

# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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## LET'S ORGANIZE FOR HOME BUILDING . . .

One or two instances have been reported of property owners upping rental and sales values of property. They are influenced to take this course probably by the expected increasing demand for housing in this area. They have a mistaken idea of the advantage to them in getting "theirs" first. It will not work out that way, unless of course, such persons expect to make a fast, fat profit and leave the community. For if they remain here, and very many others hike rental and sales prices unreasonably, other areas in the Valley will benefit much more by increased population. Black Mountain and any other community which attempts any wholesale high hike procedures in real estate would simply die on the vine. Residents hereabouts with a memory will recall an example of this drive-away policy with Black Mountain the beneficiary.

Let's not dig our grave. Let's build for the future by building fairly with justice to buyer or renter as well as to the seller.

WE ALL DON'T WANT TO GET LABELED BY THE ACTIONS OF A FEW. Let the citizens with weight in the community exert their influence to keep miserly hysteria out of our civic behavior pattern.

Of course the step to be taken as early as possible could be a loosely knit organization of contractors and persons with building money. They could survey existing available properties and make a reasonable estimate of new demand. They could plan jointly the erection of homes in such number as to keep a step or two ahead of demand. They could control at the same time the type of construction of homes. They could largely forestall construction of firetraps, the use of substandard materials, gyp deals, and other forms of dishonest practice in home building. They could assure newcomers, most of them unversed in home values, honest value for their money.

Let's find a way to organize to meet this coming demand so as to reflect credit on the community and further strengthen its reputation for advancing the good of the individual by collective action for the benefit of all.

## BE A LETTER-WRITER TO THE EDITOR . . .

Now, now, don't let that head make you shiver in negation. We know lots of folks would rather die, intellectually speaking, than be thought so naked as to put innermost thoughts, biased of course they assume, in the public eye.

Maybe that's excusable in regard to the expression of opinion on many subjects. But we would like to appeal to you, dear reader, to make an exception in respect to the multitude of problems suddenly facing all of us in the Swannanoa Valley.

The solution of many of the problems affecting the general welfare and civic development will stem from individual thinking and personal initiative examined and approved and put into being by collective action.

That is, first individual thinking and suggestions for action; and second, organization and action. In respect to the first stage, the NEWS would offer to act as a clearing house for ideas. Readers, write us a letter expressing any ideas you would like to see put to use in advancing the general welfare or civic development, or, for that matter, on any other subject you feel strongly about. We would make selections from such letters for publication from time to time as space permitted, with your name, or without it if you requested us to withhold it.

Ideas have been the source of all progress every-

where. Every achievement has started with an idea. You may have a key idea later found to be of inestimable value. Why not write a letter to the editor? We feel very sure that the forward looking leadership elements in our community will be on the lookout for good ideas.

Let's start the civic progress ball rolling. You can give it a push, maybe, by writing a letter to the editor.

## GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

Mythical secretary reports minutes of a recent meeting of one of our leading organizations as follows:

Presiding Officer: Well, what have we got to go into tonight? The chief officer isn't here, so I guess I'll have to sit in this time. Let's see, does anybody know of anything? By the way, did you know so and so took a trip down to—by—?

From a member: He did? Well, wasn't that fine! Good deal!

P. O.: Well, let's see, not all our members are paid up. (Follows a half hour discussion on dues collecting.)

Mythical secretary: Meeting then adjourned; nothing accomplished, no real action taken, nothing of importance discussed.

If the shoe fits, why not one of those New Year's resolutions to the effect that every meeting must see at least one substantial forward action taken consistent with your organization's objectives?



Anyone? — Belief that North Carolina will support President Harry Truman or anyone he chooses to succeed him was voiced last week by Governor Kerr Scott. He thinks the Old North State will carry the ball for the Democratic party, come what may, because the Democrats have provided "higher prices for cotton and tobacco" and have brought other benefits to this area.

Scott may be right, but it makes for a sad commentary when we admit that we care little what goes on in government so long as we receive benefits therefrom.

As someone said the other day: We don't see any harm in letting children believe in Santa Claus. But more of them ought to be told the facts before they reach voting age.

At Home — A lot of Wake Forest college folks are enjoying a retelling of a Lamar Caudle incident which occurred two, three years ago.

About 11:30 one night before a Wake Forest - Georgetown game to be played the next day, the telephone of Wake Forest's president, Thurman D. Kitchen, set in to ringing.

It was Washington calling. Assistant Attorney General T. Lamar Caudle, Wake alumnus, was calling. He said he wanted to bring some officials of Georgetown down for the game and asked President Kitchen to have them for dinner, entertainment, etc., and to take them to the game. Mrs. Kitchen, who has not been in good health for years, was ill at that time. It was late. Kitchen, in his usual smooth manner, refused. But Caudle was not to be outdone.

The next afternoon after the game one of Caudle's casual friends and wife returned from the game, went into their home. There was Caudle and one or two officials of Georgetown draped about in chairs making themselves completely at home. The story is that the refrigerator had been thoroughly raided, and evidence showed the visitors had been having a gay old time. They were resting in sodden comfort when found along about dusk on an autumn Saturday afternoon.

By Feb. 15 — A lot of appointee Democrats in Washington and elsewhere are scared to death of U. S. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath because of his connections in all sections of the United States. This is the information coming to us from pretty close to the White House. However, we also received a tip last week that McGrath is scheduled to move out "not later than February 15." We'll see.

Aftermath — State college of-

iseum are tremendous. Promotion is necessary. Crowds, noise, traffic congestion, excitement, entertainment — hullabaloo — where young men are attending school, presumably to find quiet and an atmosphere for concentration and study. These parts of the picture don't fit together.

The state is now constructing a new entrance to the Coliseum area. This will permit the thousands of visitors attending shows on the campus to go and come without serious interference with the normal pursuits of the students.

Well Off — Representatives of the Southern Conference, meeting in Richmond last week, found that the organization is at least in good financial condition, thanks largely to the Coliseum. Its assets now run over \$110,000, with the Southern Basketball Tournament held in the Coliseum last spring accounting for \$42,700 of this.

Selling — The Distributive Education Service of the State Department of Education is working with merchants on a series of sales clinics in the smaller cities.

T. Carl Brown, native of Statesville, who heads up the work, reports on a class held a few days ago in Selma. There were about 60 students, including employers, and one of them was putting on a selling demonstration with washing machines. She was an apt pupil, as you will presently see.

She went along talking about the finer points of the machine. Finally, one of the observers could stand it no longer. "I want that machine," he said. Bought it the next day to give his wife as a Christmas present. The salesgirl's employer is now probably thinking of providing her with a raise.

Year-Around — If you are an average North Carolina resident, you have stood in line—or will have to between now and Jan. 31—to buy your license tags for the flivver.

At least one manager of an automobile club handling the sale of licenses is suggesting that the plates be sold throughout the year. For instance, if you bought yours in March of this year they would carry you until March of next. This, he says, would avoid the 60-day rush during the holiday season. The practice is being followed successfully in Maryland.

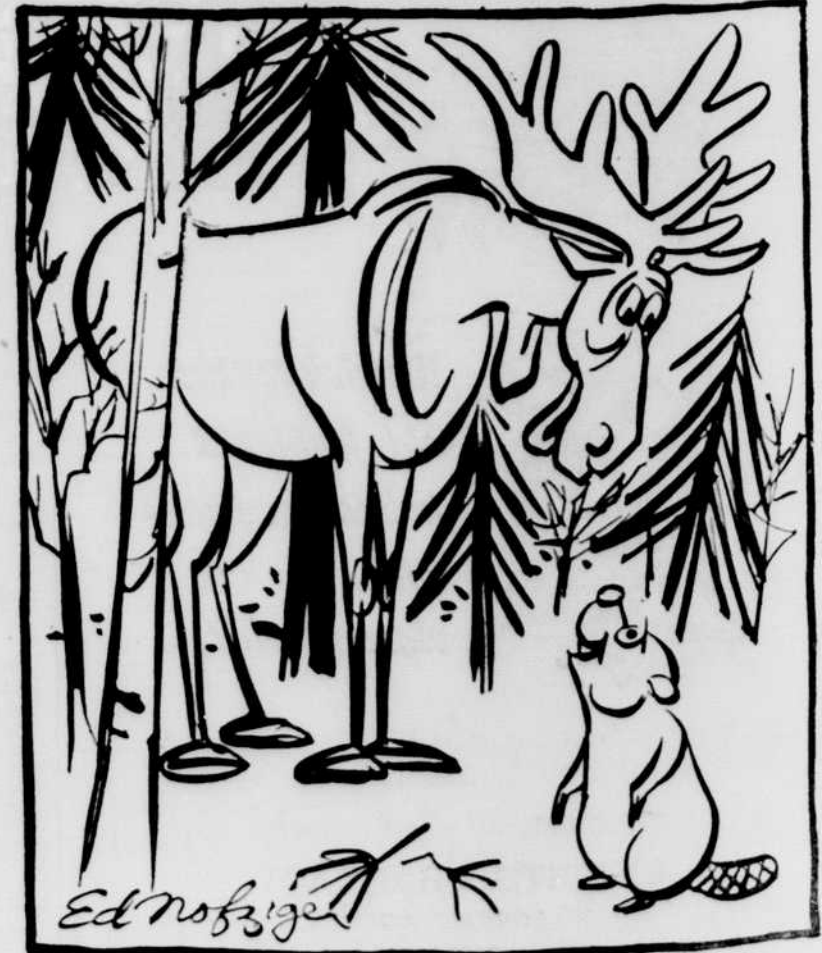
A similar move in North Carolina would no doubt prove confusing the first year in operation. The plan would at least provide more Christmas money.

Down The Drain — A great deal of money is wasted each year in Christmas card greetings. We don't mean it the way it sounds. What we are speaking of is your taking so little time to address your cards that you lose a lot of them—plus the cent-and-a-half stamps.

It is estimated that upwards of a half-million cards and Christmas letters are undelivered each December here in North Carolina alone because of improper address.

## "JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



"I'll take my chances with hunting season as long as they manage timber right so I have a place to live."

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture