

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

ROAD THROUGH DEEP GAP D. L. Wellborn, 82 years old, resident of Stony Fork township, is anxious to know who built the first public road through Deep Gap...

CAN SPEAK CALMLY. NOW Since Boone's antique telephone system has been discarded in favor of the new, one can be heard perfectly...

WE DON'T KNOW! The paper said the other day something about "rebel yells" bouncing off the rafters at some sort of political gathering...

A RUN FOR THE STETSON The guy was running down the road yelling "It is snowing and blowing, and we couldn't hear what he was saying..."

REFLECTIONS ON YOUTH Youngsters parked along the street in broad daylight, sneaking a kiss now and then, and looking down the street through the rose-tinted lenses of youth...

Cove Creek Wins Tri-County Tourney; Takes 64 In A Row



Completing their second regular basketball season without defeat, the Cove Creek High School Red Raiders climaxed what may be a State record by defeating Blowing Rock handily in the finals of the Tri-County Tournament Tuesday night of last week.

Boone Negro, Held For Theft, Admits Wielding Arson Torch



TELEPHONE CHAIRMAN DIALS—H. Grady Farthing, chairman of the telephone committee of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, makes an early call over the new dial system from the business office of the company on East King Street...

Red Cross Campaign Begins Here March 17

March is Red Cross Month the nation over, and Watauga County is no exception, it was stated this week by Mr. M. Eber Hudson, head of the local Red Cross chapter.

St. Patrick's Ball Saturday

It will be a great day for the Irish Saturday, March 13, at the ASTC Boy's Gymnasium, when the Home Economics Department sponsors the annual St. Patrick's Dance.

New Manager For Mayview

Mayview Manor, 200-room resort hotel at Blowing Rock, will open for the 1954 summer season under new management.

John Marshall Witherspoon, 25-year-old Boone Negro, has been charged with arson and is being held in Watauga County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond in connection with the fire which destroyed the home of Della Horton Saturday night, February 27.

Witherspoon, who was in jail under \$500 bond for robbing the cash drawer of Creed's Cafe of \$23 Monday morning, confessed Friday to Sheriff E. D. Cook and Chief Deputy Wiley Day that he climbed in a back window with some matches and paper and set fire to the Horton house, where he was a roomer.

When the Jones home burned, Witherspoon testified at Anderson's trial that he came home soon after midnight and saw Anderson drunk standing near the house with a can containing kerosene.

Anderson confessed to Sheriff Cook and said he set fire to the Jones couple's home because they were allowing his estranged wife to room there, saying she would "come back to me if they would not allow her to stay there."

"Horn" Auditions Set For Saturday

Auditions for members of the chorus, men dancers, speaking parts, crowd scenes and children's parts for "Horn in the West" will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 9:00 a. m.

1,561 High School Students To Gather For Area Music Contests

Mayor Winkler Flicks Switch To Start New Phone Operation

The Southern Bell Telephone Company's most modern dial system was placed in service here Wednesday, March 3, when Mayor Gordon H. Winkler pulled the switch to signal the changeover from the old "crank-type" phones at 12 o'clock noon at the new plant on East King Street.

The maze of intricate equipment at the plant set up an immediate and incessant humming, flashing, and clicking, indicating that many subscribers were waiting with receiver to ear and finger poised, ready to start dialing as soon as the dial tone came through.

Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, completed a call to Governor William B. Umstead at Raleigh from the business office of the plant soon after the new system became operative.

Mr. C. L. Lott of Charlotte, state manager of Southern Bell who was here for the ceremony, also talked with the Governor, and said Mr. Umstead indicated that he was "mighty proud" of the modern plant in Boone.

Mr. H. M. Inabinet of Lenoir, the company's group manager who was in charge of installing the new system, said the changeover marked the climax of a lot of planning and work over a period of several months.

A booklet of instructions has been mailed to all subscribers, and new directories have been delivered listing the new dial numbers, together with instructions for service and emergency calls.

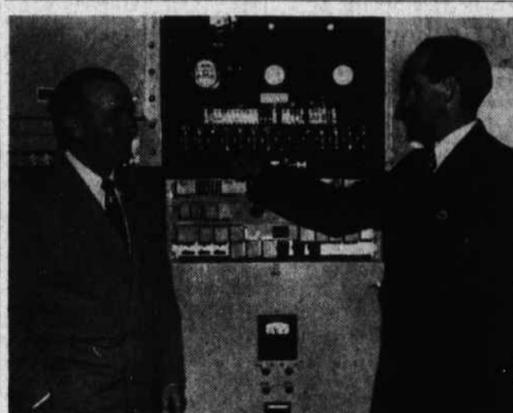
Those present to witness the changeover ceremony also included H. Grady Farthing, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce telephone committee, Wade E. Brown, Clyde R. Greene, Russell D. Hodges, W. R. Winkler, Sahley A. Harris, W. H. Gragg, and Bill Garvey.

Sixteen Apply For P. O. Exams

Sixteen local citizens have applied to take examinations for the postmastership in Boone, it is announced by the Civil Service Commission. They are: Lyle B. Cook, Jonathan W. Norris, Bert W. Ellis, Clint W. Cannon, James A. Dugger, James P. Marsh, Ralph L. Beshears, Boyd R. Daugherty, Cloyd S. Bolick, John W. Wellborn, Spencer M. Miller, Morris W. Barnett, J. D. Miller, Walter H. Brown, Jonathan A. Moretz, John D. Marsh.

Tri-State Area To Be Promoted

The scenic Grandfather and Roan Mountain region of the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia is to be promoted by the Tri-State Highlands Association with headquarters in Johnson City, Tennessee.



MAYOR SIGNALS USE OF DIAL PHONES—Mayor Gordon H. Winkler, in top photo, pulls the switch at the new Boone plant of the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, signalling the changeover to dial telephones at 12 noon last Wednesday...



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Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, makes the first official call over the new system to Governor William B. Umstead in Raleigh. Standing is Mr. C. L. Lott, state manager of the company.—Photos by Paul Weston.

Appalachian Band To Give Spring Concert

Younce Home Is Razed By Flames

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Olin Younce in the Mabel community was completely destroyed by fire Sunday afternoon. The two-story frame structure burned to the ground in little more than an hour from the time the blaze was discovered, it was reported.

Mr. Younce, who operates a dry cleaning establishment, Hi-Land Cleaners, in Boone, said he was sitting in the living room watching television with his six-year-old son, George, about 2:30 o'clock when he saw smoke coming from under the bedroom door and from the head of the stairs leading up from the living room.

The television set, a refrigerator, and several chairs were saved, but everything else was destroyed "except the clothes on our backs," Mr. Younce said.

The Appalachian High School Band directed by Mr. Roy Blanton and the Junior High School Band, directed by Mr. Don Knowland will present a concert Friday evening March 12, at 7:30, at the music building auditorium.

Both bands will be wearing their new uniforms for the first time. This concert was arranged so that the parents and citizens of Boone could have an opportunity to see the bands perform in their colorful uniforms.

A very interesting program has been arranged including three contest selections the band will play in the district contest March 18. These selections are: Huldigungsmarsch by Grieg, Dixie Carnival by Wilson, and Dorian Overture by Whitney.

The members of both bands would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, merchants and many friends of the bands for their work and liberal donations in securing the new uniforms.

A reception will be held in the chorus room immediately after the concert and everyone is invited to attend.

13 Counties Are Represented In Area Competition

The Department of Music of Appalachian State Teachers College will play host to 1,561 high school students from thirteen counties in northwest North Carolina on Wednesday and Thursday, March 17th and 18th, when they gather here for the annual district contests.

Glee Clubs, choral groups, bands, and piano students will perform before committees of judges. Judges for the choral groups will be Mr. Elwood Roberts of Mars Hill Junior College; Mrs. Katherine Detmold, supervisor of music of the Winston-Salem city schools and Forrester Whitaker of the Music Education Department of Meredith College, Raleigh.

On Thursday, the twelve bands and twenty-two piano students will perform. The committee of judges for the bands are Mr. Kenneth Moore and Mr. John Satterfield of Davidson College and Mr. David Price of Western Carolina College.

Both band and choral groups will perform in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Building, and the piano contests will be in the auditorium of the Administration Building.

Bands and piano students receiving superior and excellent ratings will be permitted to go on to Greensboro in April and participate in the state contest. This is the second year that Appalachian State Teachers College has been host to the newly organized contest system which is under supervision of the Music Education Association of North Carolina.

Mr. Gordon Nash, chairman of the Department of Music, is serving as chairman of the contests. He is being assisted by other music faculty members, including Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney and Mr. W. Hoyt Safrit, who are helping with the choral groups; Mr. William Spencer, Mr. Nicholas Erneston, and Mrs. Dorothy E. Kemp, who are helping with the bands; and Mr. James Rooker and Mr. Walton Cole, assisting with the piano students.

The twenty high schools which will be represented are as follows: Appalachian, Cliffside, Drexel, Glen Alpine, Granite Falls, Hickory, Lenoir, Marion, Morganton, Newton-Conover, North Wilkesboro, Spruce Pine, West Yadin, West Mecklenburg, Wilkes Central, Burnsville, Marion, Lincolnton, Valdese, and Forest City.

Weather

March's lion roared this week, and Boone was under snow and suffering high winds. Although many Bononites found up to 7 or 8 inches in their back yards, this observer could record only 3 inches for the initial snowfall.

Table with 4 columns: Max., Min., Date, and another column. It lists weather forecasts for various dates in March, including snowfall amounts and temperatures.