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VOLUME LXVIII—NO. 8



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Thomas and son, Larry, stand with a backdrop of silage corn, which Mr. Thomas hopes to place in the new silo, top of which may be seen in far background.—Staff photos by Joe Minor.



Mrs. Sanford Creed and daughter, Mary Lee, pick tomatoes from their big garden. They enlarged their garden this year, and most any kind of vegetable grown in this section were in evidence there.

Best Test Farmers Chosen At Close Of Annual Farm Tour

By JOE MINOR

The families of Sanford Creed and Otto Thomas were honored last week when they were selected as the "unit test demonstration farmers" in Watauga county making the most progress on their farms in 1955, considering their resources.

Mr. and Mrs. Creed were chosen for having made the most progress in their home, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were judged to have made the most progress on the farm.

There are 23 farms in the county taking active part in TVA demonstrations to see if increasing amounts of plant food will increase farm yields so that the farm family may enjoy a higher standard of living. TVA uses these "test farms" in testing new and different fertilizers.

The two farms were selected at the end of tours to all the participating farms in recent weeks. Farmers and business men were invited to join the tours each day in which several of the farms were visited. At the end of each tour one farm and one home was selected by those making the tour as the outstanding one visited that day. Those selected were re-visited on the final day, and the Creed home and Thomas farm were selected from these.

Mr. Thomas, whose farm is located at Mabel, has been on the TVA demonstrations for three years. Probably the biggest permanent improvements he has made were the building a barn and silo. When he started with the demonstrations, he had 15 head of cattle. He now has 38, and he believes he can easily feed them with the help of his silo which will hold 90 tons of silage.

He also has 29 sheep from which he raised 41 lambs for market. He had sold 21 of these at the time his farm was visited, and L. E. Tuckwiller, county agent, revealed that 20 of these graded "choice." He pointed this out to show what good management and proper pasture fertilization will accomplish.

Mr. Thomas, besides his TVA demonstrations, is working out a beef and sheep program for his farm with N. C. Extension Service cattle specialists to see how many head his farm will carry.

Most of Mr. Thomas' farm is steep land, which means the greater part of his row crops must be confined to the few acres of bottom land he has. He feels he must get maximum yields to feed his livestock, which makes the farm ideal for these demonstrations.

To fill the silo, he has planted five acres US 282 corn in rows 30 inches apart in 4-inch drill. For

grain he has two acres US 13 corn planted, using the strip crop method on a hillside. He applied at planting time the following amounts of fertilizer per acre: 100 lbs. ammonium nitrate, 100 lbs. 60% potash, and 200 lbs. 63% phosphate. At laying by he sidedressed with 400 lbs. of 33% ammonium nitrate per acre.

He goes over his pastures every two or three years, as time permits, with 200 lbs. 63% phosphate per acre, and 100 lbs. 60% potash. He has applied 90 tons of lime on his pastures in the past several years, and clips the weeds to keep the pastures clean.

Mr. Thomas, who considers himself a cattleman, has only one money row crop, and that is 6-10 acre burley tobacco. Except for the fertilizer used for tobacco he obtains all his fertilizer through the TVA plan.

Other improvements made on the Thomas farm include 1,500 feet drain tile laid in his bottom land, 500 of which he put down this year; wiring of barn; seeded 1½ acres meadow to red clover and Timothy; seeded 5 acres pasture to clover and blue grass; treated bottom land with 5% chloradane at rate of 100 lbs. per acre for wire worm.

The Creed's eight-room home in Upper Beaver Dam showed much work and planning had gone into it.

Mrs. Creed was particularly proud of her big fenced-in garden, and she had reason to be. There (Continued on page eight)

Watauga Night At Horn In West

Wednesday night will be "Watauga Night" at the outdoor drama Horn in the West, Stanley A. Harris, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, has announced.

In cooperation with the event, members of the Merchants Association are sending as their guests employees of their organizations. Mr. Harris said 200 or 300 persons were expected to attend the event in addition to the regular drama visitors.

Dr. William Plemmons Named Appalachian College Prexy

Plans Made For Farm Day Event

Tentative plans were laid for staging a Farmers Day in Boone the latter part of September, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Merchants Association held Tuesday.

A motion was unanimously adopted to go ahead with plans discussed earlier by an arrangements committee, the entire project being contingent upon securing a speaker of sufficient stature for the big day. Invitations will be extended to Governor Luther Hodges and to Commissioner of Agriculture L. Y. Ballentine.

The plans, still in the talking stage, embrace a big parade in the morning, with either the Appalachian High School or Appalachian College band, or both, a free barbecue dinner on the Horn in the West grounds, string music, quartet and group singing, possible contests and prizes, with an address by the Governor or other noted speaker to close out the day's festivities.

Glenn R. Andrews, president of the Merchants Association, and Stanley Harris, its manager, said it should be stressed that the day is to be solely an occasion for a friendly get-together of town and country folk to have a good time and enjoy some "good-eating, good music, and good speaking," with no commercial angles whatever. Such a day has been "talked about" for several years, they added.

The committee on arrangements is headed by Alfred T. Adams, and includes Russell D. Hodges, L. E. Tuckwiller, W. C. Richardson, Ralph Tugman, and V. G. Rollins.

The date and other details will be publicized as soon as arrangements are more definite, it was announced.

Children's Day Next Saturday At Folk Fete

It will be Children's Day Saturday, August 27, the tenth in a summer-long series of weekly folk art festivals, under the auspices of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, according to an announcement by Richard Chase, director.

The festivities will get underway at 3 p. m. at the Horn in the West grounds, and will feature children's "singing games," and factual data on this phase of folk lore, handed down by children from generation to generation, Mr. Chase said.

"Scholars tell us," said Mr. Chase, "that these games are relics of pre-Christian, pagan ceremonies."

Another feature of Saturday's festival will be a complete Punch and Judy Show, with Mr. Chase as the puppeteer.

Punchinello, said Mr. Chase, was a clown who came out of Italy in the Middle Ages with his wife Judy, and later became famous the world over as puppets. Participation by the children is one of the main factors in this performance, he said.

There will also be country singing and dancing for all those who wish to take part.

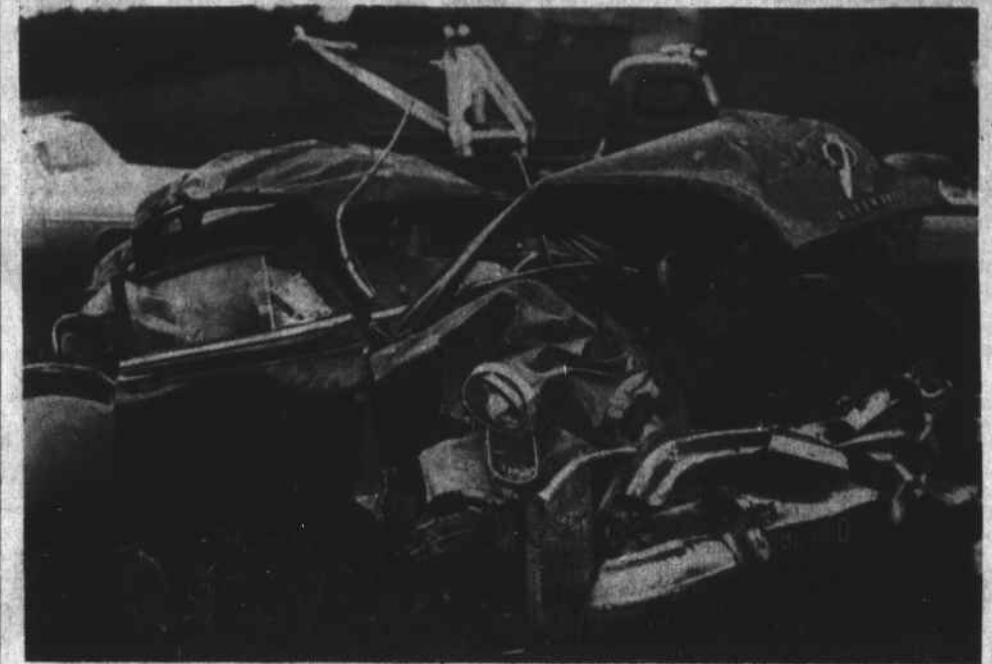
566 Lambs Sold In Last Pool

The farmers from Watauga and other nearby counties sold 566 lambs in the pool on Monday. Forty-eight per cent of the lambs graded choice and sold for \$22.00 cwt. Thirty-three per cent graded good and sold for \$18.00 cwt. Medium lambs brought \$14.00 cwt.

The lambs were trucked to Brooklyn, New York for Swift and Company.

This is the last lamb pool scheduled for Boone this year, but a pool will be held at West Jefferson some time in September and Watauga farmers will be invited to sell in this pool.

Two Are Injured In Crash Of Automobile



(Photo by Palmer's Photo Shop)

Two were injured at 3:30 a. m. last Wednesday, when their automobile hurtled from highway 421 at Deep Gap, sheared away a telephone pole, and came to rest near the home of Robert Miller.

The automobile, which Patrolman George Baker says was traveling west when it went out of con-

trol and marked the highway for 964 feet, was a 1949 Oldsmobile, which was practically demolished. Its driver, Lane Roosevelt Walsh, 22, of Parlier, is a patient at a Winston-Salem hospital, suffering from a fracture of the spine. Earl McNeil, 17, of Champion, suffered face lacerations, while the third

member of the party occupying the ill-fated car was Robert Kent McNeil, of the Air Force, whose home is at Miller's Creek. He was unhurt.

Officer Baker blames excessive speed for the accident, and says the driver of the car has been charged with reckless driving.

Watauga Schools Will Open Doors Monday

Appalachian High Makes Plans For Opening Monday

Appalachian High School begins its fall term Monday, August 29, according to Dr. A. B. Crew, principal.

All high school students, grade 9 through 12, are to report to the high school auditorium by 9:00 a. m., at which time opening exercises will be held, with the student body president, Bobby Brendell, presiding. As part of the assembly program, the high school faculty will be introduced and students will be given their homeroom assignments.

The faculty has been completed, and members and their teaching assignments are: Dr. Crew, principal; Leroy Rogers, assistant principal and history; Mrs. Margaret Gragg, English; Miss Ruby Akers, English; Mrs. Lucille Nash, reading; Mrs. J. A. Mullins, Latin, history, English; Verlin O. Coffey, French, Spanish, English; Dr. Peter Everett, math and physical education;

Jack Groce, physical education and social studies; Paul Jolley, math; Samuel Dry, commercial; Mrs. Kathleen Dougherty, home economics; Mrs. Peggy Hadden, science; Miss Betty Jo Henderson, library; Mrs. Marjorie Nifong, physical education and social studies; Kent Robinson, science; Miss Mary Lillian Schell, physical education;

R. L. Tait, agriculture; Roy Blanton, band; James Hadden, science; Mrs. Elsie Erneston, choral music; Mack Whitaker, science; Harold Lakey, physical education; Miss Mary Little, commercial; Ralph Williams, English; and Roy Evans, social studies.

All bus routes have not been assigned, Dr. Crew said, but the following is a list of bus assignments which have been completed: Dean Critcher, Bus 11, Bamboo; V. C. Payne, Bus 3, Stoney Fork; Luther Miller, Bus 2, Gap Creek; John Henry Johnson, Bus 28, Upper Meat Camp; Jack McKinney, Bus 42, Big Hill; Wayne Triplett, Bus 4, Triplett; and Austin Moritz, Bus 43, Todd.

Soviet scientist denies next war must be nuclear.

More than four thousand Watauga County school children are expected to assemble next Monday for the opening of the 1955-56 school terms, and County Superintendent W. Guy Angell has announced a county-wide teachers meeting to be held at the Appalachian Elementary School Friday, August 26, at 2 o'clock.

The schools will operate on a half-day schedule Monday and Tuesday, a short schedule will be used in registering and classifying students, and text books will be issued on these dates, Mr. Angell said.

Teachers and principals will be on duty Monday and Tuesday afternoons to talk with parents and get classrooms in shape for the year's work. Lunchrooms will begin operation Wednesday, and the price of lunches has been standardized at 20 cents for all elementary grades.

Principals at Work
All principals in the county began work Monday, August 15, and will be available for conference at the schools until the opening date. There are three new principals: James A. Greene, at Valle Crucis Elementary; Dwight Isenhour at Parkway Elementary and John Bingham at Cove Creek High.

To Improve Colored School
The Board of Education has authorized the landscaping of the grounds at Watauga Consolidated School (colored), in order that

better playground facilities may be provided. The building is being painted on the inside in readiness for the opening of school.

Mrs. Bertha Neal and Mrs. Marjorie B. Lowery have been employed by the local committee and one vacancy still exists.

New Teachers

New teachers have been employed as follows:
Appalachian High: Verlon O. Coffey, James E. Hadden, Mrs. Peggy Hadden, Paul Jolly, Marjorie Nifong, Mary Lillian Schell, Sudie Mullins. Returning after a year's absence are Ruby Akers and Roy Blanton.

Appalachian Elementary: Jane Deaton, Edith Ray, Loretta Howe, Ann Sanders, Gaynelle Wilson, Nancy Lathan, Jessie D. Pease, Mary Hudson, James White, Green Valley: Everett Fox.

Parkway: Truman A. Critcher, Reba S. Moretz.

Bethel: Gwynn W. Ramsey, Eliza J. Norris.

Funds Taken From Local Bus Depot

About one hundred dollars, mostly silver, was taken from the bus station Friday night, according to Police Officer W. R. Cottrell. Entrance was gained to the building by prying open a rear window, he said.

No arrests have been made, but an investigation is in progress.

Tweetsie May Return To Her Former Trail

Graver Robbins, Jr., of Blowing Rock, has announced the purchase from Gene Antry, of the Tweetsie Train, which has been out of commission at Harrisonburg, Va., since Hurricane Hazel tore up her tracks last fall.

Antry sold the former Boone-Johnson City train to Robbins, due to excessive costs of moving the equipment across the country. The movie actor purchased a Denver & Rio Grande Western engine instead.

Mr. Robbins wants to bring the train back to Boone or to some point along its former

route of travel, depending upon the interest which is shown in the return of the engine and three coaches, which are described as being in perfect condition. He believes the train, which has been widely publicized, would be a potent tourist attraction here, and hopes he will have the cooperation of the people here in bringing the train back.

The colorful history of the narrow-gauge train, coupled to the fact that the steam locomotives appear to be on the way out, would combine to make of Tweetsie a prime tourist attraction, Mr. Robbins believes.

Announcement Is Made At End Of Summer Term

Dr. William H. Plemmons, who recently had served as executive secretary of the State Education Commission, Thursday was elected president of Appalachian State Teachers College.

The appointment, effective Sept. 1, was announced by W. J. Conrad of Winston-Salem, chairman of the board of trustees. The board held its meeting in connection with the college's summer school finals program.

Dr. Plemmons, 51, succeeds Dr. B. B. Dougherty who retired after more than 50 years as founder and president on June 14. Dr. J. B. Rankin, a member of the college staff for 30 years, had served as interim president. Dr. Rankin also will retire on Sept. 1.

The new president was born on a farm in Buncombe County. He at-



DR. WILLIAM H. PLEMMONS
Appalachian President

tended Mars Hill Junior College, and graduated in history from Wake Forest College. He received his master's degree at Duke University and his doctorate from the University of North Carolina, after special studies at the University of Chicago.

He taught for a time in rural and urban schools, including a term as principal of the Leicester school and as principal of Asheville's Lee H. Edwards High School.

Plemmons was principal of Lee Edwards High School for five years before he resigned to accept a teaching fellowship at UNC.

He began teaching in the Asheville system in 1928 at Hall Fletcher Junior High School. He later taught at Lee Edwards, was connected with Jax-Pax stores and then became principal at Leicester.

He became principal at Lee Edwards in 1936.

Plemmons was active with the First Baptist Church while living in Asheville.

Since 1941 he has been with the University of North Carolina in various posts. During the war years he served as admissions officer and registrar. During the last three years he has served as executive secretary of the North Carolina State Education Commission. In this post he directed a statewide study of the entire public education system. From the study came much of the educational progress recently attained.

Dr. Plemmons is a Baptist layman and civic leader.

Conrad told the summer school graduating class that Dr. Plemmons' election by the board was unanimous, and added: "We feel that under the leadership of Dr. Plemmons, Appalachian State Teachers College will continue its march of progress."

Drivers License Office To Close

The drivers' license office will be closed at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, September 7, through Friday, September 9.

All examinations will be in Chapel Hill attending in-service training school.