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

BOONE WEATHER					
1961	Hi	Lo	prec.	'61	Hi L
Dec. 4	52	44	1.04	57	48
Dec. 5	52	30	.15	52	37
Dec. 6	30	14	.54	54	36
Dec. 7	29	15	.10	42	30
Dec. 8	35	23		54	19
Dec. 9	29	13	.03	31	23
Dec. 10	18	8	.08	51	30



Tony Krasovic, ski instructor at Blowing Rock Ski Lodge, demonstrates one of the snow-making devices that are now in operation along the new ski runs as the lodge readies for its formal opening Saturday afternoon.—Flowers photo.

Stores Plan Night Hours

Local businesses will remain open nightly until 9 p. m. during the coming week, according to Boone Chamber of Commerce president Herman Wilcox.

Wilcox stated Monday that, beginning Friday, December 14, all stores are urged to remain open until 9 at night through December 21. The stores will close at their regular times on Christmas eve, Wilcox related.

It was not known this week what day or days stores in Boone would be closed Christmas week. "We will attempt to reach some general agreement within the next week," Wilcox stated.

There are approximately 60 business firms in Boone, of which nearly 40 are retail establishments.

Cecil Critcher Funeral Held

Cecil A. Critcher, 66, of Blowing Rock died Tuesday, December 4 at the Blowing Rock Hospital after a lingering illness.

He was born February 3, 1896 in Ashe County to A. M. Critcher and the late Laura Howell Critcher. He was a retired real estate broker and a member of the Rumpie Memorial Presbyterian Church of Blowing Rock.

Surviving are the father; the widow, Mary Virginia Teague Critcher; two sons, Cecil Ray Critcher of Blowing Rock and James Mitchell Critcher of Miami, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Helen Forbes of La Mesa, Calif. and Mrs. Beulah Morrison of Santee, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, December 6 at 2 p. m. in the Rumpie Memorial Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Blake Brinkerhoff officiating. Burial was in the Blowing Rock cemetery.

Donald Swift Dies Monday

Donald Lewis Swift, 73, died Monday, December 10, at Watauga Hospital after an illness of several months.

He was born in Watauga county to the late Enoch and Martha McBride Swift. He was custodian at Cove Creek Elementary School several years.

Surviving are the widow, Mae Young Swift; one son, Omar G. Swift of High Point; one brother, Scott G. Swift of Sherwood; three sisters, Mrs. Selmer Fuller of Mountain City, Tenn., Mrs. Stanley Harris of Boone and Mrs. Charles Lewis of Sherwood; and one grand-daughter.

Funeral services will be held (Continued on page two)

Blowing Rock Ski Lodge To Open First Season Saturday

The restaurant and shops at Blowing Rock Ski Lodge will open this week.

Offering service before the lodge's official opening December 15 will be a restaurant, a ski clothing shop and a rental and equipment shop, M. E. Thalheimer, president of the lodge, announced. The restaurant will offer snack bar service initially and will begin full breakfast, lunch and dinner service after the opening.

Weather permitting, the ski slopes will be open to the public daily after Sunday, December 16.

The restaurant and shops are housed in the large two-story "base lodge" at the foot of the three ski slopes. The lodge is situated on a state maintained all-weather road 1 3/4 miles off U. S. 221-321 and the Blue Ridge Parkway three miles north of Blowing Rock.

The restaurant will be oper-

ated by H. M. (Mac) Lanier, Mr. Thalheimer said. Mr. Lanier is a restaurateur with more than 30 years experience in the business in Florida and Blowing Rock. He operates The Chestnut Restaurant in Blowing Rock. The lodge restaurant has a seating capacity of 250.

Jack Feimster, owner of the Varsity Shop in Boone, will operate the ski clothing shop. The shop will offer a complete line

of ski clothing and accessories such as sunglasses, wind masks, and the like. It will also offer general sportswear lines and will be open year-round, Mr. Feimster said.

The shop, colorfully decorated in an Alpine theme, occupies nearly 1,000 feet of merchandising space on the ground floor of the lodge.

Other facilities on the ground (Continued on page two)

Snow Closes Co. Schools

An icy rain followed by a six-inch snow hampered travel in this mountain area to such an extent last week that public schools were closed Thursday and Friday. Additional snow during the week end forced schools to remain closed early this week.

The first major snow of the season was accompanied by low temperatures ranging from 10 to 35 degrees.

Snow first began falling around 3:30 p. m. Wednesday. By 4 o'clock the ground was cloaked in white and by Thursday morning approximately six inches of snow was on the ground.

Snow scrapers from the city and county worked day and night keeping streets and roads open. Travel was difficult—and in some areas impossible—without chains.

Some thawing occurred Saturday, but low temperatures kept most of the streets and roads coated with a sheet of ice. Shortly before noon Sunday snow began falling again, and by late evening an additional inch was recorded.

Drifts, caused by high winds, further endangered travel throughout the county.

Schools were closed in Avery County last week, also.

It was three years ago to the week that Watauga's initial

snow of the season fell. That year a total of 119 inches of snow was recorded and in March of 1960 Watauga was one of four counties in this area to be included in a disaster (Continued on page two)

County Schools Close Dec. 21st For Christmas

All Watauga County Schools will close for the Christmas holidays at the close of school on Friday, December 21; classes will be resumed on Monday, December 31.

The original school calendar issued earlier this year called for the closing of schools at the close of school on Thursday, December 20; classes were to be resumed on Wednesday, January 2.

The decrease in the holiday schedule has been prompted by the loss of three school days as a result of the recent closing due to weather and road conditions. This change in schedule will enable our schools to begin the new year on regular schedule provided no additional days are lost prior to Christmas.

ing or inadequate addressing. He suggested several steps that can be taken by mailers to protect themselves against loss of valuable Christmas gifts, as follows:

1. Check and revise mailing lists.
2. Type or hand-print gummed mailing labels. Fill them out now and save time later.
3. Use complete addresses. Don't abbreviate. Include delivery zone number.
4. Make a list of your mail-

ing needs and start buying good quality mailing materials now—strong cord, heavy wrapping paper, and so forth.

5. Include a separate sheet of paper inside the parcel with the address of the intended recipient, as well as your own name and address.

6. Plan to use insurance on all parcels. (Neither insurance fees nor parcel post rates were changed by recently-enacted rate legislation, incidentally.)

DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEETS

Mountain Dale Winner In Community Category

Watauga Gets First Place In Travel Class

The 35-family community of Mountain Dale, in Beaver Dam Township, Watauga County, was awarded first place in the newly organized community category of the Northwest North Carolina Development Association community judging contest.

The award was made Thursday night at Elkin during the association's annual banquet.

This was the second time a community in Watauga county has been given this signal attention by the judges. In 1960 Timbered Ridge community, then just newly organized, won first place.

Watauga county also won the first-place crown in the travel and recreation grouping. In pointing out this honor for the county, it was noted by officials of the association that travel and recreation is "Watauga's No. 1 industry."

Dr. W. H. Plemons, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, made the main address to the meeting, and excerpts of his speech are to be found elsewhere in this issue of the Watauga Democrat.

A large delegation from Watauga county attended the banquet.

Other awards were made to counties in the eleven-county development association for strides made in agriculture, youth programs, and industry. Counties included in the group are Ashe, Watauga, Alleghany, Caldwell, Alexander, Surry, Yadkin, Davie, Wilkes, Stokes, and Forsyth.

First place county winners were:

Ashe county—Community Development.
Alexander—Agriculture.
Surry—Youth programs.
Yadkin—Industry.
Watauga—Travel and recreation.

Mountain Dale won the first place designation with the aid (Continued on page two)

Don Thomas Rites Held

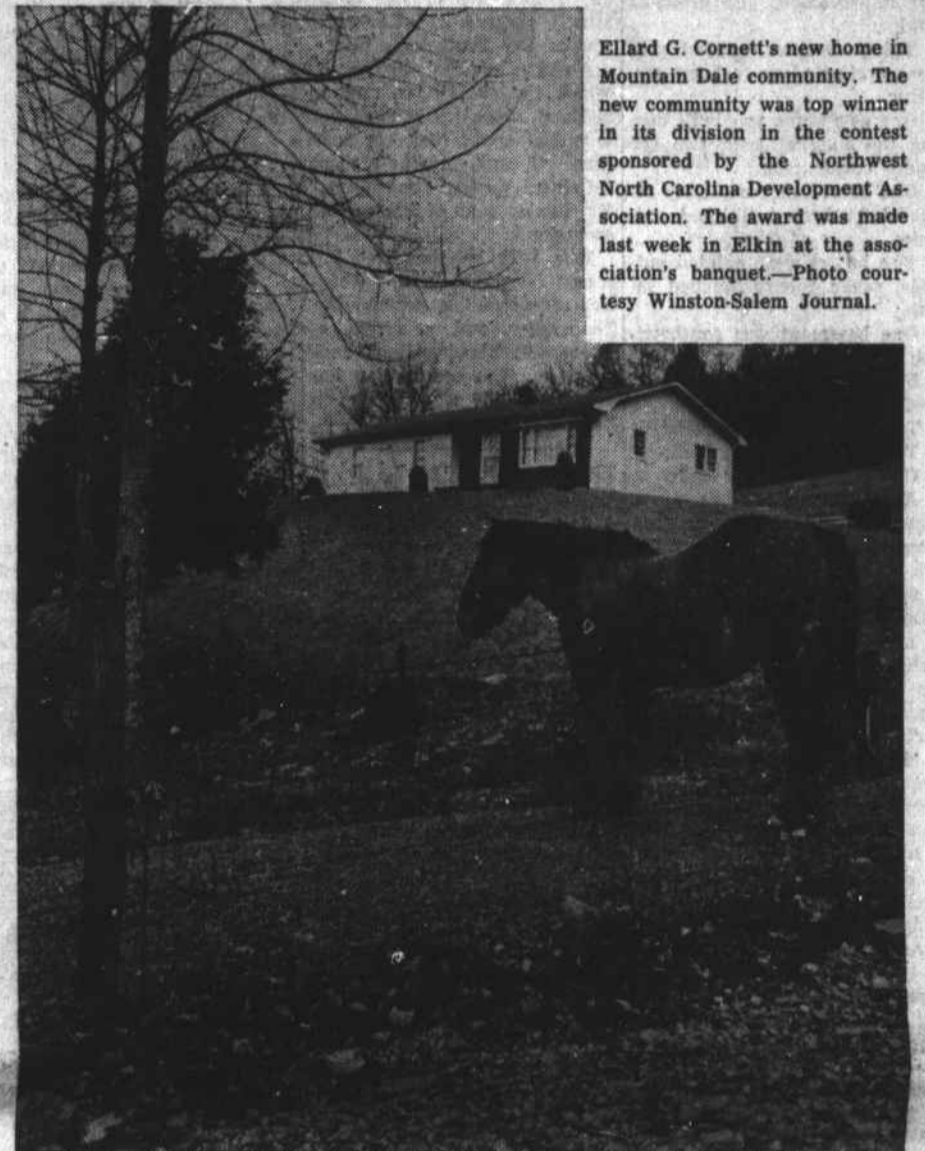
Don Thomas, age 68, former resident of North Fork township, died at the Mt. Alto hospital in Washington, D. C., Sunday evening, December 2. Funeral services were held at the Chambers Funeral Home in Washington, D. C., December 5, and he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mr. Thomas had been a resident of North Fork township until about ten years ago when he went to Alexandria, Va.

Mr. Thomas has been a patient at the hospital for several weeks, and heart trouble was believed to have been the cause of his death.

Mr. Thomas was born in Watauga county, a son of the late Marion Thomas and Mrs. Maggie Church Thomas. He served in the United States Army during the world war. He had been a farmer, but for the past ten years had been in poor health. He was a member of the DAV.

Mr. Thomas is survived by the widow, the former Miss Juanita Lawrence of Trade, Tenn.; a daughter, Mrs. Joan Worley of Alexandria, Va.; a son, Johnny Thomas of Newport News, Va.; and two grandsons, Danney and David. Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Lizzie Little of Creston, and three brothers, Clint Thomas, Reed Thomas, and Howard Thomas, all of Trade, Tenn.; and an uncle, George Church of Elk Park. (Continued on page two)



Ellard G. Cornett's new home in Mountain Dale community. The new community was top winner in its division in the contest sponsored by the Northwest North Carolina Development Association. The award was made last week in Elkin at the association's banquet.—Photo courtesy Winston-Salem Journal.

Valle Crucis Proud Of Nativity Scene; Carols To Be Broadcast

A nativity scene is being constructed by Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ayers at their home in the Valle Crucis community.

Mrs. H. W. Mast, Jr., who tells of the project, says, "Valle Crucis is very proud of the nativity scene. Mr. and Mrs. Ayers hope that others will enjoy the figures as much as they do, and they have added many special touches over the years to increase the pleasure of spectators."

The Ayers house is on a hill near the junction of 105 and the Valle Crucis road.

Spotlights will be trained on the display at night. Beginning December 16, Christmas carols will be played over a loudspeaker system every day from 2 to 5 p. m. and from 7 to 10 at night. One of the recordings will be a carol made by a group of Korean children.

On the two Sunday afternoons before Christmas, December 16 and 23, the Christmas section of the Messiah by Handel, will

be played. This recording is based on the original Dublin performance and is conducted by Hermann Feyerchen.

Mrs. Mast said, "The citizens

of Valle Crucis join Mr. and Mrs. Ayers in urging residents of the county to come and share this beautiful representation of the true spirit of Christmas."

National Bank Is Approved For Boone

Washington.—Comptroller of the Currency James J. Saxon gave preliminary approval Tuesday (Dec. 4) to the organization of a new bank in Boone.

The institution, to be called the First National Bank of Boone, will be capitalized initially at \$300,000. The application for approval was filed by A. J. Williams of Boone.

Yule Decorations Contest Will Be Held Wednesday

The Boone Junior Womens Club is handling arrangements and publicity for the 1962 Christmas Decorations Contest. The club is interested in a large participation this year. Any person may enter and enter as many divisions as they desire. Club membership is not required. The date of the contest is December 19. Interested persons call either club presidents as follows or Mrs. Bob Sneed, 264-8718; Mrs. Max Fox CO 7-2536; Mrs. Bill Foutz, AM 4-3508.

Appalachian Garden Club, Mrs. Bob Davis, mantles; Blue Ridge Garden Club, Mrs. J. B. Winkler, outside decoration; Jaycettes, Mrs. Grady Moretz, Jr., outside decoration; Garden Council, Mrs. Jim Duncan, living outdoor trees; Rhododendron, Mrs. Dave Mast, tables; Worthwhile Womens Club, Mrs. Dempsey Wilcox, windows; Business Professional Women, Mrs. Maxie Edmisten, doors; Gardenerettes, Mrs. Charles Iley, inside trees; Blue Bonnets, Mrs. Dewitt Barnett, childrens division.

All entries must be in by noon December 19. Children may enter any type of inside or outside decoration prepared by children. Prizes will be awarded by sponsoring divisions. Be sure to give name and address when making entry.

Mrs. Phillips Dies In Mebane

Mrs. Callie Bryan Phillips, 79, former resident of Boone, died in Mebane last Wednesday after a short illness.

A daughter of the late James W. Bryan, pioneer Boone jeweler, and Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Phillips had resided in Mebane since 1925. Her husband Clyde Phillips, died several years ago.

Funeral services were held Friday at 11 o'clock at the Haw Field Methodist Church in the home community, and burial was in the church cemetery.

There is no survivor in the immediate family. A brother-in-law Mr. Burt Phillips, resides in Boone.