

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. — Solomon 2:12.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

BOONE WEATHER				
Date	High	Low	6 p.m. rainfall	
March 21	61	39	49	.09
March 22	58	23	23	1.11
March 23	60	38	47	tr.
March 24	50	28	45	
March 25	50	30	40	
March 26	45	13	13	.35
March 27	29	3	23	

Trace of snow fell on March 21, 23, 25, 27.

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR—NO. 39

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1955

16 PAGES - 2 SECTIONS

Ransom Tester And Wife Slain; Murder, Suicide, Coroner Says

Ransom Tester, 59, a retired Navy chief warrant officer, and his wife, Mrs. Irene Tester, 52, were found shot to death Wednesday night, March 23, at their home near Valle Crucis.

Coroner Richard E. Kelley said the couple had been dead since about 6 p. m. Tuesday. He ruled it a clear case of murder and suicide.

He said that Tester shot his wife in the left arm and forehead. Her body was found lying on the floor in a bedroom.

Tester then went to the basement of their residence and fired a bullet from a German pistol into his right temple.

Kelley and Sheriff Ernest Hodges, who went to the Tester home Wednesday night shortly after the bodies were found by Henry Taylor, a neighbor, reported there was no sign of a struggle in the bedroom. The Testers, who were alone at their home, have four children, all residing in other cities.

Coroner Kelley and Sheriff Hodges said they could find no motive for Tester's act. Tester, a native of the Valle Crucis community, retired a few years ago after long service in the Navy. Mrs. Tester is a native of Massachusetts.

The coroner said that apparently both Tester and his wife died instantly from the bullet wounds.

Double funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Saturday, March 26, at the Holy Cross Episcopal Mission Church at Valle Crucis. Captain H. Wheat, church worker in charge of the Holy Cross Mission, conducted the rites, assisted by the Rev. N. C. Bush. Burial was in the Mission cemetery.

The Testers are survived by a son, Ransom B. Tester, with the U. S. Army, stationed at Fort Bragg; and three daughters, Mrs. Irene H. Gibson, Washington, D. C., Mrs. Marilyn T. Mayhew, Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Carolyn T. Mast, of Charlotte.

Mr. Tester is also survived by a brother, Palmer Tester, of Lexington; a half-brother, Duke Tester of Banner Elk; and two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Lawrence, Banner Elk, and Mrs. Don Reid, Jacksonville, Fla.

Surviving Mrs. Tester are two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Coker of Boston, Mass., and Mrs. Jacqueline Gramaline of Medford, Mass.



ANN CHAMBERS, warmly clad in a wool tennis sweater, was among the large turnout of netters who flocked to the new courts when the weather broke here recently.—Appalachian photo by Johnny Corey.

Gill H. Phillips Dies On Tuesday; Rites Thursday

Gill H. Phillips, resident of Boone, died Tuesday morning at the home of a daughter, Miss Sandra Phillips of Johnson City, Tenn., following a six months period of declining health.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Boone Methodist Church by the Pastor, Rev. E. H. Lowman. Rev. J. T. Shackford, former pastor of Walkertown, will assist in the services.

Burial will be in the Hardin cemetery at Beaver Creek.

The body was brought to the home of a sister, Mrs. Margaret Hughes of Boone Tuesday afternoon and will remain there until 1 o'clock Thursday following which it will lie in state at the church for one hour preceding the funeral.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Sandra Phillips, Johnson City, Tenn.; two brothers, Clifford D. Phillips, Robert A. Phillips, Forest City; three sisters, Mrs. Margaret Hughes, Boone; Mrs. Paul Hoffer, Gatesville; Mrs. P. C. Parks, Elk Park.

Mr. Phillips had been a resident of Boone for more than twenty years, where he had engaged in the outdoor advertising and sign business. He was a member of the Boone Methodist Church.

Turkey seeks \$300,000,000 credit from U. S.

College Summer Sessions Will Embrace Expanded Program

Mayor Winkler Is Injured In Fall

Mayor Gordon H. Winkler suffered a fractured vertebra Friday, when he fell on the ice near his home on Blowing Rock Road.

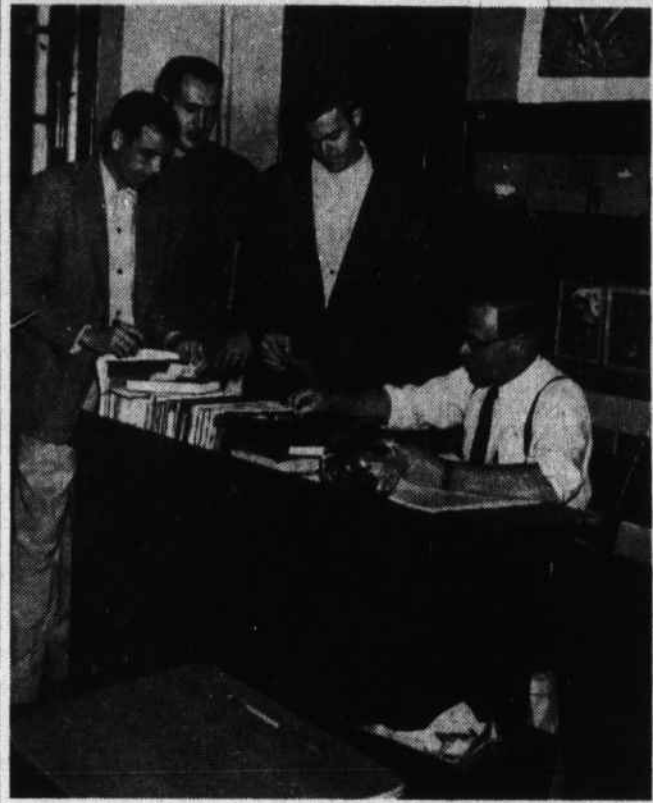
Mayor Winkler is reported to be in fair condition at Watauga Hospital. It is said that his condition is not believed to be critical, but he has suffered intense pain.

Wildlife Group Elects Officers

Officers were elected by District 7-B of the Wildlife Federation of North Carolina, at a meeting held Wednesday, March 23, at Hotel Wilkes in North Wilkesboro.

Dr. R. T. Burgess, of Sparta, was elected chairman; R. L. Austin, of Laurel Springs, vice-chairman; and Dr. O. K. Richardson, Boone druggist, secretary-treasurer.

The promotion of additional Wildlife clubs in the district was also discussed at the meeting. District 7-B comprises the counties of Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, and Wilkes.



NUMBER 2,000.—Registrar H. R. Eggers of Appalachian State Teachers College is shown here enrolling the first 2000th student ever to be registered at the college in a regular term. He is Hubert Morrow, teacher in the Elkin school system, who is enrolling in a graduate extension class. Also shown (right to left) are James Everidge of Jonesville and Ben Hunicutt. The enrollment for the year at ASTC is 2056, with 1650 on the campus at present. Of these 1353 are undergraduate students and 297 are graduate students.

Plans Are Made For Three Terms; Courses Outlined

The summer school bulletin of Appalachian State Teachers College, for the 1955 summer sessions, is off the press. A full schedule of academic activity is planned for this year under Chapell Wilson, who is director of the summer sessions.

There will be three six-week terms. The first will extend from June 9 to July 15, the last from July 18 to August 19. The middle term will overlap both of these terms, covering the period from June 20 to July 29. Work may be taken in these regular or in the short terms to apply to renewal of certificates, undergraduate credit toward a degree, or graduate credit toward the master of arts degree.

In addition there will be thirteen short courses lasting two weeks each. There are two two-week terms, one from July 5 to 15, the other from July 18 to 29. The workshops, lasting for two weeks, are as follows:

Reading Workshop, June 20 to July 1, directed by Donald Henry Parker, director of the Charlotte Reading Center; Workshop on North Carolina, July 5 to 15, directed by Dr. D. J. Whitener, head of the ASTC social studies department, Miss Lois H. Floyd, teacher in the Lumberton city schools, and with Dr. Christopher Crittenden, director of the State Department of Archives and History, as consultant; Three Elementary Education Workshops, July 5 to 15, July 18 to 29, and August 1 to 12, with Dr. Mildred Dawson of the ASTC faculty and Miss Mayme A. Ricker of the Berry Schools in Georgia, as two of the directors.

Piano Workshop, July 18 to 29, directed by Dr. Lea Podolsky, international authority on piano playing and piano teaching; Audio-Visual Aids Workshop, July 18 to 29, directed by Dr. J. R. Shaffer, Appalachian's audio-visual expert; Guidance Workshop, July 18 to 29, directed by Miss Katherine Kitchen, guidance director of the Rocky Mount schools, and Miss Frankie Craven, guidance director of the Statesville schools; Student Teaching Workshop, August 1 through 12, directed by Dr. Herbert Wey, ASTC director of student teaching; Music Education Workshop, August 1 through 12, sponsored jointly by Silver Burdett Company, publishers of New Music Horizons and ASTC; English Workshop, August 1 through 12, directed by Dr. Mildred Dawson of ASTC and Paul Farmer, coordinator of Language Arts in the Atlanta public schools, and sponsored jointly by the National Council of Teachers of English and Appalachian State Teachers College.

Reports Made On Feeder Calf Sales

In the twelve Feeder Calf Sales held last September and October, 4,669 calves averaged 454 pounds in weight, according to a report from the State College Extension Service at Raleigh.

The average price for these calves was \$16.97 per hundred-weight, or \$77.13 per head. The 923 fancy and choice steer calves averaged \$100.40 per head as compared to an average of \$79.77 per head for the 1,842 good and medium grade steers, sold through these same sales. This is a difference of \$20.63 in favor of the fancy and choice steers.

The fact that only one out of every three steer calves graded fancy or choice is evidence that there is a need for more good bulls, a strict culling of the cow herds, and improved feeding and management practices, said the report.

Farthing To Attend Meeting At Duke U.

Mr. H. Grady Farthing will be in Durham Thursday and Friday where he will attend the fourth Southern Municipal and Industrial Waste Conference at Duke University. Mr. Farthing is a member of the State Stream Sanitation Commission.

Postal Officials And Workers Meet To Hear Of Decentralization Plan

Postmaster and postal officials from this section of the State assembled in Boone last Tuesday, and heard Raleigh G. Hawn, of Charlotte, new district manager, declare that the post office department's new decentralization program is designed to give them more freedom in the operation of their offices.

The meeting was held in the Watauga County Courthouse and was one of a series of "get-acquainted" meetings Mr. Hawn has scheduled throughout the 43 western North Carolina counties in his district.

He explained the primary purpose of the decentralization plan is to give local postal officials greater initiative in working out their own problems. "Department policies will still be made in Washington," he said, "but they will be administered on regional and district levels."

"I believe you will find it a great pleasure to make this transition and bring this great enterprise (post office) into line with modern business methods," Manager Hawn said.

Postmasters will have more authority than ever and will be expected to make most of the decisions themselves, Mr. Hawn said. But he urged them to refer difficult problems to his office.

"If we don't have the answer we'll get it for you," Mr. Hawn said the new system actually brings local offices closer to Washington, saying, "The post office department is now as close to you as your district office."

Business falling under Mr. Hawn's office includes promotions, disciplinary action and operational problems which formerly were handled through the main office in Washington. The decentralization program was adopted to eliminate this "bottleneck" and cure the "growing pains" which have plagued the postal system for years, he said.

The new manager urged that all post office employees extend the greatest courtesy to patrons, and to do everything they could to keep the morale of postal employees on the "highest level."

District Two is one of eight offices set up under a new regional headquarters at Atlanta. The region includes North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

Acting Postmaster Lyle Cook of Boone, presided over the gathering, which was attended by postal workers from several Northwestern Counties of North Carolina. Howard Cottrell, acting in behalf of Mayor Gordon H. Winkler, brought greetings from the Town of Boone.

Boy Scout Boyce Moretz led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and the Rev. L. H. Hollingsworth offered the invocation.

Coming to Boone with Mr. Hawn was his assistant district manager, Frank E. Graham, also of Charlotte. He has been with the postal service for 20 years. Mr. Hawn has been connected with the Post Office Department since 1924. He is a native of Hickory.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Association will hold its annual meeting in Boone on May 14th starting at 10:00 a. m.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Association is composed of the Chambers of Commerce within forty miles of the Parkway from the Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Parkway Association To Meet In Boone May 14

finance and membership chairman, Stanley A. Harris, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce is chairman of the nominating committee.

Easter Seals Are Available At Horn

Watauga county residents overlooked in the mailing of 1955 Easter Seals can receive their seals at the Horn in the West office upstairs at 106 West King Street, Boone.

Bob Isbell, president of the Watauga Easter Seal Society, urged all Watauga residents who have not received letters from him to call at the office and thus participate in the 22nd annual drive in behalf of crippled children.

"It is inevitable that some persons may be missed in such a large-scale mailing as made this year," Isbell said. "We not only urge all Wataugans to call for their seals, but to use them on each piece of Eastertime mail."

The campaign continues through Easter Sunday, April 10.

Union Service Set For Good Friday

A Union Good Friday Service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church from one to two o'clock, and will be participated in by all the local churches.

All business houses are expected to be closed during the hour and everyone is requested to take part in the service.

Scouts Attend Board Of Review

A number of Boy Scouts in Watauga district received advancement in a board of review held in Blowing Rock Monday night. The Scouts whose advancement was approved were from Blowing Rock, Boone, and Valle Crucis.

Doss Keller of Troop 701 of Blowing Rock was approved for four merit badges. One merit badge each was approved for Bennie Robinson, Perry Coffey, Hoyle Coffey, Larry Moody, Jim Bob Coffey, and Dee Hodge of Troop 701 and Richard Greer of Troop 109 of Boone.

Doss Keller of Troop 701 was advanced in rank from second to first class. Upgraded from tenderfoot to second class Scout were John Thomas Cook of Troop 150, Valle Crucis; Jack Roark, Troop 108, Boone; and James Robert Coffey of Troop 701, Blowing Rock.

At an earlier board of review Joe Minor of Boone was elevated to first class Scout, and Butch Parker, Raymond Harmon and Charles Trivette to second class.

R. D. Hodges Jr. is chairman of the committee on advancement for the Watauga District.

Health Officer At Asheville Meeting

Dr. Mary Michal, health officer, attended a Western N. C. Rural Health Conference in Asheville last Thursday. This is under the auspices of the Rural Health Committee of the N. C. State Medical Society. The morning was given over to the following topics: "Farm and Home Safety"; "Sanitation, Problems and Practices"; "Hospital and Surgical Insurance."

The afternoon program was a forum discussion with Dr. W. O. Duck of Mars Hill as moderator.

Watauga, Avery Burley Growers Meet To Discuss Weed Program Prospect

More than 500 burley tobacco growers from Watauga and Avery counties last Wednesday voted to accept recommendations by the U. S. Department of Agriculture aimed at improving the burley program, now threatened by a heavy surplus and skidding prices.

The recommendations include: 1. Acreage reduction—the size of the cut yet to be determined.

2. Elimination of "tolerances"—a ruling which until now has permitted overplanting of allotments when not greater than one-20th of an acre.

3. Increasing the penalty on sales of excess production from 50 per cent to 75 per cent.

Clyde R. Greene of Boone, State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation chairman, who presided at today's meeting, reminded the growers that burley cooperatives

Boone And Blowing Rock To Get Direct Telephone Service

Free telephone service between Boone and Blowing Rock will be instituted on April 1, it is announced by H. M. Inabinet, group manager for the Southern Bell Telephone Co.

Boone subscribers can dial Blowing Rock direct by dialing "5" and then dialing the number desired. Blowing Rock residents, wishing to call Boone will dial "6" and then dial the number wanted.

Mr. Inabinet says this move is in line with the Bell Company's expansion program, designed to give better service to its patrons. He believes the direct service between Boone and Blowing Rock will be a contribution to the business and social relationships between the two towns.

Boone-Blowing Rock connections are now long distance calls, handled through Lenoir.

Polio Vaccine Forms Available

In the expectation that the Salk polio vaccine will be licensed by the Federal government, Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties which comprise the local health department, are making plans to begin the inoculation of children in the first and second grades of public, private and parochial schools.

Children will be vaccinated only on request of the parents, and request forms have been distributed throughout the schools. March of Dimes funds are providing this vaccine.

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Growth Of Boone Is Reflected In Increased Number Phones

Indicative of the growth of Boone and surrounding communities, is the increase in the number of telephone directors distributed to local telephone subscribers.

Approximately 1400 new directories were delivered to homes and businesses, according to H. M. Inabinet, Manager of Southern Bell Telephone Company, compared with 1134 when the last directory was delivered.

The new directory contains many new and changed listings and other helpful telephone information, and is easily distinguishable from the old green covered book by its grey cover.

The classified section—yellow pages—contains listings for business subscribers under headings alphabetized according to their businesses or professions. "The variety of classifications describing products, services, professions and businesses, provide a convenient, ready reference guide when

you want to locate a firm or an individual," Mr. Inabinet pointed out.

The new directory will carry instructions how to dial when free service between Boone and Blowing Rock is established on 4-1-55 which permits subscribers to dial parties in either town direct without going through long distance. Mr. Inabinet stated that the extended service is in connection with Southern Bell's expansion program of providing more and better telephone service.

Mr. Inabinet requests that the old directory be discarded and that the new directory be referred to when telephone numbers are desired. Looking up the desired numbers helps to avoid the possibility of getting wrong numbers and saves time for both the calling and called parties. "Information" should be called only when the number you are seeking is not listed in the directory.