



Snow Closes Area Schools Tuesday

Weather forecasters missed the boat when they failed to see Tuesday's snow on the map. By eight o'clock some four or five inches of snow had fallen throughout the area, and schools in Watauga were closed. Reports indicated that

Ashe and Avery county schools also failed to open. Before mid-morning the snow had abated. Temperatures were about 28 degrees at daybreak.—Staff photo.

APPLICATION SENT FAA Local Airport Planned Through Federal Help

Site May Be Procured In Bamboo Area

A formal application for a \$50,000 grant was submitted to the Federal Aeronautical Association (FAA) last week by the six-member Watauga County Airport Authority Commission, according to Dr. Philip Fail, chairman. The funds, which would necessarily be matched by county funds, would give local officials the "go ahead" sign for the construction of a 4400 foot airport strip in the county.

Dr. Fail, a Blowing Rock physician, stated yesterday (Tuesday) that the Commission has been studying the feasibility of such plans for more than a year. A site has been tentatively agreed on and, according to a Boone official, is in the general area between the golf course and the Bamboo section.

The next step, according to the chairman, is the selection of an engineer for the job.

According to present plans, the airfield would at first be a grassed area. "Later we would hope to have a paved landing area, hangers, and other facilities," Dr. Fail said.

A request for an FAA grant had to be submitted before the February 15 deadline, Dr. Fail explained. "We had to go on the assumption that the towns of Boone and Blowing Rock as well as the county will agree to match the federal grant," he said.

No definite proposal has been made to this date as to the means by which Watauga citizens would match the \$50,000 sum. Dr. Fail stated that it will probably be sometime in June before the Commission knows (Continued on page three)



CYNTHIA KAY STROUPE . . . "MISS SOUTHERN SKI QUEEN"

Ohio Beauty Is Winner Of "Miss Southern Ski Queen" Contest

Cynthia Kay Stroupe, 20, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, won the first annual Miss Southern Ski Queen contest at Blowing Rock Ski Lodge Saturday, taking the crown over nine other contestants.

Miss Stroupe, a junior at Queens College, Charlotte and the Charlotte Motor Speedway's current Miss Auto World, was crowned by Bill Thalheimer, ski lodge president.

More than a thousand weekend skiers and other visitors were present for the ceremonies.

The contestants modeled the traditional ski clothing, and took turns at skiing on the slippery slope. Since all but

Miss Stroupe negotiated the slope without falling, it was noted that judging was on appearance and poise.

The first runnerup in the contest was Geneva Myers of Salisbury, a sophomore at Appalachian State Teachers College. The second runnerup was

Julia Martin of Shelby, a junior at Appalachian.

Mr. Howard Barnwell, President of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Wade E. Brown of Boone, and Mrs. Rob Rivers, Associate Editor of the Watauga Democrat, judged the contest.

National Bank Site In City Approved

The Comptroller of the currency has notified Joe Williams of Boone, one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Boone, that a site has been approved for the new banking institution.

The bank will be located, Mr. Williams says, in the old Boone Trail Cafe building west of the Savings & Loan Association and opposite the postoffice.

Mr. Williams says that the work of remodeling the building will be started as soon as a contract can be let to the local contractor submitting the low bid.

Mr. Sam Dixon, Executive Officer of the bank, is now interviewing those interested in working in the bank, such as assistant cashier, tellers and bookkeepers. He is presently

living at the Laurel Motel, but has secured a house, where he and his family will establish residence next week.

Mr. Williams says that the following organizers of the bank are now accepting applications for stock subscriptions: Mack D. Brown, Gordon Taylor, Jerry Coe, G. R. Andrews, Phil Vance, Tom Winkler, and S. C. Eggers.

Burley Meeting Is Important To County Growers

A special tobacco growers educational meeting will be held at the County Courthouse in Boone on Thursday afternoon, February 28, at 1:30. Dr. D. M. Gossett, Agronomy Extension Specialist (Tobacco), and F. A. Todd, Tobacco Disease Specialist, will assist with the meeting.

Since burley tobacco sales amount to more than a million dollars per year to Watauga farmers this crop is very important.

Subjects for discussion will include tobacco diseases, insects, plant production, fertilization, harvesting, curing, grading, and marketing.

All tobacco growers are urged to attend.

Mrs. McGuire Is Dead At 74; Funeral Tues.

Mrs. Jessie McGuire, 74, prominent Boone resident, died Sunday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. L. Holland of Wilmington, after a short illness.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the First Baptist Church of Boone by Rev. J. Boyce Brooks. Burial was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Born in Watauga county to Carroll C. and Rebecca Presnell Adams, she was a member of the First Baptist Church here. For a great many years she was manager of the local telephone exchange for the Watauga Telephone Co., and later for Southern Bell. She retired several years ago.

Surviving are one son and one daughter, Roger W. McGuire, of Boone and Norfolk; Mrs. C. L. Holland, Wilmington, and a stepson, Vance McGuire of Lenoir. There are eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



YOKE OF OXEN.—Spencer Miller and his son of Deep Gap stand beside their team of oxen which will participate in the June 27-29 celebration of "Daniel Boone Crossing the Blue Ridge," held in conjunction with the state's Tercentenary Celebration. A wagon train consisting of scores of persons, wagons, and cattle will travel over mountain trails from Wilkes county to Boone, a two to three day feat.

Committees Named For Celebration

Chairmen of the committees in charge of the Carolina Tercentenary Celebration set for June 27, 28 and 29 in connection with the opening of "Horn in the West" June 28 are, according to H. W. Wilcox, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, as follows:

- Finance, Alfred Adams.
- Invitation of Special Guests, Dr. D. J. Whitener.
- Parade and Publicity, George Flowers.
- Costumes and Dedication of Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens, Mrs. Boyce Brooks and Mrs. B. W. Stallings.
- Decorations, Jack Williams.
- Entertainment, James Marsh.

THREE MEETINGS ARE HELD 'Things Look Favorable' For Establishing Shoe Factory

Although members of Watauga Industries Inc. and Blue Ridge Shoe Company met on three different occasions last week to discuss various matters pertaining to the possible construction of a shoe plant in Watauga County, no definite conclusions were reached.

In commenting to the Democrat Monday, Glenn Andrews stated that "things look favorable," but said that nothing had been confirmed.

Reportedly the company officials are deliberating over one of two possible building sites in or near Boone. A source has said that one location is on the Blowing Rock road (highway 321) and that the other area is in the Winkler's Creek section.

Officials from the shoe company and the North Wilkesboro Employment Security Commission interviewed some 1600 per-

sons January 30 at the Courthouse in Boone. Those interviewed were either employed outside the county or were unemployed at that time.

Most of the applicants were men, although 40 percent were women.

The interviewing was termed by one Boone official as the county's most successful labor survey in history.

Blue Ridge Shoe Company manufactures loafers and other types of shoes.

Herman Wilcox, in a Chamber of Commerce weekly news release printed elsewhere in this edition of the Democrat, points out that the new plant will employ 270 men and 89 women with an estimated weekly payroll of \$15,000. The total program, the report says, would be an investment of \$700,000.

Andrews added Monday that as further details are known, such will be made available to the Watauga Democrat for publication.

Flu Epidemic Here Seen As Unlikely

No epidemic of influenza is foreseen by county health officials in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery and Watauga, according to Dr. Mary Michal, district health director.

"However," says Dr. Michal, "there has been a reported increase in the number of influenza cases in the district—possibly some Asiatic flu. The situation is being very carefully watched through continuing surveys, and physicians report that young adults are being affected."

Some areas of the state and nation have been severely hit by "the flu bug" this year. However, since the epidemic of 1957, most persons have taken various precautions against the disease, including shots of polyvalent

influenza vaccine.

"Since many groups, such as special schools and industries were vaccinated this autumn, we do not expect asiatic influenza to make 'in roads' in these groups," the health director commented. The vaccine, Dr. Michal says, is about 70 percent effective and includes three strains besides asiatic influenza.

Dr. Michal says she does not expect influenza to reach serious proportions here.

V. J. Coffey Dies Tuesday

Funeral services for Victor Judson Coffey were held Wednesday (Feb. 13) at 11 a. m., at Lenoir Funeral Home chapel. Officiating were the Rev. William E. Roach. Burial was at Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church in Watauga county.

Coffey, of Route 8, Lenoir, died Tuesday at 2 a. m., in a Winston-Salem hospital. He was 90 years old.

Born October 28, 1872, in Watauga county, he was a son of the late William L. and Salome Moretz Coffey. His church affiliation was with Dawn Bible Students. He was a retired farmer.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Emma Moretz Coffey; three daughters, Mrs. Frances Hall of Hudson, Mrs. Reid Goin of Winston-Salem, Miss Rose Coffey of Lenoir; three sons, H. L. Coffey of Boone, Raymond Coffey of Hudson, Jerome Coffey of Chatham, Va.; three sisters, Mrs. Nora Moretz of Boone, Mrs. Ada Greene of Cherryville, Miss Edna Coffey of Lenoir; two brothers, Leonard Coffey of Blowing Rock, D. C. Coffey of Boone; nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hollar Dies Sunday

Mrs. Lillie Hollar, 84, of Vilas, Route 1, widow of Wade Hampton Hollar, died at 1 p. m. Sunday at her home. She had been ill a long time.

Mrs. Hollar was born in Watauga county to Jonas and Phoebe Moody Townsend and spent all her life in the county.

Surviving are three sons, Aud Hollar of Vilas, Roby Hollar of Hickory, and Ed Hollar of Granite Falls; three daughters, Mrs. Jim Byrd of Valle Crucis, Mrs. Frank Bentley of Shulls Mills, and Mrs. Solomon Townsend of Hickory; one brother, Lee Townsend of Hickory; three sisters, Mrs. Della Taylor of Shulls Mills, Mrs. Jennie Cooke of Lenoir, and Mrs. Amanda Hollars of Hudson; 25 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p. m. Tuesday at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church by the Rev. Ronda Earp and the Rev. E. F. Troutman. Burial was in Danner Cemetery.