# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

FOURTEEN PAGES-TWO SECTIONS

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1956

Pair Plead Guilty, Get Life In

Brutal Blowing Rock Murder



THE OLDEST LOG HOUSE . . Built around 1780, the log house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilkinson of Zionville is no doubt the oldest structure of its kind in the county. The logs from which the house is built were hand hewn with a broad axe, and there's a double chimney built of rocks, with five-foot fireplaces in each end. The main structure

consists of four rooms, each 17x18 feet, with two rooms up and two down, with an outside stairway. Additional rooms have been added four different times. More than 20 different families are known to have inhabited the house, Mrs. Wilkinson says,

#### but it has remained in the hands of some member of the original family down through the years. **Traditional May Day Fete**

Traditional May Day, with the be held at Appalachian State Teachers College on Saturday, May 5. The program will take place in the auditorium of the Health and Physical Education building at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The theme of the festival will be Spring Fantasy. Mrs. Joy Kirchner is in charge of the dances, and Mrs. Daisy Eggers is advisor to the May Court. The four groups participating will be The Appatones (dance band), the college choir, the modern dance group, and the Varsouvianna (folk dance) club.

All the numbers on the program will be popular songs, which will be interpreted by the dance band, and the dance groups, in their own Rattle, and Roll; Begin the Beguine; In The Still Of The Night; No Other Love; Laura; Falling In Love With Love.

The choreography for each of the dances was done by members of the dance groups and Mrs. Kirchner, except that of "Laura" which was coreographed by Miss Janie Matthews of the physical education faculty.

Carolyn Harmon of Lincolnto is May Queen; Teresa Hulon of Dillon, S. C., is Maid of Honor The court consists of the following: Senior attendants-Barbara Proctor of Lincolnton; Irma Thompson of Wadesville; Joan Waters of Lincolnton; Nancy Caldwell of Charlotte. Junior attendants-Martha Christopher of New ton; Dottie Adams Hasty of Laurinburg; Maxine Joyner of Kerners ville. Sophomore attendants-Carolyn Wall of Winston-Salem: Peggy Lowery of Valdese. Fresh man attendants-Becky Bingham of Boone, and Joan Cotten of

The public is invited to attend the program. This year, inasmuch as there is seating space in the auditorium, and the program can be held inside, it is expected that it will be more comfortable for the spectators than in some previous

#### **Travel Tour Here Tuesday Morning**

The first stop in a week-long tour of travel burea personnel was made here Tuesday morning.

The travel counselors were greeted by members of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, and the group was taken for a visit to the Daniel Boone Theatre, home of Horn in the West, during their 30-minute stopover. Coffee was served on the

#### ing and singing and the crowds who come each year to see it, will Mistrial Is Ordered In Rape Indictments

day in the hearing of charges 40, was charged with rape, and against five men in an alleged at charges of being accessories had tack on a 16-year-old Caldwell County girl in November, 1953,

issued the order after the jury failed to agree on a verdict following three hours of delibera-

The trials were rescheduled for

Betty Joyde Turnmeyer of Many Splendored Thing; Shake, her home after she refused to go under \$3,000 bond each. with the men, and that three of them held her while another had sexual relations with her.

The hearing because Greer til last fall.

A mistrial was ordered last Fri- | Originally, Perry Greer, about been filed against Ben Andrews 20, Clark Rominger, 22, Lester Bradshaw, 24, and Bobby Day, 20, Judge Dan K. Moore of Sylva Day is from Whitnel and the others live in Watauga County. Friday morning the state chang-

ed the charges to assault on a female with intent to commit rape, against the five. All pleaded not the September term of Watauga guilty again following the change in the charges.

Greer was returned to Watauga Whitnel, who was 16 at the time, County jail in default of his originsaid she was forced into a car at al \$7,500 bond. The others are free

The hearing had been delayed



#### Women's Debate Team Wins Superior Rating

#### **Members Of Tax Board Resign**

Major J. H. Thomas, chairman, A. C. Moretz and Ed S. Williams resigned from the Watauga County Tax Board of Appeals on April 30th. In the letter the Board of Commissioners no reason was giv

topower. Coffee was served on the The Board of Appeals, appointheatre grounds.

The motorcade proceeded to the towns of Boone, Blowing Rock, Carolina, Appalachian State Teach
The motorcade proceeded to the towns of Boone, Blowing Rock, Carolina, Appalachian State Teach
Not The Same Man and the Board of Education, hears

The Appalachian State Teachers ta Province Tournament which was held at Temessee Tech in Cookeville, Temessee, on April 19-21. The women's team won six out of seven debates and was the only women's team there to have such a rating.

The men's team, consisting of Johnny Christy and George Moose, with less experience than the women, did not make an impressive record although some of the debates were close.

This is the year for the Phi Kappa Delta, which is the National

are thirteen colleges from four states. These include: from North Carolins, Appalachies States.

### Carl Fidler Is Named President Watauga NCEA

Mr. Carl Fidler was elected pres ident of the Watauga County NCEA unit at a meeting held at the Green Valley School last Fri-

Other officers named are: John Marsh, vice-president; Mrs. Margaret Gragg, secretary; Mrs. Maxie Edmisten, treasurer.

The session, last of the current school year, took the form of a dinner session. All the teachers and school personnel of the county with their wives and husbands were present. Miss Helen Wells, NCEA Field Representative from

Mr. Earl Petry, president, had charge of the meeting and pre-sented Miss Wells, who spoke on Is Planned For Saturday "A Professional Trip on a Prossional Train."

Mr. Fidler spoke briefly. He recognized Mr. George Hagaman for his long term of teaching serthis year and presented him with a gift. Mr. Petry thanked the group for their cooperation, thank-ed Miss Wells for her visit, and

#### **Ancient Bell To Feature Concert**

The original bell that was hous ed in the steeple of the Watauga Academy built in 1899 will be used in the concert given by the Appalachian State Teachers College Band next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in the Fine Arts Build-

Probably the only object left from the original building which marked the beginning of ASTC, the bell has been stored since the fire which destroyed the Academy in 1946, which at that time was being used for music classes. The bell has been restored and mounted on a frame for display. It will be used for the "bell" in the march "Liberty Bell" by John Phil-

Many people in the surrounding area will no doubt recall the sound of this bell as its tone echoed throughout the valley.

#### Dave Ragan Heads V. F. W.

R. A. Miskelly, Sr. Vice Commander Dept. of N. C. V. F. W. was installing officer. District Commander M. J. Lynch of Lenoir for he served for more than thirty

Other officers include Guy Shirley, Sr. Vice Commander; Ed Worley, Jr. Vice Commander; Cloyd Bolick, Quartermaster; Ray Osborne, Adjutant; John Davis, Surgeon; Fred Holman, Chaplain; Ed Harrison, Sgt. at Arms; Custer Wallace, trustee.

Commander Ragan takes office immediately and expects a boom year for V. F. W. in the county.

#### Variety Show Lions Project

A Variety Show sponsored by the Boone Lions Club and the Elementary School cafeteria will be staged Friday night, May 11, at the new elementary school auditorium,

There will be a variety of enter-Forensic Fraternity, to have its tainment, such as string music, providence touranments. quartet singing, solo numbers,

and the Board of Education, hears ers College and Lenoir Rhyne; Rhythmaires, Al Boyles, and Tom appeals on tax cases, made from from Tennessee, Carson-Newman, Winkler.

## **Graduation Program Begins** At Appalachian Sunday May 13

The commencement program at Appalachian State Teachers Col-May 13, at two o'clock in the after-lege will get under way on Sunday, noon, when the baccalaureate sermon will be preached in the auditorium of the health and physical

The baccalaureate sermon will be preached by the Reverened John Terrill Wayland, professor of religious education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Wayland is a Missourian by birth, of Virginia and Kentucky ancestry. After graduating from the public schools of Moberly, he entered William Jewell College at Liberty and subsequently received degrees also from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Yale Divinity School, and Yale University. While in college, he was president of the Baptist Student Union of Missouri, and also of the Northeast Baptist Training Union Convention. Mrs. Wayland (nee Eunice Fowler) is a native of New Haven, Connecticut, and they have three children; two sons and a

Dr. Wayland has served in the pastorate in North Carolina as follows: The First Baptist Church of Monroe, The Temple Baptist Church of Durham, and The First Baptist Church of North Wilkes-Durham and North Wilkesboro, he was in the United States Navy as a Chaplain and also served in Baltimore, Maryland, as a pastor for a

He has been a speaker or a forum leader at several Baptist Student Union Conventions or Retreats, and was President of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Homes for the Aging at its inception. While in North Wilkesboro, he was a teacher in the Seminary Extension Center which was designed to add to the Biblical and theological knowledge of the pastors in Wilkes County. He was called to his present position at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in December, 1953.

On Friday, May 18, at ten o'clock in the morning, the final commencement exercises of the college will also be held in the auditorium of the health and physical education building. The speaker will be Dr. D. Hiden Ramsey of

Mountaineer Post 7031 V. F. W., the M. A. degrees from the Uni-Dave Ragan was installed as Post versity of Virginia, the LL.D. from the University of North Carolina, and the Litt. D. from Western Carolina College. He is known well in every section of North Carolina, years with The Asheville Citizen and Asheville Times, serving in varying capacities including editor and general manager. He was a member of the State Board of Education from 1945 to 1953, and served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Western Carolina College from 1937 to 1946.

> Dr. Ramsey is at present the chairman of the State Board of ville Baptist Church, were given Higher Education of North Caro-

Dr. W. H. Plemmons, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, will present diplomas to 198 candidates for the bachelor of science degree, and to 28 candidates for the master of arts de-

The music for the commencement program will be furnished by the college orchestra and the college chorus, under the direction, respectively, of Nicholas Linney, both on the college's music

The Alonzo Moretz who sub-The tour, arranged by the Carolina Motor Club, is scheduled to
visit similar points of interest this
week in Western North Carolina
description

The Alonzo Moretz who submitted to a speeding charge in
Superior Court last week is
No information is available as
to whom will be appointed to fill
and the Board of Education, hears
from Tennessee, Carson-Newman,
Winkler.

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#### Given Arion Award



Miss Ann Cottrell was awarded | ball team and the National Honor award given to the member of the senior class in the Appalachian High School Band, last Wednesday evening at the annual spring concert. The award was donated by the Boone Lions Club and was presented by Dr. John Workman, first vice president of the local

Miss Cottrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Cottrell, has been an active member of the high school band for the past six years. She is a member of the chorus, girls' glee club, girls' "A" be inscribed on a beautiful plaque off." club, annual staff, girls' basket- in the band room.

clarinet for three years and has been a member of the band council for two years.

The Arion Award is awarded to the members of the band, the high school faculty and the director of the band, has demonstrated outstanding qualities in musicianship, scholarship, and leadership. Miss Cottrell's name will be sent to the National Foundation of the Arion Award in Chicago, and will also

#### 40 Scouts Recognized At II .... Carret E.

More than forty boys were Court of Honor held in the Perkinsville Baptist Church. These advancements included ranks all the way from Tenderfoot to Life. Sixty merit badges were also awarded Scouts in attendance.

Frank Payne, Jr., of Troop 109, Boone Methodist Church, received his certification of being a Life Scout, the rank just under Eagle. Tad Buckland and Linneaus Derrick of the same troop, and Rufus Edmisten of Troop 55, Perkinstheir star badges.

Perry and Hoyle Coffey and Benny Robinson, of the Explorer Post at Blowing Rock were given the Bronze award for their achieve-

ments in Scouting.

The Perkinsvile Baptist Church troop, headed by Buck Robinson, presented Cecil Miller a certificate of appreciation for the work he has done with Scouting, not only in Perkinsville, but in the county and council. The certificate contained the names of all Talk Of Water the Scout leaders in the troop, thing to earn it" now.
Tenderfoots recognized included

Second Class: Billy Eubanks, recognized Sunday for their ad-Bobby Johnson, Tommy Cole, vancement in Scouting at a special Johnny Henson, Teddy Mast, James Henson, Charles Greene, Tommy Lawrence, Thomas Bush, (Continued on page six.)

#### Polio Vaccine Now Available

The Health Department states that a larger supply of polio vaccine has been received, and that beginning Wednesday, May 2, be-tween the hours of 8 and 11 a. m., first and second doses of the ser-um will be given to those six months through nineteen years of age, and to pregnant women.

No third shots will be given for ome time, it is said.

### City Officials And C. Of C. To

taken by surprise with this certificate, but promised to do "some-thing to earn it" now Mayor Winkler and the memmunicipal water system and the improvements which are being

#### **Chicago Chemist** Victim Of Two He Befriended

By V. G. ROLLINS

Two young hitchhikers from Milwaukee were sentenced to life imprisonment in Watauga Superior Court last Wednesday for stabbing to death a slightly-built, 72-yearold Chicago chemist who had be

Jo Ann Severson, 19, and Leonard La Fond, 21, pleaded guilty to first degree murder after hear ing the state produce overwhelm-ing testimony at the day-long ses-sion. Tuesday was consumed in selection a 13-man jury.

The guilty pleas, tendered through their attorneys, Wade E. Brown and Louis H. Smith, carried a mandatory sentence of

Separate written confessions to the brutal murder by both defendants, freely given to FBI agents late last summer at Las Cruces, New Mexico, and San Antonio, Tex., both stated that the two stabbed Lewis A. Finn to death in a tent pitched on the Cone Memorial Park picnic grounds near Blowing Rock last July.

The statements, together with testimony by Richard Finn, the murdered man's brother, Elmer F. Glabe, his employer in Chicago, Lowell Cook, attendant at the Cone picnic grounds, FBI and SBI agents, unfolded the following chain of events:

Jo Ann and Leonard left Mil-waukee, Wis., last July 8 and hitchhiked to Miami, Fla., where they remained about a week living as man and wife.

They hit the hitchhike trail north again and on the second day were given a ride while still in Florida by Mr. Finn, who had been visiting his brother at West Palm Beach and was on his way to visit another brother in Arizona. He carried camping equipment in

his 1954 Chevrolet. The three spent the next sevtent or in motels and hotels. On the third day, according to the confessions, Mr. Finn asked them about his having sexual relations with Jo. Ann. Next day he apologized but later repeated his request. They "kept putting him

They stopped at Cherokee, where La Fond bought a knife with a six-inch blade and Jo Ann stole a similar one. .

Proceeding northward, they stopped late one rainy afternoon at the picnic grounds near Blow Rock and pitched the tent for the

During the night, while Finn was sleeping, Jo Ann said, according to La Fond, "Let's bump him off." And La Fond told her she would have to strike the first blow and he would "finish him off." He told her if she didn't attack Finn first, "there might be two murders instead of one," said Jo Ann. She said he had threatened her before and that she feared fo

her life. Jo Ann awoke Finn and told him she was "ready to go through with the deal." (He had given them \$40 that day to buy clot When Finn began to "make love" to her, Jo Ann stabbed him in the back. Then La Fond slugged him in the jaw, hit him on the head with a flashlight, and plunged a knife into his chest. Jo Ann also stabbed him again. Then the two placed a pillow on his head and sat on it until he was still.

They stripped the body of cloth-ing, wrapped it in a blanket and a piece of canvas, and put it in the trunk of the car. Then they packed up the equipment and headed west in the car, throwing the murder weapons away somewhe

Tennessee.

They proceeded to Mammoth Cave Park in Kentucky and hid the body in a clump of bushes.

La Fond was arrested in Truth or Consequences, New Mex., August 29, while trying to cash a check he had received from the sale of a Pontiac which he had previously acquired in a trade for (Continued on page six)