

# Says Net Worth Of Watauga People Now In Neighborhood \$78,400,000

In terms of worldly possessions, how much is the average Watauga County family worth today?

What is the net worth—assets minus liabilities—of the family home, automobile, investments, furniture, personal property, bank accounts, insurance and other valuables that were acquired over the years?

Few families have more than a hazy idea of how much they are worth. Their concerns are more immediate ones, such as their weekly income, their current bills, the cost of food and the like. As to their total assets, they never took the time to figure them out carefully.

On the basis of the latest economic studies, the net worth of the local population has been on the rise in recent years, despite inflation, and is now in the neighborhood of \$78,400,000.

While the figure, admittedly, is not a precise one, it is derived from national studies made by the Federal Reserve Board and others.

It takes into account the average income in the local area and the manner in which the total income is distributed among the population as a whole.

What with wages and salaries in Watauga County rising, year by year, most families have been adding to their possessions.

The average net worth in the area is now estimated at \$15,000 per family, based upon the Federal Reserve Board's overall findings and upon local income figures.

This is an across-the-board average, which includes young families, who have not yet been able to accumulate a great deal in the way of assets, as well



**NEW VALUATION BEGINS**—Gathering of information has begun in Watauga County for the new property valuation under the state's mandatory program every eight years. Recording real property information given by Mrs. Paul Coffey of West King Street are Martin Hines (left) and Linford Kereley, both employees of the Carroll M. Phelps Company of Winston-Salem. (Staff photo)

as those in the 55 to 64 group, whose assets are at a peak. comes of \$5,000 to \$8,000 have from \$13,000 to \$18,000 in assets, that those in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 category have from \$18,000 to \$26,500 and that those with net incomes of \$12,000 to \$15,000 have assets ranging from \$38,500 to \$53,000.

The broad picture of personal wealth shows that, for any particular family, it is closely related to its earning capacity.

In general, it is found, families with net, after-tax, in-

comes, after deduction for all outstanding debt, including mortgage obligations on the house and payments on the car.

These are the net worth fig-

## University Has Bustling Growth

Appalachian State University is experiencing a bustling, studied growth which is keeping pace with the tremendous demands placed upon it as a state-supported university serving one of the most dynamically progressive regions of North Carolina.

Although Appalachian's growth, physically and academically has been a matter of consistency since its founding in 1903 under Dr. B. B. Dougherty, the institution made many noticeable strides over the past 14 years under the forward-looking guidance of president William Howard Plemmons, and the trend is continuing under the university's new president, Dr. Herbert W. Wey.

A random sampling of fact is indicative of the university's growth. For example, Appalachian's enrollment, one year before Dr. Plemmons assumed ASU's presidency in 1955, included 922 undergraduates and 277 graduate students. Today the university's total enrollment approaches the 7,000 mark with 5,706 undergraduates and more than 1,000 graduate students.

In addition, the physical growth of the 90-acre campus has kept pace with the enrollment. There were, for example, 16 major buildings on the mountain campus 13 years ago. Today, there are more than 40 major campus buildings serving every need of the modern student.

The current value of Appalachian's physical plant has soared to a total in excess of \$52 million, and a \$2.4 million building program is at this moment adding an ultra-modern science hall addition to the campus.

Academic progress has also received its due attention. In 1955, the college listed 88 faculty members. Today, there are more than 345. In addition to the faculty, the professional staff numbers approximately 425, and

Appalachian's annual payroll now exceeds \$8 million.

Along with the expansion of the faculty, 42 per cent of which holds the doctoral degree, Appalachian's curriculum has made unparalleled progress. Fourteen years ago Appalachian students could earn the B.S. degree with a teaching certificate in 11 different subject areas. Today, 27 majors are offered for the B.S. candidates who plan to teach. But more significantly, Appalachian has broadened the scope of its academic philosophy to offer regular academic degrees without teacher certification. Now, a new B. A. (non-teaching) degree is offered in 16 of the university's academic departments, and a non-teaching B. S. is available in five majors.

There are 23 majors for the regular Master of Arts with teacher certification, three non-teaching M. A.'s, a new Master of Science degree program as well as a sixth year program which offers a Certificate for Advanced Study.

Incidentally, only one institution in North Carolina, UNC at Chapel Hill, awarded more M. A. degrees last year than did Appalachian.

And, most important, Appalachian made the tremendous advance (in 1967) from a teachers' college to a regional university under Dr. Plemmons' leadership.

Other services to students at Appalachian are also keeping pace with the times. The institution provides an opportunity for students to acquire a liberal education, to develop those qualities of mind and character that make for excellence of human endeavor, and to prepare for various professional careers and public services.

Profiteering laid to Vietnam club suppliers.



**ASU'S EXTENSION DEPARTMENT UNDERGOES EVALUATION**—A team from the National University Extension Association visited the Appalachian campus last week to evaluate ASU's Department of Extension for membership in the Association. The team's report will be released in Washington, D. C., on December 5, and Appalachian's bid for membership in the Association will be ruled upon on Dec. 8. Pictured at a luncheon with Appalachian's deans and departmental chairmen are members of the evaluation team. At the extreme left is Dr. James Arnold, Dean of Extensions and Continuing Education at the University of Tennessee and (third from left) Dr. Charles Milner, Dean of Extensions at UNC-Chapel Hill. Representing Appalachian are (second from left) Dr. Roy Blanton, Director of Extensions, and (center) Dean W. C. Strickland, College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Roy Carroll, Chairman of the Department of History, Dr. Ed Harrell and Bob McFarland, both of the College of Education.

### To Phase-Out DDT

The Nixon Administration plans to eliminate all but "essential uses" of the pesticide DDT in the next two years. The Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Health, Education and Welfare will be coordinated in a program to clean up the nation's food and environment.

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