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★★★★ **Armed Forces Report** ★★★★★

U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Wade T. Harding has been recognized for helping the Eighth Air Force earn the coveted Collier Trophy for Operation Linebacker II, the successful air campaign last December against key military targets in North Vietnam.

Sergeant Harding, son of Mrs. Hughie Harding of Rt. 2, Burnsville, is assigned at Andersen AFB, Guam, as an administrative technician on the headquarters staff of the Eighth which shares the trophy with USAF's Seventh Air Force and U.S. Navy Task Force 77.

The 27 aerospace leaders and authorities serving on the Collier Selection Committee of the National Aeronautic Association unanimously selected Operation Linebacker as the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics of 1972.

Sergeant Harding is a 1960 graduate of East Yancey High School and attended Blanton's Business College, Asheville. His wife, Wanda, is the daughter of Mrs. Alma Riddle of Rt. 3, Burnsville.

Airman Steve D. Boone, son of Edward E. Boone of Burnsville, N.C., has graduated at Sheppard AFB, Texas, from the U.S. Air Force aircraft mechanic course conducted by the Air Training Command.

The airman, who was trained to repair current Air Force jet aircraft, is being assigned to Columbus AFB, Mississippi, for duty with a unit of ATC which provides flying, technical and basic military training for Air Force personnel.

Airman Boone is a 1968 graduate of East Yancey High. His wife, Patricia, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Pendland of Burnsville.

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The farmer and the chicken hawk story used in this column recently brought a response this week from Mr. Edwin E. Judkins of Bristol, Virginia, in the form of comment and an additional story, both of which are much appreciated. He writes:

"Dear Mr. Whitener: I read with interest your article in the *Herald-Courier*. I had never heard the story about the farmer and the hawk.

I have heard a story about a farmer shooting birds in his cherry tree. The birds were eating all the cherries, and the farmer decided to do something about it. This was in the days of the muzzle-loader shot gun. The farmer could not find any shot in the house, so he loaded this gun with a box of tacks. Then he went out and fired and facked birds up all over the tree. However there were so many birds they pulled the tree up by the roots and flew away with it."

Mr. Judkins, who is 84 years old, adds a postscript to remind us that travel in his youth was not without its hazards, even (or especially) when the automobile came along.

"I stayed all night in Boone fifty years ago (say 1922 or 1923 in February or March). I was traveling in a Ford car, Model T. I had been in eastern North Carolina as a salesman. The next morning a highway truck pulled me for about two miles down grade through a sea of mud." (I might say that only the cars have changed, Mr. Judkins. Your experience was repeated many times in the flood that swept this area during the latter part of May.)

Some weeks ago I talked with Jim Byrd, of Valle Crucis, North Carolina. At that time he told me of a number of ways early farmers in that area fought the insects which invaded their fields and gardens. He also passed along a couple of stories

that undoubtedly have been told many times around the huge pot-bellied stove in the H.W. Mast general store.

The first story emerged as a by-product of his suggestion for using garlic to ward off certain types of insects from vegetable and flower gardens.

"There was a man who lived in the Valley," says Jim, "who not only used garlic to fight bugs, but liked it so well that he ate it three times a day. He could blow his breath in a ground hog's hole and out the varmint would come gasping for breath.

His breath was so bad that when he came down to Mast's store to do a bit of trading, he ran everybody out of the store except H. W. who couldn't smell. This way he and H. W. could transact their business in private."

Jim also tells the story of Uncle Willie and the blackgum tree. . . "Uncle Willie was

working a garden and there was a tremendous blackgum tree in the middle of it which shaded his vegetables so much that the garden didn't produce the way he figured it should.

For two years he worked the garden and kept asking around how he could kill the tree without having to cut it down and haul it off. Finally he came to me and I gave him a remedy.

"What you do," I said, "is get you a brace and bit and bore you a good-sized hole all the way to the heart of that blackgum. Then you find you a sweet-tater just long enough and skinny enough to fill up that hole. Poke the tater in the hole and seal it up. I guarantee you that blackgum will be dead in ten days—of the heartburn."

Two readers have sent me the words to "Rosewood Casket" and since a number of people have asked for copies, I'll include the song in next week's column.

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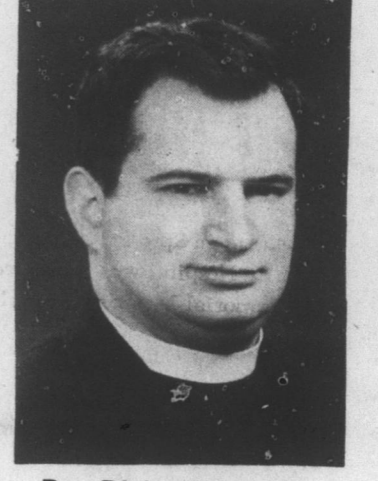
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Rev. Morgan To Be Ordained

The Rev. Richard Morgan V., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morgan, IV of West Hartford, Connecticut who came to Spruce Pine last December to serve Trinity Church and the Church of the Resurrection in Little



Rev. Richard Morgan

Switzerland, will be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church at 5 p. m. Friday, June 29.

The Rt. Rev. M. George Henry, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina, will preside at the ordination service and a festival celebration of the Holy Communion at Trinity Church. Bishop Henry will be acting for the Bishop of Connecticut.

Born in Hartford, the Rev. Mr. Morgan attended the Kingwood School and is a graduate of the Loomis School. At Loomis he was awarded the Martin H. Johnson Memorial Prize. He was active in the Episcopal Youth group of his home parish.

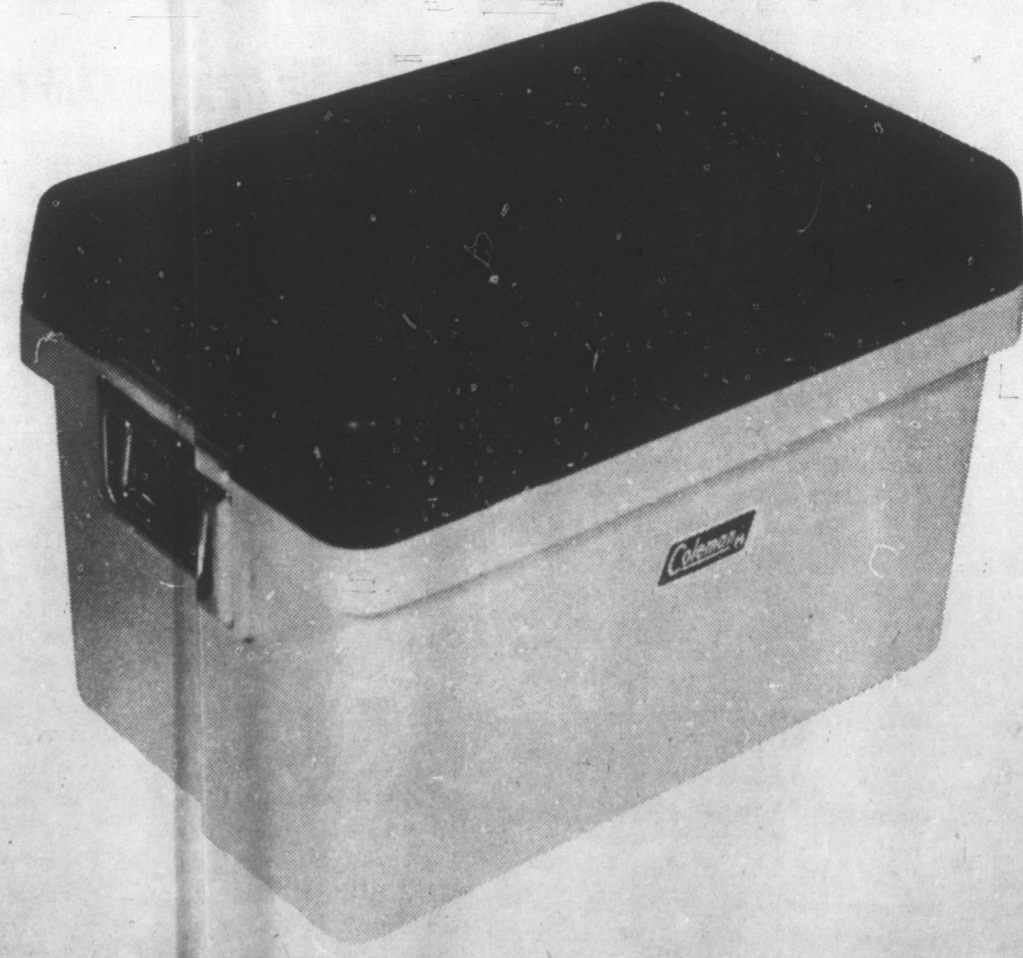
He entered Dartmouth College on a full scholarship from the United Aircraft Corporation. He was a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club, Council on Student Organizations, and Green Key, the junior honor society. He was active in athletics and earned a varsity letter in ice hockey.

After receiving an A.B. in Geography, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and served as a meteorological officer for four years, and he is currently a captain in the active reserves. He then entered the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass., and was graduated three years later with a Master of Divinity degree. After one year of further study, he taught school in New Jersey for the following year.

On December 21, 1972, he was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church at his home parish of St. John's Church, West Hartford by the Rt. Rev. Morgan Porteus, D.D., Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Conn. The Rev. Mr. Morgan officially began his duties at Trinity Church, Spruce Pine, on January 1, 1973. He also has responsibility for the Church of the Resurrection in the summer resort of Little Switzerland.

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