

LETTER STIRS COMMUNITY

The pages of the Black Mountain News, as with any reputable newspaper, have always been open for honest discussion.

Many eyebrows were raised last week when we published a highly controversial letter from "one in your midst" leveling charges at most of us here in the community and at some of our neighbors.

Let me say first that the identity of the writer of the letter was known, that in the opinion of those well versed in newspaper law it was not libelous, and that we considered the matter very seriously before publishing same.

In answer to a number of inquirers the content was not changed and nothing was eliminated. You read the full text just as it was received by us here at the News.

Several letters were received in reply and some of them appear elsewhere in this issue. We are sorry that limited space would not permit publication of all of them.

I have always held that a difference of opinion is good and that without it there would be no horse racing or other competitive sports.

We believe that many of the charges advanced in the letter by "one in our midst" were opinions without one bit of evidence to be advanced in their support. We are willing to be convinced.

For instance it would probably be unconstitutional to select property owned by those from out of state and double their taxes. In my opinion that is a statement that can not be proved.

We have always found the law enforcement agencies, county, city, and state to be more than happy to cooperate in any way possible. We do have homes broken into and damaged, but we have found the law and the insurance men on the job and ready to be of service when needed.

The writer apparently was not around when the street dances were presented on the A&P parking lot during the summer or the charge would not have been made that they had been discontinued.

The great majority of the citizens here have always realized just how much the religious assemblies mean to the growth of not only Black Mountain, but of the entire Swannanoa Valley, Buncombe County, and Western North Carolina.

The assemblies pump a steady stream into the financial channels of the community, but many believe that during the season they do far more by supplying us with cultural and educational advantages unsurpassed in America.

The assemblies operate certain shops for the accommodation of their guests only. Much of the land which they now own was purchased years ago when this end of the Swannanoa Valley was largely rural.

We have known personally the men and women who have directed the activities of these institutions for the past 15 years. Never have we heard one utter a threat against the community nor display any but the most willing attitude to cooperate with us in any way possible.

The assembly leaders have been men and women of the highest character and citizens any community would be proud to claim as their own.

We have shortcomings. Let us never be guilty of hiding our head under the rhododendron and forgetting that. But the News sticks to the original statement that many of the charges made by "one in your midst" were based in inaccurate information.

The writer maintains that many are tired of being taken. To that we say that in this life we usually get what we are looking for. If we look for the faults and shortcomings of the individual or of a particular town or community we can come up with a pretty good case for the prosecution.

The News is happy to air the complaints of "one in your midst" but from what we have said above even the most naive can see that we do not agree. To have friends you must be a friend. To have friendship you must give it. Those who come here looking for opportunities to serve shall never be lonesome.

OLD FORT NEWS. MRS. BONNIE S. REYNOLDS. PHONE NO. 155. Old Fort, N. C.

Personals. To all the students home for the holidays from colleges...

Atlanta, Louise, Nella and Sammie who are in other lodges. She is also survived by three step-children, Mrs. Latt Wilson of Glenwood, Madge and Walter Porter of Old Fort.

Christmas is over and the children will be back in school Wednesday and not one complaint has come in about the short vacation period this year! The children are not complaining either!

A number of fires around the Old Fort area causes us to mention a few about fire over-heated furnaces etc. One home was destroyed on Catawba river last week.

The Allison family club will meet with Mrs. Sue Glover for a Christmas party Tuesday evening at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Izokovic and daughter Kelli Jo, of San Diego, arrived Thursday to spend the holidays with Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hipps.

The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Hughes of Wilkesboro visited Mrs. Annie Hughes Friday and Saturday. They were on their way to Mars Hill college.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Collier and daughter Lisa of Atlanta, are expected home for Christmas. Mrs. Collier is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Silver.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bradley of Garden City, will spend the holidays with relatives and friends in Old Fort.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Davis and son Keith, of Asheville, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Frye of Jacksonville, Fla., will spend the Christmas holidays with relatives and friends in the Old Fort area.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Glover spent Sunday in Boone with the parents of Mr. Glover.

Mr. Gibbison Swann of Salisbury spent the holiday with Mrs. Swann and other relatives in Western Carolina.

Mr. Dan Crowley and son Bobby visited Mrs. Robert Laughridge on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Allison spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. Vick Powell.

Gus Tisdale of Bryson City visited Mrs. Mintie Tisdale last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Silver and two daughters visited at the home of Miss Ada Silver Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Allison spent several days in Coca and other Florida cities, during the holidays.

Mrs. W. J. Robinson entered an Asheville hospital on Wednesday for observation.

Hugh Hensley is a patient at Memorial Mission hospital. Mrs. Hensley is an Old Fort barber.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Turner and son Carroll of Lenoir, Ga. were home for Christmas.

IN THIS WORLD. CARPET. THE DEXTERITY OF MAN'S MIND AND FINGER'S OVER MATTER CAN BE TRACED BACK 25,000 YEARS THROUGH THE HISTORY OF CARPET WEAVING.

CAPITAL CLIPBOARD. By Eula N. Greenwood. Into Third Generation. The good heart of Dr. Howard P. Powell, pastor of vigorous Edenton Street Methodist church here, gave an extra beat a few days before Christmas when his owner received for the sixth consecutive Christmas a certain personal check in the amount of \$100.

THOROUGHBREDS. From Page 1. For his resoluteness as his temper. Of all those who tried, only one man could handle him. This was a small colored man with a most varied and colorful vocabulary. The Finn, who was a wild kitter with others, was like a kitten with him.

CHRISTMAS GUEST. (From Page 1). But wouldn't it be a wonderful thing for Black Mt. if we had an attractive new bus station such as so many towns have these days. People travel by bus as never before and first impressions of a town count. Well, that is just something to think about and plan for, but the old bus station looked good to Howard and the twinkling lights added the Christmas touch.

ONE IN YOUR MIDST - From Page 1. same experience of at least a dozen other people at that time.

As far as sloppy work is concerned, in every community there are some sloppy, "marginal" workers. They may be cheap in direct cash payments, but they are very expensive in over all costs.

Good Service. I cannot comment on being required to hire an attorney to collect on an insurance claim. I have had only one claim to make since residing here and in that case the insurance adjuster heard about it, was around before I called, and insisted on doing more than I thought was necessary.

Girls Game. Hendersonville (28) F.-Clark 3, Hyder 14, Dotson 10, Taylor 1, Erwin, B. Taylor, G.-McDowell, Gamble, Rogers, McShane, Waters, Erwin.

Boys Game. Hendersonville (48)-Bagwell 29, Dwight 3, Fletcher, Webb 12, Corn, Beale, Erwin, Harrington 4.

G. T. SHIPMAN WELL DRILLING & BORING CONTRACTOR. Marion, N. C. - DIA 9151. Call Collect.

Old Fort Super Market. Open All Day Wednesday Old Fort, N. C. SAUSAGE 3 LBS. 1.00. GROUND BEEF 3 LBS. 1.00. STEAKS L.B. 59c. FRYERS L.B. 29c. FRANKS L.B. 39c. BANANAS 4 lbs 25c. ORANGES doz. 29c. TOMATOES 2 lbs. 29c. POTATOES 10 lb bag 39c. BLEACH qt. 10c. WESSON OIL qt. 39c.

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