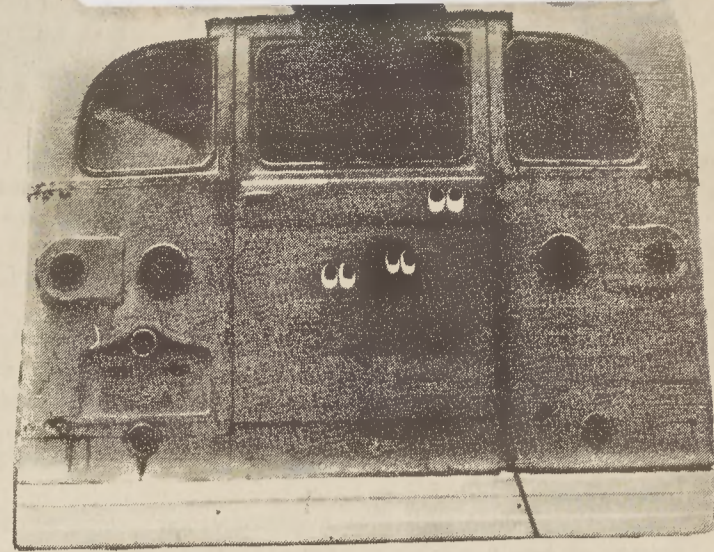


# The Quarters Keep Rolling Along



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It had to happen - two American parsons, the video arcade and the internal combustion engine, were combined.

The result was an arcade-on-wheels, the brainchild of local resident Clifford Ledford. The bus, formerly a Boiling Springs Junior Police activities bus, was repainted bright blue last month and outfitted inside with ten, coin-operated games.

The bus is air-conditioned and can generate its own electricity to run the games. And what if the customers tire of the ten games? "We just drive on to a new spot," says Ledford.

# The Foothills View

FRIDAY - JULY 15, 1983

BOILING SPRINGS NC

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## It Takes A Brave Cook To Hunt Blackberries

Compliment the cook the next time you taste blackberry pie - a compliment for braving a hot sun, brambles, and an occasional black snake. "Oh, the ones we saw (black snakes) kept moving on," said Jonnie Tallent show here picking berries along Col-

lege Farm Road with her granddaughter, Sharon Grant. "They weren't out to hurt anybody."

By mid-morning the two had picked at least several gallons of blackberries for future pies, cobblers, and rolls.

## This Year's Crop Not The Pits

In spite of early reports that indicated an almost total wipe-out of North and South Carolina's peach crops, surveys have shown that there are still numerous orchards that sustained little if any damage. At these orchards, excellent quality peaches are now being harvested.

"The worst damage in North Carolina from the mid-April freeze occurred in the Sandhill area where the bulk of the state's peach crop is grown," said an agricultural department spokesman. "However, even in that area some varieties withstood the freeze and can be obtained on a limited basis. The

eastern Carolina orchards were even less severely damaged."

In Gaffney, home of the Peachoid water tank, that South Carolina town's Peach Festival Tractor Pull is scheduled for Friday, 7 p.m., at Lake Whelchel. The pull is sponsored by the Grassy Pond Volunteer Fire Department.

Also planned for the Peach Festival are a variety show at the Gaffney Little Theater on Friday at 8 p.m., a two-hour parade Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at the Gaffney Mall, and the finals Saturday of the South Carolina Miss Peach Blossom contest at 7:30 p.m.

## One In Three Watches Television Preachers

### From Gallup Reports

Fully one-third of Americans say they have watched religious programs on television within the last seven days, with approximately half viewing these programs for more than an hour.

From a socio-economic standpoint, most likely to have viewed religious TV broadcasts within the last seven days are: residents of the South (46%), rural areas of America (41%), older persons (those over 50 years of age), and several of the so-called downscale or less affluent population groups: blacks (43%), persons in lower income households and those with a grade school education.

In contrast, least likely to have watched TV broadcasts within the last week are: easterners; big city residents; and up-scale groups, including the college-educated, those in the professional and business class, and persons earning \$25,000 per year or more.

Analysis of religious TV viewing by the various religious breakdowns reveals that evangelicals, both in terms of denominational preferences and stated ideology, to be among the most frequent viewers of religious TV.

In both instances, about six in 10 have watched religious broad-

casts on TV within the last seven days, and half this number, about three in 10, have watched for more than one hour within the last seven days.

Similarly, the highly spiritually committed (60%) state they have watched religious TV within the last week, again with three in 10 claiming to have watched over an hour.

Other heavy viewers are those describing their religious ideology as "far right," those claiming to lead a very Christian life, those who have listened to religious radio within the last seven days and those who indicate that religion is a very important factor in their lives.

Low religious TV viewership occurs in the following groups: those claiming no denomination preference (12%), the ideologically liberal, far left (12%), those staying they lead a very un-Christian life (11%), and those who are highly religiously uninvolved, the highly spiritually uncommitted (6%), and those who say religion is not important in their lives (9%).

Interestingly, Catholics are only about half as likely to have watched religious TV within the last week, with 21% claiming viewership, compared to 41% of Protestants.

## Mountains Look Good For Age

Quite a few residents of Western North Carolina are fond of saying their mountains are not only the most beautiful in the world, but also the oldest.

While beauty always will be in the eyes of the beholder, the age of the mountains is better left to geologists. Especially if there is any money riding on it.

The fact is that the oldest rocks in North Carolina's southern Appalachians date back only about a billion years, according to Dr. Paul Fullagar, chairman of the geology department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As a result, they are not exactly spring chickens as rocks go, but they are far younger than some specimens found in Minnesota, Greenland and Australia that are about 4 billion years old.

Not only are the North Carolina mountains younger, Fullagar said, but the Appalachians, including the Blue Ridge and neighboring ranges, have appeared and disappeared several times during the past billion years.

"The question of how old the mountains are depends on whether people are talking about the age of the rocks that make up the mountains or the age of the mountains themselves," the scientist said. "It seems some people have trouble seeing the distinction, either because they haven't thought about it or because we geologists haven't made the difference clear to them."

Fullagar specializes in chemical analysis of rocks, which includes dating them by comparing trace amounts of radioactive material they contain with daughter products left over as the radioactivity diminishes. Since radioactive uranium decays into lead, for example, the relative amounts of uranium and lead in a sample can tell geologists how long it has been since the rock formed.

Using techniques like this, researchers have learned that as recently as 60 million or 70 million years ago, the Appalachian region was probably much flatter than it is now,

Fullagar said. Sediments in the state's coastal plain contain little evidence of sand and other debris that would have washed down from the mountains during that time, even though evidence of such sediment can be found from both earlier and later periods.

Dr. John Dennison, also a professor of geology at UNC-CH, said he believes that three distinct mountain ranges formed in North Carolina and were worn away before the Appalachians were created.

He estimated the birth dates of those ghost mountains to be about 1 billion years, 430 million years and 260 million or 270 million years ago, respectively.

Mountains arise from tremendous forces generated by molten material upwelling deep within the Earth and by slow-moving continents first pushing against each other and then pulling away. The result in certain areas is an uplifting of land that initially may be relatively flat.

"The most recent uplifting in the East was probably 20 million

to 30 million years ago," Dennison said. "It was more gentle than the earlier events."

Over thousands of centuries, running water, ice and swirling winds carve away at the great smooth mounds of earth and rock, cutting gorges, ravines and valleys. What is left is the mountains.

"A good example of mountains that haven't been carved out yet would be the wheatfields of eastern Colorado, which are as high as our mountains," he said, "but are flat as pancakes now."

Dennison said the Appalachians are wearing down. They may rise up again, as they have in the past, but it won't be soon.

Part of the Sierras in the West, however, are "visibly growing," he added, "at least several inches in the past 100 years."

Fullagar and Dennison agreed that statements calling the New River the second oldest in the world are impossible to document and probably not true.