

AWARD WINNER
In 1966 and 1967 the Democrat won 10 State Press Assn. awards for General Excellence, Excellence in Typography, Local News, Advertising, Columns and Photographs.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER			
1967	Hi	Lo	Snow Prec.
Mar. 7	58	26	2.32
Mar. 8	45	20	tr.
Mar. 9	59	23	tr.
Mar. 10	65	33	tr.
Mar. 11	69	49	tr.
Mar. 12	61	51	2.8
Mar. 13	65	45	1.32

Snow given to nearest half-inch.

VOLUME LXXIX—NO. 37

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1967

10 CENTS PER COPY

22 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

Area Meet Decries Auto Junk

BY RACHEL RIVERS

A tax for all unlicensed (junk) cars which can be seen from primary or secondary roads could be a solution to a problem nationwide in scope.

The suggestion was posed by James Allen Jr. of Alleghany County at a meeting of the New River Valley Development Association Monday night in Boone. The three-county organization, including Ashe and Watauga, centered its attention on measures to prevent further obstruction of natural beauty.

Removal of junked cars being prohibitively expensive, a yard containing some 500 auto hulks on an access to Sparta may have to stay, and while it might be shrouded by rows of pines, ways might be found to prevent other junk and trash heaps from growing at roadside.

G. R. Andrews, president, said the Automobile Association says some 600 million cars will be salvaged this year. He added that junk-heaps, stripped of all saleable parts, once sold for scrap metal value, but no longer can be given, in exchange for getting them hauled away.

Landscape Architect Henry C. Hammon, in an address in January, told the Association that four junk yards are to be removed from Watauga, one from Alleghany, but no satisfactory arrangements had been made in Ashe County.

The Federal Highway Beautification Act, he said, makes available limited funds for programs emphasizing control of advertising along rights-of-way, control of junk yards, beautifying surrounding areas, enhancing scenic beauty, constructing rest stops and similar areas away from municipalities.

Future plans for Watauga include two rest areas and three scenic overlooks.

MONEY?

The junk-yard problem in the three counties may well become a thing of the past.

On a motion by Clyde R. Greene, Representatives of the counties will be asked what can be done through the General Assembly. Zoning might be an effective measure, as the tax per junked car might be.

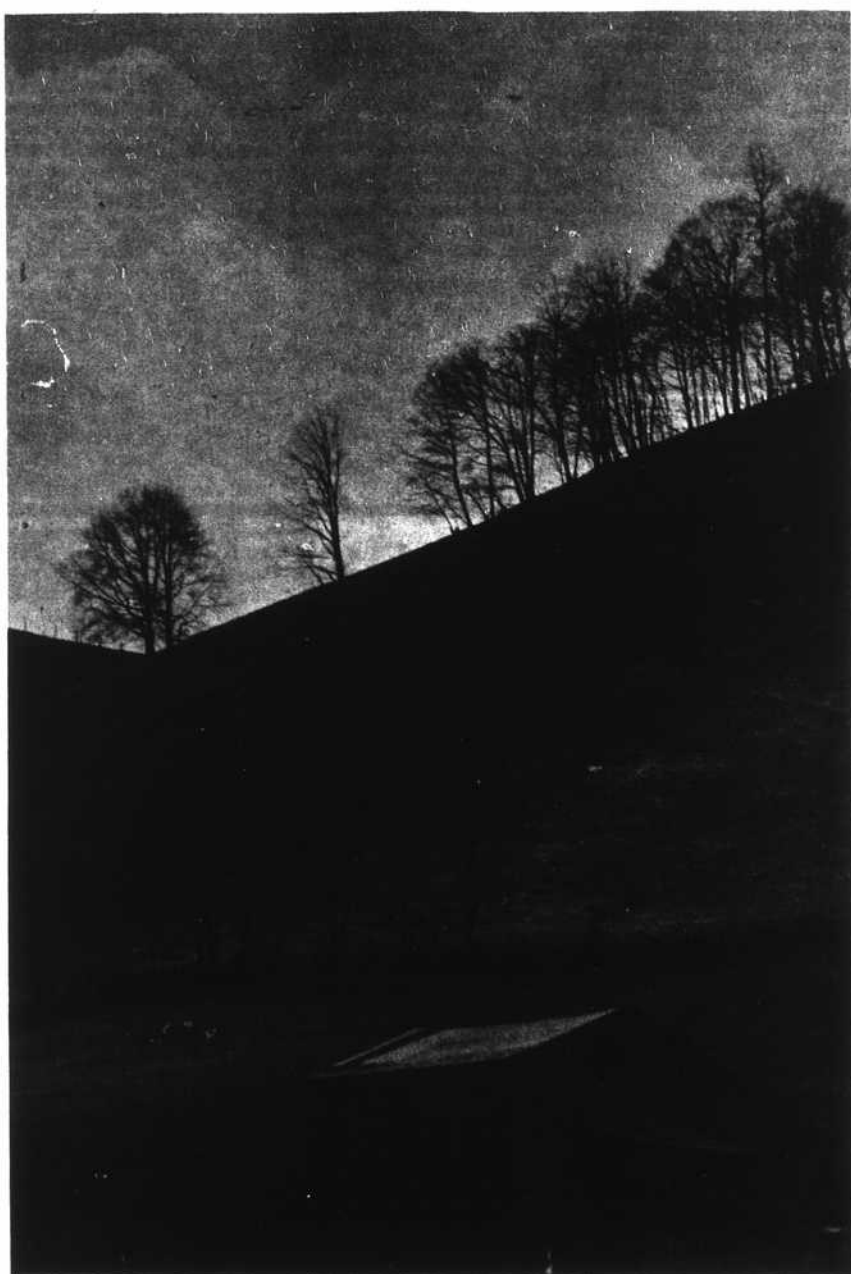
Mrs. Stella Anderson of Ashe County commented on the early success of a "250" beautification contest which already has attracted participation of 10 communities.

(continued on page two)

Joe Minor Is Given Weather Bureau Award

A ten-year service award was presented last week to Joe C. Minor, co-operative weather observer in Boone for the U. S. Weather Bureau, Winston L. Hurst, field aid, made the presentation.

This is the second award made to an observer in Watauga in recent months. Hurst presented Blowing Rock observer Ernest Hayes a lapel pin in



NEW HORIZON FOR FARM INCOME

The recent organization of the Watauga Livestock Market, Inc., should be a milestone in the County's farm-income progress. Availability of a year-around market to local cattlemen will stimulate interest in cattle production and produce a needed income-hike. Primary breeds

in the area are Herford, short horn and Angus. Charolais, a French breed, is making a debut and has been crossed with other breeds. At any rate, a relatively quiet scene is destined to become active as cattle take back the important role they had here in the 1950's. (Staff photo)

Watauga Livestock Market Names Officers, Sets Sales

Watauga Livestock Market, Inc., Monday night scheduled three cattle sales for fall and called on the electorate for a slate of directors and officers.

County Agent L. E. Tucker will ask the stockholders for a sign-up of at least 500

calves for a calf sale planned tentatively for Oct. 17. About 1,000 head would be sold, he guessed, and cattlemen were urged to get calves sale-ready.

Steer sales are set for Sept. 15 and Oct. 20 and some 2,000 head are expected to go under the mallet.

At the end of the Courthouse meeting, \$43,625 in stock subscriptions had been paid and only \$3,800 was still outstanding. Investors are encouraged to purchase stock in the year around operation while it's still available.

Temporary officers Mack Brown (president) and A. T. Adams (secretary-treasurer) were joined on the official slate by Charles Blackburn, vice-president of the organization.

Directors elected for three years are Lewis Norris, H. W.

Mast Jr., Charles Blackburn and Ernest Sims.

Two-year directors are Mack Brown, Council Henson, Joe Shoemaker and Boyd Miller.

Serving terms of one year each: Fred Critcher, Floyd Ayers and V. C. Shores.

Brown said all signals are "go" in the new venture and that the sale barn should be under construction on the Rutherford site in April or May.

Cove Creek Riding Club To Meet Tonight

A meeting of the Cove Creek Riding Club will be held at 7:30 p. m., Thursday at the Cove Creek Elementary School.

Persons desiring to become members are invited and members who have not paid dues will be asked to do so, to finance club projects.

Production Horn In West Involves Fiscal Struggle

The struggle involved in producing Boone's outdoor drama is revealed in a report from Herman W. Wilcox, general manager.

The approved budget for operating "Horn in the West" this summer calls for \$86,967.50, or \$1,553 for each of 56 performances. In order to break even, Wilcox explains, all income must average this amount.

"One can see the big gamble in such an operation," he says, "and why it takes the concerted effort of everyone connected with the production."

LIABILITIES

The N. C. State Auditor's

report for 1966 shows the obligations of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, comptroller of the drama, and shows why the Association has been unable to meet bond obligations.

The report's liabilities and deficit section lists accounts payable at \$7,947.02, long-term liabilities (in default) accrued interest on bonds at \$26,484 and bonds payable at \$55,175.

Several years ago, even after receiving \$10,000 from the N. C. Contingency and Emergency Fund, the Association had to call on citizens of Boone to endorse notes, and in some cases, pay to the Association a percentage of these notes to clear the current year's oper-

ation deficit. (State funds were available only if the drama showed a deficit.)

The report for 1966 shows a final deficit of \$37,040.46. The Association has not requested State funds for several years, Wilcox notes, for the drama has broken even or, in some cases, showed a net profit with which to reopen the drama the following year.

RESERVE FUNDS?

Condition of many of the buildings on the grounds will mean considerable repairs in the near future. The manager says this could wipe out all the Association's reserve funds.

"These are just a few factors explaining why the drama must be promoted throughout the calendar year . . . to appeal to all traveling people possible to include the drama in their plans," he says.

Another serious problem the Association faces is the future cast for the drama.

The budget calls for salaries totaling \$46,000 for all cast and production employees, Ward Haarbauer, who will direct this summer's drama, says he ran into problems in the recent try-outs. He was outbid for the better prospects by the State's two other dramas and other area dramas. Wilcox says the budget simply would

(continued on page two)

Banquet Is Sell-Out

Beautification Is Not Sissy, Leaders Are Told

Watauga United Fund Meeting Next Tuesday

The Watauga County United Fund will have its annual meeting at noon Tuesday at the Gateway Restaurant. Representatives of participating agencies are expected to be there.

Wade Wilmoth, president, says board members will be elected to replace those whose term expires in 1970. Officers for 1967-68 will be elected and reports given by the secretary and treasurer.

All interested citizens are invited to attend.

Two Laundries In City Robbed

Two coin-operated laundries in Boone were robbed Thursday night, according to Chief of Police Hubert Thomas. He suspected that both thefts were committed by the same person or persons, because the method of taking the money was the same.

Change was taken from the electric coin-changers without breaking the locks, Thomas said. A small hole was drilled through the vaults in each establishment and an object stuck through the hole to trip the mechanism.

No arrests had been made Tuesday morning, but investigation is continuing.

The laundries robbed were Scenic Laundry on Hardin Street, and Coin-Op Self-Service Laundry on the corner of King and Hardin Streets.

Federal Income Tax In Watauga Over \$2,500,000

How much money will residents of Watauga County be contributing to the Federal coffers on or before tax day, which is April 15th this year, in the form of personal income taxes?

The Government counts on their offerings being well above what they were last year, when local tax payments came to some \$2,252,000.

That was the approximate amount turned in last April, as determined by a breakdown of collections from the State of North Carolina as a whole. The statewide total, according to the official figures, was nearly \$834,000,000. This included income taxes paid through withholding.

The size of the increase expected this year is indicated in the Federal budget, presented to Congress in January. It predicts that individual income taxes in the current fiscal year will reach \$62.2 billion nationally, as compared with actual receipts in the past fiscal year of \$55.4 billion.

(continued on page two)

Annual Easter Seal Campaign Is Launched

The Watauga County Society for Crippled Children and Adults announces this week that its 1967 Easter Seal campaign will be headed by the Rev. Maurice Ritchie. Working with him in the county-wide effort will be Dr. James Greene.

The Boone men report they have already launched the campaign. Some 5,500 letters and seals have been mailed to Watauga residents, who are encouraged to use the self-



The trophy in the Optimist Oratorical Zone Contest is presented to Bob Melton, left. (Dula photo)

Bob Melton Is Winner Optimist Speech Tournney

The topic of this year's Optimist Oratorical Zone Contest was "Patriotic Citizenship Needs Optimism." A Watauga High School sophomore, Bob

Melton, handled the subject expertly, taking first place over Gordon H. Hampton of Hudson (second place), Byrnl Wade of North Wilkesboro (third), Ronald Miller of West Jefferson and James Courtney of Lenoir.

Son of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Melton of Boone, Bob is coached by Miss Delila Lesley and sponsored by the Boone Optimist Club.

In April, he will participate in the district contest, winner of which will journey to Portland, Ore., for the international contest. Chairman of the zone contest was Gene Barrier, assisted by District Lt. Gov. Jim Poarch.

Bob received the trophy March 7 in Lenoir.



BARNEY HAMPTON

Hampton Is Co. Coroner

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners appointed Barney Hampton county coroner, effective March 7. Hampton has been employed by Reins-Sturdivant 10 years, working under Richard Kelley, former coroner.

There were no candidates for the County position in the fall election, so Hampton's appointment will be until 1970, the end of the four-year term.

The funeral director graduated from Cincinnati College of Embalming in 1962. His wife is the former Deloris Storie and they have a son, Gregory, age 8.

The Hamptons reside at 109 Cherry Brook Lane, Boone.



MISS TERESA WILLIAMS

Blowing Rock Student To Be Assembly Page

An eighth grade student at Blowing Rock Elementary School has been selected to serve as a page in the N. C. House of Representatives Monday through Thursday of this week.

Miss Teresa Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Williams of Blowing Rock was selected on the recommendation of her teachers, Mrs. Truman Critcher, Don Shull and her principal, Howard Love.

Rep. Mack S. Isaac of the 29th District also recommended Teresa for the March 13-17 term.

London—The British government has called for a cutback of Communist and Western forces along the Iron Curtain.

"You've Got The Lumber, You Need Blueprint"

"There's no use to nickle and dime yourself to death with a petunia here and a canteen there, until you have a professional plan. You've got the lumber, now all you need is the blueprint."

W. W. Tatgenhorst addressed a meeting of civic leaders Tuesday, as he prepared to tour the area before making his banquet speech Tuesday night at Holiday Inn. At presstime, the banquet was reported a sell-out, with more than 300 tickets bought.

The Sears Foundation Representative told the luncheon meeting that beautification must not be a "sissy" thing, rather involve and denote civic development, civic improvement, good citizenship and democracy.

In a town over 1,000 population, 20 per cent is sub-standard housing or businesses," he said. From this group comes only four per cent of the taxes while 46 per cent of the tax money is paid into it. He lauded Watauga High School, where that morning he delivered a vigorous address to the student body, and complimented Dr. N. A. Miller, principal, as one of the best known educators in the South.

At WHS, Tatgenhorst admonished students to use "what you have in your ability to accomplish. You're the power structure group." He pointed out that the 9 to 19 group is the largest and fastest growing in the country—"the greatest generation America ever produced." The speaker lamented the fact that teenage citizens are hardly ever included in community improvement committees.

ESTHETICS?

Esthetics, he said, are secondary in beautification and improvement to developing a broader tax base and protecting property investments. His tour Tuesday afternoon was to include a survey of service stations.

"Eighty-one per cent of the people who stop here one time," he admonished, "stop at a service station, even before a motel." He noted statistics which show that a run-down service station in a well-traveled area can deplete business income 20 per cent in a given period.

He cited another survey which showed "If you have an attraction here, which attracts 20 persons per day, in one year, this is equal to a \$100,000 payroll."

For carrying out the suggestions he would present that night, the Foundation official recommended considering involvement of the four strata here—established citizens, active businessmen, youth and tourists.

He cautioned the group that tourists are not just dollars and cents: "You owe them more than x-amount of service for x-amount of money," in exchange for the good they can do the community.

Citizens, Inc., Meet Thursday

The annual meeting of Watauga Citizens, Inc., and the annual meeting of Watauga Developers, Inc., will be held jointly at noon, Thursday, March 16, at the Gateway Restaurant.

Principal business will be to receive reports and elect officers, according to Stanley A. Harris Sr., secretary for both corporations. Members of both boards are urged to be present.