Well Ahead Of National Average

Watauga County Spending Averaging \$5,882 Per Family

The Watauga County economy moved ahead in sturdy fashion in the four-year period since 1964, in line with advances made at the national level.

The progress was especially evident in the increased volume of business done by local retail stores. Their sales rose 36.5 percent in the period, according to figures released by the Standard Rate and Data Service.

The overriding credit for the gain goes to the local consumer and to his ability and his willingness to spend

Neither the talk of a possible recession, nor the hike

in Federal taxes, nor the various national problems at home and abroad deterred him.

He spent confidently, with the feeling that he had a job he could count on, an income that was steadily rising and a future that was financially protected, thanks to pensions, health insurance and personal savings.

In the four years, as a result, the sales volume in Watauga County retail stores rose from \$19,691,000 to a total of \$26,880,000. Part of this increase is attributed, of course, to higher prices for merchandise.

The 36.5 percent rise topped the United States rise

of 20,6 percent and that in the State of North Carolina, 26,4 percent,

Related to the local population, the retail sales were equivalent to spending at the rate of \$5,882 per family, which was well over the \$5,290 per family elsewhere in the United States and the \$5,105 in the South Atlantic

Nearly every branch of retail business shared in this growth. People bought more cars, more and better clothing, finer furniture, food, cosmetics, household equipment and electrical gadgets.

local area and the 620 people employed by them. Their payroll rose from \$1,280,000 a year to \$1,912,000 in

With the beginning of the new year, the consensus among economists is that the American economy will continue on its upward course in 1969, as it has for the

Much depends upon the progress made in settling the Vietnam situation and upon putting the brakes on inflation,

ding in the living room of their new home in Bethel are Mr, and Mrs. Ted Tester, Because orthopedic surgery a year ago, Mrs. Tester (the form and her husband are native Wataugans. (Staff photo)

Work To Start On Building March 1

Federal Programs Group Is Told Of Vocational Plans

Various Classes To **Give Vital Training**

Programs Committee Monday night saw Project IMPACT spring from idea to action in a 16-minute video tape.

It also learned that the Vocational Education Center to be funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission will be put under construction March 1 and completed in time for use in the fall. Title III directors Robert fall. Title III directors Robert Danner and George Ragan in-troduced the vocational education and occupational guidance programs, and the work in Project IMPACT (Nov. 21 is-

Mrs. Charlotte Cole, guid-ance supervisor in Watauga, told the group that guidance is moving into the elementary schools to provide students with occupational information and promote healthy self-concept, social growth and personality development in the individual, Of slightly more than 50 such "The Neglected Disease"

counselors in the State, Wa-tauga has six, whereas the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system has only one, she said.

The program concluded with a talk by Dr. John Goode, co-ordinator of Title III, N. C. ordinator of rubic in-state Department of Public In-struction, Dr. Goode said Title III money in the State comes out to only \$3 per child and Watauga competes with 157 othwatauga competes with 1570th-er school units for funding of

proposals were submitted, Only 12 were approved, with Watauga getting two of the 12. Dr. Goode said his office finds that when a school succeeds as Wataugt happens, something starts to mushroom." School systems find new sources of funds and equipment, often in their own

mmunities. He feels "This is starting to happen here."

LIAISON

In the fall, the County Board of Education named the 36-member Federal Programs Committee and an eight-member supplement group to par-ticipate in federal programs planning and act as Ilaison between ESEA programs and the people whose children bene-fit from them.

The first meeting (Nov. 20) was on Title II funds, Prior to the Title III program Monday, Committee Chairman John Marsh appointed Mrs. Sue Committee Chairman John Marsh appointed Mrs. Sue Murray, Mrs. Rachel Hartley, Ray Minton, Edsel Hodges and Clyde S. Greene as the Review Committee. They will go over proposals for the next school year and may help in formulating summer programs,

Title III differs from Title I, which is for deprived students, in that it serves all children and best succeeds by its innovative

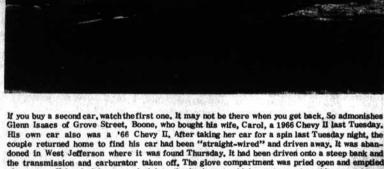
Danner announced that the Vo-cational Education Center at Watauga High School will contain four classrooms and three laboratories and allow expansion of some courses and addi-

sion of some courses and addi-tion of others.

The Center will house a cos-metology course, graphic arts, auto mechanics, and such con-struction industry classes as carpentry and masonry, Dratt-ing, introduction to vocations and a distributive education for co-op work program) also will be included.

be included.

George Ragan, the county's other Title III director, discussed IMPACT, the project which employs modern teach-



doned in West Jefferson where it was found Thursday, it had been driven away, it was apandoned in West Jefferson where it was found Thursday, it had been driven onto a steep bank and the transmission and carburator taken off, The glove compartment was pried open and emptied of papers. Holes had been punched into the back seat, which was torn out so thieves could get the spare tire out of the locked trunk. The Chevy then was pushed over so a couple of wheels could be removed. (Staff photo)

Rash Of Auto Thefts Is Apt ToRaise Insurance

has hit Boone in the last sev-eral days could cause the cost

YDC Will Name Officer Slate

The Watauga County Young Democrat Club will meet at 7:30 Friday night at the Court-house, according to Eddie P. Norris, president, Officers will be elected for the coming year.

Other sources maintained that nearly that many cars were Street in a car that taken in a week, On Tuesday, start, Harmon said. Police Chief Ed Harmon gave figures and stated that suspects were apprehended. The following is part of a study made prior

ported Tuesday the arrest of all were recovered. He said one three suspects in connection of the minors also was the with a rash of auto thefts in same one arrested in connection

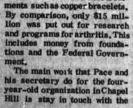
Harmon said J. C. Trivette, 18 of Dogwood Drive, Boone was arrested along with two minors last week, He said a billfold belonging to one of the minors was found in a GTO stolen last week. The same

Street in a car that would not Trivette and two minors were later taken into custody. Trivette is being held under \$2,000

to his report: Harmon said that 8 and
Police Chief Ed Harmon re- were stolen in one weeke

Tall, Now That She Can Stand

One North Carolina physi-lan has described arthritis is the neglected disease. Two years ago the Surgeon eneral of the United States celared arthritis to be a major ational health threat and called or continued and expanded re-parent, And in Chapel Hill, obert Pace tells why.



ments such as copper bracelets.
By comparison, only \$15 million was put out for research and programs for arthritis. This includes money from foundations and the Federal Government.

centrating primarily on educa-ting the public to the great need for research and community participation toward that goal. Watauga County is not among the few participating communi-

Watauga Woman Feels 10 Feet

When Mrs. Ted Tester of the Bethel Community stood

members she felt "10 feet tall."

She was recovering from orthopedic surgery to relieve the crippling effects of rheumatoid arthritis which struck her when she was 29 years old. Mrs. Tester had not walked a step in 18 years until three days after her January (1968) operation at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Her first problem with arth-

Joe Miller Is Winner Of Jaycees' Top Honor



MILLER IS DSA WINNER

781 Signers Ask For Repeal Airport Law

Deerfield and Bamboo community residents concerned with the Watauga County Airport Commission's selection of a site in their area this week delivered a petition to Legislative Representative Jim Holshouser of Boone.

Above 781 signatures was:

"We the undersigned citizens of Watauga County are opposed to the condemnation rights vested in the Watauga County Airport Commission and do merchanic petition our elected member of the General Assembly of North Carolina Council House Bill 1397, North Carolina County Above 781 signatures was:

"We the undersigned citizens of Watauga County are opposed to the condemnation rights vested in the Watauga County Airport Commission and do