

The Democrat is first place winner in State Press Assn. General Excellence Competition this year—the third time in four years.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

BOONE WEATHER

1969	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Hum.	Wind	Dir.
July 29	78	61				
July 30	76	58				
July 31	80	55				
Aug. 1	78	62				
Aug. 2	81	59	.25			
Aug. 3	77	59	.02			
Aug. 4	70	58	.41			



LANDMARK GOES—The old elementary school building, long familiar to the Appalachian University scene, is being swept from the campus by wrecking crews. The building, whose doors were first swung open to Boone area students in 1925, housed the ASU student book store just prior to its demolition. It

was abandoned by the university as a grade school in 1954 when the present Appalachian Elementary School was built. The last principal to serve in the school was John T. Howell who began his service in 1937. The university plans to initially utilize the lot for parking. (Staff photo)

Watauga's School Program To Be Expanded This Fall

Watauga County's school program will be expanded this fall along with the total school enrollment.

Dr. Swanson Richards, the new superintendent of schools, pointed to the 8,000-square-foot vocational addition at Watauga High School and crossed his fingers.

"They're saying we'll be in the addition by Sept. 1 but we're hoping everything will be ready by Oct. 1," he said.

The addition will be the big shot in the arm for vocational educational programs at Watauga High School. Its completion this fall will mean the school can add cosmetology, graphic arts and vocational office education to its curriculum.

And when the school bells ring at all the county's nine schools on Wednesday, Aug. 20, another record number of students is expected to file in.

Dr. Richards predicted that it will be well above the total enrollment of 4,004 for the 1968-69 school year. The county's enrollment has risen an average of 40 students a year since 1965-66.

Dr. Richards expects the student bubble at Appalachian Elementary School to get even tighter this year. Last year the school's student body had climbed to 905 students. An additional 25 boys and girls this year would not surprise the school office.

Two additional mobile classroom units are due this month for the school. They will help ease the student load for teachers.

Other signs of growth are seen for Mabel and Green Valley schools where new space is being provided. A new boiler is being installed now at Mabel

(Continued on page two)

3rd Grader Talks With Governor

A rising third grader at Blowing Rock Elementary School took a very special ride Sunday afternoon with a very special man—the Governor of North Carolina.

It was early April when Philip Dotson, 7, wrote the Watauga Democrat this letter: "Dear Scott—get your men out here or I will kuss some more, I'll get every kid on bus 46 60 and my bus too to kuss with me, so get out here and get to work,—Philip.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Jesse Dotson of Route 3, Boone, explained that the problem was that the second grader was having to walk some distance because the school bus could not navigate the muddy road to the Dotson house.

It was April 8 when Gov. Bob Scott wrote Philip he had seen the letter in the Democrat, and "I'll tell you one thing: I don't want all the kids on busses Nos. 40 and 60 'kussing' me, so I'll get the Highway Department to check and see what can be done to improve the situation."

Sunday, the Governor was in Boone for the dedication of an



PHILIP DOTSON

Appalachian State University building for former Gov. Terry Sanford and Mrs. Sanford. That afternoon, he took a state car to the Dotson home to pick up Philip for a ride over the questioned road—and perhaps a little precinct politics talk.

Mrs. Dotson says that when the Governor had returned the boy home and was driving away, Philip quipped, "I think he'd make a good president."

(Continued on page two)

Highway Chief Barr Has Watauga In His District

Robert G. Barr, prominent West Jefferson business man and political leader was assigned Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga and Wilkes counties when he and 22 other members of Governor Scott's enlarged State Highway Commission were sworn in last



ROBERT G. BARR

Wednesday in Raleigh ceremonies.

It hadn't been known for certain locally whether Mr. Barr's assigned district would include Watauga, or if it would be in Jack Kirtsey's district.

Governor Scott told the Commission that when his administration ends 3 1/2 years from now, "I want you to have under way one of the most far-reaching and ambitious highway construction programs in North Carolina's history."

The Governor added: "I want you to get out and see the people, listen to them and when that telephone rings late at night I want it answered."



THE SANFORDS AND GOVERNOR SCOTT pose in the shadow of Terry and Margaret Rose Sanford Hall which was dedicated on the Appalachian campus Sunday afternoon.

Governor Praises Sanford At Dedication Ceremonies

Gov. Bob Scott praised one of North Carolina's most popular former governors and threw out a word of caution to all state institutions of higher learning as he delivered an address Sunday at the dedication of Terry and Margaret Rose Sanford Hall

at Appalachian State University. "Whoever you go," Scott said, "you meet this name, and you find it is associated with enlightened government and educational reform. In recent years, the name of Sanford has become associated throughout

the country with the idea that state and local governments should be strengthened and of necessity must be revitalized."

He continued, "Sanford has been trying to find ways of making our state government so lively and so responsive to the needs of the people that there will be very few areas and very few fields of endeavor when and where we should go to the federal government to seek the solutions of our problems."

The governor's word of caution was directed to "every institution in this state, and particularly to those institutions that are growing very rapidly in size."

He warned, "As you grow, never lose sight of your real objective, that objective being to educate, in the broadest sense, to the best of our ability, and with all the resources available to our young men and our young women."

"We must never succumb," he said, "to the easy rationalization that because we have twice as many students as we did a few years ago, that we are somehow better."

To Appalachian officials, he commented, "Keep your eyes on the objective, keep asking yourselves about the quality of the educational experience on this campus. If you do, then the future of this institution will be bright as it enters into a new era."

Responding to the dedication address on behalf of his family, former governor Sanford said, "We are grateful, indeed we are grateful to the president, to the trustees of Appalachian State University for placing our names 'in residence' on this campus of learning, growth, development, and accomplishment."

"I think it has been the strength of character, the hopeful vision, the sacrifice, the faith in its own capacity to achieve that have brought progress to this university. These are the same characteristics that mark the past of North Carolina and that hold the promise for her future in our continuing quest for excellence," he concluded.

Located in the center of ASU's campus, the new Sanford Hall is a mammoth five-story classroom building of brick and precast stone. It houses all classes in English, mathematics, foreign languages, and philosophy and religion. The structure cost in excess of one and a half million dollars.

(Continued on page two)

500 To Get Degrees At ASU

A total of 530 students are candidates for five different degrees to be awarded at the commencement exercises Saturday Aug. 16, on the Appalachian State University campus.

Bachelor of science degrees will be conferred on 217 seniors, and 24 will receive the bachelor of arts degree. Master of arts degrees will be awarded to 281 graduate students and one student will graduate under ASU's new master of science program.

Seven others will be awarded Certificates of Advanced Study in various fields.

Commencement ceremonies are scheduled for 8:30 p. m. in William J. Conrad Stadium on the ASU campus. Appalachian's senior faculty member, retiring Chairman of the Department of English, Dr. Graydon Poe Eggers, will present the address to the graduating class.

Dr. W. C. Strickland, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Ben Horton, Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Nicholas Erneston, Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Dr. Cratis Williams, Dean of the Graduate School will present the candidates for the various degrees.

The retiring president of the university, Dr. W. H. Plammons, will confer the degrees and the awards to the graduates. Mary Elizabeth N. Norris, candidate for Master of Arts degree will present the opening welcome and remarks. The Reverend Robert Bond, Pastor of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church of Boone, will give the invocation, and the benediction will be offered by the Reverend J. K. Parker, Jr., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Boone.

The processional and recessional will be played by the Summer School Band under the direction of Charles Isley.

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Police Training Plan Is Approved

Boone will participate with the Winston-Salem police department in a plan for in-depth training of the local police department beginning in September.

Boone aldermen approved the plan at a called meeting Thursday, July 31.

The proposal was presented by Dr. Francis Rich of Boone, chairman of the Governor's Law Enforcement Agency.

Under the plan, the Twin City department will send a police training officer to work with the Boone department for 12 weeks. The Boone department will send a member of the local force to Winston-Salem for a similar period.

barger to handle the special fund.

The board announced that Alderman Crater Marsh has been named superintendent of Boone's water and street department. The appointment followed the resignation of Town Manager Neal Blair.

Horn In West Ahead Of 1968

Although Horn In The West suffered its first rainout of the season Sunday night, attendance is still better than 15 per cent ahead of last year's box office reports.

A total of 19,506 vacationers and local patrons have attended the outdoor drama through its first 33 performances, and, if good weather holds during the remaining weekends in August, attendance should top the 30,000 mark.

Blue Laws To Be Considered

Changes in Boone's Sunday Blue Law will be considered Monday night, Aug. 11, at a called meeting of the Boone Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Gordon Winkler announced that the 7:30 p. m. meeting will be open to the public.

The announcement of the meeting noted that the board is being urged to consider changes in the ordinance.

Powderhorn Drama

The Lesson, the modern French drama by Eugene Ionesco, will be presented at the Powderhorn Theater Friday and Saturday nights, Aug. 8 and 9, following the regular Horn in the West production.

The later productions normally start at 11:30 p. m. The drama will be accompanied by an original script, The Long Marseilles, by Tom Tomlinson.