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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER		Hi	Lo	Snow	Freeze	Wind	Dir
April 11	68	42				53	26
April 12	72	42				53	27
April 13	80	53				53	27
April 14	78	62				53	26
April 15	67	35				53	26
April 16	65	43				54	26
April 17	65	51				62	31

VOLUME LXXIX—NO. 41

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1967

10 CENTS PER COPY

24 PAGES—3 SECTIONS

Wilkes Man Dies In Crash

A North Wilkesboro man was killed instantly in a three-vehicle crash Friday morning seven miles east of Boone on U. S. 221-421. Patrolman George Baker identified the deceased as Billy Gray, 26, of Route 3, North Wilkesboro.

Packages of peanuts and candy were thrown on the highway and the Gray truck, a 1964 Ford owned by Servomation Vending Company, North Wilkesboro, was crushed beyond market value.

Baker said the three-vehicle collision happened at 7:45 a. m. when a truck operated by Edward Critcher of Boone stopped at the intersection of 221 and old Highway 60 to make a left turn.

The officer said John Worth Graham, 39, of 730 E. Howard St., Boone, also was traveling east and applied the brakes on his 1967 Chevrolet two-ton truck to stop behind Critcher. Instead, the truck skidded on slick pavement into the left lane where it collided with the van-type truck driven by Gray.

Patrolman Baker said after the Gray vehicle struck the left side of Graham's truck, it spun around, heading east, and was hit head-on by a 1963 Chevrolet which had been following it. The passenger car, owned by Roger Hiatt Jackson, of Elkton, was driven by Betty Hiatt Jackson, 27, of Route 1, Mt. Airy.

Baker said Graham and Mrs. Jackson escaped injury.

Damage to the Graham truck was placed at \$100, while estimate on the Jackson car was \$150.

The Vending Company truck caught fire and volunteers of the Deep Gap Fire Department extinguished the blaze.

Boone firemen and officers were alerted by a caller who said the crash was west of Boone, rather than east.

Funeral services for Mr. Gray were at 3 p. m. Sunday at Baptist Home Church. Burial with military rites was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Mr. Gray was a salesman for Roy Spahnour Vending Machine Company, North Wilkesboro.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Joyce Eller Gray; a daughter, Dawn, of the home; and his mother, Mrs. Ivory Williams of North Wilkesboro.



At a supper for the evaluation team of the Southern Association of Secondary Schools, and guests of Watauga High School, these leaders talked in the lobby—(l-r) W. Guy Angell, Superintendent of Watauga County Schools; Nile F. Hunt, Raleigh, of the State Department of Public Instruction; Dr. W. H. Plemmons, president of ASTC; Dr. H. E. Thompson, Wilkesboro, chairman of the evaluation committee; Jimmy Deal, president of the student body and master of ceremonies that evening; and Mrs. Margaret Gragg, guidance counselor at WHS and chairman of the steering committee. (Staff photo)

Watauga High Evaluated As Students Participate

Watauga High School was evaluated last week by a visiting committee for membership in the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and for accreditation by the State Department of Public Instruction. The committee, headed by Dr. H. E. Thompson, president of Wilkes Community College, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Boone making the evaluation. Student participation was an unusual feature of the self-study made at Watauga High

School during the current year. As a part of the two-year study for the Southern Association and state evaluation, three students were selected to serve on each of the thirty committees of faculty members.

Student and faculty members of each committee made a thorough evaluation of curriculum offerings of the school. In addition to a course of study prepared by the teacher in each area of work, the committee listed strengths and weaknesses of each department or area of school activity.

On Tuesday evening the visitors were greeted and introduced by student members of the committees. Approximately ninety students, seventy-five members of the faculty and members of visiting teams attended the dinner meeting in the school cafeteria. At the meeting also were officials of the county school system, the towns of Boone and Blowing Rock, and of Appalachian State Teachers College.

Following the dinner meeting, the Watauga High School Choral Ensemble of twenty voices presented a program of music in the high school audi-

torium. Linda Dixon and James Miller reviewed for the visitors the philosophy and objectives of Watauga High School and the history of the new high school. James Deal, president of the student body, was presiding officer for the Tuesday evening meetings. Members of the two visiting teams spent the day Wednesday observing teachers and students at work. A mimeographed report of their evaluation will be sent to the school in May. (continued on page three)

Pre-School Clinics Set

Plans have been completed for the organization of pre-school clinics to be held during the months of April and May according to an announcement by Mrs. Dessa M. Edmisten, Supervisor of Instruction.

The clinics will be operated in the schools similar to clinics in previous years. Parents are requested to bring children into the school by 9 a. m. at which time necessary forms will be distributed for registration. Each parent is reminded to bring in the birth certificate and immunization records on the date of the clinic.

Watauga County School clinics are operated jointly by the regular school staff and representatives of the District Health Department: April 19, Green Valley Elementary; April 20, Blowing Rock Elementary; April 26, Valle Crucis Elementary; April 28, Parkway Elementary; May 4, Bethel Elementary; May 5, Mabel Elementary and Appalachian Elementary.

tendent of schools for a two-year term ending June 30, 1969.

All regular and special meetings of the Board will be scheduled on the first Monday evening of each month at 7:30 p. m. in the Board of Education office. All meetings are open to the public for the discussion of school problems and for the consideration of ways and means to improve the overall school program.

Board Of Education Assumes Its Duties

The regular meeting of the Watauga County Board of Education was held Monday, April 3, at 8 a. m. to organize the Board, elect a superintendent of schools and carry out routine business of the Board.

In accordance with the action of the North Carolina General Assembly March 29 and 30, House Bill 287 provided for the appointment of the following members to the Board for a term of two years: Mack D.

Brown, H. W. Mast Jr. and Hugh Hagaman, Members of the Board, being duly notified of their appointment, appeared before the Clerk of Court to take the oath of office.

The Board, meeting in executive session in the Board of Education office, elected Mack D. Brown chairman. He replaces Dr. Charles Davant who has served as chairman of the Board for 12 years. W. Guy Angell was re-elected superin-



The Board of Education and schools superintendent at their first meeting since appointment. Board members are (l-r) Hugh Hagaman, Mack Brown and H. W. Mast Jr. Superintendent W. Guy Angell is at right. (Flowers photo)

After Diligent Planning Recreation Director Is Hired By Parks Group

Good, Small Recreation Program Slated

BY RACHEL RIVERS

After long months of diligent planning, the Boone Parks and Recreation Commission has found and hired its director, who is prudently beginning to formulate a long-needed program of activities for this mountain area.

The way Jim Hastings sees it, it's better to start off with a good, small program you can expand from year to year—than a large one you can't handle. And with an already burdensome tax structure in Boone and Watauga, that's likely to be good news all around.

So on April 1, the ASTC graduate student added to his educational responsibilities by accepting the directorship. "Jim will initiate our program for us," said Commission vice-chairman Paul Smith, "and his first assignment is to let people know that we have a director and see civic clubs and others interested in such a program."

Hastings hopes to establish supervised recreation in churches. He also will see school officials about cooperating in helping with plans and ask for suggestions on how the Commission can assist in broadening existing programs.

Concentration now is on spring and summer activities, but the program is year around in scope. And the services of the new director will be available to civic and industrial groups.

NO NEWCOMER Needed right away—an office, and enough space for a crafts program. As soon as possible, Hastings would like to start a crafts program two days a week, and offer at least two night activities a week: One for adults of different age groups and one for teenagers.

Saturday mornings and afternoons would be open for special events from kite-flying contests and hiking to group field days. He urges anyone with information about office space to contact him.

Jim Hastings is no newcomer to recreational programming. Last spring, while he was doing his student teaching at Wilson Junior High near Charlotte's city limits, citizens of West Mecklenburg and Wilson decided they wanted a program for their children.

The Charlotte Parks and Recreation group worked solely within the city limits. Hastings was hired as director for the (continued on page three)



A CONTRACT IS SEALED—Paul Smith, vice-chairman of the Boone Parks & Recreation Commission, looks on as Jim Hastings, 311 1/2 E. King St., signs on for a year as director for the Commission. (Staff photo)

Blowing Rock To Elect Mayor, Board

Blowing Rock voters will go to the polls, Tuesday, May 2 to elect a Mayor and a board of Aldermen.

In a pre-election convention, held last Thursday evening at the Blowing Rock Municipal Auditorium, Mayor R. B. Hardin was renominated to fill the post of Mayor. Also nominated for the position was Hayden Pitts. Nominated for city councilmen were John Goodwin, Clyde Dula, Bill Shaheen, Ralph Andrews, Marshall Travis and Andrew Nimmo.

Those nominated for each position will be placed on the official ballot for the municipal election, although, anyone desiring to file for either position may do so at the Town Hall before April 10 at 4 p. m.

In 1965, Mayor Hardin was placed on the ticket unopposed.

He has served the town as mayor for the past 14 years. He lives with his wife, the former Miss Polly Hayes, in Echo Park.

In addition to his duties as mayor, Mr. Hardin owns and operates Hardin Hardware. The local Western Union Office is also located in his hardware store. He and his wife also own and operate the Village Shop on Main Street.

Hayden Pitts, the other nominee for Mayor, operates a Pitts Oil Company on Main Street. He and his wife, Betty, are the parents of seven children and reside on Ransom Street.

William (Bill) Shaheen was nominated for his second term as councilman. A native of Robinsville, N. C., Bill owns and operates the Village Pharmacy. He lives with his wife Susie,



ROBERT HARDIN



HAYDEN PITTS

on Wallingford Street where they also operate an apartment house.

Ralph Andrews is making his fourth bid for councilman. He is a former member of the board, having served the 1947 and 1949 terms when the late Grover Robbins, Sr., was mayor. He

is a self-employed carpenter and lives on Clark Street with his wife, The Andrews' two children are Jack of Statesville and Jack of Grand Rapids, Mich.

John Goodwin, nominee for councilman, is currently serving (continued on page three)

200 Will Face Trial At Watauga Superior Court

Watauga Superior Court will convene Monday April 17, for the trial of criminal cases, and Judge James C. Farthing of Lenoir will preside.

About 200 cases are docketed, according to Court Clerk Orville Foster, most of which involve traffic violations and other misdemeanors.

Following are the names of those who have been summoned for jury duty:

Wade Clawson, Gary Norris, Joseph Lawrence Warren, Newton Holman, David Norris, Cecil Rhodes, Henry Rogers, Don A. Rayfield, Kenneth Moretz, Spencer Cable, Ben W. Tester, Zeb Kirk, Mont Teague, Charlie Moody, Henry Taylor, Conrad Dancy, Clyde Love, Joe Maples, Hugh Cook, W. Ralph Winkler Jr., Mrs. Jack Henson, R. D. Moretz, Johnny Ralph Hayes, Sam Horton, Jr., U. L. Moore, Woodrow Roberts, Bobby Jones Barnes, Thomas Russell Snyder, Don H. Perry, Bennie Jackson Baird, Mrs. Helen Greene, Fred Eiston Carroll, Allen Ellis Craig, Clingman Townsend, Woodrow Cecil Richardson, Stewart Brown, Kenneth C. Dotson, J. B. Robinson, Blane D. Eggers, Ralph Arnett, G. Carter Ragan, Arlie B. Hodges, Mrs. Minnie Coffey, Scott Swift, Cecil Mil-

Mrs. Gragg Named Head English Teachers Assn.

Mrs. Margaret Gragg was installed as president of the North Carolina English Teachers Association at their spring meeting in Asheville, April 7. Before her election as president of the group of 1,130 English teachers, she had served as recording secretary and as first vice-president.

Principal speaker at the Asheville meeting was Dr. Norton L. Beech, Dean of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His topic was "A Reassessment of Educational Values in North Carolina."

Miss Kate Peterson, chairman of the English Department at Watauga High School, attended the meeting with Mrs. Gragg. Mrs. Gragg, formerly chairman of the department at Appalachian High School, is now Guidance Director at Watauga High.

In Asheville for the 83rd annual convention of the North Carolina Education Association held April 6-8, were 12 members of the Watauga unit, Class-



MRS. MARGARET GRAGG

room Teachers Association: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shipley, Len G. Evans, Mrs. Muriel Glenn, Mrs. Susie Buchanan, Mrs. Helen Stroupe, Mrs. Elizabeth Randall, Mrs. Nancy A. Chamblin, Mrs. Mary High, Mrs. Christian Bangle, Mrs. Gragg and Miss Peterson.

8th Graders In Anti-Litter Drive

Mrs. A. E. Hamby's eighth grade class spent 45 minutes cleaning up around Boone and the grounds of Appalachian Elementary School Friday.

According to anti-litter campaign heads Jane Gilstrap and Ellen Marsh, the drive is in full swing and several stores have volunteered to give prizes to the persons who write the best essays and draw the best posters.

Anti-litter essays are being written by pupils in grades five through seven. Grades one through four will submit posters.

The campaign will end this week and the winners of the anti-litterbug King and Queen crowns will be announced.

Science Grant Will Aid ASTC

The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant of \$6,200 to Appalachian State Teachers College for the purchase of an X-Ray Diffractometer to be used in scientific research.

Total cost of the diffractometer, which is used in the study of the fundamental structure of matter, will be in excess of \$21,000.

Dr. W. G. Slink, chairman of the ASTC Chemistry Department, stated that the NSF grant, plus other gifts, will enable the college to buy a much-needed piece of equipment.

Dr. W. H. Plemmons, Appalachian president, said "We are sure the results which will be obtained from the use of the diffractometer will exceed in worth many times the amount of the total of all the grants and gifts made to purchase it."