



Bowles Brothers Lucky Anglers

North Carolina's three Bowles brothers are grinning from ear-to-ear because of the string of rainbow trout caught while fly-fishing at Grandfather Mountain Lake. Left to right are State Senator Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles of Greensboro, a likely candidate for governor; John Bowles, Los Angeles executive and former president of the Rexall Company; and Kelly Bowles, a Greensboro Realtor. Although the brothers are separated by their varied business activities, each year they get together for either a hunting or fishing trip—which this year was a camping, golfing and fishing junket to the mountains of North Carolina.—Photo Hugh Morton.

Letter To The Editor

Barkley Says Area Has Enough People

One of your editorials in last week's edition concerned "Peacock, where a more beautiful region never was... that turned into a very ugly bird" as the result of an increase of growth and population.

And yet, on the other side of the same page, you have an editorial which states: "Those of us at the Democrat take pride in... the soaring population of the community and county... The better an area, the more people."

It is, therefore, difficult to understand where your true feelings lie. It is my opinion that Boone has enough people now; likewise Watauga County; and likewise Linville-Avery County where I reside. And somehow, I feel that you agree with me.

The mention of Peacock town reminds me of a recent magazine article concerning the growth and progress (????) of San Jose, Calif., where a few thousand persons lived ten years ago in the beauty of trees, grass and

orchards. And then, a massive campaign by the City Fathers was directed toward luring others into the town. And now, with the San Jose population some eight times as much as a decade ago, there are no trees, no grass, no orchards. All of which prompted one of those progressive City Fathers to look over his progressive City and—with somewhat less—progressive thoughts—he said: "May God have mercy on us for what we have done."

Boone should want no more people; it's running out of space for those it now has. More people will provide more trash to burn and more sewage to flow through the streams. More people will bring more automobiles to clutter the already jammed streets and fill the air with fumes. More people will pour more concrete to cover the grass, build more houses to replace the trees, erect more shopping centers to spread over the orchards. And, naturally, more people will commit much more crime to disrupt the lovely calmness which now prevails.

Regardless of what you and I think, however, these things will probably come to pass... just as they have in other previously-nice places. If we are lucky, we may then still be

able to fine some place which might resemble the Boone of today. Maybe in central Wyoming, or eastern Utah, or northern Colorado. But if these locations also find some of that "progressive" leadership which appears to be infiltrating each and every hamlet across the nation, there may be no suitable living place left to look for. May God mercy on somebody... if it happens to Boone.

DICK BARKLEY
Linville, N. C.

(Editor's note: The editorial and the column are not totally at odds. The editorial speaks of constructive growth as opposed to the "harem scare" kind which may well be upon us. The column refers to the newspaper's circulation growth in the light of newly released 1970 Census figures: "The better an area, the more people, the better coverage, pictorial and local newswise a newspaper provides, the more people will read it and the more valuable become its advertising columns." Therefollowing was a survey of advertising usages by super markets. All of us involved with providing and/or publishing news of the area have a large responsibility in promoting orderly growth.)

C Of C Sponsor Of Sun Eclipse

Northwest North Carolina was the place to be Sept. 1, 1951, and the Boone Chamber of Commerce was among the first to recognize the fact.

In the last 19 years, the issue was clouded and when starting a series of articles in connection with the present membership drive of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, the Democrat incorrectly printed that the Chamber sponsored a look-see at an eclipse of the moon.

It had to do with the moon, alright, but with its crossing the sun-to-earth path and throwing a 9,000-mile-long shadow across the earth.

And what did the Boone Chamber have to do with the solar eclipse of 1951?

For one thing the Chamber held an Eclipse Dinner Aug. 31 in honor of scientists, newsmen, photographers and others who were in Boone awaiting the morning event.

Herman Wilcox, then-president of the Chamber, was quoted as saying "We'll be the first on earth to see the eclipse. We're here tonight to see that it gets off to a good start."

On the program were Congressman Robert L. Doughton, Appalachian president Dr. B. B. Dougherty, Paul Stevens of the

Astronomical League of the United States.

Wilcox read regrets from Gov. W. Kerr Scott, Sen. Willis Smith, Sen. Clyde W. Hoey and commentator Lowell Thomas, all of whom had been invited.

Weather for the eclipse, which was to last 3 minutes beginning slightly before 6 a. m. Sept. 1, was ideal and photographers spent hours preparing for the spectacle.

The most popular photo vantage point in the area was at Elk Mountain Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, Watauga County.

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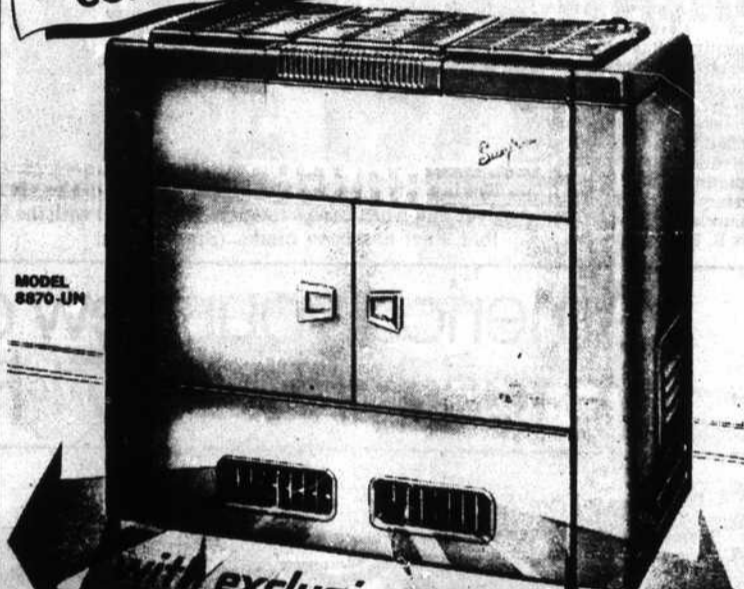
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