

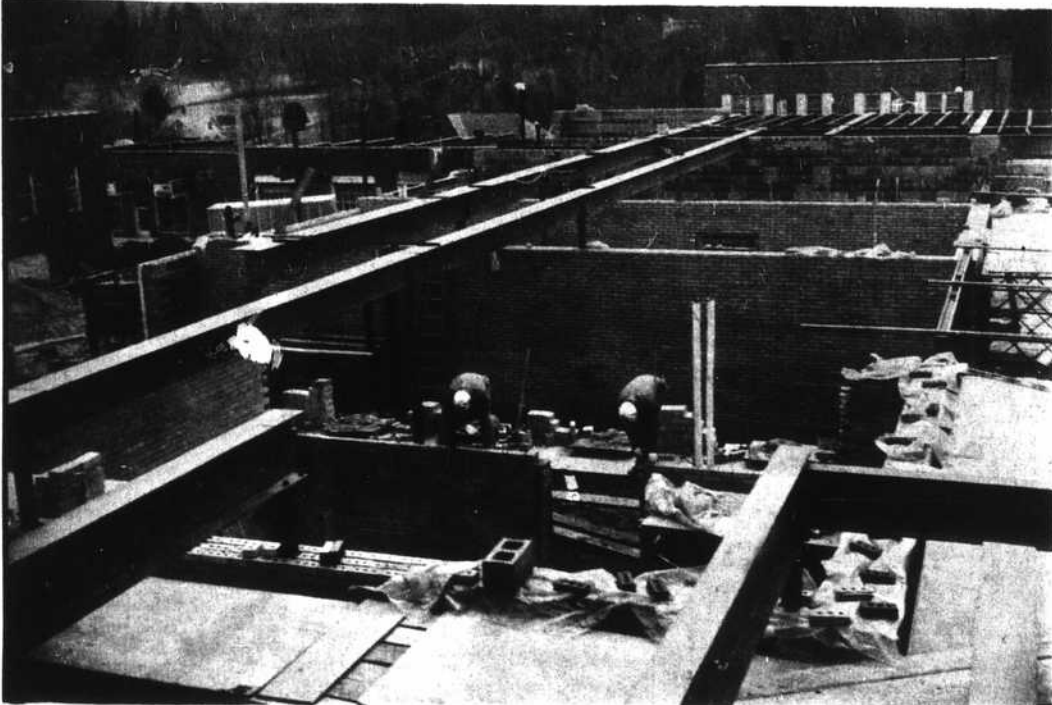
In last 3 years Democrat has won 14 State Press Assn. awards. Eight of them are first place awards.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Eightieth Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER					
1968	Hi	Lo	Snow	Prec.	Wt
Mar. 12	55	40	.88		61 51
Mar. 13	53	17	1.90		65 45
Mar. 14	43	14	tr.		75 48
Mar. 15	49	29			69 53
Mar. 16	47	39	.10		53 24
Mar. 17	51	35	.68		39 25
Mar. 18	62	37			37 11

Snow given to nearest half-inch.



COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION—Work resumed on the courthouse with last week's break in the weather. At the time, a minimum crew of about 10 men are working, but as soon as the weather is more definite, a full crew will be called in. Here, two

men lay brick for the interior walls and it won't be too long before the sub-contractors begin work on the plumbing and electrical work. The building is scheduled for completion Sept. 1.

State To Make Study

School Principals Seek Dual Bus System In Co.

Say Children Are Away From Home 10 Hours

The subject is school bus transportation:

"At present there are many children . . . that are gone from home more than ten hours in order to attend school. The state recommended instructional day is six hours. Some children leave home as early as 6:30 a. m."

This is the second paragraph in a letter last week sent by principals of Watauga's seven rural elementary schools to the County Board of Education, Board of Commissioners, candidates for both boards and parents of the children in their schools.

They suggest separation of the rural elementary schools from Watauga High School, saying the dual bus system would reduce the length of the school day by one and one-half hours.

The existing system is harmful, they say, because:

"Many children leave home too early to get an adequate breakfast."

"This early schedule does not permit children to get adequate sleep."

"Children get physically and mentally tired and about one and one-half hours of this long day is wasted because the children are unable to concentrate and use their time to an advantage."

"We think this long day causes children to have a poor attitude toward school and contributes to drop-outs."

"This schedule forces a child to stay in the classroom about two hundred and seventy hours more per year than the state recommends." The letter also points to teachers' lack of time for planning and preparation, "perhaps the number one weakness in our program today."

The principals are Lovell South of Cove Creek Elementary; Joseph McNeil, Valle Crucis; Howard Love, Blowing Rock; Clyde Greene, Bethel; Earl Greene, Mabel; E. B. Fox, Green Valley; and John Marsh, Parkway School.

COMMENT

Asked for comment on the problem, County Commissioner Glenn Hodges said the state has a survey team that will study the situation at no cost and make a recommendation.

He said such a survey was made last year but "left some questions unanswered." Hodges said a full study, arranged with the state by the County Board of Education, could be for-

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THERE'S HIDDEN TREASURES in the cascades too contrary for the inner tube rider and past the consideration of the sporting canoe. The rainbow, brown and brook trout—native variety or stocked by the state—will take a grab at the single-hook lure starting a half hour before sunrise, April 6. The trout fisherman will have to go at mountain waters from then to a half hour after sunset, Sept. 2. "In designated public mountain trout waters, except power reservoirs and city water-supply reservoirs so designated, it shall be unlawful for any fisherman to fish with more than one line." The rule book continues "It shall be unlawful to use baits or lures in Designated Public Mountain Trout Streams other than those equipped with one single hook." (Staff photo)

Engineer Likes 2 Of 7 Possible Airport Sites

An engineer for the Watauga County Airport Commission and a State aviation specialist like two of seven prospective airport sites they inspected March 13.

William Cox, engineer for John Talbot Associates, and aviation specialist John Flournoy were accompanied by Robert

Bingham, chairman of the Airport Commission, and Dr. Lawrence Heavrin, the Commission's finance chairman. As engineers for the Airport Commission, John Talbot Associates would oversee construction of a county facility.

Their tour covered sites in or near Foscoe, West Jefferson,

Mountain City and locations near the Blue Ridge Parkway, Ashe County and Mountain City.

Bingham says a site has not been named, although a statement will be released as soon as possible.

"There are many things to take into consideration in the matter of choosing a site," he said. "In this area, it is not easy to find a suitable site. We have to consider the mountains and valleys and the amount of engineering and fill it would take to adapt a site for the location of the airport."

Bingham emphasized that "Contrary to reports, we have not picked a site at this time." He further stated that when these reports were circulated, the Commission favored a site, but further checking showed engineering costs would have been prohibitive.

When the Commission selects an airport site, he said it would then negotiate for the land and "We will try our best to obtain any piece of land we de-

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GLENN HODGES



DR. LEN D. HAGAMAN



R. CLYDE WINEBARGER

J. W. Norris Seeking Seat In N. C. Senate

J. W. Norris of Boone has filed for the Republican nomination for the 25th Senatorial District embracing Davie, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin counties. Reared in Watauga County on a farm near Boone, he is married to the former Edith Maxwell of Ashe County. Mr. and Mrs. Norris and their eight children attended Appalachian with the exception of a daughter who graduated from Iowa State College. The Norris family has been honored as the "Centennial Family" at the Century of Progress Educational Day in Raleigh.

Mr. Norris is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church where he served many years as Sunday School teacher and now as Department Superintendent. He has



J. W. NORRIS

been active in the Three Forks Baptist Association as Brotherhood president, associational Sunday School superintendent and a member of the executive committee. He is a member of Boone Chamber of Commerce, Junior Order, American Legion Go-getters Club, Century Club and a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner.

An overseas war veteran, Mr. Norris has served as Commander, Adjutant, Vice-Dist. Commander and served two terms as District Commander of the Department of North Carolina American Legion. He attended 20 state conventions and four national conventions, served as national member of Committee on Civilian Defense, Membership and Americanism; also served as vice-president and state president of Postal Clerks of North Carolina and state president of Purebred Livestock Breeders Association. He is also a trustee of American Legion Park.

Mr. Norris was awarded an Honorary Recognition Certificate on retirement from Civil Service and received recognition for outstanding work as civil service examiner. Since retiring from Civil Service, he has worked most of his

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212 Will Face Trial In Watauga Superior Court



WILLIAM E. MILLER

Wm. E. Miller Is In Race For Bd. Education

William E. (Bill) Miller of Blowing Rock has filed as a candidate for the Watauga County Board of Education.

On announcing his candidacy, Miller said "a good educational system is the main source of our children's future. If we as citizens of Watauga County give to them the best opportunities we can offer, we can expect to see wholesome leaders in our country as a product of our school system."

Graduated from Blowing Rock High School, he attended Appalachian State University and Clevelenger's Business College, Lenoir. He is presently em-

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Watauga County Superior Court will convene Monday for trial of a variety of criminal cases and uncontested divorces.

The Hon. W. E. Anglin, Resident Judge of the 24th Judicial District, will preside for the week beginning March 25 and the Hon. W. H. Childs, Solicitor of the 16th Solicitorial District, will be State prosecutor.

Two hundred, twelve defendants are charged with 294 offenses so that 45 will be tried on more than one charge. The Court Calendar comprises 61 charges of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or narcotic drugs; 47, speeding, 13, larceny; 8, assault on a female; and 2, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Eight persons will be tried on each of the following charges: Malicious damage to property, forgery, breaking and entering and reckless driving.

Six are charged with driving while license is revoked or suspended; 2, manslaughter; 5, violation of the State prohibition law; and 7, prison escape or attempted prison escape.

Orville H. Foster, Clerk of Court, says other cases involve public drunkenness, drunk and disorderly, worthless checks, inadequate or non-support of minor children, driving while license expired, operating motor vehicle without complying with the financial security law, hit and run, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to stop for blue light and siren.

JURORS

Thirty-six jurors drawn for the March term are John T. Trivette, Todd; Mrs. John Cornett, Vilas; Ralph P. Andrews, Council Cook and Mrs. Berlin

J. Greene of Blowing Rock; and Calvin S. Shore of Route 1, Blowing Rock.

Mrs. Lucy Grimes Davidson, 217 Church St., Boone; V. C. Shore, Route 3, Boone; Conley Eddie Trivette, Sugar Grove; Chestern Robert Rominger, Route 3, Boone; Robert D.

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Boone Woman Survives Small Plane Crash

Mrs. Sarah Barrentine is a patient at St. James Hospital, Hornell, N. Y. where she is recovering from injuries sustained in a plane crash near Harrisburg, Pa. recently.

The small plane in which she was a passenger belonged to a daughter and encountered a freak ice and snow storm while they were only 30 minutes from their destination. They were en route from Goldsboro to Hornell, N. Y.

After losing all radio contact they were lost in the storm two hours. Finally a commercial DC-6, flying overhead, found them and led them to safety—a small air strip at Indian Town Gap, Pa. By this time the small plane's fuel supply had been used and it crash landed 500 yards short of the runway. The plane, a Cessna 370 was a total loss.

Mrs. Barrentine is a newcomer to Boone, having moved here last April. She has made many friends in the community who will be anxious for her recovery. She is the mother of Mrs. Doris Brooks of Vilas.

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Trains Again To Labor Through Doe River Gorge

Narrow gauge trains will again huff and puff through the tunnels and over the bridges in the Doe River Gorge as a part of the development of a family recreational park which is to open in May.

This is the word from Ed Stanley, General Manager of the promotion.

Plans call for the re-creation of the narrow gauge railroad that used to serve Boone along the route of the abandoned East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad route and the road is now being reconstructed through the scenic Doe River Gorge.

Two trains will carry passengers over 19th century steel bridges and through ancient hand-carved tunnels and on the six mile excursion trip visitors will enjoy scenery once regarded as the most spectacular in this part of the country.

A gay nineties town is to be constructed at the end of the line, where life of a generation ago will be re-created. Centered around the revived railroad line will be a score of family recreational activities. There will

be hiking, swimming, fishing, flume riding, miniature golfing, putting, golf driving and many other activities. Picnicking and camping areas, now under construction, will offer both primitive and modern facilities. There is to be a large picnic pavilion for club, church and company outings.

Children's playgrounds, crafts and curio shops and continuous entertainment are in the plans.

The Doe River gorge project is spearheaded by the Doe River Development Corporation of Elizabethton, Tenn. Construction is under the direction of Loest and Stanley, Inc., Kingsport consulting engineers.

"We're building at Doe River gorge a family recreational complex," said Stanley, "where a family can spend the whole day enjoying many or all of the various recreational activities."

"Doe River gorge, though offering up-to-date facilities, is a recreation of life a generation or more ago. It's the day grandpa enjoyed."