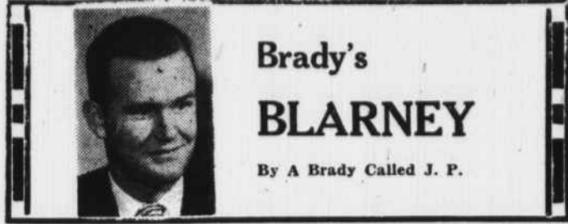


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**Brady's
BLARNEY**

By A Brady Called J. P.

The wife is currently on a casserole kick at our house. Anything that will support cheese on its top soon finds itself in the dish and cooking in the oven.

Nothing, not even week-old leftovers, is safe.

"What gives with this casserole kick?" I ventured at the table the other night, after fighting off the urge through about four casserole meals in a row.

"You mean the 'budget kick'?" she replied haughtily. "If you'd make enough to feed us I wouldn't have to use my ingenuity."

"Ingenuity!"

"Yes, ingenuity," she continued as if I hadn't even spoken. "Casseroles are nourishing, filling, and very economical."

"So is garbage..."

"...and they're easy to fix on these hot days," she concluded. "I'll say easy to fix. Looks to me like you just empty the refrigerator and then cover the mess with cheese."

"Well," she said angrily, "you seem to be thriving on them from the looks of that layer of fat hanging over your belt."

"That was a very unkind remark and you've cut me to the quick," I fought back feebly, "and that's not fat, it's undeveloped muscle!"

She drove the barb home: "Why don't you admit you've got a spare tire around your middle and let it go at that."

"If it was spare you'd have it trimmed off and in a casserole dish topped with cheese," was my triumphant rejoinder.

"Not a bad idea," she decided menacingly, poking her knife toward my midriff, "but lard like that lends itself more to tomato sauce than cheese."

"I think I'll have some more

of that delicious casserole," I said meekly.

"You say the sweetest things," she complied, putting down the knife.

jpb

I keep hearing through "the grapevine" that folks are finding some good rubies at the Cowee Ruby Mines.

Carrol Gibson relayed a message the other day that a young girl, Nancy McGinnes, found a pigeon blood of about 35 carats in the rough. She's from Chestertown, Md.

Proof that the mines are a top drawing card is the fact that there are many "repeaters" among the hundreds digging for the stones. One family, we hear, has been down here at three different times.

There's been some gripping on the part of visitors that they're being sold stones that aren't worth anything by young boys hanging around the diggings.

My only comment to this is to paraphrase Branum's classic statement, "There's one born every minute." Anyone unfamiliar with stones should have more sense than to buy the proverbial "pig in a poke."

I'd like to add, too, that to my knowledge, none of the mine owners are guilty of this deception.

jpb

Ranger Bill Nothstein was telling me the other day about a "monster" brown trout that waged a 70 minute battle with an angler and won.

This action between the fisherman and the trout (the ranger said it was more than two feet long) took place in the Nantahala River at Calloway Stand in the Standing Indian area.

A light leader and equipment prevented the angler from taking much starch out of the trout and the fish finally went to the bottom to rest.

The fisherman (a man from Waynesville—he didn't recall the name) in desperation decided to wade into the hole and get it.

Fate, however, was on the side of the trout. The fisherman got the leader tangled in his boot and it broke.

The ranger is sure, though, that the man will be back for a return engagement.

jpb

My thanks to J. W. Gustaw for a good laugh.

Mr. Gustaw, of Long Island, N. Y., sent me a clip from a New York paper of an outhouse with a TV aerial.

The outlines under the pic, which, incidentally was taken in North Wilkesboro, noted that "... some people wouldn't miss their favorite TV programs for anything."

jpb

Hear that Gatlinburg, over in our neighboring state of Tennessee, is cashing in on the ruby mines here.

In recent weeks I've heard that

Mrs. Picklesimer Succumbs Sunday In Washington

News has been received by relatives of Mrs. S. B. Picklesimer of her death in a hospital in Goldbar, Wash., on Sunday.

Mrs. Picklesimer, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dilly Jones, of Macon County, went to Washington last spring to live with her brother, Sam Jones.

Funeral services will be conducted at Dryman's Chapel here, but the date and hour of the funeral have not been announced, pending the arrival of the body from Goldbar.

Hiker Discovers Nantahalas

Al Moore, hiking director at Camp Mondamin, near Hendersonville, finds the Nantahala Mountains the most beautiful he has ever seen, and the view from Albert Mountain the finest in the Nantahalas, he said Tuesday.

Mr. Moore, who is a nephew of Frank A. Starrette, of Franklin, was hiking with a group of boys from Dick's Gap, Ga., to Wesser Creek. The group camped at White Oak Bottoms, ran out of bread, and Mr. Moore came into town for supplies.

He makes his home in New Orleans, where he teaches in the Metairie Park Country Day School.

Bethel Community Slates Meet Tonight

The Bethel Rural Community Development Organization will meet tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 at the Bethel Methodist Church.

This is the regular monthly meeting, which was postponed last week because of the revival.

All members are requested to be present because of important business.

Gatlinburg motel operators are telling visitors that Franklin doesn't have any accommodations, with the result that they're pre-registering visitors (paid in advance, of course), who are then forced to return to Gatlinburg for the night after a day at the ruby mines.

"Isn't there something we can do to stop that?" I've been asked.

Well, yes and no.

In the first place, all's fair in love, war, and tourists—and we've got to admit that those in Gatlinburg are using their noggins to keep business.

The job of counteracting this kind of thing, however, could turn into a big one. Appears to me that the only way to lick 'em is to flood the tourist byways with more and more literature on the ruby mines and drift out of the situation in a natural way.

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