

**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 years ago.

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

| Date     | High | Low | W. P. M. | Wind |
|----------|------|-----|----------|------|
| March 27 | 60   | 32  | 64       | 14   |
| March 28 | 54   | 32  | 64       | 14   |
| March 29 | 53   | 33  | 45       |      |
| March 30 | 56   | 29  | 41       |      |
| March 31 | 52   | 15  | 39       |      |
| April 1  | 62   | 29  | 45       |      |
| April 2  | 60   | 48  | 53       | 73   |

VOLUME LXVIII—NO. 46 BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1956 TWELVE PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

## Three Are Injured In Wreck Saturday



Two 17-year-old Boone boys were injured Saturday evening, when the automobile in which they were riding slipped on the loose gravel and overturned near the intersection of Greenway Road and the Winkler Creek road, not far from the IRC plant.

State Highway Patrolman C. W. Mason, who investigated the accident, said the 1956 Ford driven by Billy Hampton and in which Phil McGuire, Bobby Wilcox, Jimmy Pitts, and Bobby Norris were also riding, was passing another car going in the same direction when the accident occurred. Young McGuire and Hampton both sustained injuries to the back and were yet hospitalized the first of the week.—Photo "Rabbit Moretz."

# Contracts Let On 421 As Move Continues To Modernize Artery

## City Clean-up To Be Topic At Chamber Meet

Beautification and cleaning up of Boone will be the main topic for discussion when the Boone Chamber of Commerce meets Tuesday in regular monthly meeting at the Boone Trail Restaurant at noon.

Members of the Blue Ridge Garden Club will present plans for improving certain selected locations as well as the whole problem of beautifying the town in general.

The announcement of the meeting states that the general public is invited to come and take part in the discussions, with a special invitation to the women of the community. Full attendance is needed as it is expected the dates for the annual clean-up, paint-up campaign will be set by those who attend.

## 100 Cases To Be Tried At April Court; Jurors Chosen

The April term of Watauga Superior Court will convene April 23, for a one-week session, with Judge Dan K. Moore of Sylva presiding, and more than a hundred cases are to be tried.

Principal interest centers about the case of Jo Ann Severson and Leonard LaFond, of Milwaukee, who are charged with murder in the death of Lewis Finn, of Chicago, which is said to have occurred at Blowing Rock last summer.

Perry Grees is charged with rape, and indicted for aiding and abetting in the commission of the alleged crime are Robert Lee Day, Clark Rominger, Lester Bradshaw and Ben Andrews, said Court Clerk Austin E. South. Most of the other cases involve the commission of misdemeanors, traffic violations, etc.

## Carolina And Tennessee In New Contracts

Contracts have been let for the paving of the 12.27 miles of new construction on highway 421 between North Wilkesboro and Boone, as a part of a stepped-up program to make of the former Boone Trail Highway the most logical and shortest route of travel from the Atlantic Coast to the Great Lakes.

Highway Commissioner W. Ralph Winkler of Boone, states that contracts have been let for the paving of the new link of road from North Wilkesboro to the vicinity of Maple Springs at a cost of \$325,219. Clement Brothers of Lenoir and the Asheville Construction Company have the contracts, and they are moving equipment in now to start their work. Mr. Winkler states there is a possibility of completing this work and opening the road by the end of the year.

At the same time Mr. Winkler says that in the long-range improvement program on 421, a contract has been let for rebuilding the road from Wilkesboro to Brooks Cross Roads, and that construction work is going forward on other sectors of the interstate highway.

Grading Proceeds In Tenn.  
A new link of 421 is being constructed between the state line at Zionsville, and a point near Shouns, Tenn., one of the most badly needed improvements on the entire route. It has been found necessary to close this road during the construction and travel is being routed over country roads between Boone and Shouns. Mr. Winkler says that a study has been made of the needs of the various highways in the state and 421 rated one of the highest in needs for improvement.



The roadbed of the new 12-mile stretch of U. S. 421 takes almost a straight line through the mountains between Wilkesboro and Boone. Two million cubic yards of earth were moved in straightening this main east-west artery. This view looks west from the edge of Wilkesboro toward Grandfather Mountain, 37 air miles away.—Photo by Max Tharpe, courtesy Highway Commission.

## Board Of Education Names New Committee Members

The Watauga county Board of Education met Monday and named members of the various school committees.

Superintendent W. Guy Angell states that two members of the five-member committees were named for three-year terms under the staggered system of appointment prevailing here. Two other members of the committees will serve out their terms by next year, while one member in each case will serve until 1958.

Following is a complete list of the committees by school districts. The two first named in each case are either new members or those reappointed for another three-year term. The last three are holdover members:



MRS. JACK GROCE

## Mrs. Groce Is Administrator At Hospital

Mrs. Jack Groce has been elected administrator of Watauga Hospital. The announcement of her appointment was made by the board of trustees at a recent called meeting of the hospital personnel.

Mrs. Groce, the former Miss Virginia Anderson, is a native of Wilkesboro, North Carolina. She was graduated from Wilkesboro High School and attended Appalachian State Teachers College. She had been employed at Watauga Hospital as office manager prior to this appointment.

## James McLean Dies Thursday

James Harvey McLean, 80, of Banner Elk, Route 1, passed away at his home on Thursday, March 29.

Funeral services were held at the Watauga Baptist Church Saturday, March 31, at 2 p. m., conducted by the Rev. Calvin Helton of Lenoir, and burial was in the family cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Hattie B. McLean; four sons, Hardy, of Valdese, Ambrose and Fred, Banner Elk, and Bert, Jonas Ridge; five daughters, Miss Pearl McLean of the home, Mrs. Fay Stewart and Mrs. Helen Williams, both of Charlotte, Mrs. Flo Buchanan, Johnson City, Tenn., and Mrs. Julia Aldridge, Banner Elk; two brothers, Jack McLean, Rhedhiss, N. C., and Ellis McLean, Banner Elk; and a sister, Mrs. Alta Holloway of Virginia.

State grades for beef are widely used in North Carolina and they indicate the same quality designated by USDA grades.

## V. F. W. Group Names Leaders

The Ladies Auxiliary to Watauga Mountaineer Post 7031 Veterans of Foreign Wars held its regular meeting Thursday, March 22nd at 7:30 p. m. at which time officers were elected for the ensuing year.

A benefit supper was planned for April 7th at 7:00 p. m. Proceeds will go to the Cancer Fund. \$1.00 per plate will be charged.

Following the supper auxiliary officers will be installed.

The Fifteenth District meeting will be held Sunday, April 22nd at 2:00 p. m. in Lenoir. All members are urged to attend as district elections will be held at that time. Department President, Mrs. Virginia S. Lowry will be present.

## Eggers Delegate To GOP Meeting

Mr. S. C. Eggers, local realtor and chairman of the Republican Executive Committee in Watauga County, was named as a ninth district delegate, to the Republican national convention at the recent district convention held in Salisbury.

The convention will be held in San Francisco in August.

**Special Certificate of Most Distinguished Service**

In recognition of the performance of these two men in the service of the community, the American Legion, No. 130, Department of Watauga County, North Carolina, has awarded this certificate to Paul H. Robinson and Frank B. McLean.

Paul H. Robinson  
Frank B. McLean

## Cove Creek And Mabel Township Merger Is Voted

The Board of County Commissioners, at their regular meeting Monday, passed a resolution which would combine Mabel with Cove Creek townships for tax purposes, following a hearing on a petition to consolidate, and counter petitions to leave the setup alone.

The resolution stated that the board would recommend to the county Board of Elections that two voting precincts be maintained as at present, that portion of the township which had been known as Mabel to be known as Cove Creek no. 2.

It was said that the Board of Elections would act on the recommendation at a meeting to be held next Saturday afternoon.

## Scout Leaders Meet Tonight

The regular meeting of Boy Scout leaders in Watauga County will be held on Thursday night, April 5, at the Blowing Rock school. The meeting will include both a round table program for leaders and the regular monthly meeting of the district committee.

Dr. J. T. C. Wright, district chairman, has urged that every unit in the county be represented at the meeting with several leaders, if possible. Every unit should know of the events being planned in scouting for the spring and summer.

Troop 501 of Blowing Rock will be the host troop for the meeting.

## \$75,000 Worth Beans Removed From Sale

Raleigh—State Agriculture Department seed inspectors have ordered removed from sale seed beans valued at upwards of \$75,000 in Henderson and Watauga Counties.

Director W. H. Darst of the department's seed testing division said Friday most of the embargoed seed failed to carry seed tags as required by law. A high percentage of them, especially of the popular Wade variety, fell short of germination standards, he added.

Darst reported that his inspectors found 2,451 bags of bean seed not carrying North Carolina seed analysis tags, and 1,540 bags which had been shipped from other states without federal seed tags.

Most of the beans were of the Wade variety, which damages easily in harvesting and shipping, Darst explained.

"Our laboratory tests of samples sent in by inspectors showed that 95 per cent failed to meet the minimum germination standard. All of these seed came from other states," he reported.

Inspectors are still checking seed bean supplies in the western part of the state, Darst said. Further stop-sale orders may be necessary, he added.

## Northwestern District Science Fair To Be Held Here Friday

The Northwestern District Science Fair is set for Friday at the Science Building of Appalachian State Teachers College, according to an announcement by Dr. Ray Derrick, director. Students from junior high and high schools of 10 counties are expected to be here with exhibits demonstrating both the biological and physical sciences.

Students will also present essays on forestry—"Forests and Our Way of Life"; ornithology—"The Cardinal—Our State Birds"; and wildlife—"The Value of Water Resources to Wildlife."

Dr. Derrick explained that a science fair is an exhibition of work by students who are interested in science. The fair presents an opportunity for students interested in science and mathematics to display their work to parents, teachers, other students, and the general public.

The science fair, Dr. Derrick explained, helps discover boys and girls who may become scientists, mathematicians, teachers, doctors, nurses, or engineers in industrial and research laboratories.

The fair will be divided into two divisions, a junior division for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders, and senior division for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Competition will be separate for both divisions, with a first and second place award being offered in the biological and physical categories in each division.

Senior exhibits will be by one person, while junior exhibits may have as many as three students participating in each. Senior projects will be eligible for entry in the State Science Fair at the University of North Carolina April 20 and 21.

Exhibitors will arrive in Boone and place their exhibits by 10:30 a. m. Friday. They will be guests of the college during the day. The fair will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p. m. Judging will take place before noon.

Dr. Derrick and Kent Robinson, science teacher at Appalachian High School, who have made arrangements for the fair, announced cash prizes for the essay contests, and certification of participation for all contestants, and seals of merit to all winners; a chemical index for first place winner in the senior division of physical science; and three winners will be chosen in each category of the junior division.

Essay prizes will be \$10 to the winners of the ornithology and wildlife contests, with a second prize of Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds" in the ornithology contest. An award of \$10 will be offered by Moretz Lumber Co. for the best essay on the forestry subject.

Judges will place particular stress on creative ability and scientific thought by the exhibitors. Judging will be done by Dr. W. M. Matheson, Merrill Snyder, Dr. L. W. Carpenter and Dr. Richard Fisher.

## Date Is Set For Purebred Sales

The Watauga Purebred Hereford Breeders has set Saturday, October 13, as the date of the fourteenth annual Boone sale.

They will sell a maximum of 35 heifers that have not calved, and 20 bulls not over 2 years old.

The sale plan will be similar to the 1955 plans as all cattle nominated will be catalogued and judged in a presale show on the day of the sale. Only the top 35 heifers and 20 bulls may be sold and the judges may reject any animal not judged good enough to sell even though we do not have the maximum number.

It was decided to give away a bull to the holder of the lucky ticket.

Sale committee consists of L. E. Tuckwiller, Sale Manager, B. W. Stallings, Dave Minton, and W. H. Walker.