

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1868

WATAUGA COUNTY
1950 POPULATION 18,341
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 Eastern America.

BOONE
1950 POPULATION 2,873
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. 25

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1953

10 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS



4-H YOUTHS WIN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS—These safety champs are national winners in the 4-H Farm and Home Safety Program. Their achievements in promoting safety on the farm and in the home won them \$300 college scholarships, all-expense round trips to the 32nd National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago and a chance to talk with leaders of industry. The scholarship awards, sponsored by General Motors for the ninth consecutive year, were presented in Chicago December 3. Here GM Vice President Paul Garrett shows the youngsters some of the safety devices used by industry for protection of its workers. Left to right: Charles Bruch, 17, Lusk, Wyoming; Gayle Givens, 17, Frederick, Oklahoma; Erich Willen, 17, Westminster, Maryland; Hope E. Caswell, 17, Canton, New York; Mr. Garrett; Margie Sellers, 17, Whitesboro, Texas; Harriette A. Lee, 15, Montrose, Colorado; and George N. Fleming, 18, Simms, Montana.

Local Burley Market To Resume Sales Monday

The Boone Burley Tobacco Market will reopen on Monday, January 4, after being closed for the Christmas holidays since December 18. The first sale will be held at Mountain Burley Warehouse No. 1, beginning at 9 a. m.

"The before-Christmas average of \$54.76 per hundred for 2,368,278 pounds of tobacco is the highest in the history of the market," said R. C. Coleman, operator of the Boone warehouses, "and there is ample reason to believe that prices will be as high or higher when sales resume on Monday, depending, of course, upon the quality of the tobacco."

The previous high, he said, was in 1951, when the entire season's sales averaged \$53.84 per hundred. The three Boone warehouses are now open to receive tobacco,

Watauga NCEA To Hold Meeting At Blowing Rock

The Watauga Unit of the North Carolina Education Association will meet at the auditorium of the Blowing Rock High School Friday evening, January 8, starting at 7 o'clock.

as they have been throughout the holidays, and can accommodate more than a million pounds of tobacco, Mr. Coleman said. All tobacco is insured for full value as soon as it is placed on the floor, he added.

It was announced that another \$50 will be distributed at the warehouse by the Merchants Association to farmers bringing tobacco in during the holidays. Every farmer who brings tobacco to Boone before 9 a. m. Monday will be eligible to participate in the drawing.

Watauga Bankers To Aid In \$6,000 State Prize Essay Contest

Three Trustees Are Elected For Watauga Hospital

At the December meeting of the board of directors of the Watauga Hospital, three new trustees were elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954. They are Stanley A. Harris, D. L. Wilcox, and Richard Morhauser.

High school students of Watauga County today were invited to participate in a Statewide contest offering more than \$6,000 in prizes.

The invitation was extended by bankers of Watauga County who are promoting "The Big Change," an oratorical contest sponsored by the North Carolina Bankers Association.

The contest is designed to call attention to North Carolina's progress since the turn of the century, and to cause high school students to devote some thought to how this progress may be continued in the future.

The contest will begin with high school eliminations during the first week of March, 1954. The winners from each high school in the county will compete on March 10 to determine the county winner.

The county winners, in turn, will compete on March 17 in group eliminations. The State has been divided into ten groups for the contest, roughly ten counties to the group.

On March 24, the ten division winners will compete in division eliminations. The State has been divided into three divisions for purposes of the contest.

On March 31, the three division winners will compete in the State finals in Raleigh. There will be prizes on all levels, with the three finalists winning \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively. Each county winner will receive a \$25 Savings Bond; each group winner will receive a \$100 Savings Bond. The three division winners will receive \$500 cash.

The Bankers Association, in sponsoring the contest, points to the remarkable progress made in North Carolina during the past half century—in education, in-

Paul R. Wellborn Taken By Death

Paul Ray Wellborn, of Deep Gap, died of a cerebral hemorrhage on Thursday, December 24. He was 20 years of age.

Funeral services were held December 27 at the Laurel Springs Baptist Church, with the Rev. Victor Trivette and the Rev. S. S. Graybeal officiating at the rites.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Wellborn of Deep Gap; six brothers: Allen, Arthur, and James Wellborn, all of Cleveland, Ohio; Junior and Billy Wellborn of the home; and Charles Wellborn, with the U. S. Army in France; three sisters: Mrs. Roy Graybeal, Deep Gap, Mrs. Linney Walker, Boone, and Mrs. Lee Michael, Norfolk, Va.

Federal Bond Sales Exceed Local Quotas

Combined sales of Series E and H United States Savings Bonds in Watauga County for the month of November totalled \$21,201.75. This sales announcement was made today by County Savings Bonds Chairman A. T. Adams, according to the monthly sales report issued by Allison James,

State Director of the U. S. Savings Bonds Division in Greensboro.

Watauga county's sales quota, Jan. 1 to November 30 was \$113,182.50, the quota for the period was \$84,750. The county sold \$133.5% of its quota. (Continued on page two)

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Watauga Farm Income Set At \$2,868,000 For 1953

Babson Sees Good Business In 1954; Drop Seen From Peak 1952 Level

By ROGER W. BABSON
Special to the Watauga Democrat

I do not now believe in the theory of most economists—that business will fall off 10% in 1954, with a greater decline in net earnings. My feeling is that everyone will unite forces to hold up business, at least during the first half, to its approximate 1953 average. This can be done by expanding research, increasing advertising appropriations, extending further credits, and obtaining labor's co-operation.

good thing for the morale of the nation.

14. The present Administration will suffer much opposition to attempts to reduce tariffs if profits decline or unemployment increases.

15. The Administration and the Labor Leaders will try to revamp

the Taft-Hartley Bill during 1954; but bad strikes are coming.

16. I am no weather prophet, but experts expect a warmer winter for the eastern portion of the U. S. and a colder Florida.

17. Canada will continue to boom during the first half of 1954 (Continued on page three.)

Drop Seen From Peak 1952 Level

Watauga's farm income for 1953 is estimated at \$2,868,000 in the annual farm report compiled by County Agent L. E. Tuckwiler and released for publication the first of the week.

This is \$517,838 less than the final adjusted farm income record of \$3,385,838 for 1952, completed last January, after publication of the original estimate of \$2,576,000.

The drop in local farm income is attributed to the lower prices on livestock, aggravated by continued drought conditions. Some loss is seen in the income from milk, while burley tobacco and vegetables seemed to have held their own in the price structure.

The breakdown of the 1953 income shows that livestock and livestock products accounted for \$987,000, itemized as follows: poultry and poultry products \$180,000, dairy products \$290,000, livestock and livestock products \$837,500.

Farm crop income totaled \$1,810,500, as follows: tobacco \$865,500, vegetables \$585,000, potatoes \$200,000, fruit \$80,000, other crop sales \$80,000, farm forest products sales \$70,000.

Some of the major extension activities and accomplishments in 1953 were:

The Blue Ridge Fair had more interest from farm people than in any previous year.

The Watauga Hereford breeders sold 47 lots in the eleventh annual sale for \$9,187.50.

The first annual Watauga Hereford breeders bull sale was held in April and sold 19 bulls for \$3,123.50.

A pre-sale show was held in connection with the Hereford sale in October. The championship in the bull class went to Finley P. Hodges, Boone, and in the cow class to Shipley Farm, Vilas.

The 1953 Watauga County beef cattle farmers purchased 66 registered bulls.

The Boone Chamber of Commerce sponsored the "Get of Sire" class at the Boone Feeder Calf Sale.

Commercial beef cattle producers in Watauga and Avery Counties sold 204 calves in the third annual Boone Feeder Calf Sale.

The Watauga Wool Pool sold 38,271 pounds of wool for \$21,983.80.

The Watauga Lamb Pool sold 2,459 head of lambs and sheep for \$39,725.05.

The Watauga County purebred Hampshire Sheep breeders sold registered sheep in all the sales sponsored by the N. C. Purebred Sheep Breeders Association.

Joe Wilson, Reece, sold the highest selling ram in the Boone Ram Sale. This ram sold for \$125.00 to Elbert Hunter, Winston-Salem.

Commercial sheep producers purchased 38 registered rams in 1953.

Watauga County swine breeders purchased four registered boars in 1953.

March Of Dimes To Start Campaign Here

Father Of Former Boone Policeman Killed In Crash

Morganton—Samuel Ollis, 89, of the Three-Mile Creek section of Avery County, died at 8 p. m. Monday in the Valdese General Hospital of injuries he received in an automobile accident near here at 2:30 p. m.

State Highway Patrolmen W. D. Anderson and R. G. Thompson said Ollis was a passenger in a car driven by his son, Valdesse Police Officer S. D. (Dock) Ollis, 62. The son received a fractured hip and chest injury and according to attaches at the Valdese hospital his condition was considered "not serious."

The car left N. C. Highway 181 and crashed into a dirt embankment about six miles north of here. The younger Ollis was quoted as saying he must have fallen asleep while driving toward Morganton.

William R. Journey Dies In Elkin

William R. Journey, of Elkin, died at the home Monday, following a long period of failing health, according to information reaching a nephew, Rob Rivers of Boone.

Mr. Journey, a brother of the late Mrs. R. C. Rivers, Sr., was known to many of the older residents of the county, where he was once identified with publication of the Watauga Democrat. His first wife was Miss Lucy Farthing, daughter of the late J. Watts Farthing and Mrs. Farthing of Boone.

Funeral details were not complete, but services were tentatively set for 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Burial likely took place at Snow Creek Methodist Church, near the ancestral home in Iredell county.

In predicting that the year 1954 should be "very good" for business, Lothair Teeton, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, explained that there would be "adjustments" but that these would not be severe and the "over-all picture will be that of a very good business year."

Mrs. Ralph Tugman, county campaign director for the 1954 March of Dimes effort, announced this week that the Watauga campaign for funds will be held January 2 through 31. She also listed some of the workers who are to help her in the work.

Last year the local campaign netted over \$3,000. Mrs. Tugman stated, and was used in the fight against Polio. This year the need is even greater than last for money to carry on the care for polio patients and to do the research work carried on by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and others.

The slogan this year for the local campaign will be: "Let's Go Through the Door in '54," and practically everyone in the county will be called on to help. All the schools will carry on a campaign, the Home Demonstration Clubs, under the direction of Miss Mary Helen Neill, home agent, and the civic clubs of the county will be backing the drive, and making special efforts to raise the needed funds.

The 49's Dance Club will sponsor the annual March of Dimes dance, and the annual Quartet singing will be held again, and a Talent Show will be staged by persons at Appalachian State Teachers College. No date or plans for these events have been announced, according to Mrs. Tugman.

Names of Mrs. Tugman's staff, as she announced them include Mrs. John G. Martin, secretary, with Mrs. Crayte Teague assisting; G. C. Greene, Jr., treasurer; Ralph Tugman and Mrs. Leo K. Pritchett are to handle the radio (Continued on page two.)

Stores To Close For New Year

According to information received from Merchants Association sources, all department stores, grocery stores, the North-western Bank, and the Watauga Building & Loan office in Boone will be closed all day Friday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day.

The post office will also observe January 1st as a legal holiday, with the windows remaining closed all day.

As far as can be learned, most other Boone business places will be open for business on January 1st.

Christmas Shopping In Boone Sets New Record

Christmas shopping in Boone reached an all time high in dollar volume, according to an unofficial estimate of a representative group of local merchants, who have not yet had an opportunity to compare actual figures.

G. R. Andrews, president of the Merchants Association of Boone and Watauga County, said the

merchants he has talked to reported a substantial gain over last year's December sales.

One store manager estimated his gain at near the \$3,000 mark for the month, up until Christmas, and this is believed to be a fairly representative figure for stores which feature Christmas gift items.