train. . . . Her drivers slipped a little on the slim rails, when the throttle was opened, the same way they used to when Sherm Pippin was in a hurry to get her around the Y and to have his supper, but when she got going she led the same proud train on which we have ridden those many times from Johnson City to Boone. . . . We are glad the ten is chugging again and that the smoke is still blowing from her stacks, and we noted that her wheels and undercarriage had been polished bright, just like Sherm had 'em when Boone depended on steam for her contact with the outside world.

MEMPHIS EXPRESS

Speaking of transportation, and the change over from slow trains to fast cars and trucks, and airplanes, we noted a bus down the street the other day labeled "Memphis Express", and of course pondered on how much nearer the sprawling town on the Mississippi is now than a few years ago, when we used to ride the narrow gauge to Johnson City and catch the "Memphis Special"—train 25. . . . With Buster Dunn at the throttle, the mighty steam behemoth of the rails was the pride and joy of the kids around here, who once in a while got to go as far as Knoxville, and the throaty roar of her whistle added to the joy of the trip.

AND HE FLEW THE COOP

About the time Spud Whitener became a proud papa, a meadow lark didn't quite clear his car one day, and he carried the stunned bird home, where, believe it or not, the thing became a household pet in nothing flat, walking around the place with the abandon of a bantam rooster. . . . Spud and his missus were kept fairly busy, as between feeding the baby and the bird, the bird took the most attention, and about every half hour chirped for more vittles. . . . We had never heard of a song bird lending itself to domesticity and marveled that the little fellow warmed so readily to the ways of man. . . . Spud however, tired a bit of cooing with him, and let him outside, where he strode around a bit, muffed a try at flying and came on back, chirping for more milk and stuff. . . . So Spud carried him away to the vicinity of where the bird was bumped with the car and tossed him in the air. . . . Evidently realizing he was being turned out in the wide world for sure, he flew away, and hasn't been seen since. . . . Commenting on the incident Spud allowed "the joker could fly all the time. . . . he knew an easy life when he found it, and just didn't want to go away!" . . . And we can imagine that birdom will hear a tall tale some day from the lark who lived with the folks down below. . . . of growing fat and sassy without bothering to get up early to catch the worm, who shoulda slept late.

NO JINGLE-JANGLE

Those of us who practically live at a telephone—who certainly do—(Continued on page two.)

George H. Hayes Of Blowing Rock, Succumbs at 85

George Hamilton Hayes of Blowing Rock, one of Watauga's best known and most respected citizens, died in Blowing Rock hospital July 12 after an extended illness which was complicated by a stroke suffered July 7. Mr. Hayes served the farmers of the county as veterinarian for more than 50 years, retiring only when his health failed.

Mr. Hayes was a member of one of the first families to settle in Watauga and was a life-long resident here.

He was a member of the Brushy Fork Baptist Church and until recent years was active in all phases of the religious work of the different communities in which he resided.

Mr. Hayes was born January 5, 1868. His age at death was 85 years and 7 months. In 1889 he was married to Miss Mollie Moody who passed away in 1906. The survivors of this union are four sons and one daughter, Roby Hayes of Cove Creek, Tom Hayes, Vilas, Oris Hayes, Lovell, Don Hayes of Deep Gap and Mrs. Nannie Cook, Ruhterwood.

He was married to Miss Rosa Coffey in 1909. She passed away in 1940. The survivors of this union are four sons, Joe Hayes of Blowing Rock, Bill Hayes, Ruthwell Wood, Glen Hayes, Boone, Howell Hayes, Cleveland, Ohio; three daughters, Mrs. Texie Cooke, Boone, Mrs. Doris VanDyke, Boone, and Mrs. Julia Hicks, Anderson, S. C.

Mr. Hayes is also survived by his widow, the former Mrs. Alice Taylor, thirty-five grandchildren and twenty-seven great grandchildren. A brother and sister also survive, Joe Hayes of Vilas, and Mrs. Jennie Whitehead of Boone.

Ground Is Broken For Boone's \$160,000 Telephone Exchange



BREAKS GROUND—Mayor Gordon Winkler, left, is shown wielding the shovel at the ground breaking ceremonies held on the site of the new Bell Telephone building last Thursday. Others are, left to right: W. H. Gragg, secretary Watauga Building and Loan Association; Alred Adams, cashier Northwestern Bank; Stanley A. Harris, secretary of Chamber of Commerce; H. M. Inabinet, group manager Bell Telephone Co.; Rob Rivers, publisher Watauga Democrat; Herman Wilcox, president Chamber of Commerce; L. N. Williamson, plant foreman; T. S. Cates, division engineer; W. R. Winkler, State Highway Commissioner; D. P. Flory, division engineer; Mrs. Jessie Warman, chief Boone operator, Southern Bell; Ben Miller, building contractor; J. C. Strickland, representing district plant manager; R. N. McNeal, chairman coordinating committee. — Photo by Paul Weston.

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Bell telephone exchange were held on the site, East King Street, Thursday afternoon, when a group of representative citizens, and telephone company officials watched Mayor Gordon Winkler, lift the first shovel of dirt from the site of the building, which is to house Boone's new dial phone system.

Local Citizens, Bell Co. Officials Join In Ceremony

The building is to be one-story with full basement. The first floor will contain quarters for the business offices and switchboard equipment. The basement will be used for motors, batteries and storage. The structure will be 28 feet wide and will have a depth of 56 feet. The estimated total cost of the project is in excess of \$160,000, according to H. M. Inabinet, group manager for Southern Bell.

Because of the rapid growth of Boone, Bell officials say they will install enough equipment to take care of about 500 additional telephones and the system is designed for even further expansion.

Approximately 1100 telephones are connected to the present system, compared to 337 in January 1946. Mr. Inabinet stated that this project is in line with the Company's general plans for the improvement and expansion of telephone service.

The present schedule calls for the switch from manual to dial service during February 1954. The Ben Miller Construction Co., has the contract for the building.

The ground-breaking ceremonies were broadcast over the facilities of WATA, and a number of local citizens and Bell company officials made brief remarks.

Miss Walker To Be Supervisor At New Bern

Miss Mary H. Walker, who has taught in the local Demonstration school for five years, has resigned her position and will take up new work in New Bern in September as Supervisor in the City Elementary school system there.

Miss Walker will attend a supervisor's conference at Catawba college the last week of August, before taking up her new duties. Her home is in Gibsonville, which she expects to visit during the next two weeks.

In 1952, Miss Walker took a leave of absence from Boone and went to Germany and England where she taught children of Service personnel in those two countries. She returned to the States and to Boone and taught in the local school during the last school year. In all, Miss Walker taught here in the fifth and sixth grades five years.

Replacing Miss Walker at the Demonstration school will be Mr. Ivey Maness, a graduate student at Appalachian State Teachers College.

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed items have changed little this year.

Seven Counties Are Represented At Farm Meeting

Seven counties from this section of the state were represented at the district farm bureau meeting held at the courthouse in Boone on Thursday, August 13. These counties were Yadkin, Surry, Caldwell, Wilkes, Burke, Alexander and Watauga.

Mr. R. Flake Shaw, state executive vice-president of the farm bureau told farm representatives at this meeting that price supports and adjustments must be included in the new farm policy being formulated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Shaw also said that the new program ought to provide protection for the farmers just as labor and industry are protected.

Other special speakers at the meeting were Mr. Will H. Rogers, director of organization of the bureau, and Mr. O. L. Yates, field representative North Carolina Farm Bureau, who discussed plans for the membership drive which will begin September 1.

Mr. W. R. Vines, president of the Watauga County Farm Bureau presided at the meeting.

D. F. Greene Is Re-elected Head Of Farm Committee

D. F. Greene was re-elected chairman of the Unit Test Demonstration Farm Committee at the annual meeting at the Milton Moretz farm on Monday, August 17. This meeting was held at the end of the farm tour and participated in by approximately seventy-five farmers and their families. Other members re-elected were Mrs. W. R. Vines and Tom Ward. New members on the committee are Otto Thomas and Mrs. Milton Moretz.

Mr. Denver Robinson, assistant county agent, who works with the UTD program pointed out that three farmers had resigned and that the committee could select farms to fill these vacancies. He pointed out that Watauga county had a quota of 25 farms on UTD and said he hoped that we could keep that number.

A committee composed of Howard Edmisten, chairman, Otto Thomas and Milton Moretz was appointed to work out the most satisfactory handling arrangements possible.

Following the business meeting the group enjoyed a watermelon feast.

Soviet armed forces have avoided political shifts.

Over 1,200 Expected For College Opening

The fall term at Appalachian State Teachers College will open on Monday, September 7, when freshmen are expected to report to their dormitories for program of three days orientation which begins the next day.

Transfer students from other colleges will report to the college on Thursday, September 10, and upperclassmen will come in on September 11.

Dr. G. P. Eggers, freshman dean, will be in charge of the orientation program. He will be assisted by Dr. J. D. Rankin, dean; Dr. D. J. Whitener, assistant dean; Miss Helen Burch, dean of women; Leo K. Pritchett, dean of men; Shirley Gabriel of Lincoln, president of the student body; and other faculty members and student leaders.

Commerce Group Seeks New Members

H. W. Wilcox, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, in announcing a membership campaign for the organization, states that additional manufacturing plants which would bring local industrial employment to 1200, are in prospect.

In urging continued support of the Chamber, Mr. Wilcox says: "Boone and Watauga County are making real progress. Ground has been broken for the new telephone building, and Mr. Miller, the contractor, advises that by

Horn Personnel To Appear On TV

Well known members of the "Horn in the West" company will be seen over WFMY-TV in Greensboro on Wednesday and Friday afternoons this week. They will be interviewed on Carol Stoker's program at 2:30 p. m. Mrs. Helen Forrest Lauter, costumer for the drama, will appear on television Wednesday afternoon.

Ned Austin, who plays Daniel Boone, and Richard Chapline, a soloist and member of the "Horn" choir, will be featured on Miss Stoker's program Friday afternoon. Austin will present a dramatic monologue, and Chapline will sing Gaelic and American folk songs.

Boone, N. C., _____ 1953

Surely I am interested in helping Boone grow. I will be glad to accept membership in the Boone Chamber of Commerce and to pay the annual fee of my classification. When it is practical, I will attend the monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, 12:00 noon to 1:15 p. m. My telephone number is _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed. Send bill _____ 1st

(Signed) _____

Personal Membership \$10.00 per year.
Business Membership \$25.00 per year.
Sustaining Membership \$50.00 and up per year.

REA District Meet Is Set For Saturday

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation will hold its regular district meeting for members of the Watauga district in the Appalachian High School auditorium, Saturday, August 22 at Boone.

The program will begin at 1:30 p. m. A report of the Cooperative progress and future plans will be given by the General Manager, C. E. Viverette.

The nominating committee will present its slate of candidates for directors to be elected at the Cooperative's annual meeting, which will be held at Lenoir, in the City Park, Saturday, September 12.

A television talent hunt, being sponsored by the Cooperative, will be one of the highlights of the afternoon program.

Contestants from the membership of the Co-op will be competing for three prizes. First prize, \$15.00; second prize \$10.00; third prize, \$5.00.

The three district winners will appear at the annual meeting to be held in Lenoir to compete with other district winners of the Co-op for the grand final. At Lenoir the TV talent winner will be chosen by Arthur Smith and the Cracker-Jacks.

Prizes for the annual meeting are: First prize, \$25.00; second prize, \$15.00; third prize, \$10.00. Free door prizes are to be given to members holding lucky numbers.

All members are urged to come and enjoy this program as well as gain valuable information concerning their own business.

Dr. H. M. Wilson, one of Boone's new physicians, announces that his office at 711 King Street will be open for general practice Thursday of this week.

Concert Band To Give Last Concert Summer Season

The Summer Concert Band will give its final concert for this season Monday evening. The time has been moved up to 6:30 o'clock to allow for more daylight for playing. The band will play on the Fine Arts lawn unless there is rain, in which case the concert will be given in the auditorium.

Last week the band spent the entire day Thursday at the annual Masonic picnic in Mocksville. This is the fourth year the band has furnished the music for the picnic, and has received an invitation to do so again next year.

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Merchants' Picnic To Be Held August 26th

The annual picnic given every year by the Merchants' Association for their employees will be held at Camp Yonahlossee, Wednesday afternoon, August 26 beginning promptly at 2 o'clock. All merchants are urged to close their stores that afternoon and arrange for their employees to attend. Tickets may be secured from the Merchants' Association office in the Building & Loan building or telephone 200 for reservations.

The games will begin right after 2:00 o'clock. Those who want to swim should come prepared with bathing suits etc. Winkler Motor Company has challenged Andrews Chevrolet to a soft ball game, and Bell's Department Store has challenged Hunt's and Bare's to a volley ball game. Three tours of Camp Yonahlossee will be conducted, and everybody who goes should see the whole camp. Watermelon will be served at 3:30; dinner at 6:00. There is no charge to the employees, but the employers should get tickets for all their employees who expect to attend.

Dinner menu will include: fried chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, coffee and tea, topped off with ice cream from Hillside Dairy.

Glen Andrews is president of the Merchants' Association; Roberta Ray is secretary, and all merchants in the county are eligible to be members.