

## Manager Wilcox Says He Will Resign

# Changes In "Horn In West" Script Discussed

Comptrollers of the Horn in the West Monday discussed changes in the drama's script, shortened the coming season, scheduled Sunday evenings as play dates and heard Herman Wilcox announce that his resignation is forthcoming.

Speaking for the production committee, H. R. Eggers said Ward Haarbauer, director of the Horn, wants to effect changes in the script to improve the production.

Eggers says he proposes to strengthen the character Judge Henderson, provide action on

the left stage to draw attention while the turntable changes the scenery on stage right and put in a new dance. Eggers says the committee has asked him to be in touch with Dr. Kermit Hunter, author, toward these ends.

Eggers also conveyed to the board Haarbauer's wish to have Sunday be a play night instead of Monday. The drama is presented six days a week. An appeal last year from the Rev. Richard Crowder, former pastor of the Boone Methodist

Church, resulted in a board decision to play on Monday nights with Sunday off.

Eggers explained that the director said the cast would prefer having "a free day when they can go more places and see more things." He said the production committee offers no recommendation but that the board consider the issue and settle it once and for all.

To stimulate discussion, Grady Farthing opined that "No man has ever seen the Horn

in the West but that he was a better man for it." The veteran SAHA board member said there are many things available on Sunday evenings during the summer that do not convey as much good.

Miss Jane Smith entered a successful motion that the play be changed to Sunday night with Mondays off because the drama has "a strong religious message as well as a patriotic one," she said. She also said that she feels the wishes of the cast should be considered, since the

Southern Appalachian Historical Association is unable to pay them in line with other dramas.

The Rev. Boyce Brooks suggested that a brief, devotional program be given prior to the drama on Sunday evenings.

The number of performances was cut from 57 to 49 for the 1968 season, June 29 to Aug. 24. One of the reasons given for abandoning the last week in August were because some of the key people in the cast are teachers who must go back to work that week or soon there-

after. In the past, as many as four productions were given with understudies in leading roles, it was reported.

After the board meeting at Holiday Inn, the executive committee went into session to discuss rehiring its promotion staff and manager Herman Wilcox. Dick Barley and Lewis Gaston were rehired.

The manager, however, asked that his re-employment be tabled until the next regular meeting. He said that his resignation will be forthcoming,

giving as a reason the rapid growth of his private business interests.

Mrs. Constance Stallings offered a motion that Wilcox be rehired at \$4,000 and if attendance this year warrants, be paid \$5,000. The latter was Wilcox's salary last year.

A motion passed that Wilcox's tabling suggestion be accepted and his salary continued for a month on the basis of what was paid last year in the same period.

### 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 . . . Eightieth Year of Continuous Publication

VOL. LXXX—NO. 28

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1968

10 CENTS PER COPY

24 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

BOONE WEATHER			
1968	Hi	Lo	Snow Prec.
Jan. 2	37	25	tr.
Jan. 3	42	28	tr.
Jan. 4	45	20	31
Jan. 5	39	10	tr.
Jan. 6	39	18	tr.
Jan. 7	—	12	tr. .42
Jan. 8	35	5	47 36

Snow given to nearest half-inch.



THE LOG CABIN in the Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens appears to be an oldtimey homestead, hibernating until spring.

## Tobacco Market Closes Season With Average Of \$69.71 Cwt.

The Watauga Tobacco Market closed Monday, having sold all tobacco delivered to the warehouses, then the Tobacco Board of Trade reported a successful season "in spite of tobacco

being unusually light." The average per hundred pounds was \$69.71.

Stanley A. Harris Sr., sales supervisor, said the price was \$3 per hundred pounds higher

than the former best price was about \$1.50 per hundred more than a neighboring market.

"The sad part," Harris commented, "is that almost 100 acres allotted were not planted

and these farmers failed to get the \$150,000 to \$200,000 this tobacco would have sold for if planted. It is hoped that the farmers who work at our plants will next year use the four or five hours daylight time to cultivate all of their allotment or rent it to a nearby farmer who will put out the entire allotment."

Plans are being made to produce plants of the most successful varieties for all farmers. "If they will advise us in time of the number of plants they would buy," Harris said, "and we will contract for plants. But we need to know how many plants will be needed before March 1."

He asks growers to contact the County Agent, any member of the Board of Trade or A. T. Adams, who is chairman of the Industry Committee in Watauga before the deadline.

For the \$69.71 average this year, 3,034,380 pounds sold for \$2,115,580.73, in 1963-64, which Harris said is the best year to date, 6,758,626 pounds brought \$3,450,750.17. The average, however, was \$51.06.

### Length Of Jobs Target Census Bureau In Area

During the week of January 15, the Bureau of the Census will obtain information from working people in this area on the length of time they have been on their current jobs, according to Director Joseph R. Norwood of the Census Bureau's Regional Office in Charlotte.

This job tenure information is being obtained for the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau (Continued on page two)

### Dr. Randall Named Head Of SAHA

Twenty-five of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association's 32-member board met Monday to elect Dr. Robert Randall of Boone to succeed the Association's late president, Dr. I. G. Greer of Chapel Hill.

A \$100 check from the membership fund had been acknowledged by the I. G. Greer Home and Dr. Greer's widow, according to the executive vice-president Dr. C. Ray Lawrence. The Board voted to issue a letter of resolution to be sent to Mrs. Greer.

Dr. Randall's name was submitted by Stanley Harris Sr., chairman of the nominating committee.

Associate professor of education and director of placement at Appalachian State University, he was born in Madison County on July 4, 1915.

He earned his B. S. degree at East Tennessee State University; his M. A. degree at the University of North Carolina; and his Ed. D. degree at Appalachian University. From 1938 until he came to Appalachian in 1960, he was a teacher and coach in the state's public schools, except for service in the U. S. Navy from 1941 to 1945.

Dr. Randall, a past president of the North Carolina Institutional Teacher Placement Association, recently served as National Membership Chairman of the Association for School, College and University Staffing.

He is very active in the Democratic Party, having been a candidate for the State Senate in the 25th District election. He has been a Boone town commissioner.

Dr. Randall is married to the former Elizabeth Mercer of Lumberton. They have two sons and a daughter.



DR. ROBERT RANDALL

## Quiet Neighborhood Disturbed Dog Poisoning Is Again Woodland Dr. Problem



Whose playful pooch will get the next lethal dose of poison? (Staff photo)

### Strychnine Is Being Used To Destroy Pets

BY RACHEL RIVERS

The day after Christmas, the Walton Coles of 119 Woodland Drive watched their Collie die after an hour of convulsions. The cause was strychnine.

In 1966, it was a few days before Christmas that the same family lost another dog. Again, strychnine was the cause.

Last week, the Eugene Drowskowskis of 117 Woodland Drive lost a large red Setter to the same deadly poison.

Strychnine often is discussed in this quiet, neatly groomed community in Boone where it seems that malicious poisoning would be the last topic available. Dr. John G. Martin, DVM, is familiar with the problem and with considerable disgust estimates that the dogs poisoned there since the mid-50's number 30.

He has treated numerous other pets for poisoning. "Some have been saved, some were poisoned more than one time and saved . . . or finally gotten," he says. "Other pets have just disappeared."

### CHILDREN

Companions or guardians of the home, dogs are many things to many people. To someone with access to strychnine, dogs are to be exterminated. But owners of these dogs are parents, too.

In a four-house area, there are eight small children, who can be expected to play in their yards or in the wooded coves separating the homes. One or more of them could come upon some form of the poison and ingest it.

Strychnine is made from the ripe seeds of a small tree in the East Indies. Dr. Martin says it usually can be purchased in the strychnine-sulfate powder form to be pressed into tablets or dissolved in water. In small amounts, it has a medicinal application, serving to stimulate the circulatory and respiratory systems. To cause death, "it takes such a small quantity," he vet says, that tablets could be diluted or used whole to destroy pets.

And while it is one thing to destroy old strays, "Most of these are little pet dogs hardly out of the house. I wish that somehow this person could be exposed."

Strychnine is issued only to people qualified to handle drugs. After extensive checking by aroused pet owners and medical people, the verdict seems to be that the source of the strychnine is away from Boone. (Continued on page two)

## Gay Heart Fund Ball To Be Held At Hound Ears

Hound Ears Lodge & Club will supply its dining and dancing facilities for the First Annual Heart Ball of Watauga County scheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

Tickets will be \$15 each, according to Mrs. Beverly

Russing, who is chairman of the Ball. A drawing for a mink stole will be held that evening and in addition to a local Queen of Hearts who is to be announced later, a former Miss Watauga will make an appearance.

Mrs. Russing says Miss Marie Mushro, who was Miss Iowa of 1965 and Miss Congeniality of the Miss America Pageant that year, received a medal from President Johnson last February for her volunteer work in support of the Heart Association. Miss Mushro, a senior at the University of South Dakota, has undergone open heart surgery and spends much of her time traveling throughout the United States to emphasize the importance of heart research.

Her life story appeared in the August, 1967, issue of Mademoiselle magazine. Sponsoring her trip to North Carolina is Col. Mercer Lee Price, president of the Price Foundation in Ormond Beach, Fla. The arrangements were made by Mrs. Wade Wilmoth of Boone who underwent open heart surgery last year. Col. Price was on the panel of judges for the Miss Watauga Pageant in November.

Mrs. Russing says reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis for

### "Turned Out To Grass" To Be Film At Rotary

A film recording of "Turned Out to Grass" as given by Leon F. Montague before a large New York City meeting will be the program at the Boone Rotary Club Thursday evening, Jan. 11, at the Chateau Restaurant.

"Turned Out to Grass" is an address designed to stimulate the thinking of people as to the importance of discovering and developing their special interests and talents prior to retirement so they will be prepared to retire "to something" not "from something."

Montague, a past officer of Rotary International, is an old Kansas cowhand who began his education in a one-room school. This led to his M. A. degree from Kansas State University, graduate work at Harvard and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi national honorary scholastic society.

### Tuesday Snow Closes Schools In 4 Counties

Schools were closed in Watauga, Avery, Ashe and Wilkes counties Tuesday when the day dawned in a moderately heavy snowfall, which at mid-morning had failed to accumulate more than about an inch but which made highways very hazardous. As this is written the snow had ceased but a heavy cloud cover forestold additional precipitation.

It was 17 degrees Tuesday morning, a light snow had fallen Sunday and Monday morning mercury dipped to 5 degrees, making for good ski weather and bringing lots of people to the four local slopes, where there was heavy activity the end of the week.