

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

THE CRY OF THE AUCTIONEER

A few years ago the Street was dotted with residences . . . the old-timers were prone to build their business places next to their houses, and thus save walking to and fro for any great distance; but with the changed tempo of traffic, more and more of the residential property has given away to the stores and shops, and now only a few families reside in property fronting on King in the main business district . . . Two of these are going soon . . . Greene Inn was auctioned the other day, and while the sale was not confirmed, the house is empty and done as a dwelling . . . The Mrs. Ida Moretz property on the hill across from the Democrat is to go at auction this Friday, and before long there won't be one of the old places left in the shopping section . . . Oscar Pitts, who is the auctioneer at the two sales mentioned, says that he has sold land in Boone for nearly thirty years, and recalls that he auctioned the Capt. Lovell law office corner, up by the public well, pretty nearly three decades ago . . . The land was to have been used for a new home for the defunct Peoples Bank & Trust Co. . . . Later bought by Rev. Mr. Sebastian, the minister constructed the building which now houses Greene Buick Agency.

SELLS HEAP OF SOIL

Incidentally Oscar Pitts says he's sold a bit of the old sod in nearly every town of consequence in North Carolina during his long career in the real estate business . . . Formerly head of the State Prison department, Mr. Pitts left the political arena some years ago and returned to his first love, and we share his belief that land in Boone is a good, safe and sound investment, and that footage in the good spots in growing scarcer and scarcer.

BEGAN LONG TIME AGO

The sale of land by auction started in Boone a long time ago, and while talking to Mr. Pitts the other day, we were thinking of the first land sale we knew about, when the Southwest Land Co., of Abingdon, Va., held forth here . . . We don't know the year, but there was a deal of excitement when the big field, extending from the present Baptist Church to the Blowing Rock road on the east, and to the cemetery on the south went under the hammer . . . The property of the late E. S. Coffey, the land was all marked off, the sale held, and the gold prize money distributed amongst those who came . . . Along about that time John F. Hardin began selling land on the hill in the Oak Street section, marking the second big offering of lots in the vicinity . . . Daniel Boone Park, was another big development, and land was made available by the owners as the college and the town grew, other lot sales were held, and the staccato voice of the auctioneer, and the blare of the "brass band" became commonplace.

DIFFERENT GROUP

Dr. G. K. Moose, retired druggist, was listening to one of his friends, and the guy was musing on the changing times . . . The oldest seemed to think there had been a general slowing down, and that the young folks were not having as much fun "as we did a few years ago!" . . . Doc Moose allowed as how the people were acting about as usual . . . There were, in his opinion, about as many folks pausing by the flowing bowl, and cavorting around over the country as ever, and he thought that the boys and the girls were in about the same fettle as of yore. "The thing is," said Doc, "it's just a different crowd doing all these things!"

ODDS AND ENDS

Copious rains of the week end bring hope for late pastures . . . The third drought in as many years to hit Watauga is broken in the dying days of the growing season . . . Rain brought in cold spell which caused householders to fire the furnaces and stoke the stoves, as strings of coal trucks are seen on the highways.

Blue Ridge Fair In Full Swing

The annual Blue Ridge Agricultural Fair is underway this week, beginning on Wednesday and continuing through Saturday, just opposite the new Cardinal Motel on the Blowing Rock Road.

Royce Perry, president of the fair association, and County Agent L. E. Tuckwiller said Monday they are expecting the biggest fair ever held here, with most departments having been enlarged and many premiums increased.

Additions to the program include a dog show, which will be limited to a fox hunters' bench show, and horse racing Friday afternoon after the school events.

The program is scheduled as follows: Wednesday, entering exhibits and midway attractions; Thursday, entering livestock, judging all exhibits except dairy cattle and poultry; Friday, judging dairy cattle and poultry, and field day (school children admitted free Friday); Saturday, baby show, horse pulling contest, horse and pony races, midway attractions.

Following is a list of the various departments and names of superintendents:

Garden and field crops—Ned Glenn, Milton Moretz, Zeb Farthing, and Mrs. L. A. Henson, Mrs. Brad Beach.

Farm and garden display—Johnnie Greene, Billy Cook and J. B. Robinson.

Fruits—Albert Watson, J. C. Christenbury, and Dennis V. Enslley.

Canning—Mrs. Raymond Jones, Mrs. Dean Reese, Mrs. Emery Mitchell, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Mrs. Mona Norris, Mrs. Stuart Norris.

Pantry and dairy—Mrs. George P. Edmisten, Mrs. Charlie Clay, Mrs. Clint Miller, Mrs. Charles Perry, Mrs. Ralph Wilson, Mrs. Ivan Farthing.

Flower show—Mrs. R. H. Harmon, Mrs. Lee Reynolds, Mrs. Ruby Baird, Mrs. O. K. Richardson, Mrs. Jim Winkler.

Veteran farmer department—Hayes Wellborn, Edward Love. Beef Cattle—Henry Taylor, Lynn Norris, Donley Hagaman, R. G. Shipley.

Sheep—Howard Edmisten, J. M. Norris, Lewis Norris, Edward Love.

Swine—Ralph Wilson, Bill Krieger, Fred McGuire.

Dairy Cattle—Bill Farthing, Kenneth Patterson, Edgar Edmisten, Odus Wilson.

Horses—Don Henson, George Wilson, Grady Perry, Cecil Miller.

Poultry—Mrs. Ralph Wilson, Thomas L. Wilson, Dallas Wilson.

4-H, F.F.A. and F.H.A.—Kathleen Coston, R. L. Tait, Mrs. Council Henson, R. G. Shipley, Mrs. Howard Carlson, Mrs. Gardner Matheson, Mrs. David Farthing.

Home Demonstration booths—Mrs. A. E. Moretz, Mrs. Hattie Lewis, Mrs. Stanford Storie, Mrs. B. A. Hodges.

Handicrafts—Mrs. Stewart Barnes, Mrs. Alonzo Isaacs, Mrs. J. H. Taylor, Miss Elizabeth (Continued on page three)

Dial Telephones Being Installed; Cutover In Feb.

In anticipation of Boone's coming dial conversion, new dial telephones are being installed in residences and business offices throughout the city.

H. M. Inabinet, group manager of the telephone company, said that the new dial instruments will be installed in all homes and business offices well in advance of the actual conversion. However, the present manual telephone should continue to be used until the dial system is placed in service. He stated that until the conversion is completed, any manipulation of the dial set might serve to impair the service.

Telephone workmen from out of town are helping with the installation, and the cutover is scheduled for February 1954.

Tilden Miller, 75, Dies Thursday

Mr. Tilden Ephraim Miller, age 75, Boone, Route 1, died Thursday, September 3, at his home in the Meadow Creek section. Funeral services were held Saturday at Laurel Springs Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Victor Trivette and the Rev. Ronda Earp. Interment was in Laurel Spring cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Ada Miller, four sons, Clay, Tom and Paul, all of Baltimore, Md., and Frank of Boone; four daughters, Mrs. Norma Gentry of West Jefferson, Mrs. James Grigg of Clarkville, Ga., Mrs. Fred Howell of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. David Norris of Boone; four brothers, Jim and Charlie of Deep Gap, Harrison of Boone, and Wayne of West Jefferson.

Mr. L. D. Tester Taken By Death

Mr. Lorenzo Dow Tester, age 70, of Blowing Rock died in the Blowing Rock Hospital Monday after an illness of about three weeks. Funeral services were to be held Wednesday (Sept. 9) in the Rumpel Memorial Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock. Services were to be conducted by G. Sexton Buchanan and Dr. L. T. Newland, with interment in the Blowing Rock cemetery.

Mr. Tester is survived by his widow, Mrs. Martha Tester, of Blowing Rock, two sons, William W., of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Clyde C., of St. Petersburg, Fla.; five daughters, Mrs. Omer Coffey, and Miss Gladys Tester of Blowing Rock, Mrs. Orpha Pitts of Boone, Mrs. Charles Greene of Elizabethton, Tenn., Mrs. Conrad Presnell of Colonel Beach, Va., two brothers, Carl and Ben of Johnson City, Tenn., 20 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

Correction

In the Democrat last week, it was stated that the Highway Commission was entertained at a picnic sponsored by the Boone Chamber of Commerce. As a matter of fact the picnic was sponsored jointly by the Boone and Blowing Rock Chambers of Commerce.

The error was unintentional and is regretted by Boone Chamber of Commerce officials and the Democrat.

Washington eases its travel curb on Soviet diplomats.

Horn Ends Second Season Monday; Plays To 43,384



BACK TO SCHOOL—Typical of more than four thousand students who entered school in Watauga County last week are the above students who are shown leaving the school bus for a day's training at Boone Demonstration School. The students are aided in alighting from the bus by Principal John W. Howell, left, and Mr. Carl Day, not clearly shown. With mixed emotion, as shown in the picture, this scene was probably repeated in the thirteen schools of the county.—(Staff photo.)

Playgoers From 38 States Are Seen At Theatre

The popular historical drama, "Horn in the West," closed its second successful season at the Daniel Boone Theatre here Monday night before a chilled audience of some 650 persons.

The newest of the outdoor dramas attracted 43,384 playgoers from some 38 states in its 62 performances this season, as compared with last year's attendance of 53,500. The attendance drop was not viewed by the producers as a sign of declining popularity. The polio epidemic in neighboring counties, they believe, kept many people away. Attendance gained steadily during August and reached its peak when an audience numbering 2,086 saw the drama Saturday night, August 29.

The final performance was highlighted by introduction of the cast and other theatre personnel by author Kermit Hunter. He also expressed appreciation to the cast and workers on behalf of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association.

"The outdoor drama is a very excellent test of the moral and spiritual health of our people," Mr. Hunter said. "So long as we cherish a deep respect for the American traditions and ideals which these plays represent, we will remain true to the ideals. A nation which believes in itself will be strong."

Most of the non-resident playgoers who take part in the drama were preparing to leave Boone on Wednesday. Department heads and the technical crews will remain here several days to complete the enormous task of closing the theatre and preparing sets, costumes, properties and lighting equipment for winter storage.

Although North Carolinians fill many of the roles in the play, "Horn in the West" personnel of the past summer will be located from New England to California and even in foreign countries during the coming winter. Two of the vocalists, Emogene Gunter and William Rutherford, have been granted scholarships to study in Europe, Miss Gunter in Bonn, Germany, and Mr. Rutherford in Florence, Italy.

1954 Plans Drawn
Plans for the 1954 run of the play are now being drawn up by the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Dr. I. G. Greer, president, and Dr. D. J. Whitener, executive vice-president, recently appointed committees from the board of directors to study the various phases of production and make recommendations for the coming year.

Committee chairmen include Clyde R. Greene, finance; W. R. Winkler, theatre maintenance; Russell D. Hodges, promotion; R. E. Agle, production; and Mrs. B. W. Stallings, historical association. All are Boone residents who have been prominently identified with the association since it was organized late in 1951. The play will run from June 25 through September 6 in 1954.

The association will hold its annual meeting on October 12. The offices of "Horn in the West" will be kept open at the usual hours this week and next week, and William M. Hardy, whose contract as general manager was recently renewed for a two year period, will be here during that time.

Mrs. Miriam Rabb, publicity director, will leave Boone Friday to return to her position with the State News Bureau in Raleigh.

The cost of living rose to a record high in mid-July, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which reported that its revised consumer price index stood at 114.7 in mid-July, based on the average prices for the years 1947-49 at 100. This was the fifth straight month that consumer prices had shown an increase, which has amounted to 1.1 points since February.

REA Administrator To Attend Meeting

Mr. A. B. Hurt, President and C. E. Viverette, General Manager of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation announced today that the Honorable Archer Nelsen, Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C. had accepted an invitation to speak at the annual membership meeting of the Cooperative which will be held in Lenoir on Saturday, September 12th. Mr. Nelson was Lt. Governor of Minnesota prior to his appointment to head the R. E. A. in April of this year. He is a farmer by profession, having lived on his 200 acre farm near Hutchinson, Minnesota for the past 30 years. He has always taken a deep interest in farm problems and has been active in many farmer Cooperative organizations including his own McLead Electric Cooperative which he helped to organize in 1935.

Mr. Viverette pointed out that contrary to the thinking of many, the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is not a part of the R. E. A., only a borrower from that Federal Agency. The Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is a local Cooperative owned by its 13,802 members.

Mr. Hurt stated that a full and very interesting program is planned for the all-day meeting in Lenoir Saturday. The program will begin at 10 o'clock at the City Park or in the High School Auditorium in case of rain. The morning program will feature entertainment by Arthur Smith and the Cracker-Jacks and a TV Talent Hunt. The business session of the meeting will be held

in the afternoon starting at 1:30. In addition to the election of fifteen directors to serve for the next year the members will be



ARCHER NELSEN

requested to vote on a resolution permitting the Cooperative to raise its debt limit from 10 million dollars to 50 million dollars. Mr. Hurt pointed out that this action was most desirable in order to enable the Cooperative to continue its expansion program in the eight counties where the Cooperative operates. These counties are Caldwell, Alexander, Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes and Surry.

Viverette stated that approximately four thousand members including their families were expected to attend their annual meeting this year.



HANDCRAFTS SCHEDULE—Watauga Handcrafts Center, pictured above, has announced its full schedule of classes in hand weaving as follows: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. A cordial invitation is issued by Miss Elizabeth Lord, instructor, for citizens to participate.

Potato Tour Of Watauga Made; Trip May Become Annual Affair

A potato tour was made by a large group of farmers and agricultural workers of Watauga County on Wednesday, September 2. The tour was sponsored by Mr. R. L. Tait and the Veteran Farmers Class of Appalachian High School. It was for the

purpose of helping farmers to grow more and better potatoes on each acre planted.

Eight different farms were visited and an estimate of the amount of potatoes per acre was made in each field. This estimate was derived by digging and

weighing five 10-ft. strips in each acre. Then by measuring the row width, the yield of each acre was determined. The average yield on the eight farms visited was 535 bushels per acre.

The highest yield of the day was found at Mr. Roy Hartley's of Flat Top community. His yield was 683 bushels per acre. Mr. Hartley planted Kennebec potatoes 8 inches in the row with the rows 32 inches apart. He used 2,500 pounds of 6-8-6 fertilizer per acre and sidedressed the potatoes with 100 pounds of ammonium nitrate. He controlled the insects and blight by use of a 5% DDT and 7% copper dust.

The second highest yield was at the farm of Mr. Grady and Alfred McNeil of Rich Mountain community. This yield was 648 bushels of Kennebec potatoes per acre.

The third highest was at the farm of Mr. R. J. Cook of Bamboo community. His potatoes were also Kennebec yielding 560 bushels per acre.

The other farms visited and their yields per acre are as follows: Marvin Dotson, 555 bushels; John and Avery Jackson, 505 bushels; Ned VanDyke, 497 bushels; Bub Fox, 353 bushels, and M. W. Greene, 372 bushels.

Mr. Tait explained that these fields were not planted for any kind of contest and it is felt that they represent a great improvement in the production of potatoes in Watauga county.

The interest was very high on the tour and some farmers suggested that it be made an annual tour.

Three Boone Girls Enter Mass. School

Miss Connie Casey, Miss Shirley Sherrill, and Miss Ala Hodges, all of Boone, left Sunday, September 6, to enter the New England School of Theology in Brookline, Mass.

All are graduates of Appalachian High School, class of 1953, and intend to enter training for full time Christian service.

Miss Casey is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Casey, Miss Sherrill is the adopted daughter of Miss Stella Sherrill, and Miss Hodges is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hodges of Boone Route 3.

The three girls have been active in church work, and have sung together in Advent Christian churches as the Herald Airs Trio.

During the tobacco marketing year just ended the United Kingdom imported about 110,000,000 pounds of U. S. United States flue-cured tobacco; purchases for the 1953 crop are expected to be slightly less.

Last Rites Are Held For N. B. Smithey

N. B. Smithey, 73, one of North Carolina's most successful merchants, died in bed at his hotel in Wilkesboro early Thursday morning.

He was found dead at six a. m. Thursday morning. Coroner I. M. Myers and a physician attributed death to a stroke of apoplexy and said death apparently occurred between midnight and two a. m.

Mr. Smithey had been in apparently normal health. Born in a log cabin near Wilkesboro August 11, 1880, Mr. Smithey was a lifelong resident of Wilkesboro. His parents were Isaacs and Sarah McLean Smithey.

His first business experience was with his father in meat and grocery merchandising in Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. In 1899 he opened a store in Wilkesboro and in 1906 purchased the hotel in Wilkesboro, which is now the Smithey Hotel and which he and Mrs. Smithey have operated for 47 years.

During the 20's Mr. Smithey purchased the Goodwill Department Store in North Wilkesboro, which was to become the headquarters for his chain of department and grocery stores and for the North Carolina Auction company, wholesale business which he owned.

The Smithey stores now include four in North Wilkesboro, one in Wilkesboro and stores in Taylorsville, Statesville, Newton, Elkin, Sparta, West Jefferson, Boone, Blowing Rock, Newland, and Lenoir in North Carolina, Mountain City, Tenn., and Damascus, Va.

As in business endeavor, Mr. Smithey's experiences in public life were marked with brilliant success. During the early part of his career he was a member of the town board of Wilkesboro, where in 1911 he received every vote cast in the election.

For a number of terms, which included the depression years, Mr. Smithey was chairman of the Wilkes county board of commissioners and devoted much of his time to managing the county's finances through that difficult period.

Later he was chairman of the (Continued on page eight)

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Agent REA Phone Division To Meet With C. C. Officials

A representative of the telephone division of the Rural Electrification Association (REA) will be in Boone this week to confer with Chamber of Commerce officials, according to an announcement by President H. W. Wilcox, at the regular monthly meeting of the Chamber held Tuesday at Kirk's Bar-B-Q.

All indications point to the fact that something will be done about the rural telephone situation in the county in the very near future, and definite commitments are expected to be obtained from the representative this week, President Wilcox said.

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