

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 Republican, served actually more time under 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, Truman and Eisenhower. There have been five postmasters during his tenure: W. D. Farthing, A. W. Smith, W. G. Hartzog, Edgar Brown and Ljve 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 retirement.

"Sick Of It At First"
Recounting the time back in 1923 when he was named regular clerk at the postoffice (the first such appointment), Mr. Watson says he was "sick of the job" for the first few months. Miss Virginia Council had been helping Postmaster W. D. Farthing, in the 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 had plenty to do and recalls that his work lasted from before daybreak until way into the night, depending on the weather, and when



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 horse-drawn mail vehicle arrived. The mail on the train to Johnson City, the Zionville and Stony Fork mails all had to be dispatched before 6 a. m. in those days, it is related, and often the mail from Blowing Rock did not arrive until 9 or 10 p. m.

Mr. Watson had a one-half hour lunch period, and seldom more than that at supper. There were no adding machines or other modern office equipment, and every letter had to be hand cancelled. The load was eased soon however, when the Postmaster's daughter, Miss Elsie Farthing began helping some after school hours. Then in 1926 the office attained third class rating and J. Wilson Norris came in as the second regular clerk.

Since he held the seniority rights, Mr. Watson was able to choose his own work, and for many years took care of the money order department, the registry and box rent accounts.

Has Been Pleasant
On the whole Mr. Watson has found his work pleasant, and generally speaking, the most enjoyable part of his work has been his contacts with the people of the

community, he says. Of course, sometimes an irate patron, in the years past, would want to blame him with the failure of a letter to arrive or something else beyond his control, but the relations have averaged good.

A good many humorous incidents are recalled by the retired postal worker, as the time when 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 five minutes of another, and no mail had since arrived. Mr. Watson explained that he had already looked in the general delivery case, and there was nothing. "Look again," demanded the urchin, "That's what you're paid for!"

Looking back to the days of the long hours, the kerosene lamps, and the horse-drawn vehicles, Mr. Watson expresses pride in the growth of the office, and the improved conditions under which postal workers operate. A 40 hour week is in effect now, as against the 72 or more he used to work, and the new postoffice building contains all the facilities needed for efficient handling of the post-

al business.
Honored By Fellow Workers
Mr. Watson, who's taking things easy while he get's his bearings in this strange world of retirement, is especially 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 check out for the last time, when his fellow employees gathered, and presented him an expensive watch, as a token of their high regard.
"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 assembly of the North Carolina School Boards Association was held in Chapel Hill Wednesday. Approximately 500 Superintendents 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, represented 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 schools face—the trend toward 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 Public Schools, and Mr. Thomas J. Pearsall, Chairman Advisory Commission on Education.

SOUND SLEEPER

Vancouver, Canada—James T. Maltese, 23, fell asleep in his car, which ran off the road, plunged down a 70-foot embankment and over a three-foot wall. When found, he was still sound asleep and unhurt.

Apps End Grid Year In Burley Bowl Classic

By RUSSELL McDONALD
Appalachian State Teachers College's Mountaineers will close their 1955 football season today (Thursday) as they meet the Buccaneers of East Tennessee State College in the Eleventh Annual Burley Bowl in Johnson City, Tenn.

Game time is set for 2:30. The Mountaineers, who are the defending champions of the Burley 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), Florence 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 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 between 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 Chester, Pa., 1950 the Wasps of Emory and Henry won 26-6. The win came last year as the Mountaineers defeated East Tennessee 28-13.

The Mountaineers will be without the services of two regulars

when they take the field this afternoon. Quarterback Jimmy Moore and Center Buck Hall will miss the game. Both of these men suffered injury in an auto accident on November 12 when they were returning from the Presbyterian game in Clinton, S. C.

The line-up for the Mountaineers will be Johnny Matthews and Bob Poe at ends, Rick Lippard and

Ted Ferguson will start at tackles. The guards will be Hillard Clark and R. E. Cummings. Joe Eller will start at center for the Mountaineers.

In the backfield it will be Charles Taylor at quarterback, Jim Ollis at left halfback and Bill Stanley at right halfback with Jim Kiser at fullback.

Ollis missed last week's game with an injured back but is expected to be in top shape this afternoon. The Mountaineers left half is the leading scorer in the North State Conference with a season's total of 58 points.

Six Mountaineers will be mak-

ing their last appearance as a part of an Appalachian team today. These include Johnny Matthews, Ray Morris, Jim Kiser, Jim Ollis, R. E. Cummings, and Buck Hall, who will be present but not on the playing field.

THEFT IN JAIL

Hopkinsville, Ky.—While taking four youthful prisoners to the Kentucky Village correctional institution at Greendale, police had to return to the Christian County Jail so that one of the prisoners could return a pair of shoes he had swiped from another prison inmate.

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