

Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech

of SOUTHERN APPALACHIA
with Rogers Whitener

Marshal Ward is a born story teller. Since the age of five the Watauga County native has entertained his family, friends, and swarms of visitors with tales passed down from grandfather, to father, to son.

Folk collectors are also frequently at his door, for because of his prodigious memory and his delight in retelling the old tales, many of the so-called "Jack Tales" and other traditional Appalachian stories remain alive today.

Among the favorite tales of the 68-year-old Harmon are ghost stories-tame enough by day but fearsome indeed told before an open fire in a mountain cabin on a long winter's night. Recently he recorded the following "jump tale" for Martha Hopper, an Appalachian State University student. The story is called "Maggie and the Ring", the "jump" identification coming from the story teller's adding a dramatic touch at the climax by "jumping" at his listeners.

"This story is about two sisters, Maggie and Lizzie. Maggie was a sweet girl and the younger of the two. Lizzie was spoiled and selfish. She felt that she should have everything that she wanted. When Maggie was about eighteen years old and Lizzie was about twenty, Maggie became engaged to John. Since Lizzie was the oldest, she was jealous because she felt that she should be married first. Lizzie was so angry that she wanted Maggie to die.

"A short time later, Maggie and John set the wedding date. Everyone in the village was happy for the couple except Lizzie who secretly wished Maggie would die. Maggie became ill and died a few weeks later. Before she died, however, John gave her a beautiful diamond ring. Lizzie was so jealous that she wanted to ring Maggie's neck. After Maggie's death she was buried with the ring still on her finger.

"Lizzie decided that John would have to fall in love with her, but John was grieving for Maggie. Two or three weeks later Lizzie decided to take the ring off Maggie's finger to make John notice her. Early one morning she went to the graveyard and dug up Maggie's grave. She opened Maggie's coffin and removed the ring. Lizzie put the ring on her finger and spent the remainder of the day covering up the coffin.

"Lizzie wore the ring to church the next day. Because John was still in mourning, he did not even see Lizzie.

"At about 10:00 that night when she was in bed, Lizzie heard the old front gate creak open. She heard something go 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' up the walk. Something went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' up the steps, and something went 'pitty-pat pitty-pat' on the porch and opened the front door with a loud creak. Something went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' straight to Lizzie's door and pecked and pecked on it.

"Lizzie was so scared that she pulled the covers over her head and shook like a leaf. Then that creature, whatever it was, turned around and went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to the front door and opened it with a loud creak. It went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' down the steps and 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' down the walk to the front gate which creaked loudly. 'Pitty-pat, pitty-pat' and away it went. Lizzie stayed awake all night wondering why the creature had come to her door.

"Lizzie did not tell anyone what had happened. The next night at about 10:00 she was in bed. Again she heard the old front gate creak, something went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to the front door. The 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' came up the steps, and the door creaked open and something went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to Lizzie's door and went 'peck, peck, peck' on it.

"Lizzie was more frightened than before. Then that thing turned around and went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to the front door which creaked open. It went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' down the steps and 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' down the walk. The old gate creaked open and 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' it went away. Lizzie couldn't sleep at all that night.



"The next morning Lizzie told her mother about the thing that had been coming up the walk, through the front door, to her room, and had pecked on her door for two nights.

"Lizzie said, 'What should I do, Mother? What can I do?' Her mother said, 'Let the creature come in and ask it what it wants.'

"Lizzie agreed to do it that very night. Lizzie was in bed at about 10:00 when she heard the old front gate creak. The thing went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' up the front walk, 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' up the front steps, and 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to the front door which creaked open. It went 'pitty-pat, pitty-pat' to her door and knocked loudly. Lizzie bravely yelled, 'Come in!'

"The thing came in and Lizzie demanded, 'What do you want?' The creature said 'I want Maggie's ring! I want Maggie's ring!' Lizzie said, 'Who's got it?' The thing yelled, 'You've got it!'

"Marshal Ward told this ghost story to me on November 7, 1974."

Readers are invited to send folk material to Rogers Whitener, Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech, Box 376, Boone, N.C. 28608.

Students On Deans List

Academic honors at Western Carolina University have been earned by Norris L. Dover, Wesley B. Hensley and Warren C. Webb, all of Burnsville, for the 1975 spring quarter, according to an announcement by Dr. Robert E. Stoltz, 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.



"Possibly the craziest... AND SOFTEST... JOB IN HISTORY WAS THE ONE HELD BY WILHELM THIEB, A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN BERNSENBURCK, GERMANY. NEVER REQUIRED TO LEAVE HIS BED, HE GOT PAID FOR LEAVING OUT OF A WINDOW EACH HOUR AND BLOWING HIS HORN!"

LEGAL NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA YANCEY COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

EXECUTORS NOTICE

Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Margaret Bailey of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Margaret Bailey to

present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 30 day of June, 1975.

Rotha Bailey, 43 Raleigh Rd., Asheville, N.C. 28803.
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 1975 pd

LEGAL NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA YANCEY COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA YANCEY COUNTY IN THE DISTRICT COURT

PRUDIE B. FOSTER, Plaintiff
v
LESTER FOSTER, Defendant

TO: LESTER FOSTER

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: An absolute divorce.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 29 July 1975 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This 10th June 1975.

G.D. Bailey, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 217, Burnsville, N.C. 28714. Phone 704/682-2183.

June 19, 26, July 3, 1975 ch

LEGAL NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA YANCEY COUNTY NOTICE

NOTICE OF OPEN SOLICITATION FOR PROGRAM OPERATORS IN THE DELIVERY OF MANPOWER SERVICES

On behalf of the Governor, who is Prime Sponsor for the Balance-Of-State (87 counties) in North Carolina, the Office of Manpower Services in the Department of Administration solicits program applications from all human service agencies for the operation of a Comprehensive Manpower Program. This program will be funded through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 as amended.

All applications (requests for proposals) must be submitted on the appropriate forms provided by the Office of Manpower Services. These forms will be available at Lead Regional Organization offices on Thursday, June 12, 1975. Sealed applications must be submitted to the LRO office and to the Office of Manpower Services no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 1975. In order to receive consideration, proposals must conform to specifications outlined in the approved regional manpower services plan. Awarding of contracts will begin June 27.

For additional information and assistance in completing program application forms, potential program operators may call: Office of Manpower Services, Room 331, Sir Walter Hotel Building, 400 Fayetteville Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 - Telephone 919/829-4930.

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