

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT and CLAY COUNTY
PROGRESS

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Rev. Faulkner Named Outstanding Rural Minister In North Carolina



REV. CLYDE FAULKNER gives a box of fresh vegetables from his "community garden" to Mrs. Arthur Penland



THE CORN IS GETTING HIGH in Rev. Faulkner's garden. North Carolina's Rural Minister of the Year examines an ear just pulled from the stalk.

(Editors Note: Rev. Faulkner has been named the outstanding Rural Minister of the Year in North Carolina by Progressive Farmer magazine and Emory University. He will receive the award at a banquet at Emory University tonight.)

By Mrs. Neal R. Kitchens HAYESVILLE-In the southwestern corner of North Carolina, there is a 30 mile-wide plateau which affords some of the most magnificent scenery in all the world. In the heart of this mountain region, Clay County is located. One of the smallest counties in the state, it is both benefited and hindered by its mountain geography. Much of its lands is in the National Forest, and a large area is covered by the waters of Lake Chatuge. Because of its location and because of its total rurality Clay can reveal in abundance most of the problems facing town and country people and churches in this day of changing society and population shifts.

In 1961 Rev. Clyde W. Faulkner came to this rural area. He is a native of Vance County who lived on a farm as a young man. He was such a vigorous farmer that he could plow down two mules in a day. He started the day early with one mule and by lunch time he had to have another one. He did everything a farmer does and with this rural background, he came as a natural into the lives of the people in Clay with a perfect understanding.

As one member said, "Rev. Faulkner has that rare gift of being a companion to a family as well as a minister. He realizes that first the physical and mental needs of a person must be met before the spiritual needs can be reached."

From the beginning his quiet ways brought respect and love not only from the members of his charge but all the people who know him. When he came to Clay County the Group Ministry was already established. The Group Ministry is a philosophy of Christian action, a pattern of "community" thinking and a program of cooperative service. Churches engaged in common programs find a feeling of solidarity and strength. Due to this program Rev. Faulkner became well known in the be-

ginning not only to his people on the charge, but he was able to cross charge lines and have a closer association and better understanding of all the people.

Many advantages are derived from this type of program. For instance, at conference a young bride's pastor was transferred to another church, not wanting a complete stranger to perform the ceremony she called Rev. Faulkner whom she said seemed as close as her pastor. The same thing has applied at funerals. To the average person things like these may seem insignificant; however to the individual there is a deep and lasting memory of occasions such as this. Rev. Faulkner realizes this. Last summer he cancelled his vacation plans in order to perform the wedding ceremony of one of his members. No one knew this until the couple had left on their honeymoon.

No doubt all ministers are dedicated to God's work. The life of Christ in whom Rev. Faulkner believes is exemplified in his day to day activities. He can deliver a message while laboring beside a man as well as from the pulpit. One member says "When our old barn had to be torn down Rev. Faulkner assisted us. During this close association he was able to win the confidence of our family and uplift Christ to us. We have had many family problems. Somehow he seems to sense our needs and comes. If problems are too complex, he realizes his ability and will not tread on ground if he is not sure.

His love for the soil has enabled him to help many people in this rural area. Having full knowledge of how flue-cured tobacco is grown in Eastern North Carolina he experimented with burley tobacco here. His purpose was to help farmers increase their income and thus enable them to have a higher standard of living. He has grown what is dubbed "the community garden". From his efforts many people stop by for fresh vegetables. If there is some one ill, or shut-in, he quietly slips baskets of fresh vegetables to the kitchen. He has picked black berries for members who were aged or ill. There is no task too high or low for him. The same applies to people. He has the rare gift of being able to reach the highest or lowest level whether it is discussing theology or helping a farmer cultivate tobacco.

Not only does he have the confidence of adults but is a close friend as well as minister to all youth. In addition to his church contact with this age group he has filled in as substitute teacher when a shortage developed at Hayesville High School. This has given him close contact with them. From the bleachers his presence and support in athletic events is felt by this group aside from many other activities he has helped to plan. He takes time out to hunt and fish with different age groups. The radiant look on his face draws people closer to him. It is down to earth ways of doing things that enables him to reach people and lead them to Christ.

Rev. Faulkner is Methodist. In order to understand other denominations and over-all problems he has participated in Clay County Ministerial Association and Tri-County Ministerial Association. This has made for a better relationship of all denominations. In some instances County problems have been worked as a group rather than each minister trying to pull his share of the load alone. When there is cooperation of ministers in any place there is a better over-all good accomplished. Clay being a rural area with approximately 90% of the high school graduates going to other places to enter college or to work, decreases the population yearly. The people depend to a large extent on the farms for their income. This has not daunted the spirit of Rev. Clyde W. Faulkner. He has gained members and has been able to maintain a good average even with this out migration and deaths of several members. Despite the fact that there is a low per capita income here Rev. Faulkner has led his people in a building program that has bonded them more closely together in a common cause, working for Christ. There are four churches on

his charge. When he came to Clay County there was a handful of members at Ogden church on the verge of closing the doors and giving up. A new brick building complete with new furnishings is almost finished. At Sweetwater a new brick building with new furnishings is complete. The old church was so cold that only a few members attended. The membership has increased almost to the point of being double since the new church was built. At Oak Forest construction is well underway on a new brick structure there. Hickory Stand was a wood building has been rock veneered, a new roof put on and the inside completely renovated. A new piano has been purchased. These churches are being built in keeping with the rural area. The people are more dedicated and have a fuller purpose in life with Rev. Faulkner as their leader.

The people have had cooperative programs to raise funds to help finance the churches. The men have labored, landscaping the grounds. The group is led by a man who can wield a hammer and screw driver installing pews along with the rest of them. When a chicken barbecue fund raising supper is being held Rev. Faulkner spends the day turning chickens at the pit along with the group. In 1965 he went to Puerto Rico with a group of ministers on a church building mission.

In 1965 he was honored in a weekly feature "Today's Neighbor" on Cherokee Scout and Clay Progress.

Rev. Clyde Faulkner could have gone to churches where his salary would have been much higher. Why has he stayed in Clay? Because he is a rural born man, back among rural people, helping them to accomplish goals they never realized were possible. He is a shining example of one who daily walks with the Master.



THE EISENHOWER BOYHOOD HOME and Museum in Abilene, Kans. was one of the places visited recently by Mr. and Mrs. Hoby Garrett, their two children and Harrell Garrett of Warne. They also visited "Old Abilene" - a section of the town rebuilt to resemble the way it looked when Wild Bill Hickok was marshal there. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett lived near Abilene in 1963.

Warne Upsets Truett Memorial

Warne topped Truett Memorial from the unbeaten ranks in the Clay County softball Association with an 8-6 victory Tuesday night. Myers Chapel is the only unbeaten team left and will attempt to keep the lead when they meet Truett Memorial Friday night. In a triple-header last Saturday, Lidseen, Inc. routed Shooting Creek, 36-6, Warne rolled over Old Shooting Creek, 31-12, and Mt. Pleasant beat Rescue Squad 13-1. Brasstown, which is still in the race with a 3-1 record, walloped Fires Creek, 36-8 Monday night and defeated Old Shooting Creek, 15-9 Tuesday night.

Mrs. E.A. Murray was carried to a Hiwassee, Ga. hospital Sunday.

Jim Long who has been at the Hiwassee hospital several weeks is still very sick.

Rev. and Mrs. Ned Owens and children were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cline E. McClure. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gregory of Clarksville, Ga. visited Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ashe, Sunday.

Mrs. Mae Hall of Canton, Ohio is spending a few weeks with her son and family the Ruel Halls and daughter, Mrs. Frank Berrong.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Swain visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swain and Mrs. Ben Swain at Gainesville, Sunday.

Porter Scroggs of Sylva spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Scroggs.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Guilford and granddaughter of Lakeland Fla., are spending their vacation in a cottage on Lake Chatuge.

SPARE TIME INCOME-Refilling and collecting money from NEW TYPE high quality coin operated dispensers in this area. No selling. To qualify you must have car, references, \$600 to \$1900 cash. Seven to twelve hours weekly can net excellent monthly income. More full time. For personal interview write P.O. BOX 4185, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15202. Include phone number. 51-1tp

Clay Republicans To Hold Barbecue

Clay County Republicans will hold a barbecue at the

Hayesville high school Saturday night beginning at 5 p.m. Scott Harvey, the party's nominee for the 11th District Congressional seat, will be the guest speaker. There will be a charge of \$1.50 per plate at the barbecue.

Adams-Payne Vows Said

Barbara Adams, daughter of Mrs. Frances Mason of Brasstown, N.C. and Lyman Leroy Payne, son of the late Lyman Leroy Payne and Mrs. Margaret Murphy of Macon, Ga., were united in marriage at Aiken, S.C., May 26th.

The bride was graduated from Hayesville high school and attended Young Harris College. The groom attended Macon School System and is now employed with Bob White of Murphy. The couple will reside in Brasstown.

Appalachia Grant For Library OK'd

Congressman Roy A. Taylor has announced that the Department of Commerce has approved an Appalachian Regional Commission grant of \$13,248 for the construction of the new library at Hayesville.

This grant supplements a \$50,752 grant by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and \$16,000 in local funds to construct the library facilities which will cost \$80,000.

The members of the First Methodist Church had a supper in the church dining room last Sunday evening to welcome the pastor, Rev. George B. Dalton and Mrs. Dalton back for their third year at Hayesville.

Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Ryder attended the Highland games and gathering of the Scottish Clans at Grandfather Mountain.

Grade A Whole

FRYERS 29¢ LB

USDA CHOICE **CHUCK ROAST 39¢ lb**

BACON Selecto Sliced 12 oz Pkg. **65¢**

Bologna 33¢ LB

S.M.A. Case of 24 **Infants Formula 6.29**

W/5.00 Order **Purex Bleach 39¢**

TEA Tetley 1/4 lb Box 2 For **49¢**

CATSUP 2 For **39¢**

10 oz Jar **1.19**

Hunts PEACH HALVES #2 1/2 Can.....29¢

Royal Gelatin DESSERT 10 For.....99¢

FLOUR 25 lb Gingham Girl **1.98**

Colonial Brand **SUGAR** 5 lb Bag w/ Order **49¢**

Gordy **SALT** Round Can 2 For **19¢**

N.B.C. Premium **CRACKERS** 1 lb Box **35¢**

Lays **POTATO CHIPS** Twin Pack **59¢**

SAL HEPATICA Reg. Size **39¢** Large Size **87¢**

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"Get more gallop per gallon with Phillips 66 gasolines"

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Partner, in the wide open spaces or in town, you're sure to go when you get Phillips 66 gasolines. You'll get famous first-class service, too, when you drive in a Phillips 66 station. Stop for the gasoline that won the west and get the western hospitality that's famous in 47 states.

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