

# Pioneer Bamboo Resident Talks Of Old Days, 98 Years Of Living

By NANCY ALEXANDER

Myra Weaver looked out on her 98th birthday from the porch of her daughter's home on the Miller Hill Road about four miles from Lenoir. She found it a calm and satisfying one, a season for reflecting. Her birthday was Friday, August 2nd.

She smiled a greeting from the low cane-bottom chair where she sat busy piecing quilt designs. Her hair, still dark and tucked neatly at the sides with amber combs, was pulled into a tight knot on her head. Over her black and white print dress spread a neat gingham apron.

Peering through small silver-rimmed glasses, Mrs. Weaver held up her needle and deftly pulled a thread through the small eye.

"I piece quilts to keep busy," she remarked, carefully and neatly stitching the edges. "I can see very well. Haven't my glasses changed in 40 years."

Reminiscing, she recalled a century of living. "My folks were John and Eunice Cook Hartley. There were 12 of us children.

"I was born and grew up at Bambo, which is off the Parkway between Blowing Rock and Boone.

When I was just a little young-un we used to see plenty of wild animals, catamounts, deer, bears, and wolves . . . My mother kept a deer for a pet. I remember well my pa bringing it home. He'd killed the big deer and found the little one nearby. He came bringing the big dead one and the tiny lively baby one. It was so friendly it would run to my aunt's house for protection when it was frightened.

"My brother, Ed Hartley, had a pet bear. It grew so big and got so rough he finally had to get rid of it.

"Across a big grassy field in front of our home was a beautiful view of the mountains. When the men-folks would go hunting we could often see the deer they were driving run through the field where the dogs would catch 'em by the legs they were so tired.

"When I came up children had to work. I hoed corn and chopped and carried wood as far as 150 yards in the snow. Sometimes we were snowed in for six weeks at a time. I've always enjoyed working and still do.

"I didn't get to go to school much, just to a few free schools that lasted for only a few weeks or months at a time. One of my teachers was Tom Day. Sometimes we played Fox and Goose.

"We always went to church on Sundays. We went to two churches — Browns Methodist and Mt. Vernon Baptist. We had camp meetings, singings and prayer meetings.

"We raised sheep and sheared them and wove the wool into thread and spun the cloth. Here's a blanket I spun the wool for," she held up a warm white coverlet.

"We'd make our dye for the cloth. We could make any color we wanted. For the men's clothes we'd usually use coppers. We'd use different barks, roots and dye flowers for our colors.

"We girls thought the finest thing in the world was to have a quilting. We made all of our blankets and quilts. We knit our socks and wove the cloth for our dresses of linsey-woolen or jeans cloth.

"Sometimes we'd go to Adam Critcher's store at Boone for supplies and a Sunday pair of shoes; but Manuel Hampton, a cobbler, would come and stay at our house about a week to make most of the shoes for our family. He brought hides he'd tanned himself and cut out the tops and put on soles pegged to the tops with pieces of maples.

"We dried our fruits. There wasn't any canning in those early years. We'd put up scaffolds in a big room and lay apples, beans, blackberries, peaches, and pumpkin on 'em to dry. We'd kill a beef every fall and let it drain and then salt it and hang it up in the room on sharp sticks to dry. It was good to eat. Sort of like dried beef today, but better.

"We made candles of tallow from the beef fat, frying it out and putting it in little lamps to burn. My mother had one of the first lamps in that part of the country. It was a small brass one.

"She also had one of the first sewing machines in the settlement. They were so scarce folks would come in buggies from miles around to have her stitch around the collars, down the fronts, across the back and pockets of clothes they'd made.

"Dr. Council from Boone was our main doctor; but we never called him unless someone was very serious. We made our own home remedies: pennyroyal for colds, bark from a peach tree or powder made from the lining of a chicken gizzard for tea for an upset stomach; Jerusalem oak seed cooked in molasses for a laxative.

"My husband was John Weaver. He lived at Aho not far from Bambo. I wasn't quite 18 when we were married at Jordan Cook's old mill place. It was pretty there that day by the water. He had machinery of all kinds for grinding flour and meal. We built a little house at Aho.

"We had eleven children. Five of them, William, Mandy Jane, Minnie, Grace, and Maude, are all dead now; Ella (Mrs. Eugene Day), Marnie (Mrs. Ervin Hollars) of Lenoir; Mettie (Mrs. Bob Triplett) Asbury Weaver of Norfolk; Ruth (Mrs. Willie Castle) of Blowing Rock and Elsbury Weaver of Aho are all living.

"It was fifty years ago last week my husband John was killed while cutting timber. He was notching trees when he was struck by lightning. We buried him at Aho.

"I moved down here soon afterward to live with my daughter, Mrs. Day. I have 27 grandchildren and 38 great grandchildren and enjoy all of them," she said.

## Albert Biggs Dies In W. Va.

Albert Roy Biggs, age 65, a resident of Bartley, West Virginia for 27 years, died August 10 in a Welch, W. Va. hospital. He was a retired miner.

He was born at Rich Hill in Ashe county to the late James and Ellen Williams Biggs.

Funeral services were conducted August 13 at the Church of God in Atwell, W. Va., with Rev. Paul Herndon officiating. Interment was in Grandview Memory Gardens, Bluefield, Va.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Pearl C. Biggs; five daughters, Mrs. Marie Daniels and Mrs. Estel Clark, both of Clearwater, Fla.; Mrs. Geneva Wright of War, W. Va.; Mrs. Roxanna Biggs and Miss Bonnie Biggs, both of Bartley, W. Va.; four sisters, Mrs. Mae Foster and Mrs. Viller Raab, both of Newland, N. C.; Mrs. Dollie Fisher of Toledo, Ohio and Mrs. Bessie Aldridge of Boone.

Another urgent order of business is the need for some kind of legislation to reduce or eliminate our international balance of payments deficit. This acute problem cannot be ignored. Either we check the outward flow of gold and dollars or we will be forced to devalue the dollar.

There are other special issues, the dispute between the railroads and the firemen, with a strike likely to cost billions of dollars. There is a host of Administration bills awaiting action. And already it is August and little in the way of final passage has been accomplished in either house.

This is why some veteran observers think this Congress will run until the end of the year. And no one knows exactly what the outcome will be, though all expect a Dixie filibuster on the question of passage of the President's civil rights proposals. That filibuster may absorb a month or two, but the general consensus is that, in the end, a civil rights bill will be passed.

Senator Barry Goldwater's chance for election should be nominated by Republicans at San Francisco next year, is not necessarily based on the popular opinion polls. In the opinion of his supporters, and of many political experts, he can be elected without the votes of a majority.

If Goldwater were elected with less than a majority of the popular vote it would not be the first time this has happened. But the difference in the Goldwater approach—the difference which makes it quite possible that he will—is that he would write off several key industrial states of the east with big electoral votes, if necessary.

No candidate for a hundred years has ever approached the election with this strategy in mind. It is not a question of not wanting the votes, but one of recognizing that they are not attainable, for a conservative.

Thus Goldwater might write off, unofficially, of course, New York, with more than forty electoral votes. The popular vote in that state might go a million or two against him. But if he wins enough Southern and Mid-west states, perhaps sometimes by close margins, he will win enough electoral votes to offset the loss of several key states—with their minority blocs and ultra-liberal groups.

If that trend does prevail, Goldwater might easily win a majority of electoral votes (generally by close or normal margins in his victory states) while

# Washington News

Washington, D. C.—It could be that this Congress will go down in history as the long Congress — the difference between it and the Long Parliament being a measurement in months rather than years. Also, civil war is not being faced, though civil strife is certainly the reason for the prospective length of this session.

The demands of Negro citizens are likely to bring on a filibuster and some tension, but the civil rights fight is only one of many major issues this first session of the 88th Congress finds itself confronted with.

Another is the tax bill, tax reduction — which the Kennedy Administration still lists as its number-one goal. Rising up to towering proportions in importance is the nuclear test-ban treaty and the question of ratification. Both these issues will require long debate. They are milestones in the history of the country, not annual considerations.

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# Lads Enjoy Cycle Trip From Boone Into New England States; Cost \$40

By GARY DALTON

How would you like to go on a 500 mile bicycle ride?

Eric DeGroat Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric DeGroat of Boone, did it this month with his cousin Cleve Pinnix of Asheville.

The boys got the idea last summer from a "Boy's Life" article. They debated on whether to go to Florida or to the New England states. They finally chose New England because the weather would be cooler.

The boys left July 21 and returned August 13, a trip of 24 days. They bicycled over 500 miles and pedaled as far north as Connecticut and Massachusetts.

They spent one whole week in New York City. There they saw the Statue of Liberty, the liner Queen Mary, Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building, Radio Center Music Hall and two plays, "Mary, Mary" and "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off."

They also stayed a week with Eric's grandparents at Newton, Conn. Another enjoyable stop was Martha's Vineyard, which is an island off the Massachusetts coast. They spent two nights there.

Eric and Cleve figure their trip cost them about \$40 apiece. Most of their money went for food. They camped out every night but one.

They said people in general were pretty nice. For example a man on the second day out let them shave and shower in his house.

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## Paul and Ralph Present: Billie Jo Wilson



Training for All Phases of Auto and Casualty Dept.

Billy Jo comes to us to fill one of the new positions created by our program of expansion.

She is a 1963 graduate of Cove Creek High School, where she was an "A" student, member of the National Honor Society, Secretary of her Senior Class and Secretary of the Student Council. She is a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Billie Jo is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clnard Wilson of Silverstone community.

After 35 years of specializing in Fire Insurance, the Watauga Insurance Agency is expanding its operation to embrace all lines of protection.

This change is in keeping with the modern outlook of our firm, and further evidence of our desire to maintain our leadership in service to our customers, as "Package Policy" type insurance protection comes into its own.

We're ready here at Watauga Insurance Agency to bring better and fuller service to our policy holders.

## Watauga Insurance Agency

J. Paul Winkler  
Ralph Gaultney  
Owners

May Sue Hartley  
Faye Greer  
Billie Jo Wilson

223 W. King St. — Box 267 — Boone, N. C.

### A First Day At School? ...Your Teenager Off To College This Fall?

Keep Them Forever As They Are Now... in Off-to-School PORTRAITS

Boone's Photographic Center

### Flowers' Photo Shop

125 E. King St. Boone, N. C. 264-8425

331 Lower Street Spruce Pine, N. C. 765-9276

W. Main St. West Jefferson 246-6801

# WE'RE OPEN AGAIN...



Inset: This is the old Mystery Hill as it appeared before fire destroyed it.

## The Phenomena That's Puzzled Thousands!

Photos at left show the new structure as it rose from the ashes of the old.

- IT'S FUN . . . SEE—
- +The Spooky Spigot
- +Water Run Up Hill
- +Objects Pulled Northward

# "MYSTERY HILL"

Midway Between Boone & Blowing Rock on Highway 221-321