



A few of the season's first skiers at the lavish new Hound Ears Golf and Ski Club are shown at the foot of the 1,000-foot slope which opened for the first time Saturday. The new ski lodge is located at Shulls Mills.

VISITOR UPTURN NOTED

Hound Ears Ski Club To Open To Capacity

All Facilities Do Good During Past Week End

Skiing participation at Watauga County ski lodges took another upturn last weekend with the opening of the lavish new Hound Ears Golf and Ski Club, placing the number of skiers so far this season well ahead of last year's total at this time.

The Hound Ears establishment, owned and operated by Harry and Grover Robbins and located at Shulls Mills, opened for business Saturday on a limited basis, according to Harry Robbins.

"The opening was a big success," Robbins said, "though we were open only on a limited basis. All the facilities made available this weekend were in use, and we actually had more requests than our opened facilities were able to handle. We will, however, be open this week end to full capacity."

Two of the three Swiss chalets located at the lodge, accommodating about 60 guests, were opened and were full by Saturday night, Robbins said.

Skiers used the 1,000-foot slope at Hound Ears for the first time Saturday. The slope has a vertical drop of 107 feet and a double chair lift serves to take skiers to the top of the slope.

The instruction slope is short with very little rise. Natural snow will be supplemented by artificial snow-making equipment.

Although Hound Ears is primarily a private club for members and chalet guests, the general public will be permitted to use the slopes, rental equipment, locker rooms and lunch rooms to the extent that facilities permit.

Meanwhile, M. E. (Bill) Thalheimer, manager of the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge, said that his lodge enjoyed a booming business this weekend, bolstered by ideal ski conditions and a bus load of skiers from Aiken, S. C., who came to this area specifically to enjoy the new-found Southern sport.

The slopes at the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge still have close to three feet of snow, Thalheimer said.

Thalheimer said that the next festivity at the lodge would take place February 1 when a new "Miss Southern Ski Queen" will be crowned. Miss Cynthia Stroupe, the present Southern Ski Queen, will crown the new queen.

Rev. H. H. Smith Dies Saturday

The Rev. Henry Harrison Smith, 74, of Stony Fork, a retired Baptist minister, died Saturday morning at Watauga Hospital after a long illness.

He was born in Watauga County to Joseph and Elizabeth Miller Smith. He was a farmer.

Surviving are two sons, Greene Smith of Boone and Harley Smith of Lenoir; three daughters, Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Russell Watson and Mrs. Hubert Greene of Deep Gap; four brothers, Stanley and Rixie Smith of Jacksonville, Fla., and Isaac and Gurney Smith of Lenoir; five sisters, Mrs. Etta Greene, Mrs. Bessie Eller and Mrs. Dollie Church of Deep Gap, Mrs. Pearl Todd of Ferguson and Mrs. Sarah Winebarger of Lynchburg, Va.; 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p.m. Monday at Stony Fork Baptist Church by the Rev. Vestal Moore, the Rev. John R. Greene and the Rev. Hugh Kincaid. Burial was in Stony Fork Cemetery.



Blowing Rock Chamber Officers

Officers and directors of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce are, left to right, Mr. J. D. Jones, Mr. L. E. Dimmette, Mr. Louis H. Smith, Mr. R. B. Hardin, Mrs. C. F. Custer, Mr. Eli Mattar, Mr. C. Stradley Kipp, and Mr. Howard Barnwell.—Story P1, sec. B.

First National Bank Reports Assets In Excess Of \$1 Million

Wilcox Names Committees For Wagon Train

Herman W. Wilcox, general chairman for Watauga County in the move to present the 1964 version of "The Daniel Boone Wagon Train Crosses the Blue Ridge" festival in July here, announces that he has received indications of intense interest from persons asked to serve on the various committees which will serve in making up the affair.

Wilcox said that he should have a complete list of committee personnel put together in time for Democrat publication next week.

F. M. Huggins, Former Boone Minister, Dies

The Rev. F. M. Huggins, 81, retired Baptist minister, died December 19 in a Hendersonville hospital after a period of declining health.

He was a native of Henderson County and had been a minister since 1907, serving the First Baptist Church of Boone from 1920 to 1926.

He was graduated from Old Fruitland Institute, Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had served churches in Belmont, Boone, Saluda, Fletcher and Abingdon, Va., prior to (continued on page six)

Stockholders of the First National Bank of Boone met Tuesday of last week, were told that the new financial institution now has assets of more than \$1,152,000, and elected a board of directors, which included two new members.

Richard W. Clawson, Deep Gap resident, who is associated with the Pike Construction Co. of Mount Airy and E. F. Coe, prominent Boone realtor and insurance man, were added to the board which includes the following:

S. C. Eggers, G. R. Andrews, Sam W. Dixon, Phil H. Vance, Jr., John T. Winkler, C. Gordon Taylor, Mack D. Brown, Kenneth Wilcox and Council Main.

"These new board members, with the reelected directors, who serve without remuneration of any kind, strengthen the First National's board to a point that it is second to no bank board in the South," Sam Dixon, Executive Vice-President of the bank, said.

Following the stockholders meeting the Board of Directors met at the Daniel Boone Hotel for dinner and returned to the bank where they elected the (Continued on page three)

Boone C. Of C. To Hold Meeting On February 11

The January membership meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce that was scheduled for January 14 has been rescheduled for February 11.

Mayor Wade E. Brown will have charge of the program and present a slide and comment report on his trip to Europe.

All members present will have an opportunity to make any suggestions as to projects they would like their Chamber to work on during 1964.

Robert Davis To Seek Congress Nomination

Salisbury—Robert M. Davis, 36 year old Salisbury attorney, has announced as a candidate for the Democratic nomination to Congress from the 9th District.

He will be seeking the May primary nomination to oppose the Republican candidate in November.

Mr. Davis will be making his first bid for a major public office outside Rowan County, where he has served as chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee for the past

eight years. His political career in Rowan County is marked with services as judge and solicitor of County Court.

He served as State President of the YDC in 1958 and has been politically active in the 9th District for the past several years. He is also a former president of the Rowan County YDC and YDC state and district organizer.

The candidate, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Davis of (Continued on page three)

Watauga Savings And Loan Has Assets Of \$10,416,982

By CLARK COX
Democrat Staff Writer

Stockholders of the Watauga Savings & Loan Association met Thursday afternoon and heard glowing reports of the growth of the institution, which had record assets of \$10,416,982.35 as of December 31, 1963.

The present board of directors was re-elected along with two new members, bringing the total membership of the board to eleven.

New members of the board are Perry Greene of Boone, who is in the construction business, and Grover Robbins, Jr., of Blowing Rock, part owner of a number of tourist attractions in-

cluding Tweetsie Railroad and the Hound Ears Golf and Ski Club.

Re-elected directors are: H. Grady Farthing, R. C. Rivers, Jr., James P. Marsh, Walter H. Greene, Guy Hunt, Dr. William M. Matheson, H. P. Holshouser, Howard W. Mast, and Wayne R. Richardson.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors Thursday night H. Grady Farthing was re-elected President; R. C. Rivers, Jr., Vice-President; and James P. Marsh, Secretary - Treasurer. Paul Smith was named Assistant Treasurer. The appraisal committee was re-elected and (continued on page three)

James Hodges Dies Wednesday

James Arthur Hodges, 79, of Boone, route 2, died Wednesday at Watauga Hospital.

He was born in Watauga County to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hodges and was a farmer. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Gertrude Hodges; a daughter, Mrs. Josephine Williams of Boone, route 2; a brother, W. B. Hodges of Boone; a sister, Mrs. R. L. Maliba of Madison, Wis.; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p. m. Thursday at Advent Christian Church by the Rev. Floyd Boston and the Rev. A. E. Moretz. Burial was in Hodges Cemetery.

Local Schools Miss 13 Days Due To Storms

Inclement weather, causing unsafe driving conditions for school buses, has forced Watauga County public school students to miss 13 days of school this year, through Tuesday of this week.

W. Guy Angell, Superintendent of County Schools, in an interview last week, stressed that this figure was no cause for alarm for students fearing that they might have to attend school overtime in the spring. "This year's schedule," he explained, "was set up to allow for 10 or 12 missed days during the winter and still allow students to get out of school May 28. Only if future bad weather forces our tentative closing date to go past June 4 or 5 will we have to resort to holding make-up classes on Saturdays."



J. E. HOLSHOUSER, JR.

Holshouser Is Named Young Man Of Year

J. E. Holshouser, Jr. was named Watauga County's Young Man of the Year at a Boone Junior Chamber of Commerce banquet Monday night. He was presented the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award by Harvey Ayers, chairman of the DSA Committee.

The young man of the year is nominated by the citizens of the county. The final selection is made by a group of leading (continued on page three)

Watauga Court Term This Week

A criminal term of Watauga County Superior Court convened at the Court House in Boone Monday, with Judge Henry C. Martin of Asheville presiding. Clerk of Court Orville C. Foster said Monday 232 cases are scheduled to be tried during the term, 230 of which are misdemeanors. The two felony cases to be tried involve two convicts who escaped while serving felony convictions.

A full report on cases and dispositions by the Court will appear in next week's Democrat.

Democrat Wins 2 N. C. Press Awards



REV. FRANK M. HUDSPETH

F. M. Hudspeth Funeral Held

The Rev. Frank Mason Hudspeth, age 30, of Boone died Thursday night at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem following heart surgery.

He had been pastor of Three Forks Baptist Church since June 1, 1963, and was a member of the Watauga Ministerial Association.

A memorial service was held Saturday at 2 p. m. at Three Forks Baptist Church.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Patricia Brasington Hudspeth; two daughters, Misses Sara and Ruth Hudspeth, both of the home; his father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hudspeth of Belmont; two sisters, Mrs. John Campbell of Franklin and Miss Ann Hudspeth, a student at Appalachian State Teachers College; a brother Terry Hudspeth of Belmont.

The Watauga Democrat won two awards in the annual newspaper contests conducted by the North Carolina Press Association in connection with the Newspaper Institute at Chapel Hill last week.

A third place award came to the Democrat in the feature writing category, and a third to the local newspaper in advertising.

The feature writing award came as an honor to Dale Gaddy, Rachel Rivers, Clark Cox and others who did features during the year. The advertising award was made possible by the diligence of our advertising director, W. Ralph Tugman, whose entries placed him in the top three in the State competition. In developing Mr. Tugman's prize-winning ads, the excellent mechanical staff in the Democrat's composing room also played an appreciated and important part.

Horn In West Is Sponsoring Essay Contest On D. Boone

Officials of the "Horn in the West" outdoor drama in Boone have decided to help the worthwhile cause of promoting composition writing in schools by sponsoring an essay contest on Daniel Boone.

Cash prizes will be awarded to Tar Heel pupils who write the best essays on the subject of "Daniel Boone — Empire Builder."

Herman W. Wilcox, Executive Vice-President of the Southern Appalachian Histori-

cal Association, sponsors of the "Horn in the West" drama, stated that the contest has three divisions for pupils of elementary, junior and high schools. First prize in each division will be \$35, second prize \$10, and third prize \$5.

The winning essayists will be guests at a special performance of the drama July 31.

Special historical data on this subject by such outstanding writers as Dr. D. J. Whitener, dean of Appalachian State

Teachers College; Dr. Frontis W. Johnston, Davidson College; Dr. Christopher Crittenden, N. C. Department of Archives and History; and Dr. James W. Patton, professor of History, University of North Carolina, is being made available upon request.

Over one thousand schools will be involved and several thousand students of history.

A certificate will be awarded to each winning pupil and school, plus the cash awards.