

On The Road: News From The Sunny South

BY HELEN CONDON
Greetings readers, from the sunny south. When we left Parishville Jan. 4, the temperature was a bitter five degrees. We waved to Joe Snell as he was crossing the snow covered road to feed his young stock. Although we were apprehensive about the Watertown area the roads were clean and the wind was not blowing. They must have a machine similar to a giant snow blower because the snow banks on the exits went straight up in the air about three feet high. We breathed a sigh of relief as the snow diminished to a few inches deep in the southern part of New York. Into Pennsylvania there were only patches of ice in the woods. The dark green of the laurel bushes in the woods was a change from the grays and browns of Parishville.

We drove past what appeared to be the biggest junkyard in the world and the mosaic blocks of color from the height of the road was actually pretty. Once in a while the sun bounced off a mirror or reflected off the top of a roof to show brilliant silver lights. A photo of it would have made a great puzzle for the expert puzzle makers.

The deer population must be large there because we drove by at least five deer killed by vehicles on the edges of 81. Nature, however,

was providing for its own as the crows were devouring them.

The large oak leaves hung tenaciously to the branches but as they turn rust in the fall the winter winds and snow soften the color to almost a rose pink and this gave the woods a warm appearance against the contrast of the laurel. Laurel leaves are dark and shiny and are used in spaghetti sauce (bay leaves). Rhododendron bushes, with their large leaves, started showing their elegant faces in southern Pennsylvania and upper Maryland. And although Maryland was cold with ice on the ponds and tributaries of the Potomac River, there was no snow to be seen.

Through the northwestern tip of West Virginia on Route 81 we passed a highway department with six bright yellow trucks each backed into its appropriate garage door. Not one was equipped with a plow

although on the side of the building there were three Y plows awaiting inclement conditions. There didn't appear to be a scratch on them. If it snows there the residents must just wait for it to melt.

Virginia hosts colonial Williamsburg with its old homes, plantations, public buildings and gardens restored to 18th century vintage. You could stay here for a week and there would still be things to see. This is a place to come back to when the call of the palm trees and sun isn't so strong.

Back to 81 and an overnight stay in North Carolina. Pace Arrows, Prowlers, Concords, Winnebagos, tag-alongs, fifth wheelers and

motor homes of every size and shape were all heading south. Sycamore trees with their white blotches in the top branches appeared off the sides and started to fade out as the sweet gum trees with their gum balls attached started showing. At a rest stop I had gathered a basketful of these spiny balls in five minutes for Christmas wreaths. The yellow pine and oak now gave way to the longer needled red pine with enormous cones. If these cones were to be used in a 12 to 18 inch wreath frame they would have to be cut in half.

Virginia roadsides were devoid of any billboards and it was a rest

for the eyes. But as soon as we crossed the border into North Carolina they lined the sides of the roads and 85 miles from the tourist trap, South of the Border, signs started growing every 80 feet or so. Myrtle Beach signs say "1,500 shops. Don't let your wife see this!" or "50,000 rooms to rent, snore by the shore." Towel, cigarette, fireworks and sportswear outlets boast of cheaper prices. Motor inns, gas stations, South of the Border signs, one with a huge plastic elephant which states "Have an unforgettable stay" or a huge rooster on a bright yellow sign which says, "Something to crow about" line the roads. Pedro, a little Mexican boy, is shown on each sign and some of the statements he makes are quite funny. "No ants in Pedro's Pantry" or "You never sausage a place." This one had a large sausage on the top. How about this one? "Virgin Sturgeon and unused bagels." No one is safe from the slapstick humor of these advertisers. One of the signs was upside down and said "Sign planned in Washington" "Pedro feex later, O.K.?"

Vines on wooden fenceposts with four inch pods hanging off them made umbrella-like shapes bordering the cotton fields. Some of the cotton was still attached to the plants, similar to part of the corn fields we do not harvest. But most of it was picked and plowed awaiting next spring for new seeds.

There are many homes near route 95 without proper fences to keep the animals out of traffic. It was sad to see five or six dead dogs on the side of the road.

Monday night we spent at Skidaway Island State Park in Northern Georgia. The roads were lined with live oak (an oak tree with small leaves that never all fall off at once, making it like an evergreen), wild olive, red bay, holly, magnolia, palmetto and red pine. Spanish moss started appearing in the larger trees and in some places hung over the roads forming a natural covered bridge for the travelers.

In the morning we took a walk on a nature trail and saw animal tracks with two pointed hoofs and thought them to be deer. All of a sudden we heard grunting and snorting noises and saw a large, reddish brown animal crashing through the underbrush. It didn't look like a dog or a deer but we couldn't figure out what it was and it was gone as soon as we spotted it. After inquiring with the caretakers we found that a few nights before two teenage girls were camping in a tent and they heard snorting and grunting noises in the night around the edge of the tent. Upon investigation they were terrified to find two 300 pound hogs digging up the ground outside their abode!

These hogs have been on the 480 state tract long before the Creek Indians granted the English settlers the 12-mile-long island in 1733. The Indians, as research shows, occupied these coastal islands as early as 2000 BC. They had no

agriculture, but existed by gathering wild plants, seeds and hunting wild game.

They also consumed oysters, clams and other shallow water food resources. Today local residents have covered the ground around ornamental bushes in their yards with oyster shells. As I took my calcium pill this morning I thought of where the shells came from. Somewhere along the East Coast, I presume, where oysters are dug, shucked, canned and sent off to inland cities for consumption by gourmets.

Then we traveled across the wide St. John River near Jacksonville with blue herons and cormorants in its waters and long wooden docks jutting out into the fish-filled waters. Cottages with sun bleached cedar shakes and clapboards lined the southern shores of this slow moving river and the rain washed the boards of the docks darkening them in its wake. Small flat bottom boats were tied up to these long docks awaiting sunnier days for their owners to take them out fishing.

Just before St. Augustine, the funny little armadillos started appearing foraging on the sides of the road. Their armored body and tail keeping off the rain, they didn't seem to pay any attention to the traffic speeding by.

I must inquire as to whether they bite. If not I would like to pick one up and examine their gray armored plates.

The rain persists to fall here in Edgewater, Fla. but the temperature stays up about 55 or so. Tomorrow a trip to the east coast beaches and then on to the west coast and Cape Coral and Ft. Myers. Perhaps we will stop off and visit with Velma and Lyle, our friends from Parishville, who are living near the Fenners in Orange City.

Parishville

The adult Sunday School and coffee hour will be held at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings at the Parishville United Methodist Church.

Stockholm Board Organizes

BY MILDRED JENKINS
Stockholm — The annual organizational meeting of the Stockholm Town Board was held in the Municipal Building, Winthrop, Jan. 2, with Supervisor Lincoln Chapman presiding.

The time and place for the regular meetings was set for the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the municipal building, the same as last year.

The following yearly set salaries of town officers were accepted as listed as follows: Superintendent of Highway David Gebo, \$19,400; Supervisor Lincoln Chapman, \$8,000; Deputy Supervisor Patricia Furgison, \$4,500; Town Clerk Freda Frary, \$8,500; Deputy Town Clerk Betty Wilcox, \$1,000; Town Justice Wayne Williams, \$4,500; Code Enforcement Officer Eddie Marsh, \$2,000; tax collector Joan Tanner, \$2,500; court clerk, \$1,200; sewer attendant, \$1,700; councilmen, \$1,800 each for four; assessor chairman, \$3,500; assessors (two), \$2,000 each sewer rent collector \$500; historian, \$500; librarian, \$200; sanitary engineer, \$6 per hour; inspector of elections, registration day, \$50 each per day; primary day, \$50 each per day; election day \$75 each per day; and custodian of voting machines \$300.

Upon a motion by Councilman Joseph Robinson and seconded by Councilman Robert Scott, the above salaries include the expenses of the time incurred for any schooling in 1986, and it was carried.

Mrs. Patricia Furgison was re-appointed Deputy Supervisor.

Mrs. Betty Wilcox was appointed deputy town clerk and she was also appointed deputy tax collector.

Town Clerk Frary was re-appointed registrar of vital statistics. Supervisor Lincoln Chapman was re-appointed service officer.

Harold B. Jenkins was re-appointed court attendant.

Supervisor Lincoln Chapman made the following appointments: Mrs. Mildred Jenkins, re-appointed historian; representative to the health center, Councilwoman Eleanor Russell; Councilman Daniel Chambers re-appointed to the recreation center; Councilman Joseph Robinson, re-appointed to the highway committee; and Councilman Robert Scott, re-appointed to the sewer committee.

The re-appointment balance from 1985 to 1986, is as follows: landfill, \$21,999.20; general fund, \$64,438.09; sewer, \$131.24; highway, \$118,255.43; and revenue sharing, \$5,012.12.

Plaques have been presented by the Stockholm Town Board to three of the former employees of the Stockholm Highway Department: Keith Fay Gary, Frederick Goodnow, and William Butterfield. Also, a gift has been presented to outgoing Councilman Arthur Sweeney.

The annual audit meeting of the Stockholm Town Board will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Municipal Building, Winthrop, and will be followed at 7 p.m. by the regular monthly town board meeting.



SKIER AND FRIEND — This Parishville skier — and friend — made good use of recent heavy snowfalls to do some cross country skiing. (Helen Condon photo)

The Key Bank of Northern New York, at Winthrop, was designated the bank for 1986.

WINTER CLEARANCE

LEVI CORDS \$14 ⁹⁹	CHAMOIS SHIRTS \$14 ⁹⁹ Men - Women - Children	MEN'S WINTER COATS \$19 ⁹⁹
ZENA - SERGIO CHIC - LEVI BAGGIES \$16 ⁹⁹ And Up	CORDS and JEANS \$10 ⁰⁰ And Up Lee - Wranglers Chic - Zena	
LADIES WINTER TOPS and VESTS 1/2 PRICE	GIRL'S CORDS \$11 ⁰⁰ ZENA - OSHKOSH DESIGNER JEANS \$12 ⁹⁹	OSHKOSH BIBS Month & Toddlers Sizes 40% OFF
NIKES \$7 ⁹⁹ 3 Styles	LEATHER COURT SNEAKERS \$11 ⁹⁹ Style 718	LEATHER HI TOPS \$12 ⁹⁹ Style 708

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