

BOONE WEATHER					
1970	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Snow	'69 Hi Lo
Jan. 6	35	26	.04	1-in.	31 9
Jan. 7	30	-	.24	2½-in.	26 12
Jan. 8	-	-4	.02	½-in.	42 12
Jan. 9	8	-9	.03	½-in.	45 30
Jan. 10	25	-4	.03	½-in.	30 11
Jan. 11	38	10	.03	½-in.	30 12
Jan. 12	32	25	.19	½-in.	31 11



**HOCKEY, ANYONE?**—It was the middle of Thursday afternoon and the section of tennis court left when the Highway Department shifted Faculty Street last year was iced over. Enter Clay Smith (left) and Johnny Hoggard, skating over the surface that feels tennis shoes in mild weather. Both are freshman students who hail from Greensboro and they attracted much attention as they fought the puck back and forth. It wasn't the best surface, as Hoggard conceded the second time he got up. The wind had whipped up irregular ridges of ice as the freeze set in, but then what else was there? Johnny said he tried the court after midnight that day, but it wasn't ready then. (Staff photo)

## Varying Temperature Reports

# Snow Piles Up In County

## As Mercury Hits Bottom

### Official Nine Below Reported In Boone Friday

Sombody said it was 20 degrees below zero on Howard's Knob last week and everyone was quick to compare the plunges of the mercury at their own homes and businesses.

The official low reading given by U. S. Meteorologist Joe Minor of Boone, were minus 4 degrees last Thursday, minus 9 on Friday and minus 4 again on Saturday.

But at the county's higher elevations, rock bottom temperatures were recorded. The word came through Mrs. Patsy Brown, Snow Carnival secretary who releases ski and weather information through the Boone Chamber of Commerce.

Friday's report was: Appalachian Sid Mountain, winds of 30 mph and minus 14 degrees; Beech Mountain, minus 17 degrees; Hound Ears, minus 11; Seven Devils, minus 18; and Sugar Mountain, minus 8.

Wrecker services, heating and plumbing companies and samaritans with jumper cables were the heroes of the two days. While ASU coeds battled the severity of life in the dorms by running hair dryers, one male student forlornly reported having turned on a popcorn popper to generate heat in his room.

There was the man with the new double-insulated house, with his new furnace going full blast, a blazing fire on the hearth and two electric heaters he still was unable to get the house above 45 degrees.

The wind swirled about so sharply that it was assumed the snow was blowing rather than falling. But Minor's report listed one inch of snowfall Tuesday, two and a half inches last Wednesday, and a half inch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Minus 18 degrees last was recorded in Watauga on Sunday, Jan. 30, 1966. However, the cold snap was short lived with temperatures in the teens recorded for the day before and the day after.

But last Friday, as one merchant aptly said, "The only thing going on here is the rent, heat and lights."



FODDER STACKS CAST GHOSTLY SHADOWS ON THE SLOPES OF RICH MOUNTAIN, (Staff photo)

## Power Companies Act In Residents' Interest

The snow that fell last week in Watauga County was stiff and crunchy beneath the sub-zero wind that raged in during the night of Jan. 7 and 8.

The two-day siege of bitter weather featured a minus-18-degree temperature and developed lots of problems as hundreds of Wataugas awoke to find their cars immovable and themselves temporarily or wholly marooned for the day.

And some who made it to town found their cars could not make the trip back home without the aid of a tow truck. Many who caught rides to work were caught in the same predicament.

In a second-hand way, So harsh was the weather near Blowing Rock that the slopes at Appalachian Sid Mountain closed last Thursday, but the next day they opened again, according to the Boone Chamber of Commerce.

Unaccustomed to such severe weather, householders did what they could to keep the indoors livable, but in some cases this was impossible. Household circuits blew out regularly and as the overload on electricity began to grow, New River Light and Power Company in Boone issued a bulletin.

mind that TVA, Duke Power Company and Carolina Light and Power called on users of electricity to conserve power during the abnormal cold. But that meant "Be conservative as far as the wiring in their own houses goes" Ayers said.

His company was kept busy checking out reports of power failure. The lines remained intact though, and failures were traced to overloads within

(Continued on page two)



DR. LEN D. HAGAMAN

### Takes Post On Area Heart Unit

Dr. Len D. Hagaman has been named medical representative for the Watauga County Heart Fund unit.

Dr. Hagaman's appointment was announced by Mrs. Wade Wilmouth, educational chairman of the unit.

A native of Boone, Dr. Hagaman opened his practice here

(Continued on page two)

**MISCONSTRUED**  
With school children at home, the electricity overload in Boone was particularly acute last Thursday and Friday.

But there was never a shortage of power, says Grant Ayers of New River Light and Power. That misinterpretation occurred, even though the intent of the company was to warn people against overloading their own household systems.

The power popped off and on in Boone a few times those two days but Ayers explained the company was "switching," or hooking feed lines to auxiliary sources. In this way, they were able to better distribute the drain of power in town.

Ayers pointed out that many used stove eyes to generate additional heat. Another condition reported during the storm was the use of floor heaters to supplement overworked furnaces.

"By doing that," Ayers explained, "They were overloading the circuits in their houses burning their own equipment out."

Added to this was the problem that most houses wired earlier than 10 years ago have to strain to supply the power required for modern appliances even under normal conditions, Ayers said it was with this in



ROBERT BINGHAM

### Governor To Install Boone Man Head YDC

Gov. Robert Scott will install new officers of the North Carolina Young Democrats in Winston-Salem, Saturday, Jan. 17.

Five officers will be installed: Robert Bingham of Boone, president; Charles Wineberry of Wilson, vice president; Judson Davis of Winston-Salem; secretary; Miss Peggy Wall of Raleigh, treasurer; and Floyd Ammons of Fayetteville, national committeeman.

The activities for the installation will be at the convention center, in Winston-Salem with registration in the Hotel Robert E. Lee. Activities will include a hospitality hour from 1 to 4:30 p. m. at the hotel. All other events will be at the Convention Center.

There will be a reception from 5 p. m. to 6 p. m. and Scott will invest the new officers during an installation program from 6 p. m. to 7 p. m. The dinner will begin at 7 p. m.

### Schools Closed Six Days Due To Raging Storms

Watauga County school children had missed a total of nine regular school days through Tuesday, School Supt. Dr. Swanson Richards reported.

And predicted warming sun rays were expected to help clear up icy problems on side roads Tuesday, thus allowing schools to re-open Wednesday.

The latest school closings still would set the last day of classes on May 27, Richards said.

## Third Of Tax Listing Forms In Watauga County Returned



MAIL BAGS FULL—Watauga County Auditor J. C. Lyons empties another incoming mail bag full of tax listing forms for Mrs. Jeffery E. Felshaw in the courthouse. (Staff photo)

Nearly one-third of the new tax listing forms for personal property have been returned to the Watauga County tax supervisor's office, according to R. C. Lyons.

Lyons estimated Friday that the staff has received and processed some 5,000 of the forms. "Mail bags have been crammed full nearly every day week," the tax supervisor said.

Lyons noted that "99 percent of the forms returned" indicated that taxpayers are choosing the new percentage method for listing personal property for taxes.

Under the new plan, taxpayers have a choice of listing their property fully or taking a figure of ten percent of the assessed value of the house they own and occupy. If they rent they may check a block that figures on an amount equal to ten times their monthly rent.

Lyons said that among those who have sought assistance from his office in listing their personal property individually, "the majority found that their personal property amounted to more than ten per cent of the value of their house."

The new plan, or percentage method, already is in use in a majority of North Carolina counties, Lyons said, its purpose is to put everyone on

equal footing in listing personal property for taxes.

Lyons said his office mailed out nearly 17,000 tax abstracts at the end of December. They are due to be returned with a postmark no later than Saturday, Jan. 31, in the pre-addressed stamped envelopes enclosed with the forms.

The new system has eliminated the need for the usual procedure for appearing before a tax lister to give in taxes.

Helpers to assist taxpayers in each township will be available for consultation beginning Monday, Jan. 19, Lyons said.

## Church's Store Is Sold To Robinson

The ownership of Church's Store Monday was transferred to John Robinson, long-time businessman in Boone.

Former manager of Crest Store in Boone and part-owner of Hunt's Department Store since June 1, 1969, Robinson said he bought out the interest of Fred Church and traded his interest in the department store for Guy Hunt's interest in Church's.

The price of purchasing part interest was not disclosed.

Church will remain with Robinson as manager of the West King Street business on a semi-retired basis. "Our desire is to keep all our present customers and make many new friends," Robinson said. "We are going to try to give them the best values that we possibly can and the best service." He added he was glad to be associated with Mr. Church.

A long-time horseman, Church enjoys trading horses and having them shown in local

shows. A native of the Brownwood community, he is married to the former Lois Dunn of Chicago and has been in business "on the street" for 20 years.

Speaking of Robinson, Church said he was happy to have the business "in such good hands."

For the present, the new owner contemplates no change of name for the business, Robinson was associated with Crest Stores for 17 years, 15 of those years in Boone.

"We are glad to be back among the friendly people of Watauga County," Robinson said. He and his family live on Bamboo Road at Holiday Hills. Two of their daughters are married and four children remain at home.

Robinson is vice-president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Boone Lions Club. The family attends Greenway Baptist Church.

### Auto Tag Sales Slowed By Snow

Sales of 1,194 auto license plates through Saturday, Jan. 10, were reported by the Boone Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Manager Fred McNeal reported that other plate sales included 298 for private trucks, two for motorcycles, 21 for farm trucks, and 49 for trailers.

McNeal said the sales were low due to the recent bad weather.

## Ski Conditions Good In Area

All five Watauga area ski centers reported good skiing conditions Tuesday with prospects for lively action all this week.

This is the first full week of activity at Sugar Mountain since the area's newest resort opened last Friday. Officials were hoping to have the mile-long lift for the events slope opened by today.

The following reports are based on the ski reporting service from the Boone Chamber of Commerce for Tuesday, Jan. 13,

slopes open with good skiing conditions. The base was 15-18 inches with little powder. Temperature was 16 degrees.

Hound Ears, open only to members and guests, reported slopes open and a temperature of 16 degrees.

At Sugar Mountain the beginners and intermediate slopes were open with excellent conditions. The base was 24 inches at 12 degrees.

Seven Devils reported all

### Frozen Sprinkler Brings Fire Alarm

Sub-freezing temperature was blamed for a fire alarm Sunday from a Howard Street warehouse.

A nozzle of a sprinkler system in the warehouse owned by Farmer's Hardware apparently had frozen and burst during last week's cold spell, when temperature's rose Sunday afternoon, the broken nozzle caused the fire alarm to sound.

Cecil Greene of the hardware firm said the first alarm went off about 4 p. m. No damage was caused by the sprinkler system, he said. The warehouse is rented to IRC.

### Zero Weather Chills Temple Of Justice

Boone's zero weather was too much for a pipe in the boiler room of the new courthouse; it froze Thursday night and turned the building into a near-refrigerator.

It was well into the afternoon before heat began to return to normal.

As Tax Supervisor J. C. Lyons explained it to a fellow employee, "Just one little line burst during the night."

Lyons said the boiler room, located in the basement on the east side, has a louvered opening to allow plenty of fresh air for combustion inside the furnace. Insulation on the boiler and heat pipes is designed to hold all the heat in the heating system, leaving none to escape to the boiler room.

"There was just too much air in the boiler room at minus 15 degrees," Lyons said. Approximately one-half the ventilation opening was closed off until warmer weather, he said.