

The Democrat led all N. C. weeklies in 1965 Press Assn. contests. It won first place in General Excellence, Excellence in Typography, Local News Coverage, Want Ads, and Second in Display Advertising.

BOONE WEATHER					
1966	Hi	Lo	Snow	Prec.	78
Sept. 13	58	35		.37	71
Sept. 14	60	35		3.96	71
Sept. 15	68	56		.11	75
Sept. 16	64	53		.01	75
Sept. 17	65	49			79
Sept. 18	61	50		tr.	74
Sept. 19	57	53		.23	79



**PEAR BLOSSOMS BLOOM IN MID-SEPTEMBER** — After a temperamentally late spring, a hot summer month, and a rainy one, an old, nearly-dead pear tree on the Blowing Rock Road south of Boone produced a few

bright blossoms the latter part of last week. The blossoms were sparsely located on the tree, but a welcome surprise at a time when some trees are beginning to take on the colors of autumn. (Staff photo)

## Homicide Case Will Be Tried Next Week

Monday will mark the beginning of the September term of criminal court, with more than 200 persons slated for trial before Hon. Hugh B. Campbell of Charlotte, presiding judge of Watauga Superior Court.

One case of homicide will be tried during the proceedings.

Floyd Tester of Sugar Grove, age about 52, was arrested by Watauga Sheriff Dallas Cheek early in March in connection with the fatal shooting of William McKinley Presnell, 41, of Sugar Grove.

At the time, the Sheriff reported that he was called to Cove Creek Store, Sugar Grove, at 11 a. m., Saturday, March 5. He said Presnell had been shot in the left side of the neck and was sitting on the right hand side of the front seat with his head thrown back. The deceased was found in a 1959 Buick, which Cheek said was registered in the name of Betty Presnell of Vilas, widow of Mr. Presnell.

According to Cheek, both Presnell and Tester had been drinking. An empty pint bottle and another one-third full were found in the car. A third man had driven the two around in the Buick that morning, and the Sheriff said he reported that Tester and Presnell had been "messing" with the gun and making threats to shoot each other.

Cheek said the driver of the car said that when he heard

the fatal shot, he thought it had missed, but he turned and saw blood running down Presnell's neck.

After Tester's arrest, the Sheriff said it had not been ascertained where Tester was seated in the four-door car at the time of the shooting. He also said it was not ascertained where the shot was fired, whether near the Health Center—where shooting was reported earlier—while the car was moving, or in front of the store where Presnell's body was found. However, Cheek said no one inside the store reported hearing the shot.

The six-shot, .22 calibre pistol—a German make—still

had two cartridges in the cylinder when it was confiscated. The Sheriff said he was not sure how many shots were fired, although three shots were reported to his office at 10:30 that morning, and the fourth could conceivably be the death shot. He said the pistol may have been reloaded, but that he found only one shell in the car and it was on the front seat.

Tester did not have the gun when he was arrested inside Cove Creek Store.

Tester and the deceased had lived together in Sugar Grove. Tester was Presnell's uncle, by marriage.

## Blowing Rock Theatre Meeting Set For Tuesday

The Board of Directors of the Blowing Rock Community Theatre will welcome all residents of Watauga, Avery and other counties to attend a general meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 8 p. m. in the Blowing Rock School auditorium.

A spokesman for the Board said that since summer activities have begun to slow down, more people will be able to enjoy working with the Theatre. He added that the Community Theatre has not only enjoyed its first two productions, but has felt they were well done, as was proven by reviews they received and the

number of inquiries coming in about future productions.

Refreshments will be served so that old-timers can meet newcomers and all enjoy the Community Theatre.

Most of the people who have worked with the Theatre had not had experience in the jobs they undertook, but found that hard work became fun as they went about the tasks of acting, building sets, finding props, arranging lighting, etc.

The Community Theatre is open to high school students, college students, housewives, businessmen—people from all walks of life.

## Basic Middle Grandfather Route Chosen

Engineers from the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads began work last week at Grandfather Mountain on the final six-mile stretch of the 400-mile Blue Ridge Parkway.

Regional Locating Engineer from the Bureau of Public Roads, J. R. Jenson of Arlington, Va.; Benny McCarter and Charles Seagle of Gatlinburg expect to have enough engineering data in about two weeks to determine the alignment of the Parkway along the so-called middle route on Grandfather Mountain. This work, it is said, will be followed by 12 weeks of staking out the center line, following which the project will be ready for bidding by road contractors.

### Decided In May

Governor Dan K. Moore and Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced agreement last May 20 on a route to be followed on the Grandfather after a stalemate between property owners, the National Park Service and the State Highway Commission. The Parkway had been completed to one end of the missing link in 1940 and to the other end five years ago.

According to the agreement between the officials the route will utilize existing State-owned lands and be supplemented by acreage necessary to avoid excessive scars and to maintain the scenic quality of the completed portions of the parkway.

The section now being located will connect with the existing Parkway in Julian Price Memorial Park on the north and Beacon Heights on the south where it will overpass and connect with U. S. 321.

Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain, expressed pleasure that the old controversy was settled and congratulated Governor Moore upon reaching the agreement.

The selected route, it was said, is basically what had been referred to as the middle route, with modifications and will run a few hundred feet uphill from existing U. S. 321 on the east side of the Grandfather. Its elevation will be from four to forty-four hundred feet, and the link will be the highest point on the Parkway north of Mt. Mitchell, and one of the most scenic sections of the Parkway which extends from the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The National Park Service had long favored a "high route" over the summit of the mountain which would conflict with private property interests. The original proposal for the middle route was worked out by A. H. Graham, chairman of the N. C. Highway Commission in 1955.

This route was approved by the Bureau of Public Roads and the Highway Commission, but not by the Park Service. During the Sanford administration, the state acquired the land for the middle route by swapping rights the state had held to a lower route.

## Survey To Take 12 Weeks

# Engineers Start Work On Last Section Of Parkway



**WORK ON PARKWAY LOCATION**—J. R. Jenson, left, Regional Locating Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads headquarters, Arlington, Va., has started work on the last part of the Blue Ridge

Parkway. Other engineers shown are Benny McCarter, center, and Charles Seagle, right, both of Gatlinburg, Tenn.—Hugh Morton photograph.

## Employment Data To Be Sampled Here

This area is one of 47 throughout the U. S. recently added to those sampled each month by the Bureau of the Census to measure the rates of employment and unemployment in the Nation, according to Director Joseph R. Norwood of the Bureau's Charlotte, N. C. regional office.

The new local sampling area consists of Burke, Caldwell and Watauga Counties.

Monthly labor statistics are sampled by the Bureau for the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Census interviewers call upon randomly selected households in taking the survey. By increasing the number of sample areas, the Bureau expects to provide improved labor force statistics.

Interviewers also obtain information on other subjects—population characteristics and housing, for example—during the monthly surveys.

Interviewing in this area is starting during September and October.

Interviewers who will visit sample families in this new local area include: Mrs. Hilda C. Hamrack, Lenoir, N. C.

## Bingham Again Invites LBJ To Ninth District

Boone — Robert Bingham, candidate for Congress in the Ninth District, said Monday he has again sent an invitation to President Johnson to

visit this area. Bingham said he extended the new invitation through John Meek, campaign co-ordinator for the Democratic Na-

tional Committee. Meek was in Boone over the weekend for a series of meetings with Bingham's campaign committee.

## Autumn Leaf Excursion

### Train To Roll October 16

West Jefferson (Special) — There is an early demand for tickets for the ninth annual Autumn Leaf Train Excursion, to be held this year on Sunday, Oct. 16, Mrs. Ed M. Anderson, general chairman, said.

Following the usual custom, the train will leave West Jefferson around 9 a. m., traveling across White Top Mountain, into Abingdon and on into Bristol and return in the afternoon. A special devotion service will be held on top of White Top Mountain and those desiring to do so will have an opportunity to visit historical places in Abingdon, including the Barter Theatre.

The excursion is sponsored annually by the West Jefferson Woman's Club and is planned when the trees will be wearing their brightest colors. It is expected that they

will be at their best in the weekend planned, Oct. 16. Lunch will be served on the train, and this is included in the price of the ticket.

Those arriving on Saturday to spend the night in the area are to be guests at the square dance and country music singing held in honor of the visitors. It was pointed out that there would be a doctor and nurse on the train and that every effort would be made to see that the passengers were comfortable.

It was explained that tickets could be ordered by mail since these could not be held unless paid for because of the big demand.

The round trip is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children under 12, with lunch. Tickets without lunch are slightly lower, however.

## Murder, Suicide Take 2 Lives

West Jefferson—An apparent murder-suicide claimed the lives of two Ashe County residents here last night Friday, Sheriff Gene Bare reported.

The sheriff said that Vivian Roark, 33, shot her husband, William Ray Roark, 35, then turned the gun, a .22 calibre pistol, on herself.

The shooting occurred at the Roark's house trailer. Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Sunday at Three Tops Baptist Church. Burial was in the Roark Cemetery.

## Correction

In the story on the new courthouse in the last edition of the Democrat, it was inadvertently stated that the structure is to be one-story. It is actually a two-story plan. The error is regretted.

## Dr. Plemmons Welcomes Record Number Students

Students comprising the largest enrollment in Appalachian State Teachers College's history began classes here Monday under a major revision of the institution's schedule.

The initial classes opened nine days later than for the Fall quarter of 1965. During the 1966-67 academic year each class will meet for a full 60-minute period with 10 minute intervals between

classes. Under past schedules, classes met for 53 minutes with a seven-minute break between sessions.

The major reason for the calendar alterations was to allow the Winter quarter classes to commence immediately following the Christmas holidays rather than two weeks prior to the start of the holiday period.

Dr. W. H. Plemmons, ASTC president, welcomed the new

students at a convocation Wednesday morning. Joining in the welcome and introduction were members of the faculty and administration.

Freshmen underwent testing in foreign language, speech, biology and swimming in conjunction with their orientation program last week. The first-year students, numbering about 1,100 were assisted by faculty counselors in the selection of courses over the registration period.

## Bulletin

Word was received at presstime that a third person, Mrs. T. C. Walker, passed away Monday morning in a Charlotte hospital.

Blowing Rock—A Salisbury girl and her aunt were killed about 3 p. m. Sunday when the car in which they were riding collided with a tractor-trailer south of here on U. S. 321 in Caldwell County.

Mrs. Annie L. Schroder, 73, of Savannah, Ga., reported to

be the driver of the car, died at Blowing Rock Hospital.

Miss Daisy Marie Walker, 19, of 35 Knox Street, Salisbury, was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Miss Walker's mother, Mrs. T. C. Walker, and a Mr. Wood were injured. They were treated at Blowing Rock Hospital and then transferred to Charlotte Memorial Hospital. A 4-year-old boy believed to be a son of Mrs. Walker was also in the car driven by Mrs. Schroder.

The driver of the truck, whose name was not learned, was not injured. The truck

was owned by Broyhill Furniture Co. of Lenoir. The accident occurred during a light rain.

The bodies were taken to Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home at Boone. Mrs. Schroder's body was sent to Savannah, Ga., for funeral and burial.

Miss Walker's body was sent to Salisbury.

The Schroder car was headed south on the highway. The group had been to Tweetsie Railroad and other attractions here and was returning to Salisbury.

## Salisbury Girl, Aunt Die In Crash On U.S. 321 South