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Recently, on a weekend trip to the far end of the State, we stopped by the Wilkes Hotel in North Wilkesboro to pick up a Sunday newspaper. It surprised us to find a very large open fireplace dominating the lobby.

Seeing real logs in the thing, we asked a bellboy if it is actually used for heating purposes when the chill weather of autumn and winter comes to the hill country.

He told us that the fireplace remains lighted, day and night. "We get hardwood logs from a mill," he said. "They sell us the ones that have flaws, and aren't suitable for making furniture."

Just about everybody in North Wilkesboro goes to the hotel after church on Sunday, for their noon meal. With a giant fireplace like that, the food would have to be mighty sorry to make the occasion unenjoyable for us.

Although Wilkes County is just as famous for its liquid corn as our own Craven County, we saw apple orchards and not joy-juice factories while wandering through the nearby Brushy mountains. It's a great section for apples too.

As a stranger, we didn't expect to see any moonshine operations. In the back of our mind was the story of a revenue agent who offered a small mountain boy a half dollar to show him a still. "I'll pay you when we get back," the agent assured the youngster.

"If it's all the same with you, Mister," the kid replied, "I'd rather you'd pay me now, 'cause you ain't coming back." The story may not be based on fact, but up there in the hills it has the ring of truth.

While in North Wilkesboro, visiting Dave and Nina Reynolds, we were invited by the Richard Johnstons (she is the former Elicia Caroon of New Bern) to stop by their home for a chat. Dick owns a couple of furniture factories, but he's strictly a down to earth guy.

He and Elicia have reason to be proud of their three fine sons. Dickie, the oldest, received a Morehead Scholarship following High school graduation, and will be a freshman at the University of North Carolina.

An outstanding footballer in High school, he was the big reason Wilkes Central won the Western 3-A crown two years in a row. All three sons have been exceptional boy scouts.

We met the Johnston dog too, a newcomer to the family circle. And over at Hickory, where our daughter resides, we met two other dogs named Sparky and Crisco that live next door. affectionate, but this doesn't keep them from getting into a fuss in the middle of the night. Sparky, no bigger than a healthy squirrel, also picked a quarrel with a dog four times his size, while we were walking the pair on twin leashes.

Fortunately, the big dog was a timid soul. Instead of exterminating Sparky, he turned tail and ran as fast as his legs would carry him. Sooner or later, and the thought depresses us, Sparky is going to run up against a dog that isn't easily scared.

Both Hickory and North Wilkesboro have many beautiful homes. Lawns, sloping up to the houses, are beautifully kept, and everywhere you see an abundance of lovely trees.

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WAY BACK WHEN—You might know The Mirror, widely known for its rare photos of ancient vintage, wouldn't be caught napping when the weekend came for Atlantic City's Miss America Pageant. Where but on

our front page would you find Miss America of 40 years ago congratulating her successor, Miss Tulsa? Born too soon, they missed out on today's Pepsi scholarships for winners and runners-up.



STEPPING LIVELY—Square dancing can be loads of fun, as you'll discover when you enroll in the Al-Manders class starting next Tuesday. Pictured at the New Bern Teen Club are Becky and Russell Checketts, Marvin and Veona Ray Waters, Dick and Helen Hub-

bard, and Lester and Gladys Sadler, with Joe Lyerly, Jr., in the background, calling the set. Dick is president of the group, Marvin the vice-president and Gladys the treasurer. Russell is vice president of Havelock's Copperhead Twirlers.—Photo by Billy Benners.