

The Foothills View

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Sweet and Sour

One of the more prolific letter writers to the View is our reader Maynard Philbeck. Throughout autumn I would open my mailbox to what appeared a windfall of Philbeck letters. Like apples, I discovered, there are two types of Philbeck letters: sweet and sour. Printed below are two of the type from Philbeck's letter-orchard:

Dear Mr. Robertson,

I lament the passing of Tom Anderson in the pages of the **Foothills View**. I lament even more your choice of a replacement, that is to say William F. Buckley. Buckley always struck me as a poor little inscrutable rich kid, always trying to protect his allowance from the left wingers of the world.....Even in this day of Ronald Reagan, when Buckley should be having his own way at Burger King, he feels constrained to mouth platitudes of brotherhood at the same influences which run the **New York Times**, **Philadelphia Enquirer**, and **Washington Post**.....Buckley is accomplishing nothing. Worse, we find he is accomplishing nothing for the right wing. But he will undoubtedly become rich, and you are helping him. I say unto you zilch, zilch, zilch.

Maynard Philbeck

Dear Mr. Robertson,

It is time I had something positive to say for a change, and I elect to compliment you on the October 29 issue, with "A Man's Fall". No one gloats over the nitty-gritty contained in such a story, but a real newspaperman will search out that which affects such a great percentage of the population in his area, and in this case, it is keeping financed in such difficult times. Farmers have always been in financial trouble, but never to the extent of today.

In 1948, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan said "Get big, or get out." Millions left agriculture. Now even the big boys can't make it, because they are dealing with a society which despises the farmer, wants to enslave him to corporate debt, and to use his sweat to provide cheap goods for a mongrel rabble who trades off their votes at election time. It will not be too long before even the part-time farmer, such as Hamrick, vanishes.

Anyway, you are on the right track, and I no doubt among many, appreciate what you are doing. Just keep up the feeling!

Maynard Philbeck

There are other changes in the View on which, like Mr. Philbeck, you may have thoughtful feelings. The most notable is on the back of this page, the religious news on page eight. Here we've added the "History of Hymns" by Dr. William J. Reynolds. What an editorial delight! When I first opened Reynold's sample column, I expected much learning, little style. Instead was an easy eloquence that turns each hymn into a human interest story. Reynolds is, simply, one of the best writers I've found: he's here for you to enjoy.

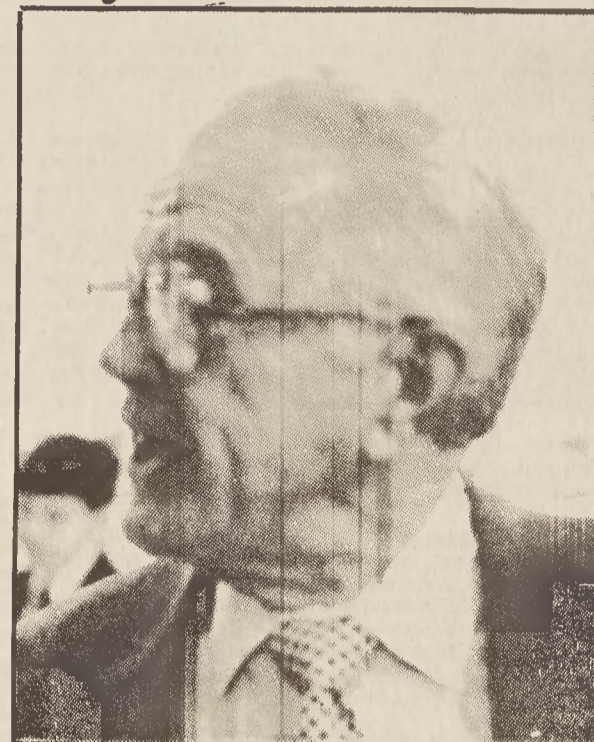
Also on the religion page we are printing, whenever available, the Gallup Poll's surveys of religion in America. How many Americans belong to cults? How many say religion is very important? How many pray? How often? The answers to these and other fascinating questions will be summarized in the View each week as the polls are returned to the Princeton Religion Research Center. The polls analyze what we feel but cannot see: the pulse of America's spiritual life.

What do you think? Do you like what you read in the View? Or, like Mr. Philbeck, do you find it sweet and sour? Write us at Editor, Box 982, Boiling Springs, NC 28017.

"Kays Gary Day" In Charlotte

"There's my friend Charlene Stamey. If you haven't heard of Stamey's, you haven't heard of Saks Fifth Avenue."

—Kays Gary



Judges, police reporters, novelists, businessmen, and "just folks" from Cleveland County all had one reason for gathering together last Thursday night at a downtown Charlotte restaurant: all are friends of Kays Gary.

Gary, Cleveland County native and newspaper columnist, was honored by the city of Charlotte and his friends at a dinner last Thursday with a city-proclaimed "Kays Gary Day."

"He has continually shown sensitivity to those around him," read the proclamation,

noting his work with handicapped children and his generosity to needy adults.

The gathering also occasioned the publication of a book of selected Gary columns, and was a time for memories by Cleveland Countians:

"I want to thank all the people from home," Gary told his audience at the banquet. "By which I mean," he turned, facing tables at his right, "Shelby, Fallston, and Casar."

Proceeds for the sale of tickets to the dinner honoring Gary were donated to charity.



Honoring Kays Gary were Pete McKnight [at right] Cleveland native who formerly reported for the Shelby Star and served as president of the American

Society of Newspaper Editors. McKnight talks with Judge James McMillan [at left]. Center is Jim Babb, executive vice president of Jefferson Pilot Broadcasting Corp.

Gun Mishap Kills One

A freakish shotgun accident claimed the life of a 35-year-old Shelby man Monday night on Scruggs Road outside Boiling Springs.

Bobby Dean Humphries died instantly shot in the throat by the 12-gauge shotgun he was removing from his parked pickup truck, according to police reports. An assistant coroner ruled the death accidental.

The gun's trigger apparently caught on the end of the rack as Humphries pulled. Humphries was holding the gun by its barrel.

A police officer on the scene described the wound:

"Here," he said, touching his neck, "there was nothing left."

In other reports:

Fires kept both city and rural fire departments busy this week, with city fighting a house fire two hours Sunday, and rural responding to a fire Monday at the Roundup Store in Mooresboro that officials call arson.

A defective chimney at the home of William Sutherland on East Branch started a fire Sunday that caused an estimated \$10,000 damage, according to fireman Don McSwain. Firemen from the city department began fighting the blaze at 7:05 p.m. and succeeded in putting out the last of the smoking embers about two hours later, he said.

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