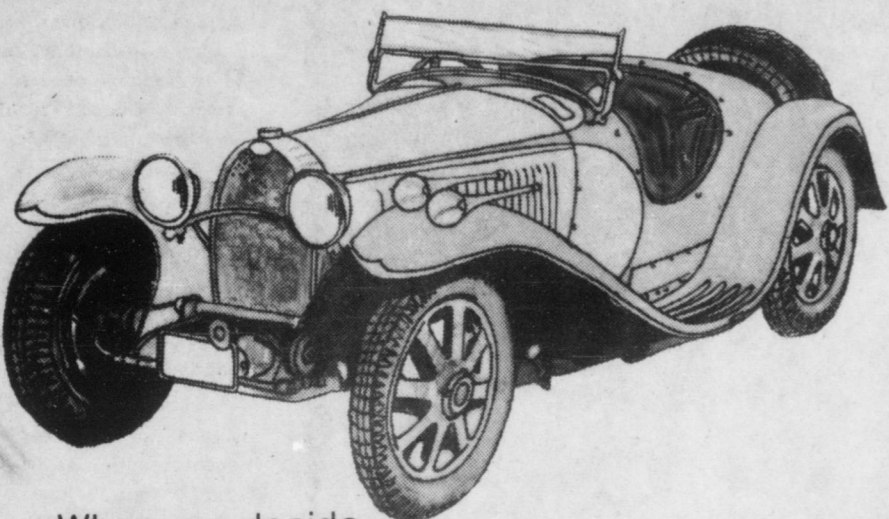


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JOE YOUNG FORD

Burnsville, N.C.

Teachers Attend A Workshop

Mrs. Mary Graham and Colonel Harry D. Cook, both teachers in Gouge School, attended a workshop on "Teaching Strategies for the New Social Studies."

The seminar type course, which was conducted by Western Carolina University Extension Center, Oteen, on Thursday, January 20, 1972, was attended by teachers from throughout Western North Carolina.

The course, conducted by three Professors from the aforementioned university, was presented in three divisions. These divisions of instruction were divided as follows: "Instructional Modules and Learning Packages"; "Simulation Games in the Social Studies," and "Inquiry Techniques."

Mrs. Graham and Colonel Cook worked with committees in each division of instruction and "learned to do by doing" right in the workshop.

They plan to present this information to teachers at Gouge School at one of the professional meetings.

MEN WANTED

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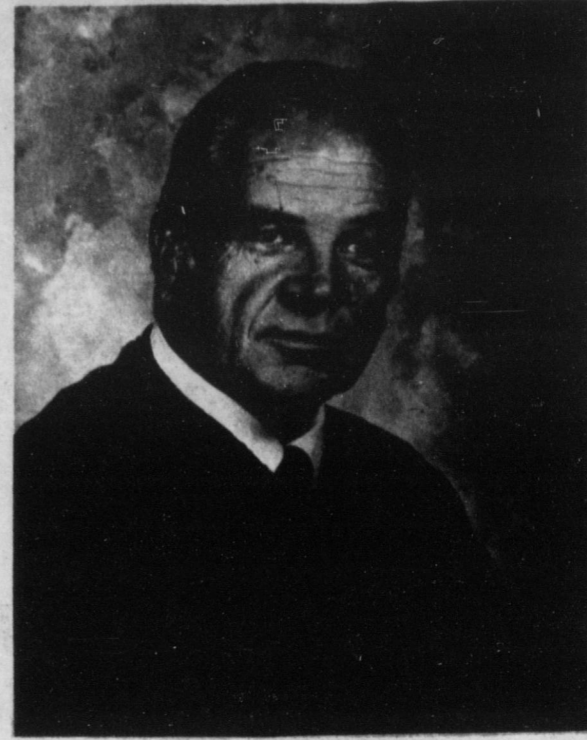
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"Who Can Judge This, Thy People. . .?" (II Corinthians)

By: bertie cantrell
Avery Journal Feature Writer



J. Ray Braswell
Chief Judge 24th Judicial District

Judge J. Ray Braswell's announcement in last week's paper piqued my curiosity . . . what was it like being a Judge in one's own county? What made him decide to run for Judge the first time in 1968 when the new court system was brought about? And why had he decided to run another term?

He agreed to talk with me the following Monday, a spring-like day, with loafers in front of the courthouse and women raking their yards.

He ushered me into his office, a portly gray-haired man, with an aura of strength and purpose about him. He was reluctant to talk about himself, but gradually, by talking about the new court system under which he became chief Judge in this District, he told why he decided to seek the office of Judge. He said while he was an attorney under the old court system before it was tried, creating a hardship for defendants and witnesses alike causing them to miss work and often travel many miles. One case especially he recalled, had been in the courts for 12 years when he took it. The lawyers who handled the case previously had died. This made him even more convinced that the court system was obsolete, and he became involved with the Bar Association's struggle to reform the courts, making speeches to this effect in various places, working diligently to bring about court reform.

In 1967, after the legislature had provided for a reformed court system in North Carolina, a group of lawyers came to Braswell and asked him to consider serving as Judge. At first he refused; he had a good law practice, a well-ordered life, why should he want to change it? "The thought came to me that I was being hypocritical," he said, "Here I had fought for court reform every inch of the way, then refused to be a part of it. I decided to put my money where my mouth was and run." Why the second term? "Sometimes you feel you have done a good thing, helped somebody; that's a good feeling. My philosophy of life could be summed up, 'service to others' because after all what it boils down to is living the golden rule. Religion is an every day thing. All this talk of love and do good amounts to nothing unless you actually help people."

When I started to leave he asked me if I had seen the new library lately, and insisted that I see it inside. The library means a lot to him, for outside of the natural pride he has in its modern architecture it will house thousands of books. Books mean more knowledge for Avery's children, and one of his main interests is the children of the county. He escorted me through every room in the library, pausing to speak to the workmen, complimenting and joking with them . . . obviously very proud of this imposing structure with its rough-sawn cedar and grand-father rocks.

When I left him, the thought occurred to me, "how do his associates see this man, how do they view his judgement?" Those who have been in court with him the past four years?

I found Judy Smith in the ASCS Office in Newland. Judy, a tall redhead who smiles a lot, had been court stenographer to Judge Braswell for 2 1/2 years. "I enjoyed court work and working

with Judge Braswell very much," Judy said, "But after I married my husband wanted me home nights, as I was required to travel a great deal to all five counties in the district and often gone overnight, so I took the job here." When asked how the Judge impressed her she replied, "He was firm, but very compassionate, taking such an interest in each case, becoming so involved, especially with juveniles. He would tell them to call him if they had any problems for he always said, 'The young are our hope for the future, for a new world.'" He cared for the so called "insignificant" people, having a great empathy for them. He always called the defendants by their first names, yet he tolerated no nonsense in his court." She paused reflectively, "I guess you could say he helped me gain an insight into human nature, and taught me more than I ever learned in college . . . he was very patient, but if I misspelled a word he would make me hunt it up in the dictionary and do it right. He always wanted to make things better for Avery County, he took such an interest in civic affairs."

Attorney Warren Pritchard is a big, soft spoken man with a law office in Spruce Pine. "Ray Braswell and I were lawyers together for many years before he became Judge. He impresses me very much at the bench, being fair and thorough, conducting the court with dignity. He tries to give everyone a fair shake." I asked him why he thought Judge Braswell was so often called to districts outside his own on special cases. Pritchard believes it is because he maintains an open mind, being unbiased and objective, and is willing to go where he is needed.

Phyllis Foster, Assistant Clerk of Court in Watauga County has worked with Judge Braswell since he assumed office in 1968. She, like the others was eager to talk about the Judge. "He has a lot of wisdom, which shows in his judgements, and evaluations. I find him a very compassionate Judge, trying each case on its own merits. He has no set rules, but tries each person as exactly that - a person, and not just another number on the court calendar. He is very witty, very human. We need more Judges like him."

Bob Lacey sat behind his massive desk in his new law office in Newland. Over his desk hangs a sign, "But for the Grace of God", another that

reads, "Caution, be sure brain is engaged before putting mouth into gear." Lacey leaned back in his leather chair, his large dark eyes lustrous behind horn rimmed glasses and fiddled with a cigarette. "I've known Judge Braswell all my life," he said, "Many times we were adversaries when he was an attorney, but since he has been a Judge, that fact has never affected his judgements in any of my cases he has tried. He has all the qualifications of a good Judge, a good judicial temperament, knowledge of human nature as related to the law; very thorough but the main facet of his court procedure is the way he tempers justice with mercy."

Lacey said the most humorous case he ever heard Judge Braswell try was that of a man riding a horse while under the influence of alcohol. The question arose whether the law of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence would apply to a horse. Braswell sought the Attorney General's advice who said the law did apply. There was a good deal of controversy over the case. Sometime later the Judge and Lacey were playing golf together and the Judge told of a golf course down the country where golf carts must cross a highway in order to get on the golfcourse. "Bob", Braswell asked him, "Would you consider a golf cart a motor vehicle?" to which Lacey impishly replied, "More of a motor vehicle than a horse, Judge."

Dick Bailey is a successful young lawyer in Burnsville with a mind so probing it is sometimes painful and a reputation of high integrity. "I have been to many courts presided over by Judge Braswell," Bailey stated, "He has been an excellent chief judge. All the lawyers and people acquainted with him are very pleased with his calibre. He is compassionate, yet judicious, attempting to do what is right and proper in each case. He is very fair."

Lynn Hughes has been a social worker for the Welfare Department for 15 years. He deals with juvenile delinquents, handling all probation work. "We talk about children with problems, not problem children," Lynn said, "I have worked closely with Judge Braswell since he took office in 1968. Many times it has been necessary to call him in the middle of the night to have him sign a custody order for a child. He is never too busy to sit down and talk with

me about these children, and he always keeps an open mind, giving top priority to the child's wants. He advises the juveniles of their legal right when they must go to court, obtaining legal counsel for them if they cannot afford it, and giving them the right to cross-examine the witnesses. He will not send a child to the Juvenile Valuation Center in Swannanoa if there's any other way. We have had only five to go in the past three years. He prefers that we, in Social Services find the child a good home, which is fine with us. Most of the cases are truancy cases. He helps us get the child back into school. He is very concerned with children." He left me with that last remark ringing in my ears, "He is very concerned with children . . ."

Lynn was the last one I talked to about the Judge. I had found what I was seeking, the way his associates related to him, what they considered his outstanding traits, how they evaluated his judgements. Socrates summed Judge Braswell up perfectly (although that great Greek Philosopher lived around 399 B.C.) when he said, "Four things belong to a Judge, to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially. Apparently Judge Braswell possesses all four.

News About Potatoes

Yancey County potato growers will be interested in a recent publication issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service on the revised U. S. grade standards for potatoes.

The revised standards, that became effective September 1, 1971, require potatoes marketed under the U. S. grades to be cleaner and have fewer defects than did the previous standards. They also provide additional size designations.

The leaflet, "The Revised U. S. Grade Standards for Potatoes," CEMS-91, discusses the principal changes in the standards and how and why grade standards and official inspection are used.

Persons in Yancey County wishing to receive a single free copy of the publication should send a post card request to Southeast Regional Information Office, Consumer and Marketing Service, USDA, 1718 Peachtree Street, N. W., Room 220, Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Please include your zip code.

The use of the grade standards or the federal or federal-state inspection service to certify the quality of potatoes is voluntary, except where required by state law or under terms of federal or state marketing orders. Inspection is provided on a fee-for-service basis.

Sr. Citizens Club Met

By Ethel Miller
The Tipton Hill Senior Citizens Club had its regular club meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey J. Miller on Tuesday, January 25.

The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. Bertha Whitson. The story of "The Little Match Girl" was read by Miss Lydia Deyton. Mr. Harvey J. Miller read a ghost story.

Refreshments were served by Miss Lydia Deyton and Mrs. Charlie Stevenson and everyone just enjoyed themselves talking. The meeting was dismissed by Mrs. Stevenson.

The club attendance was very good. This was the first meeting in the New Year.

this week In Bakersville

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Gard Fulton of Oregon have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hohlman and Mr. Walter Webb.

Michael Bryant, Van Bryant and Larry Boone have been visiting here during the semester break at Berea College where they are students.

Airman Danny Pierce who is stationed in Laos is visiting here for his two-week leave and he will return to Laos to complete his tour of duty there.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Young visited the Fred Wilson family in Charlotte during the weekend. Mrs. Wilson has

been very ill and is a patient in the hospital there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Greene of California are visiting Mrs. Greene's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Webb and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ayers, Mrs. Betty A. Bryant, Mike and Van Bryant visited Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Goings in Alabama during the weekend. Mrs. Goings is the former Miss Mary Helen Ayers.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. West and Donna spent the weekend in Andrews, N. C. visiting relatives.

Miss Cathy Greene, who is a student at Berea College, is visiting her parents, Mr.

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