

WATAUGA COUNTY
1930 POPULATION 18,341
Leading agricultural and tourist area.
Livestock, dairy and truck farming
of paramount importance. Blue Ridge
Parkway traverses county, and touches
flowing local one of the principal
summer resorts of Eastern America.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

BOONE
1930 POPULATION 2,573
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 busi-
ness district. A good place to live.

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR—NO. 23

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953

18 PAGES—3 SECTIONS

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

"DEAR SANTA CLAUS: . . ."
This time of year the Democrat features a lot of the letters the little folks send us . . . Messages for Santa Claus, and as one of Santa's faithful helpers we are glad to put the messages in the paper, and relay them to Santa, and we hope the genial man from the Polar places will be able to make the children happy again this year . . . Meantime, we enjoy being allowed to read some of these letters . . . They don't contain the sadness they did in other days, but they reveal the faith of little children in the Good Saint Nicholas, and their unswerving capacity for good clear and clean thinking, in a world where the minds of the adults are fuzzed up with politics, atom bombs, business and often plain cussedness.

DOLLS, BIKES AND BALLS
The little girls are still asking the man with the white whiskers for frilly dresses, candy, dolls, watches, rings, even cosmetics, while the boys crave trumpets, cap busters, air guns, .22 rifles, bikes and skates, and dogs . . . And we liked the brief note of a little boy, whom we would imagine to be the robust, smiling, carefree type, with a twinkle in his eye. He says: "Dear Santa: I want a football." . . . Nothing else."

DOES HE READ 'EM
The second grade kids down at the Boone school favored this scribe with a letter the other day, along with a lot of letters to Santa, which are published today . . . "Does Santa read the letters you put in the Democrat?", they ask, "and could you tell Santa we have been working hard . . . We have learned a lot about the first Christmas." . . . As a guy who has defended Santa Claus through thick and thin, and who regularly spots some Soda Pop and cake for our childhood friend, we are happy that the little children want us to print their Santa Claus letters . . . And Santa Claus will be reading them, and we shall add our hope that there'll be a happy Christmas for all the children who are "being good boys and girls" and "working so hard" . . . Christmas without Santa Claus wouldn't work out well, and without the spirit of Santa, there would be an awful void in the holidays . . . We pause for a look when there's a big Santa in a window, walk an extra block to see one of those bell-ringing Santa's helpers beside a chimney pot, and have defended the reindeers, and the sky-sleigh, and the bottomless pack, and the chimney top entrance . . . Of late years we have added Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer to Donner, and Blitzen, and the others, and have accepted Hard Rock and Coco and Joe with no mental reservations . . . We hope we never grow weary of the red-coated man with the white whiskers, and the sled and the reindeers, for the children would be sad, and we'd be unhappy . . .

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS
But back to the kiddies . . . and their wholesome outlook on the Christmas scene . . . They seem to be able to look back beyond the teddy bears, and the bikes, and the dolls, and the tanks and trinkets, and to see the manger and the babe . . . Jimmy Cannon sent us a little dissertation the other day entitled "The First Christmas," which shows what we mean. Jimmy writes:
"And it came to pass that in those days the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, ordered all people to the place of their birth to pay taxes. Joseph and his wife Mary had to go to Bethlehem. Mary rode the donkey and Joseph walked by her side.
"When they reached Bethlehem they could find no place to sleep because there were so many people there. Finally the inn keeper found a place for them in a stable.
"During the night friendly beasts were awakened by a bright light which made the stable light as day. It was a sign that a dear little baby had been born to Mary and Joseph.
"Angels sang on this first Christmas night because Jesus was born."



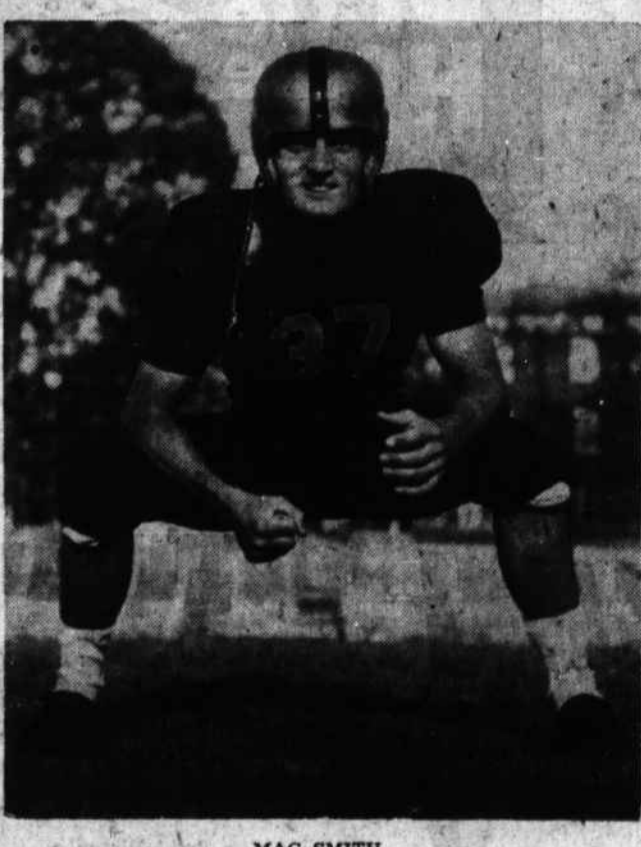
CHAMBER FETES APPALACHIAN GRIDDERS—Head Coach E. C. Duggins (standing) of Appalachian State Teachers College, introduces members of his coaching staff and varsity football squad, who were entertained last Tuesday by the Boone Chamber of Commerce at the annual football luncheon. Inset shows guest speaker Frank Spencer, sports editor of the Winston-Salem Journal. At left is All-State Halfback Shirley Gabriel, special guest of honor, in center is Coach Francis Hoover, and directly below Coach Duggins are Chamber of Commerce President H. W. Wilcox, and Bernard Dougherty, Appalachian State business manager, who introduced Mr. Spencer.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

Burley Sales Near 2,000,000 Pound Mark On Boone Market

The Boone Tobacco Market again had full sales each sales day last week, and through Friday had sold 1,884,206 pounds for a season average of \$53.61 hundred. Monday's sales of 236,228 pounds for a \$52.93 average brought the season's total through that date to 1,920,436 pounds. Wednesday and Friday sales are expected to bring the total near the two-and-a-half million pound mark.
"Considering the quality of the tobacco, the prices have been excellent," said Stanley A. Harris, sales supervisor. "A number of the better crops have averaged very close to \$60, and some as much as \$63."
The market closes for the Christmas holidays after sales on Friday of this week, and will reopen on Monday, January 4th.
There is abundant room on the three big warehouse floors in Boone to take care of a million pounds of tobacco, said Mr. Harris in urging the farmers to get their tobacco ready and bring it in during the Christmas season. "Every basket of tobacco is insured as soon as it reaches the floor," he continued, "and it is definitely safer in the warehouses than it is in your own barn. The warehouses will be open continuously until the opening sale after Christmas, which will be at Farmers Burley No. 1 at 9 a. m. Monday, January 4th."
R. C. Coleman, operator of the Boone warehouses, who is himself a big farmer and a practical tobacco man, said, "In spite of all our pleading to keep the tobacco dry, there was a considerable quantity of wet tobacco last week, and there is absolutely nothing I can do to persuade the buyers to pay anything like the maximum price for wet tobacco. Keep your tobacco dry and get it on the floor dry, and if it is graded carefully, I can get you a satisfactory price for it."

Local Student, Winner Of Navy Cross, Leader In State Program

By EARLEEN G. PRITCHETT
The young man, who, this past week, was elected to head the Student Division of the North Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has an interesting story, that may not have been known to a number of the people who elected him to this state-wide office. He is Raymon C. (Mac) Smith, now a junior at Appalachian State Teachers College.
At Appalachian, of course, and throughout the North State Athletic Conference, Mac is known as an All-Conference football hero and leader in good sportsmanship.
"But the 23-year old native of Chicanauga, Georgia, has yet a better claim to glory, and recently the government of his country took note of this and paid tribute to this hero of the Korea war by awarding him the nation's second highest military decoration, the Navy Cross.
Mac enrolled at Appalachian in 1948 as a freshman, and made football history that year by being named to the North State All-Conference team. But in 1951 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and was sent to Korea. There, on October 6, 1952, Private First Class Smith, with Company H, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, stood guard over his wounded buddies and beat off successive enemy attacks with a bayonet lashed to a broken carbine. He mended the broken communication wires of his platoon when the enemy laid down an artillery bombardment, suffering severe wounds from his exploit, then returned to his position on the firing line and emptying his automatic weapon into hordes of advancing hostile troops until his ammunition was exhausted. Then Smith put the bayonet and carbine together in makeshift manner and stood in front of the command post bunker, where his buddies were waiting for a rescue unit, and as the enemy charged the bunker again and again, Smith fought them off. The enemy tossed hand grenades at the bunker, and Smith picked them up and threw them right back. Finally, the rescue unit arrived, routed the enemy, and Smith, painfully wounded, assisted in the litter work with the wounded until he collapsed to the ground with exhaustion from his wounds. And the next several months he spent in a hospital in



MAC SMITH
Korea and Japan.
So, his country has taken notice of the bravery beyond the call of duty of Mac Smith, hero extraordinary. But Mac is a modest young man. He does not talk of his wartime exploits. Many of his colleagues at ASTC, where he re-enrolled this fall, do not know that he holds this high honor for valor and fortitude. But they do know that, for their money, he can have an award any day for bravery and courage and quick thinking and popularity on the football field and on the campus.
And now he has been honored furthered by all the young people over the state, for these very qualities which go to make up a great leader of men—bravery, quick decision, fair play, good sportsmanship, consideration for one's fellowman, modesty, ability.
The people at ASTC and in Boone are especially happy that Mac is president of the student division of the North Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. They feel that he will do the Association honor as he serves in this office. He is that kind of leader.
New Clinics Are Established
The District Health Department announces a new clinic will be held in Boone twice a month for maternal cases and well babies. The clinics will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.
Expectant mothers and well babies and pre-school children, who are not under private medical care are invited to attend the clinic. Dr. H. M. Wilson will be the examining physician.
The Health Department announces that the immunization clinic which has been held on Friday afternoons is being discontinued. Parents are requested to bring their children in for immunizations on Monday mornings.

Most Businesses To Observe Two Days Christmas

A majority of the business places in Boone will be closed Friday, December 25, and Saturday, December 26, in observance of the Christmas holidays, according to an announcement by G. R. Andrews, president of the Merchants Association.
The Northwestern Bank will observe the same two days by remaining closed, said Alfred Adams, cashier.
The town office will be closed Christmas Day only, and the county offices in the court house will close for the Christmas holidays Wednesday, December 23, and will reopen Monday, the 28th. Acting Postmaster Lyle Cook announced that the post office windows will be closed Christmas Day only, and added that the windows will remain open all day Saturday, December 19, for the convenience of patrons.

Schools Of County To Close Friday For Christmas

The county schools will close for the observance of the Christmas holidays Friday afternoon, December 18th, according to Superintendent W. H. Walker.
Mr. Walker states that the schools will reopen as follows: Boone, Green Valley and Parkway Tuesday morning December 29. These schools will be in session Saturday January 2. Treasure Island in California will start Monday morning, December 28th.

Dink Berry, 68, Taken By Death

Dink Lenoir Berry of Boone, Route No. 3, died suddenly at his home Thursday, December 10, at the age of 68. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverends Ed Hodges and C. O. Vance at the Oak Grove Baptist Church Saturday at 2 p. m. Burial was in the White Springs cemetery.
Mr. Berry is survived by his widow, Mrs. Blanche Berry, six sons, Ray, Billy, Bobby and Stanford, of Boone, Granville Berry of Vilas, and Loftin Berry of Charlotte; one daughter, Inogene of Boone; two brothers, Hard Berry of Lenoir, Grover Berry of Hickory; and two sisters, Mrs. Addie Townsend of Lenoir, Mrs. Della Andrews of Valdese.

Rites Are Held For Mrs. Fletcher

Mrs. Mary Ann Fletcher of Sugar Grove, died at her home Monday, December 14, at the age of 81. Funeral services were scheduled to be held Wednesday at 1 p. m., at the Antioch Baptist Church, with burial in St. John's Cemetery.—The Rev. W. C. Payne was to be in charge.
She is survived by her husband, Conley D. Fletcher, two sons, James, of Sugar Grove, and Grady Johnson of Sherwood; two brothers, John Johnson of Roanoke, Va., Jim Johnson of Buffalo, Ark.; one sister, Mrs. Martha Fletcher of Zionville.

Mrs. Harris Is Iredell Agent

Mrs. Joan Baird Harris was appointed assistant home demonstration agent in Iredell county Monday to succeed Mrs. Nancy Myers. Mrs. Harris was graduated from Appalachian State Teachers College in May 1953 with a very outstanding record and a BS degree in home economics and science. At present her husband is a member of the armed forces, stationed in Georgia, and Mrs. Harris will reside with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vester N. Baird at the Piedmont Experiment Station, Statesville.

Christmas Decorations To Be Judged Sunday

The judges in the Home Decorations Contest will begin their tour at 8 o'clock Sunday night, December 20. Your your display finished and your lights on at this time. This information and advice was given by the sponsors of the Home Decorations Contest. The Window Decorations Contest is sponsored by the Home and Garden Department of the Worthwhile Woman's Club. The Door Decorations contest is sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club and the Outside Decorations Contest by the Blue Ridge Garden Club.
A first prize of \$5, a second prize of \$3 and honorable mention will be given in each of the three groups. Each club will have three judges to evaluate the decorations and select the winners in their respective divisions. Sponsors say interest is high in the contests and decorations are being planned in the various categories all the way from traditional to ultra-modern. Originality, beauty and general appeal in home decorations will make our beautiful town even more outstanding during the holiday season.

College Music School Is Nationally Accredited

Scouting In Watauga Entering New Phase

Scouting for boys of Watauga county was launched on a new and larger future in a meeting held Wednesday, December 9, at the Gateway Cafe. About twenty-five business and professional men were present to hear an outline of the program and an appeal for action from Rev. Joe Shackford, this year's director of scouting in Watauga county.
Mr. Shackford explained that a plan was on foot to finance a field representative for Watauga, Ashe and Wilkes counties, with headquarters in North Wilkesboro. With such a man servicing the area, the scouting program could reach full stature, Mr. Shackford said, and local volunteer workers could have a feeling of organization and outside connections and support that had been missing in the past.
The present single field worker for the Old Hickory council is now responsible for the area just mentioned, Mr. Shackford explained, and also for Mt. Airy-Surry, Stokes, and Elkin-Yadkin. The new plan will cut in half the area to be serviced by each council field worker. This added help will be especially valuable now, with new scouting units just organized or in prospect in Watauga at the Parkway school, Perkinsville, Cove Creek, Henson's Chapel, the Boone Negro school, and probably other places.
The civic leaders present immediately expressed support of the new program. More than \$200 of increased financing was pledged, and those present also agreed to contact others in the community for additional contributors.
Plans were also mentioned at the meeting for an appeal to the people of the county for participation in the financial support of the expanded program of field service.
It was also announced that the organization and extension committee, of which Glenn Andrews is chairman, will bring two Scout officials to Boone on December 15, 16 and 17 for a series of meetings. These officials are Courtland Baker, Old Hickory council scout executive, and John Shutt, regional deputy scout executive. They will meet with leaders in the several communities where organization of units is under way.
Mr. Baker will also be in Boone Mr. Shackford stated, on January 11-14 to conduct a course for the volunteer workers who have already agreed to serve in the Boy Scout and Cub Scout activities.



JOHN L. SHUTT, special deputy regional executive of Region Six, who will be one of the speakers at an extension and organization meeting in Boone this week.

Democrat To Come From Press Early Tuesday Morning

In order that the personnel at the Democrat office may enjoy a holiday vacation, plans now are to print the newspaper next Tuesday morning, instead of on Wednesday, as is usual.
Most of the advertising will probably feature Christmas greetings, and copy and art will be supplied when wanted for these special messages. All advertising copy must be in the hands of the printers by the end of the current week.
Likewise correspondence, and routine reports of organization meetings, etc., should be supplied the newspaper by Saturday. The usual fine cooperation of the advertisers and contributors is requested.
Present plans call for the closing of the Democrat office Tuesday evening for the remainder of the week.

College Vacation To Begin Friday

Students and faculty members will leave the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College on Friday at noon, for a ten days Christmas vacation period. The dormitories will close that afternoon, to reopen on the evening of December 28.
For the past week the students have been busy in a round of attending classes, going caroling, having parties, the Christmas dance, and other pre-Christmas activities.
The holiday will end with classes resuming at 8:20 on the morning of Tuesday, December 29.
Mid-term examinations are scheduled for January 11 through 16th, final examinations beginning February 24, and the end of the winter quarter on February on February 26 at noon.

Jan. 15 Is Final Farm Plan Limit

The final closing date for filing performance reports under the 1953 Agricultural Conservation Program is January 15, 1954. There are yet several farmers who have not reported the use of the material furnished them under this program, or the materials purchased and used on the approved practices. Practices carried out and not reported by the above date will not qualify for payment.
These reports should be filed at the Watauga County ASC office.
Estimated fire losses in the U. S. in 1952 were \$784,530,000 compared with \$731,505,000 in 1951.

Membership In NASM Comes At Chicago Meeting

Appalachian State Teachers College was elected to Associate Membership in the National Association of Schools of Music at its 29th annual meeting in Chicago, November 27-29, inclusive, according to word just received by Professor Gordon Nash, head of Appalachian's department of music.
Five other schools, in different parts of the country, were also elected at the same meeting. Attendance at the Convention was the largest in history, with over 250 representatives of colleges, universities and conservatories from all parts of the United States.
The entire membership attended, as the guests of the Orchestral Association, a magnificent concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, playing under the baton of its brilliant new conductor, Fritz Reiner.
President Harrison Keller gave a most encouraging report of the position of the National Association in relation to other accrediting bodies. It was his belief that the designation of the NASM as official accrediting agency for music schools by the National Commission on Accreditation had done much to enhance the importance of music education, and had facilitated cooperation with other accrediting agencies.
The newly elected officers of the NASM are: President, Harrison Keller, New England Conservatory, Boston; Treasurer, Frank B. Jordan, Drake University, Des Moines; Vice President, E. William Doty, University of Texas, Austin; Secretary, Burnet T. H. Hill, Memphis College of Music, Memphis.
The department of music at Appalachian has been working toward the goal of being accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music for some years. Two years ago they occupied for the first time their new building, erected at a cost of approximately \$500,000, which provided facilities for music education equal to any in the South. Their program of graduate and undergraduate work is attracting students over a wide area of the United States, and their program of summer work in music education workshops brings students from some sixteen states. It is a great tribute to the department, to have their work given national recognition.

Samuel Flannery Rites Wednesday

Joseph Samuel Flannery of Zionville, Route No. 1, died at his home last Tuesday, December 8, at the age of 88 years. Funeral services were conducted Thursday at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church by the Reverends Rex West, Victor Trivette, and E. O. Gore. Burial was in the Pleasant Grove cemetery.
He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Flannery of Zionville, and one sister, Mrs. Nannie King of Southwick, Idaho.

Weather

By DR. ARNOLD VAN PELT
The week in Boone was good for dry land and low reservoirs, but bad on those who travelled on unsurfaced roads. Almost two inches of rain fell during the week, and it was possible to see the familiar winter mud in many localities. The temperatures, on the whole, remained mild for winter, although the wind made days like Thursday feel colder than they were.

Christmas Decorations To Be Judged Sunday

Max.	Min.	6 p.m.	Date
55	41	54	Dec. 6
55	26	37	Dec. 7
57	27	40	Dec. 8
51	35	48	Dec. 9
51	21	28	Dec. 10
43	19	36	Dec. 11
49	41	33	Dec. 12

Precipitation:
Dec. 6—0.08 in.
Dec. 7—0.45 in.
Dec. 9—0.13 in.
Dec. 12—0.42 in.