

AWARD WINNER

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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Eighty-First Year of Continuous Publication

Table with weather data for Boone, including columns for date, high, low, snow, and precipitation.

VOL. LXXXI—NO. 1

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1968

10 CENTS PER COPY

22 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

WAMY's Uncertain Future Topic Fund Leaders

BY RACHEL RIVERS

After last week's reminder that the North Carolina Fund had completed its five-year tour of duty, it appeared for a while as if WAMY Community Action, Inc., also was finished.

In a question and answer period following a talk by George Esser, top official of the Fund, Vito Stagliano of the Office of Economic Opportunity raised a point about the Commissioners of the four WAMY counties submitting "designation" papers to O. E. O. by Monday, July 1.

At that time, it was reported that the Commissioners of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties had complied with the provisions of a new amendment to the national anti-poverty agency. Watauga, however, had not. Stagliano said "I am worried for WAMY right now."

"... You have had problems down here to get counties to do this (redesignate). This at the moment is jeopardizing the existence of WAMY as a community action agency beyond July 1."

On Monday, however, Claude Danner, Tax Supervisor and

clerk to Watauga's Board of Commissioners, said that the designation papers had been forwarded to O. E. O. in Washington, D. C., with a proviso, while Stagliano pointed out that a public hearing must be held before the papers are sent. Danner said that "due to the time limitations, we requested a waiver of the public hearing clause."

\$250,000

"Those four counties are sort of a test grouping that with the help of Dr. W. H. Plemmons we used in 1963 when we were exploring the possibility of a

major grant from the Ford foundation."

Esser was speaking for the Raleigh-based North Carolina Fund, which has helped lay the groundwork and encourage the proper direction of several community action agencies, among them WAMY.

Looking back, Esser said "The grant came through in the summer and fall of 1963 and we issued an invitation to the counties in the state to come forward with ideas."

"These four counties, perhaps because they'd had a chance to think about it, came forward

with some very good ideas and were one of the first seven communities chosen by the Board of Directors of the Fund for support.

"Since 1964, we've had a relationship with WAMY that has included a four-year grant for partial administrative support and program grants of various kinds. I haven't added it all up, but I know that our total investment in WAMY is at, or perhaps over, a quarter million dollars... in terms of a rural area, I guess the greatest monetary investment made."

He added that the purpose of

his visits in the mountains is to first see at what stage the programs are, then "meet with the board and leadership in the communities to help make the point that the Fund's phasing out was anticipated in 1963 and that we're following through what our initial intent was."

However, Esser warned that "because of the national investment since 1964 in these kinds of programs, this kind of investment (private funds) is unlikely to come from foundations again for community action programs. In this part of the state, historically, tax dollars have been

shepherded as carefully as in any part of the state, simply because there are so few of them.

"It's going to be difficult for WAMY to replace the full cash investment you've had from private sources in the past four years. I wouldn't encourage you to think that cash investment is going to continue to be available from other foundations, because this is an area in which the foundations are really pulling out." He said he feels the money will more often be ex-

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It was a "full house" in Daniel Boone Theater last Saturday just before the last available seats and standing room areas were filled for the opening 1968 production of Horn in the West. Some

2,500 persons saw the initial performance and 500 others were unable to find spots from which to view the drama. Most of those returned on Sunday night.

Watauga County Night Successful

Horn In The West Opens To Enthusiastic Crowds

Free Tickets Said To Have Made Problems

Horn in the West experienced the greatest kickoff in its 17-year history as over 4,000 spectators attended the two opening 1968 performances in Daniel Boone Theater last weekend.

A record crowd of approximately 2,500 witnessed the initial show on Saturday night. The Sunday night audience totaled in the neighborhood of 2,000. The outdoor drama, directed for the second straight season by Ward Haarbauer, drew enthusiastic responses from the viewers who repeatedly signaled their enjoyment with bursts of applause.

The closing battle scene, much longer than in previous years, was especially well received by the large crowds. As usual, most of the laughs were provided by the lines of Charles Elledge in his portrayal of Rev. Sims.

The "Watauga County Night" festivities presented a few problems for the drama's management, which stretched the ob-

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With his hunting knife belted about his original pioneer costume, Ivey Moore stands with some special friends of his, the Pollard family from Scarsborough in Canada. (Staff photo)

Mack Brown Is Area Chairman For Auto Assn.

Mack D. Brown, Brown & Graham Motor Company, in Boone has been appointed to serve as Area Chairman for Watauga County for the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, succeeding W.R. Winkler also of Boone.

In making the announcement, NCADA President R. B. McMillan, Jr., of Red Springs, said that Brown will act as liaison officer between new car and truck dealers in this area and NCADA and the National Automobile Dealers Association. He will be responsible for promoting the various programs and activities of NCADA and NADA and will head a county-wide membership campaign for both organizations in the fall.



MACK D. BROWN

Development Group Asks For More Roads At State Commission Meeting

In official session at Green Park Hotel in Blowing Rock Thursday, the North Carolina Highway Commission recorded percentage increase data given by Col. Clyde C. Miller of Boone and heard remarks from Mrs. Stella Anderson of West Jefferson.

As roads chairman for the Boone Chamber of Commerce,

Col. Miller also is active in the New River Valley Development Association, which represents Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties. It was on behalf of NRVDA that Mrs. Stella Anderson, editor of the Skyland

Post, said: "You've read the book, You Can't Get There From Here, I know. Well, that title fits us better than anybody else."

In a plea for road improvements, Mrs. Anderson was re-

ferring to the need for better highways to support the potential for development in this mountain area.

She asked for special attention to connecting highways, because the three-county area is not as accessible as it should be and "We would get a lot more tourists if they could get in and out." She said improvement is especially needed from the Virginia line in Alleghany County to link with I-40 at Morganton. This is a 40-mile link.

GOV. MOORE

As guest of the chambers of commerce of Boone, Blowing Rock and Lenoir, the Highway Commission was entertained the night before at Green Park. Guest speaker for the banquet was the Hon. Dan K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina. After an introduction by Bill Williams, president of the Blow-

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Frank Helseth Gets Doctorate At Ga. U.

Frank A. Helseth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Helseth of Vero Beach, graduated from the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., last month.

He received his doctor of philosophy degree on completion of studies in the botany department. His dissertation was entitled, "The Effect of Oxygen Tension and Transpiration on Uptake and Transport of Calcium in Intact Plants". Dr. Helseth completed his B. S. degree at Appalachian State Teachers College in 1962 and his M. S. at the University of Georgia in 1965. While pursuing his studies, he was an NDEA fellow and recognized in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He has been employed for a year and a half as assistant plant physiologist at the USDA Southeastern Forest Experimental Laboratory, Clustee, Fla.

On Sept. 1, Dr. Helseth will begin his duties as assistant professor at Appalachian State University, Boone.

Taxable Property Is \$2,534 Per Capita Here

(Special to the Democrat)

NEW YORK, June 24—From the standpoint of property taxes, how are residents of Watauga County making out these days?

What changes have taken place lately in property valuations in the local area?

With people all over the country aroused over their steadily mounting real estate taxes, a look at the local assessment situation is in order.

Such a look has just been taken by the Census Bureau as part of a nationwide survey of state and local government operations, which it makes every five years. Its findings are released in the "Census of Governments, 1967."

They show that, in Watauga County, where the property tax is the principal source of revenue for local government needs, the assessed value of property subject to such tax, came to \$44,363,000, compared with the total reported five years before, \$26,413,000.

The increase in the period amounted to 67.9 percent. In the United States, the rise was 37.3 percent and, in the State of North Carolina, 32.6 percent.

The figures do not include property belonging to churches, non-profit hospitals and public agencies that are generally exempt from taxation.

Because property is usually assessed for tax purposes at something less than its actual value, this is not to be taken as the true market worth. Rather, it is the tax base against which local tax rates are applied.

The tax rates used in connection with assessed value vary widely across the country. In some areas, where property is assessed at only a small fraction of real value, tax rates are often higher than in places where assessments are closer to true values.

In terms of population, the tax base in Watauga County was equivalent to \$2,534 in taxable property per local resident.

The average, elsewhere in the United States was \$2,261 per capita. It was \$1,934 in the Southern States.

Not only are property valuations rising all over the country, but the tax rates applied to them are going up as well.

Local communities have been forced to take such action because of increased demands for service and because of the effects of inflation on their operating costs, which have been rapidly spiraling skyward.

Marsh To Tour So. America

James P. Marsh, local Baptist layman, will leave Sunday, July 7, for a tour of South America as a representative of the Baptist State Convention and the First Baptist Church of Boone.

As part of the Crusade of the Americas and the Pan American Baptist Laymen's Evangelism Congress, he will be in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

The tour will include visits to mission points in South America where the Southern Baptist Convention has missionaries and will be in Rio for the Laymen's Congress. Other countries also will be visited on the tour.

North Carolina Baptists will send 27 men to the international meet to be attended by many of the world's Christian leaders.



JAMES MARSH

Last Week's Wagon Train Was Grandest Of Them All

BY RACHEL RIVERS

It was five years ago in June that the beginning of the westward movement was revived by a hearty band of teamsters and horsemen who comprised the Wagon Train from Ferguson to Boone.

It happened again last week, but in the grandest style ever. Chief Scout Ivey Moore reported 282 riders were along with a total of 118 wagons, some of which joined the procession along the 30-mile trail from North Wilkesboro to Boone.

But this time it came with a touch of pathos. Along the trail, a horse had to be destroyed after it was kicked and dashed off the road and over an embankment. Wagon Master Dewitt Barnett said the rider was uninjured. Then on up the trail a mare was foundered on water and died.

But these are the pitfalls that even a modern-day expedition must face along the way. And for so many, the annual Daniel Boone Wagon Train is where they'll plain be for all the years in which it rolls mountainward the last week in June.

Saturday's parade was livelier than any in the past, brought out larger crowds and moved at a faster clip. As Moore explained, though, not all the units of the Train were on hand for the parade since they had started out early in the week and needed to get back to home and jobs.

Because the parade was so long, however, the tail end of

the train followed the parade route a few minutes after downtown channels of travel had been resumed. Some of the bulkier units turned down Depot Street to avoid the congestion, while the remainder of the Wagon Train entries continued the full route as specified.

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Holiday Inn Robbed Of \$285 By Gunman

A gunman robbed the Holiday Inn of Boone of \$285.95 about 2:10 Tuesday morning. Innkeeper W. C. Dale said a caucasian male about 5'11" and weighing 185 pounds told night auditor Bill Jenkins to "put the money in the bag."

When Jenkins told him he had no bag, the man said he'd better get one, Dale reported. He then went through a side door and behind the counter where Jen-

kens had been counting money. Dale said the robber backed Jenkins up to the wall and with his left hand, emptied the open cash register of bills and part of the change.

After telling Jenkins to wait a couple of minutes before calling police, the man left the building, got into his car and drove off.

Dale said Jenkins supplied the (Continued on page seven)