

Merry Christmas

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER				
1965	Hi	Lo	prec.	% HI Lo
Dec. 14	48	36		48 36
Dec. 15	46	37		46 37
Dec. 16	45	40	tr.	45 40
Dec. 17	41	33	.04	41 33
Dec. 18	40	28		40 28
Dec. 19	34	23		34 23
Dec. 20	34	12		34 12

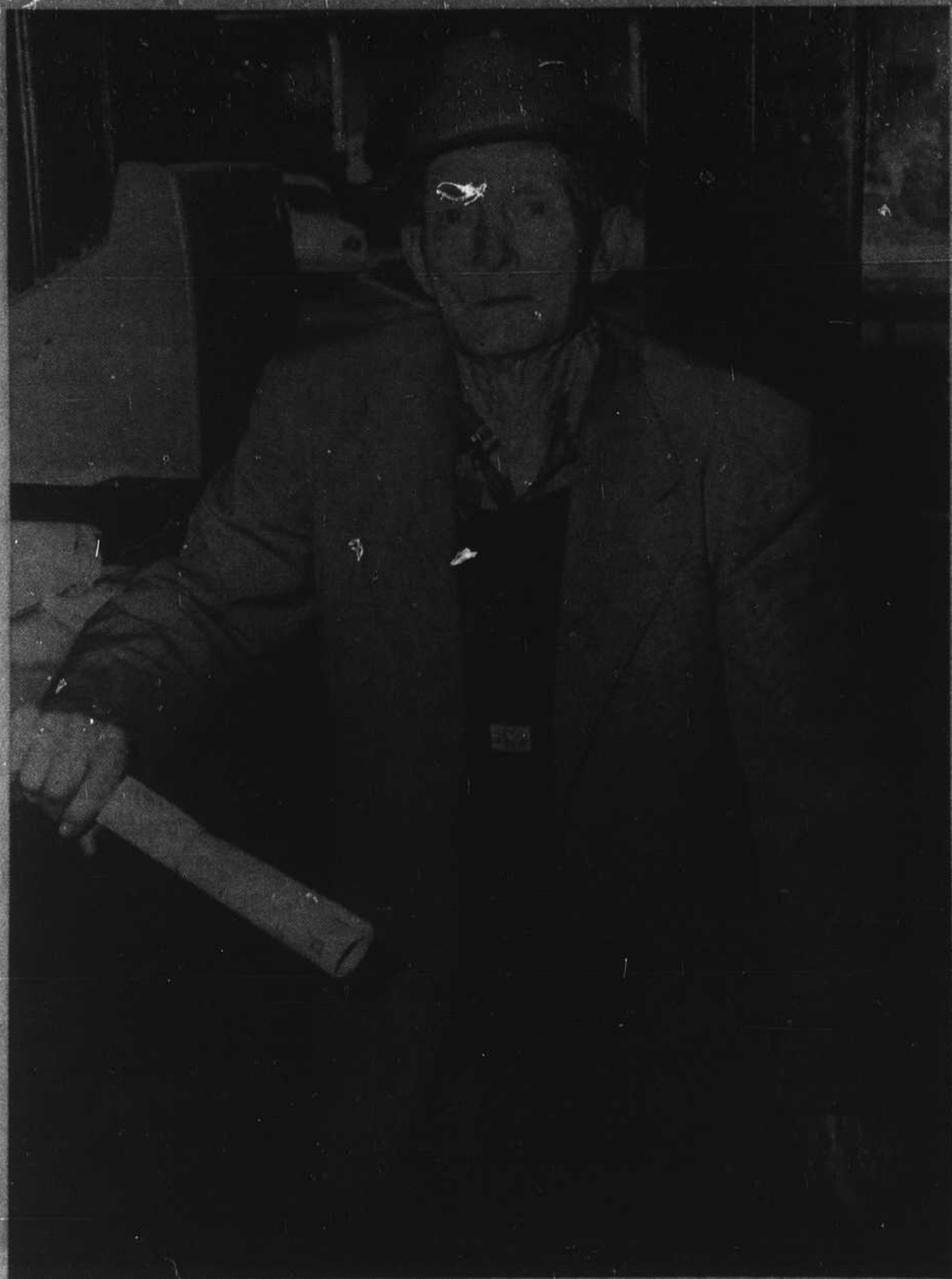
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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1965

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Mr. Harrison Church of Banner Elk may well be one of the oldest great-grandfathers in North Carolina. Thus far, he is the oldest great-grandfather to make himself known at the Democrat office, since inquiries started coming in last week. Mr. Church is a retired farmer and a resident of Watauga County (although he receives his mail from Banner Elk). He is the father of two daughters, Miss Beatrix Church and Mrs.

Lillian Ansley and has a son, Ray, still living in Watauga. Other sons are Perry, Hudson, N. C.; Archie, California; and Shelby, an Army officer now stationed in Korea. Mrs. Church died six years ago—three years after celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Mr. Church has six great-grandchildren. A contest is also being conducted to find the youngest grandfather in the State. (Staff photo)

White Christmas (?) Snowfall Closes Schools; Ski Areas Officially Open

Tuesday Brings First Taste Of Days To Come

With the ground covered with snow to a depth of a couple of inches Tuesday morning, hopes for a white Christmas were heightened, schools were closed a day early on account of the slippery country roads, and Bill Thalheimer, manager of the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge, Inc., announced the official opening of the winter sports area.

Warm weather had delayed the ski season in this area, but recent low temperatures allowed the manufacture of snow, and the machines had been at work on the beginner's slope at Blowing Rock for 36 hours, Mr. Thalheimer said, and there was a 14 inch base.

The machines were to have been moved to the professional slope Tuesday and this area was to be open Wednesday.

Santa Claus will stretch his legs on the slopes at Blowing Rock Saturday afternoon, will have some treats for the youngsters and there will be no charge for spectators at the afternoon event.

With continuing snowfall, Thalheimer says he will offer skiers a "first" for the southern ski circuit. A trail will be cut down through timbered areas, but this slope will be entirely dependent on natural snowfall.

Live entertainment will be featured at the Lodge the week prior to New Year's, as in the past, and a torch light night parade down the slope by the professionals at the Lodge will feature the New Year's eve program.

At 10 a. m. Wednesday, Hound Ears Lodge & Club opened. (Continued on page six)



Santa In His Workshop

In a special interview this week, the Watauga Democrat captured this exclusive shot of a very famous man who visits King Street every year. He will be leaving the North Pole on time, he says, and whether there is snow or not will come South with

his reindeer to refurbish all his believers with Christmas spirit. Santa is pictured in his workshop. A tiny doll, just finished by Mrs. Claus and Santa's helpers, is seen on the shelf behind him. (Staff photo)

Shot Heard 'Round State To Be Fired From Peak

"A shot heard round the State" will be fired New Year's Day when Grandfather Mountain, near Linville, will be "renamed" Great Grandfather Mountain, and grandfathers and great-grandfathers from all over the State are being especially invited for the ceremonies which will start at 10 a. m.

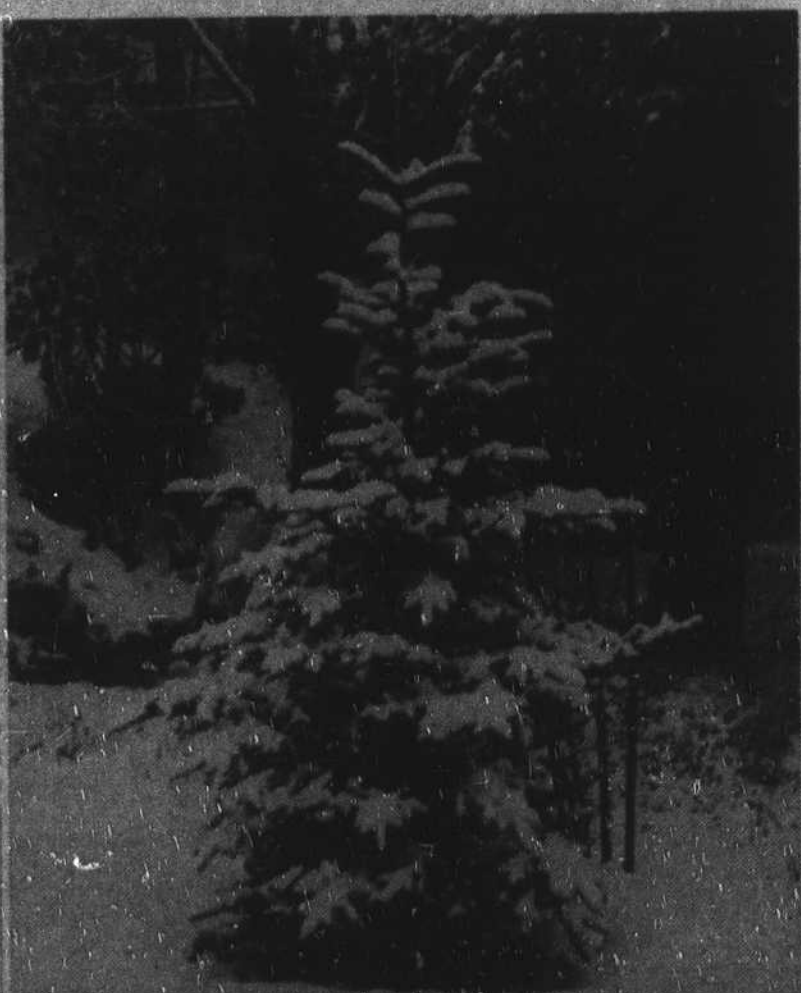
The "renaming" of Hugh Morton's massive mountain has been arranged by the North Carolina Heart Association to call attention to the many grandfathers and great-grandfathers whose longevity has been aided by the tremendous advances recently made in medicine and public health.

A national Guard unit from Lenoir will fire a salvo at 10 o'clock, from the top of the soaring stone-faced peak to kick off the ceremony and the 1966 Hope for Hearts education program. National Guard units at High Point and Leaksville will fire salutes at the same hour, simultaneously with the firing of a 25-round salute from the 40mm batteries on the battleship North Carolina at Wilmington, incidentally on New Year's Day 1965 the battleship fired her guns for the first time since World War II in honor

of the Heart Association's continuing educational crusade.

There will be speaking, of course, and Hugh Morton has promised a brunch of black-eyed peas and hog jowls for those attending the ceremony on his mountain.

In addition coses of Grandfather Mountain. (Continued on page six)



A LITTLE HOPING HASN'T HURT—for sleigh-riders and skiers and riders of garbage can lids received Mouday night the season's first spread of snow. Here, the "Littlest Christmas Tree" is dwarfed by a snow forest. The added moisture will no doubt be of benefit to tobacco growers, and the Blowing Rock Ski Lodge is now making snow to welcome the throngs of skiers which will be here this weekend. (Staff photo)

Democrat To Close Doors For Christmas

Today (Wednesday) after the Democrat goes out to its readers the newspaper office will be closed so that the staff may have Thursday, Friday and Saturday for Christmas.

The publishers are always anxious that all who work so loyally at the production of your newspaper, have all the Christmas time off possible, as a short, well-deserved year-end vacation. We hope that no serious inconvenience to our patrons will result.

Mrs. Wilson Rites Friday

Mrs. Glenna Sparks Wilson, 52, of Boone, wife of Jerry H. Wilson, died Thursday at Watauga Hospital after a long illness.

She was born in Mitchell County to Milton L. and Myra Young Sparks.

Surviving besides her husband are a son, Danny Wilson of the home; a daughter, Miss Judi Wilson of the home; and a brother, Lewis Sparks of Spruce Pine.

The funeral was held at 2 p. m. Friday at First Baptist Church chapel. Burial was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Court House Offices To Close For Holidays

All offices in the court house, including those in the annex, will be closed Friday, Saturday and Monday, December 24-27, for the Christmas holidays.

The offices will also be closed Monday, Jan. 3.

The Board of Commissioners will meet Tuesday, Jan. 4, instead of the usual first Monday.

Blowing Rock Man Gives Scholarships

The University of North Carolina has been given a new magnet for attracting talented music students.

A scholarship fund, valued at \$2,000 per academic year, has been established within the music department by an alumnus, Sidney M. Dowd of Blowing Rock.

The scholarships are designed for music majors whose principal interests and abilities lie in performance.

They will be awarded annually for a maximum tenure of four years, with a chance of extension for students of unusual promise. (Continued on page six)

Watauga Farm Program For '66 Developed At ASC Meet

The Watauga County Agricultural Development Group met Dec. 8 at the Watauga ASCS office and developed the 1966 Agricultural Conservation Program. The development group consists of the ASC county committee, the county extension chairman, the SCS technician, and a representative of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development (forestry division).

Those present at the preliminary planning meeting to discuss needs for the county included Alfred Adams, Northwestern Bank; L. E. Tuckwiler, County Extension Chairman; Edgar Greene, Soil Conservation Service technician; J. B. Robinson, FHA representative;

Joe Clayton, North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development; Arvil Slomp, Maymead Lime Co.; Edgar Hardin, Farm Bureau representative; and the following community committeemen:

Howard Cable and Linville Norris, Beaver Dam community; Coy Billings and A. Y. Howell, Brushy Fork community; Jack Henson and J. C. Winebarger, Cove Creek community; Ned Glenn and Frank Cable, Laurel Creek community; Ernest Moretz, Meat Camp community; John F. Cook and Howard Brookshire, New River community; Claude May, Loyd Miller, and Mack Thomas, North Fork community; Russell Farthing and Willie Rupard, Shaw-

neehaw community; Joe Coffey, Sr., W. B. Day, and Thos. Fairchild, Stony Fork community; Jeff Shook and Arlie B. Hodges, Watauga community.

The development group selected practices designed to fit (Continued on page six)

Taxpayer Says County Don't Charge Enough

Wonders never cease, in the opinion of Ralph G. Greene, County Tax Supervisor, who relates a complaint of a taxpayer who recently came to his office.

Not that complaints are too much of a rarity, but this fellow was upset because he wasn't paying enough taxes to the county.

When Mr. Greene recovered from the initial shock he looked up the records and found the man had no real estate at all, that his milk cow was exempt, and that he was being taxed 68 cents for a dog and two shot-guns.

"Do you have any other property," Mr. Greene asked.

"None, not a thing, but I'm supposed to pay a poll tax."

So the complaining taxpayer handed over \$4.00 to the astonished tax collector and went on his happy way.

Watauga Garden Council Picks Decoration Winners

The Watauga Garden Council, following up on their theme of outdoor decorations, viewed and judged the many attractive outdoor decorations displayed by people throughout the area Sunday evening.

The council judged many decorations and noted that an unusually large number of outdoor trees were decorated.

After their difficult task, the judges gave the following decisions:

Garage doors: Most outstanding—Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Greene, Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Trivette and Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Greene, Jr.

Outdoor trees: Most outstanding—Miss Cynthia Stales,

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Winkler, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Phillips, Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Flemmons, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones.

Doors: Most outstanding—Dr. and Mrs. Julian Yoder, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bingham.

Entrances: Most outstanding—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Branch and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Barnett.

Windows: Most outstanding—Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Greene, Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Trivette and Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Greene, Jr.

Outdoor displays: Most outstanding—Mr. and Mrs. Jerry

Coe, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Stallings, Dr. and Mrs. Ben Bosworth.

Indoor trees as seen through windows: Most outstanding—Mr. and Mrs. Grady Moret, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cash, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. George Flowers, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Stallings, and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ayers.

Unusual attractions: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pease, lighted wreath; Mrs. Nell Linney, lighted porch tree.

Lighted eaves: Swag at Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mast.

Special recognition was given to Vermont American for an industrial display.