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TRYON, N. C. 28782

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1990

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The weather last Thursday: high 79, low 35, hum. 59 percent.

In his Smack Dab column in The Bulletin Friday, Rick Drazien suggested that Florida give up repairing I-95 to Miami until fall, as its too hot right now to consider traveling there.

Last week, at a conference on Business Opportunities in an Aging Society, a leading expert on retiree migration from the University of Miami offered additional insights into the Dolphins' playground Of Miami, Charles Longino said:

"It's about as far south as you can go without leaving New York, and it's rapidly becoming our nearest Caribbean neighbor."

Ahhhh, the Thermal Belt. The conference, held at UNC-Asheville, was quite interesting. Rather than summarize last Friday's news for a Tuesday Curb Reporter, I'll share with you some of the conference material today.

On Friday, the Curb Reporter told you about the study released that showed the average Western N.C. retiree's household spends nearly \$17,000. before major purchases.

H. Wilson Worley, an officer with National Retirement Corp.

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in Greenville, S.C., said in the past he's been part of seminars given for cities interested in attracting retirees. He said busloads of state and local representatives have come out to try to learn how to repeat the experience of Western North Carolina.

Twenty five years from now, roughly 17.5 percent of the U.S. population will be over 65 years of age. But seeking this market is not something business is putting off.

Already, today, in America the 50-plus population:

- Has an annual income of \$865 billion.

- Owns 77 percent of all the financial assets in the U.S.

- Owns 80 percent of all the money in U.S. savings and loan associations.

- Spends more on quality children's clothing than the grandchildren's parents do.

- Accounts for a whopping 40 percent of consumer demand.

Today's older folks are more consumption minded than preceding generations of retirees, who were more influenced by the Great Depression, Longino said.

"This population — I call them the World War II foot soldiers — have spent their entire adult lives in an expanding post-war economy." He said the difference between the economic status of today's retirees, and that of their parents, represents the biggest gap between generations of anytime in our history.

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Gibbs To Head Woodlane Environmental Technology Venture



Michael Gibbs has been named head of a new business in Columbus.

Woodlane Environmental Technology, which will operate a division of Kangaroo Products Company.

The firm will market indoor air quality enhancement products to both businesses and consumers.

"We have discovered there are excellent products available that really work to improve indoor air quality," says Gibbs. "After thorough research, we have learned that few people are aware of them. A healthy indoor environment will become a big issue in the 1990's, and we intend to harness Kangaroo's marketing capabilities to distribute very effective new products on a nation-wide basis."

Mr. Gibbs moved to this area in 1987 to become President of Pet Logs Inc.

His wife Marty is controller for the World of Clothing in Hendersonville. They make their home in Sunny View. — Reporter

Wallace Watson

William Wallace Watson, 67, of Route 3, Forest City, died May 23, 1990 in Rutherford Hospital.

He was a native of Polk County and was the husband of Lena Toms Watson and the son of the late Edward and Lizzie Abrams Watson. He was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and former owner of Watson's Store.

Also surviving are one son, Eddie Watson of Forest City; one daughter, Wanda Kingery; two brothers, Mack Watson of Forest City and Floyd Watson of Gaffney; three sisters, Doris Hardin of Forest City, Mary Hamrick of Ellenboro and Opal Packard of Mooresboro and three grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at Shiloh Baptist Church by the Rev. Michael Sepaugh and Paul Brock. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Shiloh Baptist Church Building Fund, Route 4, Rutherfordton, N.C. 28139.

Narcotics Anonymous

NA meeting schedule Tuesdays and Friday, 8 p.m., Church of Holy Cross. Contact, 859-2272 or 894-2668 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge

Tryon Duplicate Bridge played Thursday at the Meeting Place:

1st Joe Doti and Dick Long; 2nd Jeanette White and Eva Barker; 3rd Mr. and Mrs. J. Stuart Shough.