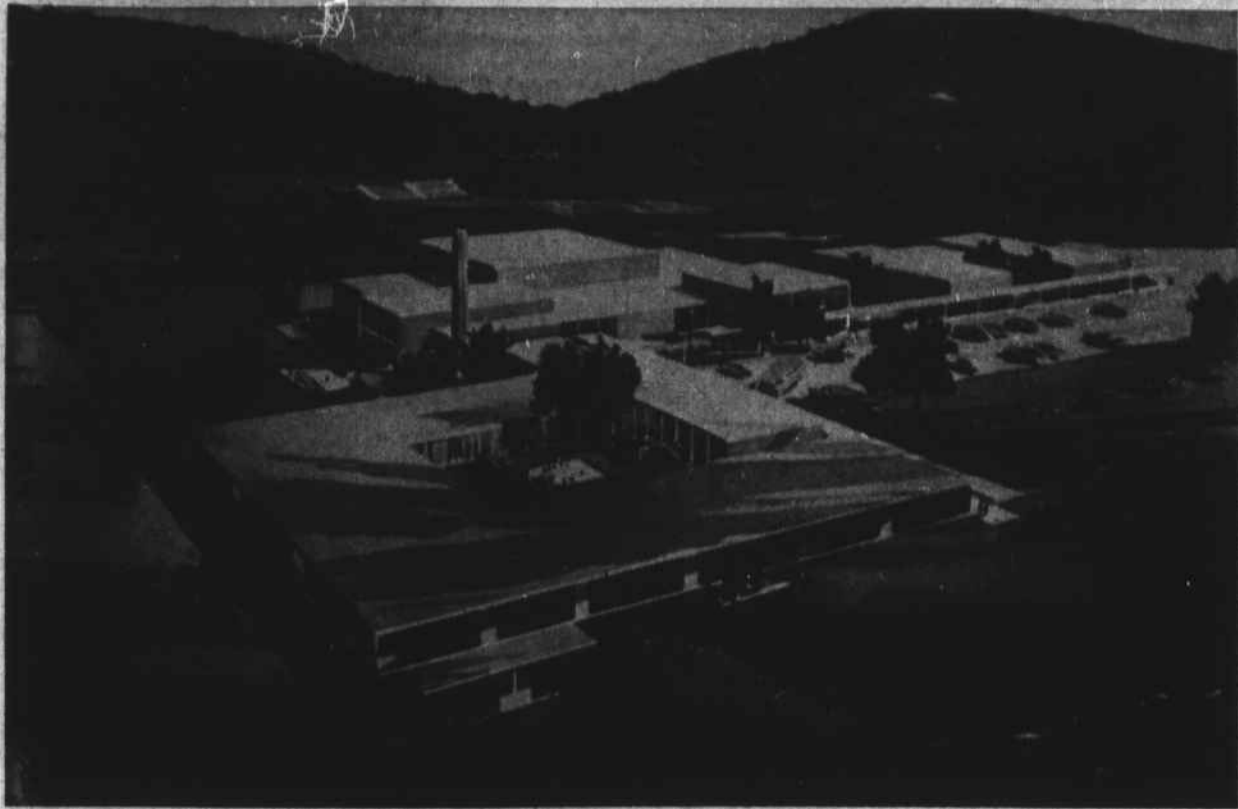


advertisers invariably use the columns of the Democrat. With its full paid circulation, intensely covering the local shopping area, it is the best advertising medium available.

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER					
1963	Hi	Lo	prec.	'62 Hi	'62 Lo
Jan. 15	31	6		45	31
Jan. 16	41	10		40	22
Jan. 17	47	12		34	20
Jan. 18	49	33		35	29
Jan. 19	44	32	.02	28	22
Jan. 20	54	37	.58	45	26
Jan. 21	37	8	.07	57	21



PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL FOR WATAUGA COUNTY

## ELECTION ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 30

# Watauga Co. Gives Approval To \$2¼ Million Bond Vote

### School Plant Needs Set At \$1,750,000

In a special session Monday, January 14, the Watauga Board of County Commissioners formally approved the request of the Watauga County Board of Education to present to the citizens of the county a \$13¼ million bond resolution. Wataugans will vote on the issue on or before September 30.

Education officials considered the passage of the resolution as "The green light" to release results and recommendations of studies completed during the past two years regarding needs for the expansion and development of educational opportunities in the Public Schools of Watauga County, according to the board's information service.

The County Board of Education (CBE) stated that in making the studies, consideration has been given to the present accomplishments of the four Watauga County high schools, the relationship of the Appalachian High School to Appalachian State, size of the present high schools, size of a consolidated high school, the financial (Continued on page two)

### Local Banker Is Promoted



ALFRED ADAMS

Alfred Adams, Cashier of the local unit of the Northwestern Bank, has been elected an Assistant Vice-President of Northwestern directors, and will serve in both capacities. Mr. Adams, who received the promotion last week, has been with Northwestern for 20 years, and has been Cashier in Boone (Continued on page two)

## Rogers, Accused Of Embezzlement, Has Trial Delayed

Attorneys for W. Robert (Bob) Rogers, former accountant at Appalachian State Teachers College accused of embezzling \$17,000 in college funds, entered a plea of guilty for the accused at the Tuesday session of court in Boone.

The lawyers also requested that the trial be postponed until the April term, "because we feel that we have not had time to go into this case in its entirety." The court granted the request.

Judge H. C. Martin stated that the accused would remain under present bond until April 22 at which time the court will hear the case.

Rogers, dressed in a blue shirt and wearing a gray coat and tie, was accompanied into the court chamber at 11:35 a. m. Tuesday by his lawyers, Marvin Wooten of Hickory and Charles Brims of Raleigh.

In making the less than seven-minute statement to the court, the lawyers maintained that they were not trying to prolong the matter, but were interested only in gaining additional time to prepare the case.

Rogers surrendered to authorities in Norfolk, Virginia, in mid-November of last year after having been sought for a number of days by North Carolina officers. He had left Boone about November 9, after telling authorities that he wanted to check on his Army status at Charlotte. His leaving, according to reports, coincided with the annual visit to Appalachian by auditors from the State

Auditors Office. When he failed to return as scheduled, suspicions arose and the discrepancies in his books became apparent.

All of the shortages discovered were said to be non-appropriated funds.

After leaving Boone, Rogers reportedly went to New York, Canada, Boston, and over the South before deciding to give himself up. He told Norfolk police that he wanted to "take whatever punishment I have coming."

Married and the father of two children, Rogers is free under \$20,000 bond.

Complete court news will be published next week.

### Vance Given Jaycee Award

Phil H. Vance, Jr., was awarded the Junior Chamber of Commerce's highest award, "The Distinguished Service Award", Monday night.

This award is made annually to the outstanding man of the county—one who has contributed the most to the community welfare and betterment; Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprises; evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare; evidence of leadership ability; evidence of personal and business progress; cooperation with individuals and civic organizations.

In presenting this award to (Continued on page eight)

## Williams Is Fined In Ballot Box Case

The widely-publicized "ballot box stuffing case" which originated in the Democratic primary in Cove Creek township last May was settled in Watauga Superior Court Monday, when A. Claude Williams was allowed to enter a guilty plea to election law violations.

Judge H. C. Martin of Asheville, permitted the well-known Cove Creek Democratic leader, a retired farmer and carpenter, to plead guilty to interfering with an election, which is a misdemeanor. The original indictment of ballot box stuffing,

would involve a felony.

Judge Martin indicated that Williams' age, 73, influenced his decision. "If you had been a younger man," the Judge told Williams, "I would not accept this plea. I would have given you a stiffer sentence."

Williams was fined \$750 and court costs, and given a two-year prison term, which was suspended for five years on condition that he not be seen around a voting place at any time, except to vote.

State Bureau of Investigation (Continued on page eight)

### Half Million Is Requested For Hospital

In passing a resolution authorizing a vote on a half million dollar bond issue to construct a new hospital in Boone, the county commissioners have set the stage for processing an application for Federal funds under the Hill-Burton act.

The Federal government is expected to make a \$600,000 grant if the citizens of Watauga county vote the \$500,000 in an election to be held at an undetermined time "on or before September 30, 1963."

Town May Give Site. The town council has passed a resolution saying they "look with favor" on a proposal to donate a portion of the Horn in the West property as a site for the proposed new hospital. Progress is being made toward the transfer of the property, and the State Medical Care Commission has approved the property.

Mr. William Weber, architect, has been commissioned by the Board of Trustees of Watauga Hospital, Inc., to draw the plans and supervise the building of the new hospital to conform to the location. He is a qualified hospital architect, it is said, and has built 58 hospitals in this State. He has been approved for the local commission by the Medical Care Commission and expects to have the preliminary drawing by March.

"There is every reason," states the Board of Trustees, "to look forward to breaking ground for our new hospital this fall and we intend to work toward that goal. But no matter how hard those of us connected with the hospital work, it will not provide the hospital we need unless the people of Watauga county approve of the bond issue in September!"

Need Is Outlined. The following statement of the hospital needs of the community is issued by the board:

—We have 50 beds and 12 bassinets crowded into building designed for 35 beds.

—Equipment and facilities are above standard, but the building is too small.

—The need for a new hospital is urgent because of the population growth of our county and college, and the increasing number of tourists coming to our community.

—The need is urgent because both the N. C. Medical Care Commission and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals have strongly recom-

### Labor Survey To Be Made For New Plant

The Chamber of Commerce is instituting a labor survey for the benefit of a large industrial concern which wants to locate in Boone, and accordingly is asking that those wanting jobs in Watauga county come to the courthouse and register Wednesday, January 30, between the hours of 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Men and women will be needed for the new enterprise, according to the Chamber of Commerce announcement, and all those who are unemployed or working outside Watauga county, ages 18-40, with at least an elementary school education, are asked to register.

It is also suggested that local people tell their friends and relatives who are now working outside Watauga county of this opportunity.

### Hicks Inquest Set For Today

The inquest in the killing of James Matheson which was set for Friday, January 18, was postponed until Wednesday, according to the offices of the Watauga Clerk of Court and the County Sheriff.

The reason given for the postponement was that the investigator from the State Bureau of Investigation could not attend the inquest as he had been called to Blowing Rock that morning in connection with another shooting.

Slated to appear for the inquest Wednesday was Len Hicks. He has been out of jail on \$2,000 bond which was posted a week ago.

Matheson, 21-year-old native of Valle Crucis, was shot in the face with a single barrel shot gun on the night of January 12. He was killed instantly, investigating officers reported.

Bank rate in Britain is slashed to 4 per cent.

## Northwestern Bank System Has Good Year; Directors Named

Edwin Duncan, president of the Northwestern Bank system, told the stockholders last week that the financial institution enjoyed a year of growth and progress in 1962, and that in Northwestern territory business continues to be good.

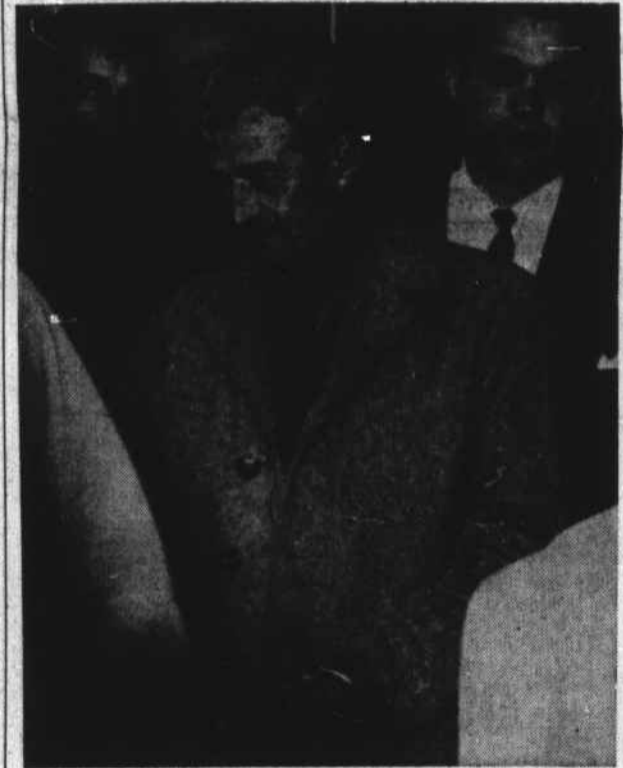
In his report to the annual meeting, President Duncan said: "We are pleased to report that profits for the year 1962 after the payment of income taxes were \$1,578,287.97, as compared with \$1,253,581.42 for the year 1961. Earnings were \$3.48 per share in 1962 and \$3.26 per share for the previous year. In analyzing earnings, it should be taken into consideration that we had the profits from Madison, Walnut Cove, King, and Morganton for only one month. If the average number of shares were used in computing earnings, the earnings would be approximately \$4.08 per share. Another factor to be examined in the earnings picture is the large nonrecurring expenses in connection with the opening of new offices.

"In the territory in which we operate, business conditions continued to be favorable. Increased business activity and the establishment of new branches increased our deposits to \$151,359,409.03 and our total resources to \$172,401,842.26. As in the past, assets considered doubtful by either the federal or state examiners or our own auditors were charged to the expense account.

"Our Trust Department continued to have excellent public acceptance. The assets of the Trust Department which are not included in our statement of condition increased 20% during



CHIEF GREENE . . . Meets tragic death.



MILLARD GREER . . . Charged with murder.

### Subscribers To Democrat Have Week At Old Price

Subscribers are again reminded that they have another week in which to renew their subscriptions (one year only) and avoid the increased rate which goes into effect February 1.

Increased postage rates and soaring production costs since the current rate was established have made it mandatory that the rates be increased. As of the first, the in-North Carolina rate per

the year 1962. "Entering the year 1963 in an unusually strong financial condition, the bank will be able to meet the requirements of its customers for every legitimate banking service. The fine results of 1962 were made possible through the loyalty and ability of our officers and employees, and the support and help of our stockholders, and the guidance and work of the members of the local boards and the board of directors." (Continued on page eight)

### Crest Store Is Remodeled And Enlarged

The Crest store in Boone has been remodeled, and according to John B. Robinson, manager, all departments have been relocated to take advantage of added floor space. A new lower sales level, 40 feet by 48 feet, has been added and connects with the King Street level by stairway. There is also an entrance on Depot street. Mr. Robinson said a check-out counter is located at both entrances. The lower sales level has the following departments, according to the manager: Lamps and shades, small electric appliances, hardware, small furniture, rugs, tinware, enamel ware, glassware, house cleaning supplies, gifts, horticulture, floral supplies and artificial flowers, oilcloth and upholstery. The main sales level, or upper section contains piece goods, (Continued on page eight)

### Millard Greer Is Captured; Others Held

William Deane (Bill) Greene, 28, Blowing Rock police chief, was killed in a knife and gun battle early Friday as he approached an auto to investigate burglaries there, and Millard Greer, 45, is held in the Lenoir jail charged with the slaying.

Greene was shot at 1 a. m. near Blowing Rock on the Caldwell side, and emptied one of his revolvers in the melee. He managed to get back into his cruise car and radio for help. Taken to the Blowing Rock

Other pictures on page one, Section B.

Hospital he lived for four hours and managed to give officers details of the gun battle and descriptions of his assailants.

Mr. Greene was shot in the back at close range with a 410-gauge shotgun, and again in the right arm, as he walked toward the car he had stopped. He was knifed in the scalp and in the back. A man and two women were

arrested early Friday and are being held in Lenoir. They are Ralph H. Parson, 22, his wife, Carolyn, 22, and Millicent H. Hinson, 17.

Millard Greer, who carried bullet wounds, believed inflicted by the dying Blowing Rock officer, was tracked down by bloodhounds Saturday, when officers came upon him in a corn field near the Blue Ridge Parkway 15 miles south of the Virginia line.

Unceasing Manhunt. Greer had been the object of a round the clock manhunt for 36 hours, in which State Highway patrol officers, led by Patrol Captain H. C. Johnson of Asheville, together with Sheriff's officers from Watauga, Ashe, Caldwell and Wilkes took part. Some of the men, like Patrolman Bill Teams of Boone, engaged in the hunt for 36 hours straight. SBI and FBI agents also worked on the case.

The officers armed with shotguns, carbines and pistols, a d and using walkie-talkies, tracked down Greer, a resident of Valmead, near Lenoir, a former convict, with the aid of bloodhounds. Greer, 6 feet tall and white-haired, was silent when apprehended. (Continued on page three)