

# Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you for printing recently so many letters to the editor -- a dandy forum for community ideas, I think, and something which does not hurt the sale of papers either. Perhaps you've heard about the 'New Town Bee', a small New England paper which has built up a large circulation far from the New Town area just by creating such a forum. It's refreshing to many to see reflected in this way the grass roots exercise of democracy, problems discussed openly and honestly thrashed out -- an exercise not all unrelated to less regional issues.

Although I often find the views expressed in the American Way Features you carry somewhat overstated and although I would like to see you publish a more moderately-toned commentary to balance at least some things said there, I have very much appreciated your getting bravely involved in many local issues -- in particular the issue of what might be called the pollution of Burnsville's aesthetic environment. Burnsville is right now just at that crucial stage of development when it can lose much of its unusual appeal to tourists and others by overlooking or becoming careless in protecting itself against all sorts of problems concomitant with its inevitable growth. For example, the highway bypassing the town square seems already a threat to the beauty of the town. There is little there to suggest to those passing by, unacquainted with Burnsville, the beauty of the square or the general charm of the town itself. At the crest of the hill where 19E intersects with the street leading past the NuWray garage, a kind of gateway to the town could be created with landscaping and shrubbery. Aesthetic sensitivity in a populace is neither socially nor economically irrelevant, it seems to me, in the long run. The quality of life is equal in importance to the quantity of goods and services. . . . ."

Burnsville, situated in a unique and stimulating geographical setting, participates in a unique cultural heritage which offers it a truly unusual opportunity to serve itself and others. Hopefully your articles and various reminders can help it retain its unusual qualities. It has a singular chance to keep balanced a great many factors -- social, cultural, and environmental -- a balance difficult and almost prohibitively expensive to attain in other places now.

Keep up the good work,  
Everett Kivette

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER,  
BY **PARSON JONES**

Dear Mr. Publisher

I reckon most folks are getting ready for Christmas right now. We've already started at our house. Like the federal government our younguns have a budget demand that far exceeds our income. And, the only way we can meet the kids' demands is to follow the government again and go in the hole. . . . Only trouble is we ain't got no taxes to get it back. It seems like the more money I get the less it's worth. I read where one fellow had \$50.00 worth of groceries stolen from his car last week because he forgot to lock his glove compartment. I reckon this is what experts mean when they say we've devalued the face of the dollar. That's where a dollar still looks like a dollar, but it ain't worth a dollar.

I reckon this move had to come sooner or later. It's kinda like the second stage of a rocket. Our first stage was to devalue the face of man. I don't know whether Darwin's theory that man ain't nothing but an over-sized bull-frog had anything to do with it or not. Or maybe Henry Ford started it when he made man an assessor to an automobile. (He's the nut that holds the wheel). Or, maybe industry started it when man became the gimmick that pushes the buttons.

I doubt if we'll ever be able to capture the real culprit, but if somebody don't soon come up with the answer everything is gonna be devalued. Our cities are cluttered, our air is polluted, and our food is infected.

I reckon Albert Schweitzer was right when he said we should have "reverence for all life". That means looking at everything like it was holy. And the first place to begin is with man. We gotta get over this idea that man is a coat-hanger for the latest fashions, a garbage can for food-fads, and a large eye-ball for TV viewing.

Maybe we done a bad job when we took the Bible outa public schools, cause it was the one book that says man is created in the image of God. If a fella believes he's the first cousin to a billy goat, chances is he's gonna act like a billy goat. Or, if he's from the same line as a skunk, there ain't no wonder he goes around polluting everything. Well, so much for inflation. I gotta run along now and get ready for the "crash". So long.

Parson Jones

# Yancey Craftsmen Excell

(Cont'd from Page 1)  
worthy undertaking. Of the many interested visitors who come especially for this event, many see for the first time the skills and tools of their ancestors. And they notice the pride in workmanship which is too often lost in this age of chrome and neon. Some fair visitors become interested enough to learn a craft for themselves, as an avocation, or a new vocation, finding a creative enjoyment that enriches their lives.

Our Yancey craftsmen take a back seat to no one in the variety and excellence of their "arts and crafts". We have pottery experts, skillful weavers and needlework-


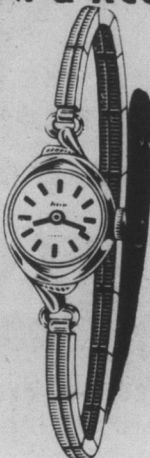
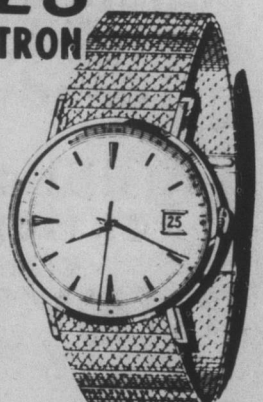
ers, painters, woodcarvers a master ironworker and any number of other craftsmen; most of them work in their homes and enjoy local recognition for their fine work.

Burnsville's Daniel Boone VI is mentioned in the Great-ham's magazine story as "another genius of the forge, direct descendant of the famed trail blazer."

"If one wants to learn a craft, there's no better place than these Blue Ridge Mountains," write the Cheathams.


We agree! -- And we would like to thank Everett Kivette, co-director and instructor of the summer art classes here in Burnsville, for calling our attention to this article.

**WATCHES**  
BULOVA & ACCUTRON

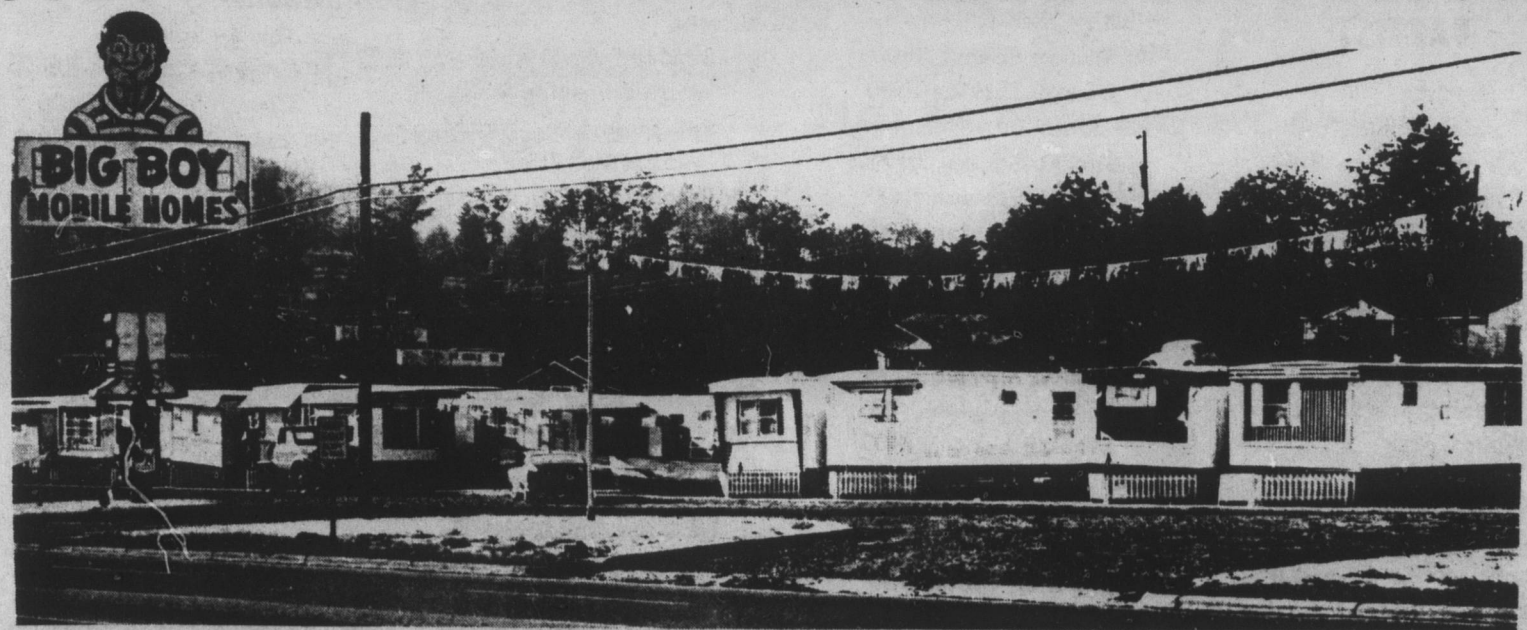




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