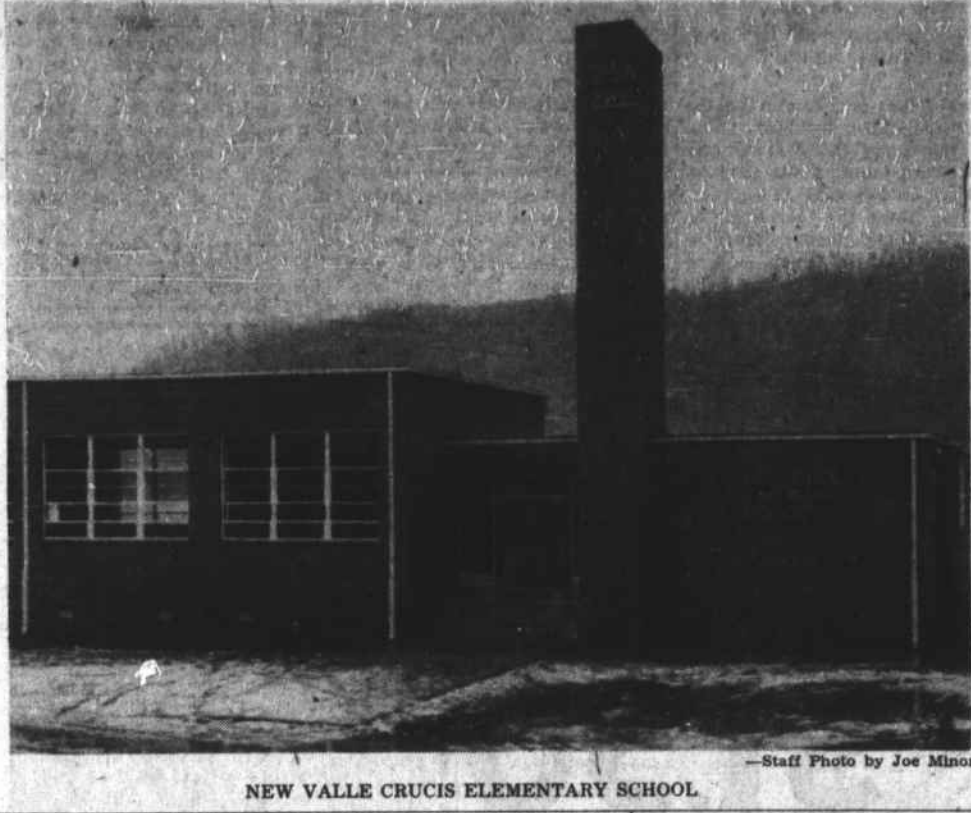


If you like to read of the early days in Boone turn to page four for "Our Early Files" items of sixty, thirty-nine and fifteen years ago.

Date	High	Low	8 p.m.	Wind
Jan. 31	42	20	29	SE
Feb. 1	38	15	23	SE
Feb. 2	32	21	44	SE
Feb. 3	43	30	33	SE
Feb. 4	49	27	45	SE
Feb. 5	45	34	44	SE
Feb. 6	48	36	39	SE



NEW VALLE CRUCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

—Staff Photo by Joe Minor

Watauga Is Experimental Area In Development Plan

By V. G. ROLLINS
Watauga County has been designated by Governor Luther Hodges as an "experimental county" in connection with one of his pet projects for the industrial growth of the state, the Business Development Corporation of North Carolina.

Watt H. Gragg, a member of the board of directors, said the Governor proposes to set up a so-called Industrial Bank, a statewide organization whose function will be to finance small industry as possibly greater risks than those normally taken by conventional banks and other commercial lending agencies.

Meeting last week with a group of interested business men under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Gragg said the corporation will sell stock at \$10 per share to individuals and organizations throughout the state. A tentative limit of \$1 million worth of stock has been set, of which \$828,000 has already been subscribed.

In view of the fact that this county has been singled out as one of several "proving grounds" for the entire project, the committee, composed of G. C. Greene, Jr., Chamber of Commerce president, Stanley A. Harris, manager, Alfred T. Adams, cashier of the Northwestern Bank, and other members, has set \$10,000 as the amount of stock that should be purchased in Watauga.

Mr. Adams pointed out that stock purchases would be in the nature of investments, with interest and dividends payable at prevailing rates.

A total of \$5,000 worth of stock has been purchased locally to date, he said, and additional pledges have been made with no specific amount designated.

The bank, said Mr. Gragg, will make loans of varying amounts to good risks to start local industrial enterprises, and give them up to 15 years or more to repay at six per cent interest. Payments will be staged to conform with potential revenue in each case.

Mentioned as new industries in the processing field that might prove profitable in Watauga were the processing of berries, charcoal, hams and shoulders.

The Industrial Bank is expected to get into operation sometime in April, Mr. Gragg said.

Burley Growers Face Cut Risk

More than one hundred burley tobacco growers face a reduction of their allotments unless their tobacco marketing cards are returned to the County ASC office by February 15, 1956, it was announced today by County ASC Chairman, B. W. Farthing.

A count on Tuesday showed 137 cards outstanding. Immediately after the 15th the committee is obliged to take action in the reduction of allotments for failing to comply with this regulation. All farmers who have failed to return their marketing cards should see that they are returned to the county office before this date.

Mayor Proclaims 26th As Heart Sunday

A proclamation designating Sunday, February 26, as "Heart Sunday," and calling upon all citizens to give generously to the Heart Fund as they welcome volunteer workers who are to complete a house-to-house collection on the afternoon of that day, was issued this week by Mayor Gordon H. Winkler.

It is anticipated that 35 to 40 volunteers workers will be enrolled, said Dr. William M. Smith, 1956 Heart Fund chairman. Mrs. John G. Martin is chairman of Heart Sunday, and the publicity for the entire "campaign" is being directed by Mrs. Lee Reynolds and Mrs. B. W. Stallings.

The one afternoon, community-wide effort will be the climax and culmination of the local 1956 Heart Fund campaign, which is to extend throughout the month of February.

The text of Mayor Winkler's proclamation follows:
BE IT PROCLAIMED:
WHEREAS, an army of 35 to 40 public-spirited workers will make a house-to-house collection in behalf of the Heart Fund on the afternoon of Sunday, February 26, and

WHEREAS, the Heart Fund supports a coordinated fight against diseases of the heart and circulation, both locally and nationally, and

WHEREAS, these diseases are responsible for nearly 800,000 deaths annually in the United States, as well as about half of the deaths that occur in this city, and

WHEREAS, the heart diseases affect an estimated 10,000,000 (Continued on page six)

James R. Mast Dies Sunday At Lenoir Hospital

Lenoir, Feb. 6.—Funeral services for James Robey Mast, 78, well-known retired farmer of South Mulberry Street, were conducted at the First Baptist Church at three o'clock this afternoon. He passed away at a local hospital at 1:30 o'clock on Sunday morning after an extended illness. He had been critically ill for the last several days, and his passing was not unexpected.

Officiating at the rites was the Rev. M. O. Owens, Jr., pastor of the church.

Interment was made in Blue Ridge Memorial Park on the Lenoir-Wilkesboro road.

Mr. Mast was born in Watauga county September 15, 1877, the son of Noah Mast and Lucinda Adams Mast. Prior to his retirement 16 years ago, he was the successful operator of a large farm in the Cove Creek section about two miles from Mast, which was named for members of his family.

He was a member of a pioneer family in that section which is about seven miles west of Boone.

On November 13, 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Mast observed their 50th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Mast was the former Miss Addie Greene, also a native of Watauga county. He was a member of the First Baptist church here.

Surviving in addition to the widow, are six daughters, Mrs. Maynard Angley, Mrs. Vance McGuire, Mrs. George Vannoy, and Mrs. Clarence Berry, all four of Lenoir; Mrs. John Priece of Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. Paul Bingham of West Jefferson; a son, Wiley Mast, of Lenoir; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are five brothers, Willie Mast of Valle Crucis, Fred Mast of Idaho, Clyde Mast of Sugar Grove, Grady Mast of Elizabethton, Tenn., and Lee Mast of Sherwood; three sisters, Mrs. Pearl Sherwood of Bristol, Va., Mrs. Inez Ellis of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Rosa Sherwood of Detroit, Michigan, and a host of nephews, nieces and cousins.

Admiral Richard E. Byrd recently sent a radio message, welcoming the Soviet Antarctic expedition to Wilkes Land. He reminded the Russians indirectly that the United States had had the first look at the area.

Geo. McCain Dies In Waxhaw

(Special to the Democrat)
Monroe, N. C., February 6.—George A. McCain, 88, died at the home in Waxhaw Saturday, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held Monday at the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church and burial was in the church cemetery.

A retired farmer, Mr. McCain was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, and was a deacon in the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church for 50 years.

Freezes, Rains Combine To Play Havoc With Roads; Schools Close

Chamber Commerce To Hear Proposals For 56

The monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held at Boone Trail Restaurant, Tuesday, February 14, at 12 noon. This is the annual session when everyone is requested to suggest things which the Chamber should attempt to do in the year 1956.

Tables will be arranged so that six to eight can sit at a table, and during a period of discussion on projects, each table will be requested to suggest five or more things which the Chamber of Commerce should undertake. Every member is urged to be present if possible, by President G. C. Greene, Jr. If you do not attend, he asks that suggestions be written, and turned in time for the meeting.

Attend Hickory Meeting

Mr. Greene and Stanley A. Harris attended the annual meeting of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce last week. Governor Luther Hodges was the principal speaker. After reviewing the history of the Chambers of Commerce, the governor declared the Chamber of Commerce has come to be an essential part of the growth program of every city. Its contribution is so significant and its work so important that every citizen of the community should consider it a privilege and an obligation to belong to the Chamber of Commerce.

The Governor reviewed the marvelous progress made by North Carolina industrially in the last twenty-five years, and he emphasized the need for continued industrial growth in every community and the importance of the Chamber of Commerce co-operating with the State Department of Conservation and Development in bringing this about.

Two hundred fifty-two persons attended the annual meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, held January 5, and the officers expressed hope that the majority of them will feel the responsibility of attending the monthly meetings and participating in the activities of the Chamber of Commerce in Boone.

Fox Is Killed In Herd Cows

Mr. B. H. Watson killed a big gray fox which was found among his cows on Rich Mountain last Wednesday.

The animal appeared tame, and thinking perhaps it might be rabid of otherwise sick, Mr. Watson borrowed a gun from a nearby resident and killed the animal.

Completion Of Parkway By 1966 Is Seen By Weems

Asheville, Feb. 3.—Virtual completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway by 1966 under a \$27,885,000 improvement budget and regular annual appropriations was foreseen last night by Supt. Sam P. Weems of Roanoke.

A letter from McKay said the number of visitors had increased from 21 million in 1946 to 50 million in 1955, and was expected to rise to 80 million in 1966. McKay said the expansion program has been dubbed "Mission 66" and is aimed to have the park areas equipped and staffed to serve 80 million visitors in 1966.

The cost for the 10-year improvement program was estimated at \$124,185,000 by the National Park Service with total outlays amounting to \$786,545,600 in that period. Interior Department spokesman said it would be several weeks before figures would be available on the proposed developments at the individual parks and monuments.



CLYDE R. GREENE

Greene Gets Promotion In A. S. C.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson announced Friday the appointment of Clyde R. Greene of Boone, as southeast area director for the Commodity Stabilization Service.

Mr. Greene's headquarters will be in Washington. He is a former chairman of the North Carolina Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Secretary Benson also named T. R. Walker of Morganton as chairman of the State ASC. Zeno O. Ratliff, Jr., of Pantego and W. E. Matthews of Pilot Mountain were named members of the North Carolina committee.

The southeastern region comprises the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Mr. Greene, described by a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture as "one of our best men," receives the \$11,000 a year position as a promotion from the State ASC chairmanship, which administers the price support and acreage programs on the state levels.

Mr. Greene is a local hardware merchant, a leader in Republican political circles, in civic and religious affairs, and former president of the State Merchants Association.

Quartet Sing Next Saturday

The area-wide quartet singing, a highspot in the March of Dimes campaign will be held at the courthouse in Boone Saturday February 11, at 7:30 p. m.

A large number of vocalists from Watauga and surrounding areas are expected to be present for the old-fashioned songfest, and the usual large attendance is expected.

J. Allen Gragg, Hugh Hagaman, S. C. Eggers, Jr., compose the committee in charge of the event, while Messrs W. H. Gragg and Alfred T. Adams will act as Masters of Ceremonies.

Winkler Says Road Conditions Are Alarming

The almost impassable condition of many rural highways brought about the closing of the Watauga county schools Tuesday morning.

The heavy recent freezes, followed by a seven inch snowfall, subsequent general thawing and prolonged rains, which ended Monday evening, have disrupted highway transportation and stopped many of the county school buses.

W. R. Winkler, of Boone, commissioner of the eleventh highway division, says schools have closed in many counties, including Ashe, Avery, Watauga and others and that "alarming road conditions" prevail in all the counties in his area.

Slides have contributed to the bad condition of the roads, but with clearing skies Tuesday, the worst weather appears over for the time being. The state, it is reported, has had more rain in four days than it had had for four months. Watercourses have been brought up and springs and wells, which have been dry, are again productive.

Commissioner Winkler says that about 50 per cent of all school buses in his division are out of operation due to road conditions. Of course, the unpaved roads have suffered the greatest damage, while many paved roads are also seriously damaged. A good many breaks have appeared in the primary roads of Watauga, too, it is noted, while in Boone city streets have "frozen out" in numbers of places.

In referring to the hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to the highway system, Mr. Winkler says the "highway department will face unusual financial hardships in working out ways and means of repairing them."

Reopen Today

County Superintendent Guy W. Angell expects the schools to be in operation again today (Wednesday). Clearing skies and temperate winds dried the country roads to an extent Tuesday. Schools were closed in cooperation with the highway department, when the buses seemed to be inflicting more than usual damage to the softened roadways.

North Carolina ranks second among lespedeza producing states for 1955 with a crop of over 33 million pounds of clean seed.

Local Scout Honored For Rescue Of Boy

By JOE C. MINOR
Little Mike Fisher probably owes his life to Raymond Fletcher, 14-year old Explorer Scout of Troop 55. Raymond is given credit for rescuing Mike from a pond in the Perkinsville community in February of last year.

For this rescue, Raymond, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fletcher, has been awarded a "Certificate for Heroism" by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America. The certificate will be presented Sunday night at 8:00 in a Scout Court of Honor at Perkinsville Baptist Church, sponsor of Troop 55.

Mike and his father, Dr. T. Richard Fisher, faculty member of Appalachian State Teachers College, had been skating on the pond which was covered with ice on February 7. It was cold, the ice was several inches thick, and Dr. Fisher, an experienced skater, was teaching his son the art of skating. But on February eighth the weather had moderated considerably, causing the ice to melt dangerously thin at places.

Mike, who was in the first grade, was on his way home from school and the pond, which is near where he lived at the time, was too much to pass. Let's let the citation tell the story from here:

"On the afternoon of February 8, 1955, some boys were skating on the R. D. Hodges pond, a half mile from Boone, North Carolina. Mike Fisher, age seven, had fallen through the ice into six feet of water. His cries attracted Raymond Fletcher from his home nearby. Raymond walked out on the ice, but it cracked, so he made an attempt to reach Mike by hand-

ing him a jacket; the ice broke again and Raymond fell into the water. He got Mike on his back and held on to the ice until he



RAYMOND FLETCHER

could reach bottom. He got Mike out safely and both boys were taken home."

This cooled Mike's desire to skate. In fact, Mike's parents said they were way into the night getting him thawed out.

Dr. and Mrs. Fisher, in expressing their gratitude for Raymond's heroism, said, "This performance by Raymond was indeed an act of heroism. We are extremely grateful."

Field Scout Executive for the Watauga, Ashe, and Wilkes counties, Joe Davenport, and other officials of the Old Hickory Council, are expected to attend the Court of Honor, as well as Scouts and Scout officials and friends in Watauga.

County Rabies Clinic To Be Started Here

Dr. J. G. Martin will be in charge of the rabies clinic schedule announced by Dr. Mary B. H. Michal, district health officer.

Dr. Michal points out that the state law provides that every dog over four months of age be vaccinated annually. The vaccination will begin February 1 and shall be completed within 90 days.

Following is the clinic schedule:
Monday, Feb. 13, Beaver Dam—1:30 p. m. Dallas Wilson's, 2:15 Don Hagaman's store, 3:00 Vann Fathings' store, 3:45 Ray Tester's.

Tuesday, Cove Creek and Valle Crucis—1:15 p. m. Old Lovell Post Office, 1:30 Vilas Service Station, 2:00 Cove Creek Store, 2:30 Victor Ward's Store, 3:15 Howard Mast's store.

Wednesday, Shulls Mills, Matney and Foscoe—1:15 p. m. Stewart Hayes store, 2:00 Ed Harbin's store, 2:30 N. F. Church's store, 3:30 Bill Smith's residence.

Thursday, Meat Camp—1:15 Jones' Store at Sands, 1:45 Meat Camp Service Station, 2:15 Weinberger's store, 2:45 Cleve Mopret's, 3:15, Lloyd Stansbury's.

Friday, Deep Gap and Highway 421—1:15 p. m. James Cook's store, 1:45 Cook and Hodges store, 2:30 Triplett Post Office, 3:15 Old Laxon Post Office, 3:45 Deep Gap Post Office.

Saturday, Upper Cove Creek—1:30 p. m. Mast Miller's store, 2:00 Bert Mast's store, 2:30 Owen Little's store, 3:00 Sherwood Post Office.

Monday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p. m.—Parkway School.

Another meeting will be called a few days later to invite in feed dealers, broiler processing plants, hatcheries and egg dealers if there is enough interest to justify such a meeting.

For the second consecutive year, more than 4,000,000 were born in American families. When the final figures are in, total births for 1955 will probably show a slight increase over the record total of 4,021,000 for 1954.

Civil Defense Meeting Is Set

A group of representatives from club groups in Boone and Blowing Rock will meet Wednesday night, Feb. 8, at 7:15 at the dining room in the Gateway Restaurant, to discuss various phases of civil defense.

Mr. C. R. Nicholson, Deputy Director of the State Council of Civil Defense of Raleigh, will be present to lead the discussion and

Poultry Meets To Be Held

A series of poultry meetings will be held this week to try to give the people interested in poultry more information.

Mr. George Collins, Agricultural Representative of Northwestern Watauga, Ashe, and Wilkes counties, will be present to give information gathered from other counties and offer suggestions that should help make more money.

A cashier from the Bank in Boone and the county agents will also attend these meetings. The schedule is as follows:
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p. m.—Greene Valley School.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p. m.—Cove Creek High School.
Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p. m.—Parkway School.