

BOONE WEATHER				
Date	High	Low	5 a.m.	Rain
Sept. 5	78	54	51	
Sept. 6	74	55	52	
Sept. 7	77	55	51	
Sept. 8	73	49	50	
Sept. 9	74	53	53	
Sept. 10	69	55	53	
Sept. 11	74	54	55	

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The Democrat has served Boone and Watauga County. With its intense coverage in the local shopping area, it's the best advertising medium available.

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1955

16 PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

John W. Hodges, Sr., Prominent Wataugan, Claimed By Death

Mr. John W. Hodges, Sr., prominent business and civic leader, died Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell D. Hodges, where he had been living since May. Mr. Hodges, who was 89 years old, had been seriously ill since undergoing surgery in June.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p. m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church in Boone. Officiating will be Dr. J. C. Canipe of Hendersonville, former Boone pastor, and the Rev. E. F. Troutman. Burial will be in the city cemetery.

Survivors include three sons, Russell D. Hodges, John W. Hodges, Jr. of Boone, Grant Hodges of Ocala, Florida, one daughter, Mrs. Kay Boatwright of Richmond, Virginia, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Another son, Fred Hodges, preceded him in death six years ago, and his wife, the former Miss Mattie Hopkins, died eighteen years ago.

Mr. Hodges, a native of Strawberry Plains, Tennessee, had lived most of his life in Watauga County. He was a member of the Baptist Church in which he served as deacon for many years. Until his retirement he was active in the mercantile business at Ruthwood, Gap Creek and Boone, was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and always took part in the civic and religious activities of the city and county.

Mr. Hodges was elected by the Republican party as Register of Deeds in 1894 and 1896, to the Board of County Commissioners, of which he was chairman, in 1900 and 1902, as sheriff in 1904 and 1906, and to the House of Representatives in 1912. He was appointed by the Boone commissioners to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. W. R. Gragg as Mayor of Boone in 1929.

Prior to his illness Mr. Hodges had lived with Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hodges, Jr. for several years.

A new state egg law requires that eggs sold in cartons be labeled as to grade and size of eggs.



JOHN W. HODGES, SR.

Teen-Aged Boys Held For Thefts

A hearing was set for Tuesday afternoon for two teen-aged boys who have confessed to a series of robberies in the eastern section of Boone last week, said Sheriff Hodges.

Entered during a three-day spree of larceny and vandalism were: The Appalachian High School basement, where a number of football shoes, T-shirts, other supplies, and money were missing.

The Sky-Vu drive-in theatre, where a small amount of money was taken.

Two parked cars on Howard Street, which yielded three guns and a quantity of canned goods.

Goodnight Brothers Produce Company where they took change from the cash drawer.

Brown & Graham Motor Company, which contributed \$33.00 in cash and the keys to the Coca Cola machine.

Most of the loot has been recovered, said Sheriff Hodges, who withheld the names of the boys, who are minors, pending disposition of the case.

Boone, Blowing Rock To Get Powell Bill Funds

Raleigh.—The State Highway Commission will distribute \$5,711,817.71 in cash aid to 368 incorporated, active, eligible and qualified municipalities for improvements on non-highway system streets, Highway Chairman A. H. Graham announced this week.

Both Boone and Blowing Rock in Watauga County are due to get a share of this money. Boone will get \$12,337.04, according to figures released by Graham, and Blowing Rock will get \$10,617.63.

He said this was the largest amount ever distributed since the Powell Bill Act was passed in 1951, when a total of \$4,543,096.20 was divided among 386 towns. In 1952, a total of \$4,946,842.20 was shared by 388 towns. In 1953, a total of \$5,244,203.40 was divided among 394 towns. Last year, \$5,391,717.41 was shared by 396 municipalities. This year's allocation brings the total five-year allocation of Powell Bill funds to \$25,839,677.02.

Graham pointed to the increased gasoline revenue which upped the Powell Bill figure this year. The fund comes from a 1/2 cent per gallon of the total or gross 6c gasoline tax (less refunds) during fiscal 1954-55 when the gross State gasoline tax totalled \$68,594,600.40.

Checks will be mailed to the participating towns in mid-September. Half of the total allocation is divided among all qualified municipalities on the basis of population. The per capita rate is \$1.88 this year.

The other half of the total allocation is divided among all the qualified municipalities on the basis of relative mileage of non-state system or local streets which comply with the act. The mileage rate this year is \$472.65 per mile.

As of July 1, 1955, the 398 participating towns had 6,041.94 miles of non-highway system streets. Their total population, according to the 1950 census was 1,522,223.

Allocations were figured to the penny by the Highway Commission's Division of Statistics and Planning, headed by James S. Burch.

Graham said, "Allocations may be made only to legally incorporat-

ed cities and towns which are active and eligible and whose officials have qualified the municipality by submitting certified statements and maps prior to the limiting date, the third Monday in July.

"Many legally incorporated towns are non-active and do not perform those municipal functions necessary to qualify under the law. A few active incorporated towns were not eligible due to some technicality. There are also many populous communities which have never chosen to incorporate and function as municipalities."

Payments will range this year from \$350 for Falkland in Pitt county to \$416,618 for Charlotte. Boone's allocation was based on the following statistics: 1950 census count of 2,973—\$6,579.11; mileage increment based on 14.30 certified non-system miles—\$6,758.93; total—\$12,337.04. Blowing Rock's allocation was 1950 census, 661—\$1,240.20; certified non-system miles, 19.84—\$9,377.43; total—\$10,617.63.

High School Homecoming September 30

Friday, September 30 has been decided upon for the annual Appalachian High School Homecoming.

Festivities will begin with a parade at 3:30 with floats by many of the classes.

At 6:30 a bonfire pep rally will be held and the Homecoming game with Elkin will follow. Saturday night a semi-formal dance will be held in the high school gym. This dance is held in honor of graduates of A. H. S.

All former Appalachian students are urged to attend the game and the dance held in their honor.

Fuerth, Germany.—A German company has announced development of a television camera only .2 inches long and 2.6 inches wide, described as "the world's smallest TV camera." It is expected to be particularly useful in factory production control, and in exploration of ocean depths.

Horn Finances Receive Boost For Continuance

"This meeting will decide whether we will continue our forward movement or go backward." These were the words which prefaced a plea Monday night at Boone Trail Restaurant for community support of "Horn in the West" by Watt H. Gragg, local Savings and Loan Association secretary.

Mr. Gragg, who explained to approximately 75 persons he had no official capacity in the production of the drama, said that unless a minimum of \$18,000 was subscribed to through notes immediately by local citizens and those interested in the "Horn" the board of directors of Southern Appalachian Historical Association will be confronted with the possibility of discontinuing the production which has played to 170,000 people since it started.

He explained that the area could ill-afford to lose the benefits derived from the show. According to figures cited by him, more than \$2,500,000 has been realized in the economy of this area since the show first started; Watauga county has had a half-million dollars of advertising it would not have had except for the "Horn"; eight or nine motels have been built in the area in the past four years; more filling stations are in evidence; and all are doing better business than ever before.

Mr. Gragg told the gathering that in past year the directors had signed notes before the production was made each year equalling \$90,000 so the play could be staged. This year it was felt that the people who stood to benefit most by the play continuing, should back it. The money asked for at the meeting, if raised, will be used for advertising the drama and other financial needs which arise in connection with promotion work of the play.

According to Mr. Gragg the year for the drama was ended with no money, but all debts were paid. A budget of \$82,000 had been set up at the beginning of the year, and total receipts from all sources (including gate and program advertising) amounted to around \$80,000.

Veteran Aide In Boone Sept. 16

There will be a representative from the North Carolina Veterans Commission on Friday, Sept. 16th, to assist veterans in any of their insurance problems, also any other assistance in any of the veterans' entitlements.

Veterans wishing to see Mr. Winchester should be at the office of Lionel Ward, Veterans Service Officer, between the hours of 8:00 a. m. and 12:00 noon.

Alexander Slates Tour Of Watauga

Hugh Alexander, Member of Congress from the 9th district, announced this week he plans to be in Watauga county during the days of September 19 and 20.

In his announcement of a tentative itinerary through Watauga, he says, "It is my sincere desire to be of every service possible to the people of the Ninth Congressional District and in an effort to make it easy for any of the people in Watauga county to contact me about any matter in which they may be interested, I have worked out this schedule."

The schedule: Monday, Sept. 19.—Lentz Service Station, Blowing Rock, 8 a. m. to 8:30; Harbin's Store, Shulls Mills, 9:30; Church's Store, Foscoe, 9:30-9:45; V. C. Co. Store, Valle Crucis, 10:15-10:30; Harmon's Store, Matney, 10:45-11; Mast's Store, Valle Crucis, 11:15-11:30; Villas Service Station, Villas, 11:45-12 o'clock; Brown's Restaurant (lunch), 12:15 p. m.; Sherwood & Glenn Store, Cove Creek, 1:15-1:30; V. D. Ward Store, Watauga River Road, 1:45-2; Pegg Store, Beaver Dam, 2:45-3; Hagaman's Store, Beaver Dam, 3:15-3:30; Dean Reedy Store, Reece, 4-4:15; Tom Moody Store, Cove Creek, 4:45-5:00; J. E. Mast Store, Mabel, 5:45-6; Wilson's Store, Silverstone, 6:30-6:45; Boone, 7:30.

Tuesday—Charlie Triplett Store, Perkinsville, 8 a. m. to 8:15; West Camp Service Station, West Jefferson Road, 9:30-9:45; Winebarger Store, West Camp, 9-9:15; Cook's Store, Todd, 10-10:15; A. G. Miller

Dollar Days Sales Event Offers Weekend Bargains

Walter Johnson Speaks To C. Of C. On Bond Program

The Boone Chamber of Commerce was told Tuesday that Watauga County is "dragging its feet" in purchases of United States Savings Bonds.

Walter Johnson of Sparta and Raleigh, chairman of the North Carolina Savings Bonds Division, addressing the regular monthly meeting of the civic body, said the savings bonds program has been assigned definite objectives by a national non-partisan committee, which can be outlined as follows:

1. Re-creating habit of practicing thrift by individuals.
2. Helping to manage the national debt, 26 per cent of which is in savings bonds. The goal is 40 per cent, he said.
3. Helping to ward off the encroachment of Communism, by making "havens" out of "havenots."
4. Building up a reservoir of savings that will insure continued prosperity. The program, said the speaker, is simply "selling shares in America." "We are doing the same job as during the war," he declared, "without flag waving."

He urged that every person "accept your share of the responsibility, and join in the effort to make America strong. Collapse comes from within, not without, and defense begins with a sound economy."

Johnson was the Republican Candidate for Congress from this district in 1952.

Other guests were W. Guy Angell, newly-appointed superintendent of Watauga County Schools, and Ross Patton of Coronet magazine, who is in the county getting data and taking pictures for an educational feature to be published by the nationally circulated magazine.

President Stanley A. Harris appointed a nominating committee to name candidates for the various offices in the chamber for the coming year, to be presented at the October meeting. The committee is composed of W. W. Chester, chairman; Glenn R. Andrews, Paul A. Coffey, and Fred Church.

Eight European nations have protested to Washington over the recent increase in bicycle import duties.



Tommy Owsley receives congratulations from Father Francis Murphy after receiving the Catholic Religious Award for Scouts following Mass at the Church of the Epiphany, Blowing Rock, recently.—Staff photo.

Enrollment Records Fall As ASTC Opens

By EARLEEN G. PITCHRETT

Appalachian State Teachers College opened her doors again this week to the largest student body that had ever entered. Registration will continue through Friday, September 16, and students must be in class on Saturday, the 17th, to receive credit for the fall quarter's work.

Freshmen came in on the 9th, for a week of orientation, testing, and campus fellowship. 540 of them have registered, over a hundred more than were registered for the whole of last year.

In addition, the largest number of transfer students ever to attend have come to Appalachian from other colleges. Most of the junior colleges in North Carolina, and a few from surrounding states, are represented by its graduates who have come to Appalachian for completion of their work.

The total enrollment now stands at 1601. In addition to students who have not been able to register until this week, there will be added to this total at least a hundred students who will register Saturday for on-campus graduate work during the fall quarter. The total enrollment for the fall quarter is expected to go well over 1700, breaking all previous records.

Facilities on the campus are taxed to the limit. Classrooms not intended for large classes have been pressed into service by the addition of chairs to take care of the overflow. The faculty, who have met the increased enrollment with a very fine cooperative and helpful attitude, are carrying maximum classroom loads.

Although larger numbers have enrolled than ever before, the college administration feels that it was one of the smoothest registrations ever held at the college. Dr. J. D. Rankin, recently resigned as interim president of the institution, who helped the present administration with registration, stated that he felt it was one of the best registrations ever held, and that class and pupil loads were more evenly distributed than they had been in sometime.

Dr. William H. Plemmons, and Dr. D. J. Whitener, who recently took over the reins of the institution as president and dean, respectively, were on hand for registration, available for conferences, to help straighten emergency problems, and to smooth the way for any who ran into difficulty.

In addition to the new members added to the faculty for the year as previously announced, there are several additions. They include Dr. W. F. Hoffmann of Statesville, to the history department; W. W. Powell, recently of Duke University, to the department of English; Mrs. Rena Hooy-er to the department of history; Mrs. Sybil L. Winkler and Mrs.

Bureaucratic methods and peasant stubbornness have brought Soviet agriculture to a crisis, a survey indicated.

Savings Prevail In All Lines, Price Ranges

It's trite but true that "all roads lead to Boone" Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week, as Boone stores stage their first Dollar Days sales event in several years.

It is understood from the Merchants Association, sponsor of the promotion, that other stores throughout the county are also participating, making it a county-wide, three-day savings jamboree.

Merchants have been preparing for several weeks for the event, making special purchases and marking down many items in their regular stocks, so that shoppers are assured of bargains galore this week end wherever the red and yellow "Dollar Days" signs are displayed.

In a letter sent out to all members of the Boone and Watauga County Merchants Association, it was urged that all participating stores offer real dollar-saving specials, "not just regular merchandise that is currently priced one dollar," and a check of the advertising shows that this request is being complied with.

The bargains, however, are not being confined to dollar items, but include real savings in all price ranges.

Stanley A. Harris, manager of the association, has summed it up thus: "Your dollar hasn't had it so good in years!"

The Merchants Association committee which planned the event is headed by John B. Robinson, chairman; O. K. Richardson, Mrs. Jack Gragg, J. V. Caudill, and W. W. Chester.

Blowing Rock C Of C Meets Sat.

The annual fall meeting of the members of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce will be held at the high school auditorium Saturday, September 17, at 7:30 o'clock. All members, their wives and friends are urged to attend this meeting.

Preceding the meeting, the annual dinner will be served in the gymnasium at 6 to 7:30 at \$1 per plate.

The PTA will also serve dinner to the general public at the same time but tables will be reserved for the Chamber of Commerce.

Invitations are being sent to the mayors and civic leaders of some twenty nearby towns and communities to be the guests of the local Chamber for both the dinner and the meeting to follow.

Carolyn Baker to the department of physical education.

Graduate assistants added to the teaching staff include Robert Ellis in the department of music; Harry Welch and John Pyecha in the department of physical education; Alden Halsey and Clive Hallman to the department of history; and Julian Carr to the department of English.



MINISTER SUCCUMBS—Rev. N. M. Greene, well-known Watauga County Baptist minister, who died recently.

Murder Suspects Are Being Returned To N.C.

Leonard La Fond, 20, of Milwaukee, agreed Friday to waive a hearing on his return to North Carolina to face federal charges of interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle.

Both La Fond and Joe Ann Severson, 18, of Milwaukee, have been questioned about the death of a Chicago chemist, whose blanket-wrapped body was found Sept. 1 in Mammoth Cave Park in Kentucky. The FBI at Charlotte, said information it had obtained indicated that the chemist, Lewis A. Finn, 72, died in Watauga County, near Blowing Rock, North Carolina. The manner of death was not described.

Sheriff Ernest Hodges said Tuesday that he has received no notification of the return of the couple to North Carolina, and that no warrants in the death of the Chicago chemist have been issued. He added that District Solicitor James Farthing, of Lenoir, will issue a statement as soon as there are any further developments.

Miss Severson last Tuesday waived a hearing on her return to North Carolina. Miss Severson, held in San Antonio, Tex., was found to have helped trade off Finn's car while La Fond was carrying identification belonging

to the dead man. Both gave statements which led to the finding of Finn's body.

Finn had been missing since he left West Palm Beach, Fla., July 20 to visit a brother in Yuma, Ariz. In a statement, the FBI said that the body was found "in the vicinity of the area named by La Fond and Miss Severson as the place where they disposed" of Finn's body.

When arrested at Truth or Consequences, N. M., on Aug. 20, La Fond was driving a 1948 Pontiac, which had been traded for Finn's 1954 Chevrolet at El Paso, Tex., Aug. 8.

James B. Powell, director of the North Carolina Bureau of Investigation, reported he received a bulletin from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation quoting La Fond as saying he found a car belonging to Finn in Atlanta on July 23 or 24. La Fond was quoted in the Georgia circular as saying Miss Severson was with him when the car was found and that they separated in Las Cruces after a fight.

Ham Supper At Blowing Rock

There will be a ham supper at Blowing Rock High School in the lunch room, Saturday, September 17, from 6 to 8 o'clock. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of the PTA.