

BOONE WEATHER

Sept. 9	85 55	73 51
Sept. 10	85 47	69 54
Sept. 11	85 38	63 50
Sept. 12	84 42	63 46
Sept. 13	72 40	72 39
Sept. 14	72 45	72 41
Sept. 15	73 45	72 43

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SOPHOMORES: They've been through this before, but it's still hard work. Managing to maintain big smiles while getting ready to use a lot of elbow grease on loaded suitcases and boxes are Trudy Pitts of Statesville and Union Grove (N. C.) residents Glenda Resh and Eulalia Brown. (Staff photo)

Area County Boards To Gather In Boone 30th

A meeting of county commissioners from northwestern North Carolina counties will be held Tuesday, Sept. 30, in Boone to study the proposed one-cent additional sales tax.

The question of adding the extra penny to the present three per cent sales tax will be put to voters in North Carolina at a special election on Nov. 4. Proceeds from the tax would go to the counties where voters approve the issue.

The Watauga County Board of Commissioners will be hosts for the meeting. It will be held in the commissioners' room of the courthouse.

On hand to lead the discussion will be John Morrissey of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Bloodmobile Coming 2nd

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will come to Boone Thursday, Oct. 2.

The unit will be here from 11 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. At least 200 pints are needed. The location will be announced next week.

Cuts Won't Stop Parkway Work

RALEIGH—Portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway and several other projects now under construction apparently will not be affected by federal highway fund cutbacks. But future links of these projects may be.

Spokesmen for the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads said they will not advertise for any more bids on the direct federal projects until further notice, but that contracts already let will be completed.

Only direct federal projects, which include forest highways, defense facilities access and public lands, are involved. State money is not required for these projects. Other federal aid projects, such as the interstate highways, which require mandatory state matching funds are not affected by the order.

President Nixon's decision to cut federal highway funds by 75 per cent has caused the economy move.

Elmer Hale, of the Arlington, Va., regional office of the Bureau of Public Roads, said there are two Blue Ridge Parkway projects now under way which will move ahead as planned.

The 2.9 mile, \$1 million link which starts near Holloway Mountain Bridge and leads to near Dixon Creek on the face of Grandfather Mountain was begun June 20 and will be con-

Watermelon Feast Set For Students

A giant watermelon cutting, expected to be the largest ever staged in the Appalachians, will be held at 5:30 p. m. Friday on the baseball field of Appalachian State University.

Sponsored by the Community-Campus Relations Committee, the entire ASU student body of 6,000 has been invited.

Cabbage Harvester To Be Shown Today

Demonstration of a mechanical cabbage harvester will be held at 10 a. m. today (Thursday) on the farm of Marvin Storie on Route 4, Boone. The machine will be demonstrated by its manufacturer, the King Cole Company.

If All Counties Approve Proposed Sales Tax To Add \$228,000 Locally

County, Two Towns Would Get Benefit

The proposed extra penny sales tax could pump as much as \$228,000 into the hard-pressed treasuries of Watauga County and its two municipalities, Boone and Blowing Rock.

The recent legislature called for a vote on the issue on Nov. 4 in each of the state's 100 counties.

The counties and towns would be free to use the additional revenue as they see fit. No strings would be attached.

The proposal marks the first time in recent state history that a substantial new tax source has been offered to help finance the growing demands for services of local governments.

The main source of local government revenue historically has been limited to property taxes, plus an assortment of utility rents and other local license fees.

As counties and towns have sought to meet the demand for additional services, they have had to squeeze tighter primarily on property taxes, a source that many believe has reached its economic limits.

Under the plan proposed, a penny on the dollar would be added to the present sales tax of three cents on the dollar.

One-half of the extra penny would be sent back to the county in which it was collected to be distributed to the county and its municipalities on the basis of their respective ad valorem levies (property tax).

In counties where voters disapprove the plan on Nov. 4 the additional penny sales tax would not be collected.

The remaining one-half cent collected in the taxing counties would be "pooled" and distributed to all the participating counties and to its municipalities on a per capita basis, as determined from the total population of all taxing counties plus the population of their municipalities.

The state would retain its present three per cent sales tax, plus only the cost of administering the collection for the counties.

According to State Department of Tax Research figures compiled last spring, if all the state's counties approve the plan, Watauga County and its municipalities would receive a total of \$228,000 in additional revenue.

The funds could be used for any purpose the governing bodies choose, including streets, garbage, retirement of bonds, general expense and school and recreation needs.

The legislature further provided that in event a county defeats the plan, a new election may be called for one year later by the county commissioners or upon presentation of a petition signed by at least 15 per cent of the voters who voted



THE BOONE ROTARY CLUB offered a passel of goods for sale in their benefit auction Saturday night. While the auctioneer was calling for bids, the spotters kept an eye out for new bidders to keep the action rolling. A big crowd turned out to Watauga High School where the display was set up in the gymnasium, got impressive bargains at their own price and boosted Rotary's benefit programs in the community. Two of the club's top priority projects are the Dr. J. B. Hagaman Cardiac Care Center at Watauga County Hospital and their continuing work with local crippled children. (Staff photo)

Burley Tobacco Is Important To Welfare Watauga Farmers

The pattern is being repeated on some 1,400 farms in Watauga County this month. Production of burley tobacco provides a healthy chunk of Watauga farm income.

Last year a total of 1,617 acres of burley were grown. It produced an estimated return of \$1,990,953 to 1,415 farms that held allotments.

Burley tobacco growing came to Watauga County in the late 1920s. The first records were kept in 1929, when five acres were listed. The crop averaged 800 pounds an acre and brought 21.2 cents a pound or a total of \$850 to the growers.

Production methods and technology have changed all that, though. Last year's yield averaged 2,626 pounds an acre. On the floor of burley warehouses, Watauga tobacco sold for an average of 73.5 cents a pound.

George Byrd grew his first crop of tobacco some 35 years ago. He heeds the advice of extension specialists when it comes to selecting a disease resistant variety and carrying out chemical treatment.

Like any other intensive crop, tobacco lays demand for individual attention of each stalk on the grower. The suckers that appear at the base of each stem must be pinched off to allow full leaf development.

Traditionally, suckering has

Heavy stalk of burley tobacco where it meets the soil. He turns to spear the thick stalk on a stick he has driven into the ground. He puts five or six stalks on each stick, depending on the weight of the stalks. From a distance the stalks appear to be tiny inverted tepees.

That's likely to be the greeting from George Byrd when you walk into his tobacco patch on Route 1, Vilas.

The sharp edge of his tobacco tomahawk flashes in the morning sun as he wacks off a heavy stalk of burley tobacco where it meets the soil.

He turns to spear the thick stalk on a stick he has driven into the ground. He puts five or six stalks on each stick, depending on the weight of the stalks. From a distance the stalks appear to be tiny inverted tepees.

Muhammed Ali To Speak At Varsity Gym Tonight

The world's heavy weight champion will lecture at 8 Thursday night (Sept. 18) in Varsity Gymnasium on the Appalachian State University Campus.

Muhammed Ali, who started his boxing career as Cassius Clay, will have the Black Muslim movement as his topic and is being sponsored here by the Student Government Association.

All is now under indictment for refusal to serve in the armed forces.

ASU faculty and students will be admitted by ID cards. Other tickets are being sold at the SGA office in the Student Center Monday through Thursday of this week.

Boone And Blowing Rock Get State Street Funds

Boone and Blowing Rock will get State Street allocations from the \$11 million Powell Bill fund distribution announced last week.

Boone will receive \$28,177.73 based on its 1960 population of 3,686 and 30.61 miles of non-state system streets.

Blowing Rock was allotted \$12,729.47, based on a 1960 population of 711 and 18.71 miles of non-state streets.

Neighboring Banner Elk is to get \$4,081.57, based on a population of 564 and 4.28 miles of non-system streets.

Newland is allotted \$3,728.41, based on a population of 564 and 3.66 miles of streets.

D. M. Faircloth said that 427 cities and towns will receive proportional cash allotments amounting to \$11,224,494. Checks will be mailed from Raleigh this month so they can reach the municipalities by October 1.

The Powell Bill funds, provided by one-half cent of the regular gasoline tax, are returned annually to cities and towns, based on both population and non-state street mileage.

This year's total is almost \$1-million more than last year, when \$10.4 million was returned to the municipalities.

Travel on the Blue Ridge Parkway in August was down 3.4% from August of 1968, according to National Park Service statistics.

During August 1968 there were 1,844,840 visitors as against 1,782,772 in August 1969.

The calendar year 1969, however, reflects a travel increase on the scenic road of 3.4%.

In the first eight months of 1968 7,885,181 persons toured the parkway. In 1969 the number was 8,032,446.

Boone Town Taxes Earn Sept. Discount

A one per cent discount will apply to all Boone Town taxes paid during the month of September. A one-half per cent discount will apply for taxes paid during October.

The discounts apply although notices have not been mailed out. Taxes may be paid at city hall.

Local Installment Debt \$1,090 Per Family

How much of a load are residents of Watauga County carrying these days in the form of installment debt?

What part of their income goes each month toward repayment of this debt?

Consumers in the local area, as well as those in most other parts of the country, have been adding to their debt in recent years.

One factor that has brought this about is the increased availability of consumer credit, which has taken such new forms as all-purpose credit plans, bank check credit and revolving credit.

Credit is so freely obtainable now that nearly one out of every two families uses it in its purchasing. It has enabled many people, who could not otherwise have obtained them, to buy cars, homes, air conditioning, travel and other big-ticket items.

As of the middle of this year, the Federal Reserve Board reports, the amount of installment credit outstanding in the United States was \$93.09 billion, a sharp rise over the \$83.43 billion listed a year earlier.

In Watauga County, on the basis of this and other studies, the amount of installment debt outstanding is estimated at \$1,090 per family.

That is what it amounts to on average. It varies widely from family to family. Some owe much more than this and others owe little or nothing.

For the Watauga County population as a whole, the total installment debt comes to approximately \$5,689,000.

The largest part of it, over 38 percent, represents payments due on car purchases. The rest is for other consumer goods, for home repairs and modernization loans and for personal loans. Home mortgages and charge accounts in stores do not fall within this category.

To pay off their installment debt on a regular basis requires nearly 16 percent of the net disposable income of local residents, or about \$80 per month per family.

Is this more than they can handle comfortably? Not according to the figures. Only a small proportion of the people have gone too deeply into debt and had difficulties. For the great majority, rising incomes and steady employment have enabled them to carry their debt burden quite well.