

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

THE END OF A BUSY SOJOURN

On Monday we took another of those measured walks up the grade to the old neighborhood cemetery, where the funeral rites were concluded for one of Boone's aged citizens, who only Sunday reached the end of the journey. We reflected on the fact that so few of the older citizens of the community—the folks who were around in the days of our youth—are here today, and we found ourselves lost in the memories of the activities of those who had departed. And the life of Maw Blackburn who so recently went away, stood out in clear perspective as one of the most wholesome and gracious careers in the history of a kind little village, which almost overnight found itself grappling with the problems of a thriving city.

IN RETROSPECT

The Blackburn Hotel and general store, operated by Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Blackburn used to be the center of business and social life of the neighborhood. The traveling public found food and shelter there; the local residents found shoes and clothing and fat back and kerosene and dress goods, and plows and turpentine. Japanese oil and 22 bullets. But more important there were the genial and charitable Manley Blackburn and Mrs. Blackburn, who in later years came to be called "Maw Blackburn", who was the advisor, the physician, the undertaker, the untiring friend of all the folks, whose feet trod the Street for sixty-five years, bringing food to the needy, nostrums to the ill, cheer and laughter to the faltering and the wisdom of love and experience to the unknowing.

AND WE'VE BEEN TOLD of a sharp frosty November morning when the family physician, Mrs. Blackburn and Aunt Emma, a mammy Negro, got there in time to hear our first yelp out the crisp air and to lend a hand in the emergency, which was perhaps considerable in those days before hospital care was available and when conveniences had not reached the households of the village. And in succeeding years when the Blackburns and Riverses lived close together, we came to love this good neighbor, who knew most everything, it seemed. She knew how long it should take for the measles to pop out thick and stinky, when the whooping cough was apt to let up, how much Jerusalem oak seed should go in the 'lasses when the younguns needed wormin', the proper yarbs to make puny youngsters eat better, and who John Doe married, and the eccentricities of his grandpaw. And she knew how to be a good neighbor, socially. Her high good humor, her wealth of funny stories, and the ludicrous things that had happened to her while ministering to the needs of the neighborhood, made great fun on cold winter evenings, when the logs crackled and there were red apples aplenty and popcorn and chestnuts, and the kids were well and the neighbors in fettle.

BUT DARK DAYS CAME, in the course of time, and there'd be illness and Mrs. Blackburn would minister to the needs of the stricken, and console those who waited. And several times there was crepe on the door. There were no undertakers in those days and there was sewing to be done, and cooking for the wake, advice to be given. And she knew what to do. And she'd shed a tear over a casket, smooth back a stray wisp of hair, and tell the folks if it would be safe to wait for the kin to arrive "from off." And nobody would help bring the spirit of man back to normal like Maw when there was fresh dirt in the local graveyard.

MRS. BLACKBURN had been a member of the Boone Methodist Church for about sixty years, and contributed of her labors and her funds without stint, but her greatest joys came from her love of humanity. Among the people who inhabited

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Last Rites Are Held For Mrs. Blackburn

Mrs. M. B. Blackburn, 94 years old, prominent resident of Boone, died at Watauga Hospital Sunday. Mrs. Blackburn had been in her usual health until she was injured in a fall a few weeks ago. Since that time she had gradually weakened and her condition had been critical for the past several days.

Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist Church Monday at 2 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. J. T. Shackford and a former pastor, Rev. S. B. Moss conducted the rites and burial was in the family plot in the community cemetery.

The pallbearers were: Austin South, Kenneth Linney, Paul Coffey, Rob Rivers, Frank Payne, Dean Bingham, Grady Farthing, Jim Council.

The floral offering was in charge of members of the Friday Afternoon Club.

Surviving Mrs. Blackburn are two daughters: Mrs. M. P. Critcher, Mrs. J. W. Jones, Boone; a brother, Benjamin Norris, Route 1, Boone; six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mrs. Blackburn was a native of Watauga county, and was reared in Meat Camp township. She had lived in Boone for more than thirty-five years, where she and



MRS. M. B. BLACKBURN
her husband, the late M. B. Blackburn, operated the Blackburn Hotel for many years.

Local People Help Organize TVA Association

Muscle Shoals, Alabama. — A Tennessee Valley Association of Test-Demonstration Farm Families was organized here last week by some 400 test-demonstration farmers and their wives from 90 counties in the Tennessee Valley watershed of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Purpose of the association is to knit together the efforts and leadership of farm families who are serving and who have served their communities at test-demonstration families. The experience these farm people have gained in combining the use of fertilizers produced at the TVA factory-laboratory at Muscle Shoals with scientific know-how provided by their land-grant college research and agricultural extension staffs is to be pooled through this organization, to contribute to the continued advancement of rural living in the Valley and the Nation.

The association is designed to also "provide a medium of exchange between TVA, land-grant colleges, and farm people," and "provide a vehicle whereby people of the Valley can act together on matters of mutual interest." The association is to be purely educational in its functions and will concern itself with the development of the resources of the Valley for the benefit of the people.

Attending the meeting which set up the association were Milton Moretz, Route 1, Boone; Otto Thomas, Zionville; R. G. Shipley, Vilas, from Watauga county.

Mr. Shipley served on the nominating committee to set up the TVA area group for this section.

Annual Farm Tours Begin Here Tuesday

The Annual Farm Tours for the Watauga Unit Test Demonstration farmers will start on Tuesday, it was announced by L. E. Tuckwiller, county agent. All farm people and others interested in farming are especially invited to attend.

Four area tours will be held and then special farms will be visited in a county-wide tour at a later date.

At the end of each area tour the people on the tour will be asked to select the "home that made the most improvements within the year," and also the "farm making the most improvements within the year." In both cases the land, livestock, and prior improvements will be considered.

The tours for next week will be as follows, with each tour beginning at 8:30 at the county agent's office, the group going directly to the first farm mentioned.

Tuesday, August 10:
Clyde Moretz, at 9:00 a. m.; Odie Greene, Royce Perry, Ferd Michael, Milton Moretz, Roy Moretz, and Bill Krider.

Thursday, August 12:
Cecil Swift at 9:15 a. m.; Sanford Creed, David Farthing, W. R. Vines, D. F. Greene, Ivan Dishman, Mrs. Janie Dishman.

Mr. Tuckwiller stated that those interested in the tour may join the group at any of the farms mentioned.

This year special attention will be called to both farm and home improvements, therefore both men and women will participate in the tour. Those wishing to eat may carry a sandwich lunch.

Milk Suppliers In County Are Given Grades

All milk suppliers in the county have been graded by the Watauga County Health Department in accordance with the grade specifications of the milk ordinance and code governing same.

All consumers are urged to purchase milk on the basis of grade. These grades appear on each bottle cap or carton. The retailing of raw milk was banned effective July 1. Excellent information is given about milk in an article, "What Every Person Should Know About Milk," copies of which may be obtained from the local health department or from the U. S. Public Health Service in Washington, D. C.

The following Watauga county distributors have been approved for pasteurized products: Appalachian State Teachers College, Coble Dairy Products, Inc., Hilliards Dairy, Hillside Dairy Products, Inc., and Southern Dairies.

All persons are urged by the Health Department to not use or play any part in the illegal sale of raw or ungraded milk or milk products.

Canada is building up her defensive naval forces.

Twin City Leader To Address C. Of C.

Archie K. Davis, vice-president of the Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, Winston-Salem, and president of the Northwestern North Carolina Development Association, will be the speaker at the Chamber of Commerce meeting to be held at the Gateway Restaurant at noon Tuesday, August 10.

Mr. Davis, whose career is closely identified with State and national banking organizations, is an alumnus of the Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Bankers Association. He has served two terms as vice-president of the Winston-Salem Chamber.

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ARCHIE K. DAVIS

Summer Band To Play At Vespers

The Summer School Band, under the direction of William Spencer, will present a program of sacred music at the Horn in the West Theatre Sunday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. The band has presented several concerts of outdoor music for the students on the campus and for the townspeople on Monday evenings during the past two months.

In case of rain the program will be held in the college auditorium.

This program is the regular community vespers program, held each Sunday during summer by the churches of Boone and Blowing Rock.

The program will be as follows:
Chorale, "Komm Susser Tod," J. S. Bach.
"Rock of Ages," Hastings, featuring an echoing brass quartet.
"The Lord's Prayer," Malotte-Lake, Hoyt Safrin, soloist.
Quartet, "Bless This House," Taylor-Brahe, Aiene Queen, Mary Alva Cole, Gene Wilson, Pat Matthews.
Instrumental number.

The band has been active this summer with concerts and reading music for the instrumental



workshop which was held at the college July 20-30, and will continue to be busy right up to the end of the summer.

They will help furnish the music for the Annual Masonic Picnic, which is held at Mocksville, Thursday, August 12. They expect to spend the entire day there.

This year the band will be assisted by members of the Cherryville and Wilkes Central High School bands. Directors of these bands are Dale Gabill and Claude Jarrett.

Democratic Convention Names Candidates For Local Offices



MISS JENNIE COFFEY, who died Tuesday in her 102nd year, is shown here as she perused the Watauga Democrat last spring. Although she had passed her 101st birthday, she was reading the local newspaper without glasses.

Miss Jennie Coffey, 101 Years Old, Succumbs Tuesday Noon

Williams Given Duke U. Grant



CRATIS D. WILLIAMS
Cratis D. Williams, Professor of English at Appalachian, has gone to Duke University for six weeks where he will engage in research in the Duke Library under a grant-in-aid from the university.

Miss Jennie Coffey, aged 101 years, Watauga county's oldest citizen and pioneer merchant of Boone, died at her home Tuesday noon, following a long period of failing health.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Boone Methodist Church today (Wednesday) at 3 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. J. T. Shackford will conduct the rites and interment will be in the city cemetery.

Miss Coffey was born in Caldwell county December 5, 1852, and had resided in Watauga for more than seventy-five years. In her early years here, she established a millinery shop, and sold school text books and school supplies, and was in business here longer than any other person.

She was a member of the Methodist Church throughout her adult life and for more than half a century taught an adult Sunday School class. She had retired from active church work, and business activities some years ago, but hadn't suffered critical disability until the last few months.

Miss Coffey was the last survivor of a family of sixteen, which included the late Capt. Thomas Coffey and Mr. W. C. Coffey of Boone.

Survivors include a number of nieces and nephews, among whom are Mrs. Nell Linney and Mrs. Rimmel Porter of Boone.

The Army now offers recruits a guarantee on school.

Teachers Of Singing To Gather In Boone

Plans and programs for the southern and southeastern region workshop of the National Association of Teachers of Singing have now been completed, and the workshop will be held at Appalachian State Teachers College from August 15 to 20. The announcement comes from Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney of ASTC, who is chairman of the regional workshop for this summer.

The invitation is extended, according to Mrs. Linney, to all

voice teachers, vocal students and others interested in singing, to attend the workshop.

These sessions offer an opportunity for a vacation in the cool mountains, and at the same time to receive instruction and inspiration from some of the leaders in the profession, as well as from qualified educators in related fields.

Registration for the workshop will begin at three o'clock on the

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Enrollment This Term Biggest In History Appalachian College

The enrollment for the second term of summer school has gone beyond the number expected by the administration, and has broken all records for the second summer terms at Appalachian State Teachers college.

Some latecomers are still reporting, and additional workshops which will be enrolling next week cannot yet be counted, so the figures are still incomplete. However, a survey reveals that for the second term in 1953 the total enrollment was 1184. Up to the present, the enrollment for the second term is 1291 with students still enrolling.

There are thirty-five registered for the workshop in elementary education. They represent

six states. This is the third in a series of elementary education workshops held this summer at Appalachian.

In the music education workshop, which is one of the most widely known and heavily attended, there are 166 students representing 12 states and Puerto Rico. The enrollment is not yet closed in this workshop, and it is anticipated that this figure will increase appreciably.

In the student teaching workshop, which is being conducted for the purpose of improving its program of student teaching, Appalachian has sixty students enrolled from twenty counties in the northwestern and north Piedmont sections of North Carolina.

Perry and Barnes Are Chosen For Assembly Races

Perhaps a record number of Democratic voters gathered in the courthouse Saturday afternoon in nominating session, and Dr. H. B. Perry was nominated as a candidate for the State Senate to head the slate for county offices.

Mayor Gordon H. Winkler who ran close behind the Boone physician moved a unanimous nomination at the end of the first roll call.

Stuart Barnes was nominated for the House of Representatives. Edgar Brown, the only other candidate before the session, withdrew.

Ernest Hodges of the Adams neighborhood was nominated for Sheriff, after the withdrawal of Police Chief Glenn Richardson, who had gathered strong support for the position throughout the county. Arville Perry also withdrew as a candidate. Others with convention support for the Sheriff's post were John Greer, Arlie Hodges, Dallas Hartley.

Austin E. South, Clerk of the Superior Court for more than twenty years, received the nomination by unanimous vote of the convention. There was no opposing candidate.

Coroner Richard E. Kelley was renominated, and W. R. Vines was nominated for Surveyor, gathering more votes than C. F. Thompson.

For commissioners the convention named Arlie Walsh, George A. Wilson, and J. D. Shoemaker.

Other commissioner candidates voted on were Kent Brown, William Lentz, Custer Wallace, Dr. C. Coffey, Sanford Creed and Ward Carroll.

D. F. Baird, chairman of the Executive Committee presided over the convention. Mrs. Rob Rivers acted as Secretary, while Dr. J. T. C. Wright and Starr Stacy tabulated the vote.

Eastern Star School Is Held

The Eighteenth District School of Instruction Order of the Eastern Star was held in the Masonic Hall last Saturday, with Snow Chapter as hostess.

Members and visitors registered totaled 105 including distinguished guests: Mrs. Irene Moore, W. G. M., Hal Hamby, W. G. P., Edna Moag, General Grand Esther; Hilda Haliburton, A. G. M.; A. H. McNeill, Jr., A. G. P.; Nellie B. Stine, G. Treas.; Lena W. Brewer, G. C. Zula L. Eisenhower, G. M.; Belle M. Connolly, Gr. Electa; Ola T. Ray, G. W.; Elsie C. Setzer, Mae H. Willman, Helen B. Rimmer, P. G. Matrons; F. Wm. Cullingford, C. D. Roberts, Harold B. Moag, Arnold Kincaid, P. G. Patrons.

Mrs. Ruth B. Redmond W. Matron of Snow Chapter gave the address of welcome with Mrs. Nellie B. Stine of Hibriten Chapter responding.

A luncheon was served at the Methodist Church.