

People... We Meet



At the age of 87, Kale Greer still enjoys visiting friends on Boone streets. Formerly of Watauga, he now lives at Mountain Home, Tenn. A veteran of the Spanish-American War, he is a professional horseman and has worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and other states. A niece, Mrs. Pauline McGee, lives in Boone. (Staff photo)

Alumni Of Historic Watauga Academy Have Happy Reunion

BY O. LESTER BROWN

There were two Watauga Academies, some 40 miles apart, that are remembered by thousands of people throughout this area and well beyond it. The first one was located in Boone and was opened for classes almost 67 years ago. Out of it grew the present Appalachian State University with upwards of 6,000 students and which is now in the midst of a great expansion program. This academy building was destroyed by fire in 1946. It is fondly remembered by many who attended classes there as well as by the citizens of this area. The name Watauga is carried on by the consolidated high school in Boone which serves the whole county.

The other Watauga Academy came into existence not long after the closing of Holly Springs College, in 1908, which began in Butler, Tennessee, in the early 90s. The new institution was housed in the spacious two-story building, of brick, that the college had used for classes. It took its name from the sparkling, swift-flowing Watauga river that passed nearby. Hundreds of aspiring young people attended this institution which was sponsored by the Baptists in the state.

When a great earthen dam was built a few miles down stream, in the 40s, the people and their institutions, their businesses and their community ties were forced to move out. With great reluctance they saw their lovely town disintegrate and the citizens, with sorrow in their hearts, scatter to places near and far. Some of them decided a New Butler should be founded, and this was done, a few miles north of the original site. It is far smaller than its predecessor was and is located on the highway between Mountain City and Elizabethton, in Johnson county.

The first Butler had a distinct meaning for me and my wife, Clara. I was a student at Watauga Academy in 1911-12, having gone down on the train from Shoups, an unforgettable experience as it was my first journey by rail. On a very hot afternoon in early August, 1914, two sat together under a great, spreading shade tree on the academy's campus and made plans to get married. Two or three days later, on August 6th we were married by a Baptist preacher on the Carter county side of the famous river, Mrs. Brown was born at Butler, came to Boone when a child.

When we learned that the Watauga Academy Reunion was going to hold its 7th Annual Session at Butler Baptist Church and Watauga School, on August 20, we at once made plans to attend. Two car loads from Boone made the trip. Although I

have mixed feelings about the value of reunions in general it seems to me now that as a rule they fill a felt need in many lives. It is important to keep in touch with friends and also to make more as we go along. Life has little meaning without the tender, significant ties that bind us one to the other. When you go to a reunion such as this for the first time you wonder before hand if this person and that will be there, especially after you have long since lost touch with most of the ones you once knew quite well. This was in our minds when we came in sight of the church and we began trying to spot any we knew. Among the sizable crowd only a few were recognized by us. Those present were apparently having a good time, although some were hobbling around, a few were using canes and one woman was in a wheel chair. As one would expect, children and young people were scarce.

The service began almost on time and late comers kept arriving for some time. Rev. James Gregg, "State Supt. of Children's Home," preached a strong sermon that held the attention of the listeners. After the benediction visiting started again at once and continued for hours. In the meantime the people slowly made their way to the school cafeteria, on a nearby hill, where in due time an excellent meal was served to about 150 Academy Alumni and others. Young people did most of the waiting of tables.

A business session was held after the meal, visitors were recognized and several made talks, some of them a little

extended. It was inspiring, however, to take note of the spirit of the alumni, several of whom were aged and whose number is noticeably decreasing. They initiated plans for helping worthy and needy college students, about whom there was much concern. It will be more difficult in the future, it appears, to raise money for this but one can appreciate the wonderful spirit behind the movement. The president, Wayne Eggers, made a good M. C.

We were fortunate in the finding of old acquaintances and making new ones. Of particular interest to us and to others was the Lee Goodwin family who had lived across the river from Butler on a large farm of wide-spreading bottoms and hillcountry. The place had always belonged to the Goodwin family even from pioneer days. During my school days at the academy I lived with Lee's mother.

Mr. Goodwin, a first cousin to my late father, was present as was his wife, Winnie. He is now at the half way mark of his hundredth year, is able to walk and is in good mental condition for a man of his age. His wife is in her 94th year, is erect and sprightly and is in good bodily and mental health. Their four children were present. The elder Goodwins live near Elizabethton and most of their children are residents of the city.

The pastor of the church, Rev. H. B. Cox, all his helpers and the others connected with the church and the school were thoughtful and gracious as were those who were in charge of alumni affairs. We left the lovely place among the hills and the friendly, interesting

people to drive up Roan Creek and on home feeling richer in heart and mind after the gratifying experiences we had just had.

Firemen To Be Schooled At Brevard 11-14

The ninth annual W.N.C. Firemen's Association Training School will be held in Brevard, four days beginning September 11 and ending September 14. The training school is sponsored by the W.N.C. Firemen's Association, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute, and the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

The Brevard Fire Department, under the leadership of Chief Dan Merrill, will host the school. Classes will be held at the Brevard Fire Training Grounds on the Ilahee Road near the Brevard Country Club, the Brevard Fire Station, and at the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation Medical Center Conference Room.

Brevard's Chief Dan Merrill assisted by Fred Dalton, Chief of Skyland Fire Department, and F. L. McCall, of Olin Mathieson, will direct the school. The school will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. on Monday night and 7 p.m. each night thereafter. Classes on Industrial Fire Brigade and Arson will be held at Olin Mathieson.

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Business Firms Alerted To Directory Proposals

Business and professional firms should be on the look out for questionable classified directory solicitations that are currently being mailed into this area. These solicitations look like an invoice for advertising that has already been authorized by the recipient, when in fact they are a solicitation for an advertisement, says the Winston-Salem Better Business Bureau.

Many of these "look-like" invoices are made up to appear to be an invoice for yellow-page advertising in your telephone book either by picturing a book similar to your telephone book, opened at the yellow page section, or using the words "yellow pages" in their name.

Don't make a mistake and authorize payment for one of these. Take time to read any invoice-like form you receive for a directory listing. The only reason this fraud continues to

flourish is that thousands of business and professional men erroneously regard the forms as invoices and carelessly make remittances.

You might even warn your bookkeeper and secretary to be on the lookout for these phony "invoices".

A Correction About Details Plane Crash

T. Bragg McLold of Charlotte offers the following to correct details given on a plane crash in the last issue.

He says the incident at Deerfield-Bamboo airfield occurred at 8:30 a.m. last Monday rather than Sunday and that the plane slid into a fence at the end of the runway as it was attempting to land on the slippery surface. Information from the Sheriff's Department indicated that McLold was piloting the twin-engine Beech Craft, McLold says he was not in the plane.

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- A very attractive 2-bedroom home on hwy. 105 near Seven Devils, with a spectacular view of Grandfather Mountain. There are 2 fireplaces in this completely furnished home with several additional building lots available with it.
- 56-acre dairy farm. Large barn with silo and some equipment, 3-bedroom brick home. Good pasture and fence and lots of water. Most of this farm can be driven over with a pick-up. An excellent buy at \$22,000.
- 3-bedroom brick home close in on hwy. 105. This home has 1 1/2 baths, a nice fireplace, a full basement, forced air heat and the lot is over an acre in size. A good buy at only \$21,000.
- Large building lot on Poplar Hill with over 300 feet of street frontage.
- 2-bedroom and den rock house partially furnished. This home has 1 1/2 baths, a nice fireplace and is on a large lot within walking distance of Cove Creek School. \$15,750.
- 5 6/10 acres on hwy. 194, 1/2 mile above Big Hill Rd.
- A very nice wooded building lot in one of Boone's better residential areas.
- 3-bedroom, 1 1/2 bath brick veneer home with 1/2 basement; house fully carpeted; located on an acre lot on by-pass 105.
- 2-frame houses, 2 bedrooms each, one house has lifetime aluminum siding, located on a large lot. A good investment. Priced at only \$11,500.
- 3-bedroom home with 1 bath, full basement, and garage. On 100 x 200 ft. lot in Deerfield section.
- 4-bedroom stucco, fully carpeted, plenty of closet space. Automatic washer and dryer, all drapes. Lots of cabinets in kitchen. Located on large lot.
- A restful spot along a beautiful trout stream; 3 acres, plenty of nice trees. Terms to suit buyer.
- 2-bedroom frame house, also 2-bedroom stucco house, located on 105-by-pass near Health Center.
- Very nice 100x150 foot lot in Forest Hills section. A real buy at \$2,500.
- A real nice lot on 105 by-pass near Health Center, size 100 x 250 feet. Priced right.
- 4-bedroom frame house on 100 x 240 foot lot, 6 cherry trees, 8 apple trees, lots of grapes. Good garden spot, plenty of shrubbery. Convenient to downtown. Priced at only \$13,250. Shown by appointment only.

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