

Sanitation: An Environmental Approach To Better County Health

There is a community so clean, so healthful, so pleasant that it is called "A Community That Smiles". It is a place to live, to work, and play; and provides the quality that contributes to the growth of its children. It plays an important role in the growth and promotion of the security and happiness of its citizens. It is a community that commands pride on the part of its residents; admiration on the part of its visitors; respect on the part of the surrounding communities. Where is this community? It is the place we want to call home.

In March of this year, a survey was made of the environmental sanitation aspect of our county by members of the staff of our health department. The objective of this survey was to ascertain how well our county compared with this community. That, we felt, was our duty to provide a clean, healthful and pleasant place for our citizens to live, work, and play. We felt it our duty to provide an environment of a quality that would contribute to the growth of the children in our county; one that would play an important role in the promotion of security and happiness of its citizens. We knew you, the citizens, wanted an environment in this county that would command pride on the part of its residents; admiration on the part of its visitors; and respect on the part of the surrounding communities.

This assumption was reached on the basis of the numerous complaints received by your health department regarding abuses of the environment by improper and indifferent disposal of rubbish, trash, and garbage from all sections of the county.

This survey revealed startling results, and was immediately placed on a priority basis over all other health problems currently endangering our environment. What were the observations made, and recorded by means of photographs, endangering our health and well-being? Garbage, rubbish and trash picked up from residents and business places and dumped alongside highways and roadways, open fields and gullies in practically all areas of the county. This refuse was being hauled by unsupervised haulers in vehicles of all types and descriptions, ranging from a wagon and horses to a steel-bodied truck with a tarpaulin cover. What remained on these vehicles, with the exception of the steel bodied truck with a cover, and not strewn along the highway by wind as it is being hauled, was dumped at the nearest point on the route not too obvious to public view. Nearness to other homes or places of business was not a factor for consideration in this method of handling garbage.

For example, one "hauler" who was serving approximately six hundred residents and business establishments, with an old model pick up truck and one helper, was dumping his "pay load" on ground surface in an open field. Within five hundred yards of this "dump" was ten homes, a trailer park, two stores with meat markets, and an eating establishment. This dump, when located, was spread over approximately an acre of ground and was approximately six feet in height. At this site was an open pit privy for use of the hauler and his helper; the raw garbage was prevalent as it came from the kitchens of the residents and business establishments; rubbish consisted of discarded cans, bottles, cardboard boxes, old clothing, rags, etc.; and the trash consisted of old lumber, trees, and shrubby trimmings, old tires, automobile parts and so forth. In addition to this there were carcasses of dead dogs, cats,

and chickens in various stages of decomposition. Needless to say, flies of various species and stages of development, rats of all sizes up to a foot in length and almost that tall, roaches, stray dogs and no doubt wild vermin, were breeding, harboring and feasting on this unsanitary environmental condition while the health and well-being of our children and adults, was being endangered, and properly was being subject to destruction by the potential fire hazard which could erupt at any time from spontaneous combustion.

The situation described above was the largest and most dangerous "dump" observed. There were others however, both large and small. These were the results of other "haulers" serving the county with garbage disposal services, and individuals who chose to dispose of their own by hauling it to the county and disposing of it at the nearest site where someone else had started a garbage pile.

These were located in most instances outside of the incorporated cities and towns of the county for the purpose of encouraging and attempting an adequate and continuing service of garbage collection and disposal where the board deems it to be desirable. When photographs of the situation pertaining to this matter was presented to the local Board of Health and County Commissioners, all concerned agreed that immediate and concise action should be taken. Thus, the promulgation of the Cleveland County Garbage Ordinance, which became effective July 1, 1964.

Today, already, our county has taken on a more healthful, clean and pleasant smile as a result of this positive environmental approach to health. Through the coordinated efforts by all concerned; especially you and I who have pride in the appearance of our county, wants admiration on the part of our visitors and seek the respect on the part of surrounding counties, we can help create a clean sanitary and inspiring environment; the challenge is ours.

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Lawrence Fred Burton wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the loving kindness shown to them during the illness and death of their beloved husband and father. We wish to express special thanks to Dr. Adams and Sincow and the administration and staff of the Kings Mountain hospital.

Carson Memorial To Hear Atman

A faculty member of Bob Jones University in Greenville, S. C., will be the guest speaker at the morning and evening services at Carson Memorial Church in the Crowder's Mountain community Sunday, it was announced by Rev. Charles L. Britt, the pastor of the church.

Rev. Fred Atman will speak at 10 a.m. and 1 o'clock that evening. He has been a professor of Bible at the university in Greenville for 15 years, and is heard twice weekly on a radio broadcast called "Bible Study" which originates at the university radio station.

The non-denominational Christian university has an enrollment of more than 3,000 students who come from every state in the union and 30 foreign countries. Mr. Britt, pastor of the church, is a graduate of Bob Jones University.

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Respectfully,

J. Ellis Harris

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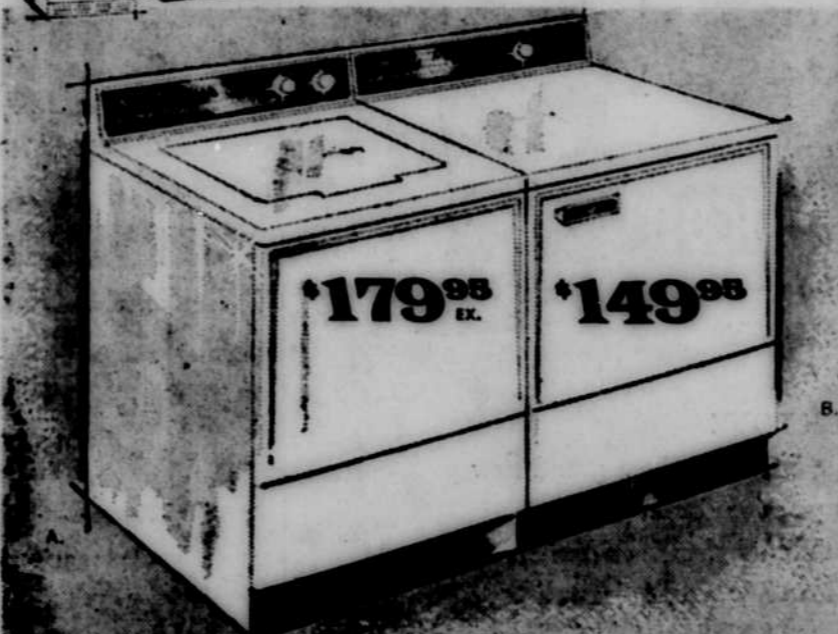
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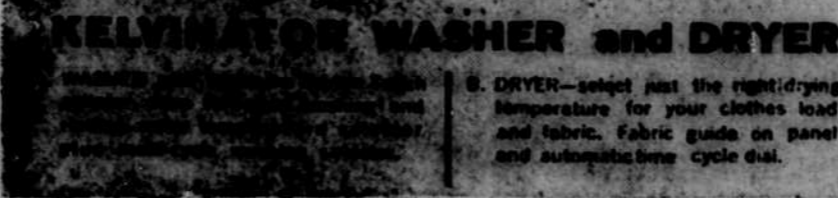
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