

THE GAB BAG

By ALAN BROWNING, JR.

WATCHFUL WAITING

Having no real estate to sell, and planning to build no apartment houses or dwellings any time within the next two weeks, we are in the rather enviable position of being able to sit back and watch developments since the announcement that the Winston plant of the Chatham Manufacturing company is to be moved here.

Having been privileged to hear the first announcement of the move direct from the lips of Thurmond Chatham, it has been quite interesting to us to hear the other accounts of what's to be done, and how, from various people. For instance, although Mr. Chatham said himself that movement of the plant would mean an increase of 1,800 to 2,400 people here insofar as he was able to estimate, there are others who say very wisely and knowing that it will mean an increase of only a possible thousand, if that many.

Naturally one would expect these prophets, who in many instances have lots of time to think while they prop up some sunny building down street, to know much more about the situation than those directly connected with the mill. Records here will show that the folks up town always know more about what's going to happen at the mill than the folks at the mill.

Some believe that many of Chatham's Winston employees will not move to Elkin when the plant is moved here, but will turn to other jobs there. We asked Mr. Chatham if this perhaps wouldn't be so? He said he thought it would be surprising how very few there were who wouldn't come with the plant here. He also said that finishing department employees were highly skilled, especially in the napping department, and that a green hand couldn't be expected to jump in and hold down such a job without training.

Many have been curious to know why it was necessary for Chatham officials to confer with the town board before announcing their plans. Mr. Chatham stated that not only did they confer with town officials, but with county officials, as they

SEEK BOARDING HOMES IN SURRY

Foster Parents Usually Best Substitute for Parentless Children

CITES SURRY INSTANCE

(By Phoebe Featherstone, Child Welfare Assistant)

Experts in child care have realized for a long time that foster parents usually afford the best substitutes for children who for some reason have been deprived of their own parents. It has been found through experience that licensed boarding homes provide the highest type of foster care for dependent, neglected and delinquent children. The boarding home idea is very simple; it means that a father and mother act as substitute parents for a child and are paid for their services. The foster home parents are carefully selected and must be people of outstanding character and personality qualifications who are able to work with children in a sympathetic and constructive way. Many of the children needing boarding home care present behavior problems, but experience has shown that if the child receives affection, understanding and the proper training most of these problems disappear. Because the boarding home mother is paid for her work she develops a professional attitude towards working with under-privileged children just as a teacher or social worker and has a better opportunity than the teacher or social worker has. When a teacher or social worker tries to help a child that is dirty and hungry and unhappy at home she can't go very far; but a boarding home mother can take a child and give him the habit training necessary for physical and mental health and the affection and feeling of security which he needs.

The best social agencies all over the country are using boarding home care as a means of solving many of the problems relating to child welfare.

A little boy placed by the Surry County Department of Public Welfare in a boarding home in a neighboring county affords an

interesting example of what high type boarding home parents can do for an underprivileged child. This little boy whom we shall call John, was brought into juvenile court because on one occasion he had stolen when in the company of a group of older boys. Investigation of home conditions revealed that the parents, both of whom were immoral, had separated. John, who was the unhappy victim of this situation, was constantly running back and forth between the two homes. After working with the child for a short time we realized that he was literally starved for affection and security. Because of irregular attendance and emotional difficulties John was greatly retarded at school and was falling in most of his studies. John was usually filthy dirty and was so thin he looked as if he was half starved. During the seven months since he was placed in a boarding home John has gained 14 pounds, is getting A's on all his studies at school and is so happy

and satisfied that he can hardly be recognized as the same child. For the first time in his life John is getting the care and training which he so badly needed. The boarding home mother told us that it had never been necessary for her to speak a cross word to John. The mother has handled John very skillfully, using suggestion and appeal in helping him to overcome undesirable habits. The fact that the mother has four nice, well trained chil-

dren of her own has been a great help because John has been stimulated by contact with such wholesome children. There are about 50 licensed boarding homes in North Carolina but there is no licensed boarding home in Surry county. We are particularly anxious to secure one or more licensed board-

ing homes in this county. Any one who is interested in doing this work should get in touch with Mr. Bausie Marion, superintendent of welfare in Dobson, or with Miss Phoebe Featherstone, child welfare assistant, at 198 North Main street, Mt. Airy. Patronize Tribune advertisers.

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wanted assurance that no plans were in the making to jump the town and county tax rate at any time within the immediate future.

We had the opportunity to inspect Mr. Neaves' new office while down at the mill. And although we think it very attractive indeed, we must sadly admit it looks as if they have worms down there. The walls were full of worm holes. However, Mr. Neaves appeared to be satisfied, so if he likes it, there's no reason for us to kick, we guess.

THIS AND THAT
We are a little disappointed in the response to our new picture, figuring it would provide us enough material in the form of dirty cracks to last us for some time. And although we've heard quite a number, they're not nearly as plentiful as we had hoped for.

For instance, it took Carl Poindexter about 15 minutes to think up the remark that "I see you've got a picture of Andrew Gump in your column heading." And when he is that slow on the trigger we figure we're not getting the proper cooperation.

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The demand for rat scaring copies also hasn't been up to expectation. We were sure that every attic and barn within a 25 mile radius would sport a copy of this picture, but we've been called on for only one. And it hadn't been posted but a few days before a rat brought it back.

Of course it's not our fault this particular rat refused to get scared. It seems he was only disgusted.

Speaking of rats, we naturally think of cats, and speaking of cats we naturally think of dogs, and speaking of dogs we are reminded of the story Bob Burns told on the radio the other evening.

He was telling of the healing properties of a spring back in Arkansas, and to illustrate, he said a dog sat down near the railroad track and the train came along and cut off the end of his tail. The spring was nearby, so he picked the dog up and threw him in. The dog swam out with a brand new tail!

Seeing the end of the tail that had been cut off laying on the track, Bob said he picked it up and unthinkingly threw it into the spring. Imagine his surprise when a new dog swam out!

Some water, we'd say.