

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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"The best of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them."—Thomas Jefferson.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1966

Bigger Business

Spring's first greenery not only brings promise of summer's pending entry, but along with the blooms and the buds come busy days for builders as the area makes ready for the influx of what promises to be the biggest throng of tourists and students we have ever entertained.

In Boone, new motels, restaurants, a shopping center, college buildings, and homes galore are keeping contractors hopping while at Blowing Rock motels, at least one new store, new homes and remodeling of business places contributes to the area boom.

Hound Ears is still building, as is the Seven Devils promotion while preliminary grading and timber clearing is going on between Linville Gap and Linville for the Morton Golf Course complex, and work

is expected to gather increased momentum on the Elk River and Beech Mountain golf, ski and residential developments.

This doesn't of course tell all the story about the building which is going on, but more and more people are looking toward the hills for retirement homes, for summer vacations and for living space away from the hub-bub of the big cities.

Mechanics connected with the building trades are hard to come by, and competent common labor would appear to be almost a thing of the past as the building mushrooms.

The movement from the metropolitan centers is becoming so great we're going to have a city right here in Boone Creek valley if the trend continues.

South Grows Faster

In spite of well-publicized migration from the South, this region led all others in population gains in the United States in the period since the 1960 census.

Thus comments the State magazine, which continues:

The section's gain not only was largest in actual numbers, but it was the second highest gain in terms of percentage.

The southern region has added 5,075,000. The next highest gain was in the West, with 4,177,000.

Five of the Southern States — Texas, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, and Georgia, in that order, were

among the nation's ten top gainers.

In the whole U. S., the rate of increase in the past five years was 9.2 per cent; for the South, 8.1 per cent. The South's rate fell short of the West's 14.9 per cent, but was on top of the Northeast's 6.4 per cent and the North Central's 4.6 per cent. Seven Southern states — Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina—all advanced one place each in rank in total population among the states.

Florida led all Southern states in rate of change, rising by 17.2 per cent. North Carolina's increase was by 7.8 per cent, and it rose from 12th position in the U. S. to 11th place.

The Really "Rare" Day

(Hickory Daily Record)

What is so rare as a day in June? It's a day in May that hasn't been appropriated as National This and That Day by some organization or other.

It is the same every month, but May particularly seems to have its share of special observances this year — some worthy, others little more than reflections of the gleams in the eyes of press agents.

May will only last for one month, as usual, but according to Spinrad's Day & Date Service, it will be:

National Home Improvement Month, Senior Citizens Month, National Radio Month, National Tavern Month, Car Care Month, American Bike Month, National Salad Month, White Bread

Sales Month and something no more than 180 million Americans should fail to observe—New York Is a Great Place To Visit or Live Month.

The date of days includes:

May Day, Law Day, Humane Sunday, World Comedy Day, National Comedy Day, May Fellowship Day and National Mother-in-Law Day.

We confess to a certain lack of enthusiasm for this last one, but there's something about Let's Go Fishing Week that appeals to us.

In fact, it might not be a bad thing if its annual observance were made mandatory world-wide.

The idea would certainly gain a lot of support in the U. S. Congress about this time of year, anyway.

Inklin's In Ink

BY RACHEL RIVERS

The gentleman who was telling us the other day about seeing a flying saucer over Boone was a very reliable source. He isn't prone to having hallucinations, and his glasses have been adjusted recently. It was orange, he said, and glowed and could have been three feet across or 13 feet across, because he really couldn't tell how far away it was.

Now you laugh! But it just could be.

And if they were friendly flyers, they might go home and tell their friends about all the advantages of living in Boone, especially in summertime, which is cool and restful and harbors no hot, sleepless nights at all; and he might tell them about how the town is building and growing and moving along in an orderly fashion.

And he might just be flying an American flying saucer. If we are going to go so far as to discuss Unidentified Flying Objects, we're going to jump right into the middle of the possible and say we hope they're from the good old U. S. A.

We seem to recall, just vaguely, that the Air Force was into a flying saucer experiment several years ago, but the

saucer only got about four feet off the ground and they had to abandon the project.

On the other hand, it might be to great advantage if the United States had suddenly stumbled onto a workable-type saucer and was giving it a good try-out before making any announcements publicly. After all, it would look pretty messy if the United States could boast only of a flying saucer that wouldn't glow, or look orange, or hover more than four feet above the ground.

That wouldn't be very Space Age, at all.

And while we're not really a champion of flying saucer enthusiasts, we can't help being interested in what we read from time to time. It's intriguing.

When we're in school at the University of Missouri, we had a friend who hailed from Mountain View, Mo., and who brought us a book, published by a retired farmer, titled "My Trip to the Moon, Mars and Venus". Every summer, to this day, at least 2,000 people camp out on his farm to hear him tell of his adventures with his space buddy, Buzzy, and Buzzy's dog, whose name escapes us.

MOTHER'S DAY



FROM THE EARLY FILES OF THE DEMOCRAT

R. M. Greene To Sell Goods At Collettsville

Sixty Years Ago
May 3, 1906

T. S. Coffey, of Lenoir, was in town Sunday for a few hours. Capt. Lovell left Saturday for a business trip to Bristol, Tennessee.

Mrs. Alice Council is expected to return to her home in Boone within the next few days.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, of Cove Creek, an aged and highly esteemed lady, is seriously ill. Corn planting is now progressing nicely and a larger acreage than usual will be put out in the county.

L. W. Cooper, of Charlotte, passed through last week on his return from a business trip to Ashe County.

Rev. D. S. Lee has organized a singing class in Boone that will be trained two days each week until the July contest.

Miss Lucinda, daughter of Mrs. Frank Dugger, died at her

home near Vilas of consumption last Monday and was buried on Tuesday.

T. C. McBridge, of Washington College, Tennessee, was in town a few hours Saturday attending to some matters of business.

R. M. Greene and family left Monday morning for Collettsville where they will make their future home. Mr. Greene will conduct a mercantile business at that place. Our town sustains a great loss in their departure, but Collettsville is to be congratulated upon the estimable family locating there.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago
May 5, 1927

Miss Maude Goodwin of Butler, Tennessee, spent last Thursday night in Boone, the guest of Misses Nelle and Blanch Smith.

Claude Gilliam of Banner Elk, who was taken to an Elizabeth, Tenn., hospital last Wednesday for an operation on his head, is reported to be improving nicely. Born last week to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Gilliam, of Banner Elk, a daughter. Mr. Gilliam operates a bus line between Boone and Elk Park.

Miss Bertha Sutphin, who has been a member of the force of the Reems Drug Company for more than a year left the last of the week for Charleston, W. Va., where she has accepted a position as stenographer for some corporation.

Contractor Poly Moretz is putting the finishing touches on the old, jail, and it certainly makes a very nice appearance. The lady who has leased the property for a boarding house will move in within the next few days.

Mr. W. G. Hartzog of Boone received news of the death Sunday of his aunt, Mrs. Fannie Miller, at Idlewild. Mrs. Miller was the wife of R. B. Miller, and was about 68 years of age. Funeral and burial was at Idlewild Tuesday.

Mr. Will Horton and wife, of Farrell, Pa., are here this week, having been called to Vilas on account of the serious illness of Mr. Horton's sister, Miss Catherine Horton, but death had gotten in its work before they arrived. They will leave for their home the last of the week.

Fifteen Years Ago
May 3, 1951

Mr. H. W. Horton has returned to Boone from Miami, Fla., where he had spent the winter.

Mrs. T. F. Yates, who has been a patient at Watauga Hospital for three weeks, is greatly improving.

Miss Anne Costner of Marion, N. C., spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. Starr Stacey, and Mr. Stacey.

Dr. Mary B. H. Michal, district health officer, is spending a two weeks' vacation at her home in Waynesville.

Mr. Carlton Swift of the University of North Carolina spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Crete Swift, at Sugar Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Chappell Wilson announce the birth of a daughter, Janice Elizabeth, at Watauga Hospital last Tuesday.

Mrs. Nettie Winkler and Mrs. Zach Green of Granite Falls, N. C. visited with their cousin, Mrs. John F. Sherrill, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Finley Norris of Marion, N. C., were weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Day.

Dr. Herbert Wey is in Raleigh attending a meeting of the advisory council of the State Department of the Kellogg Foundation.

Mrs. Sarah Perry of the Boone community is visiting her son, Dr. H. B. Perry, Jr., and Mrs. Perry.

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

D. Boone . . . He "Cilled Bar"

Through the courtesy of Edwin Dougherty we are reproducing here another postcard picture of the Daniel Boone oak, which stood some one hundred yards west



of the monument on Faculty Street about where the pavement now is. . . . The friendly shade of the old tree attracted a lot of people as is evidenced by the row of gay young blades straddling one of the spreading limbs. . . . This photograph, which we'd say is more than 50 years old, indicates a sign, which in the original, through the aid of a glass, reveals the lettering "Daniel Boone Oak." . . . The camera was pointed northeast and shows the planing mill building built on the bank of the creek in the area of the B. W. Ellis home by Alex Penley, and in the background is seen the E. S. Coffey barn. . . . The Boone and Blowing Rock turnpike runs just above the mill. . . . We don't recall ever seeing the "DB Cilled Bar on this Tree 1760" as many times as we've played in its shade. . . . This is not to say it wasn't there, placed no doubt by some local lad, since obviously carving on the bark of a growing tree wouldn't be legible for 150 or 175 years. . . . And we've been hard put to think that old Daniel, who wasn't much of a man of letters, would bother to carve comment about killing a bear, which shouldn't have been uncommon in the lush wilderness along what later came to be known as Boone Creek.

OUR FOLKS told us of the Tennessee tree, near Jonesboro, which also carried carvings, but until recently we hadn't known that we had the same thing here. . . . James P. Arthur had his history of Watauga published in 1915 and he hadn't heard about the lettering on the tree here, although he does discuss the inscription at Jonesboro, stating that "it never had any sponsor, at best, except the statement of Chancellor John Allison's letter in Roosevelt's Winning of the West." . . . Arthur says the letters could not have been legible if put there in 1760, and besides shows that Boone was not in the area between 1769 and late 1771.

and his folks lived on the east side of the Yadkin, now known as Boone's Park. . . . But the State Historic Sites Committee won't accept the evidence that our Dan'l lived in Davidson County. . . . The Committee says the only proof is "unsupported traditional evidence." . . . The State will give \$15,000 for the park, contingent upon the approval of the site as "a true historical site." . . . It appears hard to prove.

"Daniel Boone Country"

But this (Watauga) is Daniel Boone Country . . . the handsome new signs will remind the traveler of this. . . . That he camped here we have always regarded as a certainty, and the founders of the community evidently thought well of their historical notes or they wouldn't have named the place Boone. . . . We don't think he did any carving much (someone else probably took care of this for him), and we doubt that he slew a lot of bears as he went along, unless it was just for the heck of the thing. . . . Small game—rabbits, squirrels, birds and the like—made for better eating and could be brought to the pot much more easily than a hunk of bear meat. . . . This is not to be taken as an affront to those who read the letters on the Daniel Boone Oak. . . . Like we said, of course they did.

We Used To Carve

In our puppy-love days, it was common to carve the initials of one's little girl friends along with one's own, wherever there could be found a smooth barked tree. . . . We noticed that these carvings were obliterated in a few years as the tree grew. . . . The buckhorn tree which grew near the A. E. Hamby home on East King Street was noted in our youth. . . . Col. Todd lived there we were told by Mr. W. G. Todd, and someone nailed the buckhorn to the oak. . . . In the ensuing years the horn was swallowed by the growing tree, only a bump remaining to show where it had been. . . . We would have done some Daniel Boone carving ourselves if we had thought of it. . . . and we don't doubt but that someone did. . . . But we don't think Dan'l could have made it last that long. . . . As a matter of fact when he was messing around after new bear sign and later went into Kentucky it wouldn't have been a matter of note anything that he did. . . . We haven't doubted the Boone history as a whole, but have viewed the thing more as a legend, as the build-up of an old hunter and Indian fighter as a symbol of the pioneers who pushed back the wilderness.

Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVERIN'S

(McKnight Syndicate.)

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellers at the country store Saturday night was lamenting that pritty soon us old country folks was going to be as scarce as them downsewers. Clem Webster reported he had saw where the rural population was going down about 2 per cent a year in spite of the population explosion. And, Clem said, this piece claimed about half of our present population was under 25 year old. He was of the opinion this was making old fellers our age in the rural areas real rare birds. (Continued on Page Three)

Don't Know Where He Lies

The historians didn't think enough of our Dan'l to have it recorded exactly where he was buried. . . . Whether near Frankfort, Ky., or in Missouri, and now Davidson County and the State of North Carolina are at odds over where Dan'l slept. . . . The DB Park Association figures that Dan'l