

A Harsh Winter?

Even Woolly Worms Seem Confused On The Issue

By ANN PAYLOR

Woolly worms, August fogs and corn shucks may not seem to have much in common, but they're all clues in trying to second guess Mother Nature on what kind of weather to expect this winter.

Forecasts differ widely, depending on what signs you go by and who's doing the predicting. There's something for just about everybody, from cold weather with lots of snow to fairly mild temperatures. "Everything I've heard has

been for an extremely cold winter, except one person who predicts a mild one," Mrs. Bennett Hipps said. "The one who says it's going to be mild said so because she hadn't seen many woolly worms — I hope she's right."

Woolly worms are the old mountain stand-by when it comes to winter forecasting. The darker the worm, the colder the weather. Lighter stripes on the worms indicate milder spells, so you can look forward to some relief during the winter.

That's simple enough, but when you start finding blond, brunette and redhead woolly worms crawling side by side, things become a bit more complex.

That's when corn shucks, trees and rabbit skins can be helpful in removing doubts.

"I think we're in for another pretty rough winter, according to the foliage on the timber," Andy Worley said. "I'm no weather prodigy, and I hope I'm right smart off, but I wouldn't be surprised if it's as bad as last year."

"All I know for a fellow to do is put on his long handles," he added.

Thicker fur on rabbits, thicker bark on trees and thicker shucks on corn are all signs that a cold winter's coming on, Mrs. Hipps said. "And, they say that when squirrels start storing up nuts earlier, it's going to be cold. They started early this year."

Balsam can expect 14 snows this winter, according to Mrs. J. Russell Wood's count of August fogs. Most of the fogs were light, she said, which

should mean fairly light snows.

"I hope we have a lot of snow," Beaverdam resident S.B. Miller said. "That'll help build our water back up."

Miller said he's not much of a forecaster, "but I do look for a cold winter. It's been too hot and dry this summer, and they say one extreme follows another."

"If I was a little older, I'd know something about it," the 82-year-old Miller said. "You have to be 85 before you know anything."

The Long Range Prediction Group of the National Weather Service may not rely on 85-year-olds or woolly worms, but they do come up with some general guidelines for the coming months.

"We haven't made our winter prediction yet," climate analysis center chief Donald Gilman said, "but October through December temperatures should be milder than normal."

The statistical relationships between the seasons, along (Continued on Page 2)



READING WOOLLY WORMS is an art Jane Williamson practices every fall. Dark worms mean cold winters, but nobody's figured out what kind of weather we'll have when dark and light worms — and all shades in between — crawl around together.

THE NEWS RECORD

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Worley Cove Man Charged With 2 Counts Of Murder

John Kenneth Buckner, 44, of the Worley Cove section in the Sandy Mush area of Madison County, is being held in the Madison County jail without bond charged with two counts of murder.

Buckner, a veteran of World War II, was arrested late Saturday night by Sheriff Ponder following the shooting deaths of Mrs. Hope Buckner Waddell, 41, and his brother, Arthur Buckner, 43, who shared the home with the defendant.

"Both the victims were dead

when I arrived on the scene at approximately 11:30 p.m.," Sheriff Ponder stated. Ponder said that the house was "empty" when he arrived and found the two victims lying in the hall. Each received a single shot to the head from a 30-30 rifle at close range, Ponder said.

Ponder said he then started searching for John Kenneth Buckner in the house. "I found him in his bedroom alone. He offered no resistance and seemed calm," Ponder stated. It is reported that John Kenneth Buckner had been a

patient in Oteen Veteran's Hospital before being transferred to the Salisbury (N.C.) Veteran's Hospital. He was released some four or five months ago, Ponder explained.

At the home when the shooting occurred were John Watkins, his wife, Pansy Buckner Watkins and their 5-year-old daughter, Brandy. Mrs. Bonnie Buckner, mother of Mrs. Watkins, the two victims, and the defendant, was also present when the shooting started. Apparently

they fled by jumping out a window, Ponder said.

Ponder stated that there was no known motive for the shooting.

A preliminary hearing has been set for Nov. 10.

The bodies were sent to Memorial Mission Hospital for autopsies.

It was stated that the suspect will probably be examined to determine his competency to stand trial since he has a past history of treatment in state mental institutions.

UNITED WEDNESDAY

Joint funeral services for the two victims were held Wednesday morning at 11 at the Piney Grove Baptist Church, of which Mrs. Buckner was a member. The Rev. Oder Anders and the Rev. Lloyd Ponder officiated. Burials were in the Piney Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Waddell is survived by one son, Kerry Waddell of Lenoir; and one daughter, Miss Donna Waddell of Asheville; her mother, Mrs. Bonnie Rogers Buckner of the

home; two brothers, Kenneth and Ronald of Marshall; two sisters, Judy Zeady of Greenville, S.C., and Pansy Watkins of Marshall; two nephews and one niece.

Mr. Buckner is survived by his mother, Mrs. Bonnie Rogers Buckner of the home; two brothers, Kenneth and Ronald Buckner of Marshall; two sisters, Judy Zeady of Greenville, S.C., and Pansy Watkins of Marshall; three nephews and two nieces.

Bowman Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mars Hill College Church Leadership Workshop Saturday

A church leadership workshop, aimed at the leaders of smaller churches in Western North Carolina, will be sponsored at Mars Hill College by the school's music department and the Center for Christian Education Ministries.

Scheduled this Saturday, registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the Center for Christian Education Ministries located in the basement of Bridges

Cafeteria.

The workshop will be divided into six simultaneous conferences all of which are designed to help church leaders become acquainted with practical methods and the materials available to them. Workshop officials also hope that the conferences will provide a creative and strengthening fellowship

Three of the six conferences will be in music leadership and will be oriented to: choir directors and song leaders, children's music leaders and organ and piano accompanists. These conferences will be conducted by Don Welborn, minister of music at Asheville's Calvary Baptist Church; Willis Abernathy, minister of music at Marion's First Baptist Church; Pat Jewsbury, former accompanist and music associate at First Baptist in Asheville; Jerry Jarrell, minister of music at the Mars Hill Baptist Church; and Don Bearden, church music coordinator at the college.

Luther Ozment of Sylva, an area missionary for WNC, will lead a conference for pastors, deacons and other general church leaders in setting church goals and developing long range plans.

Those desiring additional information should contact Miss Sue Fitzgerald, director, the Center for Education Ministries, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill 28754, telephone 658-1322.

Attention Candidates

Next week's issue will be the last issue before the Nov. 7 general election.

In order that your political advertisements be published, it is important that all such copy be in The News-Record office by 9 o'clock next Tuesday morning. Your cooperation is requested.

College Gets \$300,000 Gift

A \$300,000 bequest from the estate of Miss Fuchsia Virginia Marshbanks of Raleigh, who died June 10, has been announced by Mars Hill College.

The bequest, in the form of stocks and bonds, will go into the Marshbanks-Anderson Fund, which Miss Mar-

shbanks and her sister, Flossie Marshbanks, also of Raleigh, established in 1977 in memory of their parents. It makes the total in the scholarship fund \$375,000.

The Marshbanks sisters were born in Madison County, and their family home once stood where the college science building now stands. Their family, including both their mother's and their father's sides, (Anderson and Marshbanks), has been associated with the college since its founding in 1856. A great uncle, the Rev. J.W. Anderson, was one of the founders of the college and served as the first secretary of the original board of trustees.

Virginia Marshbanks received her early education at Mars Hill College and later attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She was graduated from the nursing division of the Medical College of Virginia and spent her professional career in the field for hospital administration. She administered hospitals in Virginia and West Virginia, and was superintendent of Rex Hospital in Raleigh for 10

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JIM PHILLIPS, left, receives the Award from Jaycee President Dr. Mars Hill Jaycee of the Year Reese Steen.

Jaycees Cite Man Of Year

Although the Mars Hill Jaycees have already begun planning community service projects for the coming year, they took time out to recognize several members who had worked hard during the past year to make the new organization a success. Jim Phillips who was selected Mars Hill Jaycee of the Year, was awarded a plaque by Dr.

Reese Steen, president. Jim Clouse, John Campbell and John Chandler were also recognized for their efforts.

The organization's membership has grown to 40 members from the original 20 charter members. Also, the club, with financial assistance from the microswitch plant in Mars Hill, has sponsored another chapter at the Cane

River Penitentiary near Burnsville.

Projects planned for the coming year are a fall festival, a turkey shoot, Christmas tree sales and creation of a mini-park on the town square in Mars Hill.

Jim Phillips was elected president for the coming year with Jim Clouse and John Chandler as vice presidents.

Turn Clocks Back Saturday

The public is reminded to turn clocks BACK one hour before retiring this Saturday night.

Commissioners Postpone Meeting

The Madison County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting of Nov. 3 has been postponed until Nov. 10 due to the general election on Nov. 7. It was announced this week.

M-W Medical Center Now 90% Complete

Michael Norins, director of the Hot Springs Health Program, announced this week that the renovation of the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center is 90 percent complete. Norins stated that all that remains to be done is the

paving and landscaping of the parking lot area around the center.

The center is open five days a week from 8:30 to 5. Appointments are preferred. Call 658-2500, Norins concluded.



JERRY PLEMMONS, left, and TOM WALLIN, members of the Hot Springs Health Program Board of Directors, are shown holding a \$30,000 check from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich. These funds are for the purchase and renovation of the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center. (Photo by Jim Story)

Historical Society To Meet November 4

The Madison County Historical Society will hold a meeting on Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. in the conference room at Blackwell Hall, Mars Hill College. This room is on the lower level with entrance on Highway No. 22; parking is permitted on the street and behind the library.

The business meeting will precede a dedication ceremony which will designate the building next door to Blackwell Hall known now as "the Office Building" as the oldest building on campus. A bronze marker will be placed by the county historical society; the marker

is the last of seven to be purchased and erected in the county marking historical sites, by the group. The Office Building was erected in 1899 and was literally a community project. Citizens did the actual work of construction and have now used from a "red brick" house to the office

below the present library site. Following the meeting and dedication, the historical society will have lunch in the college cafeteria. President's Dinner, Oct. 28, 1978, at the home of Mrs. Steen and all to be invited persons will be at the present library site.