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**Cus's Corner** By Bagley

### Chuckles, Maybe?

People are funny. Oh, I know that has been said many times before by folks of consequence and importance. And now it's been said by someone of no consequence at all.

Yeah, they're funny, unusual, unique and, well, to tell you the truth, I just don't know what we would do without em.

And that brings up a thought. Did you ever stop to think what a lonesome place this old world would be without people?

One thing for certain, if there weren't any, like Brother Dave Gardner said those of us who hadn't made friends with animals or trees would sure be in trouble.

Talking about making friends with animals reminds me of what Dr. Hugh Matthews, of Canton, N.C., said. I was at a State of Franklin Health Council meeting not long ago. He was up in front of us talking about some phase of our mutual medical problems in this part of the state.

He prefaced his remarks with the following: "I was reared on a big farm where we raised a lotta hogs."

"After doctoring and doing a heckuva lot of surgery on them I decided that I had rather doctor people."

"So, I studied medicine. Then, after I began doctoring and doing surgery on people I wished that I had stayed with the hogs."

Now, don't get the wrong idea about Doc Matthews. He likes people, too. "Course I'm not sure whether he thinks more of us than he does of the hogs. But, at least, he is still doctoring on us. And, I'm sure glad."

Another thing he said--well, actually he always says a right smart. "Course, I understand mighty little of what these doctors say at these meetings. And, tell you the truth, none of em realize that there is such an ignoramus as I am in the crowd."

If any of you have been attending these meetings happen to read this I sure hope you won't say a word to Doc Matthews or Doc Killian about my ignorance.

First of all, they'll find it out soon enough, and, for the time being, what they don't know won't hurt em.

The way I've been able to keep all these State of Franklin people in the dark about the shape I'm in upstairs is by keeping my mouth shut at these get-togethers.

A lotta other people keep their shut, too, but for different reasons than mine.

I learned a long time ago that it's a lot better to keep my mouth shut and, maybe, have people wonder if I'm off my rocker than to open it and remove all doubt.

But back to this other thing Doc Matthews said. He was talking about growing up during the great depression. He commented, "A lotta people talk about the tough times, and all, that existed midst the depression. But it didn't bother me or my family any a tall. No sir, You see, we

were already depressed."

There is just one exception to this rule of keeping my mouth shut. That is, I am always ready to second the motion--any motion. Especially those to adjourn, refreshments, or to the restroom.

I think that I'll talk to Doc Matthews and maybe Doc Killian, and some of the other ramrods and see if I can't get appointed as chairman of the Committee of Motion Seconds. We've already got committees on everything else but that.

Before I go: John and Kathy Boyle spent a weekend with us a while back. You remember em--Ricky's friends.

John is the mathematical whiz kid who has never won a game of scrabble from my BW.

Anyway, John told about going to the apartment of a friend of his. He rang the doorbell and his friend's little seven-year old girl answered.

John asked, "where's your old man?"

The youngster bristled and replied, "My daddy is not OLD."

"Oh yes, he is. Anybody who is 28 is OLD," John said.

Then she began slugging him in the mid-section.

He laughed and said, "Why you can't hurt me. They don't call me SUPER JOHN for nothing you know."

Suddenly she stopped her assault and asked delightedly, "You mean you are a FLYING COMMODE?"

### Deed Transfers

Willis Zera Bobo to William N. and Barbara J. Hughes, property in Murphy.

Clyde and Emmer Cornwell to James and Willas Mae Palmer, property in Murphy.

Luther and Elsie Dillard to James A. Mayfield, property in Cherokee County.

Ettie Haigler to John H. and Mary Haigler, property in Cherokee County.

Ralph and Ruby Kephart to Lewis and Frances Dockery property in Murphy.

Lawrence and Orna Morgan to Bobby E. and Vyuta C. English, property in Murphy.

A. H. and Mattie Stalcup to Ernest Paul and Norma S. Morris, property in Murphy Township.

Olen and Elsie Taylor to Elmer and Jo Taylor property in Murphy.

Wallace and Dorothy C. Williams to Donald W. and Jane R. Ramsey, property in Murphy.

Taylor Warren to Claude M. and Pauline Anderson, property in Cherokee County.

David Max and Leila Young to Boyd Orland and Janet West property in Valleystown.



Complete Training Course

Bill Clontz (left) and Ben Beaver (center), combinationmen for Westco Telephone and Western Carolina Telephone Company, respectively, recently finished a three-week training course in the fundamentals of "key telephone systems" at the Central Western Training School in Victorville, California. Outside plant instructor, Bill Meyers, is shown giving the men a few pointers in the basic fundamentals of the telephone. Clontz is from Marion and Beaver is from Murphy. James Armstrong, president of the company, reports that 18 men have been in formal training schools since November 1 to improve the technical skills of plant personnel. Thirteen installer-repairmen, two cable splicers, and one line-man have been trained in the D. O. Creasman Plant Training School in Candler, N. C., he said. Among the central office maintenance personnel, Armstrong said, a total of three technicians have returned from Private Branch Exchange Manufacturers School in Charlottesville, Virginia. An extensive training program has been scheduled for the balance of 1968, he added.

### The Unfortunate Unuse Of Nature

By Dave Bruce

The frustration that we in Western North Carolina feel over recent actions vetoing the Transmountain Road from Bryson City to Townsend, Tenn. and the rejection of a plan to four-lane US 441 over the Great Smokies is felt elsewhere in the country by others who are concerned about the trend toward pleasing the pressure groups and ignoring the common good of the general public.

Last week, the Knoxville News Sentinel carried a column written by George Carmack, editor of the Albuquerque Tribune, entitled "Nature is For Using".

I hurriedly glanced at the column in my copy of the paper, but didn't grasp it fully until one of our readers Kimsey H. Hamby of Oak Ridge, Tenn. sent the clipping and a note that said he is a regular reader of this paper and is familiar with my "reasonable stand on roads through the wilderness areas."

Carmack's comments are worth reporting here because they apply to the battle reasonable people in western North Carolina are forced to fight with the conservation groups and the Federal government.

"It's time someone had at least a feeble word to say about making some of nature's wonders available to people," he said.

That's one of the points I have consistently made about the desirability of the Trans-

mountain Road.

Carmack says: "Not every road into a forest is bad."

"A scenic overlook on a mountain highway is not necessarily the work of the devil."

"It's not exactly criminal to cut a limb or two off a nondescript tree that blocks a million-dollar view."

He mentions some of the wonders of nature in America and says we should be able to get to these places without "as much preparation as it would take to go on a safari in Africa."

Carmack makes the pressure groups look as ridiculous as they really are when he says "simply say 'road' or 'highway' or 'trail' or 'dam' to them and they forthwith haul out a petition."

Sounds silly, but it's true. He touches on the complaints that our national parks are becoming overcrowded and are developing a carnival atmosphere and then points out that "one reason might be that there simply are not enough lonely, beautiful places that can be reached."

That's true nationwide and it is true here in our western North Carolina mountains.

I agree with the title of Carmack's column, "Nature is For Using".

It is unfortunate that most people are deprived of using and enjoying the natural beauties of our mountains.

The reason for it is even more unfortunate.

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