

# Population

Watauga County 22,660  
10 Year Gain 29.27%

Boone 8,566  
10 Year Gain 122.39%  
1970 Preliminary Census Report

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Newspaper Serving The Northwest Carolina Mountain Area

Boone Weather						
	1970	Hi	Lo	Prec. Snow '69	Hi	Lo
Dec. 1	59	36			35	26
Dec. 2	62	42			45	31
Dec. 3	65	38			37	23
Dec. 4	58	36			34	18
Dec. 5	57	26			43	12
Dec. 6	48	23			36	28
Dec. 7	53	13			31	25

83rd YEAR—NO. 23

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY DECEMBER 10, 1970

10 CENTS

32 PAGES—2 SECTIONS



Mrs. Dessa Mae Edmisten, supervisor of Watauga Instruction, received a surprise gift of silver at the Friday morning meeting. She guided the schools' work in meeting the standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. (Staff photo)

## 2,700 Hanoi Letters Written In Watauga

Mrs. Walter Hawkinson, a Boone resident who was instrumental in the "Write Hanoi" campaign operated in the Two Carolinas by WBTV, said last week that volunteers had received some 2,700 letters here in Watauga County.

She pointed out that many others perhaps were mailed directly to the television station. And Mrs. Hawkinson added appreciation to other volunteers and all letter writers for their sincere concern for the American Prisoners of War being held captive by the North Vietnamese.

The public was asked to request the names of POW's, humane treatment for them and negotiations for their release.

WBTV early in the campaign announced it would see to it that the letters reached the

## Debate Team Earns Highest 2-State Honor

Watauga High School's affirmative and negative debate teams both took first place Saturday when they competed with several teams from Tennessee and North Carolina.

Among those teams was Tennessee's Unicoi, considered to be one of that state's top debate teams.

The meet was at Bowman High School in Bakersville, a school "very active in debate work," says Mrs. Mary Frances Elvey, sponsor of forensics at Watauga High School.

The WHS affirmative team comprises David Williams and Tim Westmoreland. Robert Furr and Ben Thalheimer are

(Continued on page two)

## 12 Million Visit Blue Ridge Parkway This Year

During November, 720,611 people toured the Blue Ridge Parkway as against 706,130 for the same period in 1969 a gain of 1.7%, figures just released by Roanoke Parkway Headquarters reveal.

For the calendar year 1970 to date, 12,269,644 visitors have been tallied for an increase of 6.6% over the 11,478,995 reported for the same period in 1969.

Visitor totals by districts for the 1969 and 1970 follow, the first figure in each case being for 1970:

James River, Va., mile 0 to 105, 101,442; 91,116.  
Rocky Knob, Va., mile 105 to 217, 164,881; 176,424.  
Bluffs, N. C., mile 217 to 305, 90,321; 86,724.  
Asheville, mile 305 to 369, 363,957; 339,856.

# 8 Watauga Elementary Schools Are Accredited

## Historic Milestone In Education

### Christmas Is Bustin' Out All Over

#### Community Christmas Tree Lighting

There will be music by the Watauga High School Band, Santa Claus for the kiddies, and a community Christmas carol singing Monday evening on the ASU playing field overlooked by the Dougherty Administration Building.

Appalachian students will furnish candy and favors for the children, and families from throughout Watauga County are invited to this happy event—being sponsored for the second year by the Community-Campus Relations Committee.

At 6 p. m. Monday (Dec. 14), the program will begin with brief remarks by Boone's Mayor, Gordon H. Winkler, and by ASU President Dr. Herb Wey. The devotion will be by Wes Bratcher, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Boone.

The university will be responsible for decorating the big Christmas tree and the lights will be turned on when the crowd has assembled.

Christmas carols will be sung by everyone.

#### Tuesday: Shopping Tour For Children

The following morning—Tuesday, Dec. 15—the Boone Jaycees' annual Christmas Shopping Tour and party for needy children will begin at 9 a. m.

The chairmanship of the project has been undertaken by Dr. John F. Robinson, a new member of the community-service Jaycees

He says the tour will be followed at 11 a. m. with a Christmas party at the Town House Restaurant. And, says Dr. Robinson, merchants often give discounts so that the Jaycees can stretch their Christmas-spirit dollars much further.

Jolly Old St. Nicholas, having been in Boone the evening before for the Christmas Tree Lighting at the university, will be back in town Tuesday morning—helping the Jaycees spread their holiday cheer to the little ones.

#### Children To Help Other Children

There is a popular song with these lyrics: "People... people who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

That spirit is being felt by the second-grade members of Girl Scout Troop 98, who meet this week to finish putting together gift packages for children at the Grandfather Home in Banner Elk.

More later about this worthwhile project.

#### May We Make A Suggestion?

May We Make A Suggestion? It could be that with all the packages you're putting under the tree, there is still a need for something a little extra to put sparkle in a child's eyes.

The Humane Society of Watauga County may be able to fill the bill. Mrs. Velma Burnley says they have close to 40 dogs, many of them puppies, for anyone wishing to adopt at Christmas time. The society asks for a small donation to help cover some of its expenses

in operating the shelter, but this is not absolutely necessary.

If you're interested, take a drive to the shelter. Go east on U. S. 421 and take the first paved road to the right after passing Lowe's. Bear to the right at the next turn, then take a sharp left on State Road 1515. Continue on the gravel road past New River Heights and watch for the sign on the right.

The dogs, and their sponsors, will appreciate it.



(Photo by George Flowers)



Plenty of reason for pride are the certificates proclaiming all the county's schools as accredited elementary schools. Here the Green Valley certificate is admired by Margaret Hagaman, Daisy Adams, Christine Bingham, Betty Ann Hodges and Principal Howard Love. (Staff photo)

## Marsh Is Named School Board Head

James Marsh, the only school board candidate to receive more than 5,000 votes in the General Election Nov. 3, was elected Monday night to the chairmanship of the Watauga County Board of

Education.

Only two of the five men on the board will get to serve four years. They are Marsh, who got 5,180 votes, and Hugh Hagaman, who received 4,860 votes from the county's 18 precincts.

The other three men—John H. Hollar, former chairman of the board; incumbent member Edsel Cook; and Joe Hartley, the only non-incumbent elected to serve—will be in office for two years, coming up for election in 1972.

These staggered terms are provided in an amendment passed in the 1969 General Assembly. Previously, all members served two-year terms.

Marsh's election as chairman took place in an executive session declared during Monday night's regular meeting of the board. The oath of office was given the board members by Orville Foster, Clerk of Superior Court.

Secretary-treasurer of the Watauga Savings & Loan Association, Marsh and his wife Alma Ruth reside on Hardin Street. Their sons are Jimmy, Randy, Lesley and Ronnie.

Marsh long has been active in all phases of community, civic and church activities.

## Savings Bond Sales Quota Is Passed

Watauga County is one of 20 North Carolina counties to reach 100% or more of their goals in the sale of U. S. Savings Bonds, according to A. T. Adams, County Volunteer Chairman for the Savings Bond Division of the Treasury Department.

The sales in Watauga for the year were \$101,075 or 106.7% of the annual goal of \$94,694. In October bond sales locally reached \$7,654.

## Doc Watson To Be Seen On TV

Two nationally-broadcast television shows are scheduled to feature Doc Watson, a native of Deep Gap who has won acclaim for his folk singing and guitar-ability.

The Dick Cavette Show has taped conversation with Watson and three musical selections for airing either this Thursday (tonight) or on Thursday, Dec. 17. Mrs. Watson said early this week that the network had not confirmed a definite date.

In the near future, most of one of David Frost's shows will deal almost exclusively with the blind folk artist from Watauga County.

Watson is expected home Friday from a tour which has taken him before audiences in Boston and Chicago.



JAMES P. MARSH

## Matney Gets Award

Matney community in Watauga County was one of four runners-up in the contests conducted by the Northwest North Carolina Development Association.

Matney received \$75 in recognition of its efforts in community betterment.

## Southern Assn. OK Is Given

BY RACHEL R. COFFEY  
Watauga County has climbed a Mount Everest of educational excellence.

Last week, the principals of all eight elementary schools here returned from Atlanta with certificates of accreditation issued them by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Back in 1967, Watauga High School had qualified under the Association's strict, high-minded standards. That was the year the principals and teachers of Watauga County began their work toward accreditation.

Friday's meeting of principals was one of justifiable elation that the hard work had paid off so handsomely.

Superintendent of Schools Swanson Richards explained that the initial procedure, after expressing intent of becoming a member of the association, is to select improvement projects.

At the end of the first year began the two-year self-study phase in which, Mrs. Dessa Mae Edmisten noted, the school community, its needs and how the schools relate to their communities were pinpointed.

The population of children's parents, their occupations and educations were part of this and administrators and teachers began focusing on things to improve community relationships.

The total program of each school, its strengths and weaknesses, was dissected. They explored means of improving buildings, grounds, equipment, materials, personnel and thence the courses of instruction.

Dr. Guy Burchfield and Dr. Jerry Rice of Western Carolina University were approved by the association as consultants throughout the three-year progress. Mrs. Dessa Mae Edmisten, as supervisor of instruction for the county, coordinated the work of the eight schools.

A 36-member committee came here last April under the chairmanship of Dr. John Bridgeman of the Advancement School in Winston-Salem. They took a look for themselves. And liked what they saw.

Dr. Richards points out that it is fairly rare in North Carolina for all the public schools in a single system to have won membership in the Southern Association.

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## Added \$49,000 Set Up For Road Project In City

An additional \$49,000 of State-wide urban construction funds was allotted for the improvements of US 221 and 321 south inside the city limits of Boone at a meeting of the State Highway Commission last Thursday, according to information given the Democrat by Commissioner Robert Barr of West Jefferson.

This sum, Mr. Barr states, is a supplement to finish the project which was let to Brown Bros. of Zionville for \$699,614.79 for 1.383 miles of

grading, coarse aggregate base course, bituminous concrete binder for the improvement of US 221 and 321 from about 450 feet northwest of NC 105 in Boone southeasterly to about 70 feet northwest of the city limits. The structures were let to John Brinkley, Inc., of Thompsonville for \$89,333.51.

The final completion date is set at November 1, 1971.

The sum of \$50,000 was provided for the resurfacing of US 421 from east city limits of

Boone east to SR 1357, 4.7 miles and US 421 from Blue Ridge Parkway 1.2 miles.

Also of local interest is a project in Wilkes County providing \$46,000 for resurfacing US 421 from west of SR 1304 to Wade Harris Bridge, 5.8 miles.

Nine thousand dollars was set up for paving the access road from SR 194 to the new Hardin Park Elementary School and for stabilizing the parking area at the school.