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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper . . . Eighty-First Year of Continuous Publication

BOONE WEATHER				
1969	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Snow
May 26	78	51		0
May 27	75	51		0
May 28	78	56		0
May 29	70	57		0
May 30	73	54		0
May 31	72	54		0
May 26	75	42	.07	0

VOL. LXXXI—NO. 47

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1969

10 CENTS PER COPY

26 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

Dr. Plemmons Is Honored By Top Scholars

Appalachian president Dr. W. H. Plemmons was honored by some of the top scholars at his university Friday evening as he was made an honorary member of the campus chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, a national honor society in education.

Dr. Plemmons was cited by the local Lambda Iota chapter of KDP and by officials at the national headquarters of the organization for his outstanding service in the field of education. The honorary membership was offered as a formal "thank you" from the club to the retiring ASU president for his years of dedication to the institution.

As a member of ASU chapter, Dr. Plemmons joins the ranks of some 200 Appalachian students and educators who have been in-

ducted by Kappa Delta Pi in recognition of their scholastic achievements.



LOCUSTS ARE HERE—As eerie in appearance as monsters from outer space might be, this trio of female 17-year locusts search about the tender limbs of a young apple tree for a place to lay their eggs. Swarms of the insects are doing their best to upset this year's crop of apples in eastern Watauga County.

Plague Of 17-Year Locusts Arrives To Threaten Deep Gap Orchards

BY CHARLIE HAMILTON

"There're a few locusts around here every year, but it's been 17 years since there's been this many."

That was O. J. Miller's way of telling younger folks that the 17-year locust has returned by the millions.

Miller lives out on the Orchard Road along R-1 Deep Gap. Further down the road, Newland Welborn glanced over his six-acre apple orchard on the hillside. It was a quiet morning, except that the moist air was alive with the familiar piercing, shrill buzzing sound.

It was the collected whine of millions of female cecidia in the process of piercing the bark of twigs for a safe spot to lay their eggs.

The process is damaging enough for a large apple tree, for an orchard full of young trees, it can be disastrous.

Welborn discovered his locusts more than a week ago. He pulled his truck into the center of the little orchard. The noise of the locust at work was loud. When he turned off the truck motor, it came to an eerie high pitch.

According to Miller, had Welborn been standing on the same spot 17 years ago, he would have heard the same shrill noise. But the noise would have been made by the mothers of the locust attacking his orchard today.

It's the same story that has been known to man since probably the Garden of Eden. Likely there were locust eggs developing when Eve plucked her infamous apple.

But the locust does not limit its devilment to apple orchards. They are equally at home in oak, hickory, locust

and pine trees, says Miller.

The area in Watauga County where the locust is busiest so far is among some 2,000 acres east of Deep Gap. According to county agent L. E. Tuckwiller all the locusts crawled out of the ground about the same time.

The above ground damage to trees comes when the newly developed female, her abdomen heavily laden with eggs, pierces the sharp, saw-like tip (ovipositor) or her abdomen into new growth twigs. She punctures and tears open a hole in the twigs to form a pocket for about 24 eggs. She makes about five to 20 pockets in a straight line. About six weeks later, usually just after the mature locusts have died, the eggs hatch immature insects called nymphs. They fall from the tree to burrow deep into the ground. They seek out roots from which they get sap.

The dark earth haven is their home for the next 17 years. (Continued on page two)

Four-Year-Old Is Hit By Car

A four-year-old boy received minor injuries last week when he apparently darted in front of a car driving on King Street.

Witnesses told Officer Mont Thomas of the Boone Police Department that the child, David Howard Hurley of 202 Cherry Drive, ran in front of an oncoming car.

The automobile, a 1963 Chevrolet, was operated by Judith Aplin of 22 Stewart Manor, N. Y.

The accident occurred in front of the Advent Christian Church at the King-Cherry Street intersection.

The child was admitted to Watauga County Hospital last Wednesday but had been released by Monday.

No charges were made in the accident.

Named For Mrs. Irwin Belk

\$1.8 Library Facility To Be Dedicated At ASU

Structure Is Central Point At University

Appalachian State University's new \$1.8 million library is to be dedicated here Sunday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Carol Grotnes Belk of Charlotte.

The featured speaker for the dedication ceremonies will be Dr. John Edwin Smylie, president of Queens College in Charlotte. His address will be given at 2 p. m. in the auditorium of I. G. Greer Hall, with an open house tour of the modern library to follow.

The public is cordially invited to attend both the dedication event and the open house observance.

Mrs. Belk is the wife of Irwin Belk, President of Belk Enterprises Inc., chairman of the board of directors of the Belk Foundation, and vice president and director of Belk Stores.

By virtue of past and present affiliation and work, Mrs. Belk is extremely interested in civic and cultural affairs, especially those dealing with young people. Her work with the Mint Museum of Charlotte, Junior League, YWCA, Children's Nature Museum, Charlotte Speech and Hearing Clinic and Charlotte Opera Guild attest to her concern about things as they are and yet might be.

A native of Chicago, she is the mother of two sons and two daughters. An alumnus of Stephens College (Mo.), she is a member of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church.

The Carol Grotnes Belk Library is one of the most handsome buildings on the Appalachian campus. It serves as both the geographical and cultural center of the institution.

First occupied last August, it contains 86,000 square feet of space on its three floors and has a capacity of 450,000 volumes. It is completely air conditioned and contains one of the finest curriculum laboratories in the Southeast.

One of the unique features of the library is the immense amount of open space which pro-

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DEDICATION SUNDAY—The new Carol Grotnes Belk Library will be dedicated Sunday during ceremonies scheduled for 2 p. m. in the I. G. Greer Hall. An open house tour of the library will follow.

Hospital Cardiac Area To Be Named For Hagaman

Watauga Has 22,476 People, Population Center Thinks

Watauga County had a population of 22,476 as of July, 1968, according to a provisional estimate made by the Carolina Population Center in Chapel Hill.

This would represent a gain of 28.22% from April 1, 1960 when the population was 17,529, or an increase in the nose count of 4,947.

During the period there were 2,884 births, 1,256 deaths and a net migration gain of 3,319.

The estimated gain from 1960 to 1967 was 3,532, or 20.15% for a total of 21,061 as of July 1967. Up to that time there were 2,522 births, 1,099 deaths and a migration gain of 2,079.

College and institutional population in Watauga in 1960 was 2,043, in 1967, 4,289 and the estimate for 1968, 4,994. The estimates further show that of the 1968 population figure there are 22,166 whites and 310 nonwhites. In 1960 there were 17,296 whites and 233 nonwhites.

The annual rate of population change in Watauga County from 1950 to 1960 was minus .45; for 1960 to 1967 it was a gain of 2.53.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Watauga County Hospital Thursday evening, May 22, it was voted to name the proposed area for the treatment of cardiac patients The J. B. Hagaman, Jr. Coronary Care Unit.

This unit has been under consideration by the hospital board and the medical staff for the past year, and a fund for its establishment had already been begun.

At present the hospital has only one monitor for use in treating coronary patients. A hospital of this size needs at least four of these machines, and it is hoped that three additional ones may be secured. The cost of these three units will be about \$9000.

Installation for the use of this equipment plus building alterations will probably make the total cost around \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Considerable groundwork for this project has been made, however, Dr. Hagaman had fairly recently investigated this type

(Continued on page two)

Local Newspapers Used

Watauga March Dimes Unit Wins First Spot In National Contest

The Watauga County Chapter of The National Foundation—March of Dimes has received first place in the Foundation's nationwide 1969 scrapbook contest.

Chapter Chairman George C. Thomas entered clippings he

collected from the Watauga Democrat and her sister publication, The Blowing Rocker, from November 1968 to April 1969.

The contest had three divisions, one for county chapters of at least 100,000 population, another for population between 25,000 and 100,000 and the third for chapters under 25,000 pop-

ulation. Watauga County was first place winner in the last division. Thomas will be awarded the plaque at an October March of Dimes meeting to be held in Atlanta.

Second to Watauga County was Jackson County, Tex. Third was Washington County, Ind., and fourth place winner is Wis-

(Continued on page two)

Local Revolutionary War Hero To Be Honored Monday

The Col. Niran Beall Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution will assemble at the Grave of Col. Nathan Horton, 3 miles east of Boone at the Old Three Forks Church cemetery Monday, June 2 at 11:30 a. m. for the unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating Col. Horton's service in the Revolutionary War.

Rev. Mr. Powers, pastor of the Three Forks Baptist Church, the oldest church in Watauga County, having been established

in 1792, will assist in the service. Col. Horton helped to build the original church.

Members of the Boone DAR chapter are invited. Col. Horton's descendants and others who would be interested in the history of his life and work.

Mrs. Teadie Horton Russell, Regent of the Chapter and one of Col. Horton's great great-granddaughters, will review his service in the Revolution and his work in Watauga and Ashe Counties.

Surplus Of Bachelors In Watauga

Memo to would-be brides. Sit up and take note. Watauga County has a surplus of unmarried men.

The excess of bachelors is such that there are 103 single men locally for every 100 single women.

In most other communities, the surplus, if one exists, is much smaller than this.

The findings are based upon the latest marital data, gathered from all parts of the country by the Department of Commerce. They indicate that the male-female ratio varies considerably from one area to another. In most places there is a shortage of eligible bachelors.

In Watauga County, according to the figures, approximately 23.3 percent of the male population over the

age of 14 is unmarried, as against 29.8 percent of the females over that age.

This takes into account only those who have never been married. It does not include those who have been widowed or divorced.

Throughout the United States as a whole, 26.7 percent of men over 14 and 20.9 percent of women in that category are single.

Despite the disparity in numbers, the chances of a woman going through life unwed are much slimmer today than in former years.

Forty years ago, nearly 15 percent of the women were unmarried by the time they reached their late 20's. The proportion has now dropped to less than 5 percent.

However, in most parts of the nation, there are problems these days for marriage-minded gals because, currently, there are more women than men in the principal marrying ages, 18 to 21 for women and 20 to 23 for men.

This dislocation is due principally to the baby boom of the late 1940's, which resulted in a large number of women reaching marriageable age before the corresponding number of potential husbands.

In Watauga County, there will be some 680 women in the normal 18 to 21 marrying bracket this year and approximately 750 men in the matching 20 to 23 group.

Adding to the problem is the fact that many marriageable young men are in Vietnam or are staying in college for an additional year or two.



JUNIOR MARSHALS—When the Watauga High School senior class marches in graduation program processions, they will be formally escorted by this group of Junior Marshals. Chief marshals are seated; Richard Randall, Mary Ellis Gibson, Beth Dixon and Susann Miller. Standing are Kim Carpenter, Joann Sherrill, Helen Robinson, Jack Henson, Tanya Shook, Carol McNeely, James Hodges, Dave Demster, Gail Lentz, Dee Wilson, Betsy Randall and Norma Hodges. (Staff photo)