



'Open House' At The New Courthouse

Open house will be held from 2 to 4 Sunday afternoon in the new Watauga County Court House, West King Street, Boone. Offices formerly in the temporary courthouse at Junaluska Heights will have been opened for business Friday morning in the new facility and all offices in the new building will be staffed Sunday so that visitors can tour throughout the building. Brief opening ceremonies will begin at 2 in the courtroom and the welcome will be given by Tom Jackson, chairman of the Board of County

Commissioners. Remarks will be made by Bynum Greene, former chairman of the Commissioners. According to James Marsh, chairman of the Sunday afternoon program, the architect and contractor for the \$450,000 structure will be on hand, along with the present Commissioners and those who served during the bond referendum. Refreshments will be served by the attorneys of Watauga County and their wives will serve as hostesses for the function. (Staff photo)

\$2 Million Water System For Appalachian Is Being Planned

A major expansion of the water system for Appalachian State University is in the making, according to Ned Trivette, Director of Business Affairs for the institution. Trivette says that the University hopes to purchase some 35 acres of land on which to develop a reservoir lake holding around 300 million gallons. Accordingly, he said property owners in the Howard's Creek area have been written concerning the purchase of their land.

The new system is calculated to give ASU a daily supply of two million gallons, whereas the school's present usage is some 500,000 a day. "Howard's Creek is the only reasonable source for the school's water," Trivette said. Plans call for water to be taken from Howard's Creek and raised to the Norris Branch area where it will be stored in the lake. The supply then would flow by gravity to two 500,000-gallon tanks located on the same level as the town water tanks.

Trivette said that a complete filtering and purification system would be included in the new water system and that the university's tanks would be connected to the two town tanks for an interchange of water supplies were this to become necessary.

Appalachian will ask the 1969 General Assembly for \$2 million with which to finance the

project. Trivette said that the land needed for the lake would be purchased at a "reasonable" rate. He added that the State has the right of eminent domain and can condemn and claim any land which owners will not sell. Should a case go to court, the State would have the burden of proving that such a project cannot be carried out elsewhere, but he noted that such a case had never come up concerning the school.

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Blowing Rock Residents See Apollo Plunge

Mr. and Mrs. William Stephens and son Christopher, 8, watched the earthward plunge of the Apollo 7 space craft for two or three minutes Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Stephens said the family had been keeping up with the television news at their Blowing Rock home, which overlooks the Johns River Gorge. While her husband had gone inside to turn up the television, Mrs. Stephens said she spotted the landing capsule and the service module which had broken away from it when the Apollo 7 re-entered the atmosphere. She called the family to the porch where they were able to watch the spectacle for a couple of minutes. Had it not been for cloud strata and treetops, she said they would have been able to see it even longer.

As the capsule headed eastward for its splashdown near Bermuda, Mrs. Stephens said her son was especially thrilled

at getting a glimpse of the historic space mission. The Stephens had been keeping a lookout for Apollo 7 since early morning.

Sam Ervin Day Is Set For Next Monday

Monday will be Sam Ervin Day in Watauga County.

According to Ronnie Wilson of Boone, chairman for the U.S. Senator's visit, Ervin will meet voters along King Street in Boone starting about 11 that morning.

At noon, he will be at Democratic Headquarters.

Thereafter, he will tour plants and other points in Watauga. About 7:30 Monday night,

Friday Is Named Deadline For City Yule Decorations

The chairman of the Boone Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Decorations Committee this week announced "the impending death of the Christmas decorations project for Boone."

Mrs. Bev Russing said "Three firms in the Town of Boone have turned in their money for the Christmas decorations for the beautification of Boone at the holiday season.

"Unless all money is received by Friday, Oct. 25, these three firms will have their money returned and there will be no decorations this year in Boone."

Mrs. Russing said numerous efforts to get contributions have failed.

City Official, Former Court Clerk Dies Sun.

Fredrick Morris Gragg, 47, of 125 Orchard Street, personnel manager of International Resistance Company and mem-



FREDRICK M. GRAGG

ber of the Board of Aldermen of Boone, died Sunday afternoon at his home after an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Gragg had been active in civic and political affairs of Watauga County since 1946. He was Clerk of Superior Court for seven years and was one of the first employees of IRC when it opened operation in 1953.

A three-year Navy veteran in World War II, he was a graduate of Appalachian State College and Boone public schools. He was the son of Mrs. Mira Shook Gragg and the late William Roy Gragg, former Watauga County Register of Deeds and a public school teacher and lumberman.

Surviving in addition to his mother are the widow, Mrs. Margaret English Gragg; a daughter, Miss Margaret Elizabeth Gragg of Charlotte; six sisters, Mrs. Bernice Gragg of Boone, Mrs. Robert Wilkins of Asheville, Mrs. Kermit Hinson of Kannapolis, Mrs. James Hendricks Jr. of Raeford, Mrs. Harvey Nickerson of Roseland, N. J., and Mrs. Joyce G. Pipes of Wingate; two brothers, Victor of Jamestown, S. C., and Hoy Gragg of San Diego, Calif.

The funeral was held at 3 o'clock Tuesday in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. J. Boyce Brooks and the Rev. J. K. Parker officiating. Burial was in Mt. Lawn Memorial Gardens.

A Fred M. Gragg scholarship fund is being set up at Watauga High School. Contributions may be made at the school.

"Reservoir A Beautiful Sight" Water Supply Back To Normal After Drought

No Boiling Now Required; Can Wash Cars

"The reservoir is a beautiful sight. Good, cold crystal clear water is pouring into it." These were the ecstatic comments of City Manager H. Neal Blair, Jr. who Monday announced a return to normalcy for users of Boone's water supply.

Blair said the water level "lacks only two feet being up to the flood gates" and "We're releasing the water-boiling requirement now. Car washing can resume."

Boone residents had been ill-affected since the last Saturday of September when city water was dangerously low in the midst of a drought and heavy algae spoiled it. Boiling was required for safe consumption of water until the first of this week.

Final checks were being made Monday, but Blair said the safe-water announcement was okay'd by Jack Cobb, local health official.

"We're going to have to maintain a chlorine content that's a little higher than usual for the next few days," Blair said. "Then we'll drop it back down to normal and we hope to a point that no one will know there's any chlorine at all in it."

Also, "There are no algae." However, the reservoir was to be treated with copper sulfate that afternoon as a preventive against the recurrence of the water plant.

"This treatment should take care of the algae situation until next summer" when city water will be treated again against the prospect of another foul-water situation, Blair explained that algae are "a warm weather situation."

Blair said City Hall has some unsung heroes in its water crew and street crew, members of which have worked at nights and on weekends without additional pay to keep the water system going "best they could until Mother Nature brought us some rain."

Scott Will Be In Boone Today

Lieut. Governor Bob Scott was to have arrived in Boone late Tuesday evening and will be at Democratic headquarters, West King Street, this (Wednesday) morning at 10 o'clock to meet with the voters of the county.

A press conference will feature his visit.

Republican Caravan Will Cover County Saturday

Republicans of Watauga County announce plans to visit all townships by caravan Saturday, Nov. 2.

The route, as set forth by GOP Chairman F.C. Miller, will begin at Triplett at 9 a.m., travel via U.S. 421 and Brownwood Road to Todd; thence over N.C. 194 by Meat Camp Service Station to Perkinsville; then via New River Bridge to Bamboo; then to Aho community house; then by U.S. 321 to Blowing Rock City Hall; then return to 105 near Boone, go to Foscoe and through Banner Elk to Matney community house for lunch.

After lunch, the caravan will start from Matney about 1 p.m., go through Valle Crucis, Vilas, Guy's Store at Beech Creek and up Beaver Dam to Bethel. The party will travel George's Gap Road to Cove Creek, turn up the old road to Mabel (Burrkett's Store), then proceed through Trade, Tenn., to Howard Thomas's Store in North Fork township.

Returning on U.S. 421, the party will come through Silverstone and Boone, stopping at Parkway School about 5 p.m. Brief stops will be made en route so the voters can meet the candidates and others in the group. Similar caravans have toured the county in the



PAT TAYLOR, Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, makes his address from the stage of the Watauga High School auditorium. County Democratic Chairman, James Dugger, is seated just behind him and partially seen at left is Mrs. Bob Scott. (Staff photo)

Democrats Have Caravan, Dinner And County Rally

BY RACHEL RIVERS

Friday was a four-part celebration for county Democrats who sponsored a caravan, a fund-raising dinner, rally and bake sale and welcomed a slate of dignitaries.

At the rally at Watauga High School, Mrs. Bob Scott represented her husband who is running for the Governorship, and Congressman Basil Whitener and Lt.-Gov. candidate Pat Taylor joined her on stage with local candidates and officials.

Robert Bingham emceed the rally and introduced County Democratic Chairman James Dugger, who stressed the party's action in behalf of the people.

Of farm benefits under Democratic administration, Dugger recalled "In 1952, when Nixon went into government, our economy was at an all-time high. From 1952-60 . . . farm income dropped from just less than \$16 billion to some \$12 billion.

"Farm income in the last eight years is up 30 per cent. The last time Nixon had a chance to do anything for the farmers, farm income fell off 17 per cent." He pointed out that the nation suffered three recessions under Eisenhower, but "In the last 90-some-odd months, there has been not one lapse in the economy."

Of other Democratic programs, he said "We all know there are vast multitudes of elderly citizens who, if it had

not been for Social Security and Medicare, would be in dire circumstance." He ended his comments: "To have good government, we have to have good candidates—from the White House on down to the Court House.

"I make no apology for any of our candidates," he added, "I'm for all of them."

Mrs. Scott joked that the primary should be changed from May to September and "any candidate with nerve enough to announce before July 25" should be penalized.

"Robert and I both know that the really great people never get to the top of the ladder," she said, "because they're working so others can get there. We have this kind of support all over the state.

"We're going to win; we're going to win big. You can believe it." She closed her remarks with an invitation to Wataugas to go to Raleigh Nov. 5 "to help all Democrats celebrate."

Tenth District Congressman Basil L. Whitener told his audience that because of Democratic leadership North Carolina is the "Flagship of the South."

"People from all parts of America and even from far distant lands come here to witness democracy in action. Here the institutions of freedom flourish."

Of national concerns the Congressman stated "You and I as Democrats must not close our eyes to the political difficulties that are ahead. Our people of

all political affiliations are concerned about crime in the streets, riots, the war in Vietnam and the high cost of government. These are problems to which solutions must be found if we are to maintain a sound and healthy nation."

Reminding his listeners of the achievements of the Democrats

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Cattle Sales Bring \$584,281 In Watauga Co.

A total of 764 graded steers were sold Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Watauga Livestock Market in the second 1968 Boone Yearling Steer Sale. This brings the total number of cattle sold in the special sales in 1968 to 3,839 head that sold for a total of \$584,281.

The Oct. 17 sale averaged \$25.07 per 100 pounds which is \$1.73 more than the average price per hundred on the first sale, according to County Extension Chairman L. E. Tucker.

Boone Students To Be Included In Who's Who

Named in this year's national listing of America's most outstanding university and college students are four from Boone, all attending Appalachian State University.

They are: Jack William Rotten, senior; Maria Erneston Roary, senior; Louis Hugh Lane, junior and Cassandra Lee Pritchett, senior.

Their names are included in the 1968 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges," a listing of the campus leaders from more than 1,000 of the nation's institutions of higher learning.

The annual directory of distinguished students has been published since 1934 and carries only the names of students whose academic standing, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and future potential are decidedly above average.