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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

Date	High	Low	6 P.M.	Rain
Nov. 8	45	27	36	
Nov. 9	50	20	35	
Nov. 10	37	25	33	.90
Nov. 11	42	29	35	
Nov. 12	53	39	38	
Nov. 13	61	42	57	.05
Nov. 14	60	50	55	.35

* 3-4 inch snow also.

VOLUME LXXVIII—NO. 20.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1955

14 PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

Examiner Has Busy Schedule



W. R. STANSBERRY, State auto license examiner, looks up from his work as Mrs. Martha H. Bolling applies for renewal of driving permit—Staff photo by Joe Minor.

W. Ralph Stansberry, veteran automobile license examiner for the Department of Motor Vehicles, is a busy man, by the very nature of things, for everybody's going to have to see him sooner or later. That is, if they expect to whiz up and down the highways behind the wheels of any sort of motorized conveyances.

Mr. Stansberry, whose service with the license bureau goes all the way back to the start of the present licensing program on July 1, 1947, serves Watauga and Ashe counties, and has charge of the examinations for licensing and renewals for some 20,000 people. He methodically goes about his work, patiently propounding the questions and considering the answers, and remains unperturbed regardless of the number of impatient folks wanting to get the thing over with.

But there are some things that haven't suited the genial license examiner so well, such as the time when a road test was being given and the car was overturned and he and the embryo driver were chicken-cooped underneath. Or another time when a confused lady backed the car through a fence. And over at Sparta once, the accelerator was patted at the wrong time by a fidgety learner.

and the car in which he and Mr. Stansberry were riding, hopped the curb, chased a man down and broke his leg. This man was never able to secure a license.

Girls A Bit Quicker

When questioned as to the adeptness of men and women at the wheel on these driving tests, Mr. Stansberry says he's found that the girls average a bit higher in capability, while in the routine office question and answer department, little difference is noted.

Motorists have now gotten into the swing of getting their licenses renewed and fewer each year are waiting until their cards expire to have them renewed, the official says. Something like 25 per cent of the beginners fail to secure licenses the first time around, due to their inadequate knowledge of the rules of the road. However, most of those applying for renewals get by with the examiner's o. k. handsily, not more than five to eight per cent failing to make the grade.

The office portion of the drivers' tests consists of checking the correct answers to a large number of given questions having to do with highway laws, and with proper procedure under actual driving conditions. Eye tests are given, as well as tests involving the designation of all highway signs by

their shape. Likes Training Program

Mr. Stansberry is high in his praise of the driver training programs which are being conducted through the high schools for boys and girls 14 and over. Text books have been prepared for these courses, and their use contributes greatly to the capabilities of the future motorists.

Here Three Days A Week

Mr. Stansberry occupies his office in the courthouse (the grand jury room) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week. He's in his home town of Jefferson each Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Stansberry has words of praise for the fine cooperation he gets from the public in his work, but would appreciate those applying for licenses and renewals, making appointments, so as to prevent congestion. These appointments may be made in person or by mail as much as three weeks ahead, and can easily prevent the formation of long waiting lines.

The safety element of motoring is, being stressed more and more, and an important phase of the battle against the stupendous death toll on the highways is to see that only the competent ones are allowed to take to the road. Ralph Stansberry aims to see that, so far as is humanly possible.

Captain Gragg Commander Of Air Force Group

Captain Horton E. Gragg has been named as new Commander of 300th Maintenance Squadron replacing Captain Rudolph Torres who has been assigned to Headquarters Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Captain Gragg began his military career back in 1942 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps at Shaw Field, South Carolina. He was immediately sent to Goodlin, Kansas for primary flight training and then to Lemisa, Texas for Basic Training. From here he was sent to Delhart, Texas for advanced training.

He graduated from advanced training in March 1943 as a flight officer and was assigned to Bowman Field, Kentucky as an instructor in flight training.

In January 1944 he was assigned to Lourengburg Army Air Base in Maxton, North Carolina where he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in January 1944 and then to 1st Lieutenant in April of 45.

Captain Gragg was assigned to Okinawa in January of 46. He returned to the states in April 1948 and was assigned to Pope AFB, North Carolina where he served Aircraft officer for the 310th Reconnaissance Wing. It was here that he was promoted to his present rank in Dec. 1950.

Captain Gragg spent a three year tour in England prior to coming here in May 1955.

The Captain and his wife Eileen and two sons Horton Jr. 6 years old and Nickie 3 reside at 1612 McNutt Drive, Plantation Acres in Alexandria at the present time.

Captain Gragg is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gragg of Boone.

Motor Truck To Be Given Away

Some lucky farmer who sells his tobacco on the Boone burley market this season will be given a 1956 GMC truck by R. C. Coleman and his associates, who operate the local market.

A numbered ticket will be given absolutely free for every basket of tobacco sold on Boone warehouse floors, each entitling the holder to a free chance on the new truck.

A drawing will be held at the close of the season, and the holder of the lucky ticket will be awarded the truck, it has been announced.

"This is merely one way in which we wish to show our appreciation to the tobacco growers of this section who have made the Boone market a success," said Mr. Coleman, "and we wish every one of them could be the winner."

Zone Meeting Lions Is Held

The regular quarterly zone meeting of Zone 1, District 31B, of Lions International was held at Graybeal's Coffee Shop, Tuesday evening, November 8. Zone 1 is comprised of Lions Clubs from Sparta, North Wilkesboro, Boone, and West Jefferson.

The invocation was given by Lion A. R. Smith, and after the dinner, Zone Chairman Jim Baldwin presided at the business meeting. Reports were given by all clubs regarding their activities. Notable in the reports was the fact that all clubs have been averaging approximately 95% attendance at their regular meetings. Other reports indicate the clubs in the district are extremely active.

The following Lions Club officers and members were in attendance at the meeting: Shoun Kerbough and R. G. Taylor, North Wilkesboro; A. R. Smith, John H. Workman, and Lee Reynolds, Boone; Earl Calhoun, R. C. Mitchell, Homer Edwards and Basil Landreth, Sparta; Jim Baldwin, Ed. Roland, Tom Cockerham, and Clark Houck, West Jefferson.

The group made plans to meet again in West Jefferson on the second Tuesday in March 1956.

MAIL EARLY

The Post Office Department has begun its annual "Shop early-Mail early" plea for the coming Christmas season. Postal officials expect the largest Christmas mail load in history this year and announced that the nation's railroads are joining the department in its drive for early mailings to promote speedier deliveries.

Weed Caravan Completes Area Promotional Tour

Changes Made In Postal Hours

Beginning Monday, November 21, the service windows at the Boone postoffice will be closed at 5:30, rather than at 6 o'clock as formerly, it is stated by Acting Postmaster Lyle Cook.

Mr. Cook states that he has surveyed the traffic at the windows and finds that very few patrons appear after 5:30. Besides, he says, savings can be effected by the earlier closing. The postoffice opens at 8 a. m. The windows will remain closed Saturday afternoons, as usual.

Empty Stocking Fund Age Limit Being Changed

The age limit of underprivileged children eligible to share in the Empty Stocking project will be changed this year to include two-year olds through ten years or through the fifth grade.

Members of the Worthwhile Woman's Club will be soliciting contributions to finance this annual Christmas project beginning November 15. Citizens of Boone and Watauga County are requested to give thanks and give generously during this Thanksgiving season, and support this worthy project.

Mrs. Mable Brown, treasurer, will accept contributions at the Watauga Savings and Loan Association office.

Mrs. Henson Is Taken By Death

Mrs. Hattie Harbin Henson, of Sherwood, died at Watauga Hospital Saturday.

Funeral services were held Monday at 2:30 at Henson's Chapel Methodist Church by Rev. N. C. Bush. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are seven sons and three daughters: Russell Henson, Sherwood; Clyde, Ford Henson, Vilas; Vance Henson, Wilmington; Ralph, Harold and Allen Henson, Boone; Mrs. Duke Holler, Sherwood; Mrs. Carl Storie, Blowing Rock; Mrs. Myrtle Penley, Hickory.

Tar Heel peanut farmers can plant only 168,813 acres of peanuts next year if they use the full state allotment.

Veteran Postal Clerk Steps Down Tuesday

B. H. Watson, veteran Boone post clerk, retired Tuesday, ending more than 32 years of service here.

Mr. Watson began his career with the postal service in 1916, and carried the mail on a star route from Boone to Stony Fork for four years. He was assistant postmaster from 1923 until 1926, and has been regular clerk since that time.

Since Mr. Watson's appointment in 1923 the Boone postoffice has grown from a third class office with receipts of less than seven thousand dollars and two employees, to a first class office with annual receipts of about fifty-five thousand dollars and fourteen employees.

Mr. Watson's devotion to duty and his uniformly courteous service have been complimented by Acting Postmaster Cook, and patrons of the postoffice.

During his more than 32 years of service he has missed work only seven days because of illness.

Mr. Watson will continue his residence in Boone, and will engage in part-time farming operations during his retirement.



B. H. WATSON

Market To Have Full Set Buyers; Receipts Brisk

A caravan of some 25 automobiles and a sound truck made a tour of four counties Monday and Tuesday to advertise and promote the Boone Burley Tobacco Market. Huge signs were carried on each car in the caravan urging farmers to "sell your tobacco in Boone, your best burley market."

Monday's itinerary included the Valle Crucis, Beech Creek, Beaver Dam, Reese, Silverstone and other sections of Watauga County, and a part of Avery county.

Stops were made along the way and printed circulars were distributed advising farmers that a 1956 GMC truck will be given to the lucky ticket holder at the close of the 1955-56 sales season in Boone. A free ticket will be given with each basket of tobacco sold at Boone warehouses.

The entourage returned to Boone Monday afternoon, and started out again Tuesday morning on a similar trip through Ashe and Alleghany counties with principal stops slated for West Jefferson and Sparta.

Ceremonies were planned at Sparta, where Mayor T. Roy Burgess was scheduled to head a welcoming committee to greet the caravan.

The "Tobacco Caravan" was arranged by the Boone Merchants Association, with J. V. Caudill as chairman of the committee.

Sales on the Boone market will operate on a 3 1/2 hour schedule through December 21, and will be resumed January 3 after the Christmas holidays.

Tobacco is coming in at a good clip, and receipts are expected to be brisk up to and including opening day, said R. C. Coleman, operator of the local burley market.

A complete set of buyers representing all cigarette and export companies will be on the Boone market this season, Mr. Coleman said, and added:

"Keep your tobacco dry, grade it carefully, and bring it to Boone. You will receive as high or higher prices at your local market as anywhere in the belt, so why drive farther and add to your expense?"

The Merchants Association, which is going "all out" in promoting the market and Christmas shopping in Boone, urges that all business people contribute liberally as possible when solicited for donations to the fund for Christmas lights and decorations, advertising, and other needs.

Auto production is moving into high gear.

Kephart New Horn In West Executive; Whitener Quits

Craig Named Officer Of Year

Fred W. Craig, veteran member of the Lenoir police department, has been honored as policeman of the year at the police award banquet held at the American Legion Home there.

Craig, 50 year-old Lenoir native, became the fifth policeman to get the Legion award. He was praised by Commander Lee, who made the presentation, for his "service, neatness and efficiency" and particularly for his faithfulness in escorting children across the street at East Harper School. In addition to the certificate, Patrolman Craig received a \$100 U. S. Savings bond.

Officer Craig, who has been a member of the Lenoir police force for 15 years is a son of Mrs. R. E. Craig and the late Mr. Craig of Lenoir. His wife is the former Miss Hilda Cook of Boone. He is a member of the First Baptist Church and the Loyal Order of the Moose.

Rites For Mrs. Parker In Iredell

Mrs. Julia Ann Parker, 79, died Saturday at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Huie Templeton, of Blowing Rock Road, where she had resided most of the time since 1946.

Funeral services were conducted at the Union Grove Methodist Church in Iredell county Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The Rev. D. T. Huss, Rev. Melvin Brown and Rev. Bill Holman took part in the rites. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Dr. A. P. Kephart of Blowing Rock was named executive vice-president of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association at a meeting held in Boone last Thursday.

Dr. Kephart succeeds Dr. D. J. Whitener, who resigned the position with the organization which produces "Horn in the West," due to the increase in his duties at Appalachian State Teachers College, since his election as dean of the institution recently.

Russell D. Hodges, second vice-president, also resigned, and is succeeded by Mrs. B. W. Stallings, who will officiate in the absence of Dr. Kephart.

Mr. Hodges gave impaired health as a reason for desiring to relinquish his duties at the Horn in the West, which had taken a large part of his time and attention since it was conceived.

Mrs. James B. Winkler was named recording secretary, succeeding Mrs. Earleen G. Pritchett, resigned.

Football Players, En Route Home, Are Hurt

Appalachian's Mountaineers suffered a set back Saturday night when three players were injured in a two-car collision near Cheochee, South Carolina. The Appalachian players and their wives were returning to Boone after the Presbyterian game when the accident occurred.

The Appalachian students in the accident were first string quarterback Jimmy Moore, and his wife, Carolyn; the App's first center, Buck Hall, and his wife; and half-back Aubrey Elam, and his wife, Jackie.

ed. Mrs. Pritchett's work at the college, she said, precluded her continuing in the Historical Association post.

Directors Named

Ten additional members, recently added to the board of directors, are: Estel Wagner, W. H. Gragg, Paul Coffey, R. B. Hardin, J. V. Caudill, L. T. Tatum, Chappel Wilson, Cratis Williams, Wayne Richardson and R. W. Colvard.

Dr. and Mrs. Kephart owned and operated Camp Yonahlossee, a summer camp near Blowing Rock from 1922 to 1953. Dr. Kephart had been professor of education at Woman's College in Greensboro for twenty years and has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa and South America.

To Replace Jurgenson

Dr. Kephart said a new director of "Horn in the West" to succeed Kai Jurgenson of Chapel Hill, will soon be selected. Mr. Jurgenson, who has directed the Horn since it opened, has recently resigned.

All were carried to Spartanburg General Hospital for treatment. Released after treatment were Mr. and Mrs. Elam and Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Jimmy Moore was released Wednesday and his wife is still a patient there.

Buck Hall received several broken ribs, Mrs. Hall had a laceration on the right leg, Aubrey Elam had a laceration on the head. Mrs. Elam had a minor laceration on the nose. Jimmy Moore had a bruised kidney and chest injury while his wife suffered a broken jaw.

Twenty-Five Appalachian Students In Who's Who



The following students have been selected to represent Appalachian in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. They are Ted Barnett, Harold Bennett, Bill Benson, Jack Branch, Betty Jane Brown, Jeanna Coffey, Jim Craig, Susie Dobbins,

Lib Eargle, Emmett Elledge, Chris Elliott, Herb Good, Ray Greene, Teeman Heathcock, Charles Hancock, Juanita Howell, Jane Harrison, Richard Lapish, Russell McDonald, Valorie Mosher, Jim Ollie, Jeanette Reid, Julia Ross, Bill Sofley, and Camilla Weiborn.—Story page 6.