

Sell Your Tobacco
on the Boone Market

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

Date	High	Low	5 am.
Dec. 20	38	20	24
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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1955

12 PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES 1956 LICENSE PLATES

DEALER MOTORCYCLE	OFFICIAL—STATE	OFFICIAL—HIGHWAY	OFFICIAL JUDICIAL
PRIVATE PASSENGER	NATIONAL GUARD	HOUSING CARRIAGE	
TAXI	MOVING	BUS FOR HIRE	
PRIVATE TRUCK	FARM TRUCK	SPECIAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT	
PASSENGER CAR TRUCK	PRIVATE COMMERCIAL TRUCK	CONTRACT CARRIER	
COMMON CARRIER	DEALER	MANUFACTURER	

NEW NORTH CAROLINA CAR LICENSE.—When license plates go on sale throughout the state January 3, there will be 22 different styles, depending on what type vehicle the plate is to be attached. Only one tag will be issued for each vehicle, and a motorist will be considered delinquent if he displays 1955 licenses after February 15. The color is the same—except reversed from present tags—black on orange.

Christmas Brings Biggest Trade In Boone History; Quiet Event

No Serious Accidents; Few Arrests

Christmas 1955 was observed in generally quiet fashion in Watauga County, following hectic pre-Yule preparations which saw retail sales soar to an all time high in dollar volume, according to a consensus of representative merchants.

Virtually all merchandise categories registered gains in the record Christmas buying, and the opinion has been voiced that sales probably would have been even greater if many Appalachian College students had not begun their holidays earlier than usual.

Weatherwise it was one of the warmest Christmas days ever recorded here, with the unseasonal temperature climbing near the 60 mark at mid-afternoon.

Christmas services were well attended at all Boone churches, as hundreds took time out from the exchanging of gifts and greetings to go and hear once more the story of the first Noel 1955 years ago.

Although traffic fatalities were reported to have broken all records in the nation, Watauga county passed the entire holiday weekend without a single auto death or serious injury, said Sheriff Ernest Hodges. There were several minor collisions, he said, resulting in more damage to the vehicles than to their occupants, and only four arrests were made, involving driving under the influence of intoxicants and driving without license.

Police Chief Glenn Richardson complimented the behavior of the public while within the city limits, and reported that no arrests were made by his force over the weekend. "We are pleased and grateful that we did not encounter anyone who needed arresting," he said.

Benj. Bentley Suffers Fatal Heart Attack

North Wilkesboro. — Benjamin Franklin Bentley, 52, died unexpectedly Sunday night at his home here.

He had been in apparently normal health and his death at 10:30 p. m. was attributed to a heart attack.

He was a member of a well known Watauga County family. He was born April 14, 1904, a son of John W. and Maggie Bentley of Boone.

While a young man Mr. Bentley came to North Wilkesboro where for many years he operated Moore's Market prior to entering business as a partner in the C and B. Paper Company. In more recent years he was sales representative in this area for Salem Paper Company of Winston-Salem.

Since coming to North Wilkesboro Mr. Bentley had been a member of the First Baptist Church, where he was a member of the board of deacons and secretary-treasurer of the Boy Scout committee of Troop 34. In the North Wilkesboro Council of the Junior Order he was a past councilor and had held other offices, including that of secretary at the time of his death. He also was a member of the Masonic Lodge in North Wilkesboro. For many years he was a member of the fire department here.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ruby Brown Bentley and two sons, B. F. Bentley Jr., and John Richard Bentley of the home; his mother; two brothers, Clyde Bentley of Blowing Rock and Russell Bentley of North Wilkesboro, Route 4; a sister, Mrs. Robert Bradshaw of Blowing Rock.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at the First Baptist Church with Dr. W. R. Wagoner, pastor, officiating. Burial was in Mount Lawn Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Bradley Dancy, Isaac Duncan, Bill Miller, Bob Farrington, Rex Handy, Homer Brookshire, Ray Barnes and Ernest Trogdon. Honorary pallbearers were deacons and members of the Berean Class of the First Baptist Church, members of the North Wilkesboro Fire Department, members of the Junior Order and Bpy Scouts of Troop 34.

Select Listers For Tax Duty

Edgar Edgar Brown, tax supervisor of Watauga county, has released a list of those named by the Commissioners as tax listers for the various townships.

The usual detailed schedule of the list takers will be published in the next edition of the Watauga Democrat.

Listers are as follows: Bald Mountain, Mrs. Russell Vannoy; Beaver Dam, Linville B. Norris; Blowing Rock, D. A. Klutz, Jr.; Blue Ridge, M. O. Coffey; Cove Creek, Mrs. Hattie Lewis; Elk, H. C. Hodges; Laurel Creek, Dwight Cable; Mabel, Mrs. Blanche Wilkerson; Meat Camp, Willard Norris; New River, Paul Edmisten; North Fork, R. C. South; Shawnoehaw, Lee Ward, Stony Fork Scott Moretz; Brushy Fork, C. A. Clay; Watauga, Mrs. Robert Fox.

Charles A. Harmon Funeral Saturday

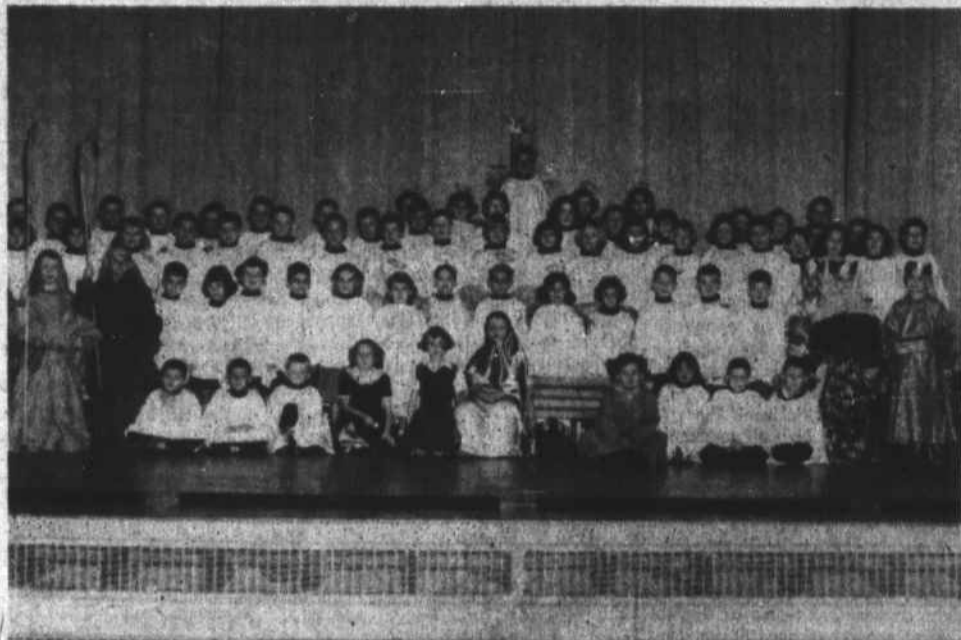
Charles Alexander Harmon, 73, resident of Banner Elk, Route 2, died at Watauga Hospital last Wednesday.

Funeral services were held Saturday at 2 o'clock at the Zion Hill Baptist Church, and burial was in the Harmon cemetery.

Surviving are the widow and three sons, Dayton, Roscoe and Jeff Harmon, of Route 2, Banner Elk. There are four daughters: Mrs. Reese Campbell, Norfolk, Va.; Mrs. Ed Moody, Butler, Tenn.; Mrs. Grover Harmon, Lenoir; Miss Hazel Harmon, Lenoir.

Burley tobacco acreage faces a 15 per cent cut.

Children's Choir Concert Holiday Feature



Second grade Christmas Choir at Boone Elementary School

The Appalachian Elementary School closed for the holiday season Wednesday, December 21, with a chapel program, "Let's Keep Christmas," by the second grade. The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Gene Wilson with Gloria Hampton at the piano, sang a number of traditional carols. Children who sang in the choir were Tom Adams, Susie Barnes, Bonnie Teague, Mike Story, Terry Gragg, David Payne, Joyce Payne, Carolyn Prensell, Beatrice Auton, Betty Watson, Russell Robinson, Jackie Lawrence, Louis Farthing, David Arnette, Larry Cline, Keith McGuire, Bobby Todd, Tommy Kirk,

James Gourley, James Knight, Linda Henderson, Mary Coffey, Judy Fletcher, Robert Fitch, Pasty Cannon, Margery Wood, Sharon Rosenbalm, Jimmy Eller, Carolyn Dyer, James Caudill, Buster Coffee, Johnnie Coe, Shirley Eldred, Michael Wilson, Linda Gragg, Laura Hodges, Lee Jackson, Lyndon Lackey, Linda Lyons, Barbara Parsons, Johnny Reece, Larry Richardson, David Surrey, Allen Wagoner, Gail Ann Watson, Clarence Wilson, Sonny Strickland, Linda Greene.

Speakers. Rebecca Wright read the scripture and gave the prayer. The angels were Marilyn Shaffer, Betty Jane Hayes, Wayne Underwood, Gabriel, Linda Gail Dotson, Diane Miller, Janice Ayers, Janice Lewis, Mary Darwin Marsh, Donnie Fidler, Bobby Shirley, David Norris, David Thomas. Joseph was played by Harold D. Davis and Mary by Shirley Hatley. Shepherds were: Jimmy Brown, Chris Beachley, and Michael Wilson. Wise men were: Donald Bates, Tommy Pease, and Hal Anderson.

Burley Growers Decide Today On Future Of Market Quotas

Watauga County burley tobacco growers will register their decision at the polls today, Thursday, December 29, as to whether they want marketing quotas and price supports in 1956.

All growers who produced burley tobacco in 1955 are eligible to vote in the referendum.

B. W. Farthing, chairman of the Watauga County ASC committee reminds farmers that if quotas are approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting, marketing quotas—with penalties on "excess" tobacco, acreage allotments, and price supports averaging 90 per cent of parity—will continue in effect for the 1956 burley crop.

If more than one-third of the voters disapprove quotas, there will be no marketing quotas, no penalties on excess tobacco, no acreage allotments, and NO PRICE SUPPORTS for the 1956 burley crop.

The Watauga County ASC committee has named the following polling places and community referendum committees for the various communities:

Bald Mountain and Meat Camp, Meat Camp Filling Station—Mildard Stephens, J. W. Clawson, Billy Byers, W. F. Norris.

Beaver Dam, Donley Hagaman's Store—Howard Cable, Lynn Norris, Joe Wilson, Clyde Cornett.

Blue Ridge, Blowing Rock, Elk, Stony Fork and New River, Cook & Elrod's Store—Hugh Hampton, W. H. Stanberry, J. F. Michael, Milton W. Moretz.

Brushy Fork, Vilas Service Station; Grady Bradley, C. A. Clay, Hiram Brooks, Howard Dancy.

Cove Creek, D. E. Church's Store—J. M. Burkett, Otto Thomas, Clint Eggers, G. C. Norris, Jake Mast's Filling Station—Tom Lawrence, Jack Henson, June Proffitt, G. B. Miller.

Laurel Creek, V. D. Ward's Store—Alfred Rominger, Robert Hagaman, Ned Glenn, Clyde J. Love.

North Fork, Ellison's Store—C. R. Wilson, A. N. Thomas, W. C. South, Loyd Miller.

Shawnoehaw, L. L. Story's Store—W. C. Smith, Hal Cook, Ed Yates, Victor Earthing.

Watauga, Valle Crucis Co.—Ralph Church, Henry Taylor, Claude Garland, Robert Greene.

Rolls will open at 8 a. m. and close at 6 p. m.

Winkler said that the new highway would bypass the main section of Banner Elk and "leave the present highway near the George Whitehead farm south of the town and passing in back of the village."

Actual construction work is expected to get under way in the early summer of 1956.

The new route, Winkler pointed out, would retain the same number as the present highway, Route 194.

Boone-Elk Park Road May Be Built Soon

A new 22-foot-wide highway approximately 16 miles long is being planned between Elk Park in Avery County and Boone in Watauga County, according to an announcement made by Ralph Winkler, 11th Division Highway Commissioner.

The project, which is expected to be completed in 1956, would eliminate the two steep mountains of Bowers and Valley and their winding, hazardous stretches on the present highway, Winkler stated.

All necessary survey work has been completed, maps of the proposed project have been posted, and the awarding of contracts is expected to take place in the

Spending To Be Surveyed Here

Parts of Watauga County will be among the areas in which the Federal Reserve Board will conduct a 1956 survey of consumer spending and saving plans.

This was announced this week by the Federal Reserve Board. Further details of the county's participation in the survey were not available at press time.

Parts of Forsyth, Stokes and Pitt counties also will be included in the survey, according to the announcement.

The annual study helps the board obtain information on family incomes and financial status and consumers' views on their own prospective financial situations.

The confidential interviews have proved helpful, the board said, in appraising plans for purchase of homes, cars and household appliances. They also help gauge the general economic outlook.

Trivett Loses House In Fire

Mr. M. P. Trivett of Rominger lost his home and its contents by fire December 15th.

The blaze which originated in a faulty chimney was discovered at 9 a. m., and Mr. Trivett and his wife were powerless to prevent its progress.

The house and contents were a complete loss, and Mr. Trivett would appreciate any financial help which might be tendered in providing himself and wife a new home.

W. O. C.'s President Eisenhower recently issued an order designed to make experts and consultants, serving in the Government on a temporary basis, either with or without pay, toe the line on "conflicts of interest" issues just as regular government officials do.

Sheriff Seizes Blockade Still

Sheriff E. M. Hodges and deputies seized a thousand gallon whiskey distillery in Meat Camp township last Saturday, which was all cocked and primed for a Christmas run.

There was three of four hundred gallons of beer in the vats, said the Sheriff, who said the plant was new, but had previously been in operation.

No arrests were made.

To Take Part In Conference

Blowing Rock—James M. Storie, principal of the Blowing Rock School, has been invited to serve as a consultant at the annual meeting of the Department of Elementary School Principals at Denver, Colo., in March.

Mr. Storie will lead a discussion on the subject, "Evaluating the Instructional Program" for the department, a unit of the National Education Association.

POLIO PROGRAM

The nation-wide polio vaccination program, which began with the free vaccination of first and second-grade children, is leaving the schools for the private physician's office and the public health clinic.

The free vaccinations made possible by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has almost ended. A \$30,000,000 appropriation voted by Congress so that no child should be denied Salk vaccine for lack of funds is available to state health officers until February.

Nevada is the only state that reported that there would be no polio vaccination given in public clinics. Distribution there will be entirely by private physicians.

U. S. TRAVEL

Private automobiles carried about 87.8 per cent of all United States intercity passenger travel last year, according to the Interstate Commerce Commission. Of the remaining 12.2 per cent, railroads handled 4.7 per cent, bus services 4.1 per cent, airlines 3.1 per cent and inland waterways 0.3 per cent.

Burley Sales To Be Resumed Next Tuesday; Prices High

Sales will be resumed next Tuesday, January 3, on the Boone burley tobacco market following a recess since December 21 for the Christmas holidays.

Boone warehouses are remaining open throughout the holidays to receive tobacco, and personnel are on hand to unload the leaf and place it on the floors with a minimum of delay, said Joe L. Coleman, of the R. C. Coleman warehouse firm, operators of the local burley market.

More than two million pounds were sold here before Christmas for an average of near \$58 per hundred, highest in the history of the market. Mr. Coleman pointed out that Boone is the only market in Western North Carolina thus far to post an average of better

than \$60 for a single day's sale, which occurred on Monday, December 12, when 131,452 pounds sold here for an average price to growers of \$60.17 per hundred.

"Prices are expected to remain high, and you will be sure of satisfactory sales if you bring the balance of your burley to Boone," he said.

Mr. Coleman also wishes to remind growers that there is not much time left to get free tickets on the new GMC truck to be given away at the close of the season. "The more tickets you have, the better are your chances to win," he said. Exact time of the drawing will be announced later, but it is not necessary for the winner to be present at the drawing.

Edward Shoemaker Dies In Newland

Edward D. Shoemaker, 26, formerly of Boone, died at Newland Saturday, December 24, of a gunshot wound in the head.

Avery County Coroner Barbour said Tuesday that no ruling had been made as to whether Shoemaker himself or another person fired the shot, and that it had not been determined whether an inquest would be held.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Advent Church of Boone Fork, conducted by the Rev. Murray Coffey, and burial was in the White Springs cemetery.

He is survived by his widow and two children, Brenda Kay and Daniel Eyyonne; three brothers, Ray, Bill, and Bobby, all of Boone, Route 3; and three sisters, Mrs. Paul Coffey, Granite Falls; Mrs. Fred Farthing, Boone; and Mrs. Joe Trivett, Charlotte.

License Cards Being Issued

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—The Motor Vehicles Department will begin sending out registration cards to North Carolina motorists tomorrow.

Under a revised registration schedule, new license plates will go on sale throughout the state Jan. 3 and extend through Feb. 15. The new tags, which will be black on orange, will be sold by branch offices of the Carolina Motor Club, and by motor vehicle headquarters in Raleigh.

The new plates will be slightly larger than this year's tags and will carry the "Drive Safely" slogan. Only one plate will be issued. It will be attached to the rear of the vehicle.

Miss Foy Ingram, director of the Motor Vehicles Department's registration, division, said registration in North Carolina has passed the 1,600,000 mark—an all-time record.

More Die In Auto Crashes Than Ever

More Americans were killed on the highways last week end than in any holiday period in history.

Safety experts, staggered by the record-shattering total, called the holiday "Black Christmas."

By 11:15 p. m. Monday, 557 deaths had been reported in traffic accidents. In addition, there were 62 deaths in fires and 90 in all other types of accidents. This made an over-all holiday death toll in accidents of 709.

With the 78-hour holiday week end still not ended, it was certain that the highway death figure would rise even higher—perhaps close to 600—as tired drivers headed home in vast numbers from brief vacations or visits.

The previous high traffic total for any holiday week end was the four-day Christmas holiday in 1952 when 556 deaths were recorded.

The worst over-all toll from accidents of all kinds was 805 during the three-day Independence Day celebration this year, when drowning was a big factor.

Ned H. Dearborn, president of the National Safety Council, said: "We may have dreamed of a white Christmas but we have made

it black with a record of death, destruction and disaster on the highway by which no American can be anything but depressed, ashamed and frightened.

"We can only hope that the shock of this tragic and needless toll will have a sobering effect over the New Year's holiday and throughout 1956."

The council had forecast before the Christmas period began that 560 Americans would die in auto accidents.

It had become apparent early in the week end that the number of traffic deaths would rise over the 500 mark. Reports of deaths came in regularly from the start—6 p. m. Friday. Its official end was midnight Monday, a period of 78 hours.

Only December 1, the nation had been put on notice with a huge effort to cut down traffic deaths in a single day. The date—called Safe-Driving Day—produced 69 traffic deaths in 24 hours.

The loss of life in motor vehicle accidents during the Christmas holiday period passed that figure in 16 hours. More than seven (Continued on page eight)