

Over 5,000 Gather For Blue Ridge Electric Co-Op Meet

More than 5,000 were in attendance at the twenty-seventh annual Membership meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation held in the William J. Conrad Stadium on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers college in Boone Saturday, August 24.

The keynote address was delivered by the Honorable Norman M. Clapp, Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington, D. C. Mr. Clapp went to great lengths to attend this meeting. He flew in from Wisconsin Saturday morning where he attended a memorial service for his deceased brother, the late Gordon Clapp, former Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority. He left immediately following the meeting to keep another engagement in Nebraska on Monday. Mr. Clapp was introduced by Mr. Gwyn B. Price, Chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority.

Mr. Clapp told how the Rural Electrification program was started back in 1935 while we were struggling to get out of the depression. The Emergency Relief Act and Public Works Acts were passed and one hundred million dollars was appropriated to help get electricity into rural areas. The Honorable Morris Cook was the first administrator of this program and tried hard the first year to get power companies to do this job. Without avail efforts were directed to forming cooperatives in rural areas and helping the rural people do the job for themselves.

Mr. Clapp stated that a tremendous job has been done but hastened to add that much was yet to be done. Where one person out of ten had power in rural areas in 1935, today 97% of all rural people have service. Rural electricians are serving 5,000,000 rural people. Five billion dollars has been loaned to cooperatives, four million of which has been advanced. Over one billion dollars has been repaid with interest. He remarked that out of one thousand borrowers only one is delinquent but is catching up fast.

Many are saying that the cooperatives have done a good job and now it is time that they roll up the rugs, cart their records off to the warehouse and go home and let private power monopolies take over. "These systems belong to you and I hope you will never agree to this," Mr. Clapp said. We are victims of our success. We have good facilities and efficient staffs, we are paying our bills and some think we are a Con-Edison, that we should play by the ground rules of the professionals. "Let's see," he said, "why we can't play by these rules." "The average number of consumers per mile of line on Rural Electrification Administration financed systems is 3.3 consumers and the average gross revenue per mile of line is \$414 per year, while on Class A and B utility systems there are 33 consumers per mile of line with an annual gross revenue of \$6,580. In North Carolina the density is 4.7 members per mile of line and \$453 gross revenue per year, while power companies have 19.7 consumers per mile and \$3,879 revenue. The job was tough in 1935 and is tough today. We haven't the resources of the giant utility companies, therefore, we shouldn't be expected to play by the same rules of the game."

Mr. Clapp asked, "What is the job of Rural Electrification today, now that 97% of the people have service?" He stated the job is to get electric power to all who want it and need it at a cost they can afford—at a cost comparable to urban consumers. Rural people are paying 20% to 40% more than urban people are for their service. There is much to be done if we are to complete this task. He pointed out the fine job that is being done to get industry into this area and remarked that some 8,000 people have been able to remain here because of jobs made possible by low cost power.

He pointed out that we must have some equalizers if we are to continue to serve these rural areas. They are: 1. Two percent financing, 2. Technical assistance provided by REA, 3. Non-profit operation, and 4. A generating and transmission program which is very vital as a source of power and as a bargaining tool for wholesale power rates. We must fight to keep

these equalizers if we are to meet the needs of our rural people for abundant low cost power.

Registration for the members began at 9:00 a. m. Many arrived early to register and pick up their capital credits checks which totaled nearly \$89,000 this year. The refunds this year were the member contributed capital accumulated in 1954.

A luncheon was held at noon for directors, their wives, management staff personnel, out-of-town guests, local guests, members of the General Assembly and others connected with the rural electric program.

Mr. W. B. Austin, President of the Cooperative, reported the organization had completed another good year. He gave evidence that the area served by Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is growing and progressing. Members were urged to support the Cooperative's program of civic, educational, religious, and industrial development of the area it serves.

Mr. D. R. Moore, treasurer, reported that a review of the balance sheet of Blue Ridge Electric's financial report indicates that our assets stand at more than twelve million four hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars.

Mr. Moore went on to explain how much of this the members actually owe now, how much is still owed to the Rural Electrification Administration and how much is held as operating capital.

Mr. C. E. Viverette, General Manager, told of some of his experiences in Bolivia where he has been helping to establish an electric cooperative. He pointed out that people around the world are seeking the same privileges our cooperative members enjoy—those of working together to provide themselves with goods and services they could not have except through cooperation.

Mr. Viverette made a special effort to be here for the annual meeting. He is currently on leave of absence for six months helping to organize and establish electric cooperatives in Bolivia, South America. Mr. Viverette will be returning to Bolivia around September 1 to complete his assignment with the aid of international development program.

Scholarship were awarded to four outstanding students in the amount of \$600 each. The recipients were: Glenda Ann Kilby, Boomer, N. C.; Earlie Rash, Glade Valley, N. C.; Ralph Prestwood, Jr., Lenoir; and Judith Ann Henson, Vilas.

The scholarships were awarded on the basis of ability, need, willingness and desire for further education beyond the high school level.

During the business session several resolutions were adopted by the members present. The resolutions commended the members of the 1963 General Assembly of North Carolina who supported and fought with vigor for the cause of rural electrification in North Carolina; commended the Board of Directors and the management of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation for their efforts directed toward achieving such legislation during the 1963 General Assembly as would provide needed territorial protection of the cooperative's system and urged the Board, the Management, and all interested persons to continue such efforts as may be necessary to obtain adequate protection in the 1965 session of the General Assembly of North Carolina; that the membership oppose any increase in interest rate and any decrease in the repayment period of Rural Electrification Administration loans, and re-emphasize the necessity for maintaining the interest rate at two percent in order that low cost dependable electric service may be available to all rural Americans who want and need it; urged the Congress of the United States to oppose any amendments to the Rural Electrification Administration Act which would require any change in the present policy of the Administration to make generation and transmission loans; urged the Congress of the United States to insure an effective generation and transmission loan program by appropriating adequate Rural

Electrification Administration loan funds to meet the needs of rural America for electric power. Urged the Board of Directors and other interested parties to continue such studies and to make such plans as will assure the cooperative that it shall always be in a position to secure an adequate power supply at the lowest possible cost and have the most possible control over such source of power; Reaffirm our long-standing policy to aggressively promote the full development of the service area of the cooperative, and commend the Board of Directors and Management for their leadership in this respect and urged the continuation of this leadership role in the orderly development of all phases of area and community programs and activities.

Honored guests at the meeting were: The Honorable James T. Broyhill, United States Congressman; The Honorable Norman M. Clapp, Administrator of the Rural Electrification Authority; North Carolina Senator, John E. Jordan, Jr.; Mr. Walter Jones, Farmville, N. C., Legislative representative for Tarheel Electric Membership Association; Mr. Arthur Myers, operation field representative, REA; and Mr. Magnus Hoyle, field engineer, REA. Members of the Tarheel Electric Membership Association staff, elected officials, local businessmen, past directors and many other friends of Rural Electrification were also in attendance.

ASC Voting

(Continued from page one) convention where the ASC county committee will be chosen.

A person may vote in the community election if he or she is of legal voting age, is a farm owner, tenant, or sharecropper, and is taking part or is eligible to take part in one of the farm programs administered by the committee. Also eligible is a person not of legal voting age, but in charge of the farming operations on an entire farm. In the case of joint ownership by two or more individuals, each is an eligible voter.

Because of the vital part that the ASC community and county committees play in the farming affairs of the county Chairman Tugman said, it is important that each farmer give serious consideration to the men elected to these posts. It is highly desirable that the committeemen be currently active farmers who are best qualified for the committee work and who will be representatives of the various and types of agriculture in the community.

Marsh Urges

(Continued from page one) the first year, and then a steady drop until the bond indebtedness is paid, you can have a part in this great county-wide project," Marsh said.

The Hospital Steering Committee chairman urged the people of the county to figure out what the new hospital would cost them daily. Then compare this cost to the least luxury that they enjoy and ask yourself the question—Can I do anything except vote "Yes" on the hospital issue?

Marsh said, "We all live in Watauga County and most of us earn our living here. We all agree that it is the best place in the world to live! This is your opportunity to make it an even better place to live!"

Register Books

(Continued from page one) Meat Camp No. 2: Luther Moretz, Carson L. McNeil, Wade Moretz.

New River: James H. Dugger, Coaker Triplett, G. Perry Greene.

North Fork: W. C. South, Sam South, A. J. Wallace. Shawneehaw: Ed Chappell, Willie Rupert, William Townsend.

Stony Fork: Edgar B. Hardin, Milton W. Moretz, Walter Greer.

Watauga: Arlie B. Hodges, Frank Taylor, Stanford Coffey.

QUICK REACTION

Secretary of Defense McNamara says the United States can make a "quick expansion" of its nuclear testing if Russia suddenly should break the pact which bans all but underground testing.



Educators Chat After Meeting

Educators chat after school meeting in the Boone elementary school. In the picture (l-r) are Dr. D. J. Whitener, dean of ASTC; Dr. Charles Carroll, State Superintendent of

Public Instruction; W. Guy Angell, superintendent of Watauga County Schools; and Barnard Dougherty, vice president and comptroller of ASTC.—Larry Penley photo.



Given Citations

Some of those who received citations for service as school board members and county superintendents at the meeting held Friday night.

Former School Officials Are Honored; Dr. Carroll Speaks

(Continued from page one) completion of elementary school consolidation in the early 50's.

Listed are the honorees and their term of office. Except where specified the honoree was a board member.

Howard W. Mast, Sr., 1949-1951. Tarlton L. Mast, 1947-1949. L. G. Maxwell, 1897-1903. L. H. Michael, superintendent, 1897.

Cicero Miller, 1903-1911. Troy Norris, 1951-1955. Millard Norris, 1897-1899. Clyde Perry, 1835-1955. Wiley F. Sherwood, 1919-1929. Robert T. Taylor, 1925-1929. James H. Taylor, 1889-1895. J. W. Thomas, superintendent, 1885-1893.

Charlie Triplett, 1939-1941. Larkin M. Trivette, 1897-1899. Howard Walker, superintendent, 1934-1955. Will C. Walker, 1929-1941. Chappell Wilson, 1937-1941. Dr. D. J. Whitener, 1955-1960.

Of the 45 honored, fifteen are living and 30 are deceased. In cases of the deceased, the certificate of merit was presented to a relative.

W. Guy Angell, Superintendent of Schools, presented the certificate of merit to forty-five honorees. Prior to making the presentation, Mr. Angell pointed out that the format of the certificate was designed to accomplish two main objectives:

First, to produce a permanent directory of all former superintendents and board members serving this county during the seventy year period, 1885-1955. This was accomplished by listing the names of those serving each two year term beginning in 1885. These names and dates formed a border around the certificates. The year 1885 was chosen because this is the first year any records on the work of an active Board of Education in the county were available. This should be significant information, Mr. Angell said, not only for the honorees, but for everyone interested in the history of education in Watauga County.

Second, to serve as a means for the present Board of Education and the citizens of Watauga County, to honor and recognize the service and leadership rendered by previous superintendents and board members from the time our public schools were organized to the

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Winners Chosen In 'Horn' Photo Contest

Winners of the 1963 "Horn in the West" contest for the best published photographs and television film clips of the outdoor drama, representing three states, were announced today by Harman W. Wilcox, executive vice president of the sponsoring Southern Appalachian Historical Association.

Photographers receiving honorable mention for their photographs include: Jack W. Bowers of Asheville for his Daniel Boone and bear scene.

\$50 first prize for best photograph—Jimmy Ellis, staff photographer of the Johnson City, Tenn. Press-Chronicle, for an amazing action shot of the Indian flame dance by actor Robert Thomas.

James P. Barringer, Jr. of Salisbury Post for a scene of settlers square dancing framed by a spinning wheel.

John G. Hemmer of Hemmer's Photo Shop in Pinehurst for a shot of Indian maidens.

\$25 second prize for best photograph—Jack Moebs, staff photographer of the Greensboro Record, for scene of Daniel Boone, played by actor Glenn Causey, gazing toward the west.

Mrs. Reid Dies At Blowing Rock

\$10 third prize (three awards): Hugh Morton of Grandfather Mountain and Wilmington for his study of Dr. Geoffrey Stuart, played by actor Bill Ross of Boone.

Mrs. Laura Moody Reid, 79, of Boone, Route 4, wife of J. B. Reid, died Saturday at Blowing Rock Hospital. She had been in declining health several years.

Vic Tuttle, British-born staff photographer of the Columbia State Record, for a dramatic Indian dance scene.

Mrs. Reid was born in Watauga county to Charles and Louisa Harrison Moody.

H. L. Montgomery, staff photographer of The Lancaster, S. C. News, for a touching picture of a pioneer mother and child, played by Mrs. Carolyn Starnes and her daughter of Lancaster, S. C.

Surviving are her husband; a daughter, Mrs. Lets Miller of Boone; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild; three brothers, Arthur Moody of Blowing Rock, and U. E. Moody of Vero Beach, Fla.; and two sisters, Mrs. Callie Icenhour of Blowing Rock and Mrs. Florence Jenkins of Bristol, Tenn.

The funeral was conducted Tuesday at 2 p. m. at Perkinsville Baptist Church by the Rev. Maurice Cooper. Burial was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

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