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## Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

This article is being written down home here where I am subject to at least several thousand distractions. First and foremost, I would rather be downtown talking to people but I can't do that because Blanche took the car to run to the store and probably will drive our house-guest around and about for an hour or so to show that gal what our area looks like. I don't know why she would do that since they could look out the windows and see more than they will riding around. Blanche is real proud of all of Yancey County and she will probably end up with making this other gal promise to seriously consider getting a place down here. (Might be a little difficult because Rosetta, that's her name, and her last name is Crocchia — That's Italian. And the History Books all claim that Italians are a warm-blooded Race.) Well, as you know, last Saturday night was anything but warm and this Rosetta gal, well, at breakfast on Sunday, she sort of commented that it was a bit before and based upon that, she calculated it might get downright cool when winter comes.

I spent a good portion of the day on Sunday, explaining to Blanche and Rosetta that it was not going to get too cold because Roy Ray claimed that the skunks were not walking around with one eye closed, which Roy claims, is the only sure sign of a cold Winter coming. The way Roy explained it, the skunk does this to keep from having both of his eye-balls freezing at the same time. It sounded as sensible as the sure sign an old gentleman told me about down at the hospital. Seems like he is expecting his first grandchild and he was worried that the kid might be born with a wart on his thumb. That theory sounded a bit more scientific than Roy Ray's. It pure stands to reason that if a new baby is born with a wart on his thumb, we are bound to have a cold winter.

Back when I was a kid, we had the finest weather barometer you ever could see. My old man had a fellow hanging around who used to do odd-jobs. His name was Simple Jim Something-or-other. No one ever called him anything but Simple. Now, back then, all of us eleven Kellys had the greatest regard for my old man's opinion on everything. As a matter of fact, his opinion just naturally became ours. That was the way Pop ran his house. Real democratic. Everybody in the house could vote on any subject at any time. He had only one requirement. You had to have a ballot. Now, since Pop was the man who issued the ballots, he had no worry on the outcome of any proposition. He just didn't pass out any ballots. We used to marvel at him, early in the morn-

ing when he would get us out of bed and announce that it was going to be a cold day. We would dress accordingly, and Pop was always right. I didn't find out until I was an adult grown that Pop knew it would be cold by the way old Simple had come to work. If Simple had just two pairs of pants and a couple of coats, that was one thing, but when Simple had four or five pairs of pants and three coats and an overcoat, then my old man knew it was cold, and so announced it. He had no truck with frozen-eyeballed skunks or babies with warts.

Since I am of a more modern generation than my Pappy, I would rather go along with the more scientific data furnished by my Burnsville friends. I have no choice, Simple has been dead for years.

My whole train of thought, if I had one, has just been derailed. Blanche and Rosetta returned and insisted I stop and fix a fire in the fire-place because they were cold, so I did it. They did not bring home any news other than to inform me that appraisors were going around looking at property for the purpose of re-assessing values for tax purposes.

In the event those tax-people don't get here before we leave, I trust they will make note of the falling-down condition of my place. They might knock off a couple of thousand dollars more for the fact that when the snow comes, us Kellys can't get off the Hill, and any number of things. I think it would be great if those fellows would make History in Burnsville and assess my place downward. If they don't I'll put a hex on them.

Everybody knows that the Town and County have to raise taxes to keep operating and everybody is in favor of it, so long as their personal taxes are not raised. That puts the tax assessor in a tough spot. In this present go-round, someone should be commended for bringing in outsiders to assess valuation. Don't get me wrong, I don't like taxes any better than anyone else, and if these outside gentlemen clout us real hard, I trust someone will save us a place at the wailing wall so I can gnash my teeth and beseech the Heavenly Powers for relief from the scoundery tax-gatherers. I will weep and wail along with the best of you.

### NOTICE

The Burnsville office of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation will be closed Veterans' Day, November 11.

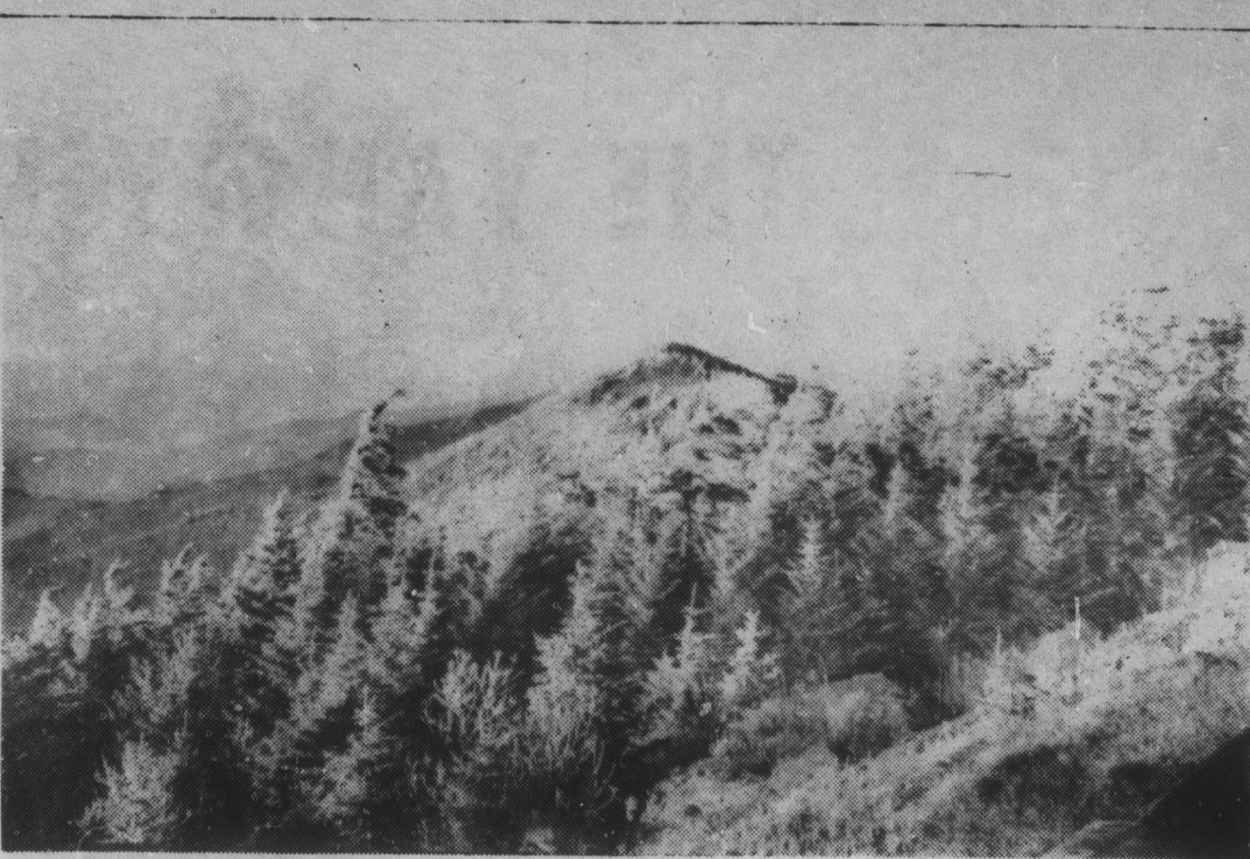
### NOTICE

The Health Center in Burnsville will be closed on Monday, November 13 in observance of Veteran's Day.

Winter is here again. And from the signs of the old timer, black coated wolly worms, thick corn

shucks, and a heavy crop of nuts, we are in for a rough time.

This picture, taken Sunday on the Mt. Mitchell Highway, may be only a mild preview of things to come.



## LETTER TO CITIZENS

Dear Fellow Citizen:

I am writing to you because I think you will share my concern about the survival of W.A. M.Y. Community Action, Inc., and the anti-poverty efforts in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

Next week, the week of November 7, the U. S. House of Representatives will vote on proposed amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act. One of these proposed amendments

will require that we pay 10% of the cost of anti-poverty programs in cash. Up to now, this "local matching" for federal grants could be in the form of donated building space, donated material, and volunteer services. This is how our four counties have been providing matching so far. The rest of our local matching (about \$60,000 per year) has come from the North Carolina Fund, and this money will run out by 1969. If this proposed amendment were to pass Congress, our four counties would have to come up with \$58,000 in cash every year just to keep W. A. M. Y.'s present Community Action Program operating at its present level. I don't think our four counties can come up with this kind of money. I don't think it's fair for this area, with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the U. S., to put up the same kind of money that richer parts of the country are asked to put up. I believe such a cash requirement would kill most of the anti-poverty efforts in the rural areas of the United States, especially the South, where it is needed most.

After it passes on the Amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act, the Congress will vote on how much money to provide for anti-poverty efforts. The House has been threatening to cut anti-poverty appropriations below the current level.

I hope to join Mr. Jason Dayton and Walter Vance of our Board in a trip to Washington next week to see our representatives in Congress about these matters. This trip will be at private expense.

If you agree that anti-poverty efforts should continue in our four counties, I hope you will take this opportunity to write letters to your Senators, Representatives, and the President and tell them how you feel about

requiring more local cash and cutting federal funds for this program.

Persons to write: If you live in any county:

President Lyndon B. Johnson, The White House, Washington, D. C.; Senator Sam Ervin, Jr., U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.; Senator Everett Jordan, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

If you live in Watauga or Avery county: Representative James T. Broyhill, The House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.; Representative Basil Whitener, The House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

If you live in Mitchell or Yancey County: Representative Roy Taylor, The House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

You can send these letters directly to Washington or to me. I will see that they are delivered. If you write, please write soon; the House of Representatives may begin debate on the Amendments next Monday.

Yours Truly,  
Lawson Tate, M. D.

P. S. I am writing to you after an emergency meeting with other members of the WAMY Board from Avery county last night. Dr. Plemmons was unable to attend, but he sent word that he favored action by the WAMY Board in support of the anti-poverty program. He said that he would have gone to Washington personally except for previous commitments.



COATESVILLE, PA. RECORD: "The next time they hold hearings on firearms regulations we hope someone will mention what happened in the Congo. Belgians there used to carry firearms for protection. Then the President, Joseph D. Moburn went in for firearms regulations in a big way. He forced the Belgians to give up all their firearms; in fact, he confiscated them. Since then, the Belgians have had a hard

day in Belgians' homes. Of course such a thing couldn't happen here. We are, after all, a law-abiding people."

EVERETT, WASH., HERALD: "The apathy of the American people toward spending today seems to indicate that the myth of the federal solution is still strong. When the people reject this myth—and other myths of federal spending—they will again speak up to Congress. After more than 30 years of experience with centralization, with bureaucratic red tape, with waste and duplication, there is a stirring in the grassroots. The possibility of a better way is being weighed."

WATERLOO, WISC., COURIER: President Johnson has promised the postal employees an increase in wages and has tied (the) raise in postal rates to the package. The question becomes: Is the post office department a service of the government for the people or is it to be a self-supporting institution? If it is to be self-supporting we feel that the government should get out of the business. It won't be long before it will be out of the parcel post business anyway as private parcel delivery services are taking over in many areas due to quicker service and better rates. We look for an increase to be adopted this fall. Every person throughout the country will be affected by postal rate increases. Those who use few postal stamps will feel the bite in other ways as the business people who operate on small profit margins will have to raise their prices to absorb the cost of their mailings."

OCALA, FLA., STAR-BANNER: "Charles Evans Hughes, the famous American jurist, observed that a man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he always has good company. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the American capitalist, said that a man should