

Fish Caught In South Toe

Lonas Murphy, of Arbuckle Road in Yancey County caught this fine speciman recently while fishing the South Toe River. The Brown Trout he proudly displays is $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds weight and measures $26\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

the Bible.

all present.

Max Gortney (nephew of Mrs.

Fox) brought a message from

and Mrs. Roy Laws of Green

Mountain, N.C.; Mrs. Ray

Briggs and daughter of Unicoi,

Tenn.; R. E. Harrison of

Bakersville, N.C.; Mrs. Martha

Miller and Mr. and Mrs.

Michael Caruso of Sellersville,

and fellowship was enjoyed by

A good time of reminiscing

Others attending were Mr.

Family Reunion

The family of Mrs. John R. Fox (Lizzie) and the late Mr. Fox met at the home Sunday, June 16 for a Reunion. There are 7 children, 27 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren in the family. Everyone was present except two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Luncheon was served buffet style on tables outside. There was an ample supply of delicious food prepared by members of the family.

After the meal, the Rev.



WASHINGTON—During the past few weeks, numerous newspapers around the country published a series of articles written by a syndicated columnist who had done a careful study of the Social Security System.

Perhaps many of you saw the series. I hope you read the articles carefully, because they contain information that every American ought to ponder



Many North Carolinians have mentioned the articles to me, either by correspondence or in personal conversations. One gentleman said, "Why hasn't somebody told us this before?"

UNSOUND—I am reluctant to say I-told-you-so, but, two years ago, this matter was one of the issues raised in my campaign for the U.S. Senate. Over a period of a dozen years, I had previously voiced warnings in many television and radio editorials that the Social Security System had been converted into a political football, and that it was in a perilously-unsound condition as a result of political tampering.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, when he signed the original Social Security legislation into law, warned that it would be folly to permit the Social Security System to be converted into a political mechanism. Yet, that is precisely what the Congress did with it. That is why it is now in such a financially-unsound condition

There is no money in the so-called "Social Security Trust Fund." All of your Social Security taxes are "borrowed" by the Federal Government to be spent on other programs. Therefore, the Social Security System, in effect, has only a file full of IOU's.

SOUND—I am for a sound Social Security System. In fact, I believe that retired people, who worked all their lives and paid their Social Security taxes out of every paycheck, deserve a far better break than they're getting. But I also agree with the newspaper columnist who candidly stated that the present system is a "fraud" on the retired people—but an even-worse burden on the young people just entering the work force.

I'm inclined to agree with frequent suggestions to the effect that it is time to consider whether it would not be a great deal fairer to everybody concerned if participation in Social Security were made optional. Let me emphasize, however, that I believe that every contract with every citizen now on Social Security must be fulfilled. But I do think there is merit in permitting young people to exercise their own judgment as to whether they want to participate in the program.

If they prefer to participate in some type of private retirement program in lieu of paying Social Security taxes all their lives, should they not be allowed to do so? They would be far better off when their working days are over, and they move into retirement. Of course, all of us who have to pay income taxes to cover the obligations already existing under the Social Security System, but at least the Federal Government would not be compounding forever the folly that has occurred during most of the past forty years.

HONEST—Mainly, what is needed most is that we be honest with ourselves, and with each other. We need to stop assuming that everything is all right with Social Security, when the plain facts are that it's in a mess.

For my part, I want to do everything possible to make sure that our elderly, retired people are cared for in the best possible way. On the other hand, I believe that our young people should not be burdened forever with the mistakes of their elders. There is a sensible way out of the present situation, and I hope that the Congress, next year, will face up to its duty to do what needs to be done to set things straight again.

It won't happen this year—too many people are running for election or re-election. But next year will be a time for a long-overdue decision.