A Backward Glance 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

VOLUME LXVIII .- NO. 34

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1956

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

14 PAGES-TWO SECTIONS

Council Wants

To Obey People

In Water Issue

The city council, at its meeting

Friday, voted to receive bids on a

new, modern garbage truck, and

talked of the expansion of the city

water system, with a view to a

needs of the rapidly growing com-

Mayor Gordon H. Winkler states

that the garbage truck which has

been in use for several years, has

been giving trouble of late, and

factory men have been working on

the vehicle in an effort to restore

normal service. The trouble with

the truck, and the recent bad

weather have combined to curb

garbage collection service, but the

Mayor says that this will be back

to normal just as quickly as pos-sible. The order will be placed for

the new machine as soon as bids

Mayor Winkler states that while

the water needs of the community

have been taken care of adequate

ly of late, due to expansion of the

the city will demand more adequ-

In accordance with the re-

commendation of engineers, Mr.

Winkler says that a second stor-

age reservoir should be estab

lished in the eastern part of the

town, that another well should be brought into production, that the old reservoir needs to be

fully repaired, and various other

taken to improve the sys-

can be received.

ate supplies.

bond

munity.

issue to take care of the

Girl Slugs Deputy In Water Bonds Are Proposed; County Jail Break Bid Garbage Equipment Is Voted

An attempted jail break by a couple awaiting trial for murder was thwarted Monday night in the Watauga County jail by Deputy Sheriff George Smitherman.

Jo Ann Severson, 18, and Leonard La Fond, 20, both of Milwaukee, Wis., tried to engineer an escape, but Smitherman overpow-ered the girl and La Fond never got out of his cell.

The pair, who have been indicted in the slaying of Lewis A Finn, Chicago chemist, last July near Blowing Rock, are being held without privilege of bond for trial at the April term of Superior Court. Deputy Smitherman said the Severson girl, who had been rewarded for good behavior by being aflowed to stroll in the cell

block corridor occasionally, told him when he went up to put out the lights at about 9:45 that La-Fond was complaining of stomach pains and wanted a dose of baking soda. Smitherman brought some soda

from downstairs and opened the steel door leading to La Fond's "cage." As he was passing the soda through the bars he heard a noise behind him and turned in time to catch a blow on the head from an improvised blackjack wielded by Jo Ann, who had crept up behind him. The weapon was fashioned from an apparently brand new dog harness and chain, which she evidently had secreted in her suitcase.

Smitherman's eye glasses were knacked off, but he failed to go down from the blow, whereupon Jo Ann attempted to wrestle him up against the cell bars where La-Fond could grab him. The deputy freed his arms, however, and

swung on the girl, catching her over the eye with his fist and knocking her backward. He then pulled her down the corridor to the head of the stairway and subdued her. "Forgive me - I'm sorry,"

whimpered Jo Ann, who will be granted no further "strolling pri-Twice during the Korean war,

La Fond made no statement oth- the Department of Defense. This

LocalGuardUnitHas

In connection with the National A high school student may en-Guard one-day recruiting drive list in the National Guard any time

the importance of Guardsmen be- later than his 20th birthday, Lt. tery.

Here is a scene taken from the play, "Much Ado About Nothing," which will be presented by the Players Incorporated February 28, at 8:00 p. m., in the Administration Building. (Left to right) Naomi Vincent as Beatrice, Pat Barnett-as Ursula, and Mary van Valkenburg as in a scene of the play.

Shakespearean Play Will Be Presented.

William 'Shakespeare's "Much, tour of U.S. military installations Ado About Nothing" will be Graduates of Catholic Univerpresented February 28, at 8:00 sity's famous Speech and Drama o'clock in the Administration Department, each of the Players Building Auditorium by Players has bad professional experience, and was selected for the company Incorporated, international reperbecause of his exceptional acting

> The goal of Players Incorporated is to bring back to the American scene the travelling repertory company. Many outstanding thea-trical personalities have long lamented the death of the road companies. By pioneering anew, the Players have revitalized a theatre too long centered in one city.

touring-and the increasingly large

Brother Of Mrs.

Hawkinson Dies

ary 13th, after a long illness.

Funeral services were held on

PolioDrive Watkins Looks For 19th State Crown Successful

The March of Dimes in Watauga County was considered a success this year by its co-chairmen, Stacy Eggers, Jr., and Hugh Hagaman According to figures released this week \$4,572.10 was collected, much of which will stay here in Watauga to help with polio cases at home The co-chairmen expressed gratitude that so many people participated in the campaign, and especially had praise for two boys who are polio victims themselves for the work done in raising the money. Joe Baird, Appalachian State Teachers College student, and Dempsey Jones, who sold peanuts on the streets of Boone, were especially helpful in arousing the interest of many persons who contributed to the drive, the chair men said.

Ira Mitchell Funeral Held

Ira Mitchell, 80, died Wednesday, February 15, at his homè on Route 1, Zionville.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Friday, February 17, at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. E. O. Gore, and burial was in the Pleasant Grove cemetery.

He is survived by two sons, Emory and Charlie Mitchell, both of re Mitchell, Lancaster, Tex.; and a sister, Mrs. Nora Bumgarner,

BULLETIN

Second Board **Elections Voted;**

Two Are Rejected

second time Tuesday afternoon that those previously named are ineligible because of the public positions they hold.

bership were: R. T. Greer, Wiley Hartzog, incumbents, and Hoop-er Hendrix.



COACH R. W. (RED) WATKINS displays several of the 18 first-place and one second-place Carolina's AAU trophies his wrestling teams have won since 1933. He holds the trophy which was given by the Watauga Democrat in 1934 when the AAU tournament was held here.-Staff photo by Joe Minor. supply sources, there will be oth-er dry years, and the growth of

i cal, and the school had to abandon | past years. He remembers where By JOE MINOR Can Appalachian State Teachers scheduling outside matches for a many of them are, and if they have College win another Carolina's couple of years. This didn't keep Coach Watkins AAU championship? Coach R. W.

(Red) Watkins, who has coached and his teams from wrestling, how-18 wrestling teams to AAU vic- ever. A program within the school tories, has hopes of making it 19 was carried on, until this year they when the tournament is held here were able to get matches scheduled

Coach Watkins and Appalachian So far this year Appalachian has

have built up an enviable record won over Emory University 33-3, the 175-lb. class. Charlie Parks since wrestling was started on an Knoxville Y 28-8, Washington & Lee who is with the Baltimore, Md. inter-collegiate basis by them in 25-13, N. C. State, defending AAU the early 1930s. In fact, they had champions, 21-9, and Pfeiffer 34-0. such a good record of winning They lost one to VMI 19-17. became difficult to get The coach likes to talk about "my matches close enough home to boys"-the ones he coaches now, make a wrestling schedule practi- and the ones he has coached in

Plans For Inauguration Of College President Are Mapped

By EARLEEN G. PRITCHETT | B. C. Brock, Fred N. Colvard, Wil-The date for the inauguration of liam J. Conrad, L. A. Dysart, J. R. bara Stephenson, chairman, Mrs. William Howard Plemmons as the Hix, S. P. Jones, W. W. West, and Carrie Winkler for the faculty; J. third president of Appalachian Mrs. Eunice Moose for the trustees; State Teachers College has been Mrs. Daisy W. Eggers, Harry Halset by the central committee for lyburton, Rebekah Rivers, and J. April 24, and the hour for ten Paul Winkler for the alumni; Wil-

o'clock in the morning. The an-nouncement comes from Dean D. Jim Craig, and Carolyn Harmon

DR. PLEMMONS

for the students

steps recreation department, was Natem. tional AAU 115-lb. champion in It is the tentative plan of the 1944; Elmo Tomick, National Mayor and council to call a meet-148-lb. champion in 1944. ing of the citizens of the town at In the coaching business ar some future date to find out what (Continued on page two), the public wants to do about a

Hosts and hostesses-Miss Bar

kept up wrestling after leaving Ap-

palachian, either wrestling them-

selves or coaching teams, he can

tell you what kind of records they

He points with pride to Al Craw

AAU champion for two years in

have.

bond issue for this purpose which would be in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

"It is the purpose of the city council to follow the wishes of the people, and we shall try to ascer-tain their wishes in the matter of increasing the bonded debt or such other action as the taxpayers of the wish in taken efforts to further promote the welfare of the com-

R. Hix and S. P. Jones for the trustees; J. G. Hagaman and Guy Paul A. Michael Swain for the alumni; Lila Malone and Valerie Mosher for the stu-**Dies At Bethesda**

munity," said the mayor

Housing-Chapell Wilson. chair-Funeral services for Paul A. man; Lee F. Reynolds for the fac-

Members of the Democratic Executive committée met for the to select members of the county board of elections, after the State Board reportedly had ruled DeBerniere Smith Grey, 30, a brother of Mrs. Walter Hawkinson of Boone, died in Charlotte Febru-

Recommended for board mem-

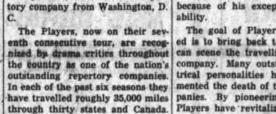
ly endors jor J. H. Thomas and W. R. Cottrell, Chairman Frank Baird read a letter from the State Board of Elections in which they said Thomas was disqualified because of his being chairman of the Tax Board of Appeals, and being a Justice of the Peace. Cottrell, they said, is in-eligible because he is a member of the Boone police force. The letter gave a decision of the Attorney General as authority.

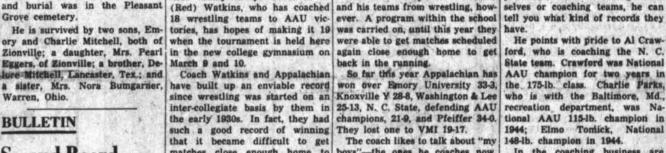
vileges" outside the confines of they played for troops through Ko-her cell. The acclaim lavished on the com-pany in five seasons of nation-wide er than to inquire if the occur-rence would be "put on his re- the White House by President Eis-them every year-indicate the succord," said Deputy Smitherman. enhower prior to a seven-weeks cess of their venture.

February 22, 1st Lt. Conley I. after he reaches age 17 and put the fifteenth at Covenant Presby-

Clarke, commander of SVC Btry, off taking his six-month training terian Church, Charlotte, and bur-

112the FABN, today emphasized until after he graduates, but not ial was in the Huntersville ceme-





tween 17 and 18½ years old vol-unteering for six months of active e stated "This Army training," Lt. Clarke duty training with the Army.

Recruiting Drive

While a National Guardsman is not required under the provisions to Army life and tecahes him how of RFA 55 to take this six months of basic training," Est. Lt. Conley in his own age bracket. The young Professional Institute, Richmond I. Clarke said, "such training is trainees are taught how to live in Va. He had been active in CARE available to him. Not only does such training reduce the time a young man must serve in the ready builds their bodies. While the Mr. Grey was known by many reserve, but it helps open the way training is not unduly rigorous, it people in Boone, where he had for more rapid promotion in the National Guard, for a commission, of a young man." and for appointment to the Mill

tary Academy."

The six-month training is taken at an Army training center, and upon its completion the Guardsman returns to his home town to serve out the remainder of his reserve military service in his local National Guard unit.

Coy Rominger Taken By Death

at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Sa-light, as compared with a long-Fel minger, died Monday, February 20, at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Sa-lem. Funeral services were scheduled to be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest re-behaver and students have already formulated and are now imple-ises to be a damp bad month. In 20 days of February alone, there are precipitation than in the services were scheduled to be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest re-behaver and students have already formulated and are now imple-ises to be a damp bad month. In 20 days of February alone, there are precipitation than in the set manual days with sun-term average of 50%. Set days in which the lowest re-term average of 50%.

to be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest ite was not precipited at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest ite and the precipited at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest ite and the precipited at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest ite and the precipited at 2 p. m. Wednesday, 29 days in which the lowest ite and the 24 entire last quarter of 1955. Jan-Methodist Church, conducted by hour period went below freezing; uary and February of 1956 together the Rev. N. C. Bush and the Rev. there were 14 days of plus 20 saw more precipitation than the degrees or below; there were the whole last one-third of 1955. Inn the Piney Grove cemetery. He is survived by his widow, degrees or below. Low for the jury (if your basement is wet) by in the Piney Grove cemetery. Mrs. Aner Rominger; a son, Char- month was plus 2 degrees on the the fact that this is leap year, with just a trace.

Mrs. Aner Hominger; a son, Char-lie Rominger of Rominger; a bro-ther, Manual Rominger of Banner Elk; and three sisters, Mrs. Grady Welker, Sugar Grove, and Mrs. Vance Harmon, Beech Creek. Moisture-wise, 1956, there were no days when the low reading did not go Inter the tact that this is teap year, with nine days left in which rain, snow, or sleet may fall—instead of the usual 28. Any leap year pro-posing should probably be done in-lots a days. It has snow one day this month with a half-inch being measured. We have a trace. For January the snow fall is re-corded at 8.85 inches, which fell in 13 days. It has snow one day this month

A native of Charlotte. Mr. Grey was a graduate of Davidson Col-

said, "is a fine thing for a young lege, a veteran of the Naval serman, for it gives him an insight in- vice, had taught at Fort Mill High School, Fort Mill, S. C. and had to live with large groups of men studied social work at Richmond

is designed to make a soldier out visited in the home of Mrs. Hawkinson

WhimsOfWeatherIn'55Recorded; DecemberDriestSeenInFiftyYears

By DR. JOHN B. HAMILTON | below freezing; 21 days showed | might be received with cold, wet In North Carolina as a whole, low readings of plus 20 degrees or feet-a condition not generally December, 1955, was both cold and below, and six days had readings dry, the coldest since 1950 and of plus 10 degrees or below. Low the driest of the 20th century! De-Coy Alfred Rominger, 55, of Ro-usual in North Carolina, having of 4, 1.5, 0, 3, and 3-all above follows: Jan. 1.43; Feb. 6.83; March

entire last quarter of 1955. Jan- ruary through the 20th, 5.31.

conducive to a favorable response. tion.

Precipitation in inches, including melted snow and sleet for the year 6.46; April 6.14; May 3.00; June alumni, and students have already

Snow in 1955 was recorded as

falling 13 days in January, total nard Dougherty, H. R. Eggers, Miss of 17.03; five days in February, 1.5 son for the faculty; Mrs. Harry B. inches; and three days in March, with just a trace.

20

13 days. It has snow one day this month Chapell Wilson for the faculty;

Academic procession-H. R. Eggers, chairman; Leo K. Pritchett for the faculty; William J. Conrad for the trustees; Walter Joyce and Irvin E. Kelly for the alumni; and Thomas Lail and Bob Snead for

the students. Invitations-J. D. Rankin, chair-

man, Mrs. Daisy Eggers and Mrs. Leo K. Pritchett for the faculty; B. C. Brock for the trustees; John Idol, Mrs. China Lavendar and Jim Storie for the alumni; Joe Eller and Edward Lakey for the students.

Grounds-W. C. Garvey, chairman, R. W. Watkins for the faculty; Fred N. Colvard for the trus-tees; W. Guy Angell, M. C. Hoyle the steel layers from one containfor the alumni; Ted Watson and ing \$200. The other-containing Baxter Wallace for the students. \$10,000-was not opened.

ulty; Mrs. Eunice Moose for the trustees; James A. Greene and Charles Younce for the alumni; Herbert Good and Clara Lou Stott for the students. Luncheon-Barnard Dougherty,

dents.

chairman, Mrs. Vivian Welborn for the faculty; L. A. Dysart, W. W. Mast for the trustees; Dr. J. Ella Hardin for the alumni; Teeman Haithcock and Joyce Ollis for the students.

BURGLARS ERR

Oakland, Calif-Burglars entered a local department store and la boriously pulled fwo identical safes from the wall. They peeled

died at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland Thursday morning, were held at 2:00 p. m. Sunday in the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dan Thomas and the Rev. Glenn Gentry

were in charge of the rites, and burial was in Mt. Calvary cemetery at Balm.

Mr. Michael was a retired Navy Chief Yeoman with thirty years service, and he had been an elder in the Presbyterian Church for sixteen years.

Surviving is the widow, the former Miss Frost Gwaltney," one daughter, Barbara Ann Michael, and one sister, Mrs. Russell Farthing, all of Banner Elk.

Cancer Drive Being Planned

Details for the annual campaign for money for the cancer fund are being worked out by the Junior Woman's Club of Boone.

Richard will be chairman of the

Fulbright urges tax aid for small of the Democratic party." busine

Greer To End Thirty Years Public Service

Board of Elections when the new during my tenure as chairman of Richard will be ch members are appointed by the board of Elections, and at the fund-raising effort. State board, has been in some sort same time I want to express my WORLD POPULAT of public position for thirty years. As a member of the House of Representatives, member of the Board of County Commissioners, member of the Board of Education, and as Chairman of the Elections Board of Chairman of the State St Chairman of the Elections Board his official tenure started in 1926. In contemplating his retirement from the Elections Board post, Mr. At has show one day this month Chapell Wilson for the faculty: Gree gives the following statement tauga county, and in the success with a half-inch being measured. Mrs. Harry B. Caldwell, chairman, to the Democrat: of the Democratic party."

J. Whitener of the college, who is general chairman of the inaugura-Dr. Whitener also announcer that various committees, composed of faculty representatives, trustees

Roby T. Greer, who will retire "I wish to thank all the people The campaign will be conducted during the month of April. Mrs.

Central inauguration committee -Dr. Whitener, chairman, Bar-Barbara Stephenson, Chapell Wil-Mrs. Eunice Moose for the trustees. Program-Dr. Whitener, chairman, Barnard Dougherty, H. R. Eg-

