



HEALTH CENTER—This photo of Pender County Health Center shows how Watauga county's public health building will look when completed.

## House Group Moves To Hold Up Plans For Tolls On Parkway

### Lions, Rotary Clubs Meet In Basketball Tilt

The Lions Club and Rotary Club of Boone met on the basketball court of the college gymnasium Saturday night, and while the score was incidental, since it was all for charity's sake, the Lions roared to a 40-27 victory over the Rotarians. All proceeds were donated to the current Red Cross fund drive in Watauga County.

Coch Jerry Coe of the Lions, who lifted himself from the game in the last quarter because of an injured knee, was high scorer with 15 points.

Other Lions pointmakers were Carl Fidler, 10; Lyle Cook, 7; Johnny Hollar, 6; and Bob Congleton, 2.

Stacy Eggers led the Rotary scoring with 8 points, followed by Jimmy Brown and Phil Vance, 7 each; Estel Wagner, 2; Cotton Penick, 2; and G. C. Greene, Jr., 1. Two intercollegiate wrestling matches preceded the basketball game, and a weight-lifting exhibition by Dick Church, Cotton Penick, and Johnny Hollars provided the halftime entertainment.

### Rural Life Club Is Being Formed

An organization for young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 who are out of high school and live on a farm, or are interested in rural life, will be formed in Watauga county April 1.

At a meeting last Friday night in the Legion Hut young people from throughout the county decided to organize a YMW Club. Temporary officers and committees were elected to work on a program for the April meeting. Those elected were Paul Brookshire, chairman; Mary Armstrong, secretary; recreation committee, Jo Ann Brookshire, Collis Austin, Jr., Bill Austin; refreshment committee, Wilma and Juanita Vines; program committee, Vaughn Stephens, Bill Idol, Claude Shore.

The objectives of a YMW are to give information, to provide wholesome recreation, community service and leadership development.

### New Officers Named By O. E. S.

Snow Chapter No. 220, Order of the Eastern Star, has elected the officers to serve for the ensuing year.

They are Mrs. Roberta B. Ray, Worthy Matron; Irvin W. Carpenter, Jr. Worthy Patron; Mrs. Vera N. Richardson, Associate Matron; T. Milt Greer, Associate Patron; Miss Helen Underdown, secretary; Mrs. Ola K. Caudill, treasurer; Mrs. Kathleen W. Hodges, Conductress; and Mrs. Faye G. Hodges, Associate Conductress.

### Perry Nominated "Doctor Of Year"



DR. H. B. PERRY

The Ashe-Watauga County Medical Society has nominated Dr. H. B. Perry for selection as North Carolina's Physician of the Year, honoring the 75-year-old Boone physician on his 50th anniversary of medical practice in Watauga County.

The selection is made annually by the North Carolina Medical Association from candidates nominated throughout the state. The 1954 selection will be announced in May, said Dr. R. H. Harmon, of Boone.

The Society has prepared a brochure containing Dr. Perry's life history, highlights of his career in the form of newspaper clippings and pictures, and tributes to his long life of service as doctor, surgeon, and citizen by many organizations and individuals.

Dr. Perry, first president of the Ashe-Watauga Medical Society, is now serving his second term in the State Senate. He previously represented Watauga, Ashe, and Alleghany counties in the Senate in 1949.

## Phone Service Normal Here Despite Strike

The strike of Southern Bell Telephone workers enters its second week Monday, following a quiet and uneventful week end during which service was near normal over the South as a whole and damage to telephone facilities was at the lowest point of the walkout.

With the company able to handle four-fifths of normal long distance business last week, and dial service continuing to be unaffected company officials at general headquarters Sunday night said service in its nine-state area generally was expected to continue improving this week. Employees not on strike, their ranks increased during last week as more reported for work, are handling the service.

No major damage to facilities in Atlanta during the week end was reported, and damage elsewhere in the South was also light compared to the many cable cuttings and other incidents during the first five days of the strike.

Negotiations were expected to be resumed Monday, with the conciliator continuing the guide to the sessions. Discussion by the conciliator with each party separately over the week end brought no ma-

### Dr. Gene Reese Returns To City



DR. GENE L. REESE

Gene L. Reese, Doctor of Dental Surgery, is returning to Boone to practice dentistry. He will be associated with Dr. W. M. Matheson and will have offices in the new Matheson Dental building on East King Street. Dr. Reese will occupy his offices and be ready to receive patients beginning Wednesday, March 23rd.

Dr. Reese is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis Reese of Boone. He graduated from the Appalachian High School. He entered Appalachian State Teachers College and graduated in the class of 1948 with the Bachelor of Science degree. He then served his country in the United States Navy. Dr. Reese has the distinction of being a member of the first class to enter and graduate from the Dental School of the University of North Carolina, and in 1954 received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Soon after graduation he was licensed to practice dentistry in North Carolina and since that time has had a successful practice in Hillsboro.

Dr. and Mrs. Reese, who is also a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College, and their two sons, Ronnie and Billy are at home with Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Reese on Grand Boulevard. Their new home on Faculty Street is nearing completion.

### Lewis Johnson Rites Are Held

Lewis N. Johnson, 72 years of age, died Wednesday, March 16, at his home at Sherwood.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Friday, March 18, at the Henson's Chapel Methodist church. The rites were conducted by the Rev. N. C. Bush, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Long.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Dora Johnson; a son, Henry Johnson, Route 3, Bristol, Tenn.; three daughters, Mrs. Worth Combs, Vilas, Mrs. Arthur L. Fleenor, Bristol, Tenn., and Mrs. John Henson, Sherwood; four sisters, Mrs. Mae Younce and Mrs. Beulah Eggers, both of Mabel, Mrs. Cora Sutherland, of Sutherland, N. C., Mrs. Jane Wilson, Trade, Tenn.; a brother, Gray Johnson, Hickory; and ten grandchildren.

### JET TANKERS

The Air Force is said to be buying a 20-plane fleet of swift, high-flying jet tanker planes at a cost of approximately \$700,000,000, to be used to refuel in midair its bombers and fighters.

## Wataugans Arrested In Fatal Tennessee Crash

David Owenby, 19, of Asheville was killed in an automobile collision at 12:30 a. m. Sunday March 13, on Highway 421 one mile from Mountain City, Tenn.

Two Watauga county men, Everett May and Earl Bumgarner were arrested by Sheriff Hodges and State Highway Patrolman J. A. Chandler and turned over to Tennessee officers on Monday after they had waived extradition rights. The men were charged, Sheriff Hodges said, with manslaughter and hit and run driving.

At a hearing held before O. D. Dotson in Mountain City the men were bound over to circuit court. Bond was set at \$3,000 each.

Riding with Owenby were Richard McKinney of Hendersonville

and Miss Helen Dickens of Neva. McKinney was uninjured but Miss Dickens suffered a broken hand and was taken to a Johnson City Hospital.

Johnson County Sheriff Dayton Payne is quoted as saying that the truck allegedly occupied by the Watauga men, proceeded from the scene of the crash without stopping, and that Tennessee State Trooper J. N. Buckles found one of its license plates near the scene of the crash.

Sheriff Hodges says Patrolman George Baker and Deputy Sheriff Emmett Oliver found the abandoned truck on a country road near Trade. It is said that the truck was owned by May.

## Contracts Let For Valle Crucis School

The Watauga County Board of Education has awarded contracts to the low bidders for the construction of the new school building at Valle Crucis, which will cost about \$106,000 and will be paid for from State funds.

The building will contain a lunch room, kitchen, storage room, two primary and three other elementary classrooms, teachers' rooms, and a new heating plant. Construction will begin when weather conditions are suitable, says County Superintendent W. H. Walker.

### Other Projects

Bids were also received for buildings at Bethel and Blowing Rock. The Bethel building is to have a lunch room, kitchen, storage room, two primary classrooms, and a new heating plant.

At Blowing Rock the building will have a lunch room, kitchen, storage room, and a new heating plant in the old building.

Low bids were accepted, says Superintendent Walker, and contracts awarded, subject to the approval of the county commissioners, who will have to allot part of the funds to supplement the available State money. The bids are also subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

### The Low Bidders

Those submitting the low bids

are: Blowing Rock: general, Wilson Construction Co., Blowing Rock, \$26,320; electrical, Ayers Electric Co., Boone, \$2,742; plumbing, Parlier & Tomlinson, Lenoir, \$3586; heating, Mooney Plumbing & Heating Co., Lenoir, \$7183; architect's fees \$1991.55.

Bethel: general, Pennell & Haigler, Lenoir, \$39,825; electrical, Hickory Electric Co., \$3245; plumbing, Parlier & Tomlinson, Lenoir, \$4692; heating, Miller & Smyre, Hickory, \$9536; architect's fees \$2864.90.

### Keys President Blowing Rock Rotary Club

Walter K. Keyes was named president of the Blowing Rock Rotary Club by the board of directors.

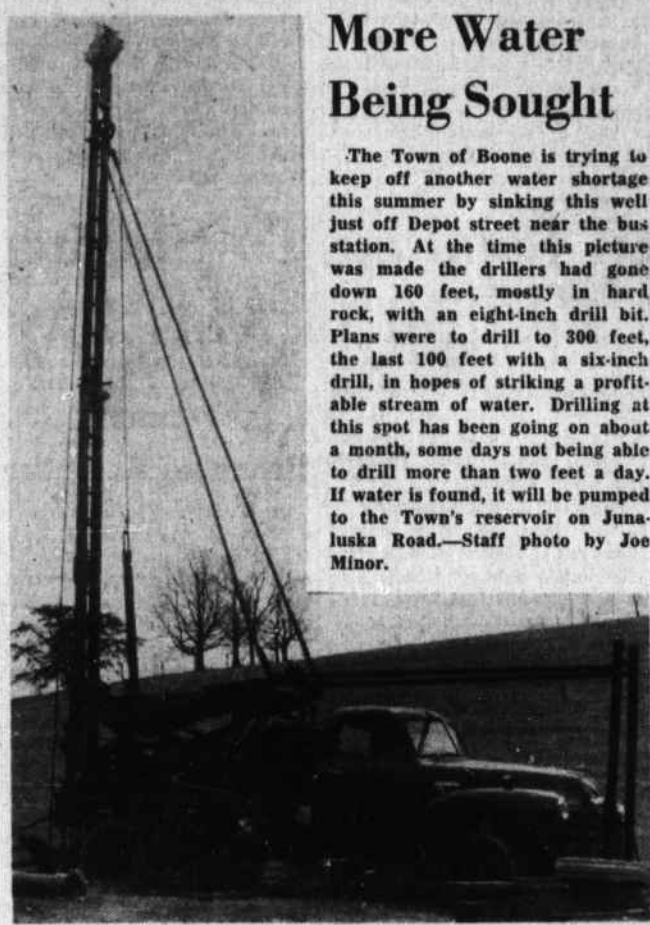
Other officers named are: Harry Robbins, vice-president; Tom Seitz, secretary-treasurer and John Goodwin, sergeant-at-arms.

The directors are: Walter K. Keyes, Harry Robbins, Howard Holshouser, Jr., John Goodwin, George Wilson, Bob Dennis and Rathmell Wilson, the outgoing president.

Arrangements have been made for the club to place copies of the Four Point Way of Life in all the rooms of the Blowing Rock School.



HAGAMAN IS HONORED—Portrait of Smith Hagaman, presented to the Baraca Sunday School class in Winston-Salem, March 13, was unveiled by Len D. Hagaman, Jr., shown with his mother. Right is Mr. Hagaman, whose portrait was given in recognition of his having taught the Baraca Class, of the First Baptist Church, for 20 years.



### More Water Being Sought

The Town of Boone is trying to keep off another water shortage this summer by sinking this well just off Depot street near the bus station. At the time this picture was made the drillers had gone down 160 feet, mostly in hard rock, with an eight-inch drill bit. Plans were to drill to 300 feet, the last 100 feet with a six-inch drill, in hopes of striking a profitable stream of water. Drilling at this spot has been going on about a month, some days not being able to drill more than two feet a day. If water is found, it will be pumped to the Town's reservoir on Junaluska Road.—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

### Solid Carolina Delegation Lines Up Against Levy

Washington, March 21—The House Appropriations Committee moved today to detour the administration's contested proposal to begin charging tolls this summer on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The committee, in reporting the Interior Department appropriations bill to the House, included this statement about the Virginia-North Carolina highway:

"The committee directs that the plan for charging fees to the users of the Blue Ridge Parkway be reviewed again and that no action be taken to impose fees for this purpose until the committee has had further opportunity to review the matter."

### Shuford Makes Request

Rep. Shuford (D-NC), backed solidly by his state delegation and North Carolina officials, had asked the committee to hold up the fee plan, now set to go into effect May 1.

Previously, Shuford, a resident of Asheville, had solicited the aid of Speaker Sam Rayburn in his fight to prevent tolls on the Parkway.

They argued the scenic road was established as a free parkway and that to charge tolls on it would flout the expressed wishes of Congress.

The Interior Department and the National Park Service take the position that the federal government can not be expected to furnish the money needed to complete the parkway and to maintain it unless the project produces some revenue to help out. The service proposes annual May 1-Nov. 1 tolls beginning this year.

### Subject To Approval

The committee recommendation for delay and review will be subject to House approval but more often than not the House follows such committee recommendations. It is thought unlikely that a move to cancel the committee's Blue Ridge directive will be made on the floor since the toll plan thus far has evoked no apparent congressional support. Only protests have been heard.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to act on the Interior Department bill but the toll plan has its opponents in that chamber as well as the House.

Sen. Scott (D-NC), for example, commented that the House committee showed good judgement in its decision to hold up charging fees on the parkway.

"The proposed tolls," Scott said "would cause hardship both on the people and the project which is incomplete. It's necessary and it would cause more trouble than good."

Several years ago a similar situation developed when the National Park Service announced a reorganization would include two new regional offices. It appointed directors for them. Congress directed that no money be provided for them, however, and the service

(Continued on page six.)

## Easter Seal Sale Being Made For Crippled

More than 3,500 Watauga County families will receive direct appeals by mail this week for support of the 1955 Easter Seal Campaign.

### Members School Board Are Slated

A bill introduced in the State House of Representatives Monday night would appoint members of the various county boards of education.

The board recommended for Watauga county by Representative Barnes, consists of the following:

Dr. Charles Davant, Dr. D. J. Whitener, Ward Carroll, Gordon Sherwood, Lewis Norris. Each would be appointed for a term of two years.

### Mark E. Holtzclaw Succumbs Monday

Mark Everett Holtzclaw, 84, died Monday, March 21, at his home at Deep Gap.

Funeral services were scheduled to be held at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, March 23, at the Stony Fork Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. John R. Greene and the Rev. Roscoe Greene, with burial in the church cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Fay S. Holtzclaw; three sons, Harry, of Asheville, Bynum, of Varner, Ark., and James, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; two daughters, Mrs. Lucille Free, Dayton, Ohio, and Mrs. Mildred Critz, who lives in Virginia.



SIGNS OF SPRING.—Jim Ragan, with hoe, and Joe Howser at the tractor, were seen recently on a warm sunny day getting ready to make gardens. The sun soon went behind the clouds and the winds blew some more and they are still waiting for the growing season.—Staff photos by Joe Minor.

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