

Date	High	Low	6 p.m.	prec.
June 26	83	57	73	0
June 27	77	57	68	0
June 28	82	57	72	0
June 29	83	57	74	0
June 30	85	56	73	0
July 1	83	58	73	0
July 2	85	60	78	0



CAST OF HORN IN THE WEST JOIN IN PARADE SATURDAY IN FULL COSTUME

Photo by Paul Smith

Record Crowds See Parade, Witness Opening Of Horn

Two Thousand Gather To See Outdoor Drama

Despite dark and ominous clouds which threatened to disgorge a deluge at any moment, Horn in the West opened its fifth season before an audience of more than 2,000 in picturesque Daniel Boone Theatre here Saturday night.

It was the biggest opening night in the history of Kermit Hunter's historical outdoor drama of the Southern Appalachian highlands depicting the turbulent period of the 1770's when the colonists were fighting to rid themselves of British tyranny.

An all-out and successful effort was made to focus increased local attention on the drama's opening with a series of events called the "Horn-cade", highlighted by a big parade and including a county-wide picnic on the Horn grounds, and the coronation of "Miss Horn-cade" on stage before the play began.

Selected by out-of-town judges from some thirty contestants as "Queen of the 1956 Horn-cade" was Miss Betty Swaim, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. O. K. Richardson.

Thousands lifted the streets as the parade got underway at 5 p. m. and proceeded down King Street and out to the theatre grounds.

Headed by a color guard, marching men and mechanized units, the parade featured a huge float carrying the contestants for the Queen's title and many other units sponsored by local merchants and organizations, such as pioneer scenes, hunting scenes, covered wagons, a hayride, an old whiskey still, surreys, buggies, teams, horseback riders, Boy Scouts, and gaily decorated automobiles. Music was supplied by members of the junior and senior high school bands.

The play, which has been revised and streamlined with each succeeding year, has William Ross, who has formerly played the vicious Colonel McKenzie with distinction, in the leading role of Dr. Geoffrey Stuart, who is torn between loyalty to the British crown and sympathy with the dream of democracy in the new world.

Charles Elledge, who has captivated audiences with his bluff and hearty portrayals of Amos Howard, leader of the mountain villagers, and Daniel Boone, brings the same hmespun manner and forceful characterization to a new role as the Rev. Isaiah Sims, a frontier preacher.

Glenn Causey, who has been in the cast since the beginning, lends more authenticity to the part of Daniel Boone than this role has yet enjoyed. His physical stature and genial personality make him ideally suited for the role of this favorite historical character.

Other sensitive portrayals are turned in by George Spence as John Sevier; Jane Plunkett as the doctor's wife, Martha Stuart; Robert Grubbs as their son, Jack Stuart; Al Harris as Toby Miller, the blacksmith; Glenn Sumpter as Colonel McKenzie; Ruby Wiggins as Widow Howard; Mary Lawrence, a Boone native, as Mary the Quaker lass; Jones L. Storie, another Boone native, as Atakula, the Indian Chief; Frank Jones as the Indian interpreter; and Ruth Arrington as the half-English, half-Cherokee girl, Nancy Ward, who befriends the settlers.

A new revolving stage designed and built by Production Director Gene Wilson to speed scene changes, the elimination of unnecessary and cumbersome scenes, and smoother performances by a more experienced, more self-assured cast all combine to make this year's production of Horn in the West a fast-moving, thoroughly enjoyable and authentic play, which was reflected in the enthusiastic approval of the opening night audience.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rogers and sons, Ronnie and Jay, of Plainfield, Ohio, are visiting this week with Mrs. Grady Graham and Miss Jimmie Graham.



MISS BETTY SWAIM . . . MISS HORN-CAFADE

—Staff Photo by Joe Minor

Business Gains Made In Watauga County

New York, June 25—Significant business gains were made in Watauga county in the past year as its residents, enjoying relatively good incomes and a high rate of employment, expressed their strength in large-scale buying in the local retail shops.

This is brought out in a copyrighted study of business in the nation's cities and counties, released in Sales Management's new buying power survey.

The high tempo of activity in Watauga county is seen in the amount of retail business recorded. It added up to a \$10,033,000 year for the local merchants. This was a gain over the 19,261,000 of the previous year.

What was the direction; of the bigger spending? The extra money available was used to buy the things that make for a better standard of living. People equipped themselves with more of the modern devices that add to comfort and convenience. Electric refrigerators, washing machines, better homes, fancier cars and the many other items that were once pure-luxury have become musts for more people.

The ability to spend more is made possible by better earnings. The data shows that, despite certain soft spots in the local economy, the net disposable income among families in Watauga County came to \$12,246,000 last year.

Divided by the number of local families, it amounted arithmetically to \$2,967 per family compared with \$2,646 in 1954.

The improvement which amounted to 12.9 percent was better than was achieved generally. The gain was 3.6 percent for the United States.

The ratio of how much is actually being spent in each community, as compared with its full capacity, is shown in the survey by a "buying power index." This weighted figure is based on such factors as income, sales and population. It lists Watauga County as able to produce .0061 percent of the nation's retail business. Since a smaller amount was done last year, .0054 percent, it is evident that considerable sales potential is still available.

Defense Secretary Wilson told a news conference the B-52 intercontinental bomber was being produced at a satisfactory rate and was vastly superior to the Soviet Bison.

Ladies Night Is Planned For City Merchants Group

The annual meeting of the Merchants Association will be held Friday evening, July 13, in the private dining room of the Boone Trail Restaurant, it was announced by G. R. Andrews, president.

As usual, ladies are invited and each merchant is urged to bring his lady.

Clyde R. Greene, former president of the State Merchants Association, who knows a lot about the value of the Merchants Association to Boone and North Carolina, will be the principal speaker.

Reports of the activities of the year will be presented by G. R. Andrews, retiring president, and Stanley A. Harris, manager.

The dinner will include ham and fried chicken and will be served for \$1.50.

It is felt that the Merchants Association has done much for the advancement of Boone and Watauga county and officials are anxious that all merchants in the county attend, whether or not they are members of the association.

Officers and members of the board of directors will be elected and installed at this meeting.

Chamber Will Meet On Tuesday

The regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday should be a program of more than normal interest. Al Eoyles, publicity director of Horn in the West, will serve as master of ceremonies and will present for short sketches Charles Elledge, as the preacher; William Ross, as Dr. Stuart; Glenn Causey, as Daniel Boone, and Jane Plunkett, as Martha Stuart.

General subject is: What is the Horn doing for Boone and what is Boone doing for the Horn?

The meeting will be held as usual on the second Tuesday, July 10, at the Boone Trail Dining Room, 12 noon to 1:15 p. m. All interested citizens are urged to attend.

Half of the families in the nation made \$5,520 in '55.



—Staff Photo by Joe Minor

SEVEN AXLE-GREASINGS TO HORN—Vince Martinson is greeted by Al Boyles, publicity director of Horn in the West, as he arrived in Boone about 2:30 p. m. Friday after pulling the covered wagon from Danville, Va., behind an auto traveling at 10 to 12 miles per hour. The unique caravan started its sentimental journey from Danville Wednesday morning, proceeded to Reidsville, spent the first night in Stokesdale, came through Winston-Salem Thursday, where he posed for television cameras, then through Yadkinville, spent Thursday night in North Wilkesboro, and completed the 170-mile trek Friday. He said he had to stop and grease the wagon's axles about every 25 miles. Martinson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota who received his certification work for teaching at ASTC and taught history last year at Schoolfield Junior High School in Danville, said he built the wagon from a 75-year-old Nissen chassis in a blacksmith shop at Ringgold, Va., with the aid of the blacksmith, a Mr. Taylor. The job took about two weeks, he said.

Initial Plans Are Made For Area School Board Meet

Representatives of some 25 North Carolina counties met at Appalachian State Teachers College on Monday to lay plans for a regional meeting of the North Carolina State School Board Association here in September. Co-chairmen for the convention are Drs. James E. Stone and Lee J. Reynolds of the education faculty at Appalachian.

The planning committee is composed of faculty members at Appalachian, school administrators in the area, and school board and school committee members also in the area.

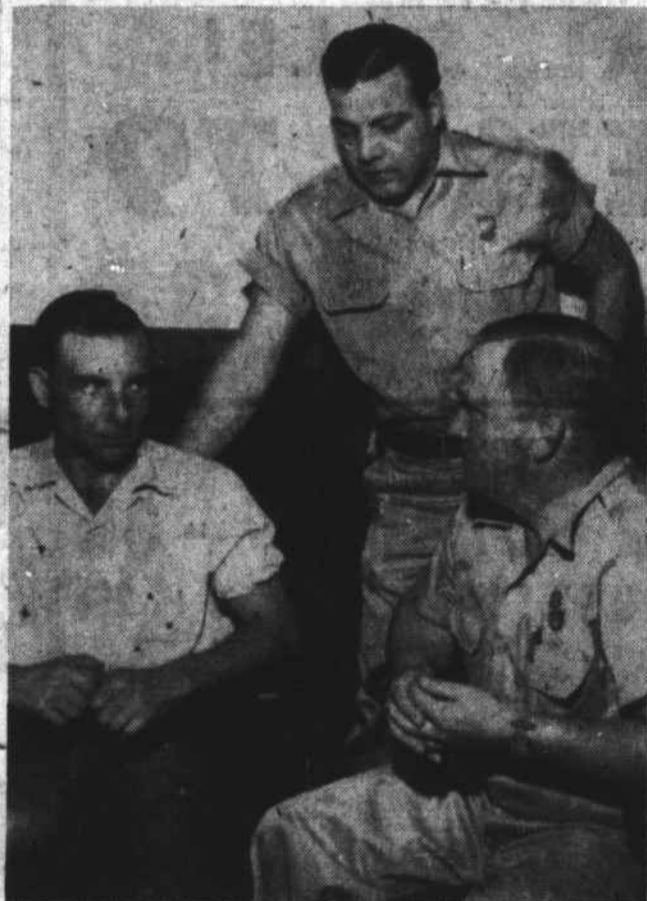
The committee set the date for the fall regional meeting as Wednesday, September 26, at the Appalachian elementary school. The meeting will get under way with registration at one o'clock on the 26th. The welcome will be given by Dr. W. H. Plemmons, president of Appalachian State Teachers College. Speaker for the main address is not yet chosen. There will be discussion groups to consider specific problems under the general theme of the conference, which will be "School Boards and the development of a continuing support for public education."

The convention dinner will be at 5:30 in the evening at the school cafeteria in the same building where the meeting is held. At the dinner meeting the discussion groups and other sessions will be summarized, and a brief business session held.

R. Barton Hayes of Lenoir, who is president of the 15th district of the North Carolina School Board Association, was appointed chairman of the publicity committee for the conference. W. S. Hamilton, superintendent of the Hickory City Schools, was appointed to serve with Mr. Hayes.

Dr. John Otts, assistant superintendent of the Charlotte City Schools, and A. D. Kornegay, superintendent of the Statesville City Schools, were appointed co-chairmen of a committee on resource materials.

The committee on local arrangements will be headed by R. E. Agle, chairman of the School Board at Boone. He will be assisted by Dr. A. B. Crew, principal of Appalachian high school, John Howell, principal of Appalachian (continued on page three)



ACCUSED OF SHOOTING—Bruce James Phillips, left, Caldwell lumber yard worker, accused of the shotgun slaying of Mrs. Ellen Parsons at her home near Deep Gap, is shown with Caldwell county Sheriff Clyde W. Roberts, right, and Deputy Clyde Mikeal, standing. Phillips voluntarily surrendered Thursday at his home near Lenoir. Phillips was brought to Boone by Watauga officers.—Photo by Jim Sparks, courtesy Lenoir News-Topic.

Phillips Says Fatal Shot Was Accident

Bruce James Phillips, 37, Caldwell county lumberyard worker, is in the Watauga county jail, charged with the murder of his cousin, Mrs. Ellen Spears Parsons, 33, in the Hot Hollow section, near Deep Gap Monday of last week.

Sheriff Ernest Hodges brought Phillips back to Watauga county Saturday after he had surrendered peacefully about 10 a. m. that day at his home four miles north of Lenoir.

Phillips was taken into custody by Caldwell county Sheriff Clyde Roberts and Deputy Sheriff Clyde Mikeal after they had received a call at their office.

A woman's voice said over the telephone, "Bruce Phillips is at home."

They said they learned later Phillips had sent his daughter, Gracie, 10, to the home of Mrs. George L. Austin of the Warrior section of Caldwell county with the request that she notify officers Phillips was ready to surrender.

The officers prepared for possible resistance when they went to the Phillips home, but Phillips greeted them with, "How you doing, fellows?"

The officers said Phillips told them the shooting was the result of what he termed "a drunken brawl" and claimed it was an ac-

cident. "I done it all right, but God is my witness it was an accident," Phillips told Sheriff Roberts and Deputy Mikeal.

Deputy Mikeal said, "He said he, Mrs. Parsons and her husband, Harrison Parsons, 35, were drinking together Sunday night. Apparently following an argument, Phillips said he went down the road to an abandoned farm house and got a shotgun.

"He said he didn't mean to shoot anybody," Mikeal said. "He claims he slipped on a rock and the gun accidentally discharged."

Mrs. Parsons was shot as she stood beside her husband, an automobile mechanic in Boone. Parsons told officers after the shooting that he knows of no reason why Phillips should have "had it in for us."

Parsons said Phillips had left the Parsons home and returned about 1:15 a. m. Monday. He said Phillips called him from the house and his wife begged him not to go, fearing there would be trouble.

He said she followed him when he left the house. He said he stooped over and when he did Phillips discharged the 16 gauge shotgun. The full discharge (Continued on page three)



GROVER C. ROBBINS, prominent Blowing Rock citizen who died Sunday, June 29. Mr. Robbins, who had been active in civic affairs all his life, was ill only a short while, and death was unexpected.