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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER				
1960	High	Low	6 pm prec.	1959-71
May 3	67	35	54	80 56
May 4	69	31	55	79 58
May 5	68	36	59	74 66
May 6	67	50	60	78 71
May 7	61	50	51	78 58
May 8	51	38	45	75 54
May 9	53	35	48	78 50

Total precipitation—1.74 inch.

VOLUME LXXII— NO. 46

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1960

EIGHTEEN PAGES—THREE SECTIONS

Trucking Official Is Speaker

"Your tomorrow is what you make it," a trucking industry spokesman told high school students here today.

Jeff B. Wilson, Raleigh, director of Information and Safety of the North Carolina Motor Carriers Association, spoke to a group of high school students during Career Day at Appalachian High School sponsored by the Beta Club.

"No moment in your life has ever been more important as today's decision sets the course of your thousand tomorrows," Wilson told the teenagers.

"Many fields and professions may interest you; yet I challenge you to look closely at the trucking industry, which has grown so rapidly that it has opened new opportunities and widened horizons for thousands of young people," Wilson stated.

Douglas Carson and Jones Oliver introduced Wilson who is also editor of the monthly magazine, *Tarheel Wheels*, president of the Southern Safety Conference and former Lions International Governor. Career Day chairmen were Alice Greer and Margaret Gragg. Beta Club president is Sue Green, faculty advisors were Mrs. Cecyle O. Bryant and Mrs. Lara Randall.

"Serving the public better, quicker and more economically, the trucking industry has advanced to the forefront of American life. This is especially true here in Watauga County for you depend on truck transportation for everything you eat, wear, use and sell. In fact," Wilson continued, "the 17 counties of western North Carolina are truly on the mainline of commerce by truck transportation."

He proved his point by comparison, when he said "this beautiful 17 county area of yours, which embraces a half million people with income of more than \$61 million, is served by 142 motor carriers, six railroads, 17 bus lines and three airlines."

The trucking industry in the state is not an industry apart to itself, but an important part of every community. It is the basic life-line in the economic and social life of North Carolina," he continued.

"Day in and day out the trucking industry workload has increased, until trucks now transport, at one time or another, 75% of the nation's freight . . . in more than ten million trucks of all sizes, shapes and facilities," he reminded.

"Still surging forward, still increasing its power to serve, the trucking industry stands today as the gateway to a brighter future for promising young men and women," he concluded, "here is opportunity without parallel—here is your future—here is your career."

Mrs. F. G. Ray Dies In Ashe

West Jefferson, May 8—Mrs. Lessie Phipps Ray, who with her husband, Fred G. Ray, operated the Black Bear Inn for about 30 years, died at 10:05 a. m. yesterday at Ashe Memorial Hospital.

She suffered a heart attack 10 days ago and had been seriously ill since. She lived at West Jefferson, Rt. 1.

Mrs. Ray was born in Ashe County, a daughter of Hiram Green Phipps and Eva Goodman Phipps.

She is survived by her husband; a son, Ward Ray of West Jefferson; four sisters, Mrs. L. P. Colvard and Mrs. J. C. Worth of Jefferson, Mrs. Carl Cowan of Bristol, Tenn., and Mrs. Will Wilson of Mountain City, Tenn.; and a brother, Vanley E. Phipps of Baltimore, Md.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p. m. Monday at Bethany Methodist Church by the Rev. Ray Stevens, the Rev. W. E. Fitzgerald and the Rev. Grady Burgen. Burial was in the church cemetery.

ENJOY "MUD VACATION"

Mt. Vernon, Maine.—Children in Mt. Vernon recently enjoyed a one-week "mud vacation." Town officials closed public schools for a week because back country roads were so muddy that travel was difficult.



OPENS MONDAY—The above offices of the Boone branch of The Northwestern Bank will open for business Monday morning. The building, started last fall, has just been completed, and is said by bank officers to be the most modern structure of its kind serving Northwestern North Carolina.

Northwestern Bank To Open New Building Next Monday

C. M. Critcher, Former Sheriff, Dies Monday

Columbus Monroe Critcher, 87, former Watauga county sheriff and a leading business man of the county for many years, died Monday at the home, 505 East King Street after an extended illness, following a paralytic stroke.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 10 a. m. at the Mount



MR. C. M. CRITCHER

Vernon Baptist Church. Rev. Wendall Critcher and Rev. R. C. Eggers conducted the rites and burial was in the Mount Vernon cemetery.

A son of the late William J. and Mrs. Critcher, the deceased was born and reared in Watauga county where he spent his entire life. One of the last of the general store merchants, he operated a store near his home in the Bamboo section for a great many years. Later he moved to Boone and he and a son-in-law, Mr. W. O. Robertson were engaged in the retail furniture business for a number of years. Later he engaged in the fertilizer business here, and re-

tained farming interests.

Mr. Critcher had been a member of the board of directors of the Watauga Savings & Loan Association since 1928, and was Vice-President of the corporation for ten years.

In his more active years he was a leading figure in the Republican party in the county and had held two elective offices. In 1912 he was elected Treasurer and served one term. He was elected Sheriff of Watauga county in 1922, and served for one term.

Surviving are a son and three daughters: Mrs. A. E. Hamby, Boone; Mrs. Earl Cook, Boone; Mrs. W. O. Robertson, Baltimore, Md.; Homer Critcher, Boone. There are five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Breeders Name Slate Officers

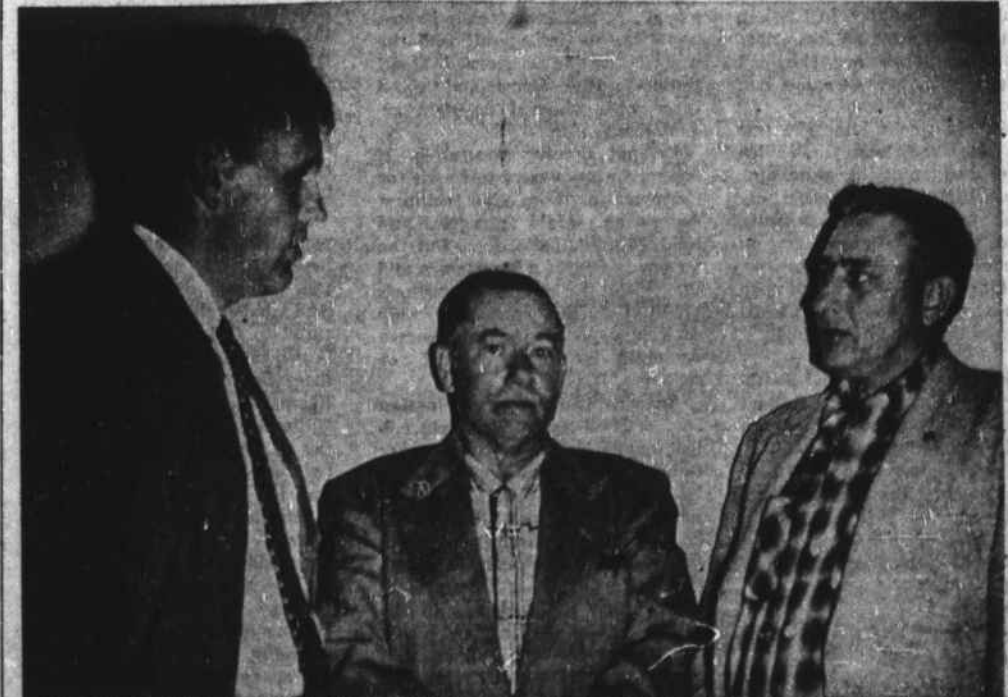
The Watauga Purebred Hereford Breeders Association held their annual meeting at the County Agents Office in Boone on Friday evening, May 6. Officers re-elected were: President, B. W. Stallings; vice-president, R. G. Shipley; secretary-treasurer, Council Henson.

Directors: Frank Mast, Jay Teems, John Dugger.

The breeders were asked to list the cattle they would nominate for a 1960 fall sale. Approximately 60 Herefords were listed. Definite plans will be started for a sale soon.

Bobby Winkler and his band entertained the group with several numbers.

A motion picture on Hereford cattle was shown, then the group adjourned for refreshments.



HEREFORD OFFICERS—Re-elected officers of the Watauga Purebred Hereford Association are, left to right: Robert Shipley, vice-president; B. W. Stallings, president; and Council Henson, secretary-treasurer.

The new home of the Northwestern Bank, which is designed to provide expanded banking facilities for its patrons in Boone and the county, has been completed, and the new quarters will be occupied next Monday, it is announced by A. T. Adams, cashier.

Ground was broken for the new structure early last fall as a result of the desire of bank officials to provide better banking facilities and to keep at a minimum the time and effort required for patrons to attend to their business. The new structure at 211 East King solves problems which could not be handled at the old building at King and Depot, where facilities were fast becoming overloaded, Mr. Adams said.

The new office is one of the most modern in design and structure to be found in Western North Carolina, Mr. Adams said, and enables Northwestern to render a better service along with some new services, among them the convenience of two centrally located offices at which banking may be done, plus the provision of a large parking area at the rear of the new office.

Either of the offices in Boone will render any service offered by any bank, Mr. Adams said.

In announcing the expansion and the opening of the new office, Mr. Adams also said new personnel had joined the Boone Branch of the Northwestern Bank. Mr. Jimmy West has been placed in charge of the office at King and Depot streets, he said, and will be joined there by Mr. Ted Eller as a new teller in that office.

"Proud as we are of our new building," Mr. Adams said, "our chief pride still lies in our ability to offer a better banking service, and to provide it at a greater convenience to those who bank with us."

"We want everyone to come in and see this new office," he said, "we want to show it off . . . let people know what we have, and let them know that 'going to the bank' is a relatively simple task in Boone . . . and may be done now at either of two places."

ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

REA Co-Op Has Served Area Twenty-Five Years

Report On Operations Is Given Out

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation was organized on September 19, 1936 and was first known as Caldwell County Electric Membership Corporation. Some of the leaders in the organization were R. R. Corpening, J. M. Hart, R. McC. Jones, A. G. Beach, C. A. Bowman, Mrs. C. A. Bowman, Mrs. Fannie Greer, G. W. Sullivan, J. A. Laxton, and J. W. Loooper. These people being the first members of the cooperative. J. M. Hart was elected to be the first president of the Corporation and R. R. Corpening secretary.

The first loan was applied for October 10, 1936. The amount asked for was not to exceed \$430,000 to construct 394 miles of line to serve 2,160 members in Caldwell County. The organization of the Corporation was completed January 9, 1937 and the organization was incorporated as Caldwell Mutual Corporation. The first loan was made January 28, 1937.

Mr. G. F. Messick served as chairman of the Finance Committee in the early months of the Corporation, and on March 27, 1937 was selected by the Board of Directors to be Project Manager.

The first construction completed and energized was 108 miles of line out of Zaek's Fork into the King's Creek and Oak Hill sections of Caldwell County. It was energized on January 24, 1938. Other sections of rural Caldwell were added onto the system as rapidly as possible.

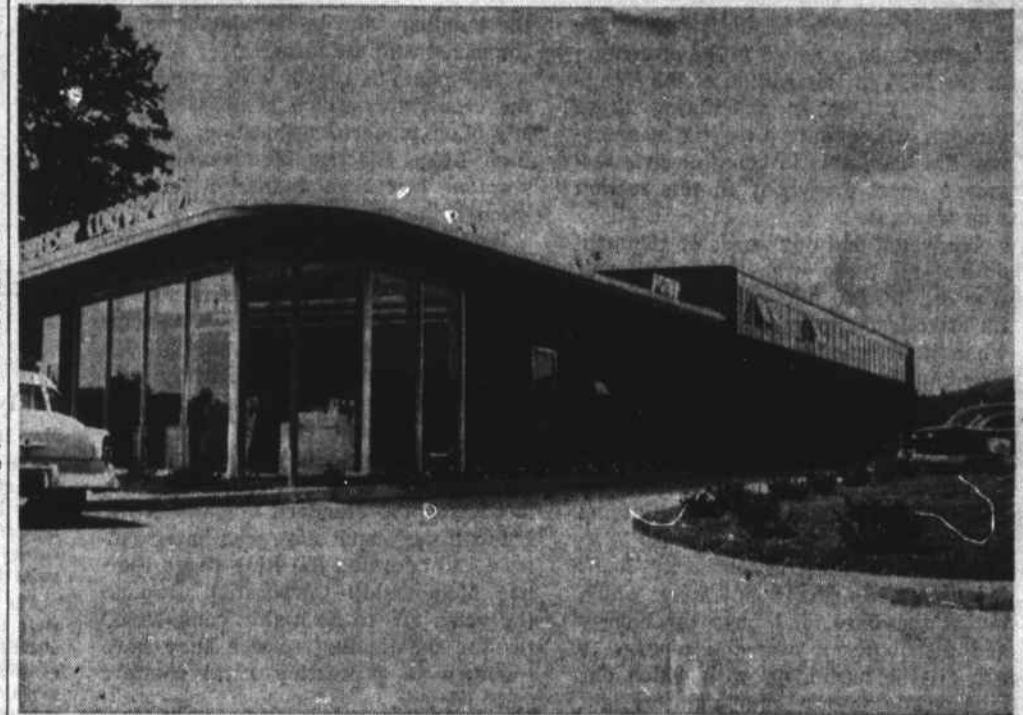
On May 28, 1938, Mayor Watt Gragg, County Farm Agent, W. B. Collins and others from Watauga County met with the Board of Directors and asked that construction of some 100 miles of line be extended into Watauga County. This request was approved and lines were extended to Watauga, Ashe, and Alleghany Counties in 1939 and 1940.

In the beginning there were many problems and battles to be overcome before the rural areas were assured of electric power. The power company discouraged farm people by telling them the Government would take their land if they signed rights-of-way, and that the good farmland would be covered with water. Telegrams were sent to REA telling how poor Caldwell County was and that they should be careful in lending money to people who weren't able to repay it. This called for economic surveys and reports and newspaper appeals to combat the untrue propaganda.

The committee members who made many trips to Raleigh and Washington during the early days trying to complete the organization and negotiate the first loan were given the run-around by the Governor, Utilities Commissioner, and the head of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority as they sought a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. Later, Congressman R. L. Doughton advised forming a Farmer Cooperative under a law passed in 1917 by N. C. Legislature, which permitted farmers to form cooperatives for the purpose of selling fertilizer, building telephone or electric power lines. This was when Caldwell Mutual was formed and the cooperative began to operate. In August, 1940, permission was received to reorganize and operate as an Electric Membership Corporation. We then became known as Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation.

Average kwh consumption per farm account in 1938 was 24.6 as compared to 296.0 in March, 1960. The number of farm accounts billed in December 1938 was 834, and in March of 1960 was 13,968. This is indicative of the 25 years of progress.

The first loan from REA to Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation was made in Boone.



SILVER JUBILEE—Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation joins in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Rural Electrification Systems in America. This is the Watauga office building on Blowing Rock Road which serves members of this area.

Kirkman To Be Speaker As 367 Collegians Receive Degrees

Rev. Mr. Brooks Is New Pastor



THE REV. J. BOYCE BROOKS, who began his ministry to the First Baptist Church in Boone Sunday, Mr. Brooks came to Boone from Greensboro, and succeeds Dr. L. H. Hollingsworth, who was called to the chaplaincy of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem last summer.

Children Have Same Birthdays

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fox, Jr., have what may or may not be a distinction. At least it is a unique situation. All three of the children born to them were born on their birthdays.

According to Mr. Fox, he was born March 15, 1927. A daughter, Martha, deceased, was born March 15, 1953. Then a son, Everette, III, was born March 15, 1956.

Last week, on May 4, another son, Charles William, was born at Watauga hospital. May 4 is Mrs. Fox' birthday. She was born May 4, 1929.

Stout Is New IRC Engineer

Philadelphia—International Resistance Co., here, has appointed James S. Stout as a sales engineer in its Boone, N. C., division.

Mr. Stout, who was formerly a field service engineer for the Aero division of Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., resides in Boone.

Brother Of Bill Rush Dies

Theodore Rush, 48, of Daytona Beach, Fla., brother of W. E. Rush of Boone, died Friday afternoon at Columbia, S. C., after suffering a heart attack while passing through that city.

He was born June 30, 1911, in Wilkes County, son of the late Ernest Rush and Mrs. Fannie Rush Harris of North Wilkesboro Route 4. He operated a floor finishing business in Daytona. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Daytona.

Surviving are his mother; two brothers, Bill Rush of Boone and Arthur Rush of California; and a half sister, Mrs. Evelyn Griffith of Charlotte.

Funeral was conducted at 11 a. m. Monday at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Wilkes County by the Rev. J. C. McQueen Jr. and the Rev. Clate Brown. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Has Flags For Memorial Day

Lionel Ward, Watauga County Veterans' Service Officer, states that he has flags for all Veterans' graves in Watauga County at his office.

He will appreciate if cemetery caretakers will drop by his office between now and Memorial Day and pick up enough flags to take care of their respective cemeteries. Also family caretakers that do not have a caretaker, the family should pick up flags for those cemeteries.

According to regulations the flags are to be placed on the graves on Saturday before Memorial Day and taken up the day after and saved for the coming year.

Legion Officers Are Elected

The Blowing Rock American Legion post No. 256 recently elected the following officers:

George M. Sudderth, Jr., commander; Hardin B. Coffey, vice commander; John D. Clawson, adjutant; Robert L. S. Snyder, finance officer; Carson C. Eggers, Chaplain; Max R. Moody, sergeant-at-arms; and Rowleigh Edgar Young, service officer and historian.

O. Arthur Kirkman, executive vice president and general manager of High Point Thomasville and Denton Railroad Company, will address 367 Appalachian State Teachers College students scheduled to be graduated at commencement exercises Sunday, May 29.



O. ARTHUR KIRKMAN

He will receive teaching degrees—321 the Bachelor of Science and 46 the Master of Arts. Dr. W. H. Plummer, Appalachian's president, will confer the degrees and award the diplomas.

The exercises begin at 3 p. m. in the health and physical education building.

A native of Guilford County, Kirkman was graduated from University of Virginia and studied law at Oxford University in England.

His background includes experiences in many professions from journalism to business.

Kirkman has been news editor of the High Point Enterprise, a lawyer, councilman and mayor of High Point, state representative, state senator, teacher at University of Virginia and High Point and a soldier in the U. S. Army.

He has been a regular lecturer at the American University transportation Institute in Washington since 1953.

He has served on many economic advisory committees with assignments taking him to Chile and Puerto Rico. He was on Senator Magnusen's advisory committee on national transportation policy to U. S. Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Convincer's 880 jet passes operation tests.