



# Town Topics

Edith K. Benedict

## WHAT IS YOUTH?

"Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips, supple knees; it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep springs of life. Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of fifty more than a boy of twenty. Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

"Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair, these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust. Whether seventy or seventeen there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars and starlight things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the un-failing child-like appetite for what is next, and the joy in the game of life.



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"You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

"In the central place of your heart there is a sensitive station. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, grandeur, courage and power from the earth, from men and from the Infinite, so long are you young."  
—Author Unknown.

All this is a beautiful prelude to what I wish to say about a young man of 85.  
So many of the above statements are applicable to my brother-in-law with whom we have just made our acquaintance. Why? Because in spite of his years he still thrives on adventure and there is a "freshness of the deep springs of life."

With his wife Margaret, to whom he was married five years ago in Africa, he is in the States on leave until December 15. Margaret is a missionary in the town of Makawasa in that section of Africa which was Nyasaland before independence was gained.

Willard drove their camper across the country to California this spring, and back. One day's driving was over 600 miles which would have exhausted even a younger man and all he would confess was that he was "a little tired".

Many of his stories of African experiences were in-  
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teresting and as many missionaries as we have in town and here for assemblies it would seem that most of the customs of every area of the globe have been explored. One series of events from his collection we thought unusual and will repeat.

There are no earthworms in Africa, for reasons you will see as the story unfolds, so Willard, loving a garden and flowers, took 1,000 worms packed in damp earth in a suitcase back with him on one trip from this country. On the steamer going over the seaward apologized for someone having placed Willard's suitcases in water which apparently had streaked and stained the bag. Even while they were talking the worms, perhaps feeling the need of air, began to work their way out of the side of the suitcase. The steward's eyes got larger and larger and finally he said "MR. GILL, WHAT HAVE YOU IN THAT SUITCASE?"

Once arriving home with his treasures he turned them loose and for a little time as they worked the capsules of earth to the surface and he transferred the deposits to his plants everything went well. Then, he realized their number was decreasing alarmingly and on investigation found that ants were devouring them rapidly. He dug all he could find and placed them in boxes protected from the ants and before they left Africa in May he had around 45,000.

The use of this dirt they worked to the surface above their hills or homes is quite rich and when used on flowers and vegetables is a remarkable fertilizer or stimulant which produces mammoth sized results.

For those who have seen "Unto These Hills" and remember the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma we thought it rare to find that Willard, when a young boy, had witnessed the opening of that land to settlers and remembered the excitement of the "take-off" when the gun was fired for the land grabbers to race to the territory to settle and claim the land they wanted. Many, he stated, thinking better land lay ahead, passed up the first they reached, looking for greener pastures and on their return to stake claims, found the most desirable acres already taken.

Because of this and my enthusiasm about the outdoor drama the family went to Cherokee for one day and his one very expressive comment was: "Thank you so much for taking us, I never witnessed anything like it." He had wanted to see the Cherokee more than anything in WNC.

**SHORT GIVING**  
Because of the other funds being raised in the community this summer, our long-time project for young people in Black Mountain has suffered. Since this is the season for soliciting for these donations however, and because the work does in meet the need for profitable leisure time use by our youngsters, we appeal for your support.

## Cast Of "The Hipster"



Left to right: Charles Smith as Danny Blue, Linda Cody as Sylvia Newland, Patricia Robertson as the Narrator, Terry Price as Michael "The Baron" Lefevre, Anita McKinney as Iris Jones, and Phillip Cook as Richard "Dick" Newland, will make up the cast in Elliott Baker's play, "The Hipster" to be prepared Sunday night, August 15 at 8 o'clock at the Swannanoa First Baptist Church.

## RIDGECREST RAMBLINGS

MRS. ELBERT F. HARDIN  
PHONE: NO 9-7134

**At The Hub**  
Great musicians for the Sunday morning worship hour were Jimmy Allen of Wilmington, Shelia Cody and Terry Wright on publicity; Clara Smith on the program, and Pat Moody as prompter. Carroll McKinney is directing the play.

Those working backstage include Joe McPherson on lights; Jeannie Cole and Bob McKinney on sound; Brenda Stikeleather and Nancy Jo Martin on make-up; Faye Pat-  
ton, Shelia Cody and Terry Wright on publicity; Clara Smith on the program, and Pat Moody as prompter. Carroll McKinney is directing the play.

Not only has the organization been hit by competition, but three of the largest contributors have passed away within the past year and a fourth is disabled.  
As has been pointed out before, local support is supposed to come up with a good share of the money before industry feels that they should supplement the work. This is only fair; if the people who are most concerned do not feel the effort worthwhile, then why should those who have less involvement foot the bills?

It has been a fine program this summer and with less than a month to go there are tournaments galore in which boys and girls can test their athletic skills and spend a fun-time August.  
**NICE IMPROVEMENT**  
The new side-of-the-road parking area for the picnic tables around the east side of Lake Tomahawk is a great improvement. Not only is it a safe harbor for traffic along Rhododendron, but is attractive and inviting.

**DEAR ROTARIANS**  
When your district governor visited you several weeks ago and Barney Baxter sent us a picture of "Soup" Porter for use in the paper you don't know how strong the temptation was to caption the picture "Soup to Nuts". However, wanting to remain(?) in your good graces we resisted the temptation, but couldn't resist letting you know near you came.

Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Nelson of Mars Hill College. He is head of the Bible Department and she is college Librarian.

For the weekend Miss Pauline Snelson and her mother, from Weaverville, are also in the Biggers home. And for the whole conference period, a friend of the hostess since girlhood and college days—Mrs. Ann Ashcraft Brooks of Monroe is a very special guest.

Accompanying Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Hatcher to Ridgecrest church on Sunday morning were Mr. and Mrs. E. Thurston Allen of Charlotte. The Allens, cherished friends of the Hatches for many years, were here to attend the S. S. Conference at the Assembly.

Guests of Miss Olive Lawton for several days last week were her niece and grand-niece Mrs. Den Sides, a little daughter, Hollie Ann, from Welcome, N. C. where Mr. Sides is pastor of the Baptist church.

Guests of Rev. and Mrs. George L. Hocutt for several hours last Thursday were Mrs. Myrtle Welch, son Don, and Miss Pansy Welch, of Charlotte.

While attending the S. C. Conference at the Assembly Aug. 5-11, Jimmy Allen of Wilmington is also visiting his aunt, Mrs. George L. Hocutt and Mr. Hocutt.

Chaplain (Major) Louis M. Jackson came home for the weekend from Ft. Benning, Ga. to specially greet his relatives who arrived last Thursday for a visit with the Jackson family. The guests are the chaplain's mother, Mrs. L. Mack Jackson of Sumter, S. C.; his brother-in-law and sister, Rev. and Mrs. George Thomas of San Lorenzo, California, and their children, Gregory and Emily, Mr. Thomas, serving under the Home Mission Board of S. B. C., ministers to the deaf people of Northern California, Oregon and Washington.

Visiting Mrs. E. Y. Moore and Mrs. Howard Wright for the past week was their daughter, Mrs. Ray Elmore and her little daughter, Kathy, from Jefferson City, Tenn.

Guests of the E. E. Browns last week were Mrs. Brown's niece and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Erickson of St. Paul, Minn. with their sons, Leonard and Rieki, and their daughters, Jeanie and Beth. These arrived Monday and stayed until Thursday.

Coming on the same day, but leaving on Wednesday were Mrs. Brown's niece and family, Col. and Mrs. D. E. Carter and daughters, Patty, Kay, and Becky, from Orlando, Fla.

This was the first time any of Mr. Brown's relatives had ever met any of her kindred, but the group proved to be most congenial and the Browns agree this was one of their happiest weeks of entertaining company.

Mrs. W. P. Reeves guests for August 12-18 are Mrs. Forest Troutner of Decatur, Ala.; Mrs. Oliver Allred, also of Decatur; Mrs. Edward Burgreen and Mrs. D. C. Pressley, of Athens, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Reese of Black Mountain announce the birth of a son, David Harold, August 4 at St. Joseph's Hospital.

## SHOPE CREEK

By Mrs. Thelma Buckner  
AUGUST 5

Rev. Depo Williams delivered an inspiring message on Sunday A.M. at Berea Baptist church, he has been filling the pulpit for us until our pastor, Rev. A. D. Smith is able to return.

Berea church was host to the Riceville Mens Club for supper given at the church on Tuesday evening.

The Bartlett and Creamsman reunion was held on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Creamsman of Jones Cove with 54 of the relatives present.

The Moody reunion was also held on Sunday at the Community Center in Grovesmont.

The J. A. Cordell descendants recently got together at the old home stand on Upper Shope Creek for their reunion with a "goodly" number attending.

Mom and I recently spent a few days with Mrs. George of 20 Church Rd. Oteen while her daughter and son-in-law Beula and Albert Gilliam were in N. J. for the W. O. W. convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Gregg Robin and Sherry and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller, Linda, Jamie and Debra spent a few days vacationing at Folly Beach.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reynolds of Shope Creek a son, Dana Eugene, on July 23 in St. Joseph's hospital.

Mrs. Clyde Reed returned to her home on Saturday after spending a week in Jacksonville, Fla. as guest of her daughter and son-in-law Sara and Herbert Wilson.

We offer our sympathy to the family of J. P. Shuford who died on July 27, he was the brother of Mrs. Margie Shope a one time resident of Shope Creek.

Mom has been sick for a couple of weeks and was a patient for two days in St. Joseph's hospital. She was released on Sunday and taken to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Ingle Jr. in Black Mtn. we will remain here until she is able to return home.

Her visitors included, Ray Robinson who is visiting relatives here from Merritt Isl. and, Fla. and Mrs. James E. Smith Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gangway and Rickey of Eau Gallie, Fla. and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Goode of Spindale.

Jerry Moody had to have three stitches taken above his

## Funniest Play Of Broadway At Playhouse

"Never Too Late," by Sumner Arthur Long, the funniest comedy recently on Broadway, opened Tuesday evening August 10 at the Flat Rock Playhouse. The New York critics raved about it: "Something we have not had in the theatre for a long, long time—a good old-fashioned domestic farce" "it's a mad, mad show" "it should run and run and run." And it did run for over two years with Maureen O'Sullivan, Paul Ford and Orson Bean in the leading roles.

Arthur Godfrey played it in winter stock in Florida and in New York.

Harry Lambert, a settled man in his fifties, suddenly finds his world turned topsy-turvy when his wife of 25 years or more announces that she's having a baby. And the pretty little wife changes from an efficient housekeeper to a fragile doll (on her doctor's advice) who faints upon the slightest provocation. Their only other child is a daughter in her twenties, married, but still the spoiled girl living at home with Mom and Dad. She and her husband find their lives completely upset too. For instance, what would you do in Harry Lambert's place when the next-door neighbor, the Mayor, finds a bathroom commode sitting in the front

yard and a bathtub in your living room? That's just a hint of the hilarious situations in "Never Too Late."

Theatre of North Carolina is 8:30 Tuesday through Saturday evenings, with matinees at 2:30 on Wednesday and Saturday, on U. S. 25, three miles south of Hendersonville.

## Legal Notice

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Clyde D. Lindsay, deceased, late of Buncombe County North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned, R. W. Lindsay, 4 Crescent Street, Enka, N. C., on or before the 14th day of February 1966, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.  
This the 6th day of August, 1965.  
R. W. Lindsay, Administrator of the Estate of Clyde D. Lindsay deceased  
Aug. 12, 19, 26; Sept. 2, 1965.

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