



NEW YEAR'S SNOW—Watauga County was covered with eight inches of snow and sleet on the first day of January. Beginning about 2:30 p. m. Tuesday, the snow turned into

sleet, then rain, and more snow during the night. Melted down the precipitation measured 2.52 inches. All county schools were closed, and traffic was slowed by the slush.

Watauga County Has Full Share Of Prosperity In U. S. Surge

Man Is Freed Of Liability In Fatal Crash

A six-man coroner's jury recommended Friday afternoon in Boone that George Lester Roberson, 27, driver of a 1958 International truck involved in a fatal collision seven miles west of Boone on highway 421 Sept. 9, not be held liable for criminal action.

Thus was dropped a manslaughter charge which had been pending against Roberson since the week following the accident, which was fatal to Spir Nicholas Glaros, 29, of Greensboro, driver of a 1961 Pontiac station wagon which collided head-on with Roberson's vehicle.

The coroner's jury deliberated only about ten minutes before reaching their verdict, the reason for which they gave as being "insufficient evidence to determine the cause of the accident."

The inquest was delayed twice because Roberson, moved from Watauga Hospital to a hospital in Asheville two days after the collision, had been unable to appear in court. He had suffered a shattered kneecap, as well as facial and internal injuries, in the crash.

Testimony was given Friday by investigating State Highway Patrolman William D. Teem and by Boone photographer George Flowers, who took some 20 photographs of the wreckage, some of which were presented as evidence.

Teem stated that there were no witnesses to the actual crash, and that there was no way to determine from the final position of the vehicles which of them had been on the wrong side of the road.

Tax Listing Plans Are Made

Mr. I. B. Wilson, tax supervisor for Watauga County, announced Monday that the books for listing taxes for 1964 would be out of his office and in the hands of the listers within the next few days.

Citizens are advised to watch for the notice in next week's Democrat concerning times and places for listing taxes.

(Special to the Democrat)

New York, Dec. 28—To what extent has Watauga County participated in the current business boom?

According to a detailed report for the period, which covers the 12 months ending June 30, 1963, solid progress was made locally. Wages went up for most working people. Spending rose proportionately.

The report, giving the first breakdown figures for the fiscal year, has just been released by the Standard Rate and Data Service. It contains comparable information for every section of the county.

The volume of business chalked up by retail merchants in Watauga County, it shows, reached \$14,665,000, topping the previous year's \$13,163,000.

The gain, which amounted to 11.4 percent, compares favorably with that in the United States as a whole, 5.9 percent. In the State of North Carolina the rise was 7.5 percent.

Locally, as well as nationally, the advance was along a broad front, with most lines of business benefiting from the increase in consumer spending.

New cars accounted for a large part of the total retail volume. Sales of appliances, including such major hard goods as refrigerators, washers and dryers, were considerably higher.

Much of the upward push took place in the second half of the year, when the public

Father Of Mrs. Linney Dies In Kearney, Neb.

Mr. Kimber Daniel Wary, of Kearney, Nebraska, father of Virginia Wary Linney of Boone, died Thursday, December 26.

Mr. Wary's life was dedicated to the teaching profession. As an educator, he was offered an opportunity for the guidance of youth into the leading of richer and fuller lives.

English literature and dramatics were his special interests. Mr. Wary is survived by his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Virginia Linney, two sons, and nine grandchildren.

Winners Chosen In Decoration Contest

The Christmas decoration contest was a success due to the cooperation of many Boone residents.

Winners in the following divisions are:
Doors: first place, Mrs. Conrad Yates; second place, Mrs. Willard Trivette; third place, Mrs. Lorn Harrison; honorable mention, Mrs. Hoyle Davis, Mrs. J. W. Winkler, and Mrs. J. R. Brown.

Dining Tables: first place, Mrs. J. B. Winkler; second place, Mrs. Joe Crawford; third place, Mrs. B. Winkler; honorable mention, Frank Norris.

Outdoor Trees: first place, Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Plemmons; second place, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payne; third place, Dr.

and Mrs. O. K. Richardson; honorable mention, Dr. and Mrs. E. T. Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Yates and Frank Norris.

Indoor Trees: first place, Mountain Boarding and Rest Home; second place, Mrs. D. L. Wilcox; third place, Mrs. Conrad Yates; honorable mention, Frank Norris.

Outdoor Decorations: first place, Dr. and Mrs. O. K. Richardson; second place, Mr. and Mrs. Eric DeGroat; third place, Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Wilson; honorable mention, Mr. Macdonald Greene.

Tables, Other Than Dining: first place, Mrs. J. B. Winkler; second place, Mrs. W. L. High; third place, Mrs. Bob Agie; honorable mention, Mrs. W. C. Richardson and Mrs. John T. Winkler.

Fireplaces or Fireplace Walls: first place, Mrs. Walton Cole; second place, Mrs. John Hollar.

Windows: first place, Mrs. Hoyle Davis; second place, Mrs. E. T. Glenn; third place, Mrs. D. J. Whitener; honorable mention, Mr. and Mrs. Orus Sutton.

Children's: first place, Terry Hollar; second place, Any high; third place, Pam and Judy Winkler; honorable mention, Danny Spainhour.

Nine Inducted By Draft Board
The following registrants were inducted into the armed forces by Watauga County Local Board No. 96 in November and December:

Gienn S. Isaacs, Wilson F. Hodges, Jr., William P. Lewis, George M. Reece, Donald N. Hodder, Kenneth M. Barlow, James P. Matney, Lowell C. Hodges and Arnie J. Winebarger.

Tobacco Sales Start Monday
Tobacco sales at the four Boone warehouses will reopen Monday, Jan. 6, it was announced Friday.

The warehouses are already accepting loads of tobacco on their floors, and tobacco has been coming in since Friday, warehousemen said.

OUTLOOK GOOD Business In Boone Makes Sharp Gains

Chamber Makes Survey; Sales Are Ahead Of 1962

A survey conducted by the Boone Chamber of Commerce reveals that the business district enjoyed a healthy growth in 1963 over 1962, even more than was the degree of growth in 1962, bringing further proof that Boone is the outstanding shopping center of the entire region.

Department stores had a substantial increase, even after the lull caused by the assassination of President Kennedy, the extreme cold weather and the drop in burley tobacco prices.

Variety stores reported at least a 15% increase over 1962. Drug stores, 10% or more over previous year.

Furniture stores "excellent increases."

Automobile sales hit a record volume. Dealers report 15 to 20% increase. One dealer reported more cars sold during May and June than he sold during the entire year of 1960.

Hardware stores tell of at least a 30% increase, and stated that they would have had a much greater increase but for the assassination of the President, lower burley prices and an unusually cold December. Grocery sales as high as 28% increase.

Building suppliers, at least 20% increase.

Hotels, at least as good as 62. With limited facilities, they had to turn many away.

There are many more motels than in 1962, but they report a substantial increase.

Transportation and communications, much better. Big increase in world-wide travel.

A twenty per cent increase is noted in industry and a 20 to 25% increase in employment.

Banking, best year in history. Insurance, 20 to 30% increase over 1962.

Loan companies "substantial increase."

Building contractors say they are unable to keep up with demands for new homes and other structures.

Herman W. Wilcox, Chamber of Commerce President, who conducted the survey, points out that more motels are being built and on the planning boards than in 1962, and sees a continuation of the growth of the town and the county in the new year.

Mrs. Anna Moore Dies In Marion

Mrs. Anna Coffey Moore, daughter of the late George Calvin Coffey and Mrs. Louisa Coffey, died December 18, in a Marion, Va., hospital of a heart ailment.

Mrs. Moore was reared in the Boone's Fork community of Watauga County, attended ASTC in Boone, and taught school for a time before moving to Marion many years ago. She will be remembered in Watauga County as the wife of the late Rev. H. L. Coffey.

Funeral services were held December 21 at two o'clock in the Marion Baptist Church and burial was in Roselawn Cemetery, near Marion.

Surviving are the husband, Edward Moore; a son, Dean Coffey of Princeton, W. Va.; a daughter, Mrs. Beulah Slagle; two brothers, T. M. Coffey, of Chucky, Tenn., and Troy Coffey of High Point, N. C.; two sisters, Mrs. Emma Betz, Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Georgia Coffey, Blowing Rock. There are six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



New License Plates

1964 auto license tags will go on sale January 2 at the local motor vehicle department located in the bus terminal in Boone. Mrs.

Laura Danner, department employee, holds the first tag to be sold in the new year.

Law Officers Say Wataugans Observed Christmas Quietly

The 1963 Christmas holidays were celebrated in as quiet and restrained a manner as any in recent years in Watauga County, according to the Watauga County Sheriff's Department and Boone Chief of Police Hubert Thomas.

"It was about the quietest Christmas I ever saw," Sheriff Dallas Cheek said. "Christmas eve, we had two people locked up in jail on minor charges, but they were both released Christmas day. The jail was empty all day Wednesday."

"We didn't receive a single call of any consequence Christmas day, and there was absolutely no evidence of public drunkenness, vandalism, or anything of that nature. I understand that the Highway Patrol investigated two wrecks Christmas day, but neither of them involved any personal injury."

"This year was in direct contrast to last year, when we locked up ten people Christmas day on assorted charges."

State Highway Patrolman G. L. Morgan, who investigated both the highway accidents re-

ferred to by Cheek, reported that one, which took place at the 421-221 intersection at Deep Gap, was a hit-and-run affair involving two vehicles and a cow. A full report on this accident is to be found elsewhere in the Democrat.

The other accident, on which complete details were not available, involved nine members of a family, none of whom were seriously injured when the driver lost control of his 1956 Ford vehicle on N. C. 194, one mile west of Valle Crucis. The car apparently hit a patch of ice, Morgan said, and slid off the road into a utility pole. Damage to the vehicle was estimated to be around \$400.

One Arrested In Hit And Run Crash

An Ashe County man reportedly involved in a hit-and-run accident last Wednesday at Deep Gap was arrested Wednesday night in Wilkes County on charges of driving under the influence and carrying a concealed weapon, and brought back to Watauga County for investigation of the hit-and-run mishap.

The man, Callie Grant Severt, 57, of Route 2, West Jefferson, was operating a 1956 Chevrolet truck north on Highway 221 at about 6 p.m. last Wednesday, according to investigating State Highway Patrolman G. L. Morgan, when he failed to see a

1957 Chevrolet owned and operated by Mac Winebarger traveling west on Highway 421.

The two vehicles collided at the intersection of the two highways, Morgan said, causing Winebarger to lose control of his vehicle and veer down an embankment into a field, where the car struck a cow belonging to Aime Mains of Creston, breaking its back.

Winebarger's car was a total loss, Morgan said.

Severt, according to the report, continued on his way, later to be arrested in Wilkes County.

Ski Conditions Are Broadcast From Raleigh-Durham Bureau

Weather bulletins for the benefit of those who are concerned with ski conditions at Blowing Rock and Cataloochee are being released regularly from Raleigh-Durham Airport by the U. S. Weather Bureau there, Chuck Carney in charge.

Mr. Herman Wilcox, Boone Chamber of Commerce President, gives us a sample ski weather bulletin, sent him by Mr. Carney for December 19,

the kind which is regularly released to the Associated Press and United Press: "Conditions are perfect for skiing at the Western North Carolina ski slopes and the weather bureau forecast at Raleigh-Durham Airport predicts that fine skiing weather will continue for at least the next two days. "The ski slopes at Blowing Rock and Cataloochee both re-

port excellent skiing. The slopes have a good cover of packed powder snow, mostly machine made and generally at least eighteen inches deep.

"The weather forecast for the North Carolina skiing area is for continued fine cold skiing weather for tonight and Friday. The outlook is for continued favorable skiing weather Saturday."