

Four Thousand Children Will Start Journey To School Monday

Many Projects Approved; List Of Teachers Given

Approximately four thousand youngsters will enroll in Watauga county's thirteen schools when the 1954-55 sessions open next Monday morning, and in making the opening day announcements Superintendent Walker states that a comprehensive building program has been approved.

There are eight white and one negro elementary school in the county, and four high schools.

Superintendent Walker met with the State review panel in Raleigh last Thursday and secured the approval of the following building projects for Watauga county:

Blowing Rock: Renovation. Cove Creek Elementary: New heating plant.

Valle Crucis: New building with lunch room and five classrooms.

Bethel: New building with lunch room and two primary rooms.

Blowing Rock: New building for lunch room.

Mabel: New building for lunch room and two primary rooms.

Watauga Consolidated: New heating plant (pending action on Supreme Court decision).

Mr. Walker points out that these projects will cost more than the amount of money now available. Some of the projects, however, are expected to start as soon as plans are made available. The projects, it is stated, were set up from recommendations of the State survey group which made a complete survey of Watauga County schools.

The Teachers

Following is a list of the teachers for the various schools. It is pointed out, however, that the list is not complete and accurate: Appalachian High

A. R. Crew, principal; Leroy (Continued on page two)



MANAGER T. MILTON GREER is shown beside the battered and rifled safe at the Dixie Home Store, following Boone's largest robbery.—Democrat photo by Joe Minor.

Safe Crackers Garner \$1893 In Dixie Home Store Robbery

Boone's biggest cash robbery took place last Thursday night when thieves forced the front door of the Dixie Home Store, broke open the safe and took \$1,214.40 in cash and \$679 in checks. About \$400 in checks has been recovered.

T. M. Greer, manager of the store, said Tuesday an inventory was being conducted, but apparently no merchandise was taken. Police Chief Glenn Richardson said the safe door was opened by knocking off the combination and using a chisel to open the inside door. An axe and a chisel were found lying near the safe.

Local officers and SBI agent Robert Epley, of Valdese, who was called in by Chief Richardson, have some good leads, and have fingerprinted several suspects, the chief said, but the report on the fingerprints taken from the safe, sent to Raleigh for processing, had not been received Tuesday morning. This report, when received, may wrap up the case, said Chief Richardson.

Owners of the Watauga Hotel, located on the second floor of an adjoining building, heard noise of hammering in the store about 3 a. m. and called police.

Investigating officers found a number of checks and two money bags at the rear of a miniature golf course a short distance from the store. Mr. Greer said there were four bags of money and checks missing from the store, which indicates that two persons stopped at the golf course to divide the loot.

A new safe was installed in the store Friday.

English Lady Is Injured In Fall From Cliff

Mrs. Leonora Zontz, 50, suffered a broken back last Thursday when she fell from a 12-foot cliff at Flat Top Mountain near Blowing Rock.

Mrs. Zontz, a resident of Oxford, England, was found about nine o'clock Friday morning, after having been missing since the previous afternoon.

Mrs. Zontz was visiting at Dr. Vera Lachman's Camp Catawba near Flat Top Mountain. Missing since she left the camp in late afternoon to go for a walk, Mrs. Zontz was found by a park ranger. It was thought that the injured woman lost her footing on a pathway after dark had overtaken her.

She is a patient at Watauga Hospital.

Andrews Area Chairman For Auto Dealers

G. R. Andrews of Andrews Chevrolet, Inc. in Boone has been appointed area chairman for Watauga County by the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, according to an announcement by Association President Wilson F. Yarborough of Fayetteville.

As area chairman, Yarborough stated, Mr. Andrews will serve as liaison between dealers in his county and the State and National Dealers Associations. He will also direct the Associations' fall membership campaigns in his area and participate in Area Chairmen Day to be held in Raleigh in October.



BLANKETED BODY of drowned lad being taken from Tater Hill Lake by Jack Davis, left of Zionville, and Morris Branch, Appalachian College student. In the background may be seen many of the autos which rushed to the scene of the tragedy.—Photo Palmer's Studio.

Two Watauga Youths Perish In Chill Waters Of Tater Hill Lake

The placid waters of Tater Hill Lake, high on Rich Mountain, last Thursday yielded the bodies of two Watauga County youths who had gone into the lake for a swim at dusk Wednesday after tying their horse to a "No Swimming" sign near the lake's edge.

The whinnying of the horse, heard by one of the boys' parents at midnight Wednesday, pinpointed a 17-hour search that ended with the recovery of the

body of Charles Ellison, 19, at 12:30 p. m. Thursday, two and a half hours after searchers had found the body of his companion, 15-year-old Russell Guy, in 12 feet of water a short distance from the shore.

Guy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guy of Silverstone, and Ellison was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Ellison, also of the Silverstone section.

Mr. Guy said the boys had presumably headed for home with the horse after finishing logging operations for the day shortly after 7 p. m. Wednesday. When he arrived home the boys were not there, and after waiting for a while, Mr. and Mrs. Guy started a search, making a trip to the lake early in the night, but seeing and hearing nothing.

Another journey to the lake at about midnight and the whinnying of the horse led them to the spot where the boys had gone into the water. They found the boys' clothes lying near the post where the horse was tied. Relatives said the Ellison boy could swim "a little," but the Guy boy could not swim.

S. C. Eggers of Boone, one of the owners of the lake, was called about 1 a. m. and asked to drain the lake. At daylight, Mr. Eggers and Sheriff Earl D. Cook organized a searching party of Boone business men and college students under the direction of Coach R. W. Watkins.

The grapple with which the bodies of the two youths were recovered was made by Ray Estes, Boone electrician.

Coroner Richard E. Kelley said the boys died of drowning, and no inquest was held.

Funeral services for young Guy were held at 10 o'clock Saturday, August 21, at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, with the Rev. Roscoe Greene and the Rev. Victor Trivette officiating. Burial was in the Reese cemetery.

Besides his parents, he is survived by a brother, David, and seven sisters, all of Zionville, Mrs. Rolf Ellison, Mrs. Glenn Moretz, Mrs. Lexie Trivette, and Georgia, Maggie, Mary Sue, and Annie Guy.

The body of the Ellison boy was taken to Mountain City, Tenn., with burial to be in the Tamarack neighborhood. Details were not available.

Perry Watson New Bandmaster At High School



J. PERRY WATSON

Pictured above is J. Perry Watson, newly appointed bandmaster for the Appalachian High School Band. Mr. Watson will have the entire instrumental program in the school while he completes work on his masters degree.

Mr. Watson received his Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University. His first teaching was in Janesville, Minnesota followed by a three year hitch in the U. S. Air Force.

While in the Air Force, Watson was assigned to the USAF Bandsmen Indoctrination School at Lackland Air Force Base where he was an instructor of theory and harmony, glee club and marching band. Other duties included drum major, staff arranger and radio and television production manager for the "Air Force Band Of The West."

Following his discharge, he accepted the position as bandmaster at Shallotte, North Carolina. Now that he is in Boone, Mr. Watson has several new and novel band techniques in store for the community and school which will be of interest to all. Among these are Swiss flag swinging, a mated half-time shows for the football crowd and visual music for concerts.

Dr. Matheson In New Offices

Dr. William M. Matheson has moved his dental offices from the Boone Drug Store building to his recently constructed office at 416 East King Street.

Situated on a spacious corner lot directly across from the Advent Christian Church, the building was designed especially for the needs of Dr. Matheson, and is thoroughly modern in every detail. Parking space has been provided to the rear of the building for the use of patients.

Scouts Visit Watauga Lake

Members of Air Explorer Squadron 109 recently enjoyed a week end outing at Watauga Lake on Scoutmaster Craze Teague's houseboat, and learned much about the operation of the craft during the two days abroad.

The activities consisted of fishing, swimming, and riding the surf board which the scouts built last summer. The menu ranged from sandwiches to a steak dinner Sunday night.

Ervin, Caldwell To Speak At REA Meet

Hon. Sam J. Ervin, Jr., United States Senator and Hon. Harry B. Caldwell, master of the North Carolina State Grange, will be the guest speakers at the seventeenth annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation in Boone, September 4, according to A. B. Hurt, president of the corporation.

Mr. Hurt stated that this is the first time an annual meeting of the members has been held outside of Lenoir, the headquarters location of the corporation. More than 4,000 members and their families are expected to be on hand. The meeting will be held in the Daniel Boone Theatre, home of "Horn in the West." Mr. Hurt added that the program will start at 2 p. m.

In addition to the guest speakers and the business session a program of sacred music will be furnished by the choirs from ten churches served by the Blue Ridge Membership Corporation. At the close of the meeting a number of door prizes will be given away which will include a fifteen foot home freezer, an electric range, a water pump, a television set, a food mixer and four electric blankets.

Mr. Hurt pointed out that the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation serves 15,200 consumers and operates 3,250 miles

of distribution and transmission lines. Caldwell, Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Wilkes, Avery, Alexander and Surry counties and



HARRY B. CALDWELL

that the assets of the corporation are in excess of eight million dollars. "We feel our greatest accomplishment has been to take electricity to every farm home in our area of operations," said Mr. Hurt. "If there is a farm home in our area that desires electric service and does not have it, I do not know about it."

National Polio Foundation Sends \$1250 From Depleted Funds

A token acknowledgment of the financial needs faced by the Watauga County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis came today from national headquarters of the March of Dimes organization in the form of a check for \$1250.00.

"This help, which is not enough to cover all the chapter's outstanding bills nevertheless points up the fact that the March of Dimes, while facing a financial crisis itself, is doing the best it can to help pay patient aid bills," said R. D. Hodges, Jr., Chairman of the Watauga County Chapter. "This emergency aid comes at a time when the National Founda-

tion counts upon funds raised in the current Emergency March of Dimes to redeem fully its pledge to all polio patients."

The money will be used to help pay for treatment already provided to polio patients here last year.

Mr. Hodges explained that the National Foundation's funds were exhausted because of the high patient aid load coming together with expenditure of 26 1/2 million to double the supply of gamma globulin and to finance the field test and evaluation of the new polio vaccine. Despite a record sum, raised in January through the March of Dimes, the amount

fell \$20 million short of the year's minimum needs.

"We have in Watauga County Chapter a good example of how the local unit and national headquarters work together," he said. "In the past, the National Foundation has always sent us whatever sum was needed to pull us out of the red. This year, its treasury drained, it sent us what it could."

Mr. Hodges said that patient care bills still outstanding will be paid out of the chapter's share of contributions to the emergency drive.

Golden Spike To Weld Blowing Rock's Railroad Line Sunday

Leaders in the transportation, civic and business fields will gather at Blowing Rock Sunday when a golden spike will be driven signifying the completion of Blowing Rock's new amusement railroad.

The company, formed by a group of Blowing Rock leaders who like trains, and who covet more entertainment features for the resort city, is known as the Tweetsie, Jr. Railroad Co. out of deference to Boone's late narrow gauge. The tracks for the midget amusement-park train encircle Mayview Park, a distance of one quarter mile, plus 18 feet.

The rolling stock for the line, which is designed for the amusement of the resort's children, but which is attracting equal interest among the adults, consists of a steam engine and one car, labeled "City of Aho." Other cars are

being built.

The motive power is a scale model of a main line flier and came to Blowing Rock from Florida. Originally built for the estate of an executive of the Long Island Railway, the little engine has been fully rebuilt in the railway shops at Hickory, compliments of the Southern, and puffs and pants its way around the circular track, same as its big brothers did when they roared along the polished rails before fuel oil and electric motors put out their fires. A cypress water tank, and other operating equipment will be added.

More than 500 kids elbowed their way through the adults to have a ride, when trial runs were made by Tweetsie, Jr. last week, and operating under 140 pounds of steam, the engine did herself proud when fully loaded.

Among those who will be present for the hammering of the final spike Sunday at 3:30 will be G. T. Baker, president of the National Air Lines, T. H. Brodyhill, of the Brodyhill Furniture Co., G. C. Robbins, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor or Robert B. Hardin. Many Southern Railway workers are expected to be present, along with Sherman Pippin, veteran locomotive engineer who drove Tweetsie out of the Boone station that August morning in 1940 never to return. The rains took away her tracks.

Plans of the Mayview Park railroad are to operate the amusement train Saturdays and Sundays through October, and each afternoon, when the weather is favorable.

Officers of the company will be named at an early meeting.

TRAGEDY ON THE MOUNTAIN

One of the saddest occurrences in recent local history was the death by drowning in Tater Hill Lake, of two youths, whose bodies were recovered some fourteen hours after the search began. Tired from the days work, the lads were enroute home from their logging operation when the heat of the day motivated their plunge into the lethal waters. We can well remember when a day's work in a hay field or anywhere else as for that matter, and even a hard day of play in the (Continued on page four)