

## Public Invited

From Mayor Howard Cottrell we get word that during his administration a special invitation is extended to interested citizens to attend the monthly meetings of the Board, so that all may have an opportunity to know all about the municipal government.

We would agree that all too often, citizens know only about those things which by their very nature make the front page, and Mr. Cottrell believes that a deeper interest in the goings on at City Hall on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer would make for better government and a better community. We share his belief.

The new Mayor has also given us word that among his first recommendations will be for a regular systematic washing of the street in the business district, and that businessmen will be expected to keep the sidewalks in front of their places clean.

The Mayor also speaks of an increased cooperation with the Garden Clubs and other groups in the beautification of the

community.

We have always had the opinion that a College or University town, of all places, should be the cleanest and at the same time the most orderly, and the off the cuff comments we gathered from the Mayor right after he took over the top spot in our town government cheered us, no end.

A regular program of cleaning the street should, within itself, encourage all of us to sweep before our own doors, otherwise the effort will fail, at least half way.

If we can develop a business district immaculately clean, and at the same time lend a hand to those who are turned toward flower gardening, we can easily foresee a day when Boone will be known as the cleanest and the prettiest little city of them all.

When and if that day comes, we'll need little promotion, comparatively. The city will go about the job of selling itself, and do it effectively, too.

## Winter Bird Booklet

During the recent snowy spell, householders have had a lot of pleasure and performed a worthwhile service at the same time by providing feed for the birds which manage to inhabit the high hills when their more venturesome fellows have sailed away to the sunny lands of the deep South.

The FCX and perhaps other establishments have provided mixed seeds, handily packaged, so that there is no fuss and worry about doing your shopping for the birds, and a little money and time spent in this regard will insure plenty of songsters when springtime comes.

The Wildlife Commission, incidentally, has made available, free, a publication listing twelve common winter birds and their feeding habits, which

should be required reading for those who like to share with the birds during their skimpy months.

Included in the booklet are such songbirds as the cardinal, mockingbird, song sparrow and white-throated sparrow. Also depicted are the blue jay, downy woodpecker, tufted titmouse, Carolina chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, junco, English sparrow, and starling.

The booklet also includes sketches of several bird feeders and detailed plans for a window-sill feeding station. Preferred foods of each bird are listed with the descriptions of the birds.

Requests for the booklet, according to the commission, should be addressed to: Education Division, Wildlife Resources Commission, Box 2919, Raleigh.

## Clues To Prolonging Life

The scientific heirs of Ponce de Leon may be in sight of some possible routes to a "fountain of youth," according to Dr. Noah Sloan, medical director of the Allstate Life Insurance Co.

The encouraging findings of medical science in its studies of the aging process are discussed by Dr. Sloan in an article entitled "The Hope for Lasting Youth" in the current issue of Home & Highway, policy holder magazine of the Allstate Insurance Companies.

Man has wondered why he ages perhaps since he first became aware that he is mortal, says Dr. Sloan.

"Only recently," he continues, "has medical science begun to glimpse some possible answers and to raise hopes for the exciting promise they offer."

Nutrition, temperature, genetics, temperament—each of these offers clues, he says. Discussing temperature, for example, Dr. Sloan writes:

"It has been calculated that if it were possible to reduce the temperature of human beings down to 60 degrees F., the duration of life would be lengthened to several hundred years."

Spare part banks of frozen tissues, where defective hearts, kidneys or other human parts may be replaced, can be foreseen as another potential means of extending human life, says Dr. Sloan.

Every day in the United States, 1,000 more persons swell the ranks of those who have reached the age of 65. With growing triumph over disease, further gains in longevity are bound to come, Dr. Sloan emphasizes.

## Out The Window

(The Shreveport Journal)

A news item from Philadelphia tells about a nine-story building soon to be erected there at a cost of \$4 million—and not a window in the place. It's to be a medical research building for the Temple University Medical Center. The windowless walls provide a maximum of shelf and instrument space, make possible very accurate control of humidity and temperature, and eliminate all dust and noise from the world outside.

There was speculation that educators and school children might favor windowless schools so that pupils would be able to concentrate on their lessons without outside distractions. But it is doubtful that this will ever come to pass. Half

the fun of being in school is the delicious prospect of ultimate escape made more attractive by the sight of snowflakes outside, or the perfumes of flowers and the song of birds.

Then there's the challenge to the teacher's skill in having these outside diversions as competitors for the pupils' interest. Windows may encourage daydreams, but are not children richer rather than poorer who have them? The world beyond the window pane is important, and teachers, who find sweet relief themselves by looking out the window when the going gets tough, know it's true. So out the window with the whole idea.

## 'Where Is Everybody?'



HARVARD  
1960

### SOME LOCAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES

## From Early Democrat Files

### Sixty Years Ago

February 24, 1901.

Dr. Hogshead of Banner Elk, passed through Saturday on his way to Flat Top to see Miss Titia Danner, a cancer patient.

Mr. Hill Farthing, son of W. H. Farthing, and a son of Mr. I. S. Watson of Stony Fork, entered school at Watauga Academy on Monday.

From a private letter that happened to get as far as Blowing Rock, we learn that the bill providing for a stock law for Watauga and other counties has passed both houses of the Legislature.

To try to run a paper in a mountain section with the mails practically cut off, is indeed an arduous undertaking. Possibly they are delayed on account of good roads, for they were never better at this season, nor the mail facilities worse.

Attorney George P. Fell of Jefferson, has been employed by a party of capitalists to show them through Ashe, Watauga and Alleghany counties in the near future, and he wants all the information he can get concerning valuable timber, minerals, etc. If you have any, write him and he may assist you in selling it.

We are indeed sorry to learn that the little son of Mrs. Dr. Reeves of Blowing Rock is dangerously ill. He has a spinal affliction and his condition is thought to be critical. Dr. Houck of Lenoir and Dr. Farlier, the resident physician, are attending the little suf-

ferer and we still hope to hear of his recovery.

Mr. Alex Perry of Burke was in town last Thursday. He is in the county taking rights of way for the Trans-Appalachian Railway that is now being surveyed from Lincolnton to the coal fields in Virginia. A very satisfactory grade has been made across the Blue Ridge, by way of Coffey's Gap and the corps is at work near Valle Crucis now. Mr. Perry speaks very encouragingly of the enterprise, and says beyond question, that the road will be built as soon as the work can be done.

### Thirty-Nine Years Ago

February 16, 1922.

Dr. Fred Robert Farthing, died February 14th in Philadelphia after an illness with pneumonia of only a few days duration. Dr. Farthing was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Farthing of Boone. Fred was probably our most promising young man, having been a student for 20 years of his short life. He graduated from Appalachian Training School, The University of North Carolina Medical School; the Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia. He passed the State Board of Medical Examiners and was doing intern work in St. Joseph's Hospital, in Philadelphia when he was stricken. Funeral will be conducted in Boone today from the Baptist Church by the Reverends Huggins and Brinkman, and interment will be in the town cemetery.

A Kelly-Springfield Compound

Road Roller, weighing fifteen tons, was unloaded here Monday and was put to work the same evening on the Boone Trail Highway.

Mr. John F. Hardin left yesterday morning for Limestone, Tenn. to visit his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Hardin, who, according to messages received, are both very ill with grippe or kindred disease.

Dr. Jones left for Baltimore Tuesday morning, taking with him his father-in-law, Mr. M. B. Blackburn, who will remain there a while for hospital treatment.

Mr. J. B. Taylor, our Ford dealer, has received a big consignment of cars and trucks and is now prepared to supply your needs while they last, and then will have more as soon as they can be shipped.

The recent deep snow has gone away as suddenly as it came, the weather having been almost springlike for several days, so that only a few patches of snow, where it was deepest, remain.

### Fifteen Years Ago

February 21, 1946.

J. W. Beach, popular local man who received his discharge from the army last September after four and a quarter years of active duty, has accepted a position with the Statesville Theatre Corporation and assumed the duties of assistant manager at the Appalachian Theatre here Monday.

President Truman has nominated O. Max Gardner, native of Shelby and former North Carolina Governor to be undersecretary of the treasury, succeeding Daniel W. Bell, who resigned last year to take a Washington bank job.

Mr. David P. Lavietes, president of the D & P Pipe Works, states that purchases of buris have been unusually heavy for the past few weeks, and that he now has about two thousand tons of the raw product at his factory here, or practically a year's supply.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brendall was damaged to an undetermined extent Monday by fire, which caught presumably from a flue. The fire department responded promptly and the blaze was brought under control before any very great damage was done.

Dr. W. Amos Abrams, of the college faculty will be a discussion leader at the third annual Renaissance meeting for North Carolina to be held at Duke University, Durham, February 23, it is announced here.

Dr. W. R. Richardson of the Boone Drug Co. has gone to Chapel Hill, where he will spend four days attending lectures and demonstrations on new drugs and pharmaceutical procedures at the State University School of Pharmacy.

Mr. Guy Hunt spent Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Lee Hunt, whose home is in Glendale Springs. Having suffered a stroke six weeks ago Mrs. Hunt has been confined to her bed since.

Mrs. Howard Brown and two small sons of Ohio returned home Sunday after spending a week with her mother, Mrs. Minnie Cuddy, who has just returned from the Wilkes Hospital.

## KING STREET

By ROB RIVERS

### At City Hall . . . Some Changes Occur

Coincident with Mayor Gordon H. Winkler's being sworn into membership in the State Senate, Councilman Howard J. Cottrell was elevated to the top spot in the City government and John H. Council, prominent businessman, took Mr. Cottrell's place on the Council, and will serve with incumbents Dr. W. R. Richardson and Grady Tugman.

Mayor Winkler, who held city office longer than any other man, so far as we know, had a good record at the helm of the government, and retires from city hall with the good will and best wishes of the people of the community.

It is interesting to note that Howard Cottrell's father had served as a member of the city Board and as Mayor of the town, in fact was mayor when the city's first water system was installed. . . . Likewise his grandfather, Calvin J. Cottrell, a Confederate veteran, who was mangled by a minnie ball in the gory fire of Shiloh, had served on the Town Board.

John Council, too, is following in the footsteps of his father in taking on duties at City Hall. . . . Tracy Council served ably as Mayor of the city, and was in the ascendancy in the public and business life of the community when he was fatally stricken. . . . It is also interesting to note that a relative of Mr. Council, J. W. Council, was a member of the first Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boone, and the community grew up around Jordan Council's Store, and a postoffice was established here in 1823 which was known as Council's Store.

It was not until 1872 that the Town of Boone was incorporated and chartered by the Legislature. . . . The first Mayor of the Town was W. L. Bryan. The original board was composed of J. W. Council, Dr. J. G. Rivers (our grandfather), T. C. Coffey, the Rev. J. W. Hall and J. B. Todd.

So it would appear that Messrs Cottrell and Council are following in the traditions of their families in undertaking public service in the community, and they may be expected to act with competence and with devotion to the public good in their new fields of duty.

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### At The Postoffice . . . A New Man

And at the postoffice Ralph Beshears has taken over the Acting Postmastership, succeeding Ralph G. Greene, following the change in the national administration, which invariably calls for a considerable shift in the postoffice department. . . . And it is a happy thing to note that those who have authority in the matter have seen fit to recommend Mr. Beshears for the job. . . . A man who's been in the service for many years, who's taken an active interest in the civic and religious life of the community, Ralph is admirably equipped to carry on this important community service in good fashion. . . . Boone postmasters have been good men all along the line, and the newest one to occupy the place has our congratulations and best wishes for a fine tenure.

Postmasters are pretty important people . . . not so much so, maybe, as in the days when about the only thing to look forward to during the cold winter days when the arrival of the mailman, and his pouches of letters, and circulars and catalogs. . . . The postoffice was a focal point in the life of the community and the Postmaster ranked right alongside the High Sheriff in the esteem of the people.

In our growing up days we called for the mail at M. B. Blackburn's store, where a small corner of the big mercantile establishment was partitioned off with lattice work to make room for the postoffice. . . . Our box was supposed to have a key to it, but our dad had lost it long since and it was never replaced, so we always called for the mail, when the opening of the little window signified it had been "put up." . . . We were especially attentive as a child when on Tuesday morning the mail down from Blowing Rock fetched the Sunday edition and the funny papers.

We don't know who postmastered ahead of our good friend Mr. Blackburn, but he was followed by our mother, Mrs. R. C. Rivers. . . . Later came M. P. Critcher, John E. Brown, W. D. Farthing, A. W. Smith, W. G. Hartzog, Edgar Brown, Lyle Cook, Ralph Greene, and finally Ralph Beshears. . . . We think we named them all, and they all functioned well.

## Uncle Pinkney

HIS PALAVARIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I think the various states is going to have to revise their standards for getting a driver's license. In most states they make a feller take a eye test, and in some states they even make him take a mental test.

It ain't worked out so good, as you can see by counting the dead and wounded on our highways. Everybody laughed here a few years ago when the Traffic Institute of some University come out with an announcement that a two-year study showed the best automobile drivers was morons with a mental age of 15 and who couldn't see none too good. They said their study showed that this type driver, not having much mind to start with, had to keep what little he had concentrated on what he was doing. A smart feller would give a certain amount of thought to his driving, a certain amount to the gal on the corner with the wind blowing her skirts, and a certain amount to the conversation going on in the back seat. But the moron puts his whole soul into his driving. And having pore eyesight, he just don't bother to look no place except where he's driving.

I saw a monkey riding a motorcycle on television the other night. Some how or other, the more I looked at it the less I was impressed. The highways is full of monkeys driving automobiles. You'll often see some eagle-

eyed feller, maybe a college graduate, driving his car down the road about 70 miles a hour, dodging in and out of traffic, with his left hand and arm swung up on the roof of the car, just like a monkey swinging from a limb.

No, I wouldn't be surprised, Mister Editor, if we don't need to take a new look at our requirements for getting a driver's license.

And I see by the papers where a tax expert says 75 per cent of the money spent on tobacco and liquor goes to the Government in direct and indirect taxes. I reckon a feller that just has to smoke and drink can get some satisfaction out of that fact. Uncle Sam distributes our tax money all over the world. Cigarette and liquor money sends wheat to India, clothes to boys in Africa who up to now has been happy without any, and butter to countries that never seen it before. Yeh, I reckon if a feller wanted to, he could almost make a marter of hisself fer smoking and drinking.

And a column writer says farmers and ranchers do 87 per cent of all the complaining in this country. I figger there ain't nothing wrong with that. Farmers and ranchers is the most over-worked and underjoyed folks in the nation.

Yours truly,  
UNCLE PINKNEY.