

ESTABLISHED JULY, 1936

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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

Seems like old times around my house now-a-days. Not only has Blanche got the place in a swivit, getting ready for us to come home to Burnsville for a month this summer, she is also "canning" lines for one of the plays to be presented at the Playhouse. Since she hasn't participated in a show in Burnsville for the past three years, she is really hepped up about it. I understand Gordon Bennett will direct it. Now, if they could just arrange for that old philosopher, "Mutt" Burton to play the male lead, it would be a foregone conclusion that the Playhouse would have what the newspapers call a "socko" hit.

If the people get out and support the Playhouse the way it deserves, it would do quite a bit for the ego of the Town, the University, the Director of the Playhouse, the Director of the plays, individually, and, of course, the Actors. You see Burnsville is fortunate in having the Playhouse for a summer attraction, and fortunate indeed in having had the University conduct a summer session there.

Blanche and I have been coming to Burnsville since 1950 or '51, and everyone knows how we feel about the Town and the people, but, and this is an oddity, we continually run into kids who have played the Summer Theatre and they still talk of the wonderful place it was. Now, of course, they are no longer kids. Many of them are well-along in their thirties. Most are married and have kids whom they tell great tales to, all about when Mommy and Daddy used to be an actor in Burnsville. Of course, these people still have "grease-paint" in their blood and would give part of an arm to come back for another play.

Some of these, the Good Lord willing, as Arthur Godfrey used to say, will prosper as life goes by and those who do, will, at the very least, become vacationers or summer residents, if not actual bona fide residents. You see, the Playhouse, while a summer theatre, is vastly different from a summer stock-company putting on plays. In summer stock, you never really feel a part of the outfit itself and you have no feeling of affinity for the Community. Burnsville is different. The people make you want to put on the best show possible, and you know that the applause, when it comes, is sincere approval of a sincere effort.

It's really amazing what those crazy actors will do in a season. I have seen Gordon Bennett work those kids until they were beyond exhaustion. At times, even I, a good friend of Gordon's used to make mental comparisons between him and the famed British sea captain of the famed Mutiny On The Bounty, Captain Bligh. Sometimes I used to figure that old Captain Bligh was-

n't as tough a taskmaster as Gordon. I never could figure out why they didn't mutiny. Of course, the answer was relatively simple. These actors wanted to learn to act and Gordon Bennett was the man who could teach them.

Let's face it. In the early days of the Playhouse, Gordon Bennett directed practically all of the shows, designed and built all of the sets, would play a part, if necessary, keep the accounts, get students to attend, and handle the myriad other details, too numerous to mention. He made those kids work hard because it was the only way he could produce the plays scheduled. Now, both Burnsville and the University are fortunate in the new Director, Ralph Kerns. Blanche and I met him for the first time last year and passed that judgment on him. Since everyone has a right to an opinion on anything, until it's proven wrong, we availed ourselves of that God-given right. We decided that Ralph was the ideal man for the University to have sent to the Playhouse and you can bet that Ralph will prove that we were right. His efforts last year proved that he not only has the directorial ability but it also established the fact that he had the managerial ability. That is a good combination.

So, us Burnsville and Yancey County people have another season of the Playhouse coming to us and, under the new system of play-dates, we have Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday for a choice of nights to patronize the plays. The audiences can be picked up if everyone, particularly the business men, talks it up, as the saying goes, because all producers know that large audiences come from word of mouth advertising. Let us make this season a true Community effort to set attendance records at the Playhouse. It's the least we can do to show our appreciation to the University and Ralph Kerns, who will literally knock himself out in order that we have a good season presented to us on stage.

Memories So Dear

You're thought about
From day to day,
Though it's been years
Since you went away.

Your wavy brown hair,
Your sparkling eyes
The smile so sweet
Memories of these, we hold dear.

In a land so fair
You wait for us
Until that glad day
We're together there.

Written by Mrs. Joe Woody in memory of my beloved nephew Paul Price, who departed this life, May 8, 1955.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



RALEIGH REPORT

By: Ernest Messer

The budget is now before the House and the Senate. There will be noisy attempts to break it, but the chances of doing so are small.

Since the State Constitution requires that the budget must be balanced before the General Assembly can adjourn, any increases in appropriations now would mean we would have to cut some item or items to make it balance. There is no sentiment here to increase taxes for any purpose.

Capital outlay funds for western colleges are as follows: Asheville-Biltmore, \$2,060,100; Western Carolina College, \$2,233,000; Appalachian State Teachers College, \$2,700,000.

Teachers were given a 20% raise, supervisors 10%, principals 10% plus an extra week, superintendents 6%, and all other state employees, including mechanics, janitors, bus drivers, were given 6%.

Special items for western North Carolina include a Hardwood Nursery in Avery County, \$25,000 for UNC at Greensboro to spend on the Parkway Playhouse in Yancey County, \$25,000 for the Agricultural Center at the Airport, a fire warden's house on Chambers Mountain in Haywood County, a fire fighting headquarters building in Cherokee County, and financial support for the Rhododendron Festival, the Apple Festival, the State Theatre at Hendersonville, and the Brevard Music Center.

The Highway Commission got a Division Office Building in Sylva, a greasing and washing facility in Hazelwood, and the Highway Patrol got Patrol Headquarters buildings in Haywood and Swain Counties.

It is now permissible to hunt rabbits and squirrels with a pistol in Haywood, Madison, Yancey, and a number of other counties.

Regulations regarding owning and transporting pistols are not changed. But any person who qualifies to own and transport a pistol is permitted, under certain regulations, to hunt.

Effective January 1, 1968, persons engaged in watch repairing and watchmaking will be required to have and display a license. Persons now engaged in the business will be issued a license, without examination, on the payment of a \$10 fee. Persons wishing to qualify after date of this act — persons entering the business — will have to

take a \$25 examination then pay \$10.00 for a license.

I don't know who wanted watchmakers licensed. I opposed the bill, but when I saw it was going to pass anyway, I introduced an amendment to exclude persons who buy, sell, and repair old watches and clocks.

Hay Fever

Season Here

What's in a name? Hay fever isn't caused by hay and has nothing to do with fever. But those fascinating facts don't really help much when summer brings on the season of swollen nasal passages, teary eyes, and marathon bouts of sneezing.

Hay fever is an allergy whose symptoms most often are caused by airborne plant pollen—usually ragweed. Other substances, such as animal dander, mold spores, or dust may also be guilty. These are allergenic substances—that is, they produce irritation which in turn produces the tears and sneezes.

Relief is sometimes obtained by the use of antihistamine drugs, but these don't affect the underlying sensitivity. Hay fever can often be controlled by injection of a desensitizing substance in gradually increasing doses. In some cases, injections repeated over several years have resulted in permanent desensitization.

Allergic asthma, like hay fever, is caused by a reaction to a specific irritant, and can be controlled if the substance is identified and injected into the body in a series of progressive doses. (In non-allergic form it is caused by a "non-specific irritant"—a substance apt to affect anyone but causing a more severe reaction in the asthmatic).

In bronchial asthma an acute attack produces swelling of the small passages that carry air from the windpipe into the lungs. The patient has a choking sensation, fights desperately for breath, an usually coughs up a white mucus.

Medical care can bring substantial relief, and sometimes cure, to sufferers from respiratory allergy. Ask your Christmas Seal association for the free leaflets, "Hay Fever, the Facts" and "Bronchial Asthma."

Independent In Your Driving

Too much independence in your driving during the long Fourth of July holiday could steer you into one of the projected 1,377 traffic accidents on North Carolina's streets and highways which the N. C. State Motor Club warns may claim at least 26 persons killed and 884 injured.

While Independence Day falls on Tuesday and most businesses will operate as usual on Monday, the state will officially count its holiday highway toll from 6 p. m. Friday, June 30, through midnight Tuesday, July 4, a period of 102 hours, since many workers plan to take off the full four days. For the 78-hour holiday last year, North Carolina's traffic toll added up to 19 killed and 676 injured in 1,051 accidents.

Leading driver violations reported were: speeding, 193; driving left of center of the road, 163; following too closely, 115; and failure to yield right of way, 103.

"Traffic congestion is heavier on July Fourth weekends than any other holiday period," cautioned Thomas B. Watkins, president of the motor club. "Consequently, hot-headed motorists with explosive tendencies can be far more dangerous than a short-fused firecracker and would be wise to stay out of the driver's seat. Keep your cool while driving and enjoy a safe holiday."

Savings Bond Sales Continue Upward

U. S. Savings Bond sales continued their upward trend in North Carolina during the month of May. Sales totaling \$4,859,672 were up almost 5 percent over May of last year and were the largest sales recorded for May 1947.

Cumulative Savings Bond sales for January-May totaled \$26,341,145, which is over 13 percent above sales for the same period of 1966. E Bond sales were up almost 13 percent and H Bond sales were up more than 28 percent over January-May sales of last year. This is 37.4 percent of North Carolina's 1967 dollar quota of \$70,400,000.

Bond sales in Yancey County, according to Arney Fox, County Volunteer Chairman, were \$2,168.00 in May. Cumulative sales for the year amounted to \$14,006.00, which is 24.1 percent of the county's quota of \$88,563.