

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them." — Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1954.

**Fire Losses Increase
In First Half Of Year**

In a preliminary announcement of the observance of Fire Prevention Week October 3-9, the National Board of Fire Underwriters is calling on communities everywhere to engage actively in this campaign.

This is particularly pertinent in view of the fact that fire losses for the first six months of 1954 amounted to \$455,990,000, an increase of 5.5 per cent. over those of \$432,081,000 for the corresponding period of last year.

Since the cool snappy mornings of the end of August suggest an early return, to furnace-firing and coal-hodding, householders should take every precaution to see that heating units are in sound condition, that stoves are without breaks, and that the flues, unused since springtime came, are in good shape. A little care could conceivably save a disaster in these days when the roaring fires are only a few weeks away, at best.

**Local Observance Of
Labor Day Almost Nil**

Labor Day, which is celebrated over the country next Monday, doesn't create much of a raffle in the more or less placid life of Boone, where there haven't been enough workers in the past to bring about any particular observance of the day which was first observed in 1882 in honor of working men.

In sections which have become industrialized and where there are large numbers of wage earners, Labor Day comes right next to the Fourth of July in the affections of the masses, for it is then that everyone turns out for a final holiday and a grand fling before cold weather dampens the ardor of picnickers and travelers.

However, the holiday is important to Boone in one respect—in that the folks from industrial areas do flock to this section in great numbers for a last look at the Blue Ridge vacation area till another summer rolls around. And while most folks work on Labor Day here, and are maybe glad they are able to labor, the occasion does contribute considerably to the economy of the region.

**REA Gathering To
Attract Thousands**

Boone and Watauga county join in extending a cordial welcome to four thousand REA members and their families, when the annual meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is held at Horn in the West Theatre.

It is significant that the first time one of these annual meetings is held away from the home office at Lenoir, it comes to Boone, where ideal facilities have been provided for such a gathering.

The Democrat is happy to greet these folks from the farms of the eight-county area served by the REA Cooperative, and we share their joy at the progress that has been achieved over the area since the advent of the first of the rural electric lines.

President Hurt states: "If there is a farm home in our area of operations that desires electric service and does not have it, I do not know about it." This statement boils down into a nutshell the degree of service the REA has brought to the folks of this section.

We felicitate all those who have had a part in bringing electric service to the homes and farms. With it they brought the dawn of a new day to the people of the rural areas.



**STRETCH'S
SKETCHES**

by
"STRETCH" ROLLINS

Baubles, Bangles, Beads

It has been said that a columnist's job is to sift the news, carefully separating the wheat from the chaff—and make sure the chaff gets printed. A moot point, probably, but the sketch pad has become full of unrelated notes once more and must be unloaded, with little regard as to whether the harvest is wheat or chaff. In fact, some of them may be so old you'll be hearing 'em on television any day now.

One way to avoid getting ulcers, says a disciple of the take-it easy school of thought, is to: Never run when you can walk, never walk when you can stand still, never stand when you can sit down, never sit down when you can lie down, and never stay awake when you can go to sleep. (You probably won't get anything else that way, either.)

How much would each individual get if all the money in the United States were divided equally, asks a quiz column. Didn't bother to look for the answer, because even if it were, the same crowd would probably have it back by the end of the year.

Which recalls a story about the share-the-wealth fanatic who was expounding his theories to Mr. Andrew Carnegie. While he was talking, Mr. Carnegie was doing some arithmetic with population figures and a copy of his own financial statement. When the pest stopped to catch his breath, the great man called his bookkeeper and said, "Give this gentleman 68 cents and show him the door. That's his pro rata share of my wealth."

Found this one on the back of a business card: The Lord gave us two ends—one to sit on and one to think with. A man's success depends upon which end he uses most. It's a case of "heads you win, tails you lose."

The Case of the Broadminded Auctioneer: A want ad in an Oklahoma newspaper stated, "Auctioneering at reasonable rates. If I am out of town, make dates with my wife."

Our Early Files

Sixty Years Ago

September 6, 1894.

Chicken and butter wagons still go to Blowing Rock.

Dr. and Mrs. P. C. Journey of Olin, Iredell county, are visiting their daughter, Mrs. R. C. Rivers.

The Three Forks Association at Gap Creek was largely attended and had a very pleasant meeting. Next year the Association will be at Cove Creek Church.

The campaign is now opening in several sections of the State. Senators Ransom and Jarvis are billed to speak at Jackson. We understand that Bower will open his canvass at Morganton this week.

Read the Mountain Medicine Company's ad in this issue, purchase a package and test its wonderful curative properties.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

September 2, 1915.

Mrs. Rowland, after spending several weeks at the home of her sister, Mrs. James L. Winkler, left Monday for her home in Charlotte.

Mr. Arthur Day, who has been gone from here for the past six years, has returned, and will remain for a while with his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Day.

Dr. Little has let to contract a large barn, to be built on the Greer lot to the rear of W. R. Gragg's. W. S. Miller began the work yesterday morning.

Mr. W. E. Shipley will conduct a sale of fine, registered cattle in Boone next Monday, that is destined to do more for the stock raisers of the county than anything that has ever happened in Watauga.

The public school will open in Boone Monday with Prof. B. H. Watson as principal and Miss Turney B. Warden of Yadkinville and Miss Lilac Blaylock as assistants.

The toll on the Boone-Blowing Rock turnpike was raised again Saturday and the people, thinking the charge too great, are circulating a petition to raise funds for the purpose of amending and putting in good condition the road up Flannery's Fork, which intersects with the Yonahlossee at or near Sandy Flats. It is hoped that the road will be open for travel this fall.

Fifteen Years Ago

September 7, 1939.

Mrs. Lula Ragan, widow of David N. Ragan, former sheriff of Watauga county, died at her home in Meat Camp township Friday at the age of 70. Mrs. Ragan had been ill for the past several months.

Prospects continue to brighten in regard to the establishment of a warehouse in Boone this fall for the sale of burley tobacco and the decision of large manufacturers to furnish buyers for the proposed market leaves the way open for actual organization plans.

Grading is now under way on the new link of highway 421 from Boone to Villas, the first dirt having been moved Tuesday in the vicinity of Adams postoffice.

At a meeting of the directors of the Watauga Livestock Association held here Saturday, a ten per cent dividend was declared on all the stock of the enterprise, the checks to be distributed at the stock sale Wednesday, September 13.

**Restful Christian Retreat Provided By
Reformed Church At Blowing Rock**

By LUCILLE LETT

Blowing Rock.—High up in the cool, green forested mountains of North Carolina, on the crest of the Blue Ridge portion of the Appalachian chain, is located one of the most beautiful and restful Christian retreats in the country—the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, owned and operated by the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

This is the fifth summer this church group has been in Blowing Rock and with the growth of the Assembly space what it is, its popularity growth, the facilities available now are such that by use of additional cots, the grounds can now accommodate as many as 120 persons at one time.

A most colorful history is back of the building of this retreat and dates back to the year 1945 when the grounds had only the one large house on it, which was originally the summer home of the late Edward Hughes, a state supreme court justice from Charleston, S. C.

In 1945 nine Christian churchmen and women, life-long members of the Evangelical and Reformed church, bonded themselves together to purchase this wonderful mountain top site, and then presented their purchase as a gift of love to the Southern Synod of their church body. On April 12, 1945, the members of the Southern Synod also having caught something of this vision, accepted with deepest gratitude, this token of love, and officially committed the Evangelical and Reformed Church of this area to the development of these grounds as a venture of faith dedicated to the ministry of Christian fellowship.

This gift was made, the Assembly Grounds and the Big House, as the building still is affectionately known, by the members of the Shuford family in memory of the late Abel A. Shuford. This gift entailed some \$16,500.00. As the years have gone by many improvements were made in the Big House, the kitchen fully equipped, and improvements made on the interior of the Little House, formerly servants quarters.

In 1952 the Walter W. Rowe Dormitory was built at an approximate cost of \$40,000 and the interior completely furnished by the Women's Guild. In 1952 also was built the Worship Center, a well drilled, water tank erected, shed for the well built, and in 1953 another well drilled and the road built and hard-surfaced. The road was a gift from the State of North Carolina through the efforts of the Churchmen's Brotherhood.

This spring the dining hall, kitchen, and Assembly Hall has been built at a total cost of approximately \$30,000. The Churchmen's Brotherhood gave \$5,000 and the Corinth Church of Hickory \$5,000. The Women's Guild is giving over \$5,000 for the kitchen equipment. All these improvements have been made through the generous givings of the members of our Southern Synod and

their friends. The grounds are becoming the center of activities of the Synod. Last year over 4000 people visited the grounds. This year State-wide groups, district groups, and local church groups have planned many meetings, several of which have already been held.

The Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds are intended to serve all the members of the Southern Synod and eventually, to become the central Assembly Grounds of the entire Southern constituency of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and will become to them what Montreat is to the Presbyterians, Ridgecrest to the Baptists and several others in the mountain area.

These grounds are not intended to serve merely the need of adults; they are intended to serve the need of all ages—children, youth, and adults. Special age groups as well as family groups will be a regular part of the on-going programs. They are meant to serve all the organizations of the church—Synod-wide, district-wide, congregational-wide. The Women's Guild, the Brotherhood, the Youth Fellowship, the Sunday School, and any and all other organizational groups of the church may avail themselves at their convenience of meeting on these grounds. All that they need do is clear their dates well in advance with the grounds manager in order to avoid conflicts. Eventually, perhaps, this may be made into an all-year round retreat, barring too heavy winter weather.

For rates and reservations, during the summer season, contact Mrs. H. O. Bonds, Assembly Grounds Manager, who is so ably assisted by her daughter Dorothy. At all other times contact Rev. Huit R. Carpenter, President Board of Trustees, Faith, North Carolina.

North Carolina's 1954 spring pig crop was the second largest on record. Pigs saved from spring farrowings totaled 1,018,000, only 5 per cent below the record 1952 crop of 1,071,000.

NEW AIR ACADEMY

The first United States Air Force Academy was officially activated on August 14, at Lowry Air Force base, Denver, Colorado, when Lieut.-Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, first superintendent of the Academy, signed orders that made the "West Point of the Air" a reality. The first class of 300 cadets is scheduled to begin at the Academy on July 1, 1955.

KING STREET

(Continued from page one)

steam engineer . . . Sherman tells us of a trip up in Virginia, where he got to drive old number 12 of the Linville River line, just one more time, and he liked the reunion with the trim little locomotive which used to spend the nights in Boone . . . You, know, a steam locomotive is a living thing to an engineer, which is proven by Sherm's remark that "only three of the narrow gauge engines are now livin' . . . the one in Virginia, and the old fourteen and nine which are in service on the Yukon Railway in Alaska . . . Damaged by a round-house fire, the slim-gauge locomotives were rebuilt in the shops of the Northern Pacific, Sherman says, and his information is that they are pounding the rails up in the North country in the best traditions of the Tweetsie line, and he hopes they'll be livin' a long, long time, and so do we . . . We're glad Sherman came over to his old home town for a visit, and we had a good time looking back down the rails to that gay day in the first world war when the first train came to Boone . . . and Sherman came soon after, and for more than twenty years took the passenger train out at six-thirty every morning on his all-day round-trip run to Johnson City . . . This veteran railroader and the narrow gauge railroad for which he worked had an awful lot to do with the development of this community . . . We're sorry they're not around here anymore.

**Miss Moose Named
College Professor**

Baton Rouge, La. — Miriam Juanita Moose of Boone, N. C., has been appointed assistant professor of home economics at

Louisiana State University. Miss Moose received her bachelor of science degree from Appalachian State Teachers College in 1950 and her master of science degree from the University of Tennessee in 1952.

DEMOCRAT ADS PAY

APPALACHIAN THEATRE
"Everybody Likes Boone, N. C."
BOONE, N. C.
THURSDAY—(Last Day)
COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
RITA HAYWORTH FERRER
"Miss State" "They're Here"
Technicolor

FRIDAY—BARGAIN DAY
10c - 20c

DUFFY OF SAN QUENTIN
Louis HAYWARD
Joanne DRU - Paul KELLY (in Technicolor)

SATURDAY—11 O'CLOCK
DOUBLE FEATURE

1st Feature
Canadian Pacific
with
RANDOLPH SCOTT
2nd Feature
HERE COMES TROUBLE
Also: Serial and Cartoon

SATURDAY NIGHT—7 & 9

NEW MEXICO
IN COLOR
with
LEW AYERS
Also: 2 Cartoons and Special

SUNDAY—3 & 9 O'CLOCK

ALAN LADD
in
Hell Below Zero
IN TECHNICOLOR

MONDAY and TUESDAY

SPENCER TRACY
Broken Lance
in the wonder of STEREOPHONIC SOUND

WEDNESDAY

ABOUT MRS. LESLIE
with
SHIRLEY BOOTH — ROBERT RYAN

WANTED!
Yellow Corn
WATAUGA FEED & MILLING CO.
Wilkesboro Road Boone, N. C.
PHONE AMherst 4-8221

GOOD CREDIT
Is One of Your Most Valuable Possessions
THE SIGNAL CREDIT-SYSTEM WILL HELP YOU GUARD IT CAREFULLY
The Merchants Association of Boone and Watauga County has adopted the SIGNAL CREDIT SYSTEM effective September 1st. It serves as a ready reference to determine the credit standing of all credit buyers. EACH PURCHASER RATES HIMSELF.
1. The Signal plan operates as a credit "traffic control." As long as an individual's account is kept up-to-date, he has an automatic "GREEN LIGHT."
2. Should his bill become delinquent, his creditor mails him a past due notice which bears an amber "CAUTION LIGHT." Ample time is given to adjust the account before his credit rating is affected.
3. When the "CAUTION LIGHT" is disregarded the individual receives a "RED LIGHT." STOP NOTICE. If the account is not brought up to date by a specified time, the Credit Bureau receives a copy for its files.
4. Thus, through the "SIGNAL CREDIT SYSTEM" each person is always aware of his credit responsibilities, making HIS OWN credit record based on how he pays his bills. A good record assures you of the "GREEN LIGHT" ALWAYS.
Open An Account at Your Favorite Store
Easiest, quickest, most convenient method to apply for credit is to fill in requested information on form which will be furnished you by the Store on your request.
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF BOONE AND WATAUGA COUNTY

Local Realty Values
G. I. and F. H. A. Loans Now Available—Require Small Down Payment
NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, bath, hardwood floors, insulated, full basement, furnace, refrigerator, stove, washing machine, dinette set, all for \$10,000. Located in Daniel Boone Colony just out of city limits (city water).
GOOD MAIN STREET PROPERTY FOR SALE—Confidential listing. Will trade for good house or small farm. This property has very desirable location. Suitable for most any type of business. Please don't phone. Information will not be given over phone.
NEW 5-ROOM COTTAGE, water in house, 6 acres of land located on good gravel road. Ideal site for lake in front of house. Typical for a summer cottage, trees, natural shrubbery. Priced for quick sale. Owner must move into town.
GOOD 5-ROOM HOUSE, basement, forced hot air heat. Large lot located on Oak Street near college. FHA approved, Small down payment.
NEW BRICK HOUSE—bath, plastered walls, hardwood floors, hot air furnace. Large lot. Located on Oak Street.
17 ACRE FARM—house, barn, located 9 miles from Boone on the Todd road.
GOOD 2-BED ROOM BRICK HOUSE, bath, furnace, large lot, located near schools and stores. Price \$6400. Terms if needed.
SELECT RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE.
NEED SMALL FARM—15 to 20 acres—with good stream.
GOOD 5-ROOM HOUSE—bath, furnace, and 5 room garage apartment with bath. 1 1/2 acre lot on highway 421 just 1/2 mile west of Boone. Priced to sell. Terms if needed.
GOOD 6-ROOM HOUSE, bath, basement, hot air heat. Located Grand Boulevard. Requires small down payment.
FACULTY STREET—Good 2-bedroom house, bath, hardwood floors. Electric stove, large lot. Price \$7,500.
DECK HILL—Good five-room house, bath, 1/2 acre land, GI loan on property. Down payment \$1,200.
GOOD SIX-ROOM HOUSE, bath, hardwood floors, large lot, located on Faculty Street. Long term G. I. 4% loan. \$58 per month, which includes taxes and insurance.
BAMBOO SECTION—5 rooms, water, two acres, \$3,000.
LOCATED 15 MILES EAST OF BOONE ON HIGHWAY 421—Good 4-room house and bath, barn, chicken house, 19 3/4 acres of good farm land. Price \$5,000.00. Terms if needed.
NEAR AFO—Good 28-acre farm with 9-room house. Priced to sell. Terms if needed.
FOUR ACRES LAND NEAR BOONE. Good 4-room house with bath. \$1200 down, balance \$25 per month. GI loan.
4-ROOM BRICK HOUSE, hardwood floors, furnace, conveniently located.
GOOD 6-ROOM BRICK HOUSE, furnace, large lot. Located Main Street. Will sell or trade for good farm.
GOOD BUSINESS LOT located on Main Street. Desirable for any type of business.
SHULLS MILLS—Good 10-room house, bath, 2 1/2 acres land. Very desirable property. Terms.
DIAL AMherst 4-8254 — BOONE, N. C. — 217 MAIN STREET
List Your Property With Us for a Quick Sale
HAVE DEMAND FOR SMALL BUSINESS—ALSO FOR FARMS
Tri-County Realty Co.
E. F. Coe, Manager C. M. Critcher