

Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech

of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA
with Rogers Whitener

Send your suggestions for column material to Rogers Whitener, Box 356, Boone, N.C. 28601.

Some weeks ago a letter from Edwin Judkins, of Bristol, Virginia, described the practice of horse-trading in early times on what were called "jockey lots." Another readers from this city writes that Bristol, too, had such a lot—sometimes filled with rather violent activity.

"Dear Mr. Whitener: Few if any members of the Bristol Herald Courier staff and, perhaps not even Mr. Judkins, may recall when Bristol had its own "Jockey (cq) Lot"

Back in the early twenties after the newspaper moved from Lee Street to its now former location, on Moor Street, the "Jockey Lot" was situated off what is now Winston's Alley and adjacent to the news building. It's now a parking lot.

Each Saturday, horse traders from throughout Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia would gather on the lot for the purpose of trading, swapping, selling or what-have-you.

There was excitement, argument, sometimes tempers flared and at least on one occasion there was violence.

Two of the traders started fighting and one shot the other and he died later in the hospital.

The Herald Courier had a fledgling and ambitious young reporter who was assigned to cover the story. He dutifully reported the incident in Sunday's paper and diligently followed up for Monday's edition.

After the man's death on Sunday it was recorded in Monday's edition that the man "was shot in the 'Jockey Lot' on Saturday and died the next day, which was Sunday." That's called "pin-pointing the time."

Incidentally, this neophyte went on to become one of Virginia's best-known police reporters.

Your column provides pleasant memories for a lot of us old-timers."

Recently Folk-Ways received a number of interesting items from Joseph D. Clark, a widely known folklorist who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. Since space is limited in this week's column, only a portion of his letter and one item from his material will be used, the rest to

be put in trust for a later installment.

"Dear Mr. Whitener: For more than a decade I have been conferring with Dr. Wayland D. Hand of UCLA about popular beliefs and superstitions, including items set forth on the enclosed sheets.

Since you have invited inquiries and contributions, I wonder if the material being sent might stimulate your readers to record their own observations, with time, place, results, and pictures.

Dr. Hand, who edited the last two volumes of the Brown Collection, has asked me to get pictures of folks pulling the sick through clefts, etc.

Pulling the Sick Through The Clefts of Trees, etc.

Sometimes folks resorted to pulling the sick through the clefts of trees or under bent-over bushes or brambles to rid them of their illnesses. For example, according to a statement by W. L. Laughinghouse as quoted in a letter, dated October 17, 1949 and written by John L. Gray, then assistant extension director at North

Carolina State University at Raleigh, a ruptured boy was pulled through the cleft of a large holly tree in the Olympia community of Pamlico County, North Carolina. The results of this pulling have never been verified. The holly in question, with its spine completely grown together, is huge and healthy. In 1956 it was certified as the largest holly in America by the American Forestry Association. Supplanted by another tree at a later time, the holly of Pamlico is now surrounded by an iron fence and protected by the State of North Carolina and its foresters."

Readers who know of this practice described by Mr. Clark are invited to write Folk-Ways. Information will be forwarded to his address in Raleigh.

My thanks also to Hattie L. Phoenix, of Waynesville, North Carolina, for sending clippings on the annual ramp festival held there in early May. Other readers interested in this edible plant might enjoy an article called "Right in Your Own Back Yard," by Lily Byrd McKee, appearing in the spring edition



Gail Proffitt Receives Nursing Degree

Miss Gail Proffitt of Franklin, N.C. was a Nurse's Training graduate on May 27 from Lenoir Rhyne College. She will start work June 24 at Duke Hospital in Durham.

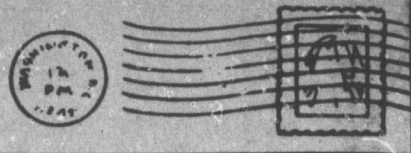
Gail is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Proffitt and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe King and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Proffitt of Burnsville.

Receives Degree

Danny Keith Roland was among the 640 graduates of Bob Jones University who received degrees March 29 in Greenville, South Carolina.

Danny received a Bachelor of Science degree, Cinema, School of Fine Art.

Letter To The Editor



Dear Editor:

We would like to have you print this letter which our Association sent to Honorable James E. Holshouser, Jr., Governor of North Carolina.

"We met last night about another matter and decided in the course of the meeting to write you, to tell you about a welcome change up here, one that speaks well for the future.

"For most of our lifetimes, for about twenty-five years anyway, we have every day seen flowing by us a muddy, poisoned North Toe River; however, of late, in the last few months, citizens have come to decide that this poisoning of the river must stop. Two thousand people in Mitchell County signed a petition to that effect—a large number for us here—and after a hearing in Asheville in March, hundreds of others expressed interest and wrote letters to Water and Air. Today on the streets one hears talk day by day, more about this subject than any other. It's the biggest issue we've had in a long while.

"As you know, we have no daily newspaper, no television station, no local newscasts on local radio station; our people watch and read news from and about Spartanburg, Greenville, Charlotte, Johnson City, Asheville, nearly all of which are remote from us. As a result, we did not have the benefit of news coverage. Nevertheless the problem was of such seriousness and so widespread that our fight gained wide public support without that coverage. Since the strength of our concern became known to the media, we have had such coverage and we are grateful for the even wider public support which will result from it. But, we want to emphasize we became a mass citizen movement without the advantage of media coverage, just as in the old days. How many people are part of it we cannot say, but surely many thousands are waiting in the coves, anxious to right this wrong.

"As yet there is little resentment of the mining companies. Some, but not so much. We are pleased about that. Thus far the feeling seems to be that we are the ones who have let them get away with it, and let them even get the idea that they have a natural right to kill this great river with sand and flourides and other poisons, floating a stinking, acidic mess by our roads and doors. Nobody on the streets or in the nearby homes seems to be patient about that any longer, and we are confident the North Toe will be reclassified C-trout—it was a trout stream in our youth and can be again, according to the State Wildlife people, and of even more consequence that the river can again be a source of community pride and of beauty for us to enjoy, and for the thousands of visitors who come here to this special part of the world. Governor, you come from Watauga County, and we hope you will help the people of Mitchell, who are moving now at last on a matter of great importance to us.

Sincerely,
Toe River Valley Improvement Assoc.
Harold Saylor, Secretary
A.D. Harrell, Chairman

Dear Editor:

On behalf of our volunteers and staff, the Board of Directors of the Blue Ridge Easter Seal Society wish to express its sincere appreciation to the wonderful people of Yancey County for their marvelous support of the recent Sing conducted for the benefit of the Society.

Giving from the heart, the good folks of your very fine community donated a total of \$501.88. It is by having such events that the public becomes aware of the needs of handicapped individuals and their families, and the ways Easter Seal can meet their unmet needs.

Your generosity will enable disabled youngsters and adults to enjoy two weeks at Camp Easter-in-the-Pines, to have purchased for them prescription shoes and braces, and to receive the loan of wheelchairs, crutches, and canes.

We especially want to say a word of thanks to Mr. Ed Ball who did such an excellent job of organizing and directing the Sing, and the singing groups who participated.

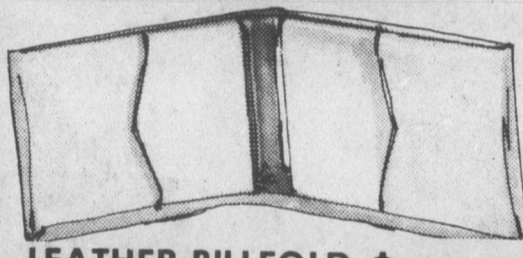
Most sincerely,
Dan B. Wortman, President
Blue Ridge Chapter, Lenoir

three cheeks for FATHER



Reg. \$23.99
\$16⁸⁸

AMITY FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL



LEATHER BILLFOLD
Reg. \$10.00
\$5⁹⁹

EVEREADY LANTERN



Reg. \$6.08
\$3⁷⁷

OLD SPICE New!



4 Oz.
Reg. \$3.75
\$2⁷⁷

SCHICK HOT LATHER MACHINE



Reg. \$19.95
\$14⁸⁸

FREE SHAVE LATHER



With HAI KARATE SHAVE LOTION
4 Oz.
Reg. \$1.75
\$1⁴⁹

NORELCO SHAVER



VIP-40 Reg. \$47.95
\$33⁸⁸



Reg. \$3.95
\$2⁷⁷

POLLARD'S Drug Store

Burnsville, N.C. Phone 682-2146

Pollard's Drug Store
Dial 682-2146 Burnsville, N.C.
AND OTHER PHARMACY COMMENTS

HEALTH NEWS

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

Dad's Secret

Psst! ... 'know a secret? ... Dad's gonna have his day soon, so get prepared to give him a really "cool" gift this Father's Day! Be original, different, daring. Try the unusual. We "betcha" Dad'll appreciate it!

Dad's children could simply startle the ol' boy by taking over his chores around the house for a week. Present him with a certificate establishing immediate "take-over" of household duties. He'll be tickled!

A wifely gift for "Dad" would be a cake, cookies, or a special meal. Of course, standard gifts are always



nice, and every year we have "neat" suggestions in our store. Just be sure to top it off with the right card.

And so, Dad, we hope these suggestions will help to make yours a Happy Father's Day!

Each week we present the above comments for your information. We very much appreciate your readership and would be especially happy to have you express your views regarding the contents of this space.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY



SPECIAL CITATION

SAMPLE

For patriotically responding to the U.S. Mint's June, 1974, appeal to American citizens to return the U.S. penny to circulation.



Mary Brooks
Director of the Mint

William E. Simon
Secretary of the Treasury

For every \$25.00 worth of pennies cashed at The Northwestern Bank, the Treasury and the Mint are prepared to issue the above Treasury Department certificate to the individual or group responsible.

THE NORTHWESTERN BANK

Member FDIC