

## Bulletin Readers

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Changes of address have been made for the following: Elizabeth S. Ashmore to 609 Columbia St., Apt. 5, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. Marie B. Burke from Asheville to Tryon; Mrs. Leonard G. Carpenter from Crystal Bay, Minn. to Tryon.

## A Snake Story

Dr. John Preston of Tryon was telling us a snake story the other day. He said that one summer in the 1940s, all the farmers, etc. were killing rattlesnakes and copperheads — many more that were usually seen. He said that the Prison Camp workers in Columbus killed 64 just working along the right-of-ways in that one summer. The late Dr. J. E. Derby had never been to the top of Holbert's Cover, so Dr. Preston took him and also his rifle. Dr. Derby wanted to know why he took his rifle, and Dr. Preston told him in order to kill any rattlesnakes or copperheads that they might see. Dr. Derby just laughed and said that the rifle wasn't necessary because in the years he had lived here he had never seen a rattlesnake.

The outcome of the discussion was that Dr. Preston bet Dr. Derby \$10 that he would kill a rattlesnake before returning to Tryon that evening. Dr. Preston said that they reached the Thompson place at the top of the cove and saw Miss Annie Thompson who was carrying a .22 rifle. Miss Thompson said that she had just killed two rattlesnakes that morning. Dr. Preston asked if she was drying the skins and when she said yes, he told Dr. Derby to go take a look at them while he saw Miss Thompson's mother.

The road crews had been scraping the road and there were no tracks. Upon leaving the Thompson's, Dr. Preston saw a big rattlesnake in the ditch along the road. He thought the snake was dead, but upon investigation found that it was very much alive. He said that he took his rifle and using a hollow bullet, shot the snake in the head. Thinking that the snake was now dead, they got out of the car to retrieve the snake, since Dr. Preston thought that this snake was big enough for him to dry his skin. When they had almost reached the snake they discovered that it wasn't dead and Dr. Preston had to hit the snake in the head with a stick, to kill him. The bullet had blown off part of his head but left the fangs, and enough head for the snake to keep alive.

They put the snake in the trunk of the car and came on down the cove and into Mill Spring where they stopped at Egerton's Store. One of the men in the store commented on how many snakes

were out this year and Dr. Preston told him that he had a big 5' rattlesnake he had killed in the trunk of the car and for the man to go take a look at it. He said that the man came back into the store in a few minutes and was upset because the snake had tried to bite him. Upon investigation, Dr. Preston found out that he had not killed the snake after all, but only stunned him.

Dr. Preston said that he couldn't remember the exact year that all the snakes were out, but that Miss Thompson said that it was the summer of 1941. The only reason anyone could think of for the number of snakes was that they had had several years of abundant food supply and had multiplied rapidly.

He said that he couldn't remember how he spent the \$10 he won, but he was sure that he enjoyed spending it.

## HEALTH WATCH

By N. C. Medical Society

Nothing could be safer than snuggling up close to a roaring fire on a cold winter's night, right? Wrong, reports the U. S. Consumer Safety Commission in a recent study of fireplace hazards. Over 6,000 people suffered from injuries occurring around the fireplace last year, the majority of the victims being children. The accidents, which ranged from minor cuts to serious burns that required emergency treatment, occurred most frequently when clothing or other flammable objects caught fire from being too close to the flames. Other mishaps, especially burns, were blamed on improperly loading logs in the fireplace or in reaching for a hot poker or other fireplace equipment.

A little common sense and caution will prevent most of these accidents, but the N. C. Medical Society wishes to pass along some additional safety tips for the avid fireplace user:

1. Don't discard old aerosol cans or other closed containers in the fireplace, as these will burst when the vapors inside of them are heated.

2. Don't use a gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire. Not only are the vapors dangerous to use inside, but can explode at high temperatures. Coal and charcoal can be used ONLY if they are very well ventilated.

3. Make sure the damper is

open and working properly before you begin a fire.

4. When using artificial logs, use only one at a time, since they generate more heat than real wood and can be dangerous in some fireplaces if there is too much heat.

5. Use a screen to cover your fireplace. This will help prevent fires that may be caused from flying sparks. For this season, it's a wise idea to stack old newspapers and other flammable materials you may want to burn in a cool place AWAY from the fireplace.

6. Be sure that the fire is cold and all the ashes are out before leaving your house or retiring.

7. Encourage children to stay away from the fireplace, and make sure that all your family members know fireplace safety. This will truly make your fireplace a center of warmth and joy, not danger.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MEETS TUESDAY

The Tryon Photographic Society will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Mural Room of the Fine Arts Center. The program will be a comparison and evaluation of 6 different commonly used Eastman color films and will be presented by James Moore and Jack Wheaton.

Members are invited to bring a few slides for evaluation and comment, especially if these slides help point up different film types. Color film examples of other than Eastman film will be especially welcome. Those who bring such slides are asked to come early so that their slides can be placed in carousel tray before the meeting starts. As many slides will be shown as time permits.

## TRYON CHAMBER HAS BUSY MONTH

The Tryon Chamber of Commerce had 60 inquiries during January asking about real estate in the area. The inquires came from Conn., New Jersey, Florida, Illinois, Penn., New York, Georgia, Ohio, South Carolina, Michigan, Minnesota, Alabama, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Virginia, New Hampshire and California.