

# OLD FORT NEWS

BERTHA GREENE  
PHONE 76  
Old Fort, N. C.

A six-pound son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Nichols at Marion hospital April 11.

Mrs. Alvin Crawford is a patient at Marion hospital.

Mrs. Flint Norwood and daughter, Margaret Louise of Chester, S. C., spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Robert Laughridge.

Miss Elizabeth White, who has been ill at her home, is much improved.

Gas Tisdale of Bryson City spent last Monday night with his step-mother, Mrs. Mintie Tisdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Stepp and son Gary of Robbinsville visited Bertha Greene and

## PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

By Edith K. Benedict



—Photo By Gregg

Annie Mae Daugherty Fortune has the distinction of being the only woman in North Carolina to carry the mail on a star route. Her route follows highway 9 to Bat Cave with enough side roads thrown in to make a round trip of about 65 miles.

Mrs. Fortune knows the route well, for she traveled it with her father, every time he would take her, from the time she was 12 until she was grown. Robert J. Daugherty, known affectionately as "Bob" to his many friends along the route, was carrying the mail when Annie Mae was born. He traveled then on horseback over roads and trails, across mountain tops and down the Broad River valley to the little one room post office at Dome. The little post office still stands although the use, as such, has for many years been discontinued. He faithfully performed his duty three times a week in all sorts of weather.

The Daugherty family consisted of 5 children, three girls and two boys; their home was Black Mountain and they attended the local schools. Many teachers who are still at the job will remember round faced, brown eyed Annie Mae Daugherty. She married William Monroe Fortune Jr., in 1936. They have three daughters, the oldest married and living in El Paso; Esther the second daughter now lives in Black Mountain with her son; and the youngest, Melinda, is in her first year of high school and a member of Troop 98, Mrs. William Styles, leader.

When Mr. Daugherty became ill he contracted the job of carrying the mail to his daughter. This type mail service is not civil service connected, but is done under contract which is renewable every 4 years when the work is done satisfactorily. Mail is now carried six days a week and the route has, for some time, been extended to Bat Cave. This means for the carrier, 52 weeks of continuous service, no paid vacation, but the same legal holidays observed by other postal employees. With the death of her father, in 1957, Mrs. Fortune continued to carry the mail still doing the many things for her neighbors along the route which her father before had done. Many a bag of fertilizer and can of kerosene was carried by "Bob" before the road was paved, before electricity was installed and long before the day of the telephone in Broad River. Flower and vegetable plants were taken on one mailbox and moved on to another by request of the sender. Although the requests are not as numerous since Mr. Daugherty's time, Mrs. Fortune still moves things, other than mail, along the route; she picked up milk at one house and brought it two miles down the line to leave at another when there was no other means of transfer. This is not as one sided an accommodation as it appears, for Mrs. Fortune says she has had many flat tires on her car over the years and has only once had to change a tire herself. One day, in fact, with two flat tires and no spare, she was loaned a complete wheel with tire until she could get hers repaired at Bat Cave, the end of the line. She sometimes is the bearer of bad news of death or illness of friends or family.

During an emergency which occurred on Cedar Creek when her car broke down, Emory Vess went into Old Fort for help. "They are fine people, all of them," she said, "I am glad to do what few things I can for them. I have known them all for so long, and so well I feel that they are all neighbors."

Mrs. M. A. Parker, 84, died Thursday morning following a long illness. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Carl Padgett of Old Fort, Rt. 2, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Services were held at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Old Fort Methodist church. Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery. With the Rev. Walter Cooper officiating, assisted by the Rev. H. D. Jessup, the body was placed in state at the church 30 minutes prior to services. Westmoreland-Hawkins funeral home of Marion was in charge of arrangements.

Order by mail from catalogues is still popular in rural areas with transfer of money by money order. This eliminates the trips into town and means only a brief wait until the commodity ordered is delivered at the door. The daily newspaper is delivered by the letter carrier. Summer mail is heavier because of the large number of summer homes between Black Mountain and Bat Cave.

The route follows No. 9 across Lakey Gap to the Chestnut Mountain road which it follows as far as the Tarbert residence and retraces; Crooked Creek toward Old Fort to Stone Mountain almost to the Floyd Morris home and back; down Sand Branch to W. F. Stroud's and return; over the Old Fort highway across McDowell county line and back to the Cedar Creek road which goes nearly into Rutherford county then back again to highway 9, out another side road which leads to Rock Creek Inn and again back to 9; the route then goes into a branch of the old highway to the Morgan Hill road and immediately into the new highway; the next detour is the lower Flat Creek road and retrace to the road to Shumont or Bald Mountain as it is known by some. After the return to the highway from Shumont the route enters Henderson county and goes directly on to Bat Cave. This is surely 65 miles of winding, climbing road over which anyone ever tried to deliver the mail; it is a beautiful drive though, one of the most scenic out of Black Mountain. Wild life is in abundance. During the years Mrs. Fortune says she has seen deer, fox, rabbit, squirrel, possum, (some prairie left one in our mailbox once which gave her quite a start when she opened it) and snakes which seemed to love the warm pavement in the summer. Wild flowers also may be found along the way from early spring to fall frosts and of course the native laurel and rhododendron are everywhere.

Another example of the friendliness which exists between the "lady-mail carrier" and her patrons is the moon day lunch hour which she enjoys in the winter with the Ledbetter at the Broad River grocery where Katherine has a pot of hot coffee ready for Annie Mae to have her lunch. Vegetables, fruit, and flowers find their way back home with her, given by her friends along the way.

The old post office which for years occupied part of an old store building at Bat Cave was replaced last month by a new building just one tenth of a mile nearer Chimney Rock. Here all mail picked up along the route is deposited as well as the locked pouch which she brought from Black Mountain containing mail for distribution in the Bat Cave area. She returns directly from Bat Cave bringing a locked pouch with mail to be dispatched from here and since there is no railroad through that section this is the quickest method. If the morning train arrives on time so that she gets away from Black Mountain by 10, she can expect to be back in town by 2:30.

"Neither sleet, rain nor snow will keep the postman from his appointed rounds" is an elusive statement which I thought was a postal motto of some sort. Maybe it came in being in the days of the pony express. The mails must go in spite of the weather, but what happens when it simply cannot? In Mrs. Fortune's case either her husband or her substitute, Hilda Ballard, goes with her. "I would ride anywhere with Hilda," she stated. "She is a wonderful driver. I never will forget the day she and I left town in a sleet and snow storm which didn't seem too bad until we got across Lakey Gap. It began to be worse then, and we were forced to turn around at Chestnut Mountain road and start back in. When we started down the mountain on this side the car could not be controlled so we locked it and walked on back to town. It

## Are You Guilty Of Any of These Driving Errors?

By Bill Crowell

It sounds fantastic but it's possible that in the last 10,000 miles you drove you committed 25,000 driving errors.

That's the conclusion drawn in a recent test conducted among 10,860 licensed drivers by automotive experts who watched carefully the wheel handling techniques of each. Altogether some 50,000 miles of observed driving was amassed during the experiment.

When it was done 143,695 errors had been recorded—an average of 13 per driver or one every four-tenths of a mile.

Not all of the miscues could really be called serious, nor did they all affect the safe operation of an automobile. While some of the errors involved violations of the law, others were merely abuses of the car equipment or practices that cut down on a driver's efficiency. Considered in its entirety, however, the wealth of statistical data indicates that even a motorist who normally is identified as a good driver is still a long way from being perfect.

The tests were conducted primarily to aid teachers of high school driver education classes.

With the complete, tabulated results in hand teachers can better emphasize certain aspects of driving and thus make better drivers of beginning students. However, all motorists can use the survey to check their own driving habits against the more common faults.

The most frequent error noted by far was incorrect positioning of the hands on the steering wheel. Of each 100 drivers checked, observers noted 140.5 instances of incorrect hand position. Some drivers committed the error more than once during the course of the test. This obviously unsafe practice includes such errors as resting hands on the steering wheel crossbar or gripping the wheel with both hands at the top or bottom.

Going around corners revealed some poor turning techniques among a surprisingly large number of drivers. Shifting gears while in the middle of a turn was the error most often noted. (Dangerous because it requires the driver to take one hand off the wheel and because it can also cause skids on faster turns.)

Many other drivers were guilty of such commonplace booboos as approaching a turn from the wrong lane, approaching too fast, finishing a turn in the wrong lane and cutting corners too closely.

Use of the clutch and gear shift (a fast dying art) showed the amateur status of many a driver. Of every 100 observed almost half of them either were guilty of riding the clutch pedal or using the wrong gear for upgrades or downgrades.

Backing up properly wasn't much of a problem. Only 15.4 errors per 100 drivers were committed while getting the car into position for backing in the safe manner.

Good marks were scored, too, on observing traffic signals, stop signs and other traffic control devices. It was noted by observers that the traffic cop still commands the greatest respect. In the entire 50,000 mile test, not a single instance of disobeying a traffic officer was recorded.

The test drivers exercised pretty good judgment in controlling their speed. Although some 18 instances per 100 drivers were recorded of exceeding the posted speed limit, there were only 10.8 cases of driving too fast for conditions.

A mere 0.7 cases of driving too slowly for conditions were noted by test officials.

Amphibians are distinguished from fishes in that the former generally possess paired limbs with toes rather than

## OBITUARIES

Logan Stepp

Funeral services for Logan Stepp, 55, of Black Mountain, who died Wednesday April 11, were held Sunday afternoon in Mills Chapel Baptist church. The Rev. Mac Williams, pastor, officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

## H. W. Corbett

Haywood William Corbett, 61, brother of Marion B. Corbett of Montreat, died in the Veterans hospital, Tuscon, Ariz., Monday, April 9, after a long illness. Mr. Corbett was a native of Edgecomb County. He was the son of the late William James and Dora Lane Corbett, and a World War I Veteran. Mr. Corbett studied law at Wake Forest College and Boston University. He practiced law in Boston for many years, retiring two years ago because of ill health. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon in the Ebenezer Baptist church, Edgecomb County. Burial was in the church cemetery. Surviving are the wife, the former Miss Bertha Clark of Portland, Maine; a sister, Miss Emma Corbett of Swansboro, and another brother, Dr. James P. Corbett of Swansboro, Mr. and Mrs. Corbett were in the east part of the state last week with members of their family and to attend the funeral services.

## BLACK MOUNTAIN BRIDGE WINNERS

Nine tables were in play last Thursday evening when the Black Mountain Duplicate Bridge Club met at the Monte Vista hotel for its weekly session. Winners were: North-South, Mrs. Carter Lizzell and Mrs. R. T. Greene; second, L. S. Covin and Mrs. Fred Perley; third, Douglas Jones and Miss Mazie Buie; fourth, Mrs. Don Livingston and Miss Lou Lindsey. East-West, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. White; second, Mrs. Al Jennings and Mrs. Charles Ross; third, Mrs. Douglas Jones and Mrs. Sam Young; fourth, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Morrow.

Eels caught in any pond in North Carolina were born thousands of miles away in the Sargasso Sea in the South Atlantic.

## JUNIOR ORDER WILL HOLD DISTRICT MEET IN BILTMORE

A meeting of the first district of the Junior Order United American Mechanics will be held with Biltmore Council 324 on Friday, April 20. Supper will be served at 7:00 p.m. with the business meeting to follow at 8:00. All members are urged to attend.

Many high state officials will attend. Sherman Shell, is district secretary and Clyde Watkins, district councilor. An election of officers will be held.

The bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight.

## On TV 13

Thursday, 6:20 P.M.



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### LEWIS STAFFORD



Speakers at the 18th District of the American Legion Auxiliary meeting held at the Monte Vista hotel last Tuesday were (L-R): Mrs. Mary Frances Stevens, director of voluntary services at Oteen VA hospital; Mrs. Carmen Bullock, president of the Waycaster-McFee unit of Black Mountain; Mrs. Sam Welborn of Thomasville, state department president; Mrs. T. L. Noe of Wilson, state membership chairman; and Mrs. Robert Smith of Rockwell-Ballew unit, district president. The local unit was hostess for the district meeting.

## BAPTIST CIRCLE MEETS IN HOME OF MRS. BRODY WARREN

Circle no. 3 of the First Baptist Church met April 10 at 9:30 with Mrs. Brody Warren.

Mrs. Hagan Wood, president, presided and gave an interesting program on "The Bible Instructs Us." She discussed "What it Means To Be A Christian" and our relationship in the home, with our children and neighbors. Mrs. W. T. Miller read the Bible references. Our community missions project for the month was to help a needy family.

Those present were: Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. M. L. Robertson, Mrs. C. L. Silvers, Mrs. C. M. Gilbert, Mrs. Charles Waldrop and the hostess.

The black skimmer, a large fish-eating bird, arrives on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in the early spring after spending the winter in Central or South America.



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