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Town Ordinance Flashes 'Tilt' On Gameroom

Pinball-Video Craze Hits Hot Springs

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

HOT SPRINGS — The pinball-video gameroom mania which has swept the nation in the last four years has found its way through the rural mountain passes of Appalachia and seized the younger residents of Hot Springs. But town and police officials here say they feel obligated to enforce a local ordinance which prohibits most of the town's youngsters from entering a newly established gameroom on Main Street.

The ordinance, adopted in the early '70s, says no one under 17 years of age will be allowed in a pool hall or gameroom unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Gameroom owner and operator Hank Holmes said last week that "60 to 75 percent of the business is kids under 16," but he added he's willing to enforce the ordinance himself until town aldermen meet on Dec. 7. Then he hopes to get an amendment to the ordinance passed which will allow younger unaccompanied teen-agers in his gameroom.

"I realize the town needs to have something to protect itself, and I'll even agree to set time limits for the younger kids," Holmes said. "But I hate to see this (enforcement of the ordinance) for the kids. It's not me or the adults that's going to suffer; it's going to be the kids," he said.

Holmes and other town residents say he is operating a "clean establishment" and that it's "run right."

Some police officers said since the gameroom opened in early October, incidents of vandalism caused by youngsters has declined here. Holmes said part of the idea behind the gameroom was to give young people in town somewhere to go and something to do.

"I've not had the first call to go there," said John Barrett, a six-year veteran of the police department. "Kids use to hang around the Post Office and bother people and cars, and they broke out windows. Since the gameroom has been open, we've not had this trouble. It gives the kids a place to go," he said.

"But the day after the last town meeting, I was told to check on the ages of kids in the gameroom," Barrett continued. "Kids can't understand why they can't go in there now and play."

Holmes, who also operates the Trail Cafe located across the street from the gameroom, said he maintains strict rules during the time the room is open for business from 3 to 11 p.m. The rules posted on a wall include no foul language, no drinks of any kind being brought into the room, and no gambling.

Police Officer Jim Lester said, "I'd rather see the kids in there than out wandering on the streets." He said he has two granddaughters, ages 11 and 13, who go to the gameroom and he approves of it because "Hank doesn't allow drunks in there, and I think he is running it right."

Hot Springs Mayor Swann Huff echoed the generally favorable comments about the pinball palace and indicated that he would talk with the town aldermen before the next meeting to see if arrangements could be made to alter the age restriction stated in the ordinance.

"I just went and paid \$40 on a pool stick and can't play with it now," lamented 15 year old Billy Ebbs as he stood outside the newly remodeled building while flashing lights of the pinball machines inside. Ebbs said he stopped by the gameroom about every day before the ordinance was enforced.

"But I'd go home about dark," he said. Billy, like a few million other youngsters across the country, is drawn magnetically to the lights, bells and electronic sounds of the pinball-video arcades that have mushroomed in almost every U.S. municipality since 1978.

According to a recent report on CBS News, that year marked a whole new era in the pinball-video game industry when a new Japanese machine — "Space Invaders" — hit the market. Variations of that video machine launched several companies — like Atari, one of the largest — into a multi-million dollar business.

Industry reports indicate \$3.3 billion were spent on the games in the U.S. in 1980. Company officials at Atari say the popularity of the games are based on two factors — the U.S. has become an "electronic society," and most of the games are easy to learn but difficult to master, a point which game manufac-

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Photo by N. Hancock

A 1977 TOYOTA truck was pulled back onto U.S. 25-70 Bypass Saturday morning after sliding on snow-covered pavement Friday night and plunging 15 feet down a steep embankment. Tim Plaut, 16 and driver of the vehicle, said he lost control of the truck during Friday night's snowfall about 10:15 about a quarter-mile south of Madison High School. The truck slid to the right-hand side of the road, knocked down a "Pass With Care"

sign, and plunged into small trees coming to a stop approximately half-way down the embankment. No one was injured in the accident, and no charges were filed. The accident occurred during the county's first widespread, measurable snowfall of the winter season. Approximately one-half inch of snow blanketed most of the county with accumulations of up to two inches occurring at higher elevations.

Delegate To White House Conference

Mrs. Burnette Goes To Washington

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Lucille Burnette of Walnut will arrive in Washington, D.C. this weekend where she will represent North Carolina's 600,000 elderly citizens at the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

The conference, to be held Nov. 30 through Dec. 3, will host some 2,000 delegates from across the nation to make recommendations that will be used in developing a proposed national policy on aging.

Mrs. Burnette was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt as a North Carolina delegate to the conference in May. She serves as chairman of the Madison County Council on Aging and is a participant in the Older American Act congregate nutrition program and in the Madison County Senior Center. A former public school teacher, she is an active member of the Agricultural Extension Homemakers Club and the Walnut Community Development Club.

The 1981 conference was authorized by Congress in 1978. Congress appropriated \$6 million to pay for the initial planning of the conference and for the expenses of the 2,000 delegates who will attend it. The conference staff is expected to continue to work into mid 1982 in order to compile the delegates' recommendations into a report and develop a proposed national policy on aging which will be presented to Congress and the President.

Leaders of this fourth national conference include U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard S. Schweiker; Constance D. Armittage of Inman, S.C., conference chairman; and David A. Rust, executive director of

the conference.

Mrs. Burnette, along with the other delegates, will consider 14 major issues of concern to the nation's elderly. Issues such as retirement incomes, housing, health care and services, and options for long-term care will be discussed in separate committees which will present final reports at the conclusion of the conference.

In recognizing a need for a national policy on aging to be developed and establishing this year's conference, Congress called for emphasis to be placed on the "right and obligation of older individuals to free choice and self-help in planning their own futures."

Conference officials say older Americans have become the fastest growing segment of the nation's population. Because of lower death rates and longer life spans, the number of people over 60 has increased four times as fast as the number under 60 since 1900 when there were 4.9 million elderly citizens. Today, there are 34 million older Americans, and the average life expectancy at birth has lengthened from 47 years in 1900 to 73 currently.

These changes in the nation's elderly population will have what officials call "profound implications for the economic and social affairs of the country." For example, they say many older Americans want or need to work, and the nation will increasingly need their productive capacity as the number of older people continues to increase relative to the number of younger people. But negative stereotypes about the abilities of elderly people still push many of them out of the

work force prematurely.

Mrs. Burnette and other conferees will be faced with dozens of questions concerning the elderly and their impact on the country. How will the "graying" of America affect our social institutions? How can the country use the skills and experience of the elderly population so that it can serve as a contributing and productive force within the society? What role should governments — and taxpayers who are required to support the elderly — play in dealing with these issues?

Conference officials hope these and other questions can be answered, and a workable national policy be established.



Lucille Burnette

Ethel Moyer, Noted Educator Dies

Ethel Evangeline English Moyers, 89, of Route 3, Mars Hill, noted educator and Methodist church leader, died in a Madison County nursing home Tuesday, following an illness of several years.

Born on Punchedon Fork in the Upper Laurel section of Madison County, Nov. 14, 1892, she was the daughter of the late John Alexander English and Martha Louvenia Ponder English.

Her maternal grandparents were members of the Ponder and Radford families and her paternal grandparents were members of the English and Phillips families, large landholders, who were leaders in the civic, political and religious affairs of the county. The four families were prominent pioneer families of Western North Carolina.

Mrs. Moyers attended elementary schools in Madison County and received a Latin-English diploma from Mars Hill College in 1912. She began her teaching career in one-room elementary schools, including the Knob School in the Upper Laurel area and the Walnut School near Marshall.

During the World War II years, when her twin brother, the late Eddie English Sr., went off to fight in France, she took over the management of the large family produce, grain and livestock farm which became known as one of the most productive livestock farms in Western North Carolina.

After the war she enrolled in Meredith College in Raleigh and completed a B.S. degree in 1922. She received an M.A. degree at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1931, and did graduate study at the University of California, Berkeley, and Columbia University, New York City.

She taught in the Weaverville High School, Weaverville, in Buncombe County, 1922-23; the Bald Creek High School, Cane River, Yancey County, 1923-24; and was the first principal of the Mars Hill High School, Mars Hill, Madison County, 1924-28. She was the principal of the Beech Glen High School in the Greater Ivy Community near Mars Hill 1928-30; and a teacher and guidance counselor at the R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, 1930-31.

Mrs. Moyers was a freshman class advisor and associate professor of education at Meredith College, Raleigh, 1931-41.

She married the late Benjamin Lafayette Moyers, son of the late Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Moyers, of Claiborne County, Tenn. He was president of a corporation in San Leandro, Calif., where the couple established their residence.

In 1945 she returned to the East to accept a position as associate professor of English and geography and assistant dean of women at Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C. In 1950 she was promoted to associate dean of women, holding this position until 1953 when she resigned to return to Mars Hill High School as a teacher of English and student advisor, 1953-60.

Mrs. Moyers was chosen "Woman of the Week" as a part



Ethel E. Moyers

of the Asheville Citizen Times series on outstanding Western North Carolina Women in 1958.

In 1961 Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, then president of Mars Hill College persuaded Mrs. Moyers to join the faculty of the college as an assistant professor of English, a position she held until she retired on May 31, 1965.

Her last teaching position was during 1965-68 when she became a remedial reading teacher in the North Buncombe High School in Buncombe County, a position which she took to round out the requirements for retirement in the North Carolina public school system.

Mrs. Moyers has been listed in Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in the South and Southwest and Who's Who in the Methodist Church.

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Public Meetings

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the courthouse in Marshall.

The Madison County Board of Education will meet Monday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Marshall.

The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Marshall will meet Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall on Main Street.

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall on Andrews Ave.

The Board of Aldermen of Mars Hill will meet Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall on Main Street.

The Madison County Planning Board will meet Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse in Marshall.

Happy Thanksgiving!