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Retired Postal Worker Tells Of His Long Career

"The secret of getting along is to do your job the best you can and hold your temper," said B. H. Watson, who's just entered upon retirement after serving more than 32 years behind the registry and money order window at the local postoffice.

And to prove that Mr. Watson has done his job well is the fact that he's continued in office year after year through both Democratic and Republican administrations, even though postoffices have always been considered political plums to be picked by the party in power. Mr. Watson, a Republi-can, served actually more time un-der administrations of the Democratic party.

Taking over a clerkship in the Boone postoffice just a few days after President Harding died, Mr. Watson served under Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, Tru-man and Eisenhower. There have been five postmasters during his tenure: W. D. Farthing, A. W. Smith, W. G. Hartzog, Edgar Brown and Llye B. Cook. **Once Was Mail Carrier**

Actually Mr. Watson served the postal establishment for a bit more than 36 years, if one is to count the time he spent carrying the mail on horseback between Boone and Stony Fork. But that was done under private contract, and does not count against postal retire-

"Sick Of It At First" Recounting the time back in 1923 when he was named regular Miss Elsie Farthing began helping clerk at the postoffice (the first appointment), Mr. Watson says he was "sick of the job" for' the first few months. Miss Vir- in as the second regular clerk. ginia Councill had been helping building where the Savings and

Loan Association now operates, and the office had just been moved up the street from the Critcher Hotel, where John E. Brown had held forth as postmaster. Being the only regular Clerk Mr. Watson ity to do and recalls that

Mountain

Joe Coleman



B. H. Watson receives gift of watch from D. W. Norris on behalf of fellow postal workers upon his retirement .-- Photo by "Rabbit" Moretz.

the last harse-drawn mail vehicle community, he says. Of course arrived. The mail on the train to sometimes an irate patron, in the Johnson City, the Zionville and years past, would want to blame Stony Fork mails all had to be dis-him with the failure of a letter to patched before 6 a. m. in those arrive or something else beyond days, it is related, and often the his control, but the relations have averaged good. mail from Blowing Rock did not

A good many humorous inciarrive until 9 or 10 p. m. Mr. Watson had a one-half hour dents are recalled by the retired unch period, and seldom more postal worker, as the time when than that at supper. There were no adding machines or other mod-ern office equipment, and every the dozen children in a family called one after another, day by day, for mail which didn't come. One day, one kid came in within letter had to be hand cancelled. The load was eased soon however, five minutes of another, and no when the Postmaster's daughter. mail had since arrived. Mr. Watson explained that he had already

looked in the general delivery some after school hours. Then in 1926 the office attained third class case, and there was nothing. "Look rating and J. Wilson Norris came again", demanded the urchin, 'That's what you're paid for!" Looking back to the days of the Since he held the seniority Postmaster W. D. Farthing, in the rights, Mr. Watson was able to long hours, the kerosene lamps, choose his own work, and for and the horse-drawn vehicles, Mr. many years took care of the money Watson expresses pride in the

growth of the office, and the imorder department, the registry and proved conditions under which box rent accounts postal workers operate. A 40 hour

Has Been Pleasant On the whole Mr. Watson has found his work pleasant, and gen- the 72 or more he used to work, his work lasted from before day- erally speaking, the most enjoy- and the new postoffice building his work lasted from before day-break until way into the night, de-pending on the weather, and when contacts with the people of the for efficient handling of the post-and the new postoffice building over a three-foot wall. When feated East Tennessee 28-13. The Mountaineers will be out the services of two reg

Honored By Fellow Workers Mr. Watson, who's taking things casy while he get's his bearings in this strange world of retirement, is expecially proud of a citation he's received from Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, on the occasion of his retirement But more than that, he's grateful for the little party at the postoffice as he was ready to che

al busine

for the last time, when his fellow employees gathered, and presenthim an expensive watch, as a token of their high regard. Tenn. "I didn't know what to say", Mr. Watson said, "I was that touched by their kindness and friendship."

School Board At State Meeting

The first annual delegate as-sembly of the North Carolina School Boards Association was held in Chapel Hill Wednesday. Approximately 500 Superintend-ents and County School Board members representing counties throughout the state were in attendance Dr. Charles Davant Jr., chairman

of the Watauga County Board of Education, and W. Guy Angell, Superintendent of Schools, repre sented Watauga County at the delegate Assembly.

Gov. Luther H. Hodges was the main speaker at the morning session and told local school board members they would have to assume greater responsibilities in running the schools. Hodges said "in view of the situation which our local self-determination in school matters should and will continue. Other speakers appearing on the day long session included, Dr. Charles E. Jordan, President of the Association, Dr. Charles E. Carroll, State Superintendent; Dr. Henry Troy Jr., Director National Citizens Commission for the Pub lic Schools, and Mr. Thomas J. Pearsall, Chairman Advisory Commission on Education.

SOUND SLEEPER

Vancouver, Canada-James T. week is in effect now, as against Maltese, 23, fell asleep in his car, er, Pa., 1950 the Wasps of Emory which ran off the road, plunged and Henry won 26-6. The win came

Apps End Grid Year In Burley Bowl Classic

By RUSSELL MCDONALD when they take the field this after-Appalachian State Teachers Col- noon. ege's Mountaineers will close their 1955 football season today (Thursday) as they meet the Buccaneers of East Tennessee State returning from the Presbyterian game in Clinton, S. C. College in the Eleventh Annual Burley Bowl in Johnson City,

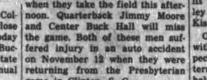
Game time is set for 2:30. The Mountaineers, who are the defending champions of the Bur-

ley Bowl, will go into the afternoon affair with a record of 6-4. The Appalachian team holds victories over Newport News Apprentice (46-0), Elon (19-0), Catawba (21-19); Emory and Henry (26-0), Guilford (27-6), and Presbyterian College (35-6). The four defeats were dished to the Mountaineers by Tampa (38-0), East

Carolina (13-0), Lenoir Rhyne (26-13), and Western Carolina (7-6). The Buccaneers are sporting a 5-3-1 record for the '55 season. The wins were over Austin Peay (6-0), Maryville (28-18), Carson-Newman (22-6), East Carolina (35-20), and Tennessee Tech (14-6). The defeats were from Middle Tennessee (20-7), Flornce State (13-12), and Western Kentucky (20-7). The lone tie was with Western Carolina College by the score of 7-7. An Appalachian team first played the East Tennessee team in 1928 with the Apps winning 9 to schools face-the trend toward 6. Since the first meeting there have been seven games played in this series. The Mountaineers hold the edge with five victories. East

Tennessee has won one time and there has been one tie, that coming in 1952 with the score 27-27. Today's game, the eighth be ween the two teams, will mark the fourth appearance of an Appalachian team in the Burley Bowl. The Mountaineers have played in this annual affair in 1948, 1950, and 1954. The North Carolina team has only one victory in its three trips, In 1948 the Mountaineers were defeated 7-2 by West Chest-

down a 70-foot embankment and last year as the Mountaineers de-The Mountaineers will be withlout the services of two regular



Ted Fryeman will start at tackles. The guards will be Hillard Clark and R. E. Cummings. Joe Eller will start at center for the Moun-taineers. In the backfield it will be Char-

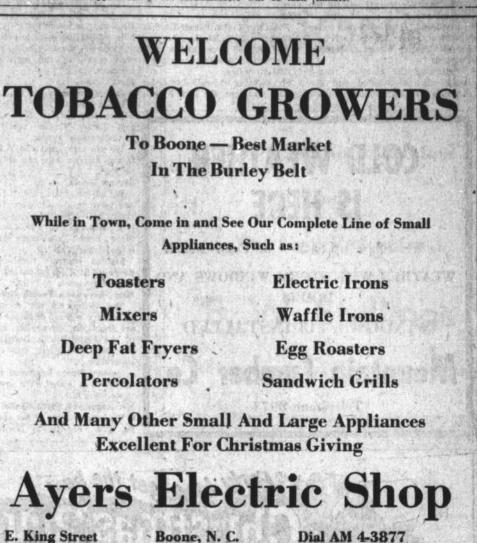
In the backfield it will be Char-les Taylor at guarterback, Jim Ol-lis at left halfback and Bill Stanley at right halfback with Jim Kiser at fullback.

The line-up for the Mountain-eers will be Johnny Matthews and Bob Poe at ends. Rick Lippard and Six Mountaineers will be mak-inmate

THEFT IN JAIL

had swiped from another prise

Kiser at fullback. Ollis missed last week's game with an injured back but is ex-pected to be in top shape this af ternoon. The Mountaineers left is the leading scorer in the the leading scorer in the the the constant county tail as the termoners of the memory t half is the leading scorer in the Jail so that one of the pris North State Conference with a could return a pair of shoe



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