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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1968

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Vital Passing Lanes On 321, 421 Included

Governor Acts To Provide \$1,250,000 Highway Improvements For This Area

Airport Hangar Roof Crushed By Snow

The large hangar at the Deerfield Road Airport collapsed Saturday night crushing three planes inside it.

Speaking for the corporation that owns the facility, building contractor Jack Norris of Boone said utility poles buried six feet in the group snapped "like matchsticks" under the weight of snow accumulated on the roof since Wednesday.

Although the hangar roof was slightly slanted, Norris said sleet adhered to it and the snow packed down and did not shed as it was designed to.

Insurance reports on the overall loss had not been completed as presstime.

Norris said he worked until late Sunday shoveling snow off another building to prevent its falling in.

First Baby Of Year Born At Sugar Grove

He was a little ahead of schedule, but Watauga County had a New Year's baby on New Year's Day.

Gregory Todd Hayes was born on January 1, at 10:19 a. m., weighing five pounds 12 1/2 ounces. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Hayes of Sugar Grove. The Hayeses have another child, Jeffrey William.

600 New Phones In Boone Makes Total Of 5,075

Southern Bell today announced a record gain in the number of telephones in service in Boone during 1967.

B. B. Leazer, the company's local manager, said the increase of 600 brought Boone's total of telephones in service to 5,075.

B. B. Leazer said, "We at Southern Bell are happy to report such a gain, because it represents one more progressive stride for Boone. And as Boone continues to keep pace with the economic growth of North Carolina and the South, we are going to continue to provide you the best possible telephone service."

Mr. Leazer pointed out that Southern Bell spent a record amount of money in Boone for construction and development alone. Among the projects and construction the company undertook here in 1967 were four cable projects and additional equipment in the Central Office located on East King Street.

Vice President and General Manager John J. Ryan, head of the company's North Carolina operations, said 1967 was a milestone year throughout the state. In November Southern Bell installed its one millionth telephone in North Carolina.

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Gregory arrived a little ahead of the planned time, which was Jan. 20, but Mrs. Hayes said "As long as he was here and was healthy, I was happy." Dr. Hadley Wilson delivered the baby.

Being the first baby in the County for the new year, the family was honored with gifts from various merchants through a promotion sponsored by WATA.

Gifts were given to the family from Stone Jewelers, Trailway Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Town House Restaurant, Skyline Bakery, McNeely Furniture, Hunt's and Flowers' Photo Shop. Other participating merchants were First National Bank, Dixie Music Shop, Crest Store, Carolina Business Machines, Burgess Furniture Company and Boone Drug.

WATA presented the family with a tape recording of Gregory crying, Mrs. Hayes said laughingly. "As good as he is, the nurses must have had to pinch him to get him to cry."

If Gregory had decided to come as the schedule maintained he should have, it might have been more than a week before the county's first baby was born, Mrs. Hayes said that to her knowledge there was not a baby born for the next week.



THE WHEELS GRIND, and the motor roars as ASU men help a friend out of his sticky predicament.

Court Postponed, Schools Closed Watauga Digs Out From Under Mountainous 22 Inches Snow

From snow shovel to motor grader, snow was moved by the thousands of tons, but it kept coming.

By Monday morning, United States weather-watcher Joe Minor had counted 22 inches

fall since the storm started Jan. 10. That was the Wednesday that Watauga's schools recessed for a snowy vacation and by Tuesday, the prospects still were dim. Umbrellas were put up against

the dense precipitation which at first ranged from sleet to snow, then back again. The sleet base challenged every form of vehicle known to man, lying dangerously deceptive under each new coat of snow.

He commented that snow-moving operations were slowed down right much "because of the fact that truck plows on our force have not been able to handle it. It is a heavy, sleet-type snow that's hard to move and takes heavier equipment than regular snow plows."

Tom Winkler, District Highway Engineer, said "It's been a hard one to handle." But by Tuesday, "Most all the main roads and most of the secondary roads were clear."

In addition to state equipment, Winkler said seven or eight pieces of locally owned machinery such as motor graders and dozers also were in use and "will continue around the clock until the thing is cleared up, regardless of how long it takes."

At the corner of Hardin and Howard streets, the accumulated snow was higher than the street sign. Tractor-trailers maneuvered with considerable difficulty and in many cases were stranded awaiting the help of wrecker services overloaded with calls.

County court was postponed along with nearly every other public function. Court is to convene Wednesday morning.

Horn Group Accepts Resignation Wilcox

The Board of Directors of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association Monday accepted with regret the resignation of Herman W. Wilcox, general manager of "Horn in the West," and named Robert Snead, Richard Barkley and Lewis Gaston to handle the direction and promotion of the drama during 1968.

Dr. C. Ray Lawrence, executive vice-president of the association, announced that the three men will serve this year on an interim basis in conducting the

business and promotional aspects of the non-profit organization. Since Wilcox had earlier announced his intentions to resign, a committee had been appointed to consult with him for the purpose of making a recommendation for the engagement of supervisory personnel to carry on his work.

Wilcox, who has served as general manager of the drama for the past 12 years, recommended that the association name Snead, Barkley and Gaston since each has been closely

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Horn Dates For This Year Set

The performance dates for the 17th season of Horn in the West have been set by the Board of Directors of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, the non-profit organization which sponsors the outdoor drama.

The story of Daniel Boone and the western expansion of America will run June 29 through Aug. 24, nightly except Mondays in the Daniel Boone Amphitheater. Last year the drama played nightly except Sundays.

Dr. Robert L. Randall, newly elected president of S. A. H. A., who succeeds the late Dr. I. G. Greer, noted that only 49 performances of the drama will be staged this year compared to last year's 56. Dr. Randall is director of placement at Appalachian State University.

Moore Taps Surplus To Get Extra Money

Funds totaling \$1,250,000 have been allocated through Gov. Dan K. Moore for road improvements in the immediate area.

Announcement is made to the Democrat by J. Raymond Smith, Commissioner for the Eleventh Highway Division which embraces Watauga. Money other than that earmarked by the Governor from the Highway Surplus Fund comes from the Primary Highway Bond Funds, Smith says.

Thos. Triplett Named To Ga. School Board

Thomas O. Triplett, Port Wentworth, Ga. alderman and assistant manager of the West Savannah branch of the Citizens and Southern National Bank was appointed to a six year term on the 12-member Board of Education by the County Commissioners recently.

Triplett succeeds B. U. Douglas, vice-president of the Board, whose term expired December 31.

Triplett is vice-president of the Lions Club of Port Wentworth and is a member of the West Chatham Hospital Committee. He and his family are active in the Bonnie Ridge Baptist Church where Triplett serves as deacon, Sunday School superintendent and choir director.

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THOMAS TRIPLETT

Under Highway Surplus, Smith lists an allocation of \$250,000 to Caldwell County "to provide passing lanes at short, carefully selected sections, on the mountain portion of U. S. 321 between Lenoir and Blowing Rock." This is a major artery into Watauga County from points south.

In Watauga County, the Commissioner lists \$50,000 available for the resurfacing of U. S. 421 from a point near Parkway School to Deep Gap and from U. S. 221 from its junction with U. S. 421 near Deep Gap to the Ashe County line. The resurfacing will be done with a non-skid type of material, as these highway links have been determined safe in dry weather but cause for several wrecks at other times.

Smith says the main concern here is increased public safety. A third allocation of the Highway Surplus Funds is \$50,000 to supplement \$144,000 already set aside for the proposed widening and improving of Faculty Street. Known as the Boone Thoroughfare Plan, the project will traverse the campus of Appalachian State University where officials have asked for underpasses to convey students from dormitories to class.

It is reported that with the increased traffic load of Faculty Street, the underpasses would be urgently required. Also, the street will be rerouted at the upper tennis courts so to involve partial or whole replacement of them.

From the Primary Highway Bond Funds, \$900,000 has been earmarked for a joint Wilkes-Watauga project "for the proposed widening and provision of passing lanes on the mountain portion of U. S. 421 from a point

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Storied Snows Of 1960 . . .

Hopefully They Won't Be Repeated

Whenever it snows in Boone, the people who lived here in 1960 say a little prayer that it will not turn into a winter like the one then.

Although the story has grown some with the telling in the past years, it was bad enough.

With the weather giving a hint of 1960, the Democrat is doing a little reminiscing.

It all started on Feb. 12, 1960. That first weekend, 16 inches of snow fell and temperatures ranged from 9 to 34 degrees. Schools were closed and downtown Boone looked a little like a ghost town.

The following Thursday, Feb. 18, eight more inches was dumped on the area, just as folks were beginning to get dug-out. Again schools were closed with drifts piling up to 8 feet and some reaching to 30 feet and more.

The first week of March, the temperatures dipped to minus one degree adding an ice crust to the melting snow. Already the mails were being delayed, although not because the mailmen weren't trying their best. Oftentimes they would be able to get through some of the roads but were unable to find mailboxes.

The week of March 9, an additional 22 1/2 inches of snow

came down bringing the grand total to 70 inches of snow on the ground.

There had been more snowfall than the 70 inches but because of the warm weather, much of it had melted and refrozen, packing it down.

On March 10, Gov. Luther Hodges declared the four counties of Watauga, Ashe, Avery, and Alleghany as disaster areas. The Red Cross was called in and set up headquarters in the Parkway Hardware in Boone.

The National Guard also was called and men came into the area from Lenoir and Hickory. Many people volunteered from the town and college and these included Civil Defense forces.

Helicopters from Ft. Bragg flew missions over the disaster area dropping coal, food and hay to isolated areas. Gov. Hodges made a trip to Boone in the heart of the rescue operations to check on the progress and thank the many people who had given their time and energy to the digging out operations.

The snowfall and weather this year may not equal that of 1960, but for some it is fun now to remember the days without school for the children and the adventure of inconvenience. For others, however, there are no fond memories of that winter and hopes are that the present trend will end before it becomes a real comparison to 1960.



Mrs. Henry Hayes is seen here with her son Gregory Todd, the first baby born in Watauga County in the new year. Gregory was born at 10:19 a. m., weighing 5 pounds and 12 1/2 ounces.