



What a tree! Since black and white film seldom draws much of a line between the green of a tree and the green of grass, some of the men spread a line beside the 35-foot Frazier Fir about to be moved from the former Dick Bingham homestead.

The principals in the story are Ray G. Farthing (second from right), owner of the tree, and R. Vann Massey (fourth from left), purchaser of the tree and manager of Tarrytown Mall in Rocky Mount. (Staff photo)

Frantic Search Ends In Watauga

Perfect Yule Tree Is Found

Burley Prices Higher Than Ever Before On Boone Market

Burley tobacco prices were high and steady the first four days at the Boone Market.

According to Stanley A. Harris Sr., sales supervisor of the local tobacco board to trades, Farmers Burley Ware house sold 1,345,174 pounds for \$989,700.33 or an average of more than \$73.50 per hundred pounds. Harris pointed out that a great many baskets sold for \$77 per hundred.

The average for the first four days was about \$2-per hundred better than ever before. Also, the price was just as good Friday as on Monday.

Monday's sale was to be at Farmers warehouse with each day's sale beginning at 9 a. m. Harris pointed out that sale days are Monday through Friday with no sales at all on Saturday. This is contrary, and serves as a correction, for incorrect information earlier received by the newspaper.

Harris added that after Monday, "we hope to sell the crop the same day the farmer gets it in—before 2 o'clock."

BY RACHEL RIVERS

Two days before Thanksgiving, a three-day search through much of the surrounding mountain range ended in Watauga County near the Ray G. Farthing home between Villas and Sugar Grove.

Hunted was a 35-foot Christmas tree to be the seasonal core of interest at Tarrytown Mall, a Rocky Mount (N. C.) shopping center. Hunter was R. Vann Massey, Tarrytown Mall manager, who explained he had flown to Hendersonville Saturday before Thanksgiving.

From there he drove to Burnsville and subsequently traveled to Roan Mountain, to Volney, Va., and to Mt. Rogers near White Gap. He arrived in this vicinity Monday night and thanks to John Gilliam and L. E. Tuckwiller, Massey found his tree.

100 BANDS

It was Ray Farthing's 35-foot Frazier Fir, which he explains is a native of the Grandfather Mountain-Roan Mountain area.

When it was painted white and hung with lights last week, Congressman Jim Gardner was to have traveled to Rocky Mount Friday to turn on the lights and get Rocky Mount officially on its way toward Christmas.

Massey said more than 100 bands and choirs appear at the Mall during the Yule season and the lighting and the music are synchronized. Consequently, the lights turn blue when low notes are played or sung and change to red in response to high notes.

Last year 700,000 shoppers enjoyed the tree display and this year an increase in traffic is expected. It's one part seasonal business and one part Tarrytown Christmas Music Festival, an event of which Massey says his firm is quite proud.

The shopping complex has 300,000 square feet, an amount

which will double in a forthcoming expansion.

Congressman Gardner's appearance in Rocky Mount was his first public function since running for Governor on the Republican ticket, Massey said.

Formerly, the Rocky Mount firm had depended on the State of Vermont for trees, last week being its first seek-and-uncover mission in North Carolina's mountains. Massey was enthusiastic about his find and said one of the main purposes of making the selection here was to draw attention to Watauga's splendid forestry.

A television station had offered to buy film of the project if it could be supplied. But everything happened so quickly, by the time the moving operation was underway it was too late to get a local cameraman to the scene.

Massey also planned a massive newspaper publicity program, but because the local newspaper maintains only an offset darkroom not geared for production of prints, it was unable to be of immediate help. Film containing other local shots could not be spared until after it was professionally processed early this week.

The whole event wound up not getting the scope of coverage needed prior to Gardner's appearance in Rocky Mount, but Massey left with a praiseworthy fir mounted onto a tractor trailer. And who knows? He

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Santa Claus Is Coming

Gay Christmas Parade Big Saturday Feature

Clowns, Bands And Politicians Horses, Floats

Boone's gala Christmas parade will organize at the Horn in the West grounds Saturday afternoon, start its march at 4 p. m. and get uptown about 4:15, according to Jim Hastings.

Hastings is in charge of this year's procession, billed as a record event both in size and quality. G. D. Barnett has offered to be director of the parade, which will feature horses and clowns, bands and politicians and all manner of floats.

Among the features will be the Charlotte Drum and Bugle Corps, the Watauga High School and Appalachian State University marching bands, Bobbies Majorettes of Bristol, the Carolina Clowns and rock'n roll music, courtesy of Jimmy Higgins and group.

Television cowboy star Fred Kirby and Joey the Clown will be here as will Congressman Jim Broyhill of the 10th District.

And, of course, Santa Claus.

FLOATS

Floats include Tweetsie R R, Seven Devils, Grandfather Golf and Country Club, Invershiel, Coca-Cola, Beech Mountain, Pet Milk, Pepsi Cola, Homecoming Queen Ollie Jackson of Watauga High, the new Miss Watauga, the Mecklenburg Jaycees and WATA.

Other special units will be choirs from the Boone United Methodist Church, Midget Football players, 4-Hers, Boy and Cub Scouts, the Girl Scouts, a trusty fire engine, a few antique cars and some horses arranged for by Hiram Brooks and the Rev. Edd Crump.

Kays Gary plans to ride in a

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New Officials Take Offices

Monday was the first day in office for Watauga County's new officials. Seen from the left (front row) are Judge J. E. Holshouser Sr. and Judge Ray Braswell, Magistrate Ralph Greene and Tax Supervisor Carlton Lyons; (second row) County Commissioner Gene Wilson, Magistrate Fred McNeal and Commissioners Kenneth Wilcox and Perry Greene; (third row) Magistrate Hade Smith, Tax Collector Ralph Hayes and Veterans Service Officer J. W. Norris. The District Court Judges preside in the five-county 24th District. A former County Commissioner, Lyons served as Boone's Chief of Police until being appointed Tax Supervisor. The city vacancy soon is to be filled, according to Mayor Clyde Greene. (Staff photo)

Watauga Court Term Will Convene Dec. 19

The first term of District Court in Watauga County will be conducted at the Courthouse Thursday and Friday, Dec. 19 and 20, Judge J. E. Holshouser Sr. of Boone presiding.

The first session under the new District Court system will be Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 4 and 5, in Mitchell Court-

ty with Chief District Judge Ray Braswell in charge. The two men were elected in the 24th District which involves Avery, Madison and Yancey in addition to the two counties already named.

On the homefront, Clerk of Court Orville Foster said this week the full-time vacancy remaining in the minimum staff of

magistrates for Watauga County has been filled. The name of William Hade Smith of Route 1, Banner Elk, was suggested by Foster and approved by Judge W. E. Anglin, senior regular resident Superior Court Judge.

The other full-time magistrate is Ralph Greene and the part-time official is Fred McNeal. Starting full-time salary is \$4,800 per year with \$2,400 allotted for McNeal's services.

A roster of local office hours was being made up this week but no final schedule was released Tuesday.

Court will be held in Avery County, Dec. 12 and 13, by Judge Braswell, Judge Holshouser will hold court Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 16 and 17, in Yancey County, then in Watauga later that week and in Madison County Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 30 and 31.

The January schedule is as follows: Jan. 6 and 10, Mitchell County, Judge Braswell; 13 through 17, Avery, Judge Holshouser; 20-4, Yancey, Judge Holshouser; and 27-31, Madison County, Judge Braswell.

Feb. 3-7, Judge Braswell will preside in Watauga County.

Local magistrates have some authority in both criminal and civil matters (Nov. 28 issue), but work under the direct supervision of the District's judges and according to a set scale of penalties for certain offenses. The new system became operative in the 24th District Monday, Dec. 2.

Court Of Honor Set For Tonight

A District Court of Honor will be held at 8 Thursday night in the courtroom of the new Courthouse.

Dr. H. C. Evans, president of Less McRae College, will be present for the awards program being sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 109. An Eagle rank will be conferred on a Scout that night and Scoutmaster Joe Miller of Boone says the special ceremony for the event will be most impressive.

Town Acts On Contractor Damage, Garbage Pickups

The Town of Boone released statements Tuesday pertaining to the work of contractors within the city limits and also a forthcoming change in city garbage operations.

The first statement was "to notify all contractors performing work within the town limits of the Town of Boone that they shall be held responsible for

the cost of repairing any streets, sewer and water lines, and water meters or any other property of the Town of Boone which the contractor may destroy, break or damage to any degree."

Due to the continuing increase in garbage pick-up and shortage of equipment and men, beginning Jan. 1, 1969, the Town will no longer be able to enter

private driveways in residential areas to pick up garbage at the house.

"All citizens are asked to please co-operate by placing their garbage cans beside the city street abutting their property in order to speed up the process of garbage pick-up.

"It is necessary that this method be followed in order that the trucks may cover the required territory and stay on schedule. Property owners are asked to furnish a sufficient number of regulation garbage cans with lids to hold their amount of garbage without spilling onto the ground.

"Any loose trash and garbage scattered on the ground will be left for the property owner to clean away."

Two Injured In Crash Of Cars

A two car accident at the intersection of Faculty Street and Route 105 last week resulted in more than \$600 damages and sent two people to Watauga County Hospital.

According to Police Chief James Lyons, James Wilson Beach, 50, of Boone had stopped at the stop sign on Faculty before entering Highway 105. He then drove his 1964 Plymouth into the side of a 1964 Renault driven by Lowell E. Staley of Butler, Tenn., who was driving north.

Injured were Staley and Ronnie Russell Howard, both in the Renault. Lyons said that no charges were placed and the accident was termed unavoidable.



CAPSULES OF WATAUGA County facts released since spring from government agencies reveal a great deal about the average local household and its inhabitants. Taxable property amounts to \$2,534 per capita, and increase of 67.9 per cent in a five-year period in which the national rise was 37.3 per cent. All together, Wataugans spend \$5,350,000 for food, or 20 cents out of every dollar spent in local retail stores. (Expenditures in restaurants are not counted in that figure.) Watauga County pays 86 cents for every dollar in government aid sent here. A record of \$1,830,000 is paid yearly in Social Security cash benefits to 2,443 Wataugans. After allowances for personal taxes, local residents had a net spendable income of \$31,761,000 in 1967; and they spent \$2,190,000 for gas, oil and automobile repairs in 1967. Farm income for that year totaled \$6,206,000 or \$1,002 per person. (Staff photo)

Snow Carnival Plans Are Going Forward

The North Carolina Carnival Committee met at the Boone Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, Nov. 19, to plan the Snow Carnival proposed for Boone Jan. 17, 18 and 19, the beginning of National Ski Week.

James Hastings, Boone Recreation Director, headed the committee. Robert Bingham elaborated on Snow Carnival plans at the Chamber of Commerce board of directors meeting Tuesday.

He said a parade is planned for Friday, Jan. 17, and an art showing of regional scenes

is scheduled for that night. Also on Friday, an apres ski dance is planned at Blowing Rock Ski Lodge.

Saturday at a closed luncheon, certified beauty judges will select a queen to be announced that night at the Snow Ball at Seven Devils.

Promotion of the event will cover a five-state area, Bingham said and the N. C. Travel Council, a division of the State C & D Board, will hold a press conference in Raleigh to help launch the publicity. Tentative

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Sale Of Christmas Seals Said To Be Brisk In Area

The 1968 Christmas Seal Campaign goes into its fourth week with a gratifying response from many persons and firms who have answered their Christmas Seal letter generously.

Announcement comes from Tom Doughton of Sparta, Dr. C. E. Miller of West Jefferson and Charles H. Blackburn Jr. of Boone, who are serving this year as co-chairmen of Alleghany-Ash-Watauga Tuberculosis Association.

"Your support of the programs provided by the Christmas Seal Campaign enables an active hand in hand effort of

the local Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, the North Carolina Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases and the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Association. Combined efforts are quite important in the help to control the problems as they relate to tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases," they announced.

Tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis and emphysema are greatly aggravated by smoking and air pollution, according to the U.S. public Health Service. Almost 48,000 new active cases

of tuberculosis were found in the U.S. in a recent year, with 90,000 active cases and over 230,000 arrested cases.

Chronic bronchitis affects about four million persons. Emphysema, a chronic respiratory disease, is so crippling that it is second among disabilities for which workers are given Social Security benefits.

"These facts point up the need for your continued support of the Christmas Seal programs," said Ruth Draughon, local director of Alleghany-Ash-Watauga TB and RD Association.