

BOONE WEATHER

1969	Hi	Lo	Prev. Snow	'68	Hi	Lo
May 27	72	48		67	51	
May 28	77	44		62	45	
May 29	81	55		66	42	
May 30	83	57		58	46	
May 31	80	58		67	46	
Jun. 1	82	53		75	40	
Jun. 2	75	56	1.22	71	57	



AT THE LIBRARY DEDICATION—Distinguished participants in the dedicatory ceremonies of the Carol Grotness Belk Library paused Sunday afternoon after an open house tour of the new \$2 million building. Left to right are Mr. and Mrs. Carl

C. Grotness, parents of Mrs. Belk, Dr. W. H. Plimmons, ASU president, Mrs. Carol Grotness Belk and her husband, Irwin Belk, and Dr. John E. Smylie, Queens College president who gave the address of dedication.

Fourteen Boone Citizens File For Office In City Vote 17th

Fourteen Boone residents have filed for municipal offices to be decided in the Saturday, June 17, town election.

Unveiling Is Postponed

The unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating Col. Natha Horton's services in the Revolutionary War was postponed Monday because of bad weather.

The service has been scheduled for 11:30 Monday morning, June 9, at Col. Horton's grave three miles east of Boone in the old Three Forks Church cemetery.

As the Col. Ninian Beall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution assemble, Rev. Mr. Powers, pastor of the Three Forks Baptist Church, will assist in the service. Col. Horton helped build the original Three Forks Church, established in 1792.

Members of the Boone DAR chapter, Col. Horton's descendants and those interested in his life and works are invited. Mrs. Texie Horton Russell, Chapter Regent and a great-granddaughter of the Colonel, will review his military service and his work in Watauga and Ashe counties.

Saturday Is Last Day To Register

Boone residents will have until 5 p. m. Saturday to register for the town election on Tuesday, June 17.

The election will mark a change in a 40-year-old local tradition in that ballots will be printed for a "non-partisan" election.

Registrar Fred Tarlton will be in town hall until 5 Saturday to register voters. He also is registering voters at his residence at 200 Hunting Road daily from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Challenge day will be Saturday, June 14, from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m. at town hall. The polls will be opened on June 17 from 6:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m.

To be eligible to vote in the June 17 election, citizens must be 21 years old or older, have lived in North Carolina for one year and the Town of Boone for at least 30 days prior to the election.

Tarlton reported Tuesday that he has registered 55 new voters, making a total of 1,566 registered voters. He noted that the Boone election books are separate from county election books and require a

Two of them, former Mayor Gordon Winkler and Mayor Pro-tem Dr. Hadley M. Wilson, are seeking the mayor's post. The others are seeking one of the five seats on the board.

The list includes the full slate of candidates nominated at the May 17 Democratic convention, though they will not be listed separately since the election will be through a "non-partisan" ballot.

Along with Winkler, the other convention nominees are Howard Cottrell, Len D. Hagaman, Crater Marsh, A. E. McCreary, and Clyde Winebarger.

With this election, the Boone board is being increased from three to five members, a bill in the state legislature will put the board on a staggered basis, with the three top vote getters being designated to serve four-year terms and the two others serving two-year terms. At the expiration of the latter terms, their successors will be elected for four-year terms, thus setting up the staggered schedule.

After announcing he would not be running for office this year, Dr. Hadley M. Wilson, a two-term alderman and presently Mayor Pro-tem, tossed his hat into the race for mayor.

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Probable Tax Rate \$1.10 Record County Budget Of \$2,220,084 Gets OK

Robinson Is New Partner Hunt's Store

Fifty per cent of Hunt's Department Store in Boone was purchased Monday by John Robinson, former manager of the Crest Store here. He and Guy Hunt, sole owner of the business for 31 years, will co-manage the operation without changing the name.

Robinson says "My family and I are very, very happy to be coming back to Watauga County. Boone is just home to us; and the people around here are just our kind of people."

The Robinsons lived in Boone 15 years when news came last July of Crest's plan to transfer the local store's manager. Robinson then became associated with the chain's new outlet in the Town and Country Shopping Center in Lincolnton.

Two of their daughters, Mrs. Chuck Blanton and Mrs. Jimmy Deal, remained in Boone. Their other children—Dan, Susie, Mark and Cindy—made the move to Lincolnton.

At that time, Robinson was president of the Watauga County Association for Retarded Children and immediate past-president of the Boone Lions Club. Both he and Mrs. Robinson were active in Greenway Baptist Church.

A native of York, S. C., Robinson is a former president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, serving on various Chamber and Merchants Association committees.

"I've known Guy since I've been here," Robinson says. "I feel I couldn't be associated with anybody better than Guy Hunt."

Robinson says Hunt's Department Store will continue its same cordial service and name-brand lines of merchandise.



ALMOST GRADUATED—These two happy seniors at Watauga High School slip the last of their graduation invitations into the mail box outside their soon-to-be alma mater, Susan Lawrence and Paul Miller Jr., will be among the leaders of their graduating class. Susan, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Lawrence, is treasurer of the student council, and Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller, is president of the council. Graduation exercises will be at 8 o'clock tonight (Thursday) at the school. (Staff photo)

Gaston To Head ASU News Bureau

H. Lewis Gaston Jr., Belmont native who has worked in the public affairs department of Appalachian State University for the past five years, has been named Director of the ASU News Bureau.

Gaston, who has served as assistant director of the bureau for the past year in addition to being an English instructor, will replace Dick Barkley who has submitted his resignation which is to be effective later this month.

Barkley, who has headed the News Bureau operations for the past three years, resigned to accept the position of Sports Information Director at Wake Forest University. He will assume his new duties on June 16, according to Dr. Gene Hooks, WFU Athletic Director.

Gaston was born in Spartanburg, S. C., but was raised in Belmont where he graduated from Belmont High School. He obtained his B. A. degree in 1966 and earned his M. A. degree in 1968 at Appalachian.

During his senior year, he was listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities." In addition to serving as editor of The Appalachian campus newspaper during his undergraduate study, he was a student assistant in the News Bureau. He was a graduate

assistant in the same office during the 1966-67 and 1967-68 academic years.

Gaston has been associated with the operation of Horn in the West outdoor drama for the past five years, three in promotional work and the past two as general manager.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Gaston Sr., are teachers in the Gaston County School system.

Barkley, a native of Asheville and an alumnus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was state editor of the Durham Sun newspapers for six years before joining the Appalachian staff in 1966.

Expenditure for the operation of the county school system continues to siphon off the largest share of county tax dollar. Thirty cents of the rate will be allocated to schools, amounting to \$196,006. State and federal grants of \$721,473 plus other local funds, including \$35,000 from the Blowing Rock AEC Store, swell the school budget to \$1,026,929.

The general fund, from which come monies for the day-to-day operation of most county departments, shows an increase for 1969-70 from \$184,328 to \$215,486.

Final Approval Of Money Bill Due Early July

A new Watauga County budget, a record-breaking \$2,220,084, was tentatively approved for the upcoming fiscal year by the Board of Commissioners in an all-day session Monday.

To meet what the board considers the basic needs of the county starting July 1, they adopted a tentative tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 valuation on real and personal property.

The ad valorem tax thus is expected to bring into county coffers a record \$704,996, a \$132,480 increase over ad valorem tax revenues expected for this year.

Other local tax sources, totaling \$211,656, combined with \$1,303,432 in state and federal participation in county programs, bring the total budget up to \$2,220,084.

The new total budget represents an increase of \$118,769 over the current budget that has operated the county since July 1, 1968.

The new budget, under state law, will "lay on the table" for public inspection for 30 days. Its formal adoption will come early in July.

The new budget marks the first time in recent history that Watauga County has based its assessment ratios for real and personal properties on the same percentage—65 percent.

Watauga commissioners have based the tax rate on 50 percent of real property assessments and 100 percent of personal property. However, state law requires that the assessment ratio be the same for each category.

Also, state law requires that county general fund revenues be limited to 20 cents per \$100 of valuation. The higher assessment ratio allows the county to conform to this law.

Total ad valorem tax revenues are budgeted at \$759,000 for the new fiscal year, a \$144,000 increase over the \$615,000 expected for 1968-69. However, the budget is based upon collection of only 92 per cent of the total charge, reducing the effective ad valorem tax levy to \$704,966.

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Wilson, 46 of 113 Skyview Dr., has been a Boone physician since 1953 and has done his entire practice here. He received his medical degree from Louisville (Ky.) University after attending the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He received his degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina. He served three years in the army during World War II.

He is an elder of the Boone Presbyterian Church and is married to the former Kathryn McGimsey. They have four children.

After serving as Boone mayor 18 years, Gordon Winkler was elected to the General Assembly in 1961. It was his second trip to the state lawmaking body.

Winkler, 66, studied in the Boone school system. He was graduated from then Appalachian Training School. A native of Watauga County, he and his wife, the former Iva Dean Wilson, live at 338 Blowing Rock Road.

A retired insurance man, Winkler was nominated by the town Democratic party to run for Mayor.

The Winklers attend First Baptist Church.

Charles Blackburn Jr. is seeking election to the Town Board of Aldermen. It is his first try for political office.

He is 44 and a resident of 400 Tracy Circle. A graduate of ASU, he is a former school teacher and is now self-employed as a farmer and also deals in rental properties.

He and his wife, the former Ann Carroll, have two children (continued on page two)

Governor Bob Scott announced Monday that the Appalachian Regional Commission has approved a \$151,233 grant in federal Appalachian funds for the construction of a continuing education laboratory center at ASU in Boone.

The new center will be part of an overall expansion program now underway at ASU whose total enrollment this year was 5,715.

The proposed center will be designed to meet the continuing educational needs of the people of western North Carolina. Programs at the center will provide for organized conference groups, workshops,

seminars and arts and crafts displays.

The new center will have a large lecture room, smaller seminar rooms, an audio-visual production area and administrative office space.

Total construction costs will be \$502,466. Of this amount \$151,233 will be provided under act, \$100,000 by the State of North Carolina, \$100,000 by local sources, and \$151,233 in supplemental funds under Section 214 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act.

ASU President Dr. W. H. Plimmons welcomed the announcement from Governor Scott. "We are excited over

prospect for this new center, and how it will fit into our program for the area," he said.

Dr. Plimmons said the \$100,000 from a local source that the governor's announcement included is expected to be the private gift from an individual "who is intensely interested in the affairs of Appalachian University."

He said the donor's identity would be announced later.

Dr. Plimmons said that no site has been picked as yet for the center. But he said considerable work has already been done by the university architects, Baber and Wood of Asheville.

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Area Living Standards Are Rising

Although the cost of living has zoomed in Watauga County in recent years, as it has everywhere else, inflation has not been the chief culprit.

So says the Bureau of Labor Statistics after completing a nationwide sampling survey of family budgets, and comparing them with the budgets of previous years.

It finds, in fact, that 80 percent of the increase in expenditures for goods and services has been due to an upgrading of the average family's standard of living, over a period of 15 years, and only 40 percent has been due to inflation.

Gradually, year by year, local families have been improving their way of life—eating more expensive foods, wearing finer clothes, buying better homes and spending more on leisure pursuits.

The net result, according to the BLS, was that 4 percent per year was invested in better living during the period despite the fact that prices were rising at an average of 2.7 percent a year.

The change is quite evident in Watauga County. It shows up, for example, in the array of household appliances and equipment in their homes and in their outlays for goods and services generally.

On the basis of a special report on purchases and ownership of durables, made by the Department of Commerce, no less than 30.7 percent of the families in Watauga County now own two or more cars, as compared with 19.0 percent in 1960.

The average elsewhere in the United States is 26.7 percent and, in the South Atlantic States, 27.3 percent.

Similarly, more homes are equipped with clothes dryers than was the case in 1960. Ownership in the local area has increased by about 13.7 percent, it is estimated.

As for television sets, over 89.0 percent of the households in the area have them, as against 72.0 percent in 1960.

While there has been little change in the proportion of families with washing machines, the ones now in use are automatic models for the most part, not the wringer type that was more common then.

The report also points to marked increases in air conditioners, dishwashers and radio and photographic equipment.

Rising incomes have brought these conveniences and many others within reach of a growing number of local families.



H. LEWIS GASTON JR.

(Continued on page two)