

The educational center of Western North Carolina. 1950 Population 2,973

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR—NO. 36



MISS JENNIE COFFEY, one of the pioneers in merchandising in Boone, reads the Watauga Democrat regularly. Staff photo taken by Joe Minor the last of the week, brings forth reflections in "King Street" column.

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

PIONEER MERCHANT

Since her retirement from active business pursuits, some folks have lost track of the fact that Miss Jennie Coffey, who lives across the street from the Democrat office, is the pioneer merchant of this vicinity, and the last who offered merchandise for sale here when we played baseball in the middle of King Street without interruption from passing traffic. Miss Jennie, whose sign still hangs on the front of her building, though the storms of many winters have long since eliminated the letters, used to run a combined millinery shop, and school and office supply business, first down in the Coffey (Critchler) Hotel building, later in the east room of the Blair Hotel, and more recently in her own building farther up the street. We used to buy our elementary school text books from her, and recall they always ran in odd cents—some were 13 cents, and it seemed that finally we had to have one for which we were charged 26 cents. At any rate we did a good deal of trading at Miss Jennie Coffey's Store, where the best pencils in town could be had "two for a nickel," and where, he can recall having bought our mom side combs and pin cushions for Christmas gifts, way back before there were tinsel and glitter to the holidays. And there were picture post cards galore, and new bonnets, and hundreds of items the women folks regularly bought in this variety store, which antedates any other in the community.

READS THE PAPER

The picture of Miss Jennie, which Joe Minor snapped the other day, caught her diligently reading the Watauga Democrat (sans spectacles), a practice she has followed religiously since the inception of the local journal. We are glad she's enjoying fair health, and still takes an interest in the affairs of the community. Besides Miss Jennie's Store, we recall her skill in flower raising, and her love for the gay blossoms of springtime. We shall entertain the fond hope that Miss Jennie will see the coming of many more summers, and continue to enjoy the blooms about her door, the songs of the birds, and the tempered breezes, and that her years of retirement will be her happiest.

THE CHANGING SCENE

Another old landmark is giving away to the wrecking bars. The Greene Inn, ancestral home of Dr. B. B. Dougherty, and later the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Greene is giving up its honored place in the center of town, a casualty of the storms of many seasons, and of the continuing march of progress. Mr. Roy Ruffy reminds us that the house was the property of her grandfather, Daniel B. (Continued on page four)

Beer, Whiskey Seized In Raid On Men's Club

Town and county police raided an establishment known as the Business and Professional Men's Club, located just off the Blowing Rock road in the outskirts of Boone, March 5, and confiscated a quantity of beer and whiskey and several gambling devices, according to a report by Sheriff Earl Cook.

The sheriff said he, deputies Wiley Day and Lester Phillips, and city policeman Howard Camp seized 8 cases of beer, 37 pints of tax-paid liquor, 2 slot machines, a roulette wheel and a dice board, and arrested Bruce W. Sigmund, alleged operator of the club.

Sigmund was charged with possession of whiskey for purpose of sale, and posted \$500 bond for his appearance at the next term of court, Sheriff Cook said.

Mrs. Vandyke, 73, Dies At Hospital

Mrs. Nevada Elrod Vandyke, 73, resident of the Silverstone neighborhood, died Monday at Watauga Hospital.

Last rites were conducted Tuesday at 2 o'clock at the Middle Fork Baptist Church. Rev. Ronda Earp and Rev. Robert Shore, were in charge of the services, and burial was in the Hartley cemetery at Cool Springs.

A daughter, Mrs. George Warren of Sugar Grove, survives. There are two sisters, Mrs. Frank Edmisten, Mrs. Carl Hodges, Blowing Rock. There are three grandchildren.

Monthly Scout Meeting Slated

The Watauga District of Old Hickory Council, Boy Scouts of America, will hold the regular monthly meeting Thursday at 12 noon in Gateway Restaurant. Mr. Courtland Baker and Mr. Donald Currie, scout executives of the council, will be present for discussion, the Rev. J. T. Shackford, district chairman announced this week.

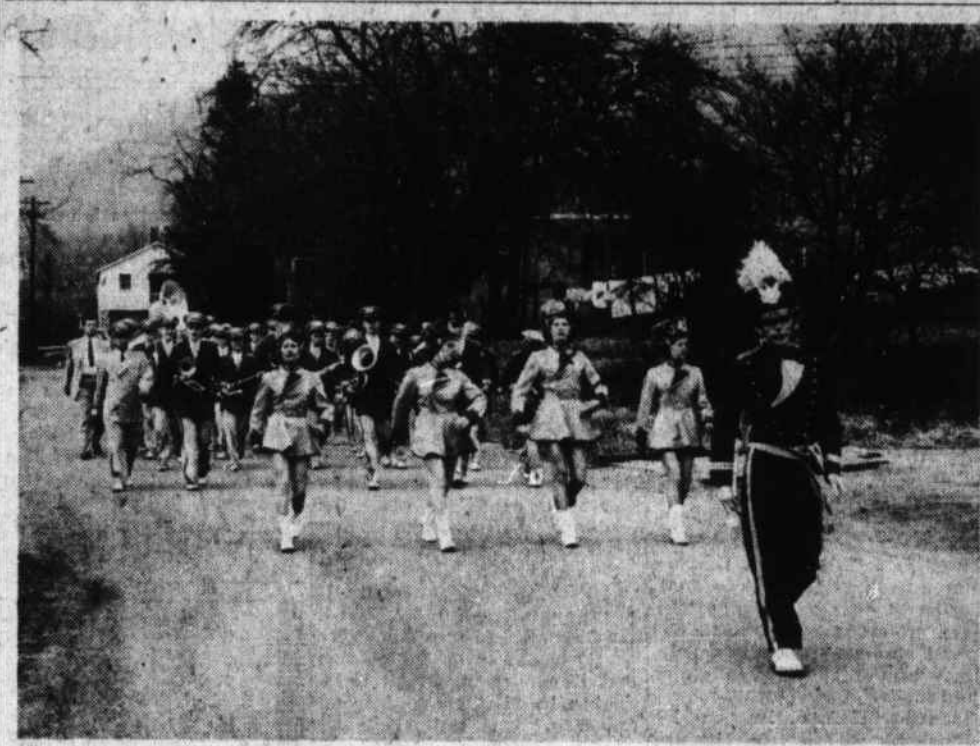
The regular round table of the district will be held that night at 7:30 o'clock in the Scout hut, with Mr. B. W. Stallings, district commissioner, presiding.

A total of 1,100,000 new non-farm dwelling units were constructed during the year 1953—the third biggest annual total in the history of the nation.



EARLY MORNING FIRE RAZES HOUSE—The Boone Fire Department answered an alarm last Friday morning shortly after six o'clock, near Sands, when a house, owned by Mr. Jack Shores, was destroyed by fire. The photo, taken by Paul Weston, shows the structure shortly before it was consumed by the blaze. Mr. Shores, it was reported, works at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and was not available to give an estimate of the damage.

Annual REA Meeting May Bring Five Thousand People To City



SHOWING OFF NEW UNIFORMS—The Appalachian High School Senior Band is shown parading through Boone last Friday afternoon in their new uniforms. The new outfits are colored scarlet and grey. A concert was given by the Junior and Senior bands that night, with Mr. Don Knowland directing the juniors and Mr. Roy R. Blanton, the seniors. The junior band was dressed in the old coats of the senior band, with white pants.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

Big Gathering Has Been Assured C. Of C. Official

The annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is to be held in Boone this year, bringing perhaps four to five thousand people to the city.

This information has been given Chamber of Commerce President H. W. Wilcox by C. E. Vivrette, Manager of the REA Cooperative which serves 14,000 members in this section of the State.

The meeting will be held at the Daniel Boone Theatre at a date to be fixed later, but likely early in September. The REA had been invited to Boone last year.

Miss Becky Rivers, of the editorial staff of the Carolina Farmer, REA publication, Raleigh, has been asked to handle the publicity for the Boone meeting, Mr. Wilcox says, and that a Horn in the West promotion will be included in her writings. Incidentally, he says, the Carolina Farmer goes into 90,000 Southern homes.

Further information regarding the gathering, which is the largest yet secured for Boone, will be published as it develops.

Area Historical Association To Meet In Boone; To Assess Assets

The Western North Carolina Historical Association will begin a movement to find out what some of its own assets are, with a meeting scheduled for March 26 at the Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone.

The meeting, to be held in the Fine Arts Building on the ASTC campus, Friday, March 26, at 7:00 p. m., will be in the nature of a Clinic on Historical Sources of Northwestern North Carolina, including especially the counties of Avery, Watauga, Burke, Caldwell, Wilkes, Ashe, and Alleghany.

Invitations are extended to social studies teachers, principals and superintendents of public schools, to officials and members of county or local historical associations, and to any other interested individuals who might like to attend the clinic. Dr. D. J. Whitener, president of the Western North Carolina Historical Association, will serve as director of the clinic.

The purpose of the clinic will be to determine what the historical sources are in northwestern North Carolina, and to consider ways and means of preserving and using them.

It is the feeling of the directors of the Association that the clinic will serve as a training agency for similar clinics in each county to be held later, and investigations can be made on the county level. The rapid development of the northwestern area of the state has focused attention upon the need for a better understanding of the heritage of this region.

Members of the Western North Carolina Historical Association's board of directors in each of the invited counties have agreed to serve as county sponsors for the clinic. They include Robert Woodside of Crossnore for Avery County; Edwin S. Dougherty of Boone for Watauga County; Mrs. Ed M. Anderson of West Jefferson for Ashe County; Judge S. J. Erwin of Morganton for Burke County; C. M. Abernethy of Lenoir for Caldwell County; Miss Clyde Field of Sparta for Alleghany County; and C. B. Eller of Wilkesboro for Wilkes County.

Weather

Boone enjoyed another respite from March winds last week, with temperatures in the 50's and 60's. However, Saturday's rain brought cold temperatures on Sunday.

Table with 5 columns: Max., Min., 6 p.m., Date. It lists weather data for March 8 through March 14.

Precipitation: March 8 and 9—traces of snow on ground; March 14—0.53 inches.

Vaught Mast Fatally Hurt By Paper Rolls

Robert Vaught Mast, native of Vilas, and former resident of Boone, met instant death Friday when he was crushed against the side of a ship by 3600 pounds of newsprint while unloading paper rolls at Robinson's Terminal, Alexandria, Va.

Mast, 46, more recently a resident of Johnson City, Tenn., fell from the dock into the Potomac River after he was struck. His body, Washington news sources say, was recovered immediately by Elwood Trenary, dock foreman. Police said Mr. Mast was killed instantly when the newsprint rolls hit him.

Two 1,600-pound rolls of newsprint were being lowered from the ship, police said, when they shifted and swung toward the vessel. Mast was caught between the swinging rolls and the ship.

The body was returned to Johnson City where funeral services were held at the Unaka Baptist Church Tuesday at 2 o'clock. Interment was in that city.

Veteran Two Wars

Mr. Mast was born at Vilas, a son of the late Wiley J. Mast and Mrs. Mast. He served four years in the Navy in World War II, where he was engaged in the European Theatre of operations. When the Korean War began, he reenlisted in the Navy and served for two years in Korea and Japanese bases. Until he went to Alexandria, he had been employed with his brothers in the oil business in Johnson City.

Surviving, in addition to the widow, the former Miss Edith Hamby of Boone, are two daughters, Linda and Barbara; the mother, Mrs. W. J. Mast, Johnson City; six sisters: Mrs. Ralph Kimel, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Tom Hayes, North Wilkesboro; Mrs. Myrtle Glenn, Vilas; Mrs. Floyd Ward, Mrs. Aaron Brown, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Mrs. Carl Henson, Alexandria, Va.; two brothers, Smith and Grady Mast, Johnson City, Tenn.

Last Rites Held For Mrs. Barnes

Rebecca Jane Byers Barnes, resident of the Howard's Creek section, died March 10 at her home. Mrs. Barnes had been ill for several weeks, and for a time was in Watauga Hospital. She was 77 years of age.

Funeral services were held last Friday from the Howard's Creek Baptist Church. Rev. W. C. Payne was in charge of the services, assisted by Rev. E. F. Troutman of the Lutheran Church. Burial was in the Norris cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, William Barnes, and one daughter, Mrs. Docie Barnes Miller.

Active pallbearers were L. R. Barnes, R. L. Barnes, S. J. Barnes, Frank Byers, Toad Byers, Millard Byers.

Honorary pallbearers were Forest Moretz, Ron Ragan, Grady Winkler, Glenn Moretz, Walt Tester, Marvin Miller, Luther Moretz and James Penley.

Flower girls were Estella Barnes, Vina Moretz, Nana Ragan, Burbra Ragan, Louise Moretz, Pauline Moretz, Ethel Moretz, Mary Winkler, Gladis Miller, Julia Tester, Marzelle Miller, Ruth Ledford, Eulalia Hodges, Helen Barnes, Edna Ragan, Mrs. Frank Byers, Cathryn Byers.

EDUCATION COSTS

The largest single expense item of the nation's cities over 25,000 in 1952 was for education. A total of \$879,000,000 went for schools. Running a close second to education were streets and highways, for which \$589,000,000 was spent.

Church Play To Be Presented

A medieval morality play, "Everyman", will be presented by the Westminster Fellowship of the James I. Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church Sunday night, March 21, at 8 o'clock in the church auditorium.

The play represents an effort by the church to rediscover the vitality of its deepest roots, to examine its origins, and to reveal the significance of its place in society.

The cast includes Ann Chambers as Everyman; and Polly Sapp, Jim Craig, Bob Phillips, Bob Sigmon, Eunice Houston, Ernestine Calloway, Nancy Allison, Libby White, Wesley Alexander, George Grill, Jane Harrison, Marjorie Honeycutt, Sara Crawford, Franklin Jones, Jean Carter, Metta Moore, and Shirley Gabriel.

The play is directed by Mrs. John B. Hamilton, and incidental music has been arranged by Dr. Hamilton with the cooperation of the ASTC Fine Arts Department. Costumes are typical of the Fifteenth Century and made by the Women of the Church.

Dougherty Acts To Increase Endowment Fund At College

A significant movement in the life of Appalachian State Teachers college, which started on the desk of President B. B. Dougherty last October 21, has gained in momentum and bids fair to become one of the college's major undertakings.

October 21 was the birthday of the president. It was also the 50th anniversary of the date on which the Appalachian Training School, predecessor to Appalachian State Teachers college, was taken under state control. The institution has since grown into a high school, a junior college, a senior college, and a graduate school.

For some years the college has been interested in increasing its endowment fund, so that many professional advancements not provided for in the state budget would be possible. By small gifts from many sources over a period of years the endowment fund of the college has grown to more than \$100,000. President Dougherty has seen that these funds have been wisely invested, and the income now amounts to some \$5,000 a year. "But," Dr. Dougherty reasoned, "the college, in order to do superior work, needs a stronger appropriation from the state. It also needs some money that could be spent, aside from the budget, to promote education in this area of the state."

Accordingly, on October 21, Dr. Dougherty addressed a letter to the faculty of the college. He wrote: "It seems to me that this institution is now on the threshold of becoming even a greater and a better college. However, we are tied down by state budgets. There are many places that we could spend a little money and promote our cause that we cannot do at present. The state has been generous in appropriations for buildings and for oper-

ing expenses. We are indeed appreciative. But we know that a much better job can be done if we had some money, that is not state-budgeted, that could be used in various ways to promote the cause of education in North Carolina. Some of these ways are as follows:

"We could set up scholarships for needy and worthy students; we could give assistantships to capable students; we could set up fellowships; we could help the public schools in many ways, such as workshops and the like; we could develop chautauques, musical programs, and bring to the campus people of prominence, state and national, for lectures; we could induce many young people to enter the teaching profession that 'now must pass it by'; we could improve, in a larger way, the instructional service in the public schools of North Carolina.

"A permanent endowment fund, where the interest and dividends only can be used—the principal being perpetuated—appeals to us very strongly. In order to promote this endowment fund, I think we could begin at home. Therefore, I make the suggestion: 'If each member of the faculty and the workers of this college, or any number of them, would contribute one percent of his salary each year for five years, I will duplicate that amount. This proposition is made with the distinct understanding that each will act of his own volition. Of course any agreement of this kind could be terminated at any time.'

The letter continued: "I believe that the people of Boone, when they understand the urgent needs and see our attitude about this matter, will help us. After this, we can go for aid to Watauga County, and to all the

counties that are being helped so much by this college. Not only so, but the Appalachian has a great number of alumni scattered over the state that will be proud of this movement and will be glad to write their names among the benefactors of public education. This being done, sizeable amounts will be given by Foundations to promote education, and by people of wealth.

"A roster of those who participate in this movement will be kept permanently in the college."

Of course Dr. Dougherty's suggestion caught fire among the faculty members because of his generous personal offer. In just a few days a thousand dollars had come in, and Dr. Dougherty matched it with his personal check and it was turned over to the endowment fund. Other faculty members asked that the one percent be withheld from their monthly salary checks and added to the fund. Approximately \$17,000 has been added to the endowment under this new venture.

One large business concern, with home offices outside the state of North Carolina, hearing of what had been done, sent a (Continued on page six)

Watauga Phone Co. Sells Out

The Utilities Commission approved the sale of Watauga Telephone Co. to Skyline Telephone Membership Corp. of West Jefferson for \$5,000.

Watauga Telephone, with headquarters at Sugar Grove, serves the western portion of Watauga County. The new company plans to extend rural service to the customers, the commission said.