

HALF MOON IN BLOOM—The circular stone wall on Grandfather Mountain known to mountaineers as "The Half Moon" is centered in purple rhododendron this week. The blooming season is a few days late because of the Spring storms, but now that it is here, it is expected to be one of the best in years. The Half Moon is near the foot of Grandfather Mountain and is always one of the first spots there to come into bloom.

Rev. Earnhardt: "A Lion In The Streets"

(Editor's Note: Following is a synopsis of the sermon preached in Edenton United Methodist Church on June 10 by Rev. E. L. Earnhardt. The topic was: "A Lion In The Streets" from the text, Proverbs 22:13.)

If this sermon seems familiar - it should! This pastor preached on this text to this congregation April 19, 1970. I do not know if you will remember the troubled times that produced the need (or the opportunity) at that time, but we are all aware of the troubles that produce the need, and the opportunity, to look again at this text today.

I do not think it likely, or even possible, that we will suffer quite the disruption or the painful tragedies that befall some communities in the spring of 1970 or the summer preceding it. If we do not it will not be because of any threat of arms or retaliation. It will be due to the backlog of kindness and good relationships that will prevent hate from fanning the fires of anger to a more violent peak. Know this! It is not violence, or the threat of violence that prevents violence. It is loving kindness and the promise of living kindness. Anger only begets anger. Love begets love!

There is a lion in the street right here in Edenton. We are afraid to let our wives and children go downtown for fear they will be hurt by the lion. This situation makes us angry. We have the inclination to go out and slay the lion. I hope we will, but I hope we use the right ammunition and the right

target. Know this! The lion is not people! We were living among the same people in peace when the lion was not active. If we direct our anger toward people we will be way off target. The real lion is anger, discontent, frustration, lust, greed, envy, and all the other invisible powers of darkness that the Church should have been at war with all the time!

The weapons that can slay the lion are in our very hands. They are love, compassion, understanding, kindness, self-sacrifice, the sharing of one another's burdens. If we had more actively used these weapons when the lion was awake and dangerous lion today.

"The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the without, I shall be slain in the streets." The "slothful" man is the one too lazy to do anything but complain. He will cringe behind closed doors in hopes that the lion will tire at last of its rampage and go away to inflict some other community.

The courageous man will see the lion for what he truly is and lay his plans to do effective battle to see that this lion will never again threaten our peace or that of any other.

This preacher, feeling led by The Holy Spirit, suggested last fall a plan of action for our church that if followed just might have wounded this lion. Our leaders prayerfully considered the plan and, after much soul-searching, decided against it for that particular

time. It may well be that we arrived at the right decision for that particular time. Today, or tomorrow, may be a better time. Perhaps a wiser course would be to wait until the lion goes to sleep again and THEN TO SLAY HIM!

It must be acknowledged, however, that those who pray and worship together find it difficult to hate one another.

Jesus Christ has offered us the weapons that can most surely slay this lion if they are only used effectively. His weapons are: "Do good to those who hate you." "Pray for those who spitefully use you." and, "Love, one another as I have loved you."

Until we learn to use the right weapons and aim at the right targets the various lions will continue to awake one by one (or in packs, God forbid!) and attack us. We talk about this war of Christ. We smile about it, and we may even pray about it. Then we look to other devices for our protection. We shall be eaten alive if we do wake up and use what Christ has taught us!

The weapons of Christ will certainly eliminate evil! No other weapons will! We have tried other ways and weapons repeatedly without success. When, oh, when, will we at last turn to Jesus Christ for salvation and be saved? He is patiently waiting at the door.

I propose: Not the removal of any flag of heritage or wordly

symbolism, but the erection of a new flagpole, higher than all the rest, on which shall fly the flag of the Church of Jesus Christ, the symbol of brotherly love and trust!

SPECIAL SOIL

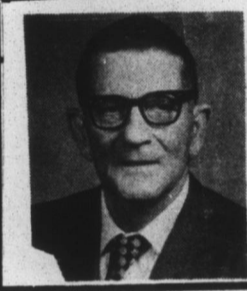
Most of the shrubs or trees you might use in landscape plants like ordinary garden soils, but a few need a special type. North Carolina State University specialists point out that plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurel and their relatives will not thrive in ordinary "sweet" soil. They like a more acid soil well supplied with organic matter.

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WATER FUN BADGE—The Junior Girl Scout Troop 737 went to Sandy Point Beach Saturday for a picnic and to work on their Water Fun Badge. Ginger Byrum, Becky Small, Janet Bunch and Amy Byrum worked with the girls on their project. The girls played water games and had relays. The winners received prizes. Girls attending included: Wanda Bunch, Gail Byrum, Tereasa Davenport, Annette Evans, Leigh Everette, Pamela Flowers, Debbie Griffin, Rhonda Kirby, Cathy Lassiter, Peggy Walker, Jill Stutzman, Debbie Jordan, Susan Small, Suzanne Griffin and Patricia Perry. The leaders are: Mrs. Shirley Kirby, Mrs. Jackie Griffin, Mrs. Lucy Lassiter and Mrs. Judy Davenport.



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New Guidelines Concerning FHA Loans

WASHINGTON — Rural water districts financed by loans from the Farmers Home Administration (USDA) can now include individual and cluster wells as part of larger systems due to recent changes in FmHA guidelines.

The previous definition of "project" specified that they could only "include facilities providing central services." This has now been expanded to read "or facilities servicing individual properties or both." The new definition is for the guidance of FmHA state directors — who have the final approval authority for projects planned in their states.

FmHA had recently begun to finance such districts on a

selective basis to evaluate their economic feasibility. In several areas of the country, they had worked closely with National Demonstration Water Project (NDWP), which has model projects operating in five states to assist low-income rural residents in developing user-owned water and sewer companies.

"The new guidelines are appropriate and timely," said Stanley Zimmerman, NDWP executive director. "There are many rural residents who live in remote and scattered locations who could not otherwise be served. Now they will be able to have their own well, or perhaps share one with two or three of their neighbors, and still have the benefits of central management and

maintenance. We have been working with Farmers Home very closely in implementing such projects and have been impressed with their willingness to evaluate them on their merits."

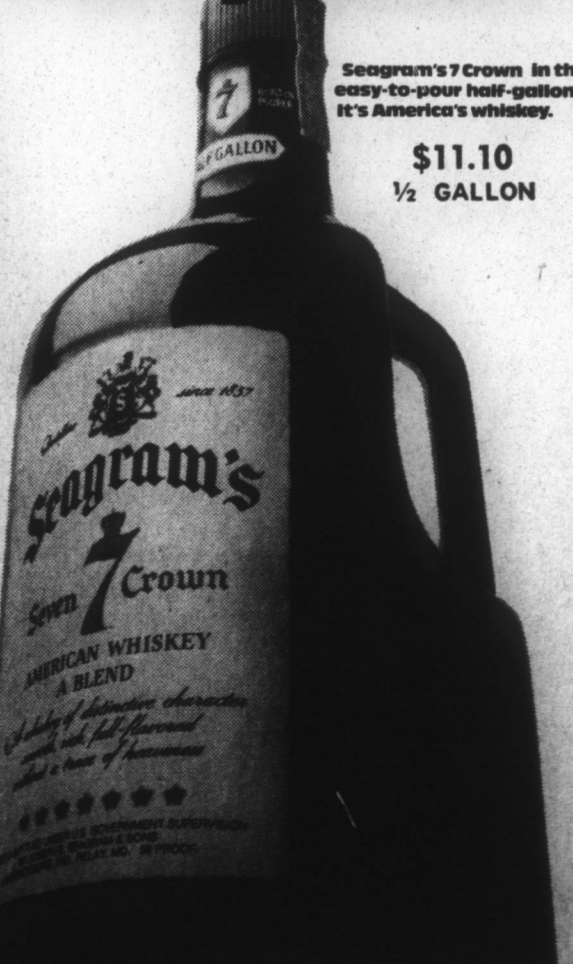
Those interested in learning more about how rural water districts can include individual and cluster wells can write to the NDWP Information Clearinghouse c/o Ground Water Council, 221 N. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Farm Labor Force Down; Hourly Wage Rate Up

The nation's farm labor force shrank by nearly 20,000 workers during the past year.

A recent survey showed a total of 3,481,900 farm workers in the United States. Of this number, 2,738,300 were farm operators or unpaid family workers and the others were hired workers. Wage rates for hired workers were \$2.13 an hour in January, as compared to \$1.96 a year earlier.

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Plan For Aged Program Ready

A planning meeting on a regional program for the aged in Northeastern North Carolina will be held at Edenton Restaurant Friday. The meeting begins at 10 A.M.

This session was planned after Albemarle Area Development Association formed a Committee on Aged to work through Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission with cooperation from Agricultural Extension Service.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., AADA president, will introduce guests and participants and welcome extension agents to the committee.

Other participants will include: W. B. Gardner, ARPDC board chairman; J. C. Jones of Raleigh, district extension chairman; Mrs. Josephine Patterson of Greensboro, district extension home economics supervisor; Dr. Tom Hogood of Raleigh, community rural resource development specialist; Wesley B. Cullipher, ARPDC executive director; Mrs. Isabella Buckley, specialist for the aging at N. C. State University in Raleigh; and Miss June Myers, director of the Program on the Aged in Region "R".

The session is scheduled to adjourn at 4:30 P.M.

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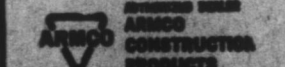
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