

## Contract Let For Final Link Of Boone To Linville Highway

### Ambitious Road Building Program Proposed for Area

By JOE MINOR

The final link of the Boone to Linville highway is to be completed this year, according to an announcement this week by W. R. Winkler, Highway Commissioner for the Eleventh Division. The new link stretches from near Boone city limits on highway 311—at Colvard's Service Station—to Foscoe, a distance of 7.84 miles.

Contract for the Boone-Foscoe section was let in Raleigh by the North Carolina Highway Commission last Thursday. The Taylor Construction Company, of Asheville was low bidder for the job and was awarded the contract. The money outlay will be approximately three-quarters of a million dollars, Mr. Winkler said.

The Boone-Linville highway was let on three different contracts. The section from Foscoe to Linville Gap has been completed, while the link from Linville Gap to Linville is presently under construction. When completed, the commissioner stated, "it will be a very high-type of highway," and will shorten the distance from Boone to Linville considerably.

Mr. Winkler also announced a three-year proposed program which calls for expenditures of \$5,429,000 on primary roads in the Eleventh Division on eight projects. These plans are based on a state-wide planning, as suggested by Governor Luther Hodges, and were mapped by James H. Council of Boone, Eleventh Division engineer, and W. H. Rogers, Jr. of Raleigh, State Highway Engineer, and Mr. Winkler.

The highway commissioner stated he conferred by long distance telephone with W. E. Dunlap, division engineer at Knoxville, Tenn., concerning what Tennessee expects to do about improving US 421 from Shoups to Zionville. Mr. Dunlap advised that his department has ordered rights-of-way be purchased so that contracts may be let for re-working that section.

The Tennessee engineer also told Mr. Winkler that his state is making... (Continued on page two.)



**ROTARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**—The past presidents of the Boone and Blowing Rock Rotary Clubs lighting the candles on the cake at the recent celebration of the 50th anniversary of Rotary International. Left to right are O. W. Stone, Hugh Hagaman, Dr. C. Ray Lawrence, L. E. Tucker, Bill Williams, Stanley Harris, Grover C. Robbins and W. H. Gragg. The two club, along with 8,500 other Rotary Clubs in 89 countries, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of Rotary International February 24. The clubs had as guests their wives, local ministers, and other civic leaders. The supper meeting was held in the Boone Demonstration School cafeteria with a buffet cake cutting, and the program was presented by Dr. Lawrence.—Photo by Palmer's Photo Shop.

### William A. Sisk, Aged Railroader, Dies Last Tuesday

William Albert Sisk, 82, former Boone resident, and veteran railway conductor with the E. T. & W. N. C. and Linville River Railways, died at Forest City last Tuesday, following a long period of ill health.

Funeral services were held from the Pineola Baptist Church of which he was a charter member, Thursday afternoon. Rev. Mr. Sanders and others took part in the rites for the retired trainman, and burial was in Pineola.

He is survived by three foster children: Mrs. R. L. Blankenship of Forest City; Glenn Buchanan, Spruce Pine; Millard Buchanan, Charlotte. There are two sisters and two brothers, Miss Mary Sisk and Mrs. Jack Mathis, both of Forest City; C. J. Sisk, Forest City; P. H. Sisk, Johnson City, Tenn.

#### Well-Known Here

Capt. Sisk was well known in Boone, where he was employed by the railway from 1919 to about 1935.

Mr. W. M. Cook of Boone, himself a former Linville River railroader, gives the Democrat the following history of Capt. Sisk's career:

W. A. Sisk started his railroad (Continued on page two.)

### Five Cases Rabies Are Reported; Warning Repeated

Five cases of rabies have been reported during the past week, it is announced by the Health Department.

One pig, two foxes, one cow and one dog were found to have been afflicted.

The Health Department states that the situation is now at a crucial stage, but that if stray dogs are killed and other dogs kept confined the situation should improve. If animals are not controlled, it is suggested, the situation could get worse.

The Health Department adds: "It is up to the dog owners and the general public as to what happens. What will your action be in the matter?"

### Wall-Eyed Pike Placed In Watauga

The Watauga County Wildlife Club, and the Wildlife Resources Commission are stocking wall-eyed pike in the Watauga River from Ward's dam to the Tennessee line.

Anyone catching these fish is asked to return them to the stream so that they may have a chance to spawn. The legal size of these fish is 15 inches.

Watauga River has recently been designated as trout water down to the highway bridge at Valle Crucis.

### Mother And Infant Clinic Postponed

The regular Mother and Infants' Clinic, scheduled for the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons of each month, will not be held on the 9th of March as originally scheduled. Dr. Hadley Wilson, who is in charge of the clinic, plans to attend a post graduate course at the University of North Carolina Medical school, at Chapel Hill, during the week of the 9th. The clinic will be held on Wednesday afternoon of March 16th and notices of appointments to mothers and infants will be sent out for this date.

### State Tax Man To Visit County

An agent of the Department of Revenue will be at the courthouse in Boone March 16 and April 6th to assist State income taxpayers in filing their returns, it is announced by Wade H. Lee, Deputy Collector.

State tax forms are available at the Watauga Democrat office.

## Local Plans Made For Observance 4-H Week

Extensive plans to observe National 4-H Club Week March 5-13 were laid Saturday at a meeting of the Watauga County 4-H County Council, held at the Legion Hut in Boone. Council President Evelyn Matheson presided.

Projects planned for the observance include: 1. A window display in Boone. 2. Tray favors in hospitals at Boone and Blowing Rock. 3. Newspaper articles. 4. Bulletin boards. 5. Radio Programs. 6. (Continued on page two.)

## Fire Department Members To Be Feted By Civic Group

The Chamber of Commerce will entertain the Boone volunteer fire department at its regular monthly meeting to be held at 12 noon Tuesday, March 8, in the banquet room over the Boone Trail Restaurant, President Stanley A. Harris has announced.

Members of the fire department will answer questions on fire prevention and fire protection, said O. K. Richardson, who will be in charge of the program.

Paul Winkler, local insurance agent, will give a talk on fire insurance rates and how they can be lowered.

## Automobile Crashes Into Store



—Staff Photo by Joe Minor

Bobby James Cook, of Bamboo, was released from jail Monday under \$500 bond, after being booked for speeding and reckless driving, following an accident on King Street in Boone. The accident occurred about 3 a. m. Monday, according to Policeman Raleigh Cottrell, who witnessed the accident and made the arrest.

According to Policeman Cottrell, who was doing duty in front of the Boone Drug Company at the time, the car in which Mr. Cook and three companions were riding, was traveling east on King St. Mr. Cottrell stated he saw the car when it was near Smithy's Store, and heard it even before then, and that the vehicle was traveling at a "high rate of speed."

The accident occurred when the car, a blue 1949 Ford, hit a parked car in front of the Boone Trail Cafe and owned by Baxter Hardy. The car then cut a parking meter to

the ground as it jumped the curb in front of Southern Sales store and smashed two plate glass windows at that establishment before coming to a halt. Merchandise in the display window was damaged.

Mr. Hardy's car was turned around by the impact and made to appear it was coming from an alley next to the cafe. Extensive damage was done to both cars, and estimates as to the extent of damage ran as high as \$1,500 to the cars and building and merchandise. J. C. Cline, owner of the sales store, estimated the damage to his store alone would reach \$500.

According to Mr. Cottrell, the driver of the car stated he had fallen asleep before the accident. Riding with Mr. Cook were Kenneth Hampton, Billy Simmons and Charles Eller, all of Watauga county. No charges were filed against them.

## KING STREET

BY  
ROB RIVERS

### END OF LONG RAIL CAREER IS REACHED

CAPT. BILL SISK, who worked for the Linville River Railway for 35 years, nearly twenty-five of which were spent as a passenger train conductor, reached the end of the run the other day and those who knew the veteran railroader, glance backward to the day when the narrow gauge railway was big business in these parts, and when the arrival of the two passenger trains a day was the occasion for the ingathering of the citizens, to find out who'd come to town and what they knew of the happenings down the line.

### "MONEY AND STUFF!"

We recall those before-day-break departures of the passenger train, on cold winter mornings, when Sherman Pippin would ease open the throttle on train number one, and she would start rolling down the slender steel rails, which provided the only all-weather link with the outside world. . . . And Capt. Sisk's broad smile as he walked down the aisle, his big gold watch chain reflecting the beams of the domelights, and his friendly demand for "Money and stuff." . . . Lots of cash fares were taken on the narrow gauge and the "stuff" was in reference to the tickets which some of the passengers had secured from Luther Clay or R. R. Johnson, maybe. . . . And we recall those minutes when the train had been "worked" and the Captain would sit down beside us and tell us the news of the day and some of the tales he'd heard from the folks who'd got on at Danner's, at Linville Gap, at Roan Mountain or Hampton.

### A HELP TO FOLKS

Capt. Sisk was a good deal of help to the folks along the way, in those days when the shopping district in Boone wasn't expansive. . . . He'd fetch back a machine part from Johnson City if you asked him, or do a bit of shopping for the missus, if there was an emergency, and early-rising drummers at the Critcher Hotel, where he lived, could send back their room rent to Mr. P. Critcher, in cases where they got away before the office was open. . . . He knew the folks by their first names all the way from Boone to Johnson City, waved his greetings to them through the clouds of black smoke, took care of the youngsters for them when they sent 'em visiting down the road, and shed a tear when occasionally one of those long pine boxes came from town, and was taken off at a sorrowing home along the tracks. . . . Folks who missed the era of steam and steel, and of panting locomotives driving on through the blizzards to bring in the goods by the only available route, maybe can't appreciate the encomiums which are penned for these veterans of the rails. . . . But as we drive "down the Laurel", or up "Sin Creek", and view the gashes in the hillsides (continued on page four)

## N. C. Symphony To Appear In Local Concert

The North Carolina Little Symphony, under the direction of Benjamin Swalin, will present a concert in the Fine Arts Auditorium here Friday, March 11, at 8:30 p. m., as a feature of the Appalachian State Teachers College Concert series.

Soloists for the program are Dixon Thomas, pianist, Statesville, and Miss Dorothy White, harpist, presently of Cleveland, Ohio.

Thomas, a Symphony auditions winner many times over in the children's concert division, is making his appearance this season for the first time as an adult soloist. He is currently working toward his Bachelor of Music degree at Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla. Thomas will play Liszt's Concerto No. 1, in Eb Major.

Miss White, first harpist ever to appear with the Little Symphony, is a graduate of Oberlin and the State University of Iowa. In addition to the harp, she also plays the piano and the flute. She will play Debussy's "The Girl with the Flaxen Hair," Salzedo's "Night" (Continued on page two.)



**LITTLE SYMPHONY SOLOISTS**—Dixon Thomas, pianist, Statesville, and Miss Dorothy White, harpist, presently of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be soloists for the Little Symphony concert in the Fine Arts Auditorium here Friday, March 11, at 8:30 p. m. The program is a feature of the Appalachian State Teachers College Concert Series.

## Churches Of City Undertake Complete Religious Census

Pastors of seven churches in Boone and vicinity held a called meeting at noon Monday in the Boone Baptist Church to map plans for a religious census to held next

Sunday afternoon, March 6, according to an announcement by the Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth. Churches participating in the house-to-house census will be the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Advent Christian churches of Boone, the Perkinsville Baptist Church, and the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

The territory for the County Home to Wagner's Tourist Court east and west, and from Buckeye Hill to Boone Fork north and south, will be divided into 54 zones to be covered by teams of workers numbering one to three persons.

All census workers of the various churches are asked to meet at the Boone Baptist Church Friday at 7:30 p. m. to complete plans, Mr. Hollingsworth said.

A luncheon and devotional service will be held at the Boone Baptist Church Sunday, March 6, at 12:30 p. m., following which the teams of workers will begin the census.

The work will consume from an hour to an hour and a half if all workers report, it was announced, and the church nursery will be available to those who wish to leave children.



COVE CREEK RED RAIDERS

## Cove Creek Boys, Boone Girls Top Tournery Play

Cove Creek High boys won their fourth straight Tri-County high school basketball championship by defeating Jefferson, 72-64, in the finals here Monday night.

Appalachian High girls of Boone won from Crossnore, 64-51, to take the girls' championship in the tournament. Crossnore was the defending champions in the bracket.

Cove Creek swept into an 18-9 lead in the first period and that was the deciding margin. Jefferson rallied after the first quarter and matched the champions all the way.

John Banner, Cove Creek forward, whipped in 34 points to feature the attack for his team in the victory over a strong Jefferson

quint. Jerry Freeman, with 24 points, and Jimmy Saunders, with 21, were the big offensive starts for the Ashe County cagers.

Appalachian High girls also won the championship with a first half scoring outburst that gave them a 41-31 lead at half time.

Peggy Hampton, one of the finest girl players on the Blue Ridge in the Northwest, did a brilliant all-around job, racking up 42 points. Not only did she shoot from outside and at the free throw line. She also completely handcuffed the Crossnore guards with her play.

Louise Dellinger, a fine shot, posted 22 points to lead the attack for Crossnore.



APPALACHIAN HIGH BLUE DEVILS