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## Folk Ways and Folk Speech

of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA  
with Rogers Whitener

Send your suggestions for column material to Rogers Whitener, Box 376, Boone, N.C. 28607.

Christmas came early for me this year with two gifts which stirred memories of the past.

The first came in early fall when Florida friends, spending a brief vacation in Crossmore, invited me over for dinner and a talk session in front of a massive stone fireplace roaring and snapping from the flames of good oak logs.

When time came for the return trip to Boone, I was presented a shoe box tied neatly with a ribbon and asked to guess the

contents. A weighing and a shading brought no hint. But a whiff from under one edge of the lid brought an unmistakable smell—rich, resinous, "lighter pine" or "kindling wood," as we called it in my boyhood.

It immediately brought memories of boyhood woodcutting chores, of autumn bouts with rotting pine stumps, imprisoned axe blades, and occasional broken handles in attempting to get to the rich, solid heart of the stump. Then bringing the resinous sticks home to stack by the wood box behind the huge wood stove in the kitchen.

Before bedtime my mother would carefully lay the breakfast fire with crushed newspapers, bits of kindling, and pieces of "scantling"—bark covered saw boards from the outer surface of logs squared for lumber at the nearby log mill.

When daylight came, she would scurry to the stove, drop

a lighted kitchen match on the assembled material, and in a few moments the kitchen would be warm from the fiercely burning materials. And surrounded by all members of the household!

The second present came three weeks ago and with the fuel shortage, was even more welcome—a truckload of good oak and birch wood from a Valle Crucis friend. Stored "in the dry" it should serve my basement Franklin stove and upstairs fireplace for months to come.

Now if some good friend will just come forward with a third present—a good wood stove—surely my Christmas cup will run over!

## Air Force Report

U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Basil A. McDougald, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. McDougald of Route 5, Burnsville, N.C., has graduated from the Tactical Air Command Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Langley AFB, Virginia.

Sergeant McDougald, who received advanced military leadership and management training, is an aircraft systems technician at Shaw AFB, S.C. The sergeant is a 1965 graduate of East Yancey. His wife, Betty, is the daughter of Mrs. Dolly Boone, Micaville, N.C.

## Baxter Votes Rate Increase

The board of directors of Baxter Laboratories, Inc., today voted to increase the quarterly dividend rate on the company's common stock.

The board declared regular quarterly dividend No. 154 of 4.25 cents per share, making an annual rate of 17 cents per share. The recent annual rate has been 15 cents per share.

The new dividend is payable on December 31 to holders of record on December 13.

Early English criminals who were able to read the first verse of Psalm 11 were considered clergymen and freed with little punishment.

## Postal Rate Threatens Publications

(Cont'd from page 1)

ply cannot absorb. The Digest, for example, estimates that if the increases go through as planned they will raise its bill for second-class postage alone from the present \$7 million year to \$16 million! That's in addition to \$4 million increase in first-class postage.

Passing along these postal increases, along with increases for paper and other factors, could raise the price of a subscription from the present \$4.97

a year to \$6.97 by 1976. If other publications are forced to increase their prices in similar fashion, the result could be to create a magazine industry for the affluent only, the article says. "In other words, lower-income Americans, the very people who perhaps most need an inexpensive means of continuing education, are the main losers."

The article declares that magazines and newspapers are captive customers of the U.S.

Postal Service which is a legal monopoly. Even so, much of the work of sorting, bagging and shipping magazines is done by private trucks, rather than the Postal Service. But there's a catch: "At the end of each truck's journey, it must back up to a post-office ramp, where the bags are handed over to the Postal Service for the age-old give-it-to-the-mailman system of delivery."

For two centuries, it has been U.S. postal policy not to take unfair advantage of this monopoly. Following a policy first established by Benjamin Franklin, Congress has since 1782 granted rates which allowed magazines and newspapers to be mailed at less than cost, because these periodicals were considered an educational service to the nation.

In 1973, for all periodicals, this support amounted to \$190 million. "Few public policies have been more successful—or a better bargain," the article declares. For an annual charge of about a dollar per capita, the Post Office helps to maintain the health of newspapers and magazines, which together constitute our most powerful medium for the continuing education of citizens.

But under terms of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, the Postal Service is required by law to establish rates that by 1976 will make almost every class of mail pay its own way. Many who voted for the Act did so on the assumption that modern business techniques would help the Postal Service reduce costs and improve service, and that rates would not skyrocket. In the words of Rep. Olin Teague of Texas, "The assumption proved wrong." Instead, service remains substantially the same, costs are rising, and the Postal Service is demanding second-class rate increases that could soar 200 or 300 percent!

How can disaster be averted? The Digest recommends two steps: one immediate, the other long-range. First, it urges that Congress act favorably on a bill sponsored by Sen. Gale McGee (D., Wyo.) that would phase in the payment by magazines of their full postal costs over the next eight years instead of the next three. Rep. James Hanley (D., N.Y.), supports similar legislation.

For the longer range, the article declares: "Congress should take a hard look at its basic decision to make periodicals pay their full costs. For we don't see how anyone can logically defend a decision that is almost certain to kill off a large segment of one of this country's most fundamentally important institutions."

The article urges readers to write their Congressmen—and additionally Sen. McGee and Rep. Hanley.



Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Riddle

## 69th Wedding Anniversary

On December 23rd, Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Riddle of Burnsville and Asheville observed their 69th Wedding Anniversary at Chum's Cove Nursing Home in Asheville, N.C. Several members of their family were present. They were married December 23, 1904 at Cane River, N.C. Mr. Riddle was a prominent farmer and lumberman of Yancey County. They have eight surviving children: Mrs. Sadie Furr of Salisbury, N.C., Mrs. Frances Brinkley of Asheville, N.C., Charles of Roanoke, Va., Horace of Jacksonville, Florida, Vyron and John H. of Detroit, Michigan, Ben Riddle and Irene Hullett of Burnsville, N.C.

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