

# The Lake Ranger

The Lake Norman Marine Commission is an advisory group. Although it does have regulatory power, it has no enforcement authority. The commission is, nevertheless, not without muscle. Its opinions are sought and weighed carefully by governments of the four counties surrounding the lake, and by other policy-making agencies within these local governments.

It is enlightening to observe workings of the commission under Chairman Bob Randall of Mooresville. Randall is a town commissioner; all commission members represent interests of their counties, and each is a specialist in matters ranging from law to nautical engineering. The role of the commission is as clearly defined as it is appropriate to orderly lake development.

That said, we may turn to a recent monthly meeting of this group that probably embodies more lake-related information and experience than any public agency. Among its agenda items:

An identification system for lakeshore property. Lake cottages have been broken into, and some have burned without authorities being able to determine their owners.

Sewage disposal. A persistent problem on land and sea, human waste cannot be flushed away and forgotten, because "away" simply means somewhere else. All waste has to be somewhere all the time, and the commission's particular concern is the lake itself. There is talk of requiring all Lake Norman boats with johns to have holding tanks, not merely chlorinators. Odorless bleep may be an improvement over the unadulterated stuff, but no more than slightly. The hooker in a holding-tank law is that it probably cannot be enforced unless pump-out facilities are established on the lake.

Safety hazards. The lake literally is awash with them. Electrical connections account for many potential killers. Mecklenburg's zoning office has photographed 70 illegal buildings code violations on the lake, and each constitutes a hazard to life or property. To give some idea of the scope of the

job of policing Lake Norman, the Mecklenburg zoning inspector recently presented to the Marine Commission a report he prepared concerning lack of compliance with county zoning ordinances by lake property owners. A building inspector, an electrical inspector, plumbing inspector and zoning inspector toured the 90 miles of shoreline in Mecklenburg.

"We were able to scan this shoreline by boat in 10 hours," he wrote, "by automobile the total distance is at least 220 miles, and because of barriers on private roads and backtracking to intersections, it would take a matter of weeks to accomplish what we achieved in 10 hours."

His comment touched a sensitive nerve: The practical impossibility of enforcing rules governing lake development. As an example, the Mecklenburg zoning inspector guessed that at least 95 per cent of wiring on piers observed during the 10-hour survey was done without an electrical permit.

"The reason most owners and contractors build piers and do all manner of work on the lake without permits," he said, "is that they believe they can proceed without the knowledge of the county—and in most instances they are correct."

Which brings us to the point: The Marine Commission often is frustrated by its inability to put teeth into its rules. As a result it has made only one since it was created in 1967. (It outlawed steel drums as flotation, which gives some idea why it becomes frustrated.) The Regional Council of Governments now is working with the commission to get state help in establishing a new kind of law enforcement officer on Lake Norman. He would be something of a lake-ranger, an especially-trained officer who would emphasize public relations in encouraging compliance with lake regulations, and he would serve in a liaison capacity with other law enforcement agencies.

He would, in effect, give the Marine Commission some physical presence and identity on the lake. One lake ranger could be a drop in the bucket, but he would be a good beginning.

## Desirable, But How Inevitable?

For more than a decade the North Carolina Department of Education has been pursuing a carefully planned course to consolidate small rural schools. This policy was inevitable from the standpoint of money. It is desirable from the standpoint of efficiency. It would eventually take the major portion of the tax revenue of the state and its various counties to finance the multitudinous high schools that have been spawned around the thousands of individual communities in the state.

This policy of consolidation had its inception in the United States shortly following the first World War, and it has grown apace in 35 years. As far back as 24 years ago, consolidated schools in Ohio and Illinois resembled Davidson College in the size of their plants, the excellence of their faculties, and the breadth of their educational advantages. This movement spread to the South, and now we find it upon our doorstep here in Iredell County.

But the North Carolina Department of Education has committed one stupid blunder in pursuing this consolidation policy. Rather than face the initial ire of these communities whose schools are to be telescoped into something larger a few miles away, then proceed to dissipate this wrath and turn it into cooperation by a program of informing the people, the policy-makers have tried to keep it a secret, tried to sneak up upon the people. Thus we often see a

school community suffering under the illusion that it is about to receive a big appropriation, when in reality the school officials are planning to route the children to another high school and eventually abandon the school. The Iredell county school system has been in a constant turmoil for the past 10 years, and much of it can be traced to this policy of secrecy adopted in Raleigh and forced upon the county board of education.

Let's face it and have done with it! The people of Iredell County are intelligent people, reasonable people, and once they are taken into the confidence of the school authorities, once they have explained to them the absolute necessity of consolidation, the utter infeasibility of continuing the old scatter program, they will put their shoulder to the wheel with complete understanding.

Within the next 10 years there will be, we venture to guess, only five high schools in Iredell County—one in Statesville, one in Mooresville, and two large consolidated high schools somewhere in North Iredell and one in South Iredell. This should be the goal of the county school board.

(Now that you've read the editorial, we confess it is a reprint. It first appeared in the Mooresville Tribune August 28, 1952. We happened across it the other day, and it left us wondering if there really is anything new under the educational sun.)

## Now, About That Trend Line . . .

J. D. has one of those AC-DC computer calculators that's about the size of a country match box. You know the type. It has a tiny TV-like screen where answers appear in lights. He can ask it all sorts of questions and the lights flick on like magic.

We were going to play with the electronic wizard the other day, and after all else failed we read the instructions. We learned J.D.'s vest-pocket brain can:

Figure future value of a compounded amount in 10 seconds.

Calculate discounted cash flow in 35 seconds.

Automatically compute trend line for forecasting.

Calculate trend lines by the least-squares linear regression method. Rotate the stick of stored figures down one location and continue to rotate with each pressing of a single button.

It has a four-location operational memory and a constant memory and it weighs only 14 ounces and we couldn't think of a thing to say to it.

That same morning a fellow came in to renew his subscription for two years. He had a \$5 bill, a \$10 bill and two quarters and he wanted the sales tax taken out of the quarters because he already had a pocketful of change. J.D.'s AC-DC brain volunteered no information at all.

## Parson Jones' Pulpit

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER:

When I was a young man used to sing a song about going to heaven. One of the verses went, "You can't go to heaven on roller skates, you'll roll right by those pearly gates." Well, these days I don't see anybody trying to get to heaven on roller skates.

Our government tried awful hard to get us there with space rockets, but that didn't work. Then they tried bringing heaven down to earth with social security and that was a flop too. The medical profession made a stab at eternal life by pumping every body full of penicillin. All I got out of it was a rash.

Back in Bible days folks tried to get to Heaven by putting up the first empire state building, but like a lot of our highways it didn't get finished.

The Church has been telling everybody for years how to get there. They said Jesus was the way. Fact is, Jesus said it first: "I am the way, no one comes to the Father but by me."

But folks weren't satisfied with something they couldn't see. They needed an elevator they could eyeball and touch. Well, Mr. Publisher, I think our age has finally got it. We have come up with these elevator shoes that puts a fellow at least four inches higher up. I saw one boy at church last Sunday who looked like he was walking on stilts. His shoe soles must've been at least six inches thick. Back a few years ago the women folks had high heel shoes. Some of them were a half a foot high. But their soles were thin, which made whoever wore 'em walk down hill.

These new elevator shoes actually put a body's head higher in the sky. I've been thinking about writing a song, "You can't go to heaven in elevator shoes."

Mr. Publisher, it's a mystery to me why people will try so many dumb things to reach the celestial city when the right way has already been laid out. Jesus Christ is the way. Folks remind me of a bird trying to get out of a building by flying through the wall, when the door is standing wide open.

So much for the genius of man.

Yours Truly,

Parson Jones

## OUR COMMUNITY



IN OTHER YEARS... 47 YEARS AGO

The Sherrill Motor Company has moved into its new building on South Broad street and is becoming established in its new quarters. The place is a large roomy building and is built with modern conveniences for the automobile trade. The show rooms, offices and work rooms are all fitted up with modern equipment and Thad Lowe is as proud of the new Buick home as any boy ever was over his first pair of boots.

The Brawley building on Main street, vacated by the Sherrill Motor Company, will be occupied by the J.B. Smith Motor Company after the 15th of this month and it will be the new home of the Oakland and Pontiac. A few changes are being made in the front offices of the building and will be ready for occupancy within the next day or two.

Parties who have been over the Mooresville Landis road within the past ten days are highly elated over the excellence of the road. For six or eight years the road was in terrible condition and from the Rowan line this side of Prospect to Concordia Church was simply terrible. The road has been worked all the way from China Grove and Landis to the Iredell line. The Mill Bridge road is also in good condition.

A tenant house on the farm of H.A. Smith, located several miles east of Mooresville near Prospect Church, was blown up by dynamite and then caught fire and burned on last Friday night. The detonation when the explosion occurred shook the entire neighborhood and many residents in that community were alarmed over the terrific blast.

Upon investigation on the part of the Enterprise, it is learned that a Negro family was to move into the house on Monday of the week, but since the house had been destroyed his coming to the Smith farm has been delayed, temporarily, at least. Whether the Negro's coming back to that farm had anything to do with the explosion and fire was not learned. No clue has been found as to who the guilty parties are.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Melchor, RFD No. 1, was burned last Sunday night. Practically everything was lost. The fire originated through a hole in the chimney. The house belonged to R.M. Brawley, and will be replaced at an early date.

Mr. C.L. Kelly received word Tuesday morning from Philadelphia that his brother, Mr. Clyde Kelly, had undergone a very delicate operation Monday, for an abscessed lung. If the first experiment proves satisfactory another operation will follow Thursday. Mrs. Clyde Kelly left Statesville Monday to be with her husband. She was accompanied by Mr. Stanley Kelly, of Statesville.

Mr. J.C. Bustle, a well-known farmer of Mecklenburg county near Cornelius, was in town Tuesday. He made 34 bales of cotton besides his other crops last year. Mr. Bustle says that many people are afraid to eat rabbits since there has been so much said about the tularemia poison. He also says that unless people kill more rabbits much of the tender crops will be destroyed by the accumulation of bunnies.

Mrs. Margaret Elliott died at the home of her son, D.W. Elliott, of the Mayhew neighborhood, last Friday night from infirmities of old age, being 93 years, 3 months and 10 days old at the time of her death. For many years Mrs. Elliott made her home with the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex Holshouser, of Mayhew. For several years prior to her death she had been blind. Funeral services and burial took place Sunday at 11 o'clock at MacKendrick Church, conducted by Rev. W. C. Fitcher, the pastor.

Superintendent H.C. Meyer says that school opened with an average attendance last Monday, and that all the teachers reported for duty. Everything about the schools is about normal once again. In the lower grades there are quite a few children absent, but they remain away any time when the weather is very cold.

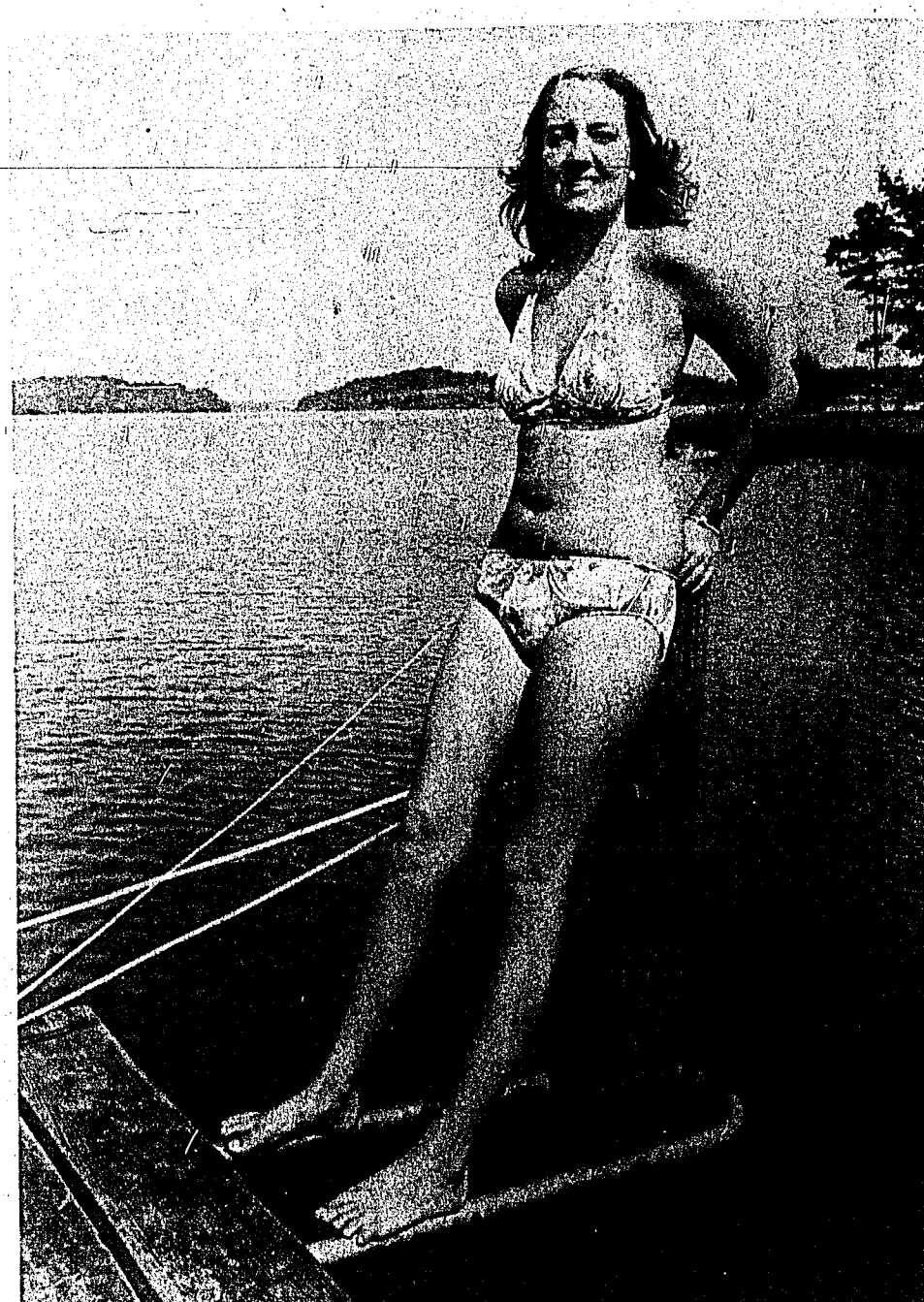
## USED CARS

Select your car where they are inspected, road tested and approved before you buy.

B.B. (Bus) Mayhew says: "The nicest thing about an egoist is that he never goes around talking about other people."

McKnight Pontiac-Buick Co.

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## Along Lake Norman Shores On A Hot August Day

With the sultry August days upon us, you'll find plenty of bikini-clad girls, swimming, relaxing and sun bathing on the shores of Lake Norman. Here's Betsy Peace, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Richard Peace, Jr., of 342 Glenwood Drive. A rising senior at Mooresville Senior High School, Betsy is 5-7, weighs 120 pounds and has brown hair and hazel eyes.

## Faraway Places

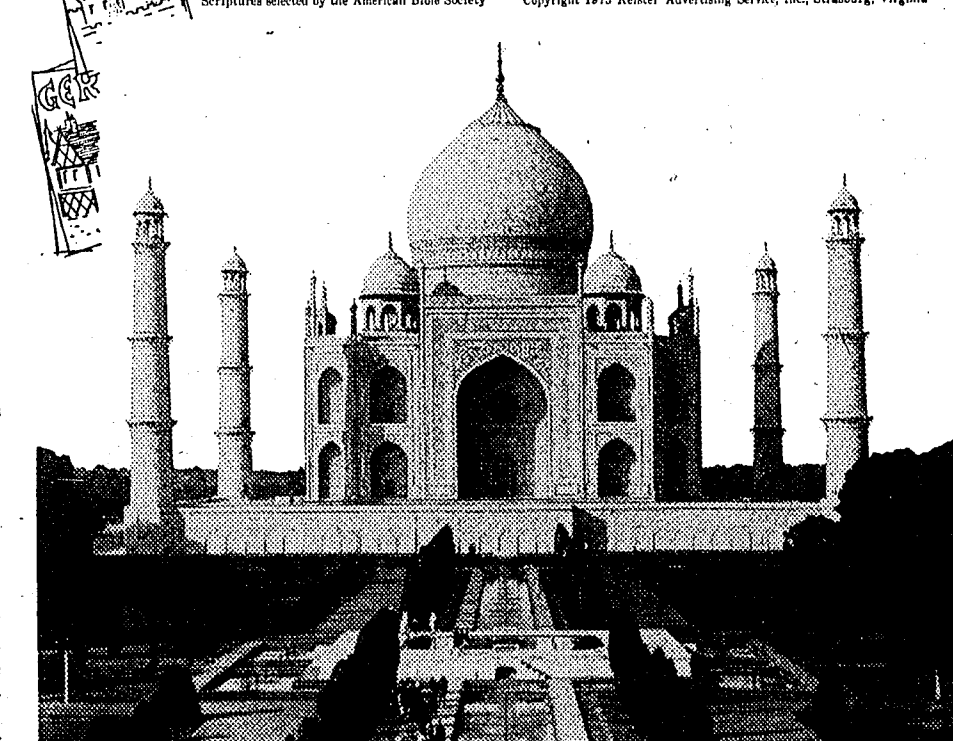
I've never seen the Taj Mahal. Nor have I looked up at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, or out across the broad Sahara to the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

Most of my life, as a matter of fact, has been spent right here in my own town. Not because I don't want to travel. To visit these faraway places is one of my big desires—and, one day, I hope to do it.

But I know, deep in my heart, that even if I never leave my home town I'll have more to do than I can hope to accomplish. Because God is just as much here as he is anywhere. Our minister used that thought in his sermon last Sunday, and he told us how much there is for all of us to do in our own particular place—and how much remains undone!

If we bring just one other person to church with us on Sunday, we're really doing something, he told us. And, as I thought it over, I knew how true that was.

That's why I'm asking you.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
Psalms John Ephesians II Thessalonians Hebrews Revelation  
126:1-6 3:18-21:36 1:3-12:2-1:7 2:1-12 2:14-3:7-19 12:25-29 3:14-42

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## "Posing For My Sweetie Pie"

Alice Marie Thompson is the two and one half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Thompson of Mooresville. Grandparents are Winston Morrison and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence C. Thompson of Mooresville. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Alice Morrison and Mrs. Nellie Sorensen.

## Social Security Questions and Answers

Q. I've heard that I can now make up to \$2,100 and still get my Social Security checks. What happens if I make over \$2,100?

A. If you make more than \$2,100, we will withhold \$1 of your checks for each \$2 you make.

Q. My wife worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years. She recently passed away. She had not worked in the last 4 or 5 years. Can our children receive Social Security payments?

A. Yes, probably so. If a child's deceased parent was insured under Social Security, the child can receive monthly payments. It makes no difference if the parent was the mother or the father.

Q. I am ready to apply for Social Security benefits. My wife is still working and earning \$3800.00 a year. Do her earnings affect my benefits?

A. No. Only your own earnings affect your benefits. You may earn up to \$2,100 yearly and still receive all your Social Security checks.

Q. If I need to submit a doctor bill claim, where can I get the form?

A. You have a request for payment form in the back of your Medicare Handbook. Your Social Security office has a supply and will mail one to you or you can go by and pick one up at any time.

Q. I plan to return to work soon and will hire a maid part-time. Will I have to report her wages for Social Security?

A. Yes, if you pay her as much as \$50. or more in cash wages in a calendar quarter. The report for July, August and September is due in October.

## GABRIEL BUS CO. FOR SALE

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## Simpson Community News

By MRS. HAL DEATON

(Editor's note: This interesting news letter, prepared for publication last week, was received too late for use at that time. We use it this week, with sincere apologies for its lateness.)

—Miss Gleta Glass of Summerfield arrived Saturday to spend some time with Mrs. Hal Deaton.

—Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hunslett were recent visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Taylor at Greensboro.

—Thomas M. Hoveyett entered Lowrance Hospital in Mooresville Friday for treatment.

—Mrs. Annie McLean, Miss Lucille McLean and Mrs. Alma Cashion, all of Statesville, and Mrs. Bobby R. Sherrill and Bobby of Statesville, route 10, visited Mrs. Hal Deaton Sunday.

—Saturday night visitors in the Deaton home were Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Goodman and Mrs. Robert Miller.

—Mrs. Marvin Arthur returned home Friday from Da-

vis Hospital, Statesville, and Mrs. Hal Deaton returned home Friday from Lowrance Hospital.

—Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barkley of Taylorsville spent Saturday night with Mrs. Thomas M. Hoveyett.

—Mrs. Ivey Horton of Concord visited Mrs. Grier McKnight last week. Mrs. Almo Cashion of Statesville spent Sunday with Mrs. McKnight.

—Mrs. Thomas M. Hoveyett and visited Mrs. McKnight in the Lowrance Hospital in Mooresville.

—Paul David Lippe remains a patient at the Lowrance Hospital in Mooresville.

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