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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Seventieth Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER						
1959	High	Low	6 pm	prec.	1957	54
Jan. 28	25	19	22	0.00"	60	48
Jan. 29	31	20	26	0.00"	66	48
Jan. 30	37	20	32	0.04"	47	38
Jan. 31	50	28	44	0.17"	83	39
Feb. 1	41	18	18	0.00"	60	42
Feb. 2	18	10	12	0.28"	54	30
Feb. 3	14	1	13	0.18"	57	30

*Snow. Total of 14 inches snow on Feb. 23.

VOLUME LXX—NO. 31.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1958

TWELVE PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

Scout Week To Be Observed By Watauga Troops

Scouts in Watauga County will join more than 4,700,000 other Scouts when Boy Scout Week is celebrated over the nation February 7 to 13. The week will be the official observation of the 48th Anniversary of Scouting in America.

Highlight of the celebration in Boone will come when Andy Stallings, Star Scout of Troop 131 will be presented a God and Country award in church services at First Baptist Church in Boone Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock.

The God and Country award is given jointly by the Boy Scouts of

Boy Scouts. President Eisenhower said in a White House message urging the campaign:

"In our land each individual is of inestimable worth, yet in no other land do accidents cause a more terrible loss of human life and limb. This fact cannot be passively accepted. We must seek new ways to save the basic resources of our Nation: its people. . . . Through the concerted action of your members, and in cooperation with other organizations, you can alert the public to the urgent need for reducing the tragic toll of accidents. This is an opportunity for service to your country in the highest tradition of the Boy Scouts of America."

In Watauga County, according to figures kept by Mr. Richardson (Continued on page five)

Super Market Is Purchased By Lenoir Men

The Black Bear Super Market, operated for the past two and one-half years in east Boone by W. M. (Bill) Dixon and Charles M. Hodges, has been purchased by the owners of Thrift Food Center in Lenoir.

The new owners, J. L. Noll, A. E. McCrary, and J. H. O'Dell, have announced that they will continue to operate the store under the name of Thrift Food Center.

Mr. McCrary will serve as manager, and Robert Bodenheimer, a Watauga County native who has been employed at the Lenoir store, will be in charge of the meat department.

Mr. Dixon and Mr. Hodges, who operated a grocery store across the street for about two and one-half years, erecting the super market building, have advised that they will continue to work in the store for the present as employees of Thrift Food Center.

The new owners have announced that they plan to hold a "grand opening" event in the near future.

Democrats To Name Election Board Members

D. Frank Baird, chairman of the Watauga County Democratic Executive Committee, has announced that the state Democratic chairman has set Friday, February 14, at 2 p. m. in the Watauga County Court House at Boone as the date and place for a meeting of the county executive committee for the purpose of recommending members of the Watauga County board of elections.



ROCK AND DIRT tumbled down the mountainside onto U. S. highway 321, two miles south of Blowing Rock Sunday, January 26. The slide was removed quickly from the roadway by the State Highway Department maintenance crew, and traffic was back to normal within a few hours.—Photo by Palmer's Photo Shop.

County Schools Close In Wake 17-Inch Snow

By JOE MINOR
"The weather in Boone was 'frightful'."

It was bad, but contrary to tv and other reports from outside Boone, the ice and snow did not

keep people in or out of Boone. There was a lot of snow—17 inches for three days, as measured by the U. S. weather observer in Boone—much of which drifted because of the high winds, but the

State Highway Maintenance crew, working on a 24-hour vigil, kept all the main highways to and through Boone open at all times.

Except for possibly one spot near the intersection of 421-194, at Perkinsville, Frank W. McCracken, highway maintenance supervisor for this area, believes that traffic could move at all times with chains on all the main highways. At this point, usually the worst in the county at a time like this, cars may have been stalled temporarily until a snow shovel removed the drift.

Some of the county roads were impassable and some were not expected to be opened Tuesday. However, roads that were needed for emergency use, such as illness, were opened. The snow-moving workers stayed busy around the clock on the county roads and highways, in some cases opening the roads at the same places more than once because the wind kept blowing the snow back onto them.

Guy W. Angell, superintendent of Watauga county schools, announced Tuesday afternoon that schools would remain closed Wednesday, as he had been advised that some of the county roads would still be closed with snow. He could not say how much longer, if any, the school children would have a holiday.

The temperatures were low, going to 1 above zero Sunday night. Monday night it got so cold that the minimum temperature gauge at the weather station went haywire, going way below zero, and a new thermometer had to be ordered. At 7:00 a. m. Tuesday the mercury was standing at 10 above, but crept up to 20 degrees by noon.

Only one time during January did the temperature go to 50 degrees, and that was recorded on the last day of the month. After that the mercury took a sudden drop, and the snow, accompanied by wind, followed. On Sunday, February 2, nine inches of snow was trapped in the precipitation can, on Monday 5 inches, and after the snow quit late Monday 3 more inches were measured, making a total of 17 inches.

Mothers' March Is Successful

The Mothers' March on Polio, conducted Thursday night, January 30, under the direction of Mrs. Hadley M. Wilson, was termed an unqualified success as thirty Boone mothers collected a total of \$440 for the March of Dimes campaign.

It has been reported that about \$1,500 is now in hand for the entire drive, which ended Saturday, with many cans, boxes, and cards distributed throughout the county still uncollected due to weather conditions.

Mrs. Carl Fidler is Watauga County chairman of the March of Dimes campaign.

A. F. L. C. I. O. economist urges tax reduction.

Leaders Map Plans For Civic Center

\$150,000 Seen As Cost Of Newest Project

BLAMES JOHN BARLEYCORN

In Jail For 30 Years, Again In Law's Toils

By VIRGIL ROLLINS
Boone civic leaders met Wednesday, January 29, and discussed plans for a proposed community recreation center on the Horn in the West property, recently purchased by the Town of Boone.

Still in the "talking" stage, the project would provide for the building of a club house and swimming pool, with playground, teen canteen, concession stand, etc., at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Representatives of ten civic clubs met last August 14 and formed the Daniel Boone Park Committee to make recommendations to the town council on the need to expand Boone's recreational facilities. Wade E. Brown was named chairman and Mrs. B. W. Stallings, secretary.

A recommendation outlining the above project was presented August 15 to the town board, which subsequently approved the plan, subject to an expression of approval by the townspeople at large and contingent upon the availability of a feasible method of financing the project.

Also discussed January 29 was the advisability of calling a mass meeting to present the plan to the people and establish a basis for a decision on whether to hold a bond election. However, no date for such a meeting was set.

Chairman Brown, who is also legal adviser for the committee, reported that bond attorneys in New York have advised him that according to law any bond issue to finance improvements to the subject property would have to include the purchase price of the property itself. The Town of Boone paid about \$105,000 for the Horn in the West property.

Following the August 14 organizational meeting, Mrs. Stallings visited several towns in North Carolina and Tennessee which have such recreational centers. She reported that Kingsport, Tenn., has a center quite similar to the one proposed for Boone.

The Kingsport installation was designed by Beeson & Beeson, a Johnson City, Tenn., firm of architects, who have been contacted and have drawn preliminary plans for the Boone clubhouse and swimming pool.

Ted Pease of Boone, landscape architect for the Blue Ridge Parkway, has also furnished the committee with a preliminary drawing of the entire proposed layout, including playground, landscaping, etc.

In addition to the primary function of the proposed project to furnish recreational facilities for the young people, a meeting place for local clubs, and convenience for tourists; long range plans call for development of the entire area to provide horseback riding, memorial gardens, and a museum, the committee said.

Thomas J. Wall Taken By Death

Thomas Jefferson Wall, 63, resident of Todd, died Saturday at the Veterans' Hospital, Mountain Home, Tenn. where he had been a patient for thirty days.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 2 o'clock at the Hopewell Methodist Church by Rev. Wayne Woodard and Rev. Ed Blackburn and interment was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Mae Church, one son and five daughters: James M. Wall, Todd; Mrs. Lucille Miller, North Wilkesboro; Mrs. Sarah Jones, Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Myrtle Miller, Joppa, Md.; Miss Sandra Wall of the home. One brother, Robert Wall, Aberdeen, Mr., and one sister, Mrs. Jennie Grubbs of Winston-Salem also survive.

United States Navy to shut four air stations.



WILLIAM HAMPTON WEISS

By VIRGIL ROLLINS
He learned to steal at his mother's knee when he was four years old.

He never knew his father.

As near as he can figure it, he's spent 30 of his 42 years in orphanages, reformatories, jails, and penitentiaries.

Nobody ever gave him a break. He is an alcoholic, and wants help from somebody, anybody.

That, in brief, is the story told by William Hampton Weiss, who is being held in Watauga County jail in lieu of \$2,000 bond on five counts of breaking and entering and larceny here in 1952.

A trail of broken glass, looted stores, and pilfered merchandise strewn along King Street was left on the night of July 11, 1952, as Hollar's Grocery, Sinclair Service Station, Hi-Land Cleaners, Watauga Hardware, and Smithy's store were wantonly ransacked by a careless marauder.

Police Chief Glenn Richardson said Weiss was linked to the break-ins through his fingerprints and has admitted the thefts.

"I guess I did it, my fingerprints were there. I don't have much recollection of it, but I know I was in Boone that night," Weiss told a Democrat reporter in his jail cell.

In the five and one-half years since the Boone break-ins, he has served five years and four months of a seven-year term in a Richmond, Va., prison and was jailed for vagrancy in Washington, D. C., the day he left Richmond.

"I've only been free about six hours since I was arrested in Virginia in 1952," Weiss said.

He was returned to Boone from Washington on Monday, January 27, by John Edwards, State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) agent who assisted Chief Richardson and (then) Sheriff Earl Cook in the investigation of the 1952 robberies.

They also told him his mother had been using him as an accomplice in her thefts.

Weiss said he was transferred to the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford in 1924, where he stayed two years and was adopted in 1926 at the age of 10 by a Mr. John Beasley of Berea, N. C.

The following year he was caught stealing and sent to Eastern Carolina Training School at Rocky Mount. He stayed there about six years, but "ran off several times."

Discharged at 18, he was arrested the same year (1933) for larceny in Kentucky and served seven years and nine months of a ten-year sentence in the Kentucky State Reformatory.

At 28 he was drafted into the Army at Oxford in 1942 and sent to Fort Bragg, but "took off and never reported back."

After serving 32 months in the Northampton County Prison Camp for breaking and entering, he was (Continued on page five)

Radio Program Nets Over \$400 For Polio Fund

Donations to the March of Dimes set a new record on Wednesday night when radio station WATA and Bob Barnes worked overtime to help get contributions from the college and townspeople.

Barnes, who contributed his time until the program ended at 2:30 in the morning, was master of ceremonies for the program which included playing records by request for any amount over twenty-five cents, and having persons from the college and community come to the radio station to sing in answer to requests and a contribution of five dollars. A large number of persons were called upon, but decided that to match the request contribution would be easier than a performance.

The student body, townspeople, and the faculty responded to the appeal with a contribution which at latest count, totaled \$413.55.

On the Appalachian campus, Justice Hall led the tally with a total of \$62.75, with Lovell second by little less than a dollar at \$61.35.

Bob Barnes, Bill Pissan and others did admirable service for the polio fund.

OFFICIAL POSTER commemorating the 48th anniversary of Boy Scouting in America. The celebration will be held February 7-13 during annual Scout Week. Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Explorers will take part in the activities of the week.

Jailer Loses Finger As Negro Bangs Door

Deputy Sheriff George Smitherman, Watauga County jailer, suffered the loss of a portion of his right middle finger last Thursday in a cell-door accident caused by George Horton, 30-year-old Boone Negro.

Smitherman gave this account of the occurrence:

He had escorted Horton into a cell after Horton was arrested for public drunkenness by Police Chief Glenn Richardson between 6 and 7 p. m. Thursday. The door which opens inside, was standing ajar while he (Smitherman) was in the act of doubling up a piece of paper to insert in the jamb to prevent it from rattling if the prisoner shook it.

Meanwhile, Horton had grasped the bars of the cell door in his hands and was moving the door back and forth. When Smitherman, his door silencer in place, reached in with his right hand to pull the door shut, Horton suddenly shoved on the door with all his weight, slamming it shut and catching Smitherman's finger just above the second joint.

The first and most of the second joint were cut completely off and fell to the floor inside the cell.

Smitherman received treatment at Watauga Hospital and was released Saturday.

Other charges may be placed against Horton, he said, growing out of the fact that he was in

Chief Richardson's police car at the official parking place in front of Crest store when arrested, and had the chief's car keys in his hand when taken out of the car.

Rites Held For Mrs. C. A. Reese

Mrs. Elizabeth Reese, 54, died at her home at Zionville Sunday. Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 o'clock at the Zionville Baptist church and interment was in the cemetery there. Rev. R. C. Eggers conducted the rites.

Surviving are the husband, Clifford A. Reese, two sons and two daughters: Alonzo Reese, Lenoir; J. D. Reese, Zionville; Mrs. Sallie Hodge, Mountain City, Tenn.; Mrs. Joe Eller, Lenoir. There are two brothers and one sister: Larna Greer, Deep Gap; Odell Greer, Morganton; Mrs. Nell Trivett, Trade, Tenn.

Hospital Has A Full House

Watauga Hospital operated at near capacity during the first three days of February.

Mrs. Virginia Groce, business administrator, said the hospital census showed 48, 50, and 51 patients, including newly born babies, for February 1, 2, and 3.