

Mountain Musings

by Gene Byrd

Many Calories:

More than my cup seems to be filled to overflowing here of late. The Muser and his family are being invited to birthday gatherings and special occasions enough that we may not be directly contributing as much to Sanford's "quality education" as we should.

Last Sunday, we journeyed out to the City of Asheville justly famed "tool shed" to help W. T. Shook celebrate a birthday. He didn't say which one, and we didn't ask. There was a nice gathering of kin people and friends, and there was a lot of delicious food. Not only was the food good but the fellowship with these old friends was of the first order. Since I taught Fred and Eddie Shook the first year I taught school, I have had many worthy connections with this family. We have experienced both joy and sorrow together.

Anyone who knows the caliber of Mae's cooking can imagine what a feast we had. I might be indicted for cruelty if I reported all the delicacies and especially for a fellow gluttonous columnist, I shall refrain. We were honored that Roberta and Ralph Higgins could be with us, and Nell and Claude McAfee dropped by for fellowship in the afternoon.

We ate inside the house, I always could eat better if I could put my feet under a table. Speaking of tables, we ate from a table that is one of my prized possessions. After Ralph Burnett's death, Mae sold her home on the Toll road and moved to a trailer near her daughter Nell. When she "broke-up home-keeping," she gave me an old fashioned round dining table and chairs to match. Food always tasted good from this table, and the Fourth was no exception.

Mae has been a mother to us for the last few years, and her love and loyalty mean much to us.

The Flags Were Flying

As I drove out to North Fork on the Fourth, I looked for two large American flags to be displayed at Maude and Blaine Morris' home. I was not disappointed. Two flags, honoring Joe and Scott Mouser who lost their lives in service during World War II, were "gallantly streaming." Not only did they honor the dead; they honored the ones who remembered and put them there. Oh how lightly we take our freedom sometimes and how soon... too soon, we forget!

It's Never Been This Late Before:

Last week I saw a remarkable updating of history in this humble column. I was attempting to list the taxpayers of this area for the year 1858, but somehow the date became the "late 1858's."

This gives me sufficient opening to tell one of my favorite stories about the old mountaineer who owned a wooden table with a clock that was fine but somewhat erratic in its time-keeping qualities. One morning the mountaineer was roused from sleep by the clock striking one hundred times. The startled individual poked his wife in the ribs and cried with some agitation, "Get up at once, old woman, it's never been this late before."

Good Reading:

At last I got sufficient time last week to do something I had delayed until I could do it properly. I read slowly and great enjoyment the manuscript of Fred Schnelz's "Some Plants Do Grow Into Money." This is a thorough and painstaking treatise executed as only Fred could do.

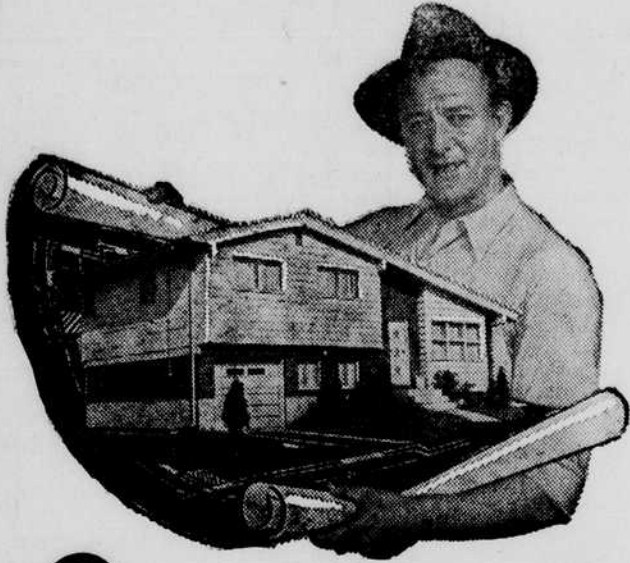
Space forbids giving more than the highlights, but I found this book most interesting. The foreword, concluding with the author's wish that his readers might develop "a Green Thumb, a Good Apple, a Brown Skin, a Slim Mid-Section and a Ready Smile," was especially good.

I thought the photographs, all by the author, were quite outstanding, and the helps for pronunciation of difficult plant names were helpful indeed.

The practical tips on propagation, care and sale of different items were good; I liked the portion on the use of empty tin cans as receptacles.

Really, to me, the best part was where from time to time the honest down to earth philosophy of this truly remarkable man revealed itself in subtle ways.

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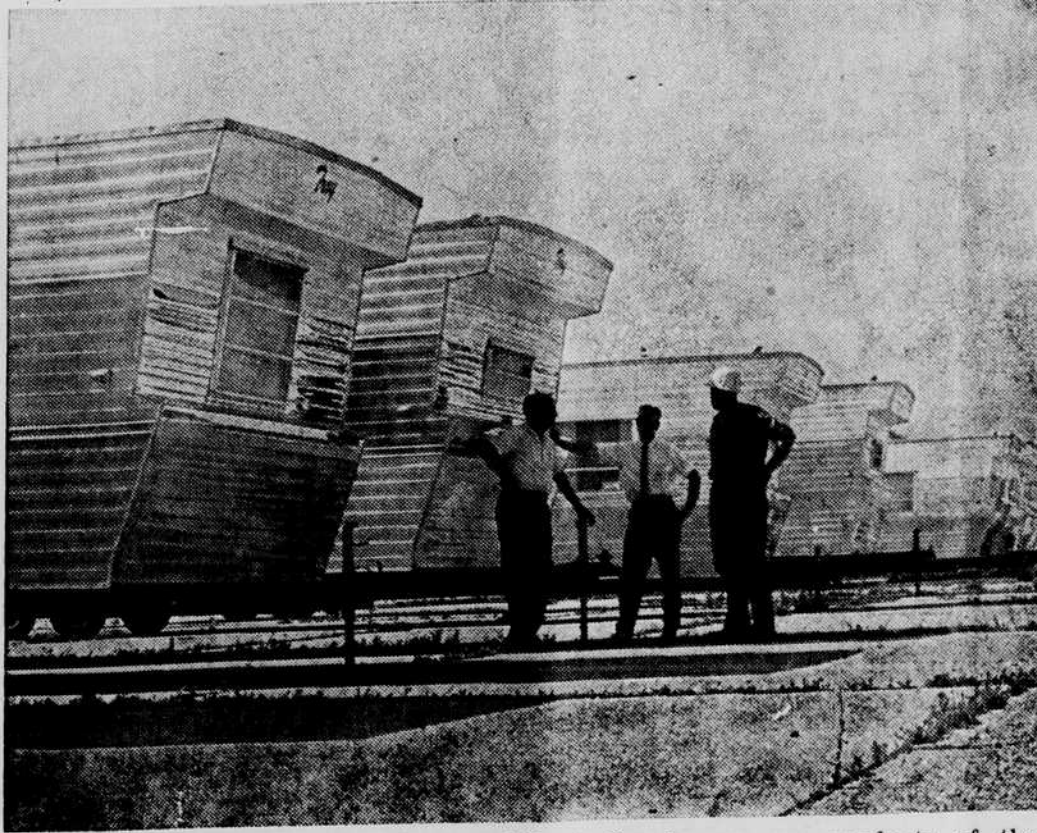
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Bible School:

The Lakewood Baptist church will hold its annual Daily Vacation Bible school starting Monday, July 17, and lasting through the week. The hours are from 9 until 11 in the morning, and we hope the young folks of the area will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Pastor Secured:

Our pulpit committee announces that it has secured the Rev. LeRoy Thomas to fill the pulpit of the Lakewood Baptist church beginning the first Sunday in August. We are happy to secure the services of such a lovable and able man. We know he will grace the pulpit, and we want you to come and support him in the Kingdom's work. This means some of you have only three Sundays remaining to hear the Old Muser preach.

Grateful:

Thank you for your poem, Mrs. Buckner. I shall cherish it. Keep up your good work.

Held Lightly

Life is good; may I observe something better than we deserve. Freedom held lightly in our day. The purchase of blood in dire affray.

Held lightly Freedom slips away. Hardly regained with usurious pay. Present fear and lethargy could not mix. With patriot's "spirit of '76."

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Maxton and Laurinburg folks have two kinds of stock in their industrial park: stock in the bank and stock on the hoof! Both support one of the most unusual ventures in North Carolina's expanding program of industrial development.

The Laurinburg-Maxton operation has already attracted eight industries and created 700 new jobs. It also is the home for some 1,500 beef cattle being groomed for market—and therefrom hangs the tale of the four-footed stock.

Airpine Industrial Park is located on a 5,700-acre reservation that was the Laurinburg-Maxton Air Force base during World War II. Released by the federal government two years ago, the property was taken over by the two communities for development under the direction of a six-man Airport Commission composed of three members from each town.

Financing has been self-supporting from the beginning. Actually, a surplus of money was created and \$80,000 has been turned back to the treasuries of the two towns.

Sen. Erwin Says:

WASHINGTON—This week Americans have celebrated the 185th anniversary of the birth of this nation. Amid the pleasures which the holiday always brings, there is an increasing awareness of the gravity of the Berlin crisis. Khrushchev has told the President that we have six months to settle the Berlin problem. Since World War II we have fought one war and endured many crises in the Cold War with Russia. In typical American fashion we do not like to dwell long on grave problems. We like the quick solution so that we can focus our attention on the enjoyment of the benefits of the greatest society yet developed. We are learning yearly that there is no ready or easy solution to make it easy to live with Russia. Two facts stand out in the Berlin crisis. First, Communism is bent on enslavement of the world either by war or preferably by gaining its end through apathy, indecision, and lack of will. Second, Russia fears the reunification of Germany. East Germany has 18 million people living in it whose first allegiance is to a reunited Germany rather than their Communist puppet government. Russia has never forgotten that Germany could have defeated it except for Lend-Lease. At the same time Russia has never been grateful to the United States for this aid. Moreover, Russia sees a strong West Germany that has come back in the last five years to a position of greater productivity than before World War II.

SURVIVAL OF THE WEST

In the face of the Communist challenge two things are essential to the preservation of the Western World. First, we must keep strong militarily. I have sought to accomplish this objective during my service on the Senate Armed Services Committee. I should point out that military strength alone cannot save us. Second, our people must have a determined will and the right kind of spirit. We should not delude ourselves that foreign aid is going to save us, or that we can hope to get other nations to fight our battles for us, or that we can scatter our resources over the face of the earth and win friends. History teaches us that God gives liberty only to those who love liberty so much that they are willing to fight for it. During the darkest hours of 1940 after years of apathy the British people under the inspired leadership of Winston Churchill showed this determined will. Several years ago I stood at Jamestown, Va., and looked at the replicas of the frail little boats which brought the first courageous English settlers to America. I was impressed by the lesson taught by men and women who were willing to risk their lives in tiny crafts upon a boisterous ocean to found the nations we cherish. The Western World must try to negotiate reasonable settlements and solutions, but it should never negotiate through fear, apathy, or indecision in

Guild Has Family Picnic At Joe Wallins

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the Methodist church met Sunday evening, July 2, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallin for a family night picnic.

Those attending were the Rev. John McWhorter, Fred and Beth; Mr. and Mrs. T. W.

criminal activity by regulating interstate travel for criminal purposes, regulating the transportation of gambling devices not controlled by the present Johnson Act, and by making changes in the Fugitive Felon Act and the Federal Firearms Acts. Most citizens favor the purpose of this type of legislation, but the major problem confronting Congress and the Justice Department is the drafting of the proposed laws. It is difficult to curb racketeering and at the same time to safeguard the basic civil liberties of the ordinary citizen. In plain language, it is hard to catch the sharks and at the same time not catch all of the minnows.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES — Congress has enacted four major changes in the rules governing social security benefits. These are: (1) men now have the option to retire at the age of 62 at 80% of the benefits they would otherwise be entitled to receive at the age of 65, (2) the minimum benefit has been raised from \$33 to \$40 a month; (3) the monthly benefit for widows has been increased by 10%; and (4) provisions for loss of benefits have been modified on earnings between \$1,200 and \$1,700 a year by those who have jobs.

HEARINGS — The Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, of which I am chairman, is proceeding with staff work for hearings later this year on the Constitutional Rights of the American Indian. The Subcommittee has received a number of complaints from the reservation and off-reservation Indians regarding a denial of their basic constitutional rights.

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