



Full Canning House

Mr. and Mrs. Rans Queen, who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve, pose against the bountiful harvest sealed in their canning house. They live in the Slow Creek section, between Marble and Peachtree. (Staff Photo)

County Welfare Recipients In Clay And Cherokee Will Have Checks Slashed

Financial assistance checks for families on welfare in Cherokee and Clay counties will be cut back beginning in January, as they will throughout the state.

According to V. O. Ayers, head of the Cherokee County Social Services (formerly

Welfare) Department, and Alvin Penland, director in Clay County, the cut will hit hardest the families with dependent children.

The cut in checks for the elderly will only be about \$2 or \$3 a month, the officials say, but for some families with

dependent children the cut may be as much as \$20 a month.

The cut, Ayers explains, is due to the fact that the last Legislature did not allocate enough funds and the number of families with dependent children has greatly increased.

Rather than continue to pay the full amount to those families eligible as long as they could and then have no money at all to pay out in the last two months of the fiscal year, Ayers said state welfare officials decided to cut back to paying 80 percent of the normal check.

This way, he said, families on welfare will continue to get a check, admittedly smaller, but there will be no month in which they would have to get by without a check. The situation can't be remedied, he added, until the state finds some more money for Social Services.

Actually welfare checks were supposed to increase Jan. 1, Ayers said. Federal amendments to the basic Social Security Act were approved in 1967, requiring all states to raise the budget tables on which they determine how much a recipient will receive. These tables have not been adjusted to reflect cost-of-living rises, he said, since 1952.

The N. C. Legislature, Ayers said, approved in principle the updating of the budget table but failed to appropriate the money for it. Without the money, the checks cannot be increased.

"It's a paradox," he said. "The Legislature did approve implementation of the amendments but voted no funds for it. The county is forced to pay its share - there must be some way in which the state can be made to come up with the necessary funds."

There are 535 families on welfare in Cherokee and 310 in Clay.

State officials say the increase in families with dependent children seeking aid has been drastic. When the state budget was approved early this year, there were 106,000 families in the state receiving assistance checks for dependent children.

The number has reached a high in 1963 but since then had been going down. State Social Services officials figured that enough money for a possible 107,000 would be sufficient, put it in their budget and it was approved by the legislators.

Ayers says several movements, including civil rights drives, have in other parts of the state succeeded in obtaining welfare help for families which have lived in the state all along but had not signed up for aid.

The increase has brought the number of families with dependent children to 124,000 in November - with money enough for only 107,000 through the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971.



Wins Television Set

Miss Janice English, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett English, was the happy winner last week of the television set given away by the Business and Professional Women's

Club. Money raised by the project goes for two \$400 college scholarships given by the club each year to two qualified girls graduating from Cherokee County schools. (Staff Photo)

Woman Charged With Murder

Two women once described as "the best of friends" tangled the day before Christmas in a Pleasant Valley trailer park - one was buried last Saturday, the other faces a murder charge.

Mrs. Fannie Ramsey is charged with murder in the shooting death last Wednesday of her neighbor, Mrs. Pauline Roberts. Mrs. Ramsey is free on \$10,000 bond for a preliminary hearing in District Court here on Jan. 12.

The shooting happened inside Mrs. Ramsey's trailer, according to Cherokee County Chief Deputy Glenn Holloway, who investigated the slaying along with Cherokee Sheriff Claude Anderson and State Bureau of Investigation agent James Maxey of Bryson City.

Chief Deputy Holloway quoted Mrs. Ramsey as saying the other woman came to her trailer, accused her of stealing a watch and demanded it be returned. Mrs. Ramsey said she knew nothing of the watch, according to the officers, and she said then the other woman assaulted her, breaking her glasses, her lower teeth and bloodying her nose.

Mrs. Ramsey told the officers that Mrs. Roberts, 57, left the Ramsey trailer only to return a short while later and renew the assault. Mrs. Ramsey told the officers she then went to her bedroom, picked up the .38-caliber pistol from a nightstand, returned and shot her assailant through the neck. There were no witnesses.

"They had been the best of friends," Chief Deputy Holloway said. "They had gone to church together and shopping together. Mrs. Ramsey called the Sheriff's office and said she was afraid she had killed her."

He added that a watch Mrs. Ramsey had in her pocketbook

when she was arrested was not the watch sought by the dead woman.

Services for Mrs. Roberts were held Saturday at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Townson Funeral Home here.

The Rev. Woodrow Flynn officiated and burial was in Sunset Cemetery. Nephews were pallbearers.

Surviving are the husband, Cecil Roberts; two daughters, Mrs. Jerry Lee Barrett of Rockville, Md., and Mrs. Caroline Erma Logie of New Mexico, a brother, Tom Taylor of Murphy; and two grandchildren.

Burglar Gets Rifles

Gets Rifles

Two high-powered rifles were stolen sometime over the weekend in a break-in at the Dickey Oil Company office.

Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup said entrance was gained to the office by breaking out a window and the thief took a .35 Remington lever-action rifle and a .30-30 Winchester. Both rifles were nearly new, he added, and were in cases.

The company safe was untouched, the officer said, and even desk drawers had not been disturbed.

Allen Faces Charges

Cherokee County deputies and a federal officer raided a still in the Violet section on Saturday, making moonshine charges against Wilfred Allen.

Allen, about 50 years old, is scheduled for a hearing in federal court in Bryson City on Jan. 13.

Officers who made the arrest were Cherokee Chief Deputy Glenn Holloway, Deputy Lesard Radford and federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division agent Don Flemmons of Bryson City.

The officers seized the 60-gallon still and a small amount of illegal liquor at the still site, which they said was near Allen's home.

Lewis Green's AND SCATTER THE PROUD

Reporter Writes 'Masterful' First Novel

A Review AND SCATTER THE PROUD, a novel by Lewis W. Green. Published Nov. 29 by John F. Blair of Winston-Salem, 447 pages, \$6.95.

Lewis Green, a good old Haywood County boy turned Big City newspaper reporter, has done himself proud with a masterful first novel set in his beloved mountains.

Like the patterns used by Appalachian weavers, Green's story is cleverly told and the whole is not revealed until the last. There is a murky hint here and a shadowy clue there, the suspense grows but not until the end do all the lines fall into place.

The action centers on Big Lonesome, a towering peak along the Blue Ridge Parkway within driving distance of Asheville. The mountain is the warp, the base on which Green weaves his story. Its beginnings are lost in smoky Creation; it has a life and presence and power of its own; its end is beyond sight and time in the far reaches of Eternity.

The characters are brightly-colored pieces of string and yarn, their lives woven in with each other and the mountain forever on that one fateful night when all the lines in the pattern come together.

One of the players is particularly well-formed, the

alcoholic insurance salesman Houston Conard, formerly a country youth, now an Asheville resident. The author himself came to Asheville after service in the Korean War and worked at a variety of jobs before landing on the staff of the Asheville Citizen in 1961—his account of Houston Conard's transition is as sharp and clean-lined as the Zeb Vance shaft on Pack Square.

...customers were largely country men, and Houston knew their very souls. His ambition charged forward at full speed, unbridled in inhibition...Houston had their number—knew that they needed some flashy bit of showmanship with their

purchases...some down-to-earth talk in their slow, lingering idiom about weather, crops and the crooked conniving courthouse ring that was taking them all down the road to the poorhouse."

The lengthy last part of the book is a story complete in itself and its relationship to the other parts is not revealed until the final pages. It is a colorful, authentic, haunting portrait of a way of life now almost past in the Western North Carolina mountains.

Clemmons Jenkins, hewn from the granite and hickory of Big Lonesome, stalks through the pages with the power of the legendary backwoodsmen of another era.

His final task on the mountain is the locknot which reveals the story and at the same time holds it together.

Few novels are written about this region, fewer still are written by men with the skill and firsthand knowledge Green displays. His book is well worth reading. It will be appreciated both by those who would know about these mountains and those who already know.

It's on sale at Asheville book stores or can be purchased mail-order with a small fee for handling from Tolson's in Waynesville.

—Wally Ayers

Slow Creek Couple Marks 67th Wedding Anniversary

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

It was Christmas Eve, 1902, when Rans Queen rode horseback through the Slow Creek section of Cherokee County - "Boys, it was muddy!" - to the home of Nora Huskin, where they would marry.

He was 18, she was a year younger. His friends and kin rode with him and he led a horse for his bride. Uncle Billy Baker, "a preacher and a kind of a doctor," was waiting to perform the ceremony.

The 20th Century was just two years old on their wedding day - two bicycle mechanics in Ohio were yet to make man's first powered flight, Henry Ford was yet to put America on wheels, world wars, Hitler, the Depression, credit cards, color television and moon-walking were all in the distant future.

The Queens celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary quietly on Christmas Eve last week. Snow and ice prevented their children and grandchildren from coming in and on Christmas Day there was just the two of them, married longer than many lifetimes, 17 years past the magic Golden Anniversary.

"The license cost three dollars," Mrs. Queen, now 84 recalls, and they gave Uncle Billy Baker \$2 for performing the ceremony. After the wedding, the whole party rode horseback back through the mud the mile to the groom's house for a big Christmas supper.

The next day they rode back to the Huskin house and ate well again. But as they reared seven children in the years to come, the fare for the table didn't always come so easy. There were several bank panics in those early years, work was hard to find and, of course, there was the Depression of the early '30's.

"We got up agin it one time," Queen, now 85, remembers. "I was a-plowing and she come to me and said there's not a scrap of bread in the house. I didn't have a cent."

"I unhitched the horse and said 'I'm going to Marble to get it. I meant to get a sack of flour one way or another - if I had to, I was just going to take it and if they had to shoot me, they'd just have to shoot. I couldn't stand to hear the young'uns crying for something to eat."

"On the way to Marble, I met my daddy on a wagon. He had two sacks of flour. He saved us that time - he gave us a sack of flour and somehow we made it after that."

In 67 years of married life, rearing the children was the biggest task, they say. "But we got'em all raised and none of them can ever say they went hungry. The Lord's been good to us."

Perhaps as a result of the lean years, the Queens have now stored up a great quantity of food in their freezer and an outside canning house. "I bet we've got enough food to last for five years," Mrs. Queen says.

Both of them are still active, although they admit to being a little slower due to age and arthritis. Queen looks after 14 laying hens and has a garden each year. "Land's already broken up for next year," she says proudly.

There are 37 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

The oldest boy was killed in France during World War II. The other son, Vernon Queen, lives with his wife and children in Blue Ridge, Ga.

Two of the girls are dead, the other three are married and have children - Mrs. Annette Barnette of Peachtree, Mrs. Lucy Rogers of Marble and Mrs. Edith Lynch of Kings Mountain.

High Speed Chase Ends Here

An auto being pursued by a McCaysville, Ga., police car entered Murphy at over 100 miles per hour Sunday night, the two vehicles colliding in front of the Post Office here.

Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup said his men arrested the four people in the Georgia

car after the accident and they were tried in District Court here Monday before Judge Robert Leatherwood, III.

No one was hurt in the 11 p.m. accident and the Georgia officers will press their own charges.

The driver of the car,

23-year-old Gene David Hall, was sentenced to six months for driving drunk and six months for speeding. He appealed to Superior Court.

His companion, Carl Trammell, was sentenced to 10 days for public drunkenness. He also appealed.

Their wives were charged with interfering with the Murphy officers who made the arrests and Judge Leatherwood gave each of them 90 days, suspended if they paid costs of court Monday and were out of North Carolina by 2 p.m.

The Georgia officers said they began to chase Hall's 1966 Ford in McCaysville, followed him at high speeds through a corner of Tennessee and then into North Carolina, headed toward Murphy. They estimated his speed as he approached the town at 105 m.p.h.

The speed of the two cars was decreased as they entered Murphy and a witness said Hall cut across the path of the police car in front of the Murphy Post Office. The collision resulted in \$500 damages to Hall's car and about \$200 in estimated damages to the McCaysville police car, a 1969 Pontiac.

Charles Taylor To Speak Here

Representative Charles Taylor of Brevard, House Minority Leader in the state Legislature, will speak in the courtroom of the Cherokee County Courthouse on Jan. 6.

The young Republican lawmaker, who represents the 48th District in the state House, will speak at 7:30 p.m. He will be addressing the newly-organized Cherokee County Young Republicans Club but club officials say the public is invited to attend.

Some of the committee Taylor serves on are Appropriations, Insurance, Public Welfare, Public Utilities, Wildlife and Judiciary.



Rep. Charles Taylor