



Community Chaff

BY TOM MCKNIGHT

Column Begins Seventh Year

Well, another one has come and gone. As a person grows older the Christmas seasons seem to come closer and closer together. And, unfortunately, to many oldsters they come to mean less and less.

Due to a chain of fortuitous circumstances, this was not the case at our household this Yuletide season. Our place was one of joy, laughter and noise. Mucho noise.

Have a couple snapshots.

Our 10-year-old and one of her little sixth grade classmates are giving "Silent Night" the duet treatment in music and voice on an inter-room range. Cathy, with her French poodle Nina perched on the bench beside her, is performing at a small electric organ in the dining room. Her little chum is keeping the pace at the spinet piano in adjoining living room. Dorothy, with the volume turned clear up to here, has "Westside Story" spinning on the Hi-Fi in the den. Marie is finishing up some pastry cooking in the kitchen. Papa is wandering around the house applauding the performers.

In 30 or 40 minutes the formation shifts right or left but it's still the same ball game. Dorothy is on the telephone in the kitchen taking a long distance call from some boy friend talking from the Atlanta airport. Marie is now trying her hand on the organ. Cathy and her chum, with a jazz record on the Hi-Fi, are tearing down the den with what I presume is a combination of the twist, the cha-cha and the hootenanny. I never ask about such things. I have found that to do so you lose face. Nina, having got a wiff of the pastry, is rared back in the kitchen waiting for a bite. Papa is still wandering around the place in a state of pleasant confusion.

And so it went from day to day and night to night at our place during the holidays. It was wonderful and joyous and we are so grateful for the fate that made it so.

This week is the sixth anniversary of Uncle Dan from Doolie as a syndicated column to the non-daily newspaper field.

As we start into the seventh year of this project, the column crisscrosses the United States, from the Times in Waltsburg, Washington, to the Herald in Belle Glade, Florida, from the Old Colony Memorial (oldest weekly in America) at Plymouth, Massachusetts, to the Rustler-Herald at King City, California.

It has more than 4,000,000 readers, is still the most widely syndicated column in America to the non-daily newspaper field, continues to grow a little each year.

The first publisher to buy the column in January of 1958 was our long-time friend Harvey Lafoon of the Elkin Tribune. Our second customer was publisher Ray Baird of the Times at Rockwood, Tennessee. Both are still with me. Harvey publishes what I believe to be one of the best semi-weeklies in the United States. Ray has been in the House of Representatives of the Tennessee legislature for 16 years, is a strong political figure in Tennessee.

In these six years, we have accumulated literally scores and scores of pen pals among the publishers buying the column. We must have had at least 100 Christmas greetings from these publishers around the nation.

Some of them drop us a note several times a year, others a letter every six or eight months. We enjoy them all and answer them all.

There will be a note from Glenn Doss of the Sun at Whitewright, Texas, in the county where President Eisenhower was born. A long letter from Mrs. Reva Evans, publisher of the Journal at Gordon, Nebraska, hard by the South Dakota border. Mrs. Evans is a girl of the Old West, roped steers for fun as a teenager, puts out one helluva good newspaper. Her occasional letters are full of the flavor of the prairie country.

One of our most frequent and interesting correspondents is Berwyn Burke who publishes the Times at Sun Valley, Idaho. Berwyn is a wit and something of a poet and for Christmas he sent me a poem on politics. He has a brother, Ronald, who publishes the only paper in adjoining Butte county and who is also a column customer.

Another pen pal is Vince Taylor of the Enterprise at Eloy, Arizona. He tells me of the political and economic situation in the Southwest. And there is always my old friend L. L. Coleman at Mobridge, South Dakota, who drops me a note from time to time, always enclosing another letter from Indian Chief Whaletail.

Mrs. Carl Turner, publisher of the 5,000 circulation county seat paper at Waupaca, Wisconsin, is another fine woman who drops us a letter about twice a year.

From Henry Steele at Marcellus, New York, Frank Andrews at Woodsville, N. H., from Bill Irby at Sylacauga, Alabama, George MacDougall at Groton, Conn., from Jack Hester at Charlestown, Indiana, Ernest Joiner at Sebastopol, California, from all across the face of the nation come these occasional and interesting letters.

We doubt that any person has a better grasp of the grassroots philosophy in America than we get from these letters from small publishers whose pa-

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Thief Suspected Of Causing \$50,000 Blaze At Dillon Manufacturing Co.

Mooresville Tribune

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

VOL. XXX

MOORESVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1964

No. 46

Construction For '63 Totals \$640,426

Three building permits, calling for an outlay of \$1,925, were issued in Mooresville during December to bring the year's total to 78 permits and \$640,426.57. Building permit records are on file in the office of City Manager Cyrus Brooks.

From the standpoint of money involved, July was the big month, the seven permits issued that month calling for an outlay of \$301,082. This included a permit granted the Mooresville Federal Savings and Loan Association for the erection of a new \$264,632 office building on North Main street.

Eight permits, calling for an expenditure of \$45,184.57, were granted during January, while nine permits, calling for an outlay of \$48,780, were issued during February. During March, seven permits, calling for an outlay of \$33,

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Alexander Has Full-Time Job As Inspector

Mooresville's first full-time building inspector began his duties New Year's Day.

J. L. Alexander, an experienced building contractor, was named to the post. City Manager Cy Brooks said Alexander will direct all building, plumbing and electrical inspections for the town.

The most important responsibility of the new building inspector will be that of enforcing the town's minimum housing code that becomes effective February 6. The housing standards ordinance was adopted three years ago, and the effective date was set at that time.

For the past six months, Alexander has been employed by the

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Uncle Dan From Doolie Says:

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I been busy killing hogs and trying to gather up some figgers for my 1963 income tax report and ain't had time to make my annual predictions on the New Year. But it's safe to put things for 1964 in a nutshell, and perdict taxes will edge up a bit, the cost of living climb a little, and our foreign aid friends will report prompt and often at the give-away table.

Us small farmers and ranchers has to git our income tax report in by February 15; two months ahead of everybody else, and I always start on mine the day after Christmas.

Hog killing is easy to handle, but on account of the expert system I use for keeping books, my tax reporting is a complicated operation.

As a perfection agin fire and theft, I keep my records scattered around pritty good. Fertilizer expenses is wrote down on the barn door, fer instant, and I always put a few expense items on the silo and the hen house wall. My old lady keeps the cash-received figgers in her Sunday pocketbook. By the time I git 'em all rounded up and ready fer scientific tabulation, February is about come and gone. All my life, Mister Editor, I been running a dollar short and a day behind and it ain't no different with my income tax report.

And speaking of such matters, I see by the papers where this feller that runs the U. S. Internal Revenue Service in



OWNERS SAY MONEY STOLEN FROM VENDING MACHINE
John Dillon, Left, Son Examine Cooler With Deputy Sheriff Dick Perkins

NCEA DINNER MEETING

Noted Educator To Speak Here

The Mooresville unit of the North Carolina Education Association has completed plans for the annual dinner meeting of the organization on Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 p. m.

The dinner will be served in the Mooresville Senior High School cafeteria to members of the professional organization and invited guests which will include members of the Mooresville Board of Education and their wives and the presidents of the local Parent-Teacher Associations and their wives.

Following the dinner, the address for the occasion will be given in the Roland R. Morgan auditorium at the Mooresville

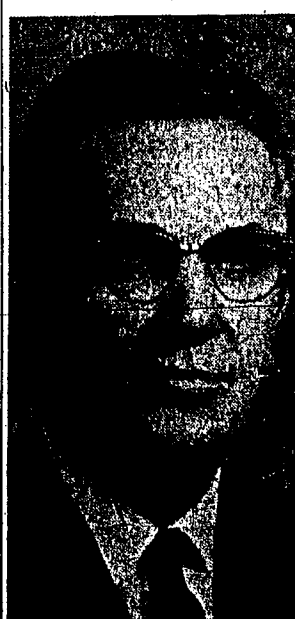
Senior High School at 8 p. m. The speaker for this annual event will be Dr. Lyman V. Ginger, dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. Ginger, born in Ballard county, Kentucky, received his early education in Henderson, Kentucky. He received his A. B. degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1929, his M. A. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1942, and his Doctor of Education degree from the same institution in 1950. He has also been awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Dr. Ginger taught science and coached athletics at Winchester High School in Winchester, Kentucky, for 10 years, and for three years was principal of the Owingsville Consolidated School in Owingsville, Kentucky. From there, he went to the University School at Lexington as principal and science teacher. At the end of the first year he was made acting director of the University School for all 12 grades, and the next year became director of the University School and chairman of the Division of Instruction in the College of Education.

He became dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, in September, 1956.

Dr. Ginger has served as pres-



DR. LYMAN V. GINGER
After Dinner Speaker

Yours truly,
Uncle Dan

Two Buildings Destroyed In Tuesday Morning Fire

A thief who entered Dillon Manufacturing Co. and stole \$1.10 from a soft drink vending machine is suspected of having started the Tuesday morning fire that destroyed the local firm's building, equipment, supplies and merchandise.

Flames demolished the company's entire plant shortly after midnight. The owners placed the loss at more than \$50,000. John H. Dillon and his son, John Jr., said only a fraction of the damage was covered by insurance. The plant was located at the intersection of N. C. 115 and N. C. 150 bypass, just north of the town limits.

Men and equipment from Mooresville and Shepherd fire departments fought the blaze in bitter, 20-degree cold, but the fire was discovered too late to be headed.

A passing motorist saw flames gush from the roof of the factory and notified Mooresville firemen. The call was received at 1 a. m. A patrolling Mooresville policeman, Lloyd Hudspeth, said he noticed nothing unusual when he drove past the plant five minutes earlier. The fire had too much headway for the firemen. Shepherd fire fighters joined members of the Mooresville department in combatting the raging blaze, but all the men could do was protect nearby property. Seventeen men from Mooresville fought the fire; Shepherd rushed its two trucks and 15 men to the scene.

How the fire started has not been determined, but investigation Tuesday uncovered evidence as to who might have started it. Dillon and his son, owners of the business, spent Tuesday here examining the fire scene and trying to recover from the shock of the sudden loss. The two men live at Cleveland, route 2, but they have operated the firm here since 1950.

They said they had been plagued by thefts from the soft drink vending machine kept in the building for them and their six employees. The two men left the plant Monday at 6 p. m., after Dillon Jr. said he noticed the money box on the machine contained a dime and two half-dollars.

During their probe of the charred remains of their factory Tuesday, the two men noticed the change container on the cooler had been removed and the money was gone.

The men said the cooler was near stored materials used in their wood-working operation. They said a dropped match or lighted cigarette could have ignited the material, and they theorize that was what happened.

The Dillons reported their suspicions to the Iredell Sheriff's Department, and Deputy Dick Perkins was on the scene early Tuesday to begin an investigation. The deputy has practically nothing, except the removed change container and the missing money, upon which to base a case. He pointed out there is no way to determine if the building was broken in prior to the fire, since all doors and windows burned.

Whatever or whoever caused the fire, it remains a crippling loss for the Dillons. They had built the

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Storm Turns Town Into An 'Icicle'

A severe storm, swept along by bitter-cold New Year's Eve winds, dumped two inches of snow, sleet and ice — mostly ice — on Mooresville Tuesday afternoon and night.

Activity slowed to a crawl in the face of the onslaught. Only the hardest of souls ventured out after dark. The heavy, treacherous sheet of ice coated everything and discouraged all unnecessary travel.

Mooresville policemen and firemen prepared for the worst when the hard freeze began early in the afternoon. Incredibly, there were no traffic injuries, and one mishap of any consequence. John Brown, 17, of Route 1, Mooresville, lost control of his car as he drove east on West McLelland at 5:15 p. m. The vehicle overturned in a ravine, and it was heavily damaged. One fire call around midnight sent firemen to Cook's Grocery on Patterson Avenue, where a stove had harmlessly overheated.

Mooresville awoke to a thawing slush Wednesday, but both Troutman Shirt plants closed for the day. By mid-morning, school officials said that, barring another siege, classes would resume Thursday as planned.

Leaders Named For Two Posts In Heart Fund

Leaders have been appointed to two key positions in the upcoming Iredell Heart Association fund drive. Association President Shaw Brown announced this week.

Frank Burke of Mooresville has accepted the all-important job of directing and coordinating fund-raising activities in the county. Mrs. John Cornell of Statesville has agreed to serve as chairman of community programs.

Brown, a Mooresville resident who spearheaded the successful Heart Association appeal last year, said all persons connected with the campaign will meet for a planning session Monday night, January 6. February is designated "heart month" by the Heart Association

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Dr. W. W. Painter Has Heart Attack

Dr. W. W. Painter, well known Mooresville surgeon, is a patient at the Lawrence Hospital, the victim of a heart attack he suffered Saturday night. At press time, Dr. Painter's attending physician said that he "was doing very well."

Vows Mean Much Here

Divorce Rate Lower Than Elsewhere

How high is the divorce rate in Iredell County compared with the rate in other communities? How many local residents have been divorced? How many have remarried?

For the great majority of men and women locally, marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime undertaking. For others, who start out with equally high hopes, their marriages end up on the rocks.

At the present time, the figures show, there are no less than 10,500,000 people in the United States who have been divorced. Over 70 percent of them have remarried, leaving about 3 million still in the divorced column.

In addition, some 2.4 million are listed as separated.

Data just released by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, covering 1962, and reports from the Department of Commerce indicate the current trend in divorce.

They show that there are fewer divorced people in Iredell County, in proportion to population, than in most parts of the United States.

According to the tabulations, 30 out of every 1,000 local residents over the age of 14 are either divorced or separated. This is exclusive of the number who were divorced but who have remarried.

The rate compares favorably with that elsewhere in the United States, where it averages 43 per 1,000. In the South Atlantic

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