

The Foothills View

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BOILING SPRINGS NC

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Sad Tale Has Happy Ending



*Friends And The Fox,
Who Was Too Tired To Run*



Greg Arnold, top, holds a little red fox he caught on the Crest Junior High School lawn. Under the blanket is the trap the fox had been dragging with front paw for at least two days. At bottom, game warden John Blanton holds the fox as Dr. Carl Ivester, of Lawndale, removes the leash, after removing the trapped paw.

Blanton, Bost Elected To Gardner-Webb Posts

Shelby residents George Blanton Jr. and Lloyd C. Bost have been elected secretary and treasurer respectively of the Gardner-Webb College board of trustees.

Blanton, who is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the First National Bank in Shelby, has been a Gardner-Webb trustee since January 1983.

He is a former chairman of the college's board of advisors and currently is a member of the steering committee for the college's financial development program "Getting Ready For Tomorrow," serving as chairman

of the program's endowment development committee.

Bost, who is president of Bost Baker, began his present term as a Gardner-Webb trustee in 1979.

He has served a number of terms on the college's board of trustees and has previously held the positions of board chairman, vice chairman and treasurer.

In 1971 he was awarded the honorary doctor of humanities degree by Gardner-Webb for his long-time service to the college.

Blanton and Bost will serve one-year terms as officers of the college's board of trustees. Their terms began January 1.

The fox went out on a chilly night, about two weeks gone right now. But she never reached the town.

Instead, she stopped to dig in a suspicious little mound, in the mud of a plowed field. It looked like where something good might have been hid, by another fox. And the next thing she knew, the "prize" had snapped shut on her paw.

It was a couple of days later, for her foot was already dead, when the Greg Arnolds rounded a curve on J.W. Hamrick Road and saw a little animal, crossing the road, dragging a bed steel trap behind it. Arnold stopped and grabbed a blanket and gave chase, as the burdened little creature dragged up the lawn of Crest Junior High School. "I kept yelling at him, 'Look out! Look out! It will bite you!' Arnold's wife said later.

But the little red fox was too weary to put up a fight. Arnold, a former Boiling Springs policeman, and now a senior at Gardner-Webb, wrapped it up, trap and all, and put it in the trunk of his car and brought it home. He and his wife called their veterinarian, who recommended death to ease its suffering.

They called the animal shelter, but no one was available to help. All calls netted the same advice: Kill the fox.

Then, the Arnolds contacted Dr. Carl Ivester, of Lawndale, who is a celebrated admirer of all foxes. "Bring it on up," Dr. Ivester said.

So back into the trunk went the fox, quiet, trusting, resigned to the worst. When they arrived, Dr. Ivester had game warden John Blanton with him. Blanton was interested both in the fox and the trap, still dangling from one of its front paws.

The doctor slipped a loop leash around the patient's neck, and seeing no hope for the injured paw, quickly snapped it off,

as Arnold held the bundled fox quiet.

The wound was so old the fox, perhaps in shock, did not complain, and the leg did not bleed. The paw remained in the trap—which Blanton quickly observed bore no identification. It is illegal to trap foxes or coons in Western North Carolina, he said. And it is illegal to set a trap without an identifying metal tag, with the trapper's name and address.

A trapper can legally, in season, trap muskrat, mink and bobcat if he has a state or county license, but he must have permission from the landowner to set his traps. And he is bound by law to check them every day.

"If he catches a fox or a coon, he's got to turn it loose," Blanton said.

Dr. Ivester, an avowed enemy of such traps, said he had written the legislature repeatedly and had sent pictures of such sorrowful sights as he treated the day-still to no avail. People often bring him wounded wildlife, he says; "I'll treat anything but a polecat."

Relieved of the trap, the fox vented its woe on the leash as the doctor tried to remove it. He put the fox in a cage in his clinic and judged it to be in remarkable good health, though doubtless hungry.

The Arnolds left it, expressing huge joy and relief. When it is recovered, Ivester told them, he would turn it loose on his Lawndale farm, and he thought it would do fine. "There are plenty of three-legged foxes and coons running around," he said.

Blanton reported this week that he had visited the fox and it was recovering very well. It is a little female, he said. And there is some indication it may have kits on the way.

And Blanton has a rusty old steel trap, that was once buried in a field. Nobody is fighting to claim it.



The Site Of The Fatal Assault

Murphy Man Dies After Local Beating

The victim of the first murder in Boiling Springs, in the memory of many, was buried Wednesday in the mountains of Cherokee County, North Carolina.

Stephen Michael Radford, 26, died Saturday following an assault Friday night at the Phillips Village Apartments, where his brother, James Edward Radford, lives.

Boiling Springs police chief Dan Ledbetter arrived at the scene of the fatal beating after being summoned by a neighbor. The Radford brothers were lying in the apartment complex parking lot, Ledbetter's report said, as three other men stood over them. One man kicked one of the fallen men in the head as he tried to get to his feet, the report said.

The killing apparently followed an evening of drinking and card playing at James Radford's place, and perhaps others. The Radfords had reportedly invited some men into party. An argument over a debt was said to bring about the fighting, in which Stephen Radford was battered

with a tire iron.

Charged with the killing was Johnny Eugene Starr, 19, of 1810 Powerline Road in Shelby. A preliminary hearing was held after Radford's death and bond set at \$25,000. Starr is being held in Cleveland County jail, charged with first-degree murder. Another hearing will be held in district court in Shelby on January 26.

The victim was visiting his brother in Boiling Springs after working a construction job in Chicago.

Radford had left Murphy High School before he graduated and had served for a time in the U.S. Army. The youngest son in a family of five children, he was raised by an uncle and aunt who had gained custody of the children in 1961.

His brother, James Radford, was treated and released from Cleveland Memorial Hospital the night of the assault.

Police Chief Ledbetter said he could not find any historical records, but that this was the first killing he could remember within at least the last 15 years in Boiling Springs.

Flutist To Give Recital On Tuesday

Gardner-Webb music performance major Esther N. Perrin of Boiling Springs will give a flute recital on Tuesday, January 24.

She will be accompanied on piano and harpsichord by Libby Alexander of Shelby and assisted during the selection "Duetino" by flutist Pam Harris of Boiling Springs.

Miss Perrin is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Phil Perrin and is a graduate of Crest Senior High School.

A sophomore at Gardner-Webb, Miss Perrin is a member

of the college's orchestra and the Gardner-Webb Chamber Chorus. She has also performed with the Western Piedmont Symphony.

Miss Perrin, who studies flute under the direction of G-W adjunct music instructor Irene Maddox, will perform a number of selections including "Fantasie" by Faure and "Sentimentale" by Claude Bolling.

The performance will be held in the college's Dover Chapel beginning at 8 p.m. It is open to the public at no cost.

Nancy Rebecca Vaughn Makes Peace Honors

Raleigh - Nancy Rebecca Vaughn of Boiling Springs is among the 54 students on the fall semester Dean's List at Peace College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Vaughn of 120 Woodhill Dr. in Boiling

Springs.

To be eligible for the Dean's List at Peace a student must maintain a grade-point average of 3.30 out of a possible 4.0, receive passing grades in all subjects and carry at least 12 hours of course work.



Thoughts On An Old House

Dr. Wyan Washburn and Charlotte architect Jack Boyte were among a group of Cleveland County restoration enthusiasts who visited the old Sarratt house, in number three township last Tuesday. Boyte, an expert in the identification and restoration of historic buildings, said he was thrilled with the old brick house, which he called a remarkably well preserved example of 18th century architecture.