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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Seventy-Seventh Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER						
1964	Hi	Lo	prec.	63	Hi	Lo
Sept. 29	68	60	.42		64	51
Sept. 30	64	60	3.00		63	45
Oct. 1	60	54	.49		65	33
Oct. 2	71	54	.69		68	36
Oct. 3	66	56	.05		71	49
Oct. 4	62	55	.28		72	43
Oct. 5	55	41	.81		66	36

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1964

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20 PAGES—3 SECTIONS

NCEA To Meet Here On Friday

The 42nd annual convention of the Northwestern District of the North Carolina Education Association meets in Boone October 9.

The professional meeting will be attended by most of the teachers in the ten-county district. Schools will close, but the day is not counted as a school day of the regular term, nor will the teachers be paid for a day of teaching.

The 1500 personnel begin the day with a General Session in the auditorium of the Appalachian State Teachers College campus.

Presiding over the session will be Marcus C. Smith, Lenoir, district president. District officers other than Smith are: Ralph A. Abernethy, Drexel, President-Elect; Harry L. Hallyburton, Drexel, Secretary; and Mildred Mullis, Morganton, District Director.

The main address of the morning will be delivered by Dr. Lorrene Love Ort, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dr. Charles F. Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction, will be the speaker.

(Continued on page two)



THE BUDGET COMMITTEE of the Watauga County chapter of the United Fund held a luncheon meeting on Oct. 1 at the Daniel Boone Hotel: (l-r) Chairman, Dr. Lee Reynolds; Sam Dixon, Mrs. Nancy Wheeler,

Major John Thomas, Clyde Greene, Stanley Harris, Ken Schaefer and Robert Danner. Rachel Rivers was not pictured. Story on page 1, Section B. (Rivers photo.)

Ernie Triplett Freed In Slaying Of Roger Hicks

BY KATH H. MARICH

Ernie Triplett, 55, of Banner Elk, Watauga school teacher, was acquitted by Watauga County Superior Court jury in the shotgun slaying of Roger Hicks, 25, of Rominger,

which occurred last April in the Triplett home.

In testimony given by Triplett, he contended that he shot Hicks in self-defense as Hicks advanced on him during an argument at the Triplett home. A cousin of Hicks, Arthur Hicks attested that he and Roger had gone to Triplett's home the night of April 11, and that all had done some drinking and an argument had arisen over the loudness of a hi-fi set. Triplett said that he asked the Hicks boys repeatedly to leave his home, which they did, but Roger returned, and he (Triplett) discharged the gun as Hicks advanced on him.

The jury returned the not guilty verdict after five hours deliberation, and Triplett was released.

In the case of Johnny Pennell, 22, of Zionville in the July 22 traffic death of Raymond Isaacs, Jr., Pennell pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter charges and was sentenced to serve 4-7 years in prison. Mr. Pennell had been charged with murder in the death, but the Grand Jury made a charge of manslaughter in a true bill of indictment it returned against him.

The Watauga County Superior Court, Judge J. Will Pless, Jr. of Marion presiding, adjourned, Thursday, October 1, with approximately forty cases being carried over until the January 1965 term of Superior Court.

Action was taken on the following cases during the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday sessions:

Driving drunk: Warren G. Voncannon; \$100 and cost; (Continued on page two)



H. L. BRIDGES

State Auditor Will Speak To History Assn.

H. L. Bridges, State Auditor, will be the speaker at the annual fall membership meeting of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Bridges, who has been Auditor since 1947, is a graduate of Wake Forest College and Wake Forest Law School, and is a member of the Greensboro Bar Association and the State Bar.

The new Board of Directors will elect officers for 1964-65 at this meeting.

Dr. and Mrs. Kermit Hunter will attend and appear on the program. Dr. Hunter is now on the staff of Southern Methodist University.

Development Group Formed Shopping Center Is Planned For Boone

Spencer Reese Dies In Crash Near Morganton

A 21-year-old Burke County man, formerly of Watauga County, was killed in a traffic accident early Saturday morning near Morganton.

Spencer Reese, son of Howard Lee and Goldie Bryan Reese of Sherwood, was dead on arrival at Grace Memorial Hospital in Morganton shortly after the accident occurred about 1 a.m.

Two passengers were injured.

Patrolman J. E. Richards of Valdese said Reese was driving a 1956 Chevrolet east on U. S. 70 when he lost control of the car 9.6 miles west of Morganton. Richards said the car left the road at high speed, struck a tree, glanced off and hit another tree and came to rest between two trees. The car was a total loss.

Passengers in the car were Lawrence Reep, 25, of 106 Herring Street, Morganton, who suffered a broken arm and head and facial injuries; and Reep's 16-month-old son, Ricky, who had a small cut on one leg. Both were admitted to Grace Hospital.

Surviving Reese besides his parents are four sisters, Mrs. Junior Woodring of Morganton, and Misses Dottie, Mary and Trula Reese, all of the home; and five brothers, L. H. Reese of Morganton and Steve, Jimmy, Ted and Avery Reese, all of the home.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p.m. Monday at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. R. C. Eggers. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Tomato, Burley Crops Damaged

L. E. Tuckwiller, Watauga County Agent, states, after a survey Tuesday morning, that he estimates damage to the tobacco and tomato crops in the county will run to about 10 per cent of the crop value.

The heavy frost of Monday night proved 100 per cent fatal to any tomatoes that had not been harvested; however, most of the growers had gathered the bulk of their crops on Monday. The final results will not be (Continued on page two)



BIG TOUCHDOWN SUPPER at the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge is being planned for Appalachian State Teachers College alumni during the Oct. 17 Homecoming festivities on the college campus by Dr. William Spencer (left), ASTC faculty member, and Dr. Gene Reese, Boone dentist, co-chairmen of the committee planning the event. Only 300 alumni can be accommodated at the exclusive smorgasbord. Tickets will be sold on a "first-order, first get" basis. The tickets may be reserved by sending check to ASTC Alumni Office. Tickets are \$3.50 each. (Story on page 2, Section C.)

Nine-Acre Site Purchased On Old B. R. Road

BY RACHEL RIVERS

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Negotiations are now in progress with national and local business firms toward establishment of a shopping center on the old Blowing Rock Road.

Tracy Norris, owner of the Norris Furniture Mart at Rutherswood, said that a nine-acre plot has been bought behind the Town House Restaurant by the Boone Plaza Development Co., Inc.

The property formerly belonged to Ben H. Watson, Norris said.

He named the officers of Boone Plaza Development as: President, Bob Coulter, Charleston (S.C. businessman); vice-president, Fred T. Greer of Boone; treasurer, Tracy Norris.

Paul Sibert of Coshocton, Ohio, and townsmen Dwight Critcher, Sammy Critcher and E. A. Hartley form the Board of Directors.

Lay-Out
D. Gene Whittington Associates of Charlotte are architects for the proposed shopping center. To be built on a mall-style plan, the center will have 100,000 square feet of leasing space.

The all-weather shopping center will feature sheltered walkways, Norris said, and there will be ample parking space for each of the businesses.

Since no leases have been signed yet, Norris declined to name any of the groups which have entered negotiations. However, he said that Boone Plaza Development plans a super market, department store, barber shop, drug store, dime store, beauty shop and drive-in bank for the shopping center.

"We plan it to be a one-stop shopping center," Norris said. He said the idea came up in June.

Norris said a building site was bought in mid-summer, before the Boone Plaza Development Company was formed. Since their official formation about a month ago, Norris said, members have been working by correspondence and appointment to establish a format for the shopping center.

"A shopping center in Boone has been talked about for some time," he said.

Construction Date
When negotiations are completed (Continued on page two)



TED RHUDY

Ted Rhudy Is Lion Of Month

Ted Rhudy, section manager at Blue Ridge Shoe Company, has been chosen "Lion of the Month" for his efforts in procuring new members.

Rhudy is married and has a daughter, Carolyn, 13 and a son, Roger, age 9. He is a native of Elk Creek, Virginia and was transferred to Boone from the North Wilkesboro plant in April, 1963.

The Rhudys have recently built a home on the Deerfield Road and attend Deerfield Methodist Church.

T. C. Greer, 66, Dies In Wash.

Theo Carson Greer, age 66, died in Vancouver, Washington September 28. He was a native of Watauga County.

Funeral services were conducted at Battle Ground, Washington, September 29, and graveside services were held at 4 p.m. October 1 at Zionville Baptist Church Cemetery by Rev. R. C. Eggers.

Survivors include the widow, Mrs. Gertrude Greer of Yacolt, Washington; three brothers, Ralph Greer of Mentone, California, Spencer Greer of Richmond, Washington, Fleet Greer of Heppener, Oregon; one sister, Mrs. Charles Wilkinson of Zionville.

Tom Whitehead Dies In Virginia

Tom J. Whitehead of Richmond, Va., age 72, died Oct. 5 in a Richmond hospital. He was a native of Banner Elk.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 3:30 at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Whitehead cemetery near Banner Elk.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Pearl Banner Whitehead of Richmond; one son, William Whitehead of Richmond; one daughter, Mrs. William Patterson of Lynchburg, Va.; two sisters, Mrs. Sally W. Walsh of Richmond and Mrs. Bynum Taylor of Boone; one brother, George Whitehead of Banner Elk; and eight grandchildren.

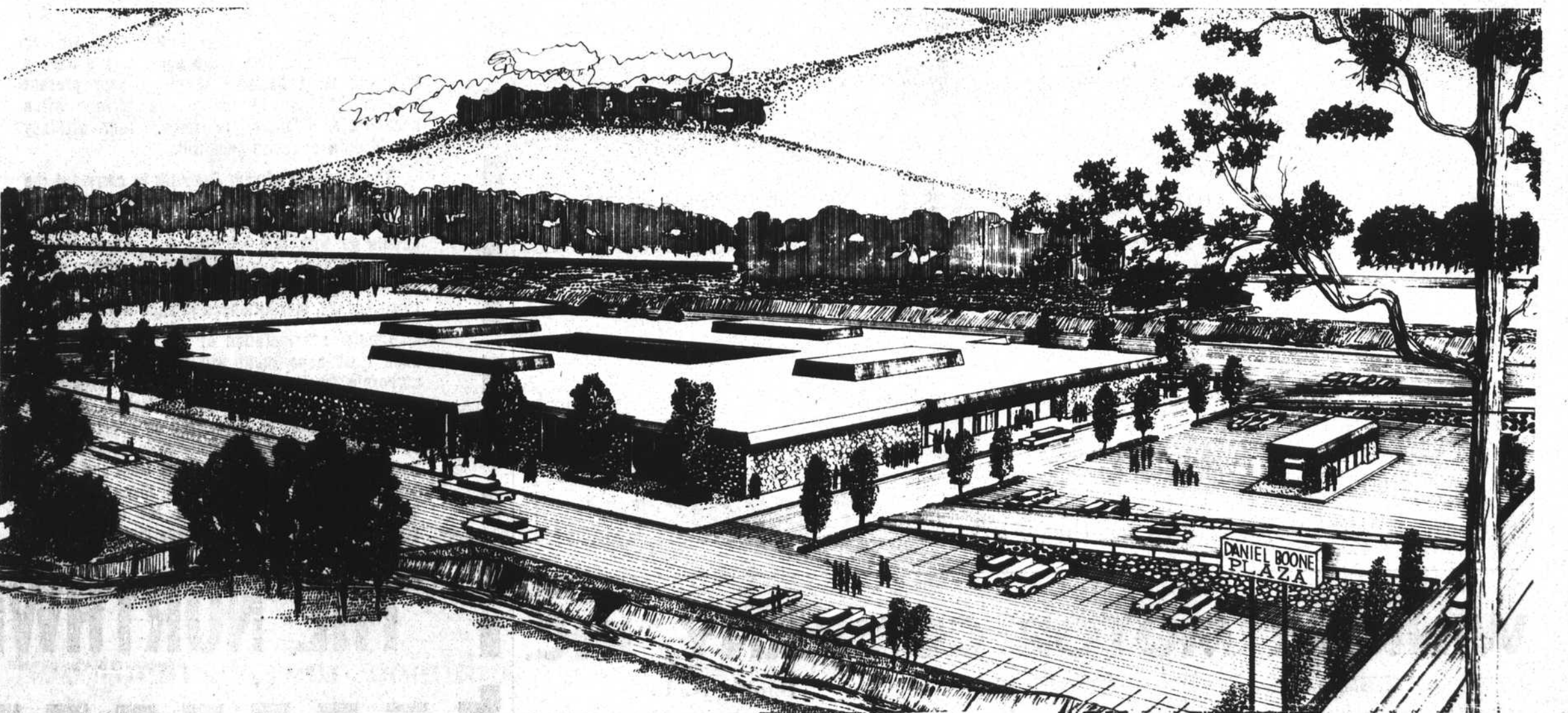
Rain Keeps Crowds From Seeing Leaves

Heavy rains during the week end probably hindered the autumn sightseeing traffic into the Blowing Rock-Linville-Boone area, but large crowds are expected during the current week.

The rains gave way before cooler temperatures Monday, while Tuesday morning 29

degree temperatures prevailed along with heavy frosts.

Presently the birches, beeches, some of the maples are showing beautiful colors, and undoubtedly the parade of the glorious autumn colors will peak within the next few days.



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF PROPOSED DANIEL BOONE PLAZA.