



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—Work progresses on the new Elementary School building being constructed here on College Street.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

PORTENTS OF PROGRESS

Nineteen and fifty-three was a good year for the Street and for the county. . . . Of particular significance in Boone, of course are the new electronics manufacturing, the new school building, the Bell telephone expansion program, and the continued expansion at Appalachian State Teachers College—just to mention some of the larger projects which have come about during the year. . . . And most of the folks foresee continuing prosperity, for the time being, in this vicinity.

THE MANUFACTURING PLANT

perhaps, provided the big news story of recent times, and there is continuing high excitement along the street as operations are about to start. . . . When the factory is going full blast it is expected that five hundred will be employed and that the payroll will run a million dollars. . . . This represents Watauga's largest manufactory, and the payroll should add immeasurably to the welfare of Watauga, whose people have been handicapped for so long for lack of market for the big labor resource, which has constantly moved into the North, holding the census of the county at a standstill, despite the mushrooming growth of the town.

WORK CONTINUES

without interruption, on the elementary school building, which is actually a part of Appalachian State Teachers College. . . . Workmen have been able to keep going even in the colder weather of the winter, and with the roof mostly on, rain and snow will not stop the construction. . . . This building is of paramount concern to the parents of the school district, who are anxious for the desperately crowded condition of the school to be eased. . . . The plant will be fully modern, and will be visited by teachers from all over the nation, who will come to see elementary teaching carried on in the most approved form. . . . The building will be completed during the coming summer and the cafeteria will be used by the College until theirs can be remodeled and improved.

BELL TELEPHONE

has all but completed its new building, and in a couple of months a modern dial system will have replaced the old style equipment, which has served so long. . . . This improvement is being hailed as one of the most progressive steps to be undertaken in the town for a long time.

HERE AND THERE

Christmas trees lying about yards and vacant lots, forlorn as last year's robin's nests, some clinging to some of the color of the Yule as bits of tinsel and an occasional bright star adorn the browning branches. . . . The groups of small boys traipsing about the town late at night, trying to find some source of entertainment. . . . Incidentally, did you know Boone enacted a curfew law a few years ago, and passed an act forbidding public dances in a day when "blue laws" were thought to be popular? . . . The new auto license tags—black numerals on a background of near-orange, a slight but welcome change from the yellow and black which rotate back and forth year on end. . . . New mod. (Continued on page four)

Corpening To Speak To Local Civic Body

Mr. Wayne A. Corpening, farm program director on the agricultural staff of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company at Winston-Salem, will be the guest speaker at the annual Ladies' Night meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, to be held in the basement of the Baptist Church Tuesday evening, January 12, at 6:30.

Officers and directors for the coming year will be installed at Tuesday night's meeting.

A native of Henderson County, Mr. Corpening was graduated from State College with a B. S. degree in Animal Husbandry in 1936. After graduation from college, he accepted a position as Assistant County Agent in Haywood County and in 1941 was named County Agent.

Mr. Corpening entered the U. S. Army in 1942, where he served for four years with the rank of Lieutenant. He saw duty in North Africa, Sicily, and Europe, and was awarded the Silver Star.

the Legion of Merit, the Legion of Honor from both France and Belgium and the Bronze Star with three oak leaf clusters. He was discharged with the rank of



MR. CORPENING
Lieutenant Colonel.

Returning to his job as Haywood County Agent in 1946, Mr. Corpening organized a community development program directed toward furthering the development of Haywood County. In September 1952, he was promoted to Western District Farm Agent, where he had supervision of the fifteen Western North Carolina counties.

In July 1953, Mr. Corpening joined the agricultural staff of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company at Winston-Salem, where he is guiding the bank's expanded farm program and is taking a prominent part in agricultural development activities in northwestern North Carolina.

Dr. Owsley Is Cited For Work Against Cancer



DR. OWSLEY

Dr. L. H. Owsley of Boone has been presented a beautiful inscribed certificate of five years service from the American Cancer Society, Inc. in appreciation of the many years he has contributed to the cause of cancer control in North Carolina.

This certificate was presented to Dr. Owsley at the 1953 annual meeting of the North Carolina Division of the American Cancer Society in Raleigh, North Carolina. Awards were made to the volunteer workers who have rendered distinguished service to the Cancer Society.

Chamber Elects New Slate Of Officers

The board of directors of the Boone Chamber of Commerce met Tuesday, December 29, at the Daniel Boone Hotel, and unanimously re-elected the following officers to serve for the coming year:

Herman W. Wilcox, president; Russell D. Hodges, first vice-president; Estel Wagner, second vice-president; and Alfred Adams, treasurer.

New directors elected are Guy Hunt, J. V. Caudill, and Fred M. Gragg.

The complete board of directors

William Combs Taken By Death

William Marvin Combs, 72, resident of Sherwood, died at the home December 31, following a long illness.

Funeral services were conducted January 1, at 2 o'clock from the Henson's Chapel Methodist Church by the pastor, Rev. Newell Bush, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. E. O. Gore of the Baptist Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Maggie Combs; a son, Charles M. Combs, of Sherwood, and a daughter, Mrs. Allen Adams, also of Sherwood. A brother, John E. Combs, and a sister, Mrs. Myrtle Sherwood, both of Mabel, also survive.

Four Million On Parkway In 1953 Establish Record

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 31—Visitors on the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1953 topped the four million mark for the first time in the 19-year history of the scenic drive, Superintendent Sam Weems said today.

During the past 12 months, Weems said, parkway rangers counted a total of 4,286,974 persons traveling on some part of the 320 miles of paved road in Virginia and North Carolina.

This amounts to a 16.6 per cent increase over the 3,558,139 travelers on the parkway in 1952.

The year-end high is believed to mark the third straight year the Blue Ridge Parkway has led all other national park areas in number of visitors. At the end of the first 10 months, the parkway's attendance was running more than a million ahead of its nearest competitor, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The steady rise in number of travelers on the mountaintop highway can be attributed to several factors, Weems said.

He cited particularly the increased use of widespread publicity and the fact that more sections of the road have been open to the public in the past several years.

Hudson Attends Atlanta Meeting

Mr. M. Eber Hudson, educational director at First Baptist Church in Boone, will leave Friday for Atlanta, Ga., to attend the Southwide Baptist Sunday School Clinic, which is to be held January 9 through 22. He expects to return to Boone Sunday, January 24.

Mr. Hudson stated that more than a thousand Sunday school workers for the Southern Baptist Convention are expected to attend the clinic. The purpose of the clinic, or workshop, is to help train workers so they may extend the work of the local Sunday schools.

Leaders of the school will be from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board of Nashville, Tenn.

Mrs. Hudson and their two children will spend the period in Statesville visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Bost.

United States cattle numbers increased from 16 million in 1942 to 93.7 million in 1953.

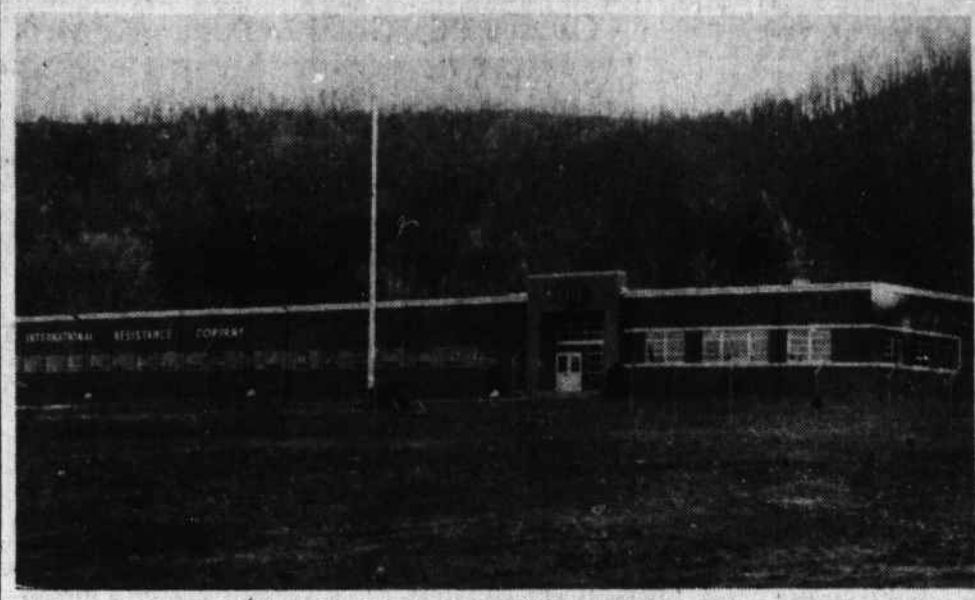
Bloodmobile To Be In City January 25

Plans were made Monday for another visit of the American Red Cross Bloodmobile to Boone, when the board of directors of the Watauga Chapter of the Red Cross met at Gateway Restaurant.

Mr. M. Eber Hudson, chairman, announced that the Bloodmobile will be in Boone Monday, January 25, at the Baptist Church.

Other plans announced after the meeting concerned the fund campaign which is scheduled for the month of March. Mr. S. C. Eggers was appointed by Mr. Hudson to take charge of this effort, with Mr. Clyde R. Greene and the Rev. E. F. Troutman assisting.

Production To Start At Boone's New Plant Today



INTERNATIONAL RESISTANCE COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA begins production in its new Boone plant this week.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

Goal of Million Dollar Payroll May Be Reached

By VIRGIL G. ROLLINS

The International Resistance Company of Philadelphia is scheduled to begin production in its new Boone plant on Wednesday, January 6, John S. Kane, plant manager, announced this week.

Engineers, technical workers, and installation crews will be on hand to set up sixteen trailer loads of equipment scheduled to arrive during the week.

The plant will engage in the manufacture of four types of electronic resistors used in electronic measuring devices, television sets including color TV, radios, and home appliances. Mr. Kane explained that the resistors are designed to control and regulate the power flowing through an electronic circuit to the exact amount desired, as a faucet regulates the flow of water in sink or bathtub.

The company has conducted a training school for production workers since October 22 in the building formerly occupied by the Blue Ridge Supply Company on King Street. When this school is discontinued on January 15, a total of 58 women will have received training under Bob Bumbaugh, technical supervisor, and Fred M. Gragg of Boone, who resigned his position as clerk of court for Watauga County to become the plant's personnel manager. Training after January 15 will be carried on at the plant, Mr. Kane said.

Twelve of the women trained are scheduled to report for work at the plant on January 6, with a total of 62 production workers expected to be employed by the end of January. 200 locally recruited workers will be at work on the day shift as soon as practicable, with plans for a night shift to be announced later.

When full production is reached, the plant will employ about 500 persons, with an overall payroll in excess of \$1,000,000, it has been estimated. More than 2,400 applications for work have come into the firm's office, indicating the presence of an abundant labor supply in the Watauga County area.

A clerical force of 12 persons will be on duty in the spacious, well-appointed offices by the end of the week, under the supervision of Mr. Gragg.

Other key personnel include Richard Morhouser of Philadelphia, controller; Sterling Graydon of Charlotte, chief engineer; Tom Wright of Boone, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. T. C. Wright, product engineer; James Winkler, Jr. of Boone, quality engineer; William Wilson of Boone, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chapel Wilson, foreman; and Melvin Norris of Rutherford, meter maintenance man. Winkler and Wilson have had a training period with the company in Philadelphia.

The company has installed a modern cafeteria for employees in the plant, which will be operated by and for the benefit of the State Commission for the Blind, under the sponsorship of the Lions Clubs of North Carolina.

Ground was broken for the new factory by C. M. Guest & Company, general contractors of Greensboro, July 13 on a 20-acre tract in the southern outskirts of Boone, just off the Blowing Rock road, with Mr. Joe Burris as resident superintendent in charge of construction.

Of red brick, steel and concrete construction, the one-story building is modeled after a similar plant recently built by the company at Asheville, and contains approximately 35,000 square feet of floor space. An area of about 3,500 square feet is air conditioned for temperature and humidity control required in the manufacture of some of the parts.

A hard surfaced road has been built by the site, extending from the Winkler's Creek road on the north to the old Blowing Rock road on the south, providing two entrances to the plant from the Blowing Rock road.

Mr. Oliver J. Greenway, IRC (Continued on page three.)

Holidays Quiet; No Arrests Made

Police Chief Richardson calls attention to the quietude which prevailed in the city during Christmas, and wishes to thank the citizens for their splendid behavior.

The department did not make an arrest, Chief Richardson says, which he believes is most unusual in a town the size of Boone.

Wm. C. Calloway Dies On Saturday

William Clingan Calloway of the Foscoe neighborhood, died at Watauga Hospital last Saturday, at the age of 84. He had been in failing health for five years.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at the Foscoe Christian Church with Rev. Hiram Lester in charge, assisted by Rev. S. E. Gragg and Rev. Mr. Widener.

He is survived by one son and two daughters: Don Calloway, Lenoir; Mrs. Flo Moody and Miss Neva Calloway of Foscoe. There is a foster daughter, Mrs. Shelby Church of Boone. There are seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

First Burley Auction Of New Year Is Held

The Boone Burley Tobacco Market held its first sale of the new year Monday at Mountain Burley Warehouse No. 1, and sold 345, 156 pounds, the maximum allowed by the Government, for an average price of \$54.43 per hundred, distributing \$187,868.41 to the farmers of this area.

R. C. Coleman, operator of the Boone market, described the sale as "the best we have had to date, but the quality of the tobacco was not anything to brag about. Still, the average prices of the tobacco ran well up into the high figures."

A considerable quantity of tobacco is on the floor at Farmers Burley for the sale on Wednesday, but there is still abundant space on the floors of the three

big warehouses for more, said Stanley A. Harris, supervisor of sales. Any tobacco that is brought in by noon Wednesday will be sold Wednesday afternoon, he added.

"One more sale like Monday," Mr. Harris continued, "will bring the Boone market up to the three million pounds hoped for at the beginning of the season. This indicates that wise farmers of this section are bringing their tobacco to Boone. More than a million-and-a-half dollars have been distributed to the farmers who have brought their tobacco to Boone."

Friday's sale will be held at Mountain Burley No. 1, and farmers are urged to rush the remainder of their tobacco in while the price is still good.

Old Grad Comes Back As Atomic Scientist

Appalachian State Teachers College will welcome back to the campus one of her own graduates when an Oak Ridge scientist comes to speak to the faculty and students on Tuesday, January 12. G. W. Morgan, a Bachelor of Science degree graduate of Appalachian, will speak on the use of radioisotopes.

Mr. Morgan is Chief of the Radiological Safety Branch, Isotopes Division, of the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Following his graduation from Appalachian in 1934, Mr. Morgan received the Master of Arts degree from Peabody College in 1941. He served as a bacteriologist in the 28th General Hospital in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. After being discharged from the Army in 1946, Mr. Morgan was employed in the Health Physics Department at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory as an associate physicist. In 1948 he joined the Advisory Field Service

Branch of the Atomic Energy Commission and was advanced to Assistant Chief in 1949, a position which he held until his recent promotion to Chief. He is a native of Rutherford County.

Mr. Morgan and his staff are responsible for the health protection of all persons in the United States using radioisotopes in research laboratories, hospitals, and industrial organizations other than those operated by the Commission. His branch also consults on the use of radioisotopes in research and industrial problems.

Weather

By DR. ARNOLD VAN PELT

Last week your weather man went to Boston to listen to the views expressed there by the learned men of science, relevant and irrelevant to the present world situation. As a consequence, no report on the weather appeared in the Democrat. However, in order that recordings for a full month could be made without a lapse, my neighbor, Dr. John Hamilton, was kind enough to take the readings, making this week's report possible.

The week was mild; no rain fell, continuing a dry period which began the 23rd.

Max.	Min.	6 p.m.	Date
59	22	31	Dec. 27
55	29	39	Dec. 28
50	36	44	Dec. 29
45	38	41	Dec. 30
41	21	39	Dec. 31
44	25	41	Jan. 1
53	21	40	Jan. 2

Precipitation: None.

December was relatively mild, except for the period from the 14th to the 19th. The highest temperature was 63, recorded on the fifth; the lowest was 1 above zero on the 18th. The greatest amount of rain, 0.94 inches, occurred on the 14th. The total precipitation for the month was 3.80 inches. During the period from the 15th to the 20th there was a trace of snow on the ground.



HOME OF NEW DIAL SYSTEM—The new Bell Telephone Company building on East King Street nears completion. Most of the dial telephones are already installed, and the company has announced that it will switch over to the dial system in March.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.