

# A Freshman In The State House

By Carl D. Killian

In this report I will attempt to give you a mid-term account of my stewardship. I carried out my election campaign on a three stage plan.

Stage 1-I sent out a statement giving my political philosophy and asked some five hundred people to advise me whether I should run. The replies from these five hundred statements were most encouraging.

Stage 2-This was followed by three months primary campaigning in which I had no opposition. In these three months, March, April and May, I visited institutions, agencies, organizations, units of government and key individuals in my district trying to get an overall picture of my 89 precincts.

Stage 3-(June-October) I visited my 89 precincts on a regular schedule, spending at least one full day in each precinct and more if needed. During this period I let the people talk to me. I accepted no invitations other than those that would help me to be a good senator. I was determined that I would accept no invitations of the "pinning down" nature. If I went to Raleigh I was hell bent on going as a free agent of all the people.

In my campaign I made but two promises, one was to do the very best I knew how and the other was to give it all I've got. I did make certain general statements of purpose:

1. to use a "whole-istic" approach to government.
2. fairness to all, individually and collectively.
3. to each a fair chance.
4. preservation of our free enterprise system adapted to a new era.

I promised institutions and organizations that I would let them set their own priorities, goals and directions and that I would go as far as possible in helping to achieve them.

I mention all this because I feel that my efforts should be judged against these statements. In my first report to you I stated how I planned to keep in contact with you. This consisted of giving you my schedule in Raleigh, my plan for going home, etc. Finally I told you that I would be giving periodic reports on my impressions of the Legislature as a freshman member.

Last week two things stand out:  
1. On Monday evening before our session at 8 p.m. a group of four or five teachers descended upon me, as had been happening on previous Monday nights. These teachers spent very little time telling me about "Aunt Mary" or "Uncle John" bringing me up to date on community gossip. Instead they came right to the point, wanting to know what I had done so far for teachers and education.

It was soon apparent that they did not feel that I had done very much. Naturally I tried to give my side of the story. "The whole problem depends on money," I said. I reminded them that when I came to Raleigh I spent much time studying this matter and had previously given them a complete report on it. I told them that the situation looked bad to me, but that it might change when the spring collections came in.

Furthermore, I told these teachers that I could have failed to ask the right questions and in so doing not have the right picture. I assured them again that I would do all I could to see that they were fairly treated, but that I wanted them

## Interview Dates Set For Theatre

Persons who are interested in applying for work with the Cherokee Historical Association, Inc. during the 1971 season, please note the following interview dates and times:

INTERVIEWS - BOX OFFICE - Cashiers, typists, telephone operators, secretary. The Box Office Manager for "Unto These Hills" will be at the Information Hut on Route 441, Cherokee, N.C. to interview applicants for work in the Box-office as follows:  
SATURDAY - MAY 8 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

INTERVIEWS-MOUNTAINSIDE THEATRE - Concession Workers, typist, bookkeeper, program, sellers, parkers, maintenance, janitor and ushers.

Mr. Eugene Brown, Manager of Mountainside Theatre, will be at the Information Hut, Route 441, Cherokee, N.C. to interview applicants for work Mountainside Theatre on the following dates:  
SATURDAY, MAY 8 - 9:00 to 12:00 Noon.  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

to know, too, that I hoped to see other people fairly treated. I told them that I thoroughly appreciated the fact that their education in becoming teachers probably required the price of a good farm, but that I was also interested in seeing our highway people get a fair break even if their education just cost the price of a good mule. At least some of these people, although they are employed full time, are eligible to draw welfare checks and, more importantly, have three or four children who deserve to have a good start in life.

On Thursday evening of last week I came from supper (they call it "dinner" down here) after a full day in the Legislature and found sitting in the lobby of the Sir Walter the Dean of the Senate, the Dean of the House, the Principal Clerk of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the House and several legislators. I stopped to visit with them and shortly one after another mountain men started coming in—from Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Macon and all the mountain counties.

About 9 p.m. a rugged individual from the far west came in and announced that he had brought Dr. Killian a pint jar of "pure corn" honey. He demonstrated that it had an excellent bead and passed it around for people to smell. Evidently many were not familiar with this brand of honey or the fact that every sample is the "best you ever tasted" By 10 p.m. we had practically filled the lobby of

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:  
Mr. Luther Saw, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, informed me that your paper is running a series of articles on the History of Swain County and other areas of North Carolina in connection with the Centennial Celebration for Swain County.

As an avocation, I am endeavoring to write a historical novel relating to the Western areas of North Carolina and areas of East Tennessee. I am particularly interested in obtaining authentic information concerning the life of mountain people, their farming methods, the lumber or wood industry in the 1910 to 1925 era, state of educational progress in the Western part of the State during that period of time, and generally information about conditions in the area during the early part of this century. It would also be helpful to have some leads on similar matters relating specifically to Jackson and Cherokee counties.

I would like to subscribe to your paper for the balance of the year 1971 and to obtain any back copies for this year carrying interesting historical information. Please mail the paper to me at my home address shown in the heading and bill me at that address.

I know, of course, that I am undertaking a really monumental task and will need all the reliable information I can obtain to make my fictional characters come alive to the beautiful mountains and valleys in which my forebears lived, worked and struggled. I do not want my book to be all dreary and therefore hope to include some of the humorous (and ghost) stories from the folk lore of the Great Smoky Mountain area before it became a gigantic National Park.

With affection to the people and to the Mountains and with gratitude for any helpful information you may be able to furnish.

Sincerely,  
William H. Hurst

Dear Editor:  
Every week you have letters in the paper expressing different opinions on the proposed road through the park. I feel it is time I should express my opinion.

A lot of people hollow save the virgin timber. There is no virgin timber in this disputed section of the park! My father was one of the many, many, many men who logged timber. I personally know that the W.M. Ritter Co. logged on Hazel Creek for 20 years. The Vanwood Co. operated on Forny Creek for about 15 years. The Montvale Co. was on Eagle Creek for about 12 years. The Kitchen Co. was on Twenty Mile for about 12 years.

What did they log if it was not timber? I wonder if these people who yell virgin timber aren't just trying to keep the road from being built, or if they don't know what virgin timber means?

Everyone seems to have forgotten all of us who had to leave our homes and farms and move out. We did not want to move out, but they made us. I know of one person who had 100 acres of land and was paid

the Sir Walter and decided that the mountain men might move to a hospitality room on the 9th floor where one of our fellows, whose name I believe was Zeno, was holding forth. I had the proper paraphernalia sent up and each one who cared to do so had a small taste of my corn honey.

Many tall tales were told by these mountain men and a good time was had by all when I left at 11:30 p.m., after extending to each one an invitation to come by to see me the following morning. Practically everyone came and I missed my first committee meeting of the session in talking to them about specific problems.

How well public education and other basic services come out will depend on how well we can keep our taxes intact—especially the 1969 taxes, soft drink, cigarette and gasoline. Some twenty or so bills have been introduced to do away with other taxes. Finally, many other bills have already been introduced part of which, in my opinion are "gut" issue bills that could quickly drain off a substantial part of the General Fund receipts.

The people have accepted our present taxes, but organized, well-financed efforts are at work to get rid of all sorts of taxes. The most ridiculous is the organization of first graders to fight soft drink taxes on the basis of double taxation without representation.

\$1,600 for it. Just sixteen hundred dollars! I ask you what kind of a price is that for everything you own and have ever worked for?

Then they promised to build us a road so we could go back to visit our old home places and the graves of our loved ones. Just another empty promise. Yes! we can go back by boat, but I ask you what about people with heart disease and high blood pressure who can not get out on the water. Most of the older people are afraid of boats anyway. Should they be deprived of the privilege to go back and see their old home places? I have a sister, brother-in-law and lots of other close relatives buried there. We would like to be able to go visit their graves. Is that asking too much?

Other people want a cash settlement to build a new school. What assurance do we have that a school would ever be built. Or would it just be another empty promise?

I shiver all over at the thought of a few, a very few people who will be getting this money. If this land is so good then I propose to sell it back to the original owners for the same price they were paid for it. We worked our fingers to the bone to establish our homes and make our living on this land. Why should it be given to someone who don't care about it or anything else except to dust their pockets at someone else's expense.

I ask you if they are willing to put a cash settlement why can't this money be applied to the road which we were promised? Is it not the responsibility of the federal, state, and local governments to provide our schools? They do in other places. Do we not pay our taxes the same as everyone else, or are we just not important enough here in Swain County? Perhaps we don't have enough votes in our county.

If a few of our leading citizens had kept their mouths shut we would not have had to give our land up in the first place.

Lots of the old people who are living on social security and welfare today would be rich at today's land prices if their homes and property had not been so unjustly taken. I know of one woman who had 650 acres and got 5,000 dollars for it. That is \$7.69 per acre. What kind of a price is that?

I invite the people who have hollered give the land to the county, and give us a cash settlement can publically answer the following questions.  
Would you sell 100 acres of your land and your home for \$1,100 Without a fight??

Can you give me any assurance that the county would ever get any benefit from any kind of settlement??

I say to all live up to your promises and build the road so we can go back and visit our home places. Or give the land back to the people who owned it and worked the blood from their hands for it. The land still means something to us. We have had enough empty, meaningless promises. Don't try to hand us any more until you live up to these promises!  
William C. Laney

## Folk Festival

Continued from page 1

school director Donald Womick.

The first grade was the first class on the agenda and presented a musical called the "Lazy Little Hen." This was a song and dance routine depicting how little hens must work as the rooster trails them if they want to live in the barnyard. Teachers for the first grade are Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Heffner and Mrs. Thompson.

The second grade presented an American folk square dance in commemoration of the centennial celebration. Second grade teachers are Mrs. Brawley, Mrs. Pederson, Mrs. Sherrill, and Mrs. Stephenson.

The Comprehensive School Improvement Program made up of grades 1-3 entertained the group with a little hawaiian type show and dance exhibiting the exotic hawaiian swing as they danced to the "Pineapple Princess." Teachers are Mrs. Eckstein and Mrs. Sutton.

The third grade presented an American folk dance. Their teachers are Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. Walling.

Fourth grade students put on one of the favorites, the "Paw-Paw Patch." Their teachers are Mrs. Beck and Mrs. DeBord. "A Paw Paw is a sweetpulp fruit that is grown on small trees in the South."

The fifth grade needs no explanation. They square danced to the favorite American song, "Bill Bailey". Teachers are Mr. Whately and Mrs. Williams.

The sixth grade presented a little different show with their patriotic drill featuring the song "This Land Is Yours," "America, the Beautiful", and the "Star Spangled Banner." Sixth grade teachers are Mrs. Cole, Mrs. DeHart, and Mrs. Potts. Mr. Holtzclaw, elementary band director helped with the drill precision movements.

The seventh grade taught by Mrs. Bunn and Mrs. Wood presented an American square dance as did the eighth grade students who were taught by Mrs. Kinsey, Mrs. Wikle, and Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Claxton's physical education class climaxed the night's events with some outstanding gymnastics

## Bear Lettuce Is Mountain Treat

"Pass the bear lettuce, please." Chances are that most families have never heard anything like that at the family table. But some mountain families have—every spring.

Bear lettuce is one of many greens gathered in the spring in the mountains. It is sometimes called branch lettuce because it grows in or beside small branches in the mountains. It grows in bunches like every wild turnip and is often found in thick patches. Mountaineers use it chopped up with bacon grease or bacon bits as a salad and claim it is delicious.

Like the ramp, branch lettuce is often hard to find and you have to know where to go.

Mountain gourmets are also seeking others of nature's free spring delicacies. "Poke SALLET" IS JUST BEGINNING TO SHOW A HESITANT PEEK ABOVE GROUND AND IS STILL IN DANGER FROM SPRING FROSTS. This green resembles asparagus in its first appearance above ground and that is when its best. It can be cooked with other greens, by itself, or with eggs scrambled in it. It is common outside the mountains but few outsiders appreciate its potential as yet. It can be found canned in some

supermarkets. Wild turnips, which mountaineers prefer as a green to tame ones, are up in the fields and along roads and ditches. Creases of several varieties are up. The plant can be found in lush clusters almost anywhere there is soil. There are several other members of the mustard family available as well as turkey mustard.

Then of course there is the delicate looking butr but highly odoriferous ramp. This cousin of the onion lurks in the rich coves of the mountains and is now so revered by the mountaineers that conventions are held and special days are set aside in its honor.

Some people like to take several different greens, including poke and ramps, and cook them together. Often some dandelion and a little dock such as yellow or curly dock are added.

Mountaineers say there's nothing like these greens and some outsiders, partaking of same, agree with them but not always in the way they think. Greens are considered good as a spring tonic, especially for the blood.

## The Sample Shoppe



Spring Sale Days

Hot Pants

Slack Sets

and Dresses

'87's to '11''

Latest

Styles

NEW SHIPMENTS ARRIVING DAILY

Shop A&P For Farm Fresh Produce

Red Bliss Potatoes 10 Lb. Bag 63¢

Prices in this ad effective through April 24th, 1971

BRYSON CITY N. C.

JONATHAN CALIFORNIA NAVEL Apples 3 Lb. Bag 39¢

Oranges 5 For 39¢

PLUMP JUICY RED Strawberries 2 Pr. Bks. 79¢

TENDER GREEN Asparagus Lb. 39¢

JUICY YELLOW Lemons 12-Ct. Bag 49¢

RIPE RED SALAD Tomatoes Lb. 39¢

Frozen Seafood

CAPIN JOHN'S FROZEN FISH Haddock Dinner 9-Oz. Pkg. 49¢

BULK FRIED Flounder Fillets Lb. Pkg. 85¢

A&P Delicatessen Delights

Sauerkraut 1-Lb. Bag 19¢ 2-Lb. Bag 33¢

Potato Salad 14-Oz. Cup 35¢

Lime Parfait 12-Oz. Cup 39¢

SAVINGS AT A&P

Golden Rise Flaky Biscuits 3 4-Ct. 6-Oz. Pkgs. 25¢

A REAL HOT WEATHER TREAT

Ann Page Really Cool Cheeri Aid DRINK MIX 1 Pkg. Makes 2 Qts. Add Sugar & Water 6 1/2-Oz. Pkgs. 31¢

Sneezein' Season Juice Values

SHOP A&P FOR A&P Orange Juice 3 46-Oz. Cans 1.00

A&P BLENDED JUICE Orange & Grapefruit 46-Oz. Can 39¢

SAVE WHEN YOU BUY A&P Grapefruit Juice 46-Oz. Can 39¢

REDEEM COUPON AT A&P

SAVE 10c

On Your Next Purchase of 10 1/2-Oz. HEINZ 57 Steak Sauce With Coupon Pay Only 59¢ Without This Coupon Pay 69¢

JANE PARKER BAKE 'N' SERVE ROLLS 13-Oz. Twin Rolls 10-Oz. French With Sesame Seed 4 Pkgs. 1.00

JANE PARKER VARIETY 100% Whole Wheat Cracked Wheat Sour Rye Bread Vienna Plain Rye Bread 3 1-Lb. Loaves Choice 89¢

JANE PARKER 2 CUT GOLD Pound Cake 25-Oz. Pkg. 59¢

JANE PARKER FRESHLY BAKED Apple Pie 22-Oz. Pkg. 43¢

"Super-Right" Quality Corn Fed Beef

Chuck Roast Full Cut 55¢ Blade Cut 49¢ Boneless 75¢

"SUPER-RIGHT" QUALITY HEAVY BEEF

Boneless Rib Steak Lb. \$1.39

"SUPER-RIGHT" HEAVY CORN-FED BEEF Oven Ready Rib Roast Lb. \$1.09

"SUPER-RIGHT" QUALITY CORN-FED Boneless Shoulder Roast Lb. 85¢

"SUPER-RIGHT" HEAVY BEEF Delmonico Steak Lb. \$1.59

"SUPER-RIGHT" QUALITY BEEF Rib Eye Steak Lb. \$1.99

"SUPER-RIGHT" QUALITY BEEF Ground Beef Chuck Lb. 75¢

"SUPER-RIGHT" QUALITY BEEF Full Cut Chuck Steak Lb. 65¢

ALLGOOD BRANCH

Sliced Bacon 2 Lb. Pkg. 99¢

"SUPER-RIGHT" PURE PORK Sausage 1-Lb. Roll 35¢

SHOP A&P FOR Picnic Stix 1-Lb. Pkg. 49¢

BUY QUALITY SEASONING Bacon 3 Lb. Box 69¢

GREAT FOR BREAKFAST

A&P Regular Instant Coffee 10-Oz. Jar \$1.35

CHECK THIS VALUE

Ann Page Thrifty Barbecue Sauce 18-Oz. Bot. 37¢ 28-Oz. Bot. 49¢

Spring Cleaning Values At A&P

Northern Gala Towels 3 Jumbo Rolls \$1.00

Lady Scott Facial Tissue 3c Off Label 175 Ct. Pkg. You Pay Only 32¢

Lux Liquid Detergent 22-Oz. Bot. 59¢

Swan Liquid Detergent 22-Oz. Bot. 59¢

Dove Liquid Detergent 22-Oz. Bot. 59¢

Drive Laundry Detergent 49-Oz. Pkg. 89¢

Breeze Laundry Detergent Giant Size 99¢

Wisk Liquid Detergent 1/2-Gal Jug \$1.75

All Advanced Condensed Detergent 3 Lb. 1-Oz. Box 87¢

Surf Laundry Detergent 3 Lb. 2-Oz. Box 95¢

Silver Dust Laundry Detergent 2 Lb. 4-Oz. Box 99¢

A&P QUALITY FROZEN FOODS

A&P Frozen Pie Shells 3 3/4-Ct. 95¢

MARVEL BRAND Ice Milk 1/2-Gal. Ctn. 39¢

Pepperidge Farms Frozen Turnovers 10-Oz. Pkg. 49¢

DID YOU KNOW?

We never "run out" on a sale. If an advertised special is ever sold out when you get to the store, ask the manager for a Rain Check. It entitles you to the same item at the same special price, the following week.

Gleem Toothpaste 12c Off Label on Large Size Tube 39¢

GALA ASSORTED DECORATED Napkins 2 60-Ct. Pkgs. 25¢

GALA QUALITY PAPER Towels 2 2-Ct. Twin Pkgs. 85¢