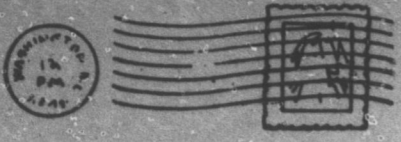


## Letter To The Editor



Dear Editor:

I would like to make this an "Open Letter" to Friends, Neighbors, Merchants, Churches and Organizations --

We wish to extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation to all those (too numerous to be individually named) who have contributed, donated and helped our son, Tommy, in so many ways to raise the necessary funds for his trip to South America under the auspices of the International Fellowship, Inc. of Buffalo, N. Y. The funds raised assured the success of the Exchange Student program for East Yancey High School, this being the first time this school has sent a local student overseas. We feel deeply honored, and proud, that Tommy was one of those chosen to participate in this program. As a young ambassador of the United States and Yancey County, we feel sure that his experience and learning will be most rewarding.

We are grateful also to those of East Yancey High School who have made this program available, for their "behind the scenes" work and efforts on the students' behalf.

Tommy left for Medellin, Colombia, South America on Monday. He will be there three months. Although we will miss him very much, it has been most heartwarming to us knowing that he takes so many good wishes from our friends -- the people of Burnsville.

Thank you,  
Mr. and Mrs. William Carr

## Selected As Semi-Finalist

The Society of Outstanding American High School Students has announced that Susan Wilson, Senior at East Yancey High School, has been selected as a semi-finalist in their special Scholarship Competition. Susan will be competing for a scholarship to Davidson College only with a select number of members in the society.

Davidson College has set aside \$10,000 for awarding at least five scholarships to Society semifinalists for 1974-75. Each Scholarship award will be based on financial need up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year. Scholarships will be renewed for three additional years if the scholar meets minimum renewal requirements.

Susan was selected as a semi-finalist due to the scholastic



Susan Wilson

leadership potential evidenced in the Student Registration form she submitted to The Society. Final eligibility will be determined by the college based on information she will return to them.

Susan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Wilson of Penicola. Her high school activities include: editor of the yearbook, Beta Club, FHA, Pep Club, and Literary Magazine staff.

## Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech

of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA  
with Rogers Whittener

Send your suggestions for column material to Rogers Whittener, Box 376, Bopar, N. C. 28607



One of the things writing a folk or fumm has caused me to do is to keep at least one eye peeled for items relating to the subject. Thus while browsing through a paperback section in a downtown drugstore recently, I was led to explore a rather provocative title: *A Day No Pigs Would Die*.

Language being what it is these days, I wasn't sure whether I would find a work dealing with the clash between long haired youth and the constabulary or a treatise on veterinary medicine. It was neither, but rather a fictionalized memory of a boy for his father and his youth on a Vermont mountain farm.

Robert Newton Peck's novel is scarcely long enough to be called a novel, but it succeeds mightily in imparting to the reader a sense of human values and relationships in a time when a rural youth had to learn that "twelve's a boy, thirteen a man."

But even though the story line and the father-son relationship are absorbing, it is not my intention to pursue these items. Rather, I should like to catalog some of the folk elements in the book, which evolve and sound as natural as those in the deep "hollers" of the southern Appalachians. Some are everyday expressions used by the son at home, at school, or on forays into the countryside.

... *sorry him good*--gain revenge on a fellow student for making sport of his homemade clothes  
... *got a purchase on*--got a good hold on the calf he was helping deliver  
... *beholding*--thankful for a neighbor's good turn  
... *mirthful*--strange  
... *conjur*--guess  
... *passel*--a goodly amount  
... *prickers*--briars  
... *tan to see*--amusing

Other examples have to do with the father's attempts to teach his son the practical knowledge he will need to carry on after he is gone--the natural learning necessary to manage the farm and get on with his neighbors.

"All living things put up a fence one way or another. A fence sets men together, not apart. A male robin fences off a piece of the woods before the female will come to him. His whistle is his fence. A fox walks around his land every day and wets on a tree here and on a rock there. That's his fence."

"You can't keep swine and kine under the same roof. Close pork will curdle milk."

"All I know is a sow hog will eat her brood if she's not fed right."

"Benjamin Tanner (the neighbor) will stand without hitching!"  
"One chore done good beats two done ragged."  
"Never miss a chance to keep your mouth shut."  
Finally, *The Day No Pigs Would Die*, reveals the father's homespun philosophy in his attempts to show his son that even the family of a man who makes his living killing pigs can be

called rich if a man can define his own terms.  
"Yes, we are (rich), Boy. We have one another to fend to, and this land to tend. And one day we'll own it outright. We have Solomon (his ox) here to wind up a capstan (in moving a corncrib) and help us haul our burdens. We have Daisy's hot milk. We get rain to wash up with, to get the grime off

us. We can look at sundown and see it all, so that it wets the eye and hastens the heart. We hear all the music that's in the wind, so much music it itches my foot to start tapping. Just like a fiddle."  
It's an old fashion philosophy but one which makes a lot of sense in our own times of frustration. I recommend *A Day No Pigs Would Die* on all counts.



Dr. Rokuske Shows Type Of Posters And Gimmicks England Uses To 'Think Metric'

## Switch To Metric System Is Forecast

The kilometer high campus. That's what people at Appalachian State University are predicting they'll be called in a decade.

It's metric talk. And if predictions are right, Americans are about to say goodbye to inches, feet, pounds and gallons, and enter the world of

meters, kilometers, grams and litres.

"We will inevitably go metric," Dr. Tom Rokuske, ASU assistant professor of physics, said. "It's a matter of convenience and practicality, because it will enable the U.S. to compete with more flexibility in the world trade market."

Most people who have learned the metric system--a decimal system based on ten-- say it is simpler.

Length is measured in meters. There are 10 millimeters in a centimeter, 100 centimeters in a meter and 1,000 meters in a kilometer. Weight or mass is measured in grams and liquid or volume is measured in litres.

## Dean's List

Mitzi Anita Presnell, Route 2, Burnsville, has been named to the Chancellor's List for the fall semester at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. To qualify for the Chancellor's List a student must have an overall "B" average with no grade lower than a "C".

## Academic Honors

Academic honors at Western Carolina University have been conferred upon Donald J. McQuade, Route 4, Burnsville, according to an announcement by Dr. J. Stuart Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Students on the dean's list must earn a quality point ratio of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 for a regular quarter's work of not less than 12 quarter hours.

## Many Familiar Items

Many familiar items are already metric: cameras, films, electricity, food products we export, olympic sports and pattern sizes.

Rokuske said industry is already making the change--one that will benefit us economically.

## One Reason American Cars

One reason American cars have not been popular around the world is because mechanics in metric countries are not equipped with tools to work on them," he said. Tools for working on engines designed under the metric system are different sizes.

## We Can Produce More Cars

"We can produce more cars, if we can export them," he said. "And this means more jobs. This is especially important now with car manufacturers not selling as many cars here."

## Ford Will Produce First American Metric-Made Engine

Ford will produce the first American metric-made engine this year. Many mechanics have already begun replacing worn wrenches and tools with metric sized ones.

## Students--from grade school to college--are already learning the system and are urged to think metric rather than just convert.

Prospective teachers at ASU are given special workshops on how to teach metrics.

## The Blue Ridge Parkway, under the U.S. Department of Interior, has announced signs will be replaced this year with give measurements in both kilometers and miles.

Home economists are planning ways to make the change easier for cooks. Recipes, measuring cups and spoons will all go metric. Grocery shoppers will probably find more products marked in both measures soon.

## Rokuske predicts a complete campaign to get the public talking metric will be started when Congress authorizes a Metric Conversion Board.

"It will be gradual. First, everything will be in both measures," Rokuske said. "It will be almost unconscious. But in 10 years we should be metric."

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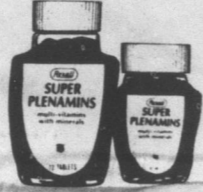
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## HEALTH NEWS

Your Rx Specialists:  
Charles Gillespie, Jr., Mike Eudy,  
and Ferril McCurry

### A "Gander" And A "Goose"

For those amateur doctors and self-diagnosis experts, let us remind you that what's good for the gander, especially when it comes to sharing or self-prescribing patent medicines, is not always good for the goose!

It is our policy to inform patients who have a prescription filled in our store to take their medication exactly as directed, never to give the medicine (or any other prescription, for that matter) to anyone other than for whom it was prescribed. Then, after the patient has completely recovered we advise him to



The above comments appear each week to air thoughts, opinions, and information we believe to be important to our friends and customers -- your comments are welcomed.

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