

BOONE WEATHER				
1970	Hi	Lo	Pre. Snow	Hi Lo
Feb. 17	49	32	.47	42 21
Feb. 18	52	27		38 28
Feb. 19	53	28		37 22
Feb. 20	38	16		42 21
Feb. 21	36	13		52 17
Feb. 22	51	28		39 22
Feb. 23	45	33	.02	38 21

## Losses In Excess Of \$100,000

# John W. Hodges Building Guttled By Raging Flames



(Photo by Rachel Rivers)

In The Heat Of Battle, Firemen Flood The Fire-Tortured Building In The Central Business District

## Dr. Wey Says Higher Education Processes Need Personalizing

Appalachian State University president Dr. Herbert Wey told an audience of junior college presidents Monday night that in the decade of the seventies, higher education must individualize and personalize its programs for the student, despite mushrooming enrollments.

"If we don't do this," he said, "the students are going to run us off of the campus."

The keynote speaker for a two-day conference here for two-year college and technical institute administrators, Wey outlined the problems and the challenges which he believes will determine the survival of higher education in the seventies.

"We are going to have to place our general education re-

quirements in our colleges on an individually prescribed basis," Dr. Wey explained. "We cannot keep requiring the same general courses for everyone. For example, our students take American history and world history in the elementary school and again in the high schools. 'Then,' he continued, 'when we get them on the campus, we say 'That is a general education requirement and you must take it over. I know that some of these students still don't know any history, but a lot of them do. We must begin differentiating between them.'"

Other changes called for by Wey included the earning of university degrees completely through independent study.

"Much of this work," he said, could be done not on the campus but through correspondence courses. For years, college credit by correspondence has been held in disrepute, but now we are waking up and realizing that this is one way to initiate independent study on the part of our young people."

He maintained, "A student learns just as much through this type of program as he does sitting and listening in a classroom; we learn for years that students learn best from their own experiences and from their own activities."

Calling for additional innova-

tions in higher education, Wey recommended that the traditional four-year degree program be modified to allow a student to graduate in "two years

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## City Receives Final Sum On Water Project

Boone last week received its final federal payment for the \$3 million water-sewer project which was completed last summer.

The check from the EDA (Economic Development Administration) came to \$4,146,54. The check made the total federal help in the project come to \$962,862.97.

The comprehensive project included extensions and modernization programs throughout the town. They included a new sewage disposal plant, a new dam and reservoir on Winkler's Creek, a new water tank of Jefferson Drive and a number of major water and sewer lines.

Local monies included revenue from a \$1.8 million bond issue and appropriations from the town's general fund.

## 3 Businesses In Two Story Structure

A fire of unknown origin all but gutted the two-story Hodges Building in downtown Boone Wednesday night, Feb. 18, and put three East King Street businesses out of operation.

Fire department officials said this week there is no basis to indicate the fire was the work of an arsonist.

The stock and equipment of the A and R Food Store in the basement of the building was a total loss, along with the Gateway Restaurant and the Sanitary Barber Shop.

Fire Chief R. D. Hodges estimated that the damage to the building and businesses would exceed \$100,000.

The second floor of the building was used only for storage. The roof of the building and much of the inside walls on the second floor were destroyed.

Guy Hunt, who owned the building with Mrs. Johnny Hodges, said the building was partially insured. He said no estimate of damage to the building would be known until after insurance adjusters had completed their appraisal this week.

Hodges said the fire started in the basement under the barber shop. The area adjoined a rug room of the A and R Store and the furnace room. He said there was no fire in the furnace room area.

The alarm was sounded at 8:55 p. m. when an unidentified passerby went to the Boone police station to report smoke coming from the basement of the building.

Boone firemen were unable to get at the source of the flames due to intense smoke and gases from burning objects.

Fire departments from Blowing Rock, Cove Creek and Deep Gap were summoned and assisted in the effort to halt the blaze.

Hodges said that J. M. Nance of Hickory, an agent of the State Fire Marshall's office, had made a preliminary investigation of the fire and would return this week for further investigation.

Hodges said the room where the fire apparently originated was still buried under debris.

Hodges said a trash fire was discovered in a box in the same area a week earlier but that it was carried out before it spread.

The fire department was not summoned.

Roy Kepler, owner of the A and R Food Store, said his entire stock was ruined in the fire. He normally stocks an inventory valued at some \$15,000.

Kepler said he has no plans yet for re-opening the business at another location. He had been at the East King Street location for four years, he said. Gray Jones, who recently purchased the Gateway Restaurant, said his loss was in ex-

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## Heart Days For Business Drive Nearly Done

According to James Hastings, Heart-Days-for-Business Chairman, the Heart Fund Campaign of the Boone business district is almost completed.

He expects that the \$1,000 goal of the business district will be reached no later than Feb. 28. Hastings said the heart and blood vessel diseases represent the greatest single source of lost time to business and industry.

District Captains assisting Hastings include: Hoyt Edmisten, Jerry Childers, John Robinson, Doug Moore, Hugh Haganman, Mark Setzer, Ranny Phillips, Bob and Georgia Jones, Frosty Norris and Bill Smith.



THROUGH ROOF—Flames roared like a tiger out the top of the Hodges Building in downtown Boone Wednesday night, Feb. 18, as a large section of the roof caved in. Old furniture stored on the second floor fed the flames after the fire burned its way upward from the basement. (Staff photo)

## Wagon Trains No Longer To Use Park In Wilkes Co.

NORTH WILKESBORO — The heads of the two wagon trains which assemble each summer at North Wilkesboro

criticized the town's action in refusing to allow the trains to assemble at Memorial Park. John Dawson of Darby, president of the Daniel Boone Wagon Train, and Reeves Parsons of Purlear, Wilkes president of the Blue Ridge train, said the action Monday of commissioners will not affect operation of the trains and that assembly places will be found.

## Hardware Burns At Blowing Rock

(From The Blowing Rocket)

Arson is suspected in a fire that gutted the Hardin Hardware Company on Blowing Rock's Main Street last Tuesday night.

The first alarm sounded around 8:15 when Mr. Omer Coffey, owner of the Blowing Rock Tourist Court, noticed smoke pouring from the roof of the two story brick structure.

On arrival at the scene firemen found the front door to the building open. (The hardware was the scene of a break-in just last week) On Wednesday morning Fire Chief Sidney Greene reported finding two empty paint thinner cans thrown in the floor in the vicinity of the cash register, which is just about in the center of the store.

Firemen contained the blaze with most of the damage caused by the smoke.

A second alarm was sounded at midnight when firemen left at the scene reported a re-ignition of the smoldering roof.

Other firemen arrived to find flames leaping some thirty to forty feet from the roof of the building. At one point the entire building seemed to be a mass of flames and several firemen found themselves trapped on the roof of an adjoining building. Other firemen concentrated their efforts on that side of the building and the men escaped without injury.

A second fire truck was put into action and the flames were brought under control.

The contents of the building were considered a total loss and the building was damaged extensively. Owner of the hardware, Mayor R. B. Hardin, gave no estimate of the damage cost.

Blowing Rock Police Chief Emmitt Oliver said that "we are looking into several phone calls made to other business owners threatening their establishments with fire". According to Oliver one lady received a call telling her "your place is next".

Chief Oliver related that the state Fire Marshall had been notified and an investigation would begin immediately. According to Oliver several suspects were sought for questioning.

Thanks to the quick and professional action of the local fire department damages were confined to the hardware building. The Yonahlossee Theatre, to the left of the hardware was not damaged while the Blue Ridge Gift Shop on the right sustained only minor roof damage. Owner of the shop, Mr. Glenn Coffey removed part of the stock to a lot across the street until the blaze was under control.

At one point during the height of the blaze it was feared that the adjoining buildings would be lost but due to the alertness of the fire department this was averted.

"We hope to begin rebuilding the store immediately", Hardin related, "but this is really quite a loss".

He went on to say the building and its contents "were only partially insured."

This was the second fire within a year that arson was suspected as the cause. The main stable at the Blowing Rock Horse Show grounds was completely destroyed by fire in early May of 1969. According to Chief Oliver the horseshow fire is still under investigation by his department and the State Fire Marshalls office.

## Broyhill Will Speak At 10th District Meet

Congressman James T. Broyhill, 10th District of North Carolina, will be the featured speaker at the 10th Congressional District Convention Saturday, February 28, 2 p. m., at the Gaston County Court House in Gastonia, announced Dan R. Simpson, Chairman of the 10th District Executive Committee.

Chairman Simpson stated that the 10th District Executive Committee is pleased to have Congressman Broyhill give the main address at this year's Convention, which will be the "kick-off" to campaign activities in the 10th District for this election year.

Chairman Simpson strongly urges all registered Republicans and other interested persons of the 10th District to be present at this Convention.

## Democrat Rate To Include Tax

Subscription rates, effective March 1, will include state tax of three cents on the dollar, plus the penny on the dollar approved in the local option one-cent sales tax election here in November.

One year's subscription then will be \$4.16 in the state with six months and four months subscriptions at \$3.12 and \$2.08 respectively.

Out-of-state subscriptions will remain as usual; \$5 for one year; \$3.50 for six months; and \$3 for four months.

## 136 Pints Blood Is Given Here

A total of 136 pints of blood were donated when the Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Watauga County Thursday, Feb. 19.

Mrs. Goldie Fletcher, executive secretary of the Watauga County Red Cross chapter, said the 114 pints of blood used by Watauga hospital patients prior to December 4 were more than replaced.

The bloodmobile set up its receiving station at First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Fletcher said, "We extend our appreciation to the ASU students and faculty who held the highest score on donations, also, to Blue Ridge Shoe Company who had a rather large turnout, and to all the others who gave blood."