



APPALACHIAN'S "GOOD NEWS" GROUP ON TOUR—Appalachian State University students who are members of the local Baptist Student Union have formed a new folk-musical group named Good News, which they define as "an expression of the joy of life committed to Christ." Their performances comprise original folk songs, dramatic sequences, monologues and personal testimonies. Good News appears Friday at UNC-Charlotte, on the following afternoon in Charlotte's Freedom Park, on the morning of April 13 at Chantilly Baptist Church, and that night at Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte. Members of the unique group shown above are: Arthur Williams of Pleasant Gardens at the piano; seated, left to right, Penny Smallwood of Raleigh, Jimmy Holland of Bolling Springs, Neal Laxton of Lenoir; standing (l-r), Mac Stroupe of Boone, Fran Strayhorn of Pollockville, Barney Hodgson of Boone, Joann Horton of Lenoir, Paula Bullington of Cayce, S. C., Sharon Bradford of Kannapolis, Bill Rhyme of Dallas, Judy Griffin of Charlotte and Larry Ell-edge of Charlotte.

Dr. Francis Rich Is Chairman Seven Area Counties Join Effort On Crime

U. S. Funds To Sustain Local Action For Law

BY LARRY G. JULIAN

Improved and extended law enforcement is in the future for Watauga and six other northwestern Tar Heel counties following the establishment of the AWWASYA Law Enforcement Agency.

The agency is part of the Governor's Committee on Law and Order which was established by Gov. Dan K. Moore following the passing of the Omnibus Crime Bill in Washington.

Over three million dollars will be spent in North Carolina alone to research the crime problem and take measures to upgrade law enforcement.

Watauga is part of the seven county complex that also contains Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Surry, Wilkes and Yadkin counties.

Police departments from Boone, Booneville, Dobson, Elkin, Sparta, Lansing, Mt. Airy, Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro also are participating. AWWASYA was formed in mid-February at a meeting held at Appalachian State University. Initial plans were mapped and committees were set up.

Dr. Francis M. Rich Jr. was appointed temporary chairman and later was elected to that position permanently. Watauga County Sheriff Ward Carroll was elected Assistant project director and County Commissioner Gene Wilson was named to the policy board.

Committees were set up to make studies of the following types of crime: narcotics and breaking and entering; records, organization and public information; selection, recruiting and training (personnel); auto theft and delinquency control; communications; and police-court.

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WATCH YOUR FIRE—Brush fires have plagued the Boone Fire Department heavily this month. In addition to answering three building fire calls, the local department has rushed to seven brush fires, none of which has been serious. This fire last Wednesday was on Tracy Circle where spring breezes had whipped flames upwards into an area behind several homes. The burning had been started inadvertently by a construction crew (the arrow shows where they began their blaze). On top of the hill firemen quench the flames that spread through the dry brush. Firemen at Deep Gap report that the only brush fire they have handled was when asked for assistance once by the Boone department. The Cove Creek Fire Department answered two calls last month but none in April. Most of the trouble seems to come after well-meaning citizens fail to watch a fire closely while doing their outdoor spring cleaning. (Staff photo)

Fire Destroys Home, Burns Over Fifteen-Acre Farm

The three-bedroom home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hicks of Route 1, Elk Park, was destroyed by fire Tuesday, April 9.

Volunteer fire-fighters from Banner Elk and Newland worked until 5:30 that afternoon to control a blaze that burned over the 15-acre farm, as well as five adjacent acres, and left the Hicks home and barn in

ashes. All the family's possessions were lost, according to Mrs. Hicks, who reached the scene of destruction about 4:45. A collection was taken the next morning at Watauga County Hospital, where Mrs. Hicks has been employed as a nurse's aide nearly two years. Clothing was purchased in Boone for her three children, Bobby 9, Anita 6 and Michael 5. Additional clothing and housewares have been given the family since that time.

Mr. Hicks, who has been an orderly at Charles A. Cannon Memorial Hospital, Banner Elk, since February, worked the 11 to 7 shift and returned to the farm the morning before the fire. His wife said he slept

awhile, then got up to put garbage in a burning trash barrel outside. It was shortly after noon when he awoke to find the home in flames. Firemen were called, reaching the scene by way of the Henton community, but were unable to save the buildings. The home was about five miles from Tom Guy's Remnant Shop on Beech Mountain.

The Hickses had no insurance to cover the destruction and say they cannot yet plan to rebuild. The family is staying with Mrs. Hick's mother-in-law, Mrs. Bonnie Hicks of Elk Park, for the time being.



IN MAY COURT—Miss Barbara Helen Baird, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bonnie J. Baird, Route 1, Vlas, will be one of the attendants to the May Queen at Wingate College's May Day Festival May 3.

The reigning Queen will be Miss Donna Sue Chessar of Charlotte. Members of the May Court are chosen by popular vote of the student body at Wingate. Each candidate must meet standards of character, citizenship, appearance and scholarship.

Willi Falgers Are New Citizens

Mr. and Mrs. Willi Falger of Beech Mountain Ski Resort were sworn in as United States citizens in a ceremony held two weeks ago in Greensboro. The couple hail from Innsbruck.

Gold Rush Junction Sold To Browns For A Million

The Cleveland Browns Thursday paid about \$1 million for Gold Rush Junction, a recreation development near Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Grover C. Robbins Jr. and Harry C. Robbins were the main shareholders in the private stock company that owned Gold Rush Junction. The brothers are developers of Tweetsie Railroad between Boone and Blowing Rock, of

Hound Ears Lodge and Club south of Boone and of the Beech Mountain resort in Avery and Watauga counties.

The professional football team has many people in seasonal operations and plans to use some of them at Gold Rush Junction, according to the Browns' general manager, Art Modell.

Grover Robbins said Modell first inquired about buying the Tennessee property two months ago. The sale was approved Thursday in a shareholders' meeting at Hound Ears Lodge.

The Robbins brothers said they decided to sell Gold Rush Junction in order to keep their interests more concentrated in North Carolina.

Free College Of ASU Opens Doors Tonight

Townpeople, students and faculty members at Appalachian are all invited to the first class of The Free College of Appalachian State University which opens its doors tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 on campus in room 287 of the Edwin Duncan Hall eastgong.

The inaugural course is a four-part Human Sexuality Series, and classes will be held every Wednesday night through May 8. The sessions are to average two hours in length.

The first class in the series will be the biology of sex taught by Dr. Frank Randall of Appalachian's Department of Biology.

IN THE FUTURE

In following weeks the topics will be sex and the law with Dr. Francis M. Rich, chairman of ASU's Department of Political Science, as instructor. Dr. Thomas Snipes, chairman of Appalachian's Department of Psychology, will teach the third class on the psycho-

logical aspects of sexual relations and Dr. A. W. Rudolph of ASU's Department of Philosophy and Religion will teach the last of the series, the theological implications of sex.

According to Reg Smith of Boone's Wesley Foundation, a \$1 registration fee will be charged for the series.

County Road Work Is Tabled; Bonds Unsold

The District Highway Office has received notification of \$274,000 worth of Watauga County road projects halted by North Carolina's present inability to sell its state road bonds in an inflationary market.

Tom Winkler, District engineer, cited the following as being "taken down":

State Road 1117, 2.4 miles on Mast Gap Road from U. S. 421 to N. C. 194 near Valle Crucis; worth, \$150,000.

State Road 1152, 1.5 miles on Poplar Grove Road from the church to Camp Yonahlossee; worth, \$100,000.

And State Road 1324, 0.7 mile on Chestnut Grove Road in the Mast Camp area; \$24,000.

Winkler said the three stretches are secondary, or unimproved, roads.

Asked about a Wilkes County job that was to provide four-lane passing sections from the Wade Harris Bridge into Deep Gap in Watauga County, Winkler said the job is off the planning board, too, but that he said others are hopeful that funds from other sources may become available.

Miss Martha Miller, Mabel, Named Spelling Champion

Miss Martha Miller, a 13-year-old eighth grade student at Mabel Elementary School,

was named the spelling champion for Watauga County in a contest held Thursday, April 10, at Watauga High School.

Competing with a representative from each of the elementary schools in the county, Miss Miller won with the word, bouquet. First runner up was Miss Melanie Ward of Cove Creek Elementary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ward of Sugar Grove.

Martha, who won the spelling contest at Mabel School two years ago, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Miller of Zionville and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Greene of Vlas and Mrs. Minnie Miller of Zionville. Her hobbies include reading, playing records, volleyball and basketball. She would like to become a

secretary and bookkeeper after high school.

She will compete for the state title Saturday, May 3, in a televised contest on WSIS-TV in Winston-Salem. The Winston-Salem Journal sponsored the spelling bee.

Cab Company Office Entered

Police Chief Ed Harmon said Monday that the City Cab Company office on Depot Street had been entered Friday morning.

Nothing was taken and no damage was done, Harmon said entrance was gained by breaking a window and then opening it.



MISS MARTHA MILLER

What Price Children In Watauga?

For Watauga County parents, what is the cost of bringing up children? What does it take locally, in the way of money, to raise a child from birth to age 18?

The cost has gone up enormously in recent years. In a study that was made back in 1946, the finding was that a typical family in the United States spent an average of \$7,425 in providing for a child to age 18.

According to the latest figures from the Department of Agriculture, it now takes nearly that much just to feed junior for that period. The average child stokes away about \$7,300 worth by the time he reaches 18.

Nationally, it is estimated, the average 18-year-old represents a total expenditure of nearly \$27,000.

Just how much a family spends in the process

of bringing up a child depends, principally, upon its financial position. It also depends upon number of children and place of abode.

For families with net incomes of \$5,000 to \$8,000, which is where the average is in Watauga County, amount that is spent on rearing a child to age 18 comes to about \$25,100, according to the findings.

At that rate, the 350 or so boys and girls in the local area who are becoming 18 this year denote an overall outlay by their parents of approximately \$8,785,000.

Included in this total are all the expenditures that are normally encountered from infancy to the time when junior reaches college age. An additional financial jolt comes at that time, if he goes to college.

The major costs, outside of food, are detailed by the Institute of Life Insurance, based on Labor Department figures.

They start with his birth. The outlay for doctors, hospital charges and equipment could come to \$700 or more.

In the succeeding years, under normal conditions, about \$2,000 is spent for medical and dental care.

Clothing comes to a little more than \$3,000 transportation to \$3,950 and personal care, \$900. Then there is the cost of the additional housing space and facilities needed for the child.

Incidentals, such as toys, books, movies, allowances, music lessons and the like, make up the rest.