

# Merry Christmas to All

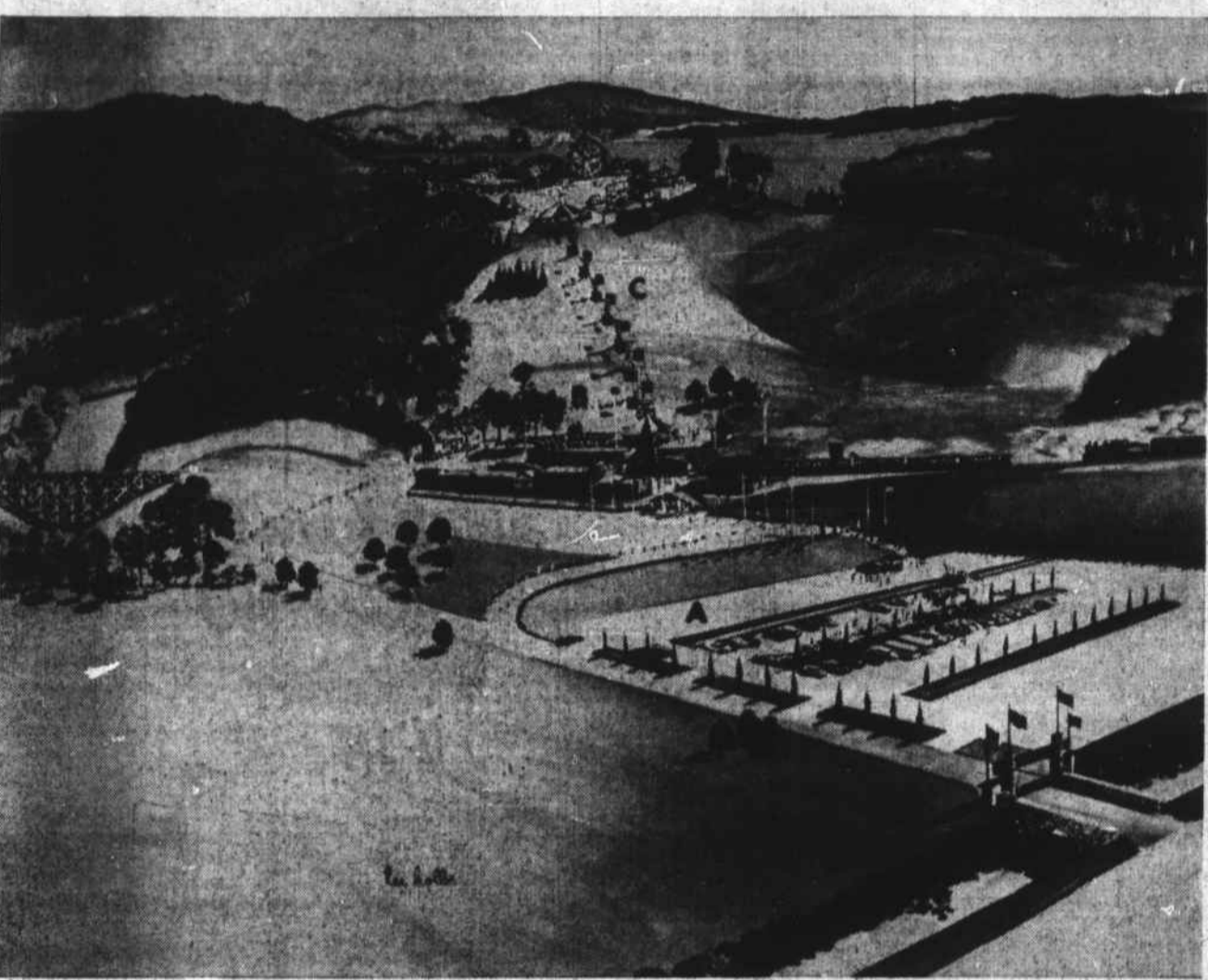
## WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER				
1961	High	Low	6 pm	prec.
Dec. 12	54	40	50	1.94
Dec. 13	50	24	25	.35
Dec. 14	44	16	40	.42
Dec. 15	49	34	36	.41
Dec. 16	42	29	42	tr.
Dec. 17	59	42	51	.29
Dec. 18	58	47	48	.85
Total rain—3.33 inches.				

**FOR BEST RESULTS**  
advertisers invariably use the columns of the Democrat. With its full paid circulation, intensely covering the local shopping area, it is the best advertising medium available.

VOLUME LXXIV.—NO. 25      BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1961      PRICE 6 CENTS      TWENTY-TWO PAGES—THREE SECTIONS



**EXPANSION PROGRAM AT TWEETSIE.**—Drawing of the enlarged Tweetsie operation in which engineering, timber clearing and other work has already started. A mark the enlarged parking area; B the additional village in the old-west type town, which will include the enlargement of the Gold Nugget Saloon with inexpensive good food; C the cable lift to the top of Magic Mountain; D the amusement park and wide variety of fun rides, together with big picnic area. The enlarged operation will call for at least 30 more full time employees, in addition to the fifty which are normally employed.—A. C. "Bill" Summerville photo.

### TO ENLARGE GOLD NUGGET

# \$800,000 Expansion Begins At Tweetsie

## Boone Mayor, Banker Tell Of Local Progress On Wash. Trip

Two prominent citizens of Boone went to Washington last Thursday to tell officials at the Agriculture Department about the progress Watauga county has made during the last five years under the rural areas development program.

Mayor Wade E. Brown of Boone, and Alfred T. Adams, who besides being cashier of the Northwestern Bank, is head of the Watauga Rural Development Committee, briefed a meeting of the department's 29-member Public Advisory Committee on rural areas development.

Watauga was one of three North Carolina counties chosen in 1956 as pilot projects under the rural development program. The program is designed to help underdeveloped areas in utilizing local people and resources to make economic strides.

The government puts no money directly into the program—federal aid consists solely of additional Agriculture Department personnel to advise and help local people.

In the past five years, Brown and Adams told Thursday's meeting, Watauga County has:

- Constructed and leased a modern lingerie plant which employs 250 people and adds \$500,000 a year to local income.
- Built a new 18-hole golf course to attract tourists.
- Increased farm income by more than \$1.5 million a year.
- Cut down sharply on the out-migration of young people.

To start the ball rolling, county development leaders named committees in a number of fields, from industry to timber to recreation.

"We picked people who would work," Adams said. "A lot of fellows make good back-slapping committee members, but they don't want to buckle down and do the job."

He said local money was used exclusively to buy a tract of land and construct a building which was subsequently leased to Shadowline Inc., the lingerie manufacturer.

Brown told the meeting, "I don't care how good the instructions are from Washington or Raleigh or wherever, you've got to put in plenty of hard work before you get anywhere."

Farm income has increased more than 35 per cent in the past five years, he said, while industrial income has more than tripled.

"You people in Washington are probably buying some of our Watauga County Christmas trees," Brown said, "and that makes us mighty happy, because we're always glad to get out-of-town (continued on page eight)

**Weed Mart Has Best Auctions**

The Boone Burley Market closed today (Thursday) with its pre-Christmas poundage running well ahead of last year's sales, according to Harriet L. Sikes, of Mountain Burley Warehouse Company.

Selling through Monday, December 18, totaled 4,337,759 pounds, for a dollar volume of \$2,865,959.72, and a price average of \$66.07, Mrs. Sikes said.

"This is a gain of more than a million pounds over last year's pre-Christmas selling," according to Mrs. Sikes, "and with activity continuing high through Thursday, it may reach a dollar volume gain of a million dollars."

Warehouses will remain open during the holidays to receive tobacco crops. Final pre-Christmas sales are scheduled Thursday, with the market re-opening for Sales Wednesday, January 3.

## New Features To Be Added By Railroad

Blowing Rock—"We were hopeful that others would love the little train as we did, and, thankfully, they have," Grover C. Robbins, Jr., said.

Robbins made the statement this week when he announced a \$800,000 expansion for Tweetsie Railroad, the famous Western North Carolina tourist attraction.

The Blowing Rock man, just as thousands of others, was reared within earshot of the shrill toot of Tweetsie's whistle as she ran on a narrow gauge line between East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. Modern transportation spelled the end to the line, but in 1897 Robbins reconstructed the railroad and bought it back to this community.

Tweetsie was placed on a three-mile run of tracks around Magic Mountain, and Robbins added a western-frontier village for color.

Now he plans the large expansion. The work will include a 1,000 foot aerial cable car from Tweetsie to the mountaintop. There he will locate a large entertainment center and picnic area. He will also greatly enlarge the western village and, more particularly, the now-famous Golden Nugget Saloon. The parking area will be doubled in size.

"When we started on this project four years ago," he said, "we just wanted to bring Tweetsie back home to the mountains. The public responded and grew to enjoy our train.

"Through the years our friends have asked for more entertainment, a full day of fun for the entire family. This is what we are trying to do."

A unique change is Robbins' new policy of "no charge" for admittance to the grounds. The visitor may come and visit the village or the new entertainment center and will pay for only the rides or the train ride as he chooses.

The new entertainment center (continued on page eight)

## Hagaman Is Named For State Post

Hugh B. Hagaman, Boone businessman and prominent Watauga county education leader, has been appointed by Governor Terry Sanford to the North Carolina Citizens Committee for Better Schools.

As a member of the State committee, Hagaman will participate in a state-wide campaign to promote and support school improvement. The Committee for Better Schools will work with state and local educational leaders to help build public understanding and support of high quality education.

One of the first responsibilities of the members of the Better Schools Committee will be to work with local school officials to organize an education rally in the county to which the Governor will be invited to speak. At the rallies, emphasis will be placed on citizen, parent, and student responsibility for school improvement.

The education rally will be the first of several projects designed to promote an intense interest in school improvement on the local level. An opinion survey leaflet has been designed for use in help-

(continued on page seven)

## Mixed School Choruses Will Present Programs Yule Music

Two programs of Christmas music will be given by the three Mixed Choruses of the Appalachian Elementary School during this week. Both programs will include sacred and secular numbers performed in concert style, and will be given in the school auditorium.

Thursday morning at 9:15 a. m. Chorus III (third and fourth grade students) will present the program, including "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "What Child Is This?" "Pat-a-Pan," "Away in a Manger," "Christmas Is Coming," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," "Up on the House-top," and "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Student accompanists for this group will be Robert Melton, Bill Worth, and Mary Norris.

On Friday morning at 9:15 o'clock, the program will be given by Chorus II and Chorus I. The fifth and sixth grade students in Chorus II will sing "Christmas Bell Carol," "Bethlehem Lay a-Sleeping," "The Sleigh," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Student accompanists are Robert Melton, Terry Hollar, and Gray Wilson.

The seventh and eighth graders in Chorus I will sing "The First Noel," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Low, How a Rose e'er Blooming," "Sleigh Ride," and "The Christmas Song." Both groups will sing "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Deck the Halls." Student accompanists are Sarah Hagaman, Jenny Lou

## Andrews Is Back; 3 Arrests Chalked

The Rev. David Andrews has returned to Boone from Washington, D. C., where he was on a campaign of "direct action of civil disobedience," in his support of a movement by the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell."

According to press reports, the "Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell" was branded as a Communist front in 1957 by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Andrews, who has been director of Wesley Foundation, working with Methodist students attending Appalachian State Teachers College for several years, was arrested three times as he knelt in prayerful attitude on the sidewalk near the White House. President Kennedy was not at home at the times, having been on his whirlwind trip to South America.

The first time he was arrested on Tuesday for "obstructing the sidewalk, jailed and then released as "not guilty."

His second arrest came on Friday when he was picked up by police after being told it was illegal to "preach and exhort" in public without a permit. Offered the chance to apply for a permit, it was reported that he told them he would go ahead with his plans, and he knelt with an open Bible in his hand.

This time he was convicted of making a speech without a license. Judge Milton S. Kronheim, Jr., who had released him earlier fixed sentence at two hours in jail or a \$5 fine, but noted that Andrews already had been in custody for 2½ hours and ordered him released.

The third time he was arrested and spent Saturday night in jail. He was released Sunday morning when another clergyman posted a

Robinson, and Diane Hagaman. Parents of the participating students and other interested patrons of the school are invited to attend. The choruses are directed by Mrs. Gaynelle Wilson.

both programs. There will be no admission charge. The choruses are directed by Mrs. Gaynelle Wilson.

**Stores Close Next Monday**

Stores in the community will be closed all day next Monday, December 25, for the observance of Christmas, according to a recommendation of Herman W. Wilcox, president of the Merchants Association.

Stores are remaining open until 9 o'clock until Saturday when they will close at the regular time. Large numbers of shoppers have been in evidence on the streets the last few evenings.

## Jerry Winebarger Fatally Hurt in Mich. Crash

Jerry Winebarger, 19, son of Mr. Ray Winebarger of Pontiac, Michigan and Mrs. George Leach Clarkston, Michigan, was killed instantly when his car collided head-on with a truck near Clarkston Thursday night, December 14.

It was reported that two other occupants of the Winebarger car were also killed, but this could not be verified.

The Winebargers are natives of Watauga County. Jerry attended Appalachian High School until his senior year, was a popular student and a member of the football and basketball teams.

Funeral services were held at Arps Funeral Home in Clarkston Sunday afternoon. He is survived, in addition to his parents, a sister, Mrs. Gary Francis, the former Miss Shirley Winebarger, Orionville, Michigan.



**TELL OF WATAUGA'S PROGRESS.**—Alfred T. Adams, Boone banker, second from left, and Wade E. Brown, local attorney, are flanked by John A. Baker, head of the Farm Credit Administration, and C. J. McCormack, chairman of the Rural Area Development Commission of the Department of Agriculture, while the local men were in Washington last week to tell of the progress made in Watauga county under the rural areas development program.

## Dr. Plemmons' Mother Passes

Asheville—Mrs. Eugenia Silver Buckner, 83, of Asheville, Rt. 4, mother of Dr. W. H. Plemmons, president of Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone, died about 3:30 p. m. Tuesday, Dec. 12 in an Asheville hospital.

A native of Yancey County, Mrs. Buckner came to Buncombe County in 1890. She was the daughter of the late W. J. and Sarah Ball Silver and had been a member of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church since 1896.

She married the late Nelson Plemmons in 1900. He died in 1913 and in 1917 she married A. M. Buckner, who died in 1945.

The funeral was held at 2 p. m. Thursday in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church near here.

Surviving are two other sons, Ralph E. Plemmons of Asheville and Harry G. Buckner of Cary; a stepson, Harley P. Buckner of Asheville; two sisters, Mrs. W. A. Sluder of Asheville and Mrs. J. F. Roberts of Canton.