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* The Bears And I
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Yancey Theatre
Burnsville, N.C.

Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech
of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA
with Rogers Whitener

Among the chores, duties, and honors that have come my way since starting Folk-Ways almost two years ago was being named a judge for the Brown-Hudson Folklore awards at Raleigh, North Carolina, during State Culture Week.

All three award winners turned out to be past or present western North Carolinians: Dr. Amos Abrams (now of Raleigh), former chairman of the Appalachian State University Department of English; Dr. Ben Washburn, a pioneer doctor in Rutherford County; and Edd and Nettie Presnell, craftsmen of Watauga County.

Doc Abrams is widely known for his own folklore collection and for his contribution to the Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore; Dr. Washburn is both a practicing physician and author; and Edd and Nettie Presnell are outstanding mountain craftsmen.

It has been my pleasure to know all of the award winners for a number of years, and it was my special privilege to write and deliver the citation for my across-the-mountain neighbors, the Presnells. It reads:

"Few people in this age know who they are and what they want to do. Edd and Nettie Presnell have known since their marriage 35 years ago. From that day they have been skilled and devoted mountain craftsmen, creators of graceful and often useful wood sculptures, ranging from tiny carved birds and animals to clear-toned mountain dulcimers. In a day of hasty and careless workmanship, their creations show a reverence for the medium and a sense of pride in the objects created.

Through the years their reputation has grown. No southern crafts fair or exposition is considered a success without the Presnells, and the Edd Presnell autograph on a dulcimer guarantees its recognition and value throughout the folk and musical world. Collectors, writers, photographers, and TV cameramen have beaten a path to the Presnell mountain abode and added to their fame through film and story.

Despite all the fuss and attention, the Presnells have maintained their essential modesty and dignity, along with the creative pride that has distinguished their craft throughout their married life.

Thus the North Carolina Folklore Society honors itself as well as the Presnells in presenting them a 1974 Brown-Hudson Award."

More power, praise, and endurance to the Abramses, Washburns, Presnells of the world who not only feel a



great pride in their cultural heritage but seek to preserve what is best of it for the future.

Please send all materials to: Rogers Whitener, Folk-Way and Folk-Speech, Box 376, University Station in Boone, N.C. 28608.

Farm-City Week Will Be Observed In Yancey

The date for Yancey County Farm City Week will coincide with the National Observance November 22-28, according to Ben Floyd, Ass't. Vice President, 1st Citizens Bank and Trust Company, who is serving as Yancey County Chairman.

An activity now underway is a search for outstanding persons in each of five categories: agriculture, business, industry, homemakers and youth. The Civic Clubs of Burnsville are participating by selecting recipients from the candidates and providing the plaques. Various agencies, groups, business, industry and organizations have been asked to submit candidates. Plaques will be presented on the Burnsville Town Square at noon Tuesday, November 26, 1974 (or at the Courthouse if the weather is bad). The public is invited to attend the ceremonies.

Farm City Week is an international observance aimed at promoting better understanding between farm and city residents.

This will be the twentieth annual observance of Farm City Week. Last year's observance, according to final reports received at national headquarters, involved the active participation of more than 15,000 communities in the United States and Canada.

Farm City Week is under the direction of the National Farm-City Council, Inc. The

non-profit organization is headed by its 1974 National Chairman Don Tuttle, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, State Office Building, Hartford, Conn.

WHEREAS the prosperity and well-being of this community are dependent upon cooperation between the two great elements of our society: farmers and urban people, and

WHEREAS the complexities of their individual problems and the divergence of their activities have led to a widening gulf of misunderstanding, and

WHEREAS this gulf of misunderstanding must be eliminated, and each group must understand the other if our American way of life is to endure, and

WHEREAS Farm-City Week provides an unparalleled opportunity for farm and city people to become acquainted,

I, THEREFORE, James A. Anglin, Mayor of the City of Burnsville, do hereby proclaim the period of November 22 through November 28 to be Farm-City Week; and I do further call upon all citizens of this community to participate to the limits of their capability in the joint visits, the seminars, the pageants, fairs, civic, and social events attendant to a successful Farm-City Week in Burnsville.

Done at the City of Burnsville, this the 18th day of November.

James A. Anglin, Mayor

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71¢

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Adult Education Class Set

Mayland Technical Institute will sponsor an Adult Education class at the South Toe Elementary School. The class, which began on Tuesday, November 19, will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Adult Education class is designed for adults 18 years of age and older. In this class a person may work toward the GED high school equivalency or upgrade his educational level.

Anyone desiring more information about the class should attend a session or call Wayne Phillips at 765-7644.



Mousekin's Golden House with story and pictures by Edna Miller, was read to 36 "little people" this past Monday and Tuesday at the Children's Hour programs held in the Yancey County Public Library. Following this story, the children were shown the film, "Anatole" written and illustrated by Eve Titus and adapted to the screen by Gene Detich. The Children's Hour concluded with the song, "Old Mother Hubbard."

Those children attending the programs were Pam Biggs, Nickie and Adam Fender, Melanie Woody, Paul Edwards, Barry Edwards, Sam Robertson, Angela Hudgins, Sherry Yelton, Melissa Yelton, Wanda Fox, Jeffrey Buchanan, Michelle McIntosh, Greg Moore, David Lane, Norma Elkins, Sonya Shade, Wanda Moss, David Harrison, Freddie Bean, Nancy Honeycutt, Eric Williamson, Jeff Sheehan, Tim Laws, Royce Chrisawn, Renee Cooper, Cary Turman, Scotty Cooper, Brandy Kaye Hemphill, Karen Maddox, Stephen Shortinghouse, Heather McIntosh, Joel Hughes, Traci Buckner, Alison Floyd and Christy Boone.

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Wildlife Afield
BY JIM DEAN

TWO PATHS TO MAYHEM

It isn't often, fortunately, that a hunter gets an opportunity to see a shotgun blow up. About a month ago, I watched as Wildlife Protectors and SBI agents deliberately destroyed about half a dozen guns. It was an education to say the least.

The officers had a court order to destroy some guns that had been confiscated mostly from night deer hunters who illegally shoot deer with the aid of powerful lights.

Most of the guns were shotguns. Some might have been pretty nice when new, but I doubt that any would have been considered collector's items.

We took the guns to an isolated area and rigged them behind shields so that they could be fired from a distance by pulling a string tied to the trigger.

SPECIAL METHODS USED

"There are lots of ways to destroy firearms," explained Lyle Morgan, a hunter safety officer for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, "but we're planning to use what's left of these guns in our safety clinics, so we're going to use some special methods."

Morgan opened the action on the 12-gauge double barrel and reached into his pocket for some shells.

"I'm going to show you why it's so dangerous to carry shotgun shells of more than one gauge," he said. He slipped a 20-gauge shell into the chamber in the right-hand barrel. The shell disappeared into the barrel.

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN

"If someone isn't watching what he's doing, he could accidentally put a 20-gauge shell into a 12-gauge shotgun when he started hunting," said Morgan. "Later, he might forget that he's loaded the gun. So he takes a 12-gauge shell out of his pocket and puts it into the same barrel."

Morgan slid a 12-gauge shell into the chamber behind the 20-gauge shell. It fit perfectly. There was no indication that the gun had two shells in the same barrel.

"Look what happens when our careless hunter takes his first shot of the day," said Morgan. We backed away from the loaded gun about 50 feet and he pulled the string. There was a loud explosion.

The right-hand barrel of that shotgun was split open like a peeled banana.

"What would have happened to our friend's hand if he'd shot that gun?" asked Morgan.

I gulped. Anyone holding that gun would have undoubtedly lost at least a hand. He might also have been blinded or perhaps killed.

ANOTHER WAY TO GET MAIMED

Wilton Pate, also a Wildlife Commission hunter safety officer showed me another way to get maimed.

"Let's say you're walking through the woods and you crawl under a fence or jump a ditch," he said. "And let's say you get a little mud in the end of your barrel and don't notice it."

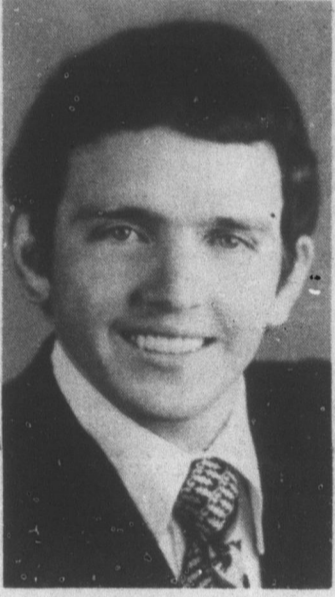
Pate jabbed the end of a single-barrel shotgun into the dirt. "Like this," he said. He then loaded the gun normally, and we stepped back while he pulled the string. Kablooy! The end of the gun barrel blossomed like a flower, and shards of metal slammed into the wooden shields we'd placed behind the gun.

"That would be an unpleasant surprise, wouldn't it?" asked Pate. "Have you ever gotten dirt or mud in the end of a barrel on any of your shotguns?"

I admitted that I had. I suppose most hunters have clogged the end of a gun barrel at one time or another. Fortunately, most of us have realized it in time. Some haven't, but you can always recognize them. They bleed a lot.

ABC = ALWAYS BE CAREFUL!

Always be careful you don't get any sort of obstruction in the end of your gun barrel. And if you're hunting with a 12-gauge shotgun, don't carry anything but 12-gauge shotgun shells.



Dr. Reese Steen

Dentist Opens Practice In Area

Dr. Reese A. Steen has opened an office in Mars Hill for the practice of dentistry. The office is located on South Main Street.

Dr. Steen is a 1973 graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, where he received graduating honors in the field of endodontics.

Being born in Rockingham, N.C., Dr. Steen is a lifetime native Tar Heel. He is married to the former Lynn Oliver of Fayetteville and they now reside in Mars Hill.

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Thank You

I wish to thank all the people of this county who supported and worked for me during the recent general election. I pledge to continue being a full time clerk and to operate the office of the Clerk Of Superior Court for all the people of this county. If I can ever be of any assistance to any individual please feel free to come in.

Clerk Of Superior Court
Arnold E. Higgins

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Yancey County who supported me in the November 5 election.

Thomas W. (Bill) Bailey

YANCEY COUNTY COUNTRY STORE

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