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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Seventy-First Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER			
1959	High	Low	prec. 1958-59
Jan. 20	52	35	45
Jan. 21	58	45	38
Jan. 22	58	16	18
Jan. 23	30	14	25
Jan. 24	51	21	30
Jan. 25	57	28	43
Jan. 26	57	30	45
Total rainfall—2.08 inches.			21 34

VOLUME LXXI—NO. 31

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1959

TWELVE PAGES—TWO SECTIONS

Local Communities Get Entry Forms For Progress Contests

Communities in Watauga and ten other counties in Northwest North Carolina this week received entry forms for the Northwest North Carolina Development Association's annual community judging.

Cash prizes will be awarded next fall to winning communities. The communities are classified as follows: farming, rural non-farming, and small towns and villages. Prizes to communities in each of these classifications will be awarded. There will be a special division for communities entering for the first time.

The community development program was set up by the Northwest Association in order to encourage communities or organize and develop programs for home improvements, increasing per capita income, youth activities and community-wide improvement.

Special prizes are also awarded to the counties making the most progress in these areas.

In 1958, a total of \$3,050 in cash prizes were awarded to winning communities in the different classifications.

Community development is one of four divisions in which the Northwest Development Association is active. The others are ag-

riculture, industry, and travel and recreation. Mrs. W. T. Roth of Elkin is chairman of the community development division. Mrs. Fred Bowman of Granite Falls is vice chairman.

Representatives in the community development division from Watauga are: Jerry Adams, Sugar Grove; the Rev. Hoyt Roberson, Boone; Mrs. Hattie Lewis, Sherwood.

Deadline for communities to enter this year's development program is May 15. Entry blanks, along with detailed information on organization were mailed to the communities this week.

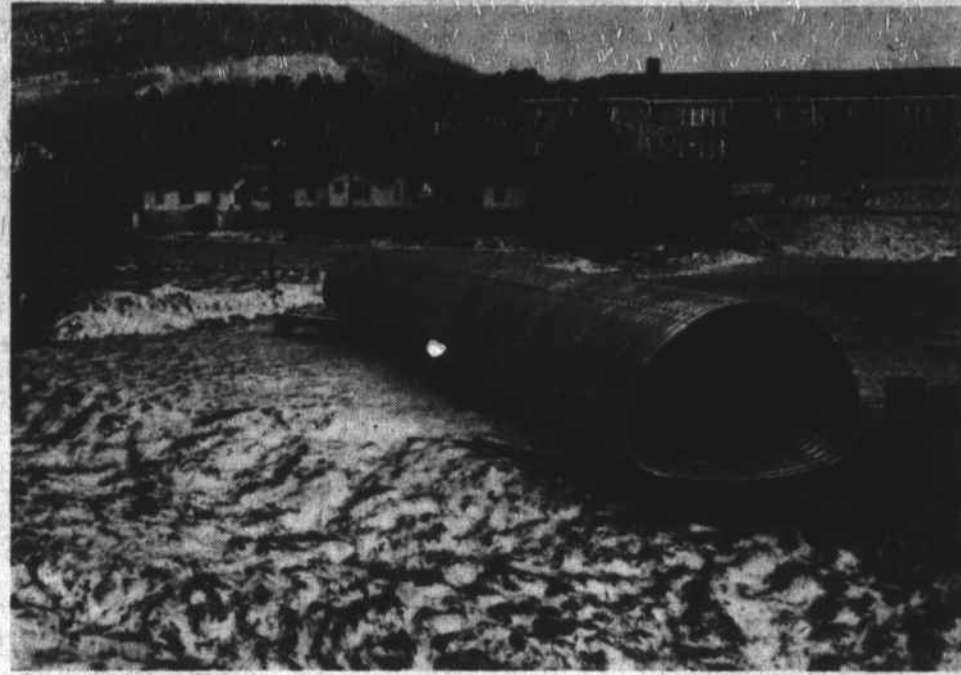
Judging is scheduled to be held in early November, 1959.

The classifications of the communities are defined as follows: Farming community—one-third or more of the families in the community receiving a major part of their livelihood from farming.

Rural non-farm community—two-thirds or more of the families in the community deriving their income from outside sources or sources other than farming.

Small city, town or village—a community with a definitely established center where business and professional activity is carried on and in which there are residential areas.

New Stadium Entrance Planned



Sixty-five-foot steel culvert that will be placed under street near College Field.

A sixty-five-foot entrance to the street just west of College Field at Appalachian State Teachers College is being built as part of the college's permanent improvement program of walks, streets and landscaping, according to Bernard Dougherty, vice-president and

comptroller of the institution. The plans call for a 65-foot steel culvert, which is on location, being placed where a narrow bridge is now, and a traffic island will be placed at the approach to facilitate the movement of traffic in and out

of the area. Work, which has been halted for some time on the project, is expected to be resumed this week, and efforts will be made to minimize the inconvenience to those who use the street, by getting the culvert in as soon as possible.

Boone To Have New Highway Outlets

Work To Start On 421 West, 603 Is Pushed

Boone is to have two completely modern interstate highway connections to the west in the foreseeable future, when the Tennessee link of 603 is completed, and the last part of the old twisting section of 421 gives way to a modern thoroughfare.

Work is expected to start soon on the 421 project which will open a new improved highway connection since Tennessee eliminated her worst section "down the gorge" some time ago.

The new highway will leave the present 421 in the vicinity of Willowdale Baptist Church, just west of Vilas and will go northwest across country to rejoin the present highway near Zionville. Suber & Co., of Whitmire, S. C., submitted the low bid of \$1,141,281.50 for the roadway, while W. B. Dillard Construction Co., of Sylva submitted the low bid of \$52,736.88 on the structures.

Work is going forward on the lower end of highway 603 in Tennessee and the contractor, the Asheville Construction Co., is working through the winter in an effort to get the road done during the fall of this year.

Long advocated by the people of Boone and the county, 603 will form another important link with the west and should provide a vital commercial and tourist artery to supplement the present fine system of interstate highways serving this area. North Carolina had long since completed her section of the road to the State line.

A. L. Dotson Succumbs

Albert Lenoir Dotson, 75, of Sugar Grove, died Monday, January 26, at Watauga Hospital.

Funeral services were to be conducted at 2 p. m. Wednesday, January 28, by the Rev. Carl Wilson and the Rev. W. C. Payne, with burial to follow in St. John's cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Matilda Dotson; three sons, Russell Dotson, Sugar Grove, Newland Dotson, Winston-Salem, and Charles Dotson, Sugar Grove; five daughters, Mrs. Ollie Coe, Winston-Salem, Mrs. Bonnie Hicks, Sugar Grove, Mrs. Stella Dellinger, Morganton, Mrs. Ida Ward, Sugar Grove, and Mrs. Mary Cavellaro, Philadelphia, Pa.; a sister, Mrs. James Smith, Bluff City, Tenn.

Also 26 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Four Counties Join In Forming Area Development Association

Mr. H. W. Wilcox of Boone, veteran Chamber of Commerce executive, was named president of the Tennessee-Carolina Four County Development Association, organized in Boone last week.

The Association, made up of citizens of Watauga and Avery counties in North Carolina, and Johnson and Carter counties in Tennessee, will have as its goal the development of the natural resources of the four-county area through cooperative effort, at the same time encouraging industry to take a closer look at the territory.

Two major projects involve the continuing effort to secure cheaper electricity for Watauga County, and in some way to bring about the construction of the Beech Creek Dam.

Other officers of the Association are: Johnson County, Tenn., F. G. Terry, secretary-treasurer, Dr. R. O. Glenn and L. D. Butler, directors; Carter County, Tennessee, R. E. Little, vice-president, two directors to be named later; Avery County, E. L. Lafferty, vice-president, two directors to be named later; Watauga County, Herman W. Wilcox, president, S. C. Eggers and Herman Anderson, directors.

The land area covered by the four counties is about 466,000 acres. Commercial forest cover about 60 per cent of the area.

The next meeting of the Association will be held in Elizabethton, Tenn., March 27.

The association will apply for a charter as a non-profit organization. Other officers and committees will be named later. General offices will be in Mountain City, Tenn.

No Weed Cut Seen

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—Congressman Hugh Q. Alexander announced in Washington today that the Secretary of Agriculture had assured him that there would be no reduction in Burley tobacco allotments for 1959.

The Secretary, Alexander said, had signed an order fixing the 1959 Burley acreage allotments at the figure for 1958.

"I am pleased," commented Alexander, "that the Department of Agriculture has heeded the protest that I and other Congressmen from Burley producing states made at our recent meeting with tobacco officials."

Alexander recently lodged a very strong protest with the tobacco division of the Agriculture Department over proposals made to reduce the 1959 acreage allotments for Burley tobacco.

Horn To Act Friday

Final action on the budget and other matters pertaining to the 1959 production of the outdoor drama, *Horn in the West*, has been postponed to Friday night of this week, when an open meeting of the board of directors of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association will be held at 7:30 o'clock in the banquet room of the Boone Trail Restaurant.

All persons interested in the finances and plans for production of the play are invited to meet with the board at that time.

Dimes Dance On Saturday

The 1959 March of Dimes Drive is to be capped with the annual festive dance this Saturday night at the Elementary School Gym from 8:30 until 12 p. m., with the highlight of the evening being music played by the Appatones.

The cooperation and help given by folks and merchants of the town promises to make this March of Dimes Ballroom Dance a huge success, but the real success will be measured by the resulting attendance.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, or in advance at the Boone Drug Store and the College Book Store.

Death Takes Mrs. Dan Mast

Mrs. Ruia Lowrance Mast, 79, died at her home, Sugar Grove, Wednesday, January 21, at 3:15 p. m.

Funeral services were conducted at the Cove Creek Baptist Church Friday, January 23, at 2:00 p. m. by the Rev. Mr. Blankenship and Rev. Alvin Wilson, pastor of Henson's Chapel Methodist Church. Burial was in the Cove Creek cemetery.

Mrs. Mast was born and reared in Watauga County. She was a member of the Cove Creek Baptist Church. She was married August 29, 1895 to Dan H. Mast, approximately 63 and one-half years ago.

Surviving are three sons and six daughters. Don Mast, Mountain City, Tenn., Orville Mast, Cleveland, Ohio, Roe Mast, Sherwood; Mrs. Guy Ellis, Bristol, Va., Mrs. Rose Combs, Mrs. Clyde Henson, Vilas, Mrs. Ralph Lyons, Charlotte, Mrs. Gladys Thompson, Sugar Grove, and Mrs. Clint Baird, Valle Crucis. Also surviving are two brothers, Lee Lowrance, Valle Crucis and Wilson Lowrance, Fall Branch, Tenn.

Surviving are thirty one grandchildren, fifty three great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

The granddaughters acted as the flower girls and active pallbearers were the grandsons.

Restriction on highway billboards sought again.

Optimist Club Being Organized In Boone

The final organizational meeting of the Optimist Club of Boone will be held at 8:30 p. m. Thursday, January 29, at the Boone Trail Restaurant.

Mr. William Collins, Field Representative of Optimist International, St. Louis, Mo., will conduct the meeting. Members will elect officers and directors, adopt by-laws, and set quarterly dues.

The new club is being sponsored by the Lenoir Optimist Club. The official Charter Party, with about 50 members and their wives, is expected to be held in about six weeks.

The first project of the club, which is a county-wide organization, will be to sponsor a local oratorical contest in Watauga County schools. The subject is Optimism. The local winner will compete in a zone contest in Lenoir, and the zone winner will go to the regional contest to be held in Atlanta, Ga. Winners from the four international regions will compete at Miami Beach, Fla., for a \$1,000 scholarship. Each of the other three finalists will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Boone Optimist Club will bring to this community a very special Boys' Work Program. There are over 500 different programs available to the local group through Optimist International. One of the most popular programs is the Junior Optimist Club movement. Last year more than 1,500,000 boys were reached in the Optimist movement with over \$3 million being spent.

Optimist International for the past five years has been the fastest growing service organization in all the world, local organizers say. November 10-16 marked the Second International Youth Appreciation Week. This is a program sponsored by Optimist International to praise and publicize 95 per cent of our young people who are developing into model citizens of

the future. Clubs hope that by publicizing decency instead of delinquency youth will realize "you don't have to be bad to be not-iced."

The Optimist Creed is a basic (Continued on page eight)

Mrs. Greer Dies Friday

Mrs. Elmira Oliver Greer, 75, died at her home at Zionville on Friday, January 23.

The funeral was conducted Sunday, January 25, at 2 p. m. at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. Fred Hagaman, the Rev. R. C. Eggers, and the Rev. Ronda Earp. Burial was in Union cemetery.

Survivors include her husband, Henley Greer; six sons, Arnt Greer, Trade, Tenn., Fonzo Greer, Mountain City, Tenn., Raymond Greer, Morganton, Norman Greer, Boone, Von Greer, Wasco, Oregon, and Don Greer, Zionville; three daughters, Mrs. Mae Thomas, Wasco, Oregon, Mrs. Ethel Perry, Zionville, and Mrs. Dare Isaacs, Zionville; a brother, John Oliver, Trade, Tenn.

Also surviving are 33 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Walsh Is Named To West Point

Paul Hunter Walsh, son of the late Paul Walsh and Mrs. Walsh of Sherwood has been given the second alternate appointment to the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., by Representative Hugh Q. Alexander.

The nomination was one of 23 announced by Rep. Alexander for 1959 entrance to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marine Academies.

Boone Is Deluged By Two Inches Of Rain

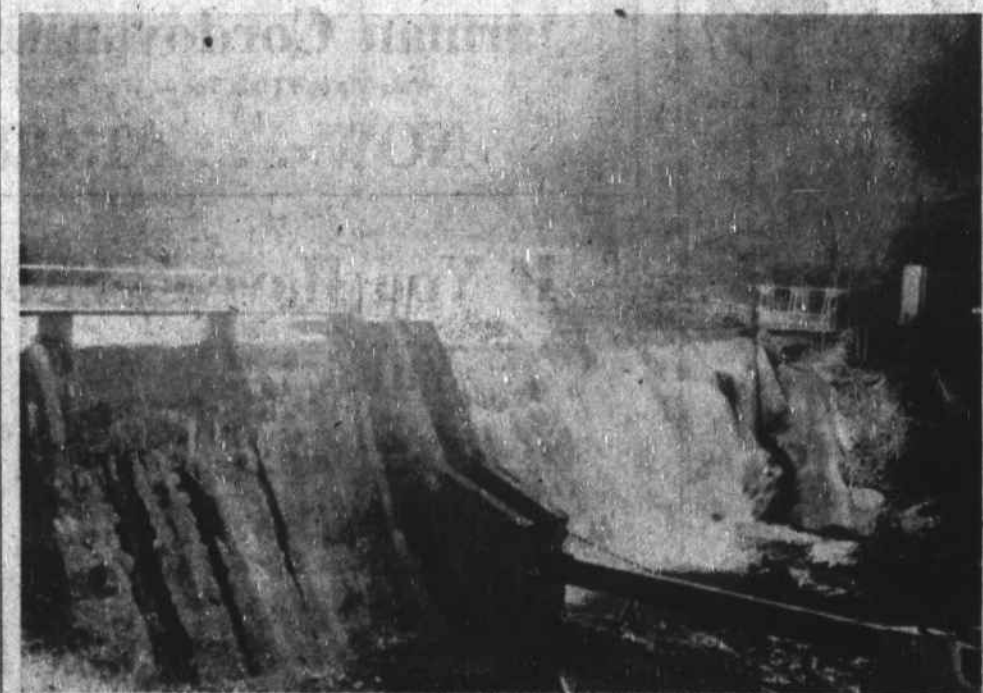
More than two inches of rain fell on Boone last Wednesday, causing a flooding of the Square in the center of town, and water flowed freely over other streets about town for awhile as the rains were unable to carry the water away fast enough.

A continuous light rain fell most of the day and at six p. m. about a half-inch had fallen. Then a wind storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, hit the town, and rain fell in torrents at times. By ten p. m. 2.08 inches of rain had fallen,

and shortly afterwards the precipitation ceased.

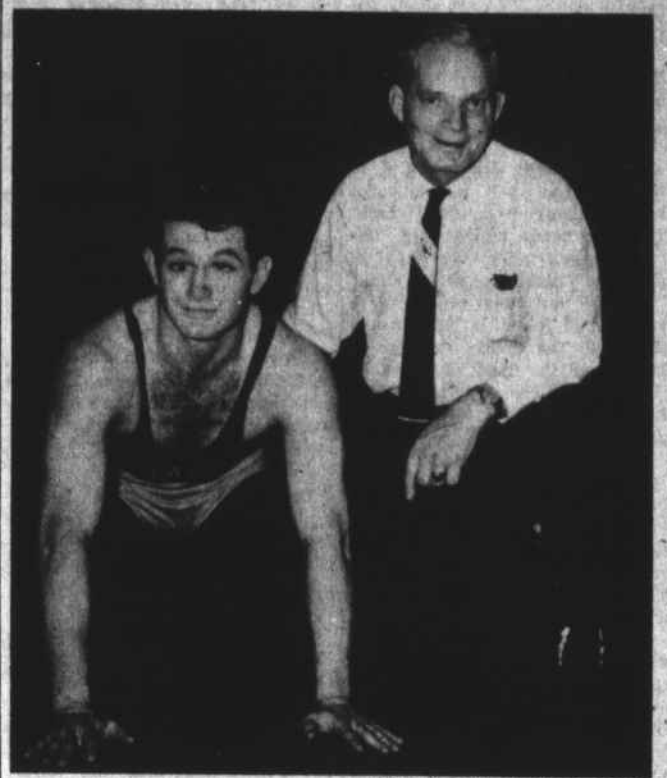
Some wind damage was noted, with a few small signs in downtown Boone being torn from their hooks, but no major damage was reported.

The rain fell in 50-degree or above weather, but by morning the temperature had dropped to below the twenties. The wind continued during the night, and dried off the streets and highways considerably, but the soggy ground was frozen by the sudden drop in temperature.



THE MIST partially obscures the reservoir above the dam near Tate's Tourist Lodge just off the Blowing Rock highway. Ice may be seen clinging

to part of the spillway and rocks about, as the sun and wind combine with the cold weather to give passers-by this beautiful winter picture.



—Photo by Palmer's Photo Shop

Wrestler Cox and Coach Watkins

Sightless Wrestler Does Well At College

By GEORGE FLOWERS, JR.

Don Cox, a husky 19-year-old wrestler at Appalachian State Teachers College, admits he's somewhat at a disadvantage when he's on his feet.

"But just wait until my opponent throws me off balance," he says with a knowing smile.

When his clinched hands are pounding on the mat, Don is at his best.

Don's peculiar advantage is not in his muscles or his timing. That helps, but the real factor is one which could be expected to work against him.

He has been blind since he was five years old.

That accounts for his disadvantage on his feet. And it means, at the same time, advantages that come from 14 years of living in a world of blackness, advantages in sensitive reflexes and "sight" by sound and feeling.

Don, a Virginian who came to Appalachian by way of the school for the blind at Staunton, Va., took up wrestling only four years ago. "It was the thing to do at Staunton. I wanted to participate in sports and wrestling was the only one suited to my handicap," he explains.

From the mats at Staunton, he went on to the Virginia state championship, losing by only one point.

His coach at Staunton was a good friend of Mountaineer Coach Red Watkins and "put me in touch with him."

For Coach Watkins, who has been coaching wrestlers for 36 years, it was a new experience—his first blind one. But, after only a few months, he has high praise for Cox, who "can hold his own on the mats with anyone."

His record of four wins in four meets this season backs up Coach Watkins' estimate. "I haven't been scored on yet," boasts Cox proudly of his one pin and three decisions.

Watkins explains that he treats Don "the same as the other wrestlers, giving him the same training. The only thing we had to do special was to give him a little extra coaching in certain fundamental stands and holds."

Cox holds another distinction in addition to being the first blind wrestler in 22 years for Appalachian. He is also the first blind student permitted to attend the school for a full four-year course.

Most blind students attend for only two years, but since he is studying physical therapy rather than teaching, school officials made an exception for an exceptional student.

While he spends his afternoons practicing, he devotes his nights to the books. He came here after finishing Staunton in fourth-place scholastically. At Appalachian he has managed to maintain a B average.

Don once thought he might regain his sight after losing it because of glaucoma when he was two years old. Medical treatment gave him a ray of light and of hope a few months later, but, by the time he was five he was completely without vision.

It has been a dark world for Don but certainly not a quiet one. He grew up in Roanoke, Va., with a brother and sister. After that came the Staunton school and now a college room which seems to attract fellow collegians.

"Because of the way I have to study with braille I have a room by myself here," he said. But he added, as an afterthought, "it's always crowded though, with just about everybody on campus it seems."

Swedish budget called shocker new taxes asked.

Arab Development Bank to begin operation.

Greene Given Award In Conservation Work

Edgar D. Greene, soil conservation aid of the Watauga County Work Unit, has just been notified that he has been awarded an "outstanding" rating for service rendered during 1958.

Mr. Greene received this award from E. B. Garrett, state conservationist with Soil Conservation Service. The award was made upon the recommendations of H. J. Williams, Watauga Work Unit conservationist; R. C. Wyatt, Avery County Work Unit conservationist; and L. D. Curle, acting area conservationist of the North Wilkesboro area office.

To merit an outstanding rating all phases of the work of the employee must be of an outstanding nature. Very few of these awards are granted in the state and it is a high honor to receive such a commendation.

Mr. Greene has been working with Soil Conservation Service for thirteen years. He began work in the Watauga Work Unit in March 1950, when Soil Conservation Service opened the Boone office to provide technical assistance to the Watauga Soil Conservation District.