

Mooresville Tribune

"Although I Disagree With Everything You Say, I Will Defend Unto Death Your Right To Say It!"

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Shucks Belk Salutes Gnome Family Patriarch



Len Sullivan

Crossroads of the world

Name it, and somebody from it probably attended the Mooresville Lions Club's 51st annual Old Time Fiddlers and Bluegrass Convention March 30 in the Senior High auditorium. Shaw Brown has directed all but two of these shows, and he co-directed those. He knows of which he speaks.

This week, he spoke thusly: "This year's show was the best in terms of entertainment and the biggest in attendance, no question. It was standing-room-only and not much of that. This on Easter Eve and the day both Carolina and Duke were playing in the NCAA semi-finals."

Always, the most money, \$100, the biggest trophy and the brightest ribbon go to the show's best fiddler. This year, Shaw said, this top recognition went to Tommy Malboef of Troutman, a member of the Deep Grass Band.

This year, for the first time, the Lions offered a door prize. Everybody who came and registered was eligible to win the television set. Terry Stevens of Mooresville did and did. Shaw, seasoned promoter that he is, had a motive for this generosity: he wanted to find out where the audience came from. He was impressed with the show's drawing power when he went through towns and phone numbers on the registration slips:

Folks came from no fewer than 85 North Carolina towns, from Japan and from these less-distant places: Virginia and West-by-God Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, South Carolina, Michigan, New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C.

Well, sure, hoedown fans from Japan already were here visiting, and others from far, far away were here for other reasons. But, Shaw said, he fielded at least 125 very long distance calls during the two weeks leading to the show from people who planned to come here for no other reason. He said one group called before driving from Hilton Head, S.C., and another got directions from Columbia.

"This kind of family-oriented show touches people in a special way," Shaw said. "Sort of back to the basics. And the regional publicity we've been getting through the Southeast Tourism Society and Southern Living magazine hasn't hurt a bit."

Sorry 'bout that, Will

Recall the stages of aging: you forget names, you forget faces, wherever you are must be near a bathroom, you forget to zip up and, finally, you forget to unzip. Hold that thought as I share Duncan MacBryde's "Paeon Under Pressure."

Duncan and Ann, late of Mooresville, live at — and immeasurably enliven — The Pines at Davidson. I don't know what aging stage he's in. I know he's outlived all his trade-in value — he's been written off the Blue Book, as it were. I know his mind is extremely agile, and I know he's a punster extraordinaire.

Exhibit B: when he shared his "Duncan's Soliloquy" with me — on April Fool's Day, appropriately enough — he cautioned against identifying the author. He did authorize me, however, to attribute his offering to "an unauthorized leak." Here's Exhibit A:

To pee or not to pee, that is the question;
Whether it is nobler, in this bind, to suffer
The stings and burning of outrageous pressure
Or to take urn against the urean sea
And, by discharging, end it.
To drop — to seep
No more; and by a leak to say we end
The bladder-ache, the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to! — 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To lie — to sleep!
To sleep! — Perchance to dream! — Ay, there's the rub:
For in that sleep of kidney what dreams may come
When we have stumbled down the bathroom hall
Must give us pause.
Amen! says Everyman verily and forsooth.

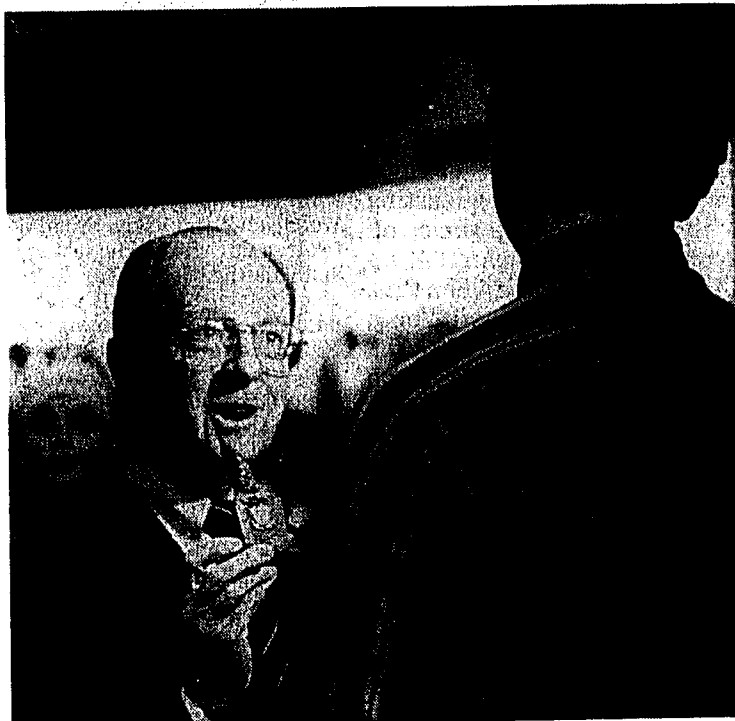
As part of its continuing Mooresville store-opening activities, Belk paid tribute last week to Dr. Tom Clark, creator of an expanding clan of lovable wee people.

Clark's gnomes gestate in his fertile imagination, they are given form and almost-life in his studio at his home near Davidson, and they go forth and multiply in the Cairn Studio plant here in South Iredell Industrial Park.

The sculptor of the collectible figurines met admirers and talked about his work for about an hour the night of April 4 in Belk in the Mooresville Festival

Shopping Center on N.C. 150 at Interstate 77. He held court before a capacity audience while surrounded by families and generations of his gnomes marketed by Belk.

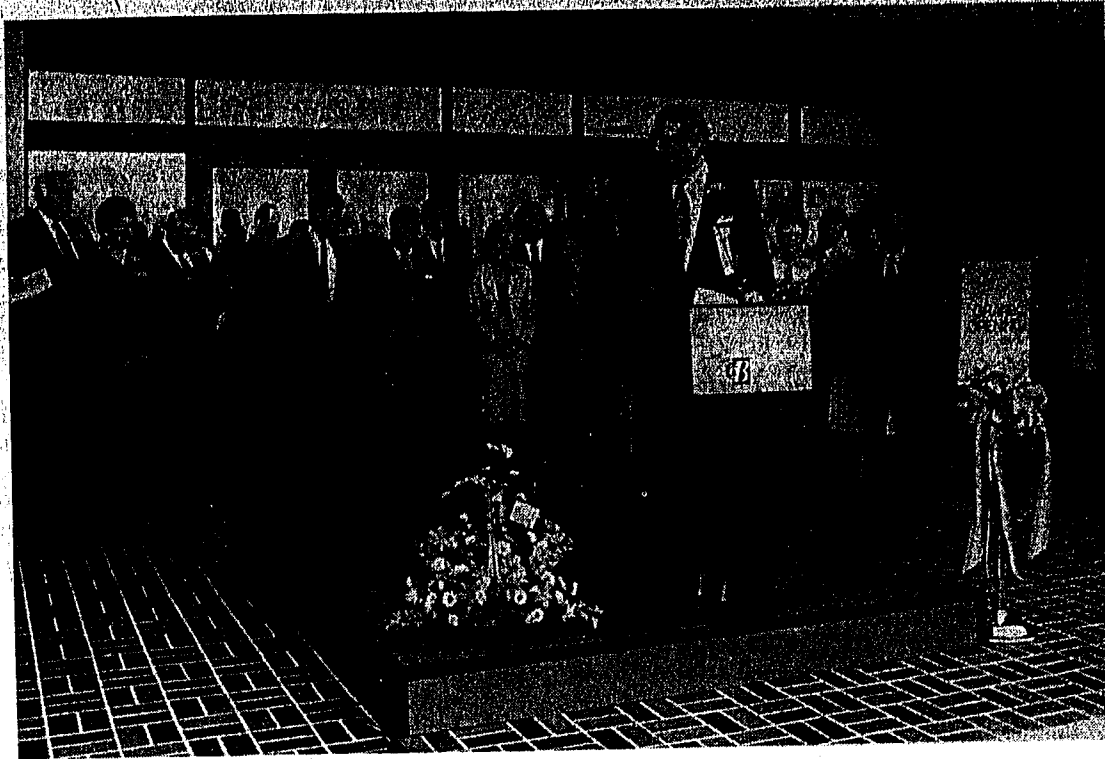
The other star of the show was his five-gnome Operation Desert Storm series that salutes each branch of the American military. Garnering their share of adulation during Clark's store appearance were these fellows whose names declare their affiliation, and who became available April 1: Flyboy, Coastie, GI, Leatherneck and Swabbie.



Clark and a very small friend meet a fan



Operation Desert Storm series on exhibit



Belk Launches Grand-Opening Celebration

John McCaskill, at the lectern, was master of April 3 ceremonies marking the opening of Belk in Mooresville Festival. McCaskill is senior vice president of the Charlotte Group of Belk. Other Belk officials who took part in the program that included a ribbon cutting were Ray Boone, store manager; John Belk, chairman of the board of Belk Store Services; Roddy Kerr, executive vice president, supervising partner of the Atlanta Group; and David Stovall, executive vice president, supervising partner, Charlotte Group. Other guests who participated included Mooresville Mayor Joe Knox, Mooresville/South Iredell Chamber of Commerce President Jane Carrigan and Iredell County Commissioner Sara Haire of Mooresville. Promotional activities surrounding the store opening are continuing.

Volunteers To Be Trained For MSI Special Olympics

Volunteers are needed for the Mooresville/South Iredell Special Olympics.

Organizers of the local olympic games for the handicapped are looking for volunteers and will conduct a training workshop for potential volunteers next week.

The volunteer training session will be held April 16 at 7:30 p.m. and it is designed for any and all persons interested in working in any capacity to help make the Special Olympics a success.

The training program will be held in the cafeteria at Mooresville Junior High School.

One hundred volunteers are still needed to oversee events and other activities associated with the local Special Olympics, which

will be held April 20 at Mooresville Stadium.

For additional information about the volunteer training program, or about the April 20 Special Olympics, call Jody Oliphant at 663-3841 or 664-4152.

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"DO YOU DARE TO DREAM?"

Saturday, April 13, 1991

7:00 pm

Mayflower Restaurant
Hwy 150W—I-77
Mooresville, NC

Dr. C C Bankhead, Speaker
Principal Mooresville Jr High School

Donation: \$20 per Person

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