

## Mrs. Neel, Friends Write Musical Comedy

(The following excerpts from a story by Virginia Irwin in the Charlotte News are reprinted since Mrs. Neel is a graduate of ASTC and a granddaughter of Mrs. Lillian Hopkins of Boone. It will be of interest to the many friends of the family in this area.)

Leave it to three energetic housewives to throw reason to the wind and come up winners.

Now people say it's sensible to start at the bottom and work up. Say you write a short story, then try your hand at a one-act play, then a full-length play.

But not these women. They started right off with a three-act musical comedy, one of the hardest tasks in the creative writing field. And none of them had ever had anything published before.

The aspiring playwrights are Mrs. William S. Neel of Mooresville, a housewife and an instrumental music teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system; Mrs. Gene Johnston, a Mooresville housewife, and Mrs. Phin Horton, a housewife formerly of Mooresville, now of Shelby.

None of the women had any background for play writing. None of them had even worked in a theater production.

"We checked several musicals out of the library to see how stage directions and dialogue were written," said Mrs. Horton.

Their musical recently won both the Carolina Playmakers Award and the Authors Award given by the Carolina Dramatic Association. The first award is for the best play entered in the original play division of the association's drama festival held annually at Chapel Hill. The second goes to any author whose play is accepted for production. This year there were four Author's awards.

The musical, "Listen to Your Heart," is only the second musical comedy and the sixth full-length play ever selected for presentation during the 40-year history of the festival. Usually, it's one-act plays that win.

The play was to be presented

at the festival next month. But the authors, along with John Parker, executive secretary of the Dramatic Association, decided to hold the production for the 1964 festival. There is too much detailed technical work involved in staging a musical to have it ready for this year's festival.

## Billy B. Mast Dies Friday

Johnson City, Tenn.—Billy B. Mast, 33, Englewood section, died unexpectedly at Memorial Hospital at 5 a. m. Friday.

He was nursing assistant at Veterans' Hospital, Mountain Home, and a veteran of World War II, serving as sergeant first class with the Army. A native of Mountain City, he had lived in Johnson City for the past five years and was a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Reba Baird Mast; five daughters, Judy, Barbara, Bonnie, Joan and Jim Mast, all of the home; father, Don Mast, Mountain City; one brother, Don Mast Jr., Elizabethton; four sisters, Mrs. Frances Roberts, Johnson City, Mrs. Margaret Shoun, Middleton, Ida., Mrs. Irene Matheson and Mrs. Loudean Allen, both of Mountain City; and several nieces and nephews.

## ASTC Student Officers Named

Officers for Student Council representatives at Appalachian State Teachers College were elected recently.

Among those elected as representatives of the three classes were as follows:

Senior class—Frank Crew of North Wilkesboro, Larry Lentz of Concord, Frank Maristany of Miami, Florida, and Frank Payne of Boone.

Junior class—Frank Durham of Hendersonville, "Peachie" Petree of Winston-Salem, Pat Pittman of Laurinburg, Judy Stiller of Salisbury, John Daye of Drexel, and Clarence Chapman of Valdese.

Sophomore class—Thurman Hollar of Midland, Judy Oates of York, S. C., Alice Johnson of Vale, and Charlie Scroggs of Charlotte.

When you run across an individual who knows it all, the best way to enjoy yourself is to keep quiet and let him talk.



**THE WASTELAND OF WATAUGA.**—A Boone couple (who wish to remain anonymous) collected more than three car loads of "beer cans, paper, and debris" along a two-mile stretch of N. C. 194 last week, calling attention to the unsightly and unsanitary condition of the county's highways. "This is typical of all the roads in the county," one

member of the campaigners commented. He added that it is especially appalling "considering the fact that Watauga county's natural scenery surpasses that of any other section of the state and southeast." With the tourist season opening, the couple calls for more caution, more consideration, and more cleaning-up.—Flowers photo.

## GOP SEEKS YOUTH WORK BILL DEFEAT

Congressional Republicans are marshaling a nearly solid front and are seeking help from conservative Democrats in an effort to defeat President Kennedy's youth employment bill.

The Republicans are seeking expansion of existing programs, such as vocational education and man-power retraining. President Kennedy says the primary weapon for combating unemployment is his proposed \$10,300,000,000 net tax cut by 1965 to stimulate business.

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In this day and generation there is so much information that one finds it difficult to select what to believe.

## Moose Lodge Plans Easter Egg Hunt Sunday; Officers Elected

Howard Cottrell, Governor of the Boone Moose Lodge, announced that the lodge will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, from 2 to 4 p. m. The hunt will be open to all children under 12 years of age, and will be held on Moose property on Highway 421 East. Mr. Cottrell said the entire family is welcome, and open house will be held, even though their building is still not completed.

Joe Veit, Secretary of the lodge, stated that new officers as follows have been elected to serve for the coming year: Past Governor, Howard Cottrell; Governor, Fred Gragg; Jr. Governor, Bill Carpenter; Treasurer, C. A. Price; Secretary, Jim Meekins; Prelate, Norman Isenhour; Trustees, J. C. Cline, J. B. Clawson, Jr., and G. R. Andrews. Installation of these new officers will take place at the next lodge meeting on Thursday, April 18, and they will take office on May 1. Veit stated that Bill Moon, State Director of the Moose, has promised to be here, and will act as installing officer.

The International Moose Convention for the year will take

place in Chicago, June 15 to June 21. Opening ceremonies will take place at Mooseheart, the world renowned "Child City" of the fraternity, with the dedication of the huge field house. Those in attendance will also witness commencement exercises of Mooseheart High School, as well as exhibitions by the Girl's Drum and Bugle Corps, Mooseheart High School Band, the Drill Team, the famed mixed choir of the Child City, R.O.T.C., etc. The convention will then move to Chicago, and for the next four days, will enlighten and delight those who are fortunate enough to attend. It is hoped that some of the Moose from Boone will be able to take the trip. At the Legion Ceremonial held Sunday in Charlotte, the lodge was presented a 10% plaque from Wenoca Legion, indicative that more than 10% of its members were also members of the Legion of the Moose.

Cottrell said that steaks are now being served on Saturday evenings to those desiring them, but that reservations had to be in by 4 p. m. on the day desired. It was also remarked that if the lodge were supported, a combo would be hired, to give members the very best in dining and dancing.

Jim Meekins, membership chairman, announced at the last meeting that the third quo-

ta for the lodge had been met, and that although the number of members required for the fourth quota was unknown at present, members were already busy getting new applications to complete it. Meekins said, in effect, "We only have two more months to make our five quotas, that were promised Mooseheart. If everyone digs in, and talks Moose, it will be a cinch. It can be done, easily, with each member working, but, it takes more than just two or three doing all the work. If each member signs just one more, we can double our membership. That's worth trying for."

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## CAR FALLS THROUGH ICE

Browns Valley, Minn.—Three college men took a short cut across Lake Traverse when the car broke through the ice and sank to the bottom of the lake. The three men climbed into the back seat and pressed their noses to the roof, where there was a pocket of air.

They opened the door and attempted to get out. Only one swam the 75 feet to shore. The other two were found dead in the back seat of the car.

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