



A FAMILY AFFAIR—In what he terms "the highlight of our career", Rufus Edmisten and his wife, Jane, were admitted to the North Carolina Bar in a ceremony held in Mecklenburg Superior Court at Charlotte. Standing with the couple and making the request was Sen. Sam Ervin, Presiding at the occasion was Ervin's son, Sam J. Ervin III. "I'm told that this unique father-son, husband-wife admission ceremony was a first for North Carolina," Edmisten says. In Washington, D. C. he and his wife were employed by the government by day while studying at night for their law degrees from George Washington University. Rufus worked on Sen. Ervin's staff. His wife, the former Jane Moretz, was a legislative specialist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Both are native Wataugas who plan to return to North Carolina soon to be "country lawyers". Getting their law degrees two years ago in the District of Columbia, the couple continue their work with the government. On Ervin's subcommittee staff, Edmisten has been specialist on Indians' rights legislation. During the Senator's last campaign, he was a traveling political aide. (Hank Daniels photo)

Holshouser Opposes Doctoral Plan For ASU

The N. C. House of Representatives last week voted 62 for and 47 against a bill which will give Appalachian State University the authority to make application to grant doctoral degrees in areas in which it qualifies after 1972.

Only one Republican vote was listed in favor of the legislation. Having opposed the bill on second reading Tuesday, James Johnson R-Cabarrus, reportedly changed his stand and was the lone Republican to vote for the measure on final reading.

James Holshouser Jr., Watauga County's representative and chairman of the Republican Party in North Carolina, led the GOP's block vote against the bill which would apply to the state's four regional universities—including Appalachian in Boone.



New president of the Watauga High School student body is Jackie Henson (left). His supporting officers (reading from left) are Bobby Denton, vice-president; Nancy Greene, secretary; and Lucille Welborn, treasurer.

Henson New Head WHS Student Body

Students at Watauga High School have elected Jackie Henson to serve as student body president in 1969-70.

Jackie defeated James Hodges and Randy Marsh in a school-wide election last week. Jackie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Henson of Route 1, Villas, and has been a member of the student council for three years.

Other officers elected are Bobby Denton, vice-president; Nancy Greene, secretary; and Lucille Welborn, treasurer.

Bobby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Denton of Stadium Drive, Boone. Nancy's parents are Mr. and Mrs. G. Perry Greene of Boone and Lucille is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Welborn, Grand Boulevard, Boone. All three of these officers have served one or more years on the student council.

Nominations made for student body officers in class meetings resulted in 19 candidates for the four major offices. In addition to the three candidates from the winning senior class for president, there were three candidates from the rising junior class for vice-president. They were Ben Thalheimer, Eddie Furr and Bobby Denton.

Residents of Blowing Rock are going to the polls today (Tuesday) to elect a mayor and members of the town council for two year terms.

Due to the Democrat's early Tuesday evening press time election results are not carried in this edition. However, the Blowing Rocket of even date, will be carrying details of the election.

Hayden Pitts and Bill Williams opposed present Mayor Robert Hardin. Pitts will be looking to gain the three additional votes that he lost by in the 1967 election, which was the closest in Blowing Rock history. Mayor Hardin was elected for his eighth term by a narrow 198 to 186 vote in that election. The third candidate, Bill Williams, president of the Chamber of Commerce, is expected to offer strong opposition in his first bid at public office.

On the ballot for City Councilmen will be the three incumbents and five other candidates, C. L. Dula, Marshall Travis and Andrew Nimmo, the incumbents, will join Ralph Andrews, Lewis Lantz, Tom Greene, Howard Barnwell and David Greene on the ballot.

C. L. Dula has the longest period of time on the council while Travis and Nimmo are seeking their second term of office. Both failed to make the ballot at the recently held convention. Marshall Travis for Mayor and Nimmo for the council. After missing the ballot by a narrow margin for Mayor, Travis filed for council.

Heads Watauga System

Surry Educator Is Named New Superintendent Of Schools

Dr. Richards Is Chosen By Bd. Education

Dr. Swanson Richards, who believes students should be prepared for a lifetime of continuing education, is the new superintendent of the Watauga County Schools.

Dr. Richards, a 38-year-old Surry County educator, was assured his formal appointment from the Watauga County Board of Education Monday. He succeeds W. Guy Angell who retired Jan. 1 after 14 years service.

Dr. Richards' appointment was described as "another step in upgrading" the county system, according to John H. Hollar, chairman of the county board.

The appointment is effective July 1. Until then Dr. Richards will be in town on weekends consulting with acting Superintendent Willis Moretz.

Dr. Richards was born in Surry County. He was graduated in 1952 from Appalachian State University with a bachelor of science degree in science and physical education. In 1957 he received from ASU the masters degree in school administration, guidance and counseling. He earned his doctorate at Florida State University in school administration.

Since 1962 he has been associate superintendent of Surry County Schools, a system with some 8,000 students.

NEW CHALLENGE
The superintendent-elect sees a significant new challenge ahead for today's public school student: "He must be equipped for a lifetime of continuing education."

Dr. Richards predicts that the average student may well be faced with the needs to change his course of work an average of three times after he goes out into a world increasingly charged with technology.

"This means he must be equipped for a lifetime of continuing education," Dr. Richards explains. "He must be educationally retrainable in the basic skills of the day," he adds.

The new Watauga school chief sees the fundamentals of education as more important than ever for students. "And perhaps most important in the new day will be his ability to get along with others in a changing environment," he says.

Hollar, in presenting the new superintendent, said "We continue to be interested in nothing but the best for the children of Watauga County . . . We work always for the best so the schools will have a total program for the child."

Hollar referred to Dr. Richards' selection by the board as a "renewed effort to further upgrade the schools." He added that if anyone stands in the way of such progress, "the position will be eliminated."

Dr. W. H. Plemmons, ASU president, paid tribute to both the board and its choice. He

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DR. RICHARDS



FULL HOUSE, PLUS—These are 19 of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Miller of Route 1, Deep Gap, as they gathered with their parents last September. In front are Ricky 13, Casey 8, Jane 7, Jack 4, Vance 12 and Dannie 11. Standing are Daille, 15, Darlene 16, Texie, 20, Annie 25, Sally 32, Georgie 33, Aline 34, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Miller, Staley 28, Barney 24, Bill 23, Ed 19 and Stanley 27.

19 Children To Gather For Mother's Day Chicken Dinner



HAPPY MOTHER—Mrs. Spencer Miller beams as Mr. Miller holds one of their grandchildren, Susie Greer. With them is Jack, their youngest child.

If you were a mother of 20 children, what would you want most for Mother's Day?

That's right! You'd want all 20 offspring around your skirts while you fry them chicken for a huge Mother's Day dinner. Nothing less.

And for Mrs. Spencer Miller of Route 1, Deep Gap, she'll get her wish; 19 of her 20 children will be munching on her fried chicken Sunday.

That's the way it's been for more than 25 years at the one big, big annual event.

And Mrs. Miller's eyes glint of another big thrill for mothers everywhere on this special day. "They all bring me presents, too," she confides.

But it's well after lunch before she has time to open every present. It takes a full morning of cooking to be prepared to serve dinner to some 50 people. (Usually all 21 grandchildren are not there.)

She probably won't plan a menu for the crowd. Just cook what's in the pantry—plus three or four chickens.

The Millers' seven-room home is located on Wildcat Road, some three miles south of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The main section of the house is the old Mt. Paron School. Miller added more rooms as the family grew.

Mrs. Miller, like any loving mother, knows more about her children than their father. She knows the birth date of each of the 20 living children. (Another child is deceased.)

The youngest is Jack, who'll be five years old May 17. The oldest is Aline, 34, who lives just over the line in Ashe County. Nine of the children live at home now.

Mrs. Miller, 49, admits that Sunday (May 11) will probably be the first Mother's Day that a note of sadness may slip into her morning of cooking.

Ed, 19, will not be home. His father took him to Boone April 29 where he turned him over to the Watauga draft board. Ed is the first Miller son to be accepted by the Army.

Mrs. Miller reflects: "I didn't like it a bit but there's nothing I can do about it."

But Mr. Miller believes the excitement of the day will ease her longing. He says, "She's always as happy as can be when Mother's Day comes 'round."

School Budget \$300,000; Music Program In Doubt

If the Watauga public school music program is continued after this school year, it'll be up to local financing to keep it alive. Expressions of support for the program were voiced Monday night by parents who attended the county school board's public meeting held in the courthouse. Some 100 patrons attended the session.

Interim School Superintendent Willis Moretz explained that federal financing of the program has been questioned, leaving its continued existence up to local funding.

The question was a highlight of discussion during an open meeting scheduled by the board under a new policy of holding regular meetings at nights so that the public may attend.

Board Chairman John H. Hollar used the occasion to introduce Dr. Swanson Richards, the board's choice to become superintendent on July 1.

Concern that federal support of the music program would be terminated at the end of this school year were confirmed by Moretz. He explained that the program's funding has been charged to Title One allocations under the federal aid to education program.

But Moretz noted that technically Title One funds may be spent only in the specific area of educationally deprived students. "But we have used this fund on broad programs and have strewn it all over the school system" to benefit the most students, he said.

Moretz said that such general use of the Title One funds is hard to defend under federal regulations. Therefore, his office has found it increasingly difficult to hold the program.

Consequently, the board of education, seeking to continue the program, has included it in its budget request presented Monday to the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.

Moretz estimates that the program would cost the county up to \$20,000 a year. It includes three teachers' salaries plus other expenses.

The school board budget request for 1969-70 totals \$303,843, some \$100,000 more than the current budget. The fate of the program will not be known until county commissioners have received all departmental budget requests and arrived at a total recommended county budget within the means of the county funds available.

Several of the parents indicated they plan to contact the county commissioners to urge the music program be included. Routine business handled by the board included denial of a request for school bus service

for a child who lives at home now.

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The board also acted on a

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