

# Three Years Ago, On Lincoln's Birthday, It Also Snowed; 109 Inches Accumulated

By DALE GADDY  
 Tuesday was February 12. It was Lincoln's birthday. And it was a day of snow in Watauga county.  
 Such was of no alarming significance to Wataugans. After all, most everyone who was "up and a piddling" February 11 ex-

pected the next day to be February 12. And for 154 years February 12 has been Abe's birthday. And here in the high Appalachians, snow is no phenomenon.  
 But—  
 Three years ago to the day it was February 12, and Lincoln's birthday, and a day of snow in

Watauga. That day it snowed nine inches. The next day, two inches; and the next day, and the next day. By the time the Watauga Democrat came off the press the next Thursday, a total of 16 inches of snow had fallen.  
 "Schools Closed, Traffic Slowed By Heavy Snow," the head-

lines read. And the county began its destined long hibernation beneath the thickening white blanket.  
 The snows came and came again. Some snowfalls dumped as much as 19 inches at a single time. The sky was so cloudy for so long that some of the younger children were said to have

forgotten what the sun looked like.  
 Watauga and three of her sister counties were proclaimed a national disaster area. Army troops swarmed into the county, using the college baseball diamond as an air field for their helicopters from which they dumped supplies to strand-

ed citizens in the ice-locked regions of the county.  
 Drifts of 20 feet or more were reported. Automobiles were literally lost for days. Temperatures hovered below the zero mark. And the snows continued falling.  
 In all, 108 inches of snow fell that year from the day of

of Lincoln's birthday til the "big thaw" that April.  
 Of course, some folks still say that it didn't really snow that much. One sidewalk commentator explained it, saying, "The wind just kept blowing the same old snow up so it could fall again."  
 He added, "Besides, snow

doesn't melt in Boone—it wears out!"  
 Maybe so. But one thing's for sure. When it began to snow this February 12, Wataugans were too wary to celebrate Lincoln's birthday too enthusiastically. Said one person with a look of concern, "It could be a long winter yet."

BOONE WEATHER					
1963	HI	Lo	prec.	'02 HI	Lo
Feb. 5	57	22		55	40
Feb. 6	52	21		42	14
Feb. 7	50	29		34	6
Feb. 8	40	27	tr.	32	19
Feb. 9	39	18		47	29
Feb. 10	48	18		53	22
Feb. 11	51	32		44	12

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SNARE ON LAUREL.—A wreck on Laurel Road west of Boone left two Zionville persons injured one night last week as the 1960 Ford shown above left the road at a high rate of speed and slammed into the home of Dare Moody in the Villas community. Driver of this car, Gary Jesse Lawrence, 26, was being pursued by state highway patrolman George Baker at the time of the accident. Baker listed Billy Mitchell,

21, as a passenger in the Lawrence car. Each of the young men received minor lacerations about the face, arms, and legs, but were not hospitalized. Baker had chased the men for five miles, he said, after clocking them at a speed of 85 MPH on highway 321. Investigation was continuing Monday.—Flowers photo.

## RECORD TURNOUT AT ASTC

# New York Producer Has Message For Old Grads

## Solon Given Party's Nod

Representative J. E. Holshouser, Jr. of Watauga County has been elected Secretary of the Republican delegation in the 1963 North Carolina House of Representatives.

In the initial caucus held last week by GOP members of the legislature, Holshouser was the unanimous choice of the largest Republican delegation since 1928. The young Boone attorney joined William Osteen of Guilford County, Dan R. Simpson of Burke County, and T. E. Story of Wilkes County in the Republican positions of leadership in the 1963 General Assembly.

Osteen was named as House Minority Leader, while Story was elected Minority Leader in the Senate. Simpson was selected to fill the post of Joint Caucus Leader.

## Sgt. Burkett Dies In Mich.

Sgt. B. J. Burkett, 35, of Boone, died Wednesday after a heart attack in Sault St. Marie, Mich.

Sgt. and Mrs. Burkett and four of their children were visiting relatives in Michigan before Burkett had to report to his base for overseas duty. He had been discharged from the Air Force last May and had re-enlisted February 1.

Surviving are the mother, Mrs. W. L. Burkett of Boone; the widow, Mrs. B. J. Burkett of Boone; three daughters, Sharon, Helen and Carolyn Burkett, all of Boone; two sons, John Burkett of Watsonville, Calif., and Jim Burkett of Boone; and one sister, Mrs. Betty Lee Cornego of Tracy, Calif.

The funeral was held Tuesday, February 12, at 2 p. m., in the Grace Lutheran Church. Officiating were the Rev. E. F. Troutman, the Rev. William Smith, and the Rev. Maurice Cooper. Burial was in the Mountlawn Memorial Park.

## George Gragg Dies Tuesday

George Washington Gragg, 77, died Tuesday, February 5, at his home in Sherwood of a heart attack.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Pearl G. Stokes of Villas; Mrs. Doris McClain of Sherwood; Mrs. Francis Wilson of Reese; Mrs. Juanita Bunton of Sugar Grove, and Mrs. Zela Hedrick of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; one sister, Mrs. George Partin of Durham; one brother, Will Gragg of Kingsport, Tenn.; 21 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, February 7, at 2 p. m., in the Cove Creek Baptist Church, by the Rev. Ernest M. Blankenship and the Rev. Carl Wilson. Burial was in the Cove Creek cemetery.



AT HEAD TABLE.—Neil Hartley, left is shown with his mother, Mrs. Pearl Hartley, Professor Herman Eggers and Mrs. Eggers at Alumni banquet.—Larry Penley photo.

## Neil Hartley Goes To Top On Broadway

Approximately 400 friends and alumni of Appalachian State Teachers College attended the organizational meeting of the Watauga County Alumni Chapter of ASTC last Thursday night in the Appalachian Elementary School cafeteria.

College officials and alumni personnel said that this was the largest turnout for an organizational meeting of the alumni in the history of the college. Superintendent Guy Angell of Watauga County Schools, served as organizational chairman for the meeting and was instrumental in promoting the large attendance at the dinner meeting.

Assisting Angell in the success of the alumni gathering were the following committee members: Dr. J. C. Yoder, ASTC department head and program chairman; Mrs. Susan Buchanan, librarian at Green Valley and Parkway Schools, entertainment chairman; James A. Greene, principal of Parkway School, chairman of arrangements; and Paul Winkler, Boone insurance man, was chairman of the nominating committee.

Principal speaker for the occasion was Neil Hartley, a native of Boone, who went from backlot playacting to top-flight Broadway theatrical production. The talented youngster parlayed his talent, enthusiasm and energy into a coveted spot in the great white way of dramatic entertainment.

Production supervisor of David Merrick's plays, Hartley (Continued on page two)

## "Outstanding Farmer" Award Given By Jaycees

The Boone Junior Chamber of Commerce recognized an outstanding young Watauga county citizen at their dinner meeting Monday evening at the Daniel Boone Inn. The Jaycees continue to recognize young professional men of high calibre in their annual presentation of the "Outstanding Young Farmer" award.

This year, Jaycee Raymond Harmon presented the award to Mr. Baker Edmisten of Sugar Grove. Mr. Edmisten, his wife, the former Leta Mae Dishman, and their three children reside on their farm, the greater part

of which is operated as a dairy farm. He is active in community projects and is a member of Bethel church, having served as Sunday School superintendent. He is a "Community Club" member and participates in professional organizations as a progressive farmer.

Mr. Woodrow Richardson, from the county agents' office, introduced Mr. Edmisten and reported as to the activities and accomplishments of the award recipient. Mr. Richardson indicated the consequence of the "Outstanding Young Farmer" award as he discussed many of the competitive aspects of today's versatile farmer.

An observation of agricultural advancement was noted by Mr. Richardson for the benefit of the laity concerning today's farm production as compared to that of a few years ago. He (Continued on page two)

## Teacher Essay Is Published In N. R. T. Journal

"Grandma Had Automation," an article appearing in the February 1962 issue of North Carolina Education Journal, was reprinted in the National Retired Teachers Journal.

It also appeared in the last issue of the Utah State Teachers Journal.

The essay was written by Mrs. Laura F. Church, teacher of reading at Appalachian High School.

## Traffic Toll

Raleigh.—The Motor Vehicles Department's summary of traffic deaths through 10 a. m. Monday, February 11:

Killed to date ..... 119  
 Killed to date 1962 ..... 107

I commend the observance

## Brotherhood Week To Be Sponsored By Local Jaycees

The Boone Jaycees, as a part of the Statewide Jaycee project and in conjunction with the National Conference of Christians and Jews, are sponsoring Brotherhood Week in this vicinity February 17-23, as a part of the national observance.

Mayor Wade E. Brown has issued this proclamation:

I commend the observance

of Brotherhood Week, February 17-23, 1963 to all our citizens. It is well, at a time when the principles upon which our democracy is founded are gravely threatened, that we should reassert them firmly and rededicate ourselves to their daily practice. Brotherhood Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, provides an opportunity to af-

(Continued on page two)

# Secretary Hodges To Attend Daniel Boone Fete In June

Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges, a former Governor of North Carolina, will attend the celebration of "Daniel Boone Crossing the Blue Ridge," June 29th, says Herman W. Wilcox, chairman of the historical observance.

Dr. I. G. Greer, president, Southern Appalachian Historical Association, attended the committee meeting of the Carolina Tercentary Celebration. He confirmed the attendance of Governor Terry Sanford, and dis-

cussed plans to go to Washington to ask other national figures to attend the celebration.

Wagon Train Attracts Interest

Chairman of the Wagon Train committee, Clyde R. Greene, says much interest is being created by the announcement of the Wagon Train which will start at Holman's Ford in Wilkes county, the former home place of Daniel Boone, on June 27, heading for Boone. The "pioneers" will camp out two nights. Already four teams of

oxen have been secured to pull covered wagons. Greene says he is seeking other wagons to be drawn by mules and horses.

Requests are coming in from several sources requesting to be permitted to take entire families on this historical venture. Indians will be used as scouts. Pack animals will be used in large numbers.

Greene explained that the train will traverse some of the most rugged territory left in the (Continued on page six)

## Baltimore Symphony To Play Tonight

An audience of approximately 2500 people is expected tonight (Thursday) for the Baltimore Symphony concert in the Health and Physical Education Building on the college campus.

Townpeople and public school students alike have been invited to join Appalachian students and faculty for this major event in the current Artists and Lecture Series.

The symphony, on an extended tour of the South and Southeast, will bring ninety musicians to the Appalachian stage, which will have to be enlarged to accommodate the group. Workmen were busy on the campus this week arranging platforms to provide another eight feet in depth to the 49 by 22 foot stage.

Music director and conductor Peter Herman Adler will lead the symphony in a program of Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and von Weber. Featured on the program will be violinist Julian Olevsky.

Tickets for Thursday night's performance will remain on sale through Thursday afternoon at the Boone Drug Company and the College Bookstore.

## Harriss Gets Finance Post

House Speaker Clifton Blue named the powerful House money committees Friday, with Dave Britt of Robeson as chief of appropriations and Clyde Harriss of Rowan chief of finance.

Mr. Harriss, a House veteran, has held the top finance post before. A resident of Salisbury and Blowing Rock, he is well known in Watauga County.

Blue announced earlier last week the naming of George Uzell of Rowan as chairman of the House Rules Committee. Blue was expected to name Rep. Lacy Thornburg of Jack-

(Continued on page two)

## MANY MINERALS ON HISTORIC HILL

# Grandfather Mountain's Gold Is In His Mile-High Pockets

By MIRIAM RABB  
 (Travel Editor)

If Grandfather Mountain had a dollar for each year of its existence, it would be a billionaire. It doesn't, but the "grand old man" of North North Carolina's Blue Ridge vacationlands does have gold tucked away in his mile-high pockets.

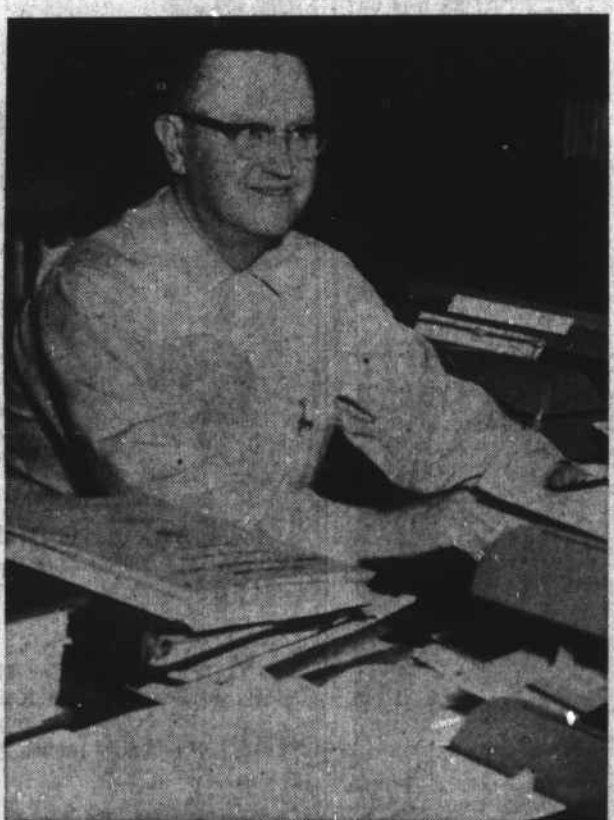
A new report by the U. S. Geological Survey locates gold in four places on Grandfather Mountain, and credits the famous landmark with having rock formations that are one billion years old. Its publication adds new interest to Grandfather Mountain for geologists, rockhounds, and sightseers.

Grandfather Mountain is in Northwestern North Carolina near the resorts of Linville, Boone and Blowing Rock, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The name "Grandfather" refers to the profile outlined by the mountain's jagged peaks, as well as to its vast age.

Dr. Jasper L. Stuckey, State Geologist with the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, says the report establishes a completely new interpretation on the rock formations of the area, and that it will undoubtedly lead to a flurry, if not a rush, of rock-hounding in the region covered by the report and its accompanying map.

Long known as one of the geologic wonders, the Grandfather Mountain window is focal point of the study which was made by Bruce Bryant and is published as Bulletin 1121-D, "Geology of the Linville Quadrangle, North Carolina-Tennessee" by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

A window is an area in which older rocks have faulted, or have slipped up over younger rocks. Through erosion, older rock formations have been removed and leave the younger



IVY WILSON . . . new face at court house.

## Wilson Gets Courthouse Job As Shore And Coffey Resign

I. B. (Ivy) Wilson has been appointed by the Watauga County Board of Commissioners as tax supervisor and county accountant and assumed his new duties February 5.

Wilson replaces Robert (Bob) Shore, Jr., and O. J. Coffey who held the office of tax supervisor and of county accountant respectively. Shore and Coffey were appointed to their posts following the November election.

Greene stated Monday that separate letters of resignation were received by the Commissioners February 1 from Shore and Coffey. "We accepted the resignations with regret," he said.

Wilson, a Zionville dairy farmer, has been appointed to the same county office once before. In 1957, he was selected to fill the vacancy of tax supervisor for the final year of a (Continued on page six)