

BOONE
1950 POPULATION 2,973
The educational center of Western North Carolina. Home of Appalachian State Teachers College, which attracts hundreds of students annually from all parts of the nation. Modern business district. A good place to live.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

WATAUGA COUNTY
1950 POPULATION 12,341
Leading agricultural and tourist area. Livestock, dairying and truck farming of paramount importance. Blue Ridge Parkway traverses county, and touches Blowing Rock, one of the principal summer resorts of Western America.

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR.—NO. 18

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1953

12 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

Christmas Opening Plans Are Being Made

KING STREET
BY
ROB RIVERS

THE END OF THE RUN

Mack Luttrell, veteran employee of the Linville River railway—the narrow gauge—in later years known as the route of Tweetsie, has hung his lantern on the wall, and retired, after thirty-five years railroading back and forth across the North Carolina-Tennessee line with the same company . . . Mr. Luttrell has come back to his home in Boone, where he established residence over thirty years ago, to enjoy his retirement . . . Starting his railroad career at Pineola, where he fired for a time, Mack's career was largely as brakeman and conductor . . . A railroader at heart, Mack loves the engines and the trains and the long rails, and stayed right with the job even after the narrow gauge had been reduced only to a feeder line for the rayon plants at Elizabethton . . . And we're glad Mack's come back home, and hope he'll enjoy his well-earned rest.

WRONG SIDE OF THE METER

Group of visitors to the town park their car lengthwise in the center of the sidewalk, early in the evening, and while away the time, as late strollers circle the vehicle . . .

HERE AND THERE

Man with dead leg offering pencils to passersby, his face pinched purple by the cold . . . Fellow who'd been away from this section for many years, stops to find out if anybody knows his "relations" down in Wilkes . . . Ice forming on weeds and willows, licked by the waters of Boone Creek, as thermometer dips to 16 . . . The congestion on Saturdays at the candy and toast-stand counter in the dime store . . . Householders busily engaged in readying the place for Thanksgiving, and making long range Christmas plans . . . Man back from Abingdon, where he sold his cows, replies to query: "Yep, about the same over there . . . Just like Coca-Cola a nickel (a pound) wherever you go." . . . The modern and immaculate clean offices of the Doctors Hagaman . . . Father and son have their separate quarters, but use the same x-ray and laboratory equipment . . . The bright red berries on the holly bushes at the postoffice . . . Merchants start plans for Burley and Christmas opening . . . Stray puppy dogs having hard time finding homes . . . New poles being placed by Bell Telephone to carry the "enlarged cables" . . . And the long files waiting turns to get free chest x-rays, as unit nears the end of its stay here.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

An old timer might be one who can remember when a rest room was known as a water closet . . . He also might recall when a hunter went out for a pheasant rather than a grouse, when partridges hadn't become quail, when a blue jay was a jay bird, and the cardinal a red bird . . . Chipmunks look the same, but they were known as ground squirrels, and woodchucks were ground hogs or "whistle pigs."

HOME AGAIN

Hoy Gragg, who was born across the street from the Democrat office, and who stayed around the print shop with the Rivers boys during many a happy childhood hour, has returned home, having retired from the Navy, after serving 21 years . . . Hoy came to see us, and brought with him a lot of memories of the so-called "good old days" . . . Hoy and his brother Victor liked the old newspaper office, and the boxes full of type, and while they got under one's feet, and sometimes in the hair a little, we loved the kids, and they liked us, and we felt mighty happy when Hoy came rushing in to see us the other day . . . His boyhood friends hadn't been forgotten in the quickened tempo of another age.

(Continued on page four)

The Boone Merchants Association is making preliminary plans for the Christmas trade program, details of which are to be announced shortly.

The advertising program is to start soon, and a series of prizes will be given away in connection with a radio program each Saturday starting November 28. These gifts will probably involve the distribution of \$50 in cash, and the opportunity to receive a prize is open to all. One does not have to purchase anything to compete.

Other gifts will be awarded on Christmas eve, and \$50 is to be given away before the tobacco sale each Monday morning, starting November 30.

Boone merchants have made ample provisions for the Christmas trade, and the lines they will display will likely be the largest ever shown here.

Burley Grading School Is Slated

Tobacco is the big cash crop on many Watauga farms, but in many cases it could bring more money if it was sorted and prepared for market more carefully.

Mr. Roy R. Bennett and Mr. Harold Nau, Extension Tobacco Specialists, will work with farmers in Watauga county on Friday, November 13, on the preparation of tobacco for market and showing the difference in varieties.

Weather

During this first week of November, forest fires continued their destruction. There was no relief from the lack of rain. Temperatures reached a low for the winter with a minimum of 16 degrees on Saturday, according to Dr. Arnold Van Pelt. Daily reports are:

Max.	Min.	6 p.m.	Date
65	37	45	Nov. 1
70	33	43	Nov. 2
67	33	47	Nov. 3
65	38	47	Nov. 4
50	32	35	Nov. 5
40	25	35	Nov. 6
35	16	29	Nov. 7

Precipitation: Nov. 6—Trace of snow.

Over 80 per cent of the Strategic Air Command personnel is Reserve.

Grant Of \$10,000 Is Made To Hospital

Stanley A. Harris, chairman of the building committee for the Watauga Hospital, has announced a grant of \$10,000 toward the improvement of the local hospital. The program includes a new Nurses' Home, a beautiful 21-bed brick structure erected with the cooperation of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, a new furnace for the hospital, a modern diagnostic x-ray unit, together with steam tables so that patients meals may be served hot.

D. Charles Mast Taken By Death



D. CHARLES MAST

D. Charles Mast, 86, of Sugar Grove, farmer, died at his home at 10:30 o'clock on Thursday morning, November 5, after a relatively short period of illness.

Mr. Mast was born in Watauga County on Cove Creek January 30, 1867, son of Finley P. and Rhoda Smith Mast.

Mr. Mast was a member of Cove Creek Baptist Church where he attended services during his life. He was teacher of the men's Bible class for many years and up until the time when poor health caused him to relinquish this activity.

Surviving are Mrs. Tom C. Baird, sister, Valle Crucis; Dave P. Mast, son, Sugar Grove; Mrs. Joe P. Phillips, daughter, Detroit, Michigan; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Cove Creek Baptist Church, the institution closest and dearest to him throughout life. The Reverend Harold Songer, pastor, officiated. He was assisted by the Reverend Cecil Glenn, Perkinsville, and Rev. Mr. Bush, Henson's Chapel Methodist Church.

Masons of Snow Lodge, No. 363, had charge of the burial services. Dr. J. T. C. Wright led the order through a very impressive ritual in placing to rest one of the oldest members of the local lodge.

Health Council To Meet Tonight

A meeting of the planning committee of the County Health Council is called by the president, Dr. John Martin, for Thursday evening, November 12 at 7:30 p. m. in the court room, for perfecting plans for obtaining a Health Center for Watauga County.

Surry Farm Agent Speaks To C. Of C. On Area Effort

N. M. Smith, Surry County Agent, addressed the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce Tuesday in the Gateway Restaurant, and advocated full support of a proposed organization comprising nine northwestern North Carolina counties.

The organization, with representatives from each of the counties, would promote agriculture, industry, and tourist attractions on a area basis in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Forsyth, Surry, Stokes, Watauga, and Wilkes Counties.

Mr. Smith said there are many projects needed for the development and promotion of the area that cannot be handled properly on a county basis, and declared that the entire section needs to organize and advertise its advantages in the agricultural, industrial, and tourist fields.

Among the needs he cited were a large area area livestock market, grain storage facilities, a better forestry program, more historical markers, and industrial plants that will employ more men than women.

President H. W. Wilcox presided at the meeting, and Mr. Smith was introduced by Clyde R. Greene.

Harvey E. Deal Dies On Friday

Harvey Eugene Deal, of Sherwood, died November 6 at Watauga Hospital, following a long illness. He was 80 years of age.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 8 at Henson's Chapel, conducted by the Rev. R. A. Taylor of Gastonia, and the pastor, Rev. Busch.

Mr. Deal was a prominent citizen of the Cove Creek section, where he had been active in civic and religious affairs. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and had served as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Nellie Deal; two sons, Lt. J. M. Deal, USN, Charlotte; and Lester Deal, Sherwood; and a half-sister, Mrs. Mary Combs of Vilas.

Scout Council Meets Tuesday

The Old Hickory Council met Tuesday at Winston-Salem at Ardmore Methodist Church. The annual council meeting was held at 4:30 p. m. The banquet was held at 6:30 o'clock.

Attending from Boone were: Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Owensley, who is vice-president of Watauga district; Mr. Cecil Miller, finance chairman; Mrs. B. W. Stallings, district commissioner; and Rev. J. T. Shackford, district chairman.

"Messiah" Again To Be Broadcast

The Appalachian College Choir under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney has received an invitation from the Mutual Network for its annual presentation of excerpts from the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah.

The broadcast this year will be on Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 Eastern Standard Time.

The local performance will be Sunday night December 13 at 8 o'clock at the Baptist church in Boone.

Annual Christmas, Burley Edition To Appear On 26th

The annual burley tobacco opening and Christmas shopping edition of the Democrat is scheduled to be published November 26.

Advertising solicitation and other work will start on this edition during the current week. At the end that the added pages will be completed during next week.

The publisher would greatly appreciate the full cooperation of the advertisers in this advance promotion.

Burley Auctions To Start Monday, November 30th

Ten Wataugans In Draft Call

Following is a list of those who have been chosen by the draft board to fill Watauga county's military induction call for November:

Harold E. Steelman, Owen T. Tilley, James M. Miller, Albert P. Harmon, James E. Wilson, Irvin R. Stevens, Norman D. Holder, Robert H. Ward, Jerry G. Coffey, Edward J. Hayes.

Mayor Proclaims Education Week

With a world-wide struggle now going on between the forces of democracy and totalitarianism, and with our government engaged in an action with other peace loving nations of the world to preserve the democratic way of life, it is appropriate and most imperative for all of our schools to emphasize the important position that education plays in "Government Of, By and For the People."

This year, the North Carolina Teachers Association in cooperation with the National Education Association, the American Legion, the United States Office of Education, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is making a special effort to emphasize in our schools the responsibility and obligations of citizenship. This is indeed an appropriate program at any time in our schools, but it is particularly noteworthy this year when so many of our young men and women are paying the supreme sacrifice. I endorse this program, and I want to urge that all of our citizens join with the teachers of our schools in the ceremonies designed to impress firmly in our minds the true significance of the American Way of Life and the true meaning of "Government Of, By, and For the People."

Therefore, I, Gordon H. Winkler, Mayor of Boone, N. C., do hereby proclaim November 8-14, 1953 as AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK.

Over 4,000,000 Visit Parkway

Roanoke, Va., Nov. 9 — The Blue Ridge Parkway has had nearly 4,000,000 visitors this year—an increase of 16.4 per cent over the same period last year.

Officials estimate that between 300 and 500 thousand more people will visit the scenic drive this year before it closes.

This year's visitors generally were better behaved, less inclined to violations and less liable to have accidents, parkway officials report. With half a million more visitors in 1953, records show 23 fewer court cases and the accident total reduced by 12.

Parkway visitors came from nearly two dozen foreign countries and from nearly every state.

As usual the states along the Eastern seaboard sent the bulk of visitors, but Ohio and Illinois were close on their heels.

North Carolina led all states with Tar Heels accounting for one-third of the almost four million visitors. This is a 17 per cent increase in North Carolina visitors over the same period in 1952.

Disaster Loans Can't Be Made After Dec. 31

The authority for making disaster loans to farmers in Watauga county will expire on December 31, it was announced by Jennings B. Robinson, County FHA Supervisor. The purpose of this program is to provide emergency credit to assist farmers in those areas that have suffered a serious production disaster as a result of floods, storms, drought, etc.

Any farmer in a disaster area who has suffered significant damages as a result of a production disaster is eligible to receive a disaster loan provided he is unable to obtain credit from commercial banks, cooperative lending agencies or other responsible sources, to continue his farming operations.

Disaster loans may be made for the purchase of feed, seed, fertilizer or other essential farm and home operating expenses.

Each applicant must certify in writing that he has suffered damage as a result of a disaster and that he is unable to obtain the loan applied for from other credit sources.

Applications for these loans may be made at the county office of the Farmers Home Administration in the County Courthouse.



FIRST CHRISTMAS SEALS—Miss Helen Underdown, local chairman of the T. B. Christmas Seal Sale, is shown selling the first sheet of seals in the county to Postmaster Lyle Cook at the postoffice. Mrs. Frances C. Francis, executive secretary of the Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga Tuberculosis Association, is seen in the center. The three urged everyone to buy Christmas Seals this year to help fight tuberculosis.—(Staff photo by Joe Minor.)

One Of 3 Escapees Is Returned To Prison

Weston To Play At UNC Pageant



PAUL WESTON, Hammond organist of Todd and Boone, who will play for the University of North Carolina Beauty Pageant Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Mr. Weston, who operates the Paul Weston Studio in Boone, at one time was employed by the Sheridan Hotel chain as musician, and more recently played the musical scores for Watauga County's Centennial in 1949.

COST OF LIVING UP

The cost of living set another new high record for last month, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which announced that its consumer price index reached 115.2 in mid-September, a rise of two tenths of one per cent over the record August level. This was the seventh straight monthly increase.

Hollars said his Smith's 38 Special was the only gun taken. He also reported that the camp bloodhound, reported poisoned by the escapees Thursday, had died three days before the escape, but did not discount the possibility that the men had the dog poisoned in planning their escape.

Carter J. Farthing, camp superintendent, was in Boone getting the mail at the time of the escape.

In Raleigh, Prisons Identification Officer J. D. Wilson said the three convicts have records as trouble makers. It was Benefield's fourth escape and the third break for Joyce, he said.

Joyce was serving three sentences, 16 months from Surry County for driving drunk and driving after his license was revoked.

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Coleman Envisions High Prices

The first sales on the floors of the Mountain Burley Warehouse will be held on Monday, November 30, it was decided at a meeting of the Burley Sales Committee last week.

Sales will be held in Boone on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, it is announced by R. C. Coleman, president of the Mountain Burley Warehouse Co., who says that a full set of buyers will be on hand for the auctions, representing the seven big tobacco companies. Maximum competition, says Mr. Coleman, means maximum price.

"With the quality of tobacco I have seen in the tri-State burley area," says Mr. Coleman, "if the farmers can get their tobacco stripped right, graded right, and delivered to the warehouse dry, they are going to get the very best price."

Warehouses will be open to receive tobacco on and after November 16, and the first sale in Boone will be at Farmers Burley no. 1.

Mr. Coleman says, "Let me emphasize what Joe has already said. Keep your tobacco barn as tight as possible from now until tobacco is stripped. Every time the tobacco gets in case it turns a little red, and the redder it gets, the lower the price; and every time fog drifts into the barn the tobacco will go into case. It is important, too, when possible that you start to strip the tobacco when you think the weather is going to clear. Tobacco stripped at the beginning of a rainy spell is likely to get too damp, and wet tobacco never brings a good price."

Mr. Coleman assures the many hundreds of farmers who bring their tobacco to Mountain Burley Warehouse that they will receive every possible courtesy and get the best price possible.

Last Rites Held For Frank Greer

Frank Scott Greer, 59, of Vilas Route 1, died at his home on Saturday, November 7. He had been in ill health for some time.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 8, at the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Lawrence Hagaman and the Rev. Ronda Earp. Burial was in the Danner Cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Greer; two sons, Charles J. Greer, Charlotte, and Ronald Greer, Vilas; four daughters, Mrs. Alma Levine, Charlotte, Mrs. Mabel Greene, Kannapolis, Mrs. Bruce Kelly, Wilkesboro, and Mrs. Pearl Coffey, Hickory; two half-brothers, five half-sisters, and eleven grandchildren.

2700 Chest X-Rays Are Made Here

An x-ray survey has just been completed in Watauga County with a total of approximately 2700 pictures taken by the bus located on Main Street. It is impossible at this time to give the total number of pictures taken by the bus located on the college campus. Much credit for this survey is due the volunteer citizens and college students who manned the buses.

This survey was made possible by the State Board of Health and the Tri-County Tuberculosis Association, making it possible for many persons, including those whose work required an annual chest x-ray, to get this at no cost.

U. S. JOB CUTS

A total of 209,866 civilians lost their jobs in Government employment in the last fourteen months, leaving a total of 2,401,912 civilians working in the executive agencies, at home and abroad, as of September 30th.