

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

A GOOD YEAR

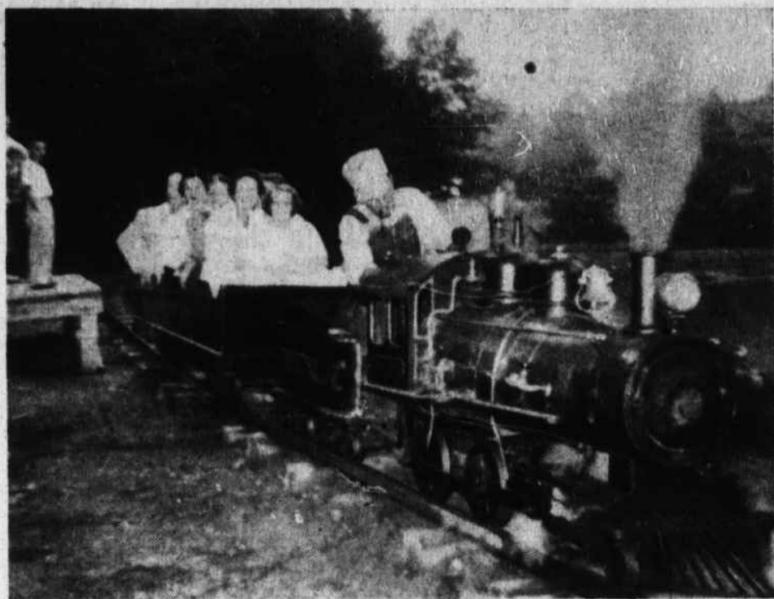
Horn in the West goes into the homestretch with perhaps its best year drawing to a close. Sponsors of the historical drama are highly pleased that receipts are good—enough to pay all operating expenses, etc., and to provide a sum toward opening the show again next year. This year has been dubbed the "come-back year" since the performances were crippled in 1953 by the polio epidemic almost surrounding Watauga county, and come 1955 the show is expected to really be moving, and settled down to one of the principal reasons for visiting northwestern Carolina in the summertime. Incidentally Saturday's King Street traffic must have established some sort of record for density as folks came to town to do their pre-school shopping, and others took a final fling into the mountains for the last time prior to the opening of the schools.

RARE AUTO TAGS

Sometimes we take to noticing the auto tags along the street and this year we've seen them from most every section of the country. Saturday we spied one from Louisiana, which state, strangely enough, is represented less around here than any other state, with the possible exception of the upper New England area. We seldom see a car from Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont, but do see them from most other states. Of course cars from the neighboring states of Tennessee, Virginia and South Carolina are runners up to North Carolina tags, followed closely by Florida. From a midwestern state there are a considerable number of visitors, and from the Southwest and northwest, we've seen every State represented this year. Some days we find tags from most everywhere. Again when the traffic is equally heavy, everything is North Carolina. Anyway there's something exciting about watching for cars from distant areas, which incidentally give a fair notion of what's going on in the tourist industry.

TWEETSIE'S ENGINEER

Railroads and veteran railroaders are always good for recurring features and comments, especially when there's a bit of news connected with those whose careers followed the gleaming rails. Sherman Pippin came by to see us Sunday en route back to Roan Mountain from Blowing Rock where he had given an official christening to "Tweetsie Jr." the little steam train which has been placed in operation for the amusement of the kiddies at the Blowing Rock resort. Sherm was happy that he'd been invited to pull the throttle on the one-ton engine, a faithful replica of the big fellows, and enjoyed the trip around the circle following the spike-driving ceremony. The veteran engineer on the Boone to Johnson City passenger run, Sherman Pippin took his train down during the flood of August 1940. He was unable to get her back to Boone that evening, and the washed out tracks were never rebuilt. For fifty years Sherm pulled the throttle and watched the drivers roll down the slim tracks, over the shoulder of the Grandfather, through the old fields of Toe and down through the Doe River gorge, where the train wended its way between high cliffs and in and out of tunnels on its way down to the Happy Valley of Bob Taylor's boyhood. Living in retirement on his farm near Roan Mountain, Sherm says he gets lonesome for the railroads, and on those occasions goes down to Johnson City, and catches the Tennesseean, and "deadheads" in the cab of the big diesels over the country ways, and squints his eyes again far away over the silver strips of steel. Sherman though, don't take kindly to the diesels, with their motor-truck kinship and their synthetic horns, and likes to get up on the Norfolk and Western where the big moguls still burn coal, and have the big throaty whistles which are music to the ears of an old (Continued on page two)



TWEETSIE, JR., complete steam railroad train, amusement park type, was put into service around Mayview Lake in Blowing Rock Sunday, when a large crowd gathered for the driving of the golden spike. Sherman Pippin, veteran engineer on Boone's former narrow-gauge railway, came out of retirement at his Roan Mountain home, and drove the little engine around the circular track on her first official run. Others present for the event were, G. T. Baker, president of National Air Lines; T. H. Broyhill, of the Broyhill Furniture Co.; G. C. Robbins, president of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Robert B. Hardin.

National Guard Unit, Armory May Be Secured For Boone

There is a definite possibility that a National Guard unit will be established in Boone, provided that the officials and others take sufficient interest in the proposal. This information reaches the Democrat through Boyd Dougherty of this city, who is a National Guard Lieutenant, and who is now engaged in developing sentiment in behalf of the proposal. Since many communities are out after the small number of units which will be provided, Lieut. Dougherty points out that an active civic interest will need to be developed.

The final decision, he says, will be with Governor Umstead and Adjutant General John H. Manning. Enough members are now in sight for the 60-man guard unit which is contemplated, says Dougherty, who points out that these men would be available at all times for emergency duty in the event of fire, flood or other disaster, and would be especially useful in cases of forest fire. Also, he said, a Guard armory would essentially be built by the Federal government, which would be open for other public purposes. The National Guard should appeal strongly to the youngsters, Lieut. Dougherty says. Those who enlist before they are 18½ are draft exempt, are building ratings for their two-hour weekly service, their uniforms are supplied and they have two weeks at summer camp with full pay. Furthermore, it is stated, these lads may continue their college careers here at Appalachian without interruption. Lieut. Dougherty states that meeting of civic leaders will be held soon to go into the matter more fully.

Merchants To Gather In Annual Outing

The annual Merchants Association picnic has been set for Wednesday, September 8, at the Horn in the West grounds beginning at 1 p. m., according to an announcement by the committee. Availability of water, rest rooms, picnic tables, and shelter are all much better at Horn in the West than at the originally proposed site, Winkler's Creek, it was decided. Burl Greene of Belk's is general chairman, Hoover Cole of A & P is chairman of the food committee which also includes Patsy Swift of the Gateway Restaurant and Hazel Jones of Boone

Drug Company. The recreation committee is headed by Carl Greene of City Market, assisted by George Moretz of Andrews Chevrolet. A special committee has been appointed for the entertainment of the ladies headed by Mrs. Frank Miller of Newton's Department Store. It is reported that Winkler Motor Company has already challenged Adrews Chevrolet for a softball game, and some of the ladies are working up a softball game for the ladies. Horseshoe pitching and volleyball will be other recreational features. "It is sincerely hoped," said Stanley Harris, the association's manager, "that Alfred Adams and Watt Gragg can be gotten to the picnic, because both have claimed the horseshoe pitching championship of Boone for a good many years, and always when there is any challenge it so happens that neither of them can get to the place. We are going to try to lasso them and get them there this time. Alfred calls it throwing ringers, while Watt got into the winning combination by luck." Dinner will be served at 6:00, following which further recreation will be according to the desires of those present. All merchants are urged to come and ask their employees to attend, whether or not they belong to the association. Tickets will be available shortly after September 1 at the Merchants Association office, it was announced.

Town To Receive \$11,929 Powell Bill Payments

The town of Boone is to receive \$11,929 in Powell bill funds, it was announced last week by the Highway Commission. Under the Powell bill, one half cent of the State's regular gas tax must be returned to municipalities for improvement of the non-highway system streets. The checks for a total of \$5,390,807 are to be mailed the middle of September. Half of the payment was made on a per capita basis, based on the 1950 census. The other half was determined on local street mileage in eligible municipalities.

Horn In The West Ends Season Labor Day

The outdoor drama, Horn in the West, will play through the entire Labor Day week end to accommodate holiday tourist traffic, show officials announced today. The Labor Day showing, Sept. 6, will be the last of the drama's "most successful" summer season. Horn in the West, written by Kermit Hunter and produced and directed by the Carolina Playmakers of Chapel Hill, plays at the Daniel Boone Theatre, located in the town of Boone, just off U. S. Highways 221, 321 and 421.

Culbreth Gets New Position

Marvin T. Culbreth, secretary and director of Camp Sky Ranch has accepted a position with the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Mr. Culbreth will be field representative with the society in the western half of the state, but will continue to make his home in Boone. This work will be organizational since each county in the state should have an active chapter and there are a number of counties where no real organization is functioning. For the past four years, Mr. Culbreth has been director of the Wesley Fellowship on the campus of ASTC. The name of the new director for the Wesley Fellowship will be released in the near future.

Miss Rivers Dies In Charlotte

Miss Jamie Rivers, daughter of the late Dr. James Rivers of Boone and Taylorsville, died in Charlotte August 22, relatives here have been advised. Miss Rivers had lived in Charlotte for a great many years where she was employed by R. S. Dickson & Co. Funeral rites were held in Taylorsville August 24th. Miss Rivers was a niece of the late R. C. Rivers, Sr., and Mrs. J. W. Farthing of Boone.

Four Thousand To Gather For Annual Rural Electric Meeting

Annual Farm Bureau Meeting Held Friday

The annual meeting of the Watauga County Farm Bureau was held at the County Courthouse in Boone Friday night. I. B. Wilson, president, opened the meeting by welcoming the members and others who attended.

Clyde R. Greene made a talk on the membership drive which is to be held Friday, September 24. Several members offered their services to help with the drive.

O. L. Yates, representative of the N. C. Farm Bureau, introduced the speaker, M. A. Hester, who has been president of the Forsyth County Farm Bureau for seven years. Mr. Hester is also chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation committee in his county. He pointed out that Farm Bureau and ASC should be closely associated with the other agricultural agencies in the county. Farm Bureau has been in the front lines for 22 years to help farm people, Mr. Hester stated.

Blowing Rock Meeting Is For Tourist Planning

A meeting of all persons interested in the tourist business has been called for Friday noon, September 10, in the dining room of the Ranch Motel near Blowing Rock.

Michael Taft, director of the State Tourist Bureau, will attend the meeting, at which several important matters will be discussed, including:

After season rates; advantages and disadvantages of cut rates. Next year's promotion of the area as a tourist attraction. How to get tourists to stay longer in the area.

Advisability of a tourist clinic; how to get the public, and especially service station and restaurant personnel to give better information about accommodations and the drama, Horn in the West.

Sight-seeing trips, fishing, and other attractions. The meeting will start with lunch at 12 noon, and the business session will begin soon after 1 p. m. Those desiring lunch are requested to make reservations with either the Boone or Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce.

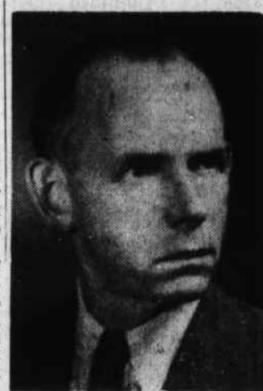
Seasonally increasing marketings and declining prices are in prospect for hogs, particularly until the middle of October.

Sheriff's Office Takes Two Whiskey Plants

Sheriff E. D. Cook tells of the seizure of two whiskey distilleries during the last few days. The first taken August 23 on Spout branch in Elk township, was a small oil-barrel plant, and no beer or whiskey was on hand. Sheriff Cook was aided in the raid by Marshal Watson and Deputy Sheriff Wiley Day. In Watauga township on August 28th a 1500 gallon plant was taken. Sheriff Cook, together

with Messrs Day, Watson and Willie Miller destroyed the plant which included three vats, a 1500 gallon tank, a 500-gallon distillery, a condenser and 1500 gallons of beer. No arrest was made in either case.

Total 1954 United States milk production is expected to be 125 billion pounds, compared with 121.2 billion in 1953.



CLYDE R. GREENE

Clyde Greene To Head Boy Scout Finance Group

Clyde R. Greene, Boone business man and civic leader, will head the committee which will conduct the Boy Scout finance drive in Watauga county beginning October 5.

Announcement of Mr. Greene's appointment was made at a meeting Monday night, August 30, by Alfred Adams, regular finance committee chairman of the Watauga district.

Mr. Greene expressed confidence that Watauga's quota in the drive can be raised, and announced his special committee to conduct the campaign. His appointments included Frank Triplett, Howard Holshouser, Howard Steelman, Howard Cottrell, Glenn Andrews, Dr. J. T. C. Wright, Stanley Harris, and Howard Mast. Dr. L. H. Owsley is vice-chairman of Mr. Greene's committee.

Among the twenty prominent leaders of Scout activities who attended the meeting were John G. Fulton of Walnut Cove, finance chairman of the Old Hickory council, and Scout Executive Courtland Baker of Winston-Salem and Field Executive Joe Davenport of North Wilkesboro.

Milk production on North Carolina farms during June 1954 was estimated at 174 million pounds, the highest on record for the month.

Booster Club To Hold Year's Second Meeting

The Booster Club of Appalachian High School will hold its second meeting for the 1954-55

Ervin, Caldwell Are Expected To Make Speeches

More than four thousand are expected to be present for the seventeenth annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation which will be held at the Daniel Boone Theatre Boone, Saturday evening at 2 o'clock.

United States Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., and Harry B. Caldwell, Master of the North Carolina Grange, Greensboro, will be the guest speakers at the first annual meeting of the Corporation to be held outside of Lenoir in the history of the REA cooperative.

In addition to the speaking, a business session will be held and a program of sacred music, will be rendered by the combined choirs of ten churches served by the Blue Ridge Membership Corporation. At the close of the meeting a number of prizes will be awarded, including a home freezer, electric range, water pump, television set, food mixer, and a number of electric blankets.

Mr. A. F. Hurt, president of the REA Corporation says that 3,250 miles of lines are now in use, serving 15,200 consumers.

High School Band To Give Concert

The High School Band will present a concert Thursday afternoon at 5:00 on the Daniel Boone Hotel lawn, it was announced this week by Perry Watson, bandmaster. This will be the first appearance of the band this season. Mr. Watson stated that a concert is scheduled each Thursday at the same time for the band in an effort to foster better relations between the band and the community. The public is invited.

Participants in the concert will not wear uniforms for the first performance, because the uniforms are being altered. Future concerts are expected to be in full uniform, Mr. Watson said.

A census of U. S. business set for early 1955.



MILLION DOLLAR AIR SHOW—This unusual picture was taken at Grandfather Mountain, as three Army helicopters fly in formation over the Mile High Swinging Bridge, the famous attraction at the Blue Ridge resort. The helicopters above are from Ft. Bragg's 8th Helicopter Battalion and are taking part in Operation Mountaineer. The Army will use Grandfather Mountain's mile high parking area as a heliport. Three weeks ago

Grandfather made the news when a pipeline was dropped on the mountain by helicopter. It looked as though that would be the first and last helicopter flight on the mountain, but the Army plans three landings a day, except Sunday, for the next two months. The helicopters above are worth more than \$30,000 each—thus the million dollar show and the million dollar scenery.—(Photo by Hugh Morton.)

school year tonight (Thurs.) at the High School. Everyone who is interested in actively supporting the athletic program of the school is urged to attend at 8 o'clock.

The club had its first meeting last Thursday and the following officers were elected: William E. Pennick, president; Stacy Eggers, Jr., vice-president; and A. B. Crew, secretary-treasurer.

The purposes of the Booster Club are announced as follows: (1) to help promote interest in the athletic program by getting more people to attend the athletic events; (2) to increase membership in the club itself; (3) to lend financial support to the athletic program; (4) to help promote better ideals of good sportsmanship among players and audience.

Membership in the Booster Club is open to all who are interested in the over-all educational program of the Boone schools. To become a member a donation of \$10.00 is made to the Booster Club Fund which will entitle the member to admission to all home athletic contests during the school year; and members are entitled to all other functions, including the right to have an active part at all club meetings.

Early indications are that the Booster Club campaign is meeting with success, and all sports-minded citizens of Boone and Watauga county are urged to show their support of the athletic program at Appalachian High School by joining.

United States citizens spend about one-fourth of their income for food.