

Town Topics

Edith K. Benedict

NO TROUBLE?

He was just a little old white mule, but he was weary and hot when we first saw him parked in the sun outside a local restaurant on Tuesday of last week. He had walked every step from Wheeling, W. Va., and if he has the endurance, will walk every step to California.

The only reason we even happened to know about the event at all was because some kind person called in to tell us that they thought we might be interested in a picture. The voice went on to say that



three young men were on their way to California in a covered wagon being drawn by one small mule.

We found the venturesome group having lunch, the mule and wagon were parked outside in the boiling sun although there was plenty of shade to be had.

One look at the little old mule, shifting his weight from



foot to another and a raw, bleeding place on his leg where the harness buckle had been allowed to rub, convinced us we wouldn't like their story, no matter what it was.

We notified the local officers of the SPCA—Emily and Mac Wood—who went immediately to investigate. They offered the young men the choice of attending to the physical needs of their animal or answering to the authorities. To show they weren't fooling, they notified the Asheville office of the SPCA who had the highway patrol meet the young men with a man in the patrol car to advise them of the proper treatment.

The morning paper showed the wagon somewhere between here and Asheville, the little mule plodding along trying to get in his 25 miles for the day.

The young men reported via the morning paper that the only trouble they had encountered was the theft of some food and their guitar.

One comment was that it appeared as though the young men should pull the wagon and let the mule ride. We agree, at least part-time transportation for Em. Wood's "little horse" should be provided.

BE CONSIDERATE
There are those who, when darkness comes and lights go on, lock every door and window because they are afraid; this applies to both men and women.

We have in our community an unusual number of widows, many have children still at home with them, some do not. A rap on the door and a call from anyone wishing to visit does not bother many of these persons, other are apprehensive and wish the visiting would be done before dark.

Worst imposition of all is the "telephone borrower"—in spite of the increase in the

number of telephones installed in the Black Mountain area there are still many homes without a phone. The occasional use of a private phone by a neighbor who is in need of this immediate means of communication would not be denied by anyone, but there is a line between an emergency and imposing on the good graces of a friend. Apparently there are a few young people who seem to think that they are privileged to use the phone any time they wish for purely social purposes. Everyone would like to be kind and generous to those who are less fortunate, even to the lack of a phone, and some women simply do not have the heart to deny the use of their phone, day or night, for any purpose.

Consideration is asked, if you are borrowing the use of a private phone, do try to make calls before dark. Seems like a small matter to those who are unafraid of the night and knocks on the door at any time. To anyone who has such fears everyone, especially the neighbors, should give aid.

LISA RETURNS TO TV
For those who have missed Lisa, Eileen Fulton stage name, Margaret McLarty (real name), we have great news. She will again play her role in the TV show "As the World Turns" beginning this week.

Several months ago she severed her relations with CBS to devote her time to other things and because there were parts of the contract not particularly to her liking. All has been changed; she will return to the show with matters pretty much as she wishes them to be. Her acting has been so convincing and she was so downright good that apparently sponsors found that simply the mention of her name with a flash-back of an old picture did not satisfy the viewers—so Lisa returns. Look for her to appear more often than in former days; this is only a guess on our part but it seems logical.

For those who do not know—Lisa is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. James McLarty of Black Mountain.

BREACH OF PROMISE?
Better be careful these days, boys, because when you ask a young lady to marry you she expects orange blossoms and bridal music.

As I've mentioned many times before we do have some very cute youngsters on our street, so when one of the "older" men on our street asked Anne Keever, aged 4, to marry him, and the date was set for the following Sunday, she was a trifle peeved with the groom-to-be when he didn't show up.

According to brother Lenny, who reported the jilting to the other youngsters on the block, "Daddy said if he had a two gauge shotgun he would go after that boy."

"Daddy" really meant to blast him off this earth because I've been told that a two gauge would be about small cannon size. So men, don't fool round with these mountain women because feudin' is still stylish in these parts!

Whatever he said it must have worked. He was elected and has been in the house or senate since that time.

STATE CHAMPION
Black Mountain now boasts a state champion as one of its citizens.

John Alexander, who spends part of the time in Raleigh, won the Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest at the Farmer's Market in Raleigh recently.

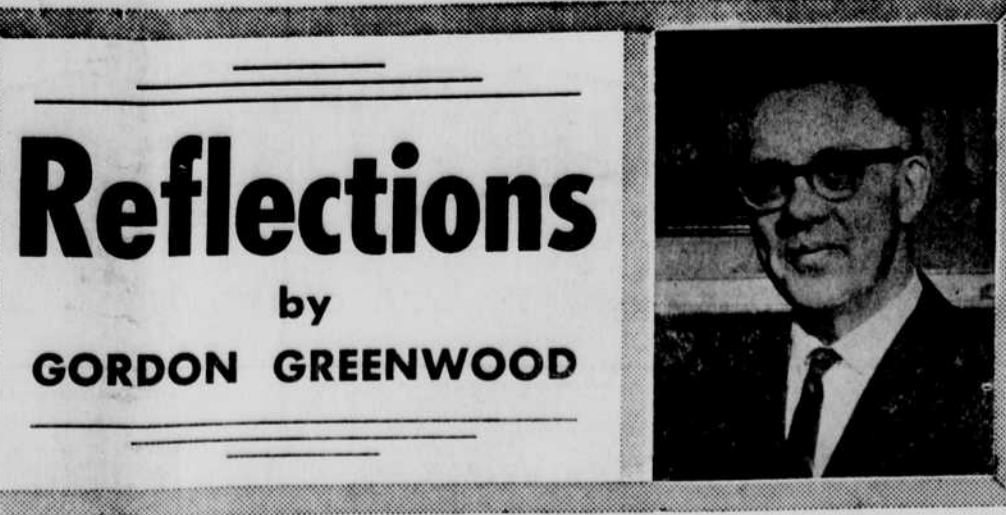
He hit the target at 25 feet 10 inches without any trouble. His nearest competitor could manage only 26 feet.

A four column headline proclaimed the new state champ in the Raleigh News and Observer.

When Alexander sent the seed hurtling through the air for the record—spit-spat-spit-ten—anyway distance, the news accounts said hats were blown off, baskets were overturned, and all ladies within the confines of the huge market grabbed their skirts and held on for dear life.

But when the big wind had subsided John, who owns the Raleigh Tractor and Truck Co., was proclaimed as the best spitter in all of Tar Heel land.

Residents of the North Fork, Lakewood, and Montreat road areas, which are overlooked by the Alexander ranch here in Black Mountain, were hoping today that he didn't practice while resting in the mountains.



Reflections

by GORDON GREENWOOD

THE EMERALD ISLE
It takes but a glimpse of Ireland for you to know why they call it "The Emerald Isle". It's greener than grass and as beautiful as the gem itself.

My first sight of Ireland came in 1943 as we rounded the northern tip on our way to Liverpool. There wasn't room on deck for everybody and we spent most of the time below. But we did see massive rocks rising out of a green sea. At that time after many days of twisting and turning on the way from New York any kind of land looked good.

But if you take the night boat from Glasgow, you'll arrive off the Irish coast just as the last shades of darkness are fading. It is an impressive sight as the boat winds its way through the bay to the dock at Belfast.

In fact if I'd never seen Western North Carolina I might be tempted to say it's the most beautiful place in the world. But—?

At first as I looked out at the green hills slipping by, dotted here and there with the stone cottages and walls. I thought we were looking at a huge painting. And I thought that the artist certainly hadn't spared the green paint.

At that time the boat was met by a drove of cabbies with horses and cabs. There wasn't an automobile to be seen.

A story in one of the national magazines this week that Ireland was changing brought back these and many other memories of the countryside around Belfast and Larne.

They may change the looks of the cities and the highways, but they'll never improve on that color. It's greener than anything you've ever seen.

But if and when you go to Ireland, take your raincoat and keep it with you. It rains several times a day and what walking you do is between showers.

EVERETT DIRKSEN
One of the first political wheels that I heard speak after migrating to Illinois back in the mid-thirties was Everett Dirksen, now senator from the Prairie State.

In those days he was running for Congress and wasn't as well known as he is now. It was in the town square in LeRoy, Ill., a small farming community in Central Illinois, that I met the man destined to wield a big stick in the politics of the Republican Party in Illinois and the nation.

Prior to the speech Dirksen came out and shook hands with many. He has a fine personality and is—or was in those days—easy to talk to.

Even then he was a good speaker.

I'll never forget what he said. He spent 10 minutes telling us that we were looking at one politician who didn't believe in mud-slinging. The preliminaries over, he tore into Roosevelt and the Democrats with great enthusiasm.

Whatever he said it must have worked. He was elected and has been in the house or senate since that time.

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North Fork News

Mrs. Gordon Lunsford gave a birthday luncheon for Mrs. Sevard Glenn on Wednesday of last week. Guests were Mrs. Charles Lindsey, Sandy Lunsford, and Betty Jo Cordell.

Lee Morris spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Morris.

"Kin Folks" from Jasper, Maryland, are visiting the J. A. Cordells this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John A. de Vore and Lauri left for home, which is Syracuse, New York, Saturday morning. They have been spending their vacation with Mr. and Mrs. T. D. De Vore on Old Cove Road.

Dr. Lillian Rich has been entertaining two of her classmates in medical school, Dr. Chen, formerly from China, is in the Health Department in Washington, D. C. This week, Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett, from Washington, Illinois, are visiting Dr. Rich.

Donald Burgin is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital.

The past week has been entertaining week on Old Cove Road. Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Horne, and their two sons, Benny and Butch, arrived from Salisbury. Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Horne, from Charlotte, accompanied by Mrs. Betty Horne and her two children, spent the day. Mr. and Mrs. William Griffin from Montreat, brought Mr. and Mrs. Craig Cooley and daughter, Mary, to call Sunday afternoon. The Cooleys are visiting from Rochester, New York.

Mrs. John A. Carlson and daughters, Robin and Marjorie, arrived from West Lafayette, Indiana, on Friday, for a month's stay with Mr. and Mrs. William N. Brown, Mrs. Carlson's parents.

Look Who's Here!

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Stone and their daughter, Linda, from Paris, France, are spending three weeks' vacation with James' mother and family, Mrs. J. H. Stone, of North Fork Road.

Also, her daughter, Mrs. Joan Freirich, and son, Glenn from Asbury Park, New Jersey, are spending a month at home.

This is the first time in ten years that all of Mrs. Stone's children have been together.

Look Who's Here!
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Barry of Black Mountain, a daughter, August 5, in St. Joseph's Hospital.

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BLACK MOUNTAIN BRIDGE WINNERS
Winners for the Black Mountain Duplicate Bridge Club Thursday night, Aug. 6, in the club room of the Asheville Federal Savings and Loan were: North-South, Mrs. Oscar Norxon and Mrs. J. C. Bartholomev; 2nd Miss Nonie Green and Mrs. Al Jennings; 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brady; 4th, Mrs. Douglas Jones and Mrs. Fred Perley. East-West, E. W. Andrews and Mrs. W. C. Field; 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Gladwin; 3rd, Mrs. Albert Jern and W. C. Field; 4th, Mrs. John O. Wood and Miss Lou Lindsay.

The semi-annual dinner meeting of the club will be held Thursday night, Aug. 20, at 6:30 at Glen Rock Inn, Kentucky Road, Montreat. For reservations call Mrs. Douglas Jones or Mrs. Albert Jern. The group will meet at the Asheville Federal Savings and Loan at 6 o'clock sharp.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS REVENUES UP
The Department of Revenue reports that for the first month of the fiscal year 1964-65 total net Highway and General Fund collections amounted to \$47.5 million compared with \$41.6 million

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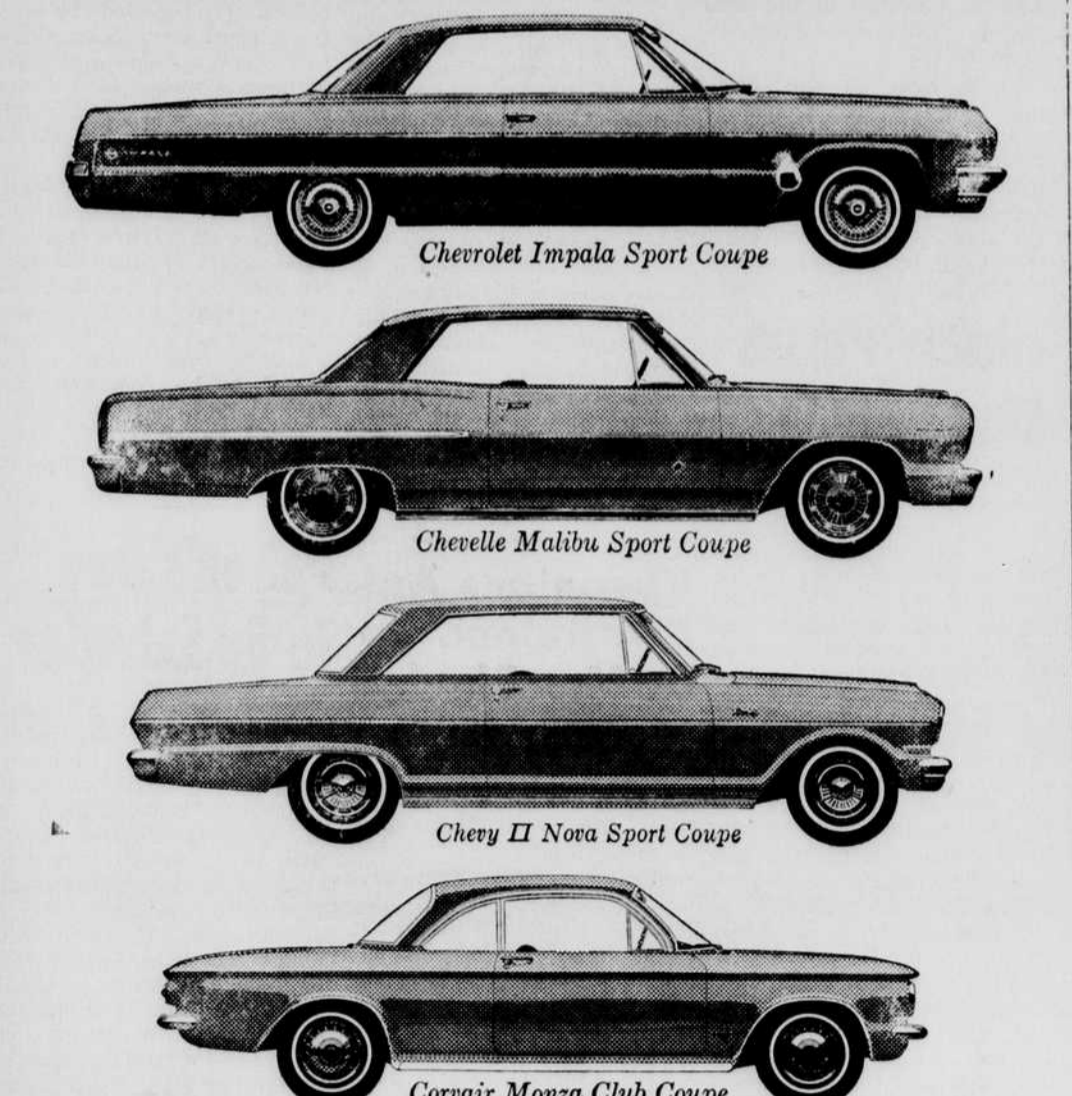
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By D. C. Nichols
Field Representative

Someone has defined retirement as "an extended vacation without pay". The point is: When you retire your earnings will stop. Naturally, your chief concern then is when you will receive your first social security check.

You can speed up the receipt of that first check by visiting your social security office, or meeting the representative, two or three months before you plan to retire. By doing so you can find out exactly when you should file your claim and what records or documents you will need to furnish.

If you have everything you need with you when you actually file (which if possible should be at least six weeks before you retire), your claim should go through promptly so that the postman can be at your door well ahead of the "wolf".

Remember, if you are planning to retire, visit your social security office or meet the representative to inquire some weeks at least before you retire!

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