

The Foothills View

"We See It Your Way"

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BOILING SPRINGS, NC

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Bluebirds In Boiling Springs

It's a glimpse of blue — so quick, so bright it seems you've thought of blue, not seen it. But it has been seen three times: once in front of Shuford's Nursery on Highway 150, twice flying with its mate over land formerly owned by Dan W. Moore, Jr.

The bluebird is back in Boiling Springs.

"They (bluebirds) are definitely on the increase in Boiling Springs," declares Les Brown, a biology professor at Gardner-Webb College. "Two years ago I watched 12 bluebirds gather on a power line in front of our house here."

Bluebirds were never officially on an endangered species list, according to J. D. Copeland, a Boiling Springs bird-bander, but "they were in trouble," he says.

Copeland and Brown both attributed the birds' decline to the wide use of the insecticide DDT, which so weakened the shells of the birds' eggs that they broke prematurely.

The locust fenceposts and dead trees that formerly provided the birds with nesting holes also have declined, the two said.

Although the birds are still a rare sight, their number has increased both



"They were in trouble."
— J. D. Copeland

locally and nation-wide, and their survival as a species now is likely.

"There're two possible reasons for the birds' increase in Boiling Springs," Brown said. "First, several years ago we banned DDT nation-wide. Second, people are putting up birdhouses now. Man has increased its habitat."

Bluebird houses must have a circular opening exactly one and one-half an inch in diameter, Brown said, to keep bluebirds in and predators out.

The houses are available commercially at nurseries and hardware stores.

"Other than cats and man, their greatest enemy in the common black rat snake," Brown said.

"I suppose the reason that the birds prefer the Boiling Springs area is because they are what we could term 'edge dwellers,'" Brown said. "What they like is an area in a clearing with trees nearby, at the edge. That describes much of the Boiling Springs area, where farming and cattle raising has created those edges."

The town of Boiling Springs is designated by the state as a bird sanctuary.

Councilman Dies In Cherokee

The Baptist church, Cherokee County politics, and the country store were the landmarks of Russell T. Wood's life at the Grassy Pond Community. Before his death Monday he contributed to all three.

Wood, 63, died after a long illness at his home on Rt. 2, Gaffney, about 6:30 a.m. He was a Cherokee County councilman. Wood is survived by his wife, Grace.

"He was politically active all his life, as was his father before him," said Gene McKown, a neighbor of Wood's and an honorary pallbearer at his burial Wednesday at Grassy Pond Baptist Church cemetery.

Wood was the son of the late John Baxter and Corrine White Wood of Cherokee County. Prior to his managing an insurance office in Gaffney, Wood operated a country store on Highway 18 south of Boiling Springs.

Wood was serving his first term on the county board, replacing A. Z. Jolley when Jolley became a magistrate in Gaffney.

Wood was a member of the Grassy Pond Baptist Church, where he was a former deacon. He served on that congregation's building committee when the present church building was constructed.

Honors To Mooresboro

A young Mooresboro woman is the winner of a \$300 scholarship at Gardner-Webb College where she will enter as a freshman this fall.

Lisa Rae Webb, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Ray S. Webb of Rt. 1, Mooresboro, has been awarded the James G. K. McClure scholarship for the coming academic year at the

college. Lisa is a 1982 graduate of Crest Senior High School.

The scholarship fund was established to aid academically promising residents of western North Carolina and is awarded on the basis of high school scholarship and leadership, evidence of Christian character, financial need, and intellectual ability.

Boll Weevil's Back In Town

County farm agents reported threshold infestations of boll weevils and bollworms in 18 of 73 cotton fields the county office scouted last week in Cleveland County. A total 1900 acres were scouted.

Boll weevils were at threshold levels or greater in 12 fields, the agents reported, with a maximum infestation of 24 percent and an average infestation of 14 percent.

Bollworms were at threshold levels or greater

in six fields, with a maximum infestation of six percent and an average infestation of five percent.

None of the growers had begun to spray for bollworms, the agents said, as threshold levels were not exceeded greatly and blacklight captures have been low.

For boll weevils, six growers had applied the insecticide guthion, but a second application could not be made due to heavy rains.

New Editor Speaks Here

The new editor of the Southern Baptist Biblical Reporter, R.G. (Gene) Puckett, will deliver his first public address in North Carolina this Saturday at graduation ceremonies for Gardner-Webb College at Boiling Springs First Baptist Church.

Puckett, 49, succeeds

retiring Recorder editor J. Marse Grant this September. He has been described as "a Baptist by conviction, an informed, articulate Baptist."

Puckett will speak at the 10 a.m. ceremony for the 65 seniors scheduled to graduate from the four-year college.

Sounds of Silence



A spider builds its web inside the bell of Poplar Springs Baptist Church on a recent summer afternoon. The interior of the bell was a cool relief for the creature from the summer's heat, just as the sanctuary was a relief for other of God's creatures.

Hot On North Main

Houses fires Sunday and Tuesday at two residences on North Main Street resulted in damages exceeding \$10,000 according to Boiling Springs city fire department.

A five year-old child's playing with matches resulted in the fire Sunday afternoon at a house owned by Maxwell Hamrick, according to the department. Fireman Randall McSwain estimated damages at about \$10,000.

A clothes dryer Tuesday night overheated and partially burned a wall in another North Main residence about 11 p.m., according to McSwain. Damage was estimated at about \$400, he said.

Boiling Springs rural department assisted city at the Hamrick fire.