

BIRD

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is off by one on either side, that piece will be disqualified," he said. King says he does a lot of traveling, attending seminars and just plain looking around in an effort to come up with new ideas.

King does enter competition on occasion, and he has brought home several ribbons.

"There are shows in Charlotte and Greenville for wood carvers," he said. "I've been to several."

He took a first place for a pair of cardinals that look as though they might fly away at any time.

The King world of carvings is more than just birds. He places them in their natural habitat. Some are perched on snags or logs or trees and shrubs. The scenes are complete with leaves, berries and sometimes acorns. The leaves he constructs from paper and he actually carves each and every small acorn he uses, and there are many. They are so real a squirrel wouldn't think twice about grabbing a couple.

"My wife Nan and I were down at Harker's Island a few years ago, and I bought a carving. The carver gave my son a piece of wood, and I decided to give it a try. That shore bird over there was my first piece." King points to a long-legged bird figure familiar to all who have been to the seaside.

There is more to carving than one might imagine. King takes a block of wood, usually tupelo, draws the main features with a pencil, then cuts out a rough draft on a bandsaw. From there he uses a wide assortment of knives, gouges, diamond-tipped bits and old dental instruments he manages to acquire from Robert Crouch.

King is a member of the Whetstone Whittlers, a BC group that meets the first Tuesday of each month at the home of Tam Splawn, another locally renowned carver.

King likes to carve tupelo, but he also uses Bass oak, black walnut, white pine and just about anything.

"Most carvers have got away from the tupelo. It grows in Eastern North Carolina in the swamps and is said to be toxic. The part you carve grows under water, so there's a good chance it might be toxic," King said.

Presently, King is carving quail, because he has a live model. Open the door to his workshop and you are greeted by a young quail strutting around on the table. "A friend gave him to me about a month ago. Sometimes in the evening, he'll hop up on the table and pose for as much as 10 minutes," he said.

A serious wood carver does more than just whittle. King, besides drawing the features, also paints his finished pieces. He says getting the paint mixture thinned to the proper consistency takes a lot of practice. He took a couple of art classes as a youngster which helps but he still worries about his finished figures.

"Painting is my weak point," he said. "I have finished a piece then turned right around and stripped the paint off and started over because it didn't look just right."

King is a perfectionist. He doesn't offer his work for sale because he feels it isn't good enough. "I see nothing but mistakes in what I do," he said. "I've never sold anything, although I've been offered money. Eventually I'll just quit working and do nothing but carve, then maybe I'll sell something."

Right now he's satisfied to learn. Sometimes he learns something in the middle of carving a piece. When that happens he just changes course and goes another route.

"I make mistakes," he said, "but so far I've never thrown a piece away. I always manage to salvage something."

As long as King is around, birds will emerge from blocks of wood and enjoy long, long lives.

COUNCIL

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about 48-hour notice to the media," said Sellers after a request by a Councilman. In order to comply with the 48-hour notice, she said the meeting had to be set for Friday, not Thursday, as one member had requested, according to Sellers.

Corry was unavailable for comment at the Herald's presstime.

"The bottom line is that Council makes the decisions and they felt it was better for everyone's interest to set a special meeting for the purpose of hiring a manager," said Sellers.

"Council has not broken any laws."

David Lawrence, an attorney for the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill, says the vote could have been taken by Council Tuesday night.



BIG CATCH - John "Red" Ledbetter of Kings Mountain recently spent 10 days with his daughter, Sheila Dallas, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While there he had an opportunity to fish on Lake Michigan where he caught these salmon and lake trout.

ANDERSON

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Neely Store Road southeast of Rock Hill in the Friendship Community. As many as a dozen boys, ages 11 through their 17th birthday, stay there usually for six to nine months and attend public schools. Anderson wants the program to be expanded, which could mean a change in state laws, so the boys can stay in the facility until after they finish school and get a job.

Most of the youths are referred there because of family problems or trouble with the law. Some are on the threshold of becoming criminals.

"The children we're getting now seem more difficult to handle than some of those in the past," he says. "We're seeing children who are very street wise and have a lack of respect for authority."

Early in his career, Anderson spent 18 months working at Alexander Children's Center in Charlotte, a home for troubled kids 12 and under.

But in recent years he has devoted much of his career to administering North Carolina programs for mentally ill or disabled adults, so Boys Home marks a sort of change for him.

However, he sees it as a chance to have a greater impact, since many of the mentally disabled patients he worked with in the past at Western Carolina Center were limited by their disabilities.

Anderson tries to spend quality time each day getting to know the boys.

He has become the court of last appeal for boys who may disagree with the resolution of an argument or the meting out of discipline.

Winning the boys confidence and respect is a slow process. "You just have to let them accept you on their terms," he says.

Anderson says the boys need more counseling to help them deal with their problems and help in learning daily living skills, like shopping for groceries or balancing a checkbook.

However, he also envisions more ambitious programs that would require broad community involvement, such as a day program to teach vocational and life skills to kids who have trouble coping in the classroom.

A supervised apartment living program for boys who leave the home at 18 and help in finding permanent housing when they turn 18 are major goals.

"We take these kid out of these troubled environments for a few months or a few years and they get bumped back into the same place and what have we done?" he asks.

A recent experience is a typical encounter. The 14-year-old boy had pretty much been living on his own. His father was in jail; his al-

coholic mother wasn't home much. Then the boy was caught stealing food. He was hungry. He ended up in Boys Home of York, SC.

A 1976 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and a 1985 graduate of Wingate College, Anderson's early training was to become an architect. After three years at a small engineering school, he went to work and got interested in parks and recreation administration. He credits Special Olympics for sending him to his present occupation.

He taught PE and swimming at Alexander Children's Center and worked three years in Morganton with the developmentally disabled and in West Jefferson with the mentally disabled before taking a job at Black Mountain Center, a 40 bed unit for mentally ill adults.

The residential treatment facility at York, SC opened new doors to him and his wife whom he met when both were counselors at Alexander Children's Home in Charlotte.

Janice Anderson has a two-year degree in recreation from Central Piedmont Community College and like her husband has worked in all phases of programs at facilities like Boys Home. Whether she's actively involved in recreation, food service, or as a secretary and teacher, she loves it.

Moving to Rock Hill takes the family closer to both his and her parents and to her 97-year-old grandfather in Charlotte.

"Richard struggled with the decision to move from Black Mountain to Rock Hill but we can see he's ideal for the job," says his proud mother.

Relaxing on Anderson Acres in Kings Mountain on a recent Friday evening, Richard said he was glad to be home with his parents, two brothers, Edward and Steven and sister, Susan Bridges, all of whom live close by with the other five grandchildren in the family, but that he didn't want to be far away from his boys who have become his extended family.

"A little boy will come to me and tell me 'Mom and Dad hit me' and another boy will cry and another will tell you more than you ever thought any child would know at his age and you ask God for strength and wisdom to know what to do and say," said Richard.

Boys Home grew out of a 1970 Jaycees project in Rock Hill. Jaycees saw two juveniles jailed and found a home for them, if only temporary.

"Unfortunately the philosophy of the courts is to beef up the family unit if at all possible and the courts return the kids to the family environment," said Anderson.

"Substance abuse can't be corrected in nine months without increased therapy by trained psychologists and psychiatrists and new programs but that takes money."

ORDINANCE

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join?" asked Councilman Jim Guyton.

Corry said that under law the city can retain its program and the county must accept all stray animals at the animal shelter.

"The animal shelter is paid for by citizens of the county and we are citizens of the county," said White.

Grindstaff said the city has on order a new truck for the animal control program.

"I don't see why we would want to even consider doing away with what we have," he said.

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