

# News from the Blue Ridge Mts.

Claire & Lorin Cranford

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## ☞ Sites for us:

Some internet web sites related to our situation that provide helpful information about where we live:

### Gardner-Webb University

<http://www.gardner-webb.edu>

Fairly helpful information about the university and its heritage. The university is just entering the electronic age and is making good strides.

### Cleveland County

<http://www.cleveland.nc.us/>

A lot of helpful information about the county where Boiling Springs is located. This is the county where we live and is the more important political entity.

### Cyber Star

<http://www.shelbystar.com/>

The web site of the Shelby Star, the regional newspaper of the county seat town, eight miles to the NE of us. The weather section is especially helpful if you're concerned about weather conditions in Boiling Springs. Just click on Shelby in the local weather section and that's our weather forecast etc.

### Charlotte Observer

<http://www.charlotte.com/>

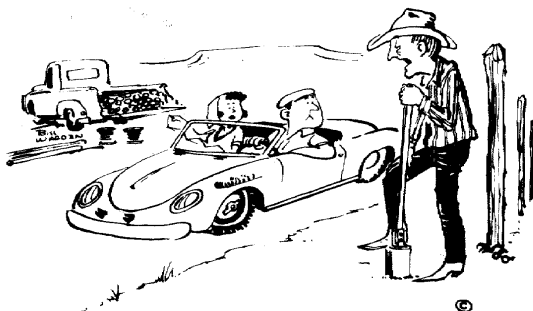
This is the web site of the major newspaper from Charlotte that we subscribe to. It has a great deal more information about this part of NC. Charlotte is the primary city in our part of North Carolina, and thus is something of a hub for western NC and northern SC.

### Go Carolinas

<http://www.gocarolinas.com/>

This is the web site of one of the major nearby TV stations with even more information about western NC.

## COWPUNCHERS



**"THEY AIN'T BUT TWO STREETS IN THIS TOWN...  
MAIN AND PLUMB, AND WHEN YA GET OFF  
MAIN, YOU'RE PLUMB OUTTA TOWN."**

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PO Box 1415  
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"To find big mistakes, look for big egos."  
Thinker's Daily Ponderable by Alan Harris  
<http://users.aol.com/alhinil/tdp.htm>

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## ☞ University Happenings:

Gardner-Webb university has experienced remarkable growth, perseverance, and maturity. The institution began as a boarding high school and later became a junior college. Today Gardner-Webb is a thriving regional university with growing master's programs. From a movement initiated by the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1903, and later joined by the Sandy Run Baptist Association, the Boiling Springs High School was chartered on December 2, 1905, as an institution "where the young...could have the best possible educational advantages under distinctive Christian influence." This close relationship of the institution to the area churches continues today. In response to the changing educational needs of the area the institution was transformed into the Boiling Springs Junior College in 1928. The Great Depression created many problems for the College, but its survival was secured by the sacrifices of many loyal supporters. In 1942, Governor O. Max Gardner began devoting his energy, time, and wealth to strengthening and guiding the College. So important was his influence that the name of the institution was changed to Gardner-Webb College in honor of the governor, his wife Fay Webb Gardner, and their families. The decades following World War II were years of physical growth and academic development. New buildings went up as enrollments increased. A major step in the institution's development was its full accreditation as a senior college in 1971. In 1980 the institution began offering a master of arts degree in education. The institution officially became known as Gardner-Webb University in January 1993, culminating years of preparation.

Today Gardner-Webb is a thriving regional university which offers eight distinct degree programs, has a highly qualified faculty and a beautiful campus of over 200 acres. Historically the University has played significant roles in teacher education and ministerial preparation for church-related vocations. Programs of instruction and experiences designed to prepare teachers and ministers continue to be major objectives of the University. Although there have been many changes over the years, Gardner-Webb University remains closely related to Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The University holds in high esteem its commitment to Christian principles and values as the best foundation for the development of human personality and social order.

If you receive Billy  
Magazine, check  
Feb issue, "Lost

**FLASH**

Graham's *Decision*  
out my article in the  
and Found," pp. 31-  
34.

## ☺Claire's Musings:

Wow! Our first month here has really been exciting. I thought we were going to slow down our life style and have more free time. I'm sure it will happen eventually, but I will have to wait just a little bit longer. We have both been so busy trying to settle into our various school situations, that we have still not had time to unpack all of our boxes. We have most things unpacked, and there are just a few boxes left, mostly books. Some of the missing items are our TV remote controls.

One of the many things I learned about a major move is that just because a moving box from the movers specially marked "Fragile" and with a big arrow pointing up, doesn't mean that the box stays in the upward position. We did fine, though, and nothing was broken in the move. That still amazes me.

Well, my biggest news is that I am back in school; as a student. I was being interviewed by the Cleveland County School District, and they seemed very interested in me. When we began the paper work, it was discovered that not everything transferred from Texas. I had to do late registration at Gardner-Webb University. I am taking eleven hours and leaving Tuesday and Thursday during the day open for substituting. I am taking a math course in Statistics, which is very hard for me. The P.E. class is recreational dance, which normally I would love, but I have a very bad teacher. She gripes at us constantly, rolls her eyes at us, and treats us in a very demeaning way. Monday nights I have a computer class, Tuesday night a Foundations in Curriculum class, and Thursday nights a Curriculum Development class. I am working on my Masters in Elementary Education while I am taking the undergraduate courses. I got tickled, because in my very first class a young man walked into class with "Serial Killer" on his shirt. I wondered what I had gotten myself into.

In the midst of all this school confusion, I have also been working on all the necessary paper work for substituting in Cleveland County and Shelby I.S.D. I already know more about the area than Lynn, because I am traveling all over. I know where the Shelby Police Station is, because I had to be finger printed. I told you it was exciting here. After I turned that into the school districts, I was able to start teaching.

My first day was to teach in a special class for second and third graders (emotionally disturbed). This last Tuesday was Kindergarten with class of 20, including a slightly mentally retarded boy who kept

see CLAIRE

## Weather Forecasts:

**Have you ever tried to figure out a weather forecast in a new region? New terms; strange references; familiar labels but with totally new meanings. This is some of what we've encountered in NC watching the TV weather. It comes in three layers: the mountains, the beaches, and the Piedmont. We are just south of the mountains; that's the Asheville-Boone region some 70 miles to the northwest. The beaches are the Outer Banks and Myrtle Beach SC area on the Atlantic coast a couple of hundred miles to the east. We live in the Piedmont, the rolling hills sandwiched in between the others. To add pizzazz to all this, is a forecast coming from Greenville-Spartanburg SC some 30 plus miles to the south of us which adds the term Upstate-- meaning the northern part of South Carolina.**

**It takes a while to figure all this out; but then usually we hear a nice report. One especially enjoyable aspect of NC weather is that the bad weather messes up the weekends in Texas, but it's Tuesday or Wednesday before it gets to NC, leaving us with consistently beautiful weekends.**

## ☺Corin's Musings:

Boxes -- unpacked and still in the way -- plague our lives yet after some six weeks. Gradually we're getting them emptied and places found for the contents. It's taking some ingenious placement however to fit everything into the smaller apartment. Claire is the expert in this department! She's gotten more stuff placed on the shelves in the kitchen than I ever imagined possible -- and it's convenient to reach! My offices both at the house and the university aren't nearly so well organized.

I've had the good experience of an excellent student assistant, Lynna Moore. She works ten hours a week for me as a part of a work scholarship program in the university. Credit goes to her efficiency and speed for getting things done that my office has begun to look something other than a war zone. She has her own web page on the internet: <http://www.angelfire.com/va/lynnakay>, and is engaged to a Marine who is serving in the Marine Drum and Bugle Core in DC. They plan to be married after her graduation from GWU next December.

It doesn't seem possible, but this last week of January finishes up the first four weeks of the spring semester here. The more I get into teaching undergraduates, the more I'm enjoying working with them. There's the lack of maturity factor to be sure, but their enthusiasm and openness to learn is quite refreshing. I've even enjoyed periodically waking up my football boys in the back of the 10:00 am MWF NT intro class. A couple of them have really gotten into the class discussions.

The first general faculty meeting this afternoon was typical in that it lasted almost two hours, but much more relaxed and enjoyable with the academic v-p cracking jokes at various faculty members and visa versa as he presided over the meeting. The faculty atmosphere around GWU is very relaxed and cordial. Plus the school is making serious efforts to put itself on the cutting edge of university education. That means there's a willingness to experiment with new things along with a strong sentiment against getting bogged down in old traditional ways of doing things. To be sure, tradition plays an important role on the campus, especially when recognizing significant contributions of long-term faculty. Yet, a lot of levity is present too. The long-termers were called the 'Maytags' today, that is, they have been pluggin' along without a lot of servicing! And that by the academic v-p who considers himself one of them. It is a refreshing difference!

Needless to say, teaching is fun again! Each day brings further confirmation of the rightness of the move to NC.

## CLAIRE continued

trying to turn out the lights all the time, and two other boys who were extremely challenging. Then, last Thursday, I taught eighth grade math. It surprised me that I liked the eighth grade a lot better than Kindergarten.

In all my travels around this area, I enjoy watching the beautiful scenery. I even listen to classical music more now, because it just seems to fit.

One thing is helping me now in the move away from family. During the spring break Carrie, Angie, and Clay will be coming up here for a few days to visit. We have so much to look forward to. I hope that we are completely unpacked by then.