



GMC TRUCK AWARDED TO BEECH CREEK MAN—A large crowd of tobacco farmers and other interested persons gathered last Wednesday, January 11, at Mountain Burley Warehouse No. 1 as the long-awaited drawing for the free 1956 GMC truck was held.

master of ceremonies at the drawing, and Howard Cottrell, town councilman, said a few words to the gathering on behalf of Mayor Gordon H. Winkler.

Northwestern Bank Has Record Year

North Wilkesboro.—The Northwestern Bank, which has home offices here and branches in 17 other North Western North Carolina cities and towns, has just passed through the most successful year in its history, stockholders were told in annual meeting here last week by Edwin Duncan, executive vice president.

Peterson of Spruce Pine, M. E. Reeves of Laurel Springs, Wade H. Shuford of Hickory, C. L. Whinnant of Hickory, Gordon H. Winkler of Boone, Herbert M. Yount of Newton, C. M. Bailey of Burnsville.



DR. J. C. FARTHING, Boone dentist, who succumbed to a heart attack on the seventh.

Letters Are Mailed For March of Dimes

Hugh Hagaman and Stacy Eggers, Jr., announced this week they have mailed to Watauga citizens letters requesting money to help carry on the March of Dimes program in Watauga county.



W. H. GRAGG, secretary of the Watauga Savings and Loan Association has been notified by Governor Hedges of his appointment as a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Development Corporation of North Carolina.

Mr. Duncan pointed out that during 1955 deposits increased 10 per cent, reaching a total of \$45,359,216.44 on December 31. Meanwhile, the gross profit of the bank increased nine per cent and expenses eight per cent.

Directors in meeting following the stockholders' meeting re-elected all officers: Dr. B. B. Dougherty of Boone, president; Edwin Duncan of Boone, executive vice president; W. B. Greene of Bakersville and Kingsport, Tenn., vice president; Wade H. Shuford of Hickory, vice president; J. K. Doughton of Stratford, trust officer; D. V. Deal of North Wilkesboro, secretary; E. P. Bell of Wilkesboro, auditor; C. C. Rogers Jr., of North Wilkesboro, manager of the credit department.

DR. DIRTY PROWLER Tulsa, Okla.—Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Murano recently complained to police that every week end while they were out of town, some dirty prowler enters their home. The intruder doesn't take anything, except a bath, and leaves a dirty ring in the tub.

"These are our children who need help and they are looking to the people of Watauga county for help. They have a right to," according to the announcement by the co-chairmen.

Blowing Rock, Jan. 16.—The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce was reorganized at the first monthly meeting of 1956 with the following officers:

Woolly Worms Fail To Call Weather Shots

Blowing Rock — The Woolly worms sure "done us wrong" here on the mountain top. Those of us who pay little attention to the U. S. Weather Bureau reports, who laugh aside the daily radio and tv forecasts who look askance at even the Farmer's Almanac, have always gone all out for the light and dark-banded woolly worms of autumn days.

By WALTER K. KEYS of black at tail—some stormy weather in late March, perhaps. But as of this date there have been few days since mid-November that failed to bring freezing weather. Today our twentieth snow is falling and all the mountain-top is bending deep under the most spectacular freeze we've ever seen.

Ellar Hicks, 57, of Sugar Grove, Route 1, died Saturday, January 14, at Watauga Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 16, at St. John's Episcopal Church by the Rev. Carl Wilson, and burial was in the church cemetery.

First Aid Class Being Organized

The First Aid classes which were to have started recently, were postponed because of bad weather. The first session will be held Thursday evening, January 19, at 7:30 p. m. at the new gymnasium at the college.

Blowing Rock C. of C. Elects New Officers

G. C. Robbins, retiring president, was given a standing vote of thanks for the long and faithful service he has rendered to the town of Blowing Rock and this entire area through the local Chamber of Commerce.

Says Watauga's School Housing Needs Would Require \$700,000

By GUY W. ANGELL County Superintendent of Schools An analysis of the State Board of Education statistics discloses that only 50 of North Carolina's 100 counties are matching their ability to pay with contributions of local funds for their schools.

Watauga county is spending only \$3.70 per pupil annually from local funds as compared to a state average of \$23.40. According to statistics compiled by the State Board of Education, this county ranks 92nd from the top in ability to pay from an economic standpoint.

Watauga county ranks just one place below Watauga; however, they pay \$7.82 per pupil annually as compared to our \$3.70. From the standpoint of effort expended in relation to economic ability, Watauga ranks 98th in the state, leaving only Currituck and Clay counties exerting less effort than Watauga, financially.

Watauga Men Attend Travel Council Meet

E. L. Washburn of Rocky Mount, former president of the U. S. 301 Assn., Monday was elected the first president of the newly formed North Carolina Travel Council. Watauga County delegates to the meeting were Stanley A. Harris and Dr. D. J. Whitener of Boone, Grover Robbins and Spencer Robbins of Blowing Rock, Joe Hartley, Jr., of Grandfather Mountain, also attended.

Walk-Up Window at Local Bank To Expand Modern Banking Services

The Northwestern Bank in Boone announced the installation this week of the latest in modern banking equipment for after-hours service, and the establishment of new hours for regular banking service.

All-State Band Clinic Again Set for Boone

McCalmon Is Named Director of "Horn"

Parkway To Be Toll Free Again During This Year

The Blue Ridge Parkway will be toll-free again this year, the Democrat was advised yesterday by Congressman Hugh Alexander of the ninth district.

Rep. Alexander said he had been informed by Rep. Michael J. Kirwan (D-Ohio), chairman of the House sub-committee on Interior Department appropriations, that no tolls would be charged in 1956.

This news serves to allay the concern felt both in North Carolina and Virginia that the National Park Service, a division of the Department of the Interior, would insist on tolls this year.

Rep. Kirwan said the Park Service had asked for tolls this year, but he assured the Asheville lawmaker that the sub-committee would not permit them.

In January, 1955, the National Park Service had announced that tolls would be charged beginning May 1, 1955, under a regulation issued in 1942.

A storm of protest arose in North Carolina and Virginia. As a result, on April 19, 1955, Secretary of the Interior McKay announced the Park Service had abandoned toll plans for 1955.

DRIVERLESS AUTOMATION

Decatur, Ill.—A car without a driver rolled backward and moved diagonally across an intersection, bounced off a traffic island, turned completely around and headed up a railroad embankment, where it stopped, unscratched. Its owner got in and drove off.

George McCalmon, Director of the Cornell University Theatre, Ithaca, New York, has been appointed the new director of the



GEORGE McCALMON

1956 production of Horn in the West which will be presented for the fifth straight season at the Daniel Boone Theatre, Boone, from June 30 to September 3.

Mr. McCalmon comes to the "Horn" with a broad experience in the field of dramatics, both in theatre and drama education.

He holds most of the degrees offered in the field of dramatics including a B. F. A. in Dramatic Arts from Carnegie Institute of Technology, a Master's Degree in Speech Education from Columbia University, and a M. F. A. and Ph. D. in Drama and Theatre from Western Reserve University.

In addition to his wide experience as a director, he has also had the male lead in a number of Stock Company Productions. Mr. McCalmon was the Co-Director of "The Lost Colony" in 1955. The Southern Appalachian Historical Association is anticipating its greatest production of Horn in the west under the direction of Mr. McCalmon.

Annual Event To Close With Public Concert

Plans are now completed for the annual Northwestern Division of the All-State Band Clinic which will be held on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College, Friday, and Saturday, January 27 and 28.

A concert will be given on Saturday, January 28, in the Fine Arts Building at 7:30 p. m. and the public is invited.

Conducting the band clinic this year will be Mr. Frank J. Prindl, director of bands and professor of music at the University of Kentucky. Mr. Prindl is well known throughout the country as a band director and musician. He has directed clinics and judged bands in several of the southern states and in Hawaii where he has been invited to direct the annual festival of the Hawaiian Music Educator's Association.

The band students, in previous clinics, will come from high school bands from the surrounding counties, including Watauga. Each high school band will be re-



FRANK J. PRINDL, Clinic Conductor

presented by from three to six handsmen to make a total number of about 111 members.

Because of the housing shortage on the campus, the students will necessarily have to be housed in homes in the town again this year, and the townspeople are being asked to share a room if they have an extra one. If you have an extra room and care to entertain a student for Friday night please contact Mr. Robert Gilley or Mr. William Spencer, who is acting as clinic chairman this year.

CONSCIENCE PAYMENT

Loytsville, Ky.—Mrs. Leah Goldin recently received a letter containing a \$10 check from a Lima (O) business man. The man said the \$10 was to pay for parts for a model-T Ford he owned 25 years ago which he had picked up from a scrap metal yard in Lima which Mrs. Goldin and her husband had owned. The man explained he recently had "become a Christian" and wished to pay for the parts he stole.

NO HUNGER STRIKE

Little Rock—When 17 prisoners at the county jail recently went on strike, officers didn't get too alarmed. While they refused prison meals, officers remembered that the inmates had bought \$7 worth of candy the day before the strike, which lasted only 30 hours.

By V. G. ROLLINS

The "walk-up window" will be placed in service Monday, January 23, and the change in regular banking hours will go into effect the same date. There will be five tellers on duty at all times during regular hours. Every banking service can be carried on at the "walk-up window" except note transactions, said James P. Marsh, assistant cashier. It is the only such facility in western North Carolina, and one of seven in the state, he said. A private conference room is also being installed to the rear of the lobby to replace the open office now located to the left of the front entrance. In a discussion of general improvements, Alfred T. Adams, cashier, said more than \$11,000 has been spent in the past five years to speed up service and add to the efficiency of the bank's operation. Two new bookkeeping machines were acquired last October, he said, and the very latest in IBM equipment is now on order for March delivery. Mr. Adams makes periodic talks on banking at high schools in the county and at Appalachian State Teachers College, and the bank conducts a program of practical experience for college students consisting of 90 hours each quarter, whereby various students observe actual banking transactions and have them explained by bank personnel. North Carolina students at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Banking, who have observed banking operations throughout the state, have stated that the Northwestern Bank in Boone is the "best 'country' bank observed, from the standpoint of physical attractiveness, as well as efficiency of operation," Mr. Marsh said.