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KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

TWO SMALL BOYS turning over boards and rocks trying to find red worms for an early Monday fishing trip . . . Offered to help . . . lads brought out shovel, and we spaded up pretty good sized garden area, stopping once in a while as the boys scooped up the big fat worms . . . Soon had a sizeable handful, and we decided there was plenty of bait. While heaving the black sod, felt younger, and thought of the times when the moist earth felt cool between our calloused toes, and we had about as much fun in the conquest of wormdom as in the dream of catching a whopper, one that wouldn't get away . . . we were sure there was a huge fish at the bottom of the deep pool, eddying around the half submerged log, where there was always a patch of white foam, beneath the budding willows—and actually there was generally a fish of some description just waiting for a big juicy worm . . . Yep, we had a good time on our way to work helping the boys get a bit of bait, and felt sort of gloomy all day, 'cause we couldn't take the time to go along to the creek.

FISH WORMS are as much a part of the life of a country boy as stubbed toes, hound dogs and BB guns . . . He just has to have them in his business . . . and that evening, happened to be wondering if our young angler friends had any luck and while turning through a periodical, found an article, which greatly refreshed our memory as to the lowly earthworm, and their effect on the lives of men . . . enticing a fish from a mountain creek is just a sideline for an earthworm, his main function is to make the earth produce . . . where the barefoot boy can't find his bait, is a poor spot to plant the spring garden as.

THE LOWLY EARTHWORM keeps digging away in the cool depths day and night, and his activities make the earth friable; he transforms the vegetable and animal waste into rich humus; they change the earth's chemicals into soluble plant food; and their billions of tiny tunnels enable rain water and air to penetrate the soil . . . An authority on worms says the worm will cast up his weight in soil every 24 hours . . . These castings are exceptional plant food . . . Topsoil, after being thus transformed by earthworms, has been found to be five times richer in nitrogen, seven times more plentiful in phosphate, 11 times richer in potash, it has been learned . . . It takes nature 500 to 1000 years to lay down an inch of topsoil, under favorable conditions a sufficient number of earth worms can do the job in five years.

AS ROTTED LEAVES and stable manure have given way to chemical fertilizers as plant food, there is less and less upon which an angle worm may live it would seem to follow that the balance of nature has been upset to the extent that land will now produce in exact proportion to the amount of chemicals used . . . The earthworm cannot do the job without humus . . . They say it's a good idea to bury some kitchen scraps and leaves in the garden for worm food . . . They'll reproduce rapidly, enrich the soil and you can never tell . . . we and some more of the boys might have a hankering to go fishing again.

AN ITNERANT PRINTER, one of the old timers, the first we had seen for years, dropped by the other day, but as had been the case on down the road, there was nothing to do for those who had not mastered the mechanics of the machines which took the place of the movable types and the Washington hand press . . . A nice old fellow, we hated to turn him down, but gave him the coin for food for the day and a bus ticket to the next point . . . he'd walked about as far as his aging legs could stand for that day.

IN THE DAYS when "rugged individualism" caught only the vision of a chicken in every pot—didn't quite lay hold of the fowl—there were plenty of so-called "tramp printers" who journeyed around the country year on end . . . had some regular customers we entertained about every year, but their ranks are thinning . . . They were the most picturesque
(Continued on page 4)

NEW SURGEON GENERAL



The nation has a new surgeon general, Dr. Leonard A. Scheele was sworn in to replace Dr. Thomas Parran, who is retiring after many years of service. Dr. Scheele is the former director of the National Cancer Institute of the Public Health Service. Shown here are, left to right: Dr. Scheele, Dr. Parran, and Dr. L. R. Thompson who administered the oath of office.

4-H Church Sunday Observed May 2nd

Directs Glee Club



ARTHUR STEERE

Emory Glee Club To Appear Here

The Emory at Oxford Glee Club will appear in concert April 29th at the Methodist church in this city. This organization from the Junior College division of Emory University is under the direction of Arthur Steere, assistant professor of Fine Arts at that institution. The club has made many appearances this year in various cities of Georgia, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida. It is known through the Georgia-Florida area for its clear cut, enthusiastic singing.

Included on its varied program will be music representative of the Palestrina and Bach period, the Negro Spiritual, and the modern period. Appearing as soloist with the group is Jimmy Callahan, bass, from Thomasville, Georgia with Dan Greer of Covington, Georgia at the piano.

The Emory at Oxford Glee Club has been a permanent musical organization for nineteen years, visiting and entertaining Georgia and Florida cities all this time. During this time, the Club has developed a fine reputation for its interpretation of folk songs and of the Negro Spiritual. For seventeen years of its history, the club was under the direction of Virgil Y. C. Eady, who is now dean of Emory at Oxford. This is Professor Steere's second year of directing the club.

Isaac G. Hodges Dies on Sunday

Isaac Garfield Hodges, 66, died at the home at Mabel April 18. Rites were conducted on the 20th at the Mabel Methodist Church by Rev. Starling and Rev. J. K. Parker and interment was in the family cemetery. Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Mary Baxter, three sons and one daughter: Baxter Hodges, Mountain City, Tenn.; F. Hodges, Mount Airy, N. C.; Oliver Hodges, Alexandria, Va.; I. G. Hodges, Jr., Mountain City, Tenn. Mrs. Earl Norris, Mabel.

Only 7 per cent of the land surface of the earth is adaptable to agricultural production.

COUNTY IS FAR ALONG IN DRIVE AGAINST CANCER FUND

Mrs. Ellis Reports Gifts of \$235 Against Quota of \$300; Uses of Funds Raised in Campaign are Explained by County Chairman.

Watauga county was well on its way this week toward reaching its \$300 goal in the drive for funds with which to fight cancer.

Mrs. Bert Ellis, county campaign chairman for the American Cancer Society, said that the county had already raised \$235, with the campaign only at the two-thirds mark, and contributions from the outlying areas are expected to put the county well over the set quota.

The money raised here will be used to carry out a widespread educational program to teach the general public to recognize the symptoms which may mean early cancer and tell them the steps to take if one of the symptoms appears. Doctors say that widespread knowledge of these simple facts about cancer can save from a third to a half of those developing the disease.

A large part of the money contributed here and throughout the country will go to finance the American Cancer Society's multi-million dollar research program to find the causes and cure for all types of cancer and to discover ways to prevent the disease.

The local chairman pointed out that a group of volunteer campaign workers already has made many calls to solicit contributions but she asked that Watauga countians not wait until they are asked personally to make their donations. Contributions may be sent to County Campaign Headquarters at Boone, Mrs. Lee Reynolds, Treasurer.

James Miller Dies As Boat Capsizes

James Morris Miller, of Arlington, Va., who had many relatives and friends in Watauga county, was drowned April 11, when the boat he was occupying capsized in the Potomac River. His uncle, H. C. Miller, clung to the boat and was saved.

Mr. Miller was born September 21, 1921 at Deep Gap, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Clint M. Miller, who now reside at Purlair. He was inventory control supervisor for Capitol Airlines, and had served in the Army in Panama.

Funeral services were held last Wednesday from Ives Funeral Home by Rev. Mr. Stevens and burial was in Arlington cemetery.

He is survived by the parents, the widow, Mrs. Virginia Pearson Miller, one daughter, Linda Sue; two sisters, Miss Lillian Miller, Arlington, Va., Mrs. Louise Wey, Brookier, Fla.

Noah Winebarger Rites Saturday

Noah Winebarger, 79, resident of Meat Camp township, died suddenly last Thursday at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Fred Greene. Funeral services were conducted from the late residence last Saturday by Rev. Mr. Seigel and interment was in the Winebarger cemetery.

Surviving are three sons and four daughters: Walter Winebarger, Boone; Frank Winebarger, Zionville; Grady Winebarger, of Boone; Mrs. Fred Greene, Meat Camp; Mrs. Milton Brown, Trade Tenn.; Mrs. Arthur Jones, Boone; Mrs. Tom Jones, Boone.

High School Play to Aid Recreation

On Thursday night, April 22, at 8:00 o'clock, the Appalachian High School faculty will present a two-act comedy, "Mr. Bob", in the high school auditorium.

The cast includes: Philip Royson, played by John Lovegrove; Robert Brown, a lawyer, Donald Thompson; Jenkins, the butler, R. L. Tait; Rebecca Luke, Martha Hawkinson; Katherine Rogers, her niece, Eloise Stogner; Marion Bryant, played by Reba Moore; and Patty, the maid, Blanche Kelley.

The play is being sponsored by the Boone Parent-Teachers Association, and all proceeds will go to the Boone Recreation Fund.

PASTOR HONORED ON ANNIVERSARY



Dr. Voight R. Cromer, left, of Salisbury, President of the United Lutheran Synod of North Carolina, who will preach at 11 o'clock next Sunday, at Grace Lutheran Church, Boone, in connection with the tenth anniversary of Rev. Edwin F. Troutman, right, as the pastor of the local Lutheran Church Rev. and Mrs. Troutman, and sons, Edwin and Jerry, came to Boone May 1, 1938 from Thomasville. During the ten years that they have served the church much progress is noted, the congregation having become self-supporting and is now giving for benevolences an amount equal to the total budget ten years ago. Dr. Cromer, college mate of Pastor Troutman, is an able preacher and the congregation feels fortunate in securing him for this special occasion. Following the service a dinner in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Troutman, will be served in the basement of the Church.

Local Professor New Head NCEA Group

N. C. E. A. Official



DR. JOHN G. BARDEN

Commerce Group To Talk Housing

Mr. Herman W. Wilcox announces a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at the Skyline Cafe Thursday evening at 7:00, at which time the shortage of housing facilities for summer school students and others will be the basis for the discussions.

Every homeowner having an extra room is asked to give this information to Mrs. T. E. Bingham, Secretary, at phone 300-J.

Mr. Wilcox points out that the housing facilities on the college campus have been exhausted and officials are now engaged in placing as many students in town as possible, and that the full cooperation of the people is sought in making as much space available as possible to the students and other visitors.

"The biggest payroll in Watauga county," says Mr. Wilcox, "is Appalachian College and the tourists. Let's all work together to make these folks welcome and want to come back again."

Those who wish to attend the dinner at 7:00 may do so at a cost of \$1.00. Those wishing only to be present at the meeting may come at 7:45.

Mrs. Laura Ragan Succumbs Sunday

Mrs. Laura Belle Ragan, 63, died Sunday at the Watauga Hospital from a week's illness. Funeral services are to be conducted today at the Rich Mountain Baptist Church by Rev. W. C. Payne and burial will be in the church cemetery.

Three sons and one daughter survive: Grady Ragan, Zionville; Marion G. Ragan, Lenoir; Kenneth A. Ragan, Boone; Mrs. Lloyd Bryan, Boone. There are three brothers: Watt Beach, Boone; Henry Beach, Zionville; Wade Beach, Bluff City, Tenn. One sister, Mrs. Arthur Pennington, resides in Dilliner, Pa.

BOOZE CARGO IS ORDERED SOLD TO ABC SYSTEM

Driver of Liquor-Laden Truck Fined \$3,000 by Judge Nettles; Vehicle to be Sold; Other Judgments of Superior Court Given.

Two hundred and thirty-two cases of whiskey, captured by State Highway Patrolmen T. G. Roberts and R. B. Parker, near Boone some time ago, was ordered sold to the A. B. C. stores by Judge Nettles, and Travis Triplett, Wilkes man, who drove the contraband-laden truck, was fined three thousand dollars. Judge Nettles further decreed that the truck carrying the spirits be sold at public auction, and the proceeds be placed in the county school fund.

The spring court term convened Monday morning with Judge Nettles of Asheville, presiding, and by recess Tuesday afternoon the State docket had been concluded.

Thomas Lewey, assault with a deadly weapon, fined \$100 and the cost.

Roby Osborne, breaking and entering, one to three years in State prison, and from two to three years on a larceny count. Later sentence suspended until first one completed.

Floyd Ward, jointly charged with Roby Osborne, open judgment.

Robert Franklin Miller, driving drunk, \$100 and costs. Lewis Goins, driving drunk, \$100 and the costs.

Paul McGlamery, driving drunk, \$100 and the costs. Charles W. Barnhardt, driving drunk, \$100 and costs, six month sentence suspended.

J. W. Jestes, Donald Story, driving drunk, fined \$100 and cost. Thomas R. Snyder, speeding, costs.

Robert Jestes, violation of the prohibition law, four months on (Continued on page 8)

Cove Creek Wins In Cattle Judging

The annual Parkway Federation livestock judging contest was held in and around Boone Saturday, April 17. Eight schools from the surrounding counties entered a team in the dairy judging and a team in the beef judging.

The Boone and Cove Creek chapters tied for first place in judging dairy cattle. Jefferson was first in judging beef and Cove Creek second. By adding both scores the overall winner was determined and Cove Creek team received the banner.

Both first and second winners will represent the Federation at a District livestock judging contest in Statesville May 8. Members of the Cove Creek beef team were Sherwood Bingham, Tommy Proffitt, and Winford Smith. The dairy judges were Sherman Bingham, Sherwood Bingham and Tommy Proffitt.

Baptist Meeting Slated For May 4

The Three Forks Baptist Association will hold its spring session at the Stony Fork Baptist Church May 4, at 10 a. m., and all the 42 churches of the Association will send delegates.

The principal speech in the morning will be delivered by Mr. Harvey T. Gibson, director of the State Baptist Training Union. In the afternoon Rev. W. F. Woodall of Lenoir, will bring a sermon entitled "Soul Winning." Complete program details will be published in the next edition of the Democrat.

Cove Creek Play Next Friday Nite

The Senior Class of the Cove Creek High School will present a play, "Damsel in Distress" by Jay Tobias, on Friday evening, April 23, at 7:45. A small admission charge will be made.

The play is a three act comedy and promises to furnish an evening of hilarious entertainment. Special music will be furnished by Dick and Peggy Ann Farthing.