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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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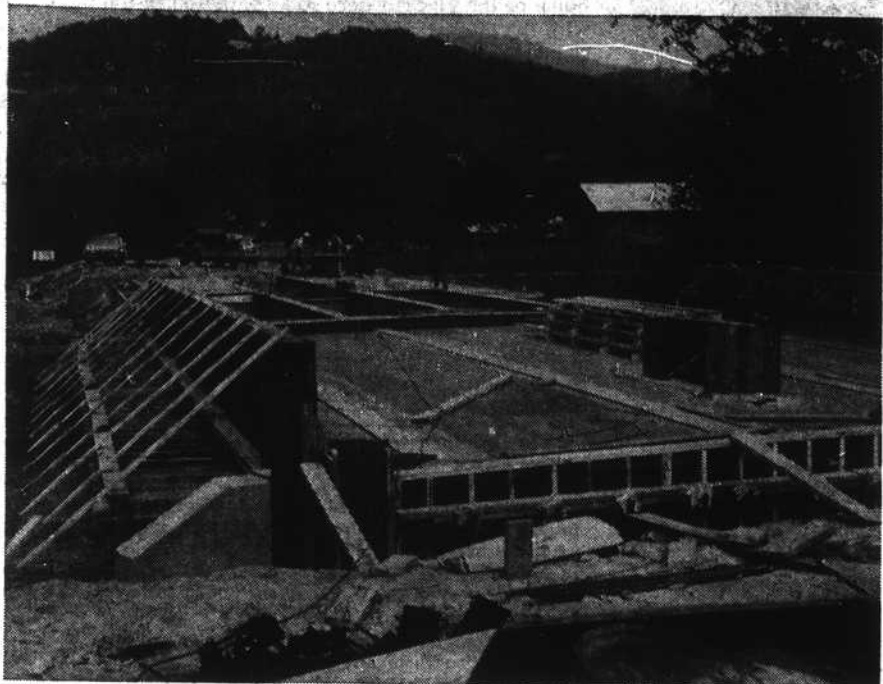
BOONE WEATHER			
High	Low	Wind	Dir.
May 31 63 54	52 47	12 47	
June 1 60 54	50 50	12 50	
June 2 60 53	50 50	12 50	
June 3 75 58	53 53	12 53	
June 4 76 46	47 51	12 51	
June 5 74 50	51 54	12 54	
June 6 77 49	49 51	12 51	
June 7 77 49	49 51	12 51	

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YOUR TAXES AT WORK—This \$67,812 road-bridge project is a link being built from Highway 105 into the populous Hound Ears area south of Boone. The concrete construction bridge, pictured, will span Watauga River above Shulls Mills dam. Cars have used a wooden low-water bridge to cross the river for years. Of the total cost, Federal Highway Trust Funds comprise \$33,906, allotted from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads. This amount is matched by funds from the North Carolina State Highway Commission. (Staff photo)

“Many Still Unemployed” Watauga Dropped From Depressed Area Category

54.3% WHS Students Plan Further Study

Watauga High School seniors who graduated last week will enter a variety of schools, colleges and jobs within the next few months. In a recent survey of senior plans, 54.3 per cent plan to continue their education. Of the class of 232 members, 74 will enter two-year or four-year colleges, and 52 will enter other educational institutions. Some of these will be community colleges, technical institutes, beauty schools, and business schools.

Of the remaining 45.7 per cent who will not continue in school, 54 young men and women plan to work in local industries. Non-manufacturing jobs will get 19 graduates, and clerical work will get 18 others. Other plans include military service, 2; agricultural work, 3; marriage and homemaking, 3; and presently undecided, 7.

Mrs. Margaret Gragg, Guidance Director at Watauga High, states that current plans of seniors indicate a greater number this year than in previous years will continue their education. For the past five years, approximately 40 per cent of Watauga County graduates continued their education beyond high school.

Watauga Tax Rate Set At One Dollar

The tax rate for Watauga County for the fiscal year 1966-67 has been set at \$1 per hundred dollar valuation, as against the \$1.13 rate in effect during the last year.

The Board of County Commissioners in setting the new rate at their regular meeting Monday pointed out that the tax rate had been raised to \$1.13 per hundred, due to the sale of bonds for the Watauga High School and Watauga County Hospital.

Of the \$1.00 to be collected the greater portion, or 38 cents, will go to the Debt Service Fund for payment of principal and interest on outstanding bonds. Last year 45c of the \$1.13 was designated to this fund.

The School Fund was allotted 25c on the dollar and represents an increase of 4c over last year. It is significant to note that this will provide for increased pay for school bus drivers which has been a problem for years because qualified drivers could not be obtained at the low rates of pay being paid.

The General Fund will receive 24c; Health and Welfare 2c; Social Security 7c; and Welfare Administration 4c.

Substantial surpluses from the current year were carried over from all of the previous designations except the School Fund and Welfare Administration.

A detailed explanation of the new budget will be published later for the information of all concerned.

Late Spring Frosts, Freeze Damage Crops

Another late spring frost has taken a heavy toll on many Watauga County farm crops, and severe damage has been noted in mountain forests.

After the mercury dipped to 34 and 33 degrees Tuesday and Wednesday mornings of last week, crop land and home gardens in the lower elevations of the County seem to have taken a real beating.

County Agent L. E. Tuckwiller advises that the apple crop is practically destroyed. A May frost, three weeks ago, was expected to be the last of an inclement spring, and many apple blossoms were cut short, although a fairly good crop was still in the offing.

Tuckwiller said he thinks strawberries escaped further damage in the second frost, and says the crop will come up short largely because of the first damaging dew.

Tobacco was hit hard, he said, and even some potatoes suffered. However, there is still time to replant tobacco. Of the damaged potatoes, size of the crop may reduce grade, the agent said.

Tuckwiller said the Monday night, Tuesday morning frost seemed to hurt the Boone area most, while Wednesday morning was more severe in the Cove Creek area. He said damage was especially heavy to streamside crops, and he had heard unofficial estimates of 26 degrees in Cove Creek, and 29 degrees for Boone.

Much of the corn crop was nipped, but is expected to come out alright. In some areas beans, cucumbers and tomatoes were ruined. Grapes were damaged, and a light crop is expected.

Tuckwiller said he will be (Continued on page six)

BREMCO Annual Meet In Lenoir On Saturday

Member owners of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, North Carolina's largest rural electric cooperative, will be gathering in Lenoir Saturday, June 11, for their 30th annual membership meeting.

This is a highlight of the year's activities of the locally-owned organization. At this time, the member owners gather to hear reports on the operations of their business for the coming year.

The theme of this year's meeting is "A Year of Change." The program will have as its feature

speaker, Mr. Harry B. Caldwell, chairman of the National Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture and Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Farmers Cooperative Council. Reports from the officers and management will be illustrated by slides taken with in the cooperative's area. This pictorial presentation is designed to better inform members about the areas of their business operations with which they do not have day-to-day contact. It will also show how the members, the employees, and the



ELIZABETH ANN WILLIAMS



WANDA CRITCHER

WHS Students To Be Sponsored At Girls' State

Two Watauga High School students will be sponsored at Girls' State at U. N. C.-Greensboro, June 26 to July 2, by Watauga Unit 130, American Legion Auxiliary.

Elizabeth Ann Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Williams, Boone, and Wanda Critcher, daughter of Mr. and (Continued on page six)

Horn Auditions To End Friday

Final auditions to fill last-minute vacancies in the production staff of "Horn in the West" will be held June 10 at 2 p. m. on stage of the Daniel Boone Amphitheatre in Boone.

Rehearsals begin June 11 for the "Horn's" 15th season opening June 25.

Several principle understudy roles are yet to be filled. Understudies for the parts of Daniel Boone, Preacher Sims, and Judge Henderson will be chosen during the Friday tryouts. In addition five positions in the drama's chorus are to be filled. Altos and tenors are especially needed.

Production director Gene Wilson reports that all positions in the dancing and technical units have been filled.

The cast will number approximately 85 when auditions are complete.

Berry Show And Sale Scheduled

Watauga County strawberry growers and the Boone Rotary Club will sponsor a strawberry show and sale from 2 to 4 p. m. Wednesday, June 15, on the Court House lawn, Boone.

County Extension Chairman L. E. Tuckwiller says all County growers are invited to bring berries to show and encourages those who wish to purchase strawberries to patronize the sale.

Little League Registration

Registration for little league ball players will be held at 4:30 p. m. Monday, June 13, at the Little League Ball Park, Blue Ridge Shoe Plant.

Boys ages 8 through 12 in Watauga County who are interested are asked to be there.



Glenn Andrews (left), president of the New River Valley Development Association, shakes hands with Mr. Kemp Doughton, former speaker of the State House of Representatives. Mr. Doughton spoke in behalf of the Association to the Highway Commission Friday. Beside him are Paul Campbell and Stanley Harris Sr.

State Commission Told Of Area Highway Needs

BY RACHEL RIVERS

The State Highway Commission, in session Friday at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, heard a delegation from Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties make its plea for improvement and partial relocation of Highway 221 to connect with Interstate at the Virginia line and run into a well-traveled Florida route south of here.

Glenn Andrews, Boone, president of the New River Valley Development Association encompassing the three counties, was accompanied by Stanley Harris Sr., Paul Campbell, Col. Clyde Miller, Fred McNeal and Mrs. Armfield Coffey.

Col. Miller, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, presented to Commission Chairman Joseph Hunt and the Commissioners charts regarding the growth within Watauga County as compared to roads.

Percentages
Miller said Appalachian State Teachers College has increased in students 53 per cent in a five-year period; payroll is up 84 per cent; and cost of buildings, 57 per cent. Industrial employees have increased 182 per cent between 1960 and 1965. This increase does not include employment by the newly built Vermont-American Corporation.

Motels have increased from 35 to 46, or 31 per cent and tourist revenue is 75 per cent up—from \$8 million to \$14 million.

Power customers in two years have increased 21 per cent; and telephone customers, 16 per cent in five years.

Watauga County taxes, 1960 to 1964, have shown substantial increases: individual income, up 70 per cent; state sales tax, 38 per cent; intangibles, 42 per cent; and property, 88 per cent for an overall increase of 60 per cent.

Compared to all this, Miller pointed out, primary, secondary hard-surface and secondary unpaved roads have increased from 527.27 miles to only 548.61 miles. This is an increase of 4 per cent.

Ashe County
In neighboring Ashe County, industrial employment increased 420 per cent in a five-year period. Motel revenues was up

42 per cent; travelers increased 162 per cent; telephones were up 125 per cent; power users increased 10 per cent; agricultural showed an overall loss of 36 per cent; and roads showed no increase in the five-year period.

Mrs. Stella Anderson, editor of the Skyland Post, told the Association's brief audience with the Commission. She introduced Floyd Crouse, who joked that if "221 were indicted for being the worst secondary road in the state, I don't think any opposition could be organized."

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Crouse said that 221 from Twin Oaks, north of Sparta, to Boone is part of the original county seat road constructed 40 years ago. He said that in many places 30 to 35 miles an hour is all a motorist can make.

"This is part of the tourist route from the Great Lakes to Florida," Crouse warned that too many people are leaving Western North Carolina because of the condition of 221.

He called attention to Appalachian State Teachers College and suggested that reconstruction of 221 would encourage

Whopper Of Sale For Wagon Train

A whopper of a sale is being planned by the Boone Merchants Association for Thursday, Friday and Saturday (June 30, July 1 and 2) of Wagon Train Week. The procession of pioneer wagons and riders will arrive in Boone July 1 and parade through town July 2.

The city-wide sale will be known as Daniel Boone "Wagon Train Days" and, says John Robinson, it may become an annual event. All merchants are being asked to participate and "really give our people and our

summer visitors a wagon load of values."

Each merchant will promote and conduct his sale as he so desires, but the business houses where wagon train sales are being conducted will be marked by 20" x 60" sale banners, available from the Merchants Association for use on store fronts.

If you are a merchant, see John Robinson for banners and other information on Wagon Train Days.

If you are a shopper, watch for this show-stopper of a sale!

Development Agency Acts On Jobless Ratio

Watauga is one of 13 North Carolina counties dropped from the Economic Development Administration's list of "depressed areas". Still listed are 26 counties which the EDA classes as rural areas, which are designated as needy by the agency.

EDA said eligibility is based on an area's ratio of unemployment.

Counties excluded will no longer be eligible for public works grants and loans under the EDA program. The following counties will be dropped July 1: Alleghany, Ashe, Anson, Beaufort, Cumberland, Halifax, Hoke, Lincoln, Pitt and Watauga. Brunswick, Dare and New Hanover are not eligible under the new ruling.

Employment Figures
Watauga County is one of four counties under the jurisdiction of WAMY Community Action, Inc., a poverty agency whose headquarters are in Boone. Executive Director Ernest Eppley said Monday, "I am

The Federal grant of \$1,003,500, through EDA, offered to the Town of Boone for its water-sewer project April 29, was accepted and hence confirmed in a letter May 9, according to Mayor Wade E. Brown.

surprised and disappointed that Watauga County has been eliminated from the Economic Development Administration's listing of depressed counties in North Carolina.

"I am happy that employment statistics are improving, but I do feel that many people in Watauga County are still unemployed or under-employed.

"We have been trying to find out for weeks why the Economic Development District encompassing the Watauga-Avery-Mitchell-Yancey area has not been set up and ruled. We wonder if the new ruling from Washington will effect the plan to establish this Economic Development District.

"Mr. William Thomas, our new deputy director, who has training and experience in community planning and who worked with the Department of Conservation and Development in Raleigh, has been contacting county attorneys and county commissioners to find out where counties stand on overall planning. We know that assistance can be obtained through the Farmers Home Administration for county wide water and sewerage surveys and plans, and that grants can be made through

(Continued on page six)

Museum Area To Be Built As Feature 'Horn' Grounds

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association took steps Monday to begin a museum area on the "Horn in the West" grounds; \$1,200 is approved for the project.

Bob Conway, historic site specialist with the State Department of Archives and History, advised the executive committee of the feasibility of the venture.

Hearing Conway's enthusiasm for a historic museum in Boone, the committee approved

the project. Conway said that funds will be available as the area is developed at Daniel Boone Theater.

SAHA is proceeding to have its log school house erected at the direction of L. T. Tatum and H. R. Eggers. The committee approved up to \$1,000 from the membership fund for this purpose and approved \$200 to stock the Tatum cabin with museum items.

H. R. Eggers, L. T. Tatum and Mrs. B. W. Stallings com-

prise the location committee for the school house.

In addition to the log school and cabin a frame building on the grounds will also contain historic items.

Conway advised that the museum area be fenced with split-rails, and that a small admission charge be made. Someone should be posted in each building, he said.

The specialist said he will assist the Historical Association at any time.