

The proper etiquette of courting

Editor's note: This is part 102 in a continuing series on the "Recollections of Mooresville in the 1890's," as chronicled during the 1930's by the Rev. J.I. Goodman of Fleming, Colo. in a weekly column in the old Mooresville Enterprise newspaper. This series is compiled and edited by Iredell historian O.C. Stonestreet III.

Nov. 7, 1935

Your "Enterprise" of last week copied from "The State" an article by Theresa M. Thomas, reciting some features of courting when Grandpa would a-courting go. Of the author this scribe knows nothing. Whoever she may be, she is posted as to etiquette and customs of that time. Probably she was a contemporary, and prospective grandma; thus writing from experience. Some of you who read this were a part and partner in the acts she described so accurately and tersely. If so, you need not be ashamed of

Echoes of the Past

acknowledging it.

We Grandpas and Grandmas who were boys and girls a half century ago, are willing to admit that our social relations were somewhat stilted and intriguing, but there was between the sexes a deep-seated respect for those virtues which I should characterize as social relations.

A lady — a real lady — held the respect of all men, even though some of those males were not altogether above reproach; and woe to the man who dared transgress the accepted code of moral behavior. Likewise the ladies held in high respect a man of proven honor.

Granted that some of this was the result of formality, we still claim that it was better than the familiarity of the sexes today. There was a rigid code of behavior and conduct for each sex,

instead of what now prevails when the sexes drink together, curse with the same oaths, when so many women don masculine garb, while others seem trying to revert to the garb Eve wore in the garden....

It rejoices my heart to read so many good reports of what your young people are doing in school and in later life. The case of Miss Rachel McKee is an example. I presume she is the granddaughter of Bob, who formerly owned the land on which much of your city rests. A splendid character was he. Not brilliant, but reliable. A successful farmer, good citizen, good provider for his family, and a true friend. Many pleasant hours in his home was my good fortune, and I rejoice to hear a good report of any who sprang from his loins.

I read quite a bit about the Melchors — all descendants of two brothers, John and Julius, from Cabarrus

County. These men and their immediate families had much to do with Mooresville while in her swaddling state. Their memories are a treasure. Some of them were truly dear friends. May the younger generations add lustre to the lives of their forbears. 'Tis a blessing indeed, to have an honorable ancestry. Emanuel Woods was a youth when I knew him. Numbered by years he is still progressing — learning the airplane stunt, and finding pleasure thereby. Better keep your feet on the ground, Mr. Woods, so that you will not have far to fall if a mishap overtakes you. Airplane disasters abound throughout the world. Almost a daily occurrence. Are we trying to cross the bounds intended for us by the Most High? Worth pondering.

J.I. Goodman
Fleming, Colo.

College's alumni offered new series

Alumni returning to Davidson College for Homecoming on Saturday will not only be recalling the good of days. The college is also offering them an opportunity to find more satisfaction in their careers.

Homecoming will include a seminar in "Faith at Work" sponsored by the college's new Lilly Program for the Theological Exploration of Vocation. That event, hosted by 1993 graduate Elizabeth Kiss, a college trustee and director of the Kenan Ethics Center at Duke University, will be closely followed by a series of seminars on the same subject for the colleges Charlotte-area alumni.

More than 30 alumni have already signed up for the four-week series of Lilly-sponsored programs that begin the week of Sept. 17-21. The Lilly Program director, Tim Beach-Verhey, explained, "Alumni and people in the community I talk to confirm that they're making a good living, and providing a good life to their fam-

ilies, but they wonder about the purpose of what they're doing. Are they helping anyone? Is there significance to what they're doing? They're asking questions about work that transcend the paycheck that comes with it."

Davidson is one of 20 colleges nationwide that received funds from the Lilly Foundation last year to promote the idea that faith applied to the workplace can lead to a more fulfilling career. The foundation contends that people who align their beliefs, values, and principles with their work find it more meaningful, and manifest solidarity and compassion through it.

Davidson has crafted its four-year Lilly Program to encompass not only students, but faculty staff, townspeople, and alumni of all faiths and religious persuasions. Some aspects directly address the Lilly Endowment's intention to encourage students to consider a career in Christian ministry.

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Children's center kindles 'visions for your children'

By LORAIN CONLON

"Never lose your dreams and visions for your children," said Mary LaCorte, assistant director of the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC). "Particularly children with special needs."

It's a message continually reinforced by the staff of ECAC, a private, non-profit organization headquartered in Davidson and serving the all of North Carolina, which is committed to improving the lives of ALL children, especially children with disabilities.

Originally ECAC was set up to provide support, training and education for parents to ensure a special needs child received the best education possible, particularly in light of the 1975 federal law which mandated special education for children with disabilities. As the organization grew so did the projects.

For instance, in October 1995 ECAC began a program called "Parent Partners," and developed a family center for families with "typical" children. The center provides the parents with advice, workshops, services and resources relevant for their child's educational needs and development.

Also, in the "Parent Technical Assistance Project" ECAC provides training, technical assistance, coordination and support to parent organizations who serve families of children with mental health needs.

Another project is



ECAC Executive Director Connie Hawkins and Assistant Director Mary LaCorte help parents help their children reach for the stars.

"Bridging the Gap," which provides urgent information to families with children from birth to three years of age who are hospitalized to help with early intervention where necessary and to make the transition from hospital to home easier.

"We have someone on site at Carolina Medical at all times," said LaCorte. "Although this is a fairly small project we are excited about being able to help and advise parent so early on."

"Community Awareness" is a project that promotes positive

awareness of children's issues in a variety of ways including disability awareness programs, which can be used by an award each year to the outstanding N.C. high school student with a disability.

"We are not so much parent advocates as parent educators, partly because we do not have the man-power," said LaCorte. "We advise and train parents to become their own child's advocates."

In October, however, ECAC is hoping to change this; they

will be holding a workshop to train parents to become volunteer child advocates for families who need support. Presently, ECAC refers those parents to other support groups who have the manpower to advocate for the child.

ECAC runs 60 free workshops a year, which includes such topics as special education laws, preschool transition to school, becoming your child's best advocate and writing effective Individual Education Programs (IEPs). The ECAC has an extensive referral service, publishes a quarterly newsletter and has the largest lending library in the southeast for families. Although the library is located in Davidson, access to a book is easy; it only takes a phone call, and the book will be shipped out with an accompanying self-addressed prepaid envelope for the book's easy return.

ECAC is also committed to ensuring someone will answer all calls as soon as possible; all of the parent-educators who respond to the calls are parents of disabled students.

"We didn't plan it this way; it's just how it turned out," said LaCorte, "and it works well because they can identify with many of the problems the families are experiencing and can offer practical help and solutions as well as a sympathetic ear."

ECAC, which was started by its executive director Connie Hawkins in 1980 as an all-volunteer parent organization, has grown to a full service par-

ent training information and resource center for families of children with and without disabilities. It now employs 26 full-time and part-time staff members, with offices in Davidson,

Raleigh, New Bern, Greensboro and, in October, Asheville. For more information on ECAC, log on to www.ecac-parentcenter.org or call (704) 892-1321 or 1-800-962-6817.

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Wary shoppers push up sales for low-price retail chains

Media General News Service

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and rival low-price chains led a 3.5 percent gain in U.S. retailers' August same-store sales as shoppers, wary of rising unemployment, looked for discounts on groceries, household goods and back-to-school supplies.

The increase from August 2000, based on results at 75 chains tracked by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., was less than the company's 4 percent forecast as apparel merchants stumbled. The results were little improved from July's 3.4 percent increase and below last August's 4.2 percent jump.

Even discounters offered unusually steep price cuts as U.S. consumer confidence fell in August to the lowest level in four months. Department stores and clothing chains had coupons and pre-season specials on fall goods to stir up demand for apparel. The promotions narrow profit margins and may put third-quarter earnings forecasts at risk, analysts said.

Retailers are stocking as little inventory as possible for the fourth-quarter holiday season so they can keep mark-downs to a minimum should sales miss forecasts for a second straight year.

Analysts said that discounters probably will outpace the rest of the industry this holiday. Demand for food and everyday household goods will improve sales if holiday shoppers spend less on gifts.

"We prefer the discounters over the department stores and fashion-oriented retailers," said a money manager, Brian Slater, at Condor Capital Management, which

owns shares of Wal-Mart, Target Corp. and Costco Wholesale Corp.

"Consumers are definitely thrifter these days," Slater said.

The Standard & Poor's Retail Stores Composite Index, which includes Wal-Mart, Target and Gap Inc., fell 32.25 to 809.12. The index has fallen 5.4 percent this year, less than the 16 percent drop in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index.

Many chains said that they will continue offering promotions to coax shoppers to the stores. Promotions and slower sales will push the annual profit of Pier 1 Imports Inc. below forecasts. Pier 1, a home-furnishings retailer, said it will earn 79 cents to 85 cents a share, less than the 93-cent average estimate of analysts polled by Thomson Financial/First Call.

Wal-Mart, the largest retailer, said that August sales jumped 7 percent. J.C. Penney Co. had a better-than-expected 7.5 percent increase.

Among clothing chains, sales fell a steeper-than-expected 17 percent at Gap, 4 percent at Limited Inc. and 0.9 percent at Talbots Inc. Gap shares fell 21 percent after sales dropped 10 percent or more at each of the company's divisions - Gap U.S., Gap International, Banana Republic and Old Navy. Same-store sales are an important retail measure because they exclude results from stores that opened or closed in the past year.

August sales and margins were well-below expectations, and same-store sales for the third quarter may decline more than forecast, Gap said. The stock fell \$4 to

\$15, after earlier dropping to a 52-week low of \$14.76.

"Gap pinned its hopes on the denim phenomenon," said Kurt Barnard, the president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report. "Everybody else had it, too, and nobody is very happy with it. Denim is a dust-gatherer on the shelves."

Clothing "falls at the lower end of the pecking order when push comes to shove," said Dan Popowicz, an analyst at Fifth Third Bancorp. "Unless things get a lot worse, consumers are still going to go to Wal-Mart weekly, and to Home Depot on Saturdays." An expanded selection of groceries helped Wal-Mart attract shoppers. Excluding results from Wal-Mart, industry sales rose just 1.7 percent last month.

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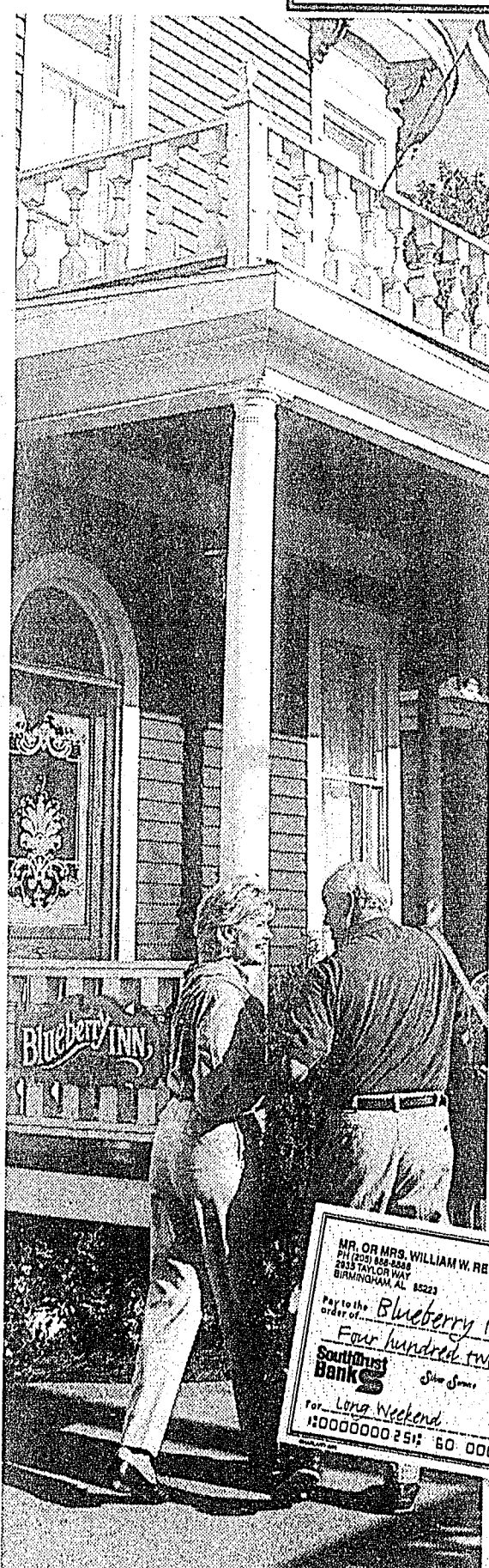
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Children Given Too Much Juice

The American Academy of Pediatrics warns parents that too much fruit juice is not healthy. Juice contains a large amount of sugar which, if consumed in large quantities, can result in diarrhea, abdominal pain, bloating, and cavities. It is recommended that babies under six months old have no fruit juice, and limiting juice to four to six ounces a day for kids one to six years old, and eight to twelve ounces a day for ages seven to eighteen.

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