





# THE FOLKLORE CORNER

By TED RAYNOR

## BEAR FACE

John Arrington Sr. of Farmington, New Mexico, old-timer and former trader to the Navajos, told the story of Bear Face who became horribly disfigured in a fight with a bear. The Navajo Bear Face was a curiosity to those who did not know how his face became disfigured. To those who did know the circumstances, his brave act came first for he was about the only one who had the reputation of whipping a bear.

This is the story:  
Among the Navajos who lived 40 miles from Farmington at the foot of the mountains was one who had a husky, six-foot-tall son. The Navajo families had little corn patches. Sometimes the bears came down from the mountains, destroying the corn. Once, while this Navajo's son was away working, a bear came down from the mountains. At night, and ate much of the corn and destroyed many of the stalks.

The next night when the bear again raided the corn patch, the father was waiting for him. He told the bear in a nice way that he did not mind if he ate some of the corn but that he had done wrong in taking too much. The bear got impudent, and said in effect, "What are you going to do about it?"

(The Navajos believe they owe allegiance to the bear and the coyote for saving their race centuries ago. Older Navajos will not kill a bear or a coyote. They claim they can talk with the animals.)

When the son came home from the job on which he had been working, his father told him how mean the bear had been. Bear Face was very strong and a very good wrestler, and a night or so later he faced the bear as the animal again raided the corn patch.

The young Navajo asked the bear why he had taken advantage of his father while he, the son, was away working. One word brought on another until the Navajo and the bear got into a fight.

The bear clawed the young Navajo's face, causing the horrible disfigurement. But finally the strong young man wrestled the bear down, and the bear said he had had enough. The Navajo kicked the bear in the "seat of the pants" and told him not to come back. The bear never returned.

The courageous Navajo bore his disfigurement and the name of Bear Face until he died years later.

## FORT STANTON

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shaw and children spent Saturday in Artesia visiting relatives.

Dr. Szegetl is driving a beautiful new two-tone Chevrolet.

Mr. and Mrs. Levitt and children spent last week end in Hamlin, Texas, visiting relatives.

Alvin Olson of Deer River, Minn., is back once more, working in Alamogordo. He spends week ends in Fort Stanton visiting the Levitts and all his many friends.

Mrs. E. P. Keeney was a house guest in the Parker home over the week end.

The Mmes. Coffler, Kuslanovich and Parker attended the Guild meeting in Nogal Tuesday night.

Mrs. Jack Shaw worked a few days in the post office while Mr. Price was away.

Johnny Stayne was a week end visitor at the hospital. He has a brother here and many friends.

Miss Georgia Ault celebrated a birthday the first of the week. She had a birthday cake and received many good wishes and cards.

## ALTO BRIEFS

By AILEEN LINDAMOOD

Lindy's Country Store is very proud of the new Coca Cola sign the company put up on the east side of the building.

George and Robert Creel were Roswell-visitors last Saturday.

Bill Long of El Paso visited recently with the Van Pelts.

Last Friday must have been Alto Day in Carrizozo. The Walter Schneiders and George Dingwalls picked that day to go. The Dingwalls went for the day but the Schneiders for the afternoon only.

Prentis Creel was confined to his home last week end due to illness.

H. E. Gateway of Hollywood was an Alto visitor last Monday. The Neal Chapmans of Carlsbad were here last week end checking their summer cabin down Gavillon.

The George Creel family, Mrs. Belle Creel and Robert Creel visited the Ras Piffillos on the Rentfrow ranch east of Carrizozo last Sunday.

D. A. Kincaid of Albuquerque has returned home after a short stay in and near Alto.

## County Forest Men

### Fight Mayhill Fire

Fred Swetnam, Jim McEuen, J. B. Hightower, Claude Hobbs and Ike Kennedy of the Ruidoso Ranger Station returned last Thursday from fighting the forest fire near Mayhill.

Jim Robinson, LeMoyné Peters and Fred (Peg) Pfingsten of the Captain Ranger Station returned at the same time from the forest fire.

The E. J. Posters of Lockney, Texas, checked over their summer cabin at Ruidoso last week. Can it be spring fever that brings them to the mountains?

The Hardings—Nora, Ollie and Martha Ann of Ruidoso — left Saturday for Big Springs, Texas. Mrs. Walter Scott, also of Ruidoso, who has been visiting her son in Synder, Texas, will meet there and they all will go to Mission, Texas, to enjoy the blooming fruit trees in the Rio Grande Valley.

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**PEARS** Libby's Fancy Bartletts ..... No. 303 Can **2 for 45c**

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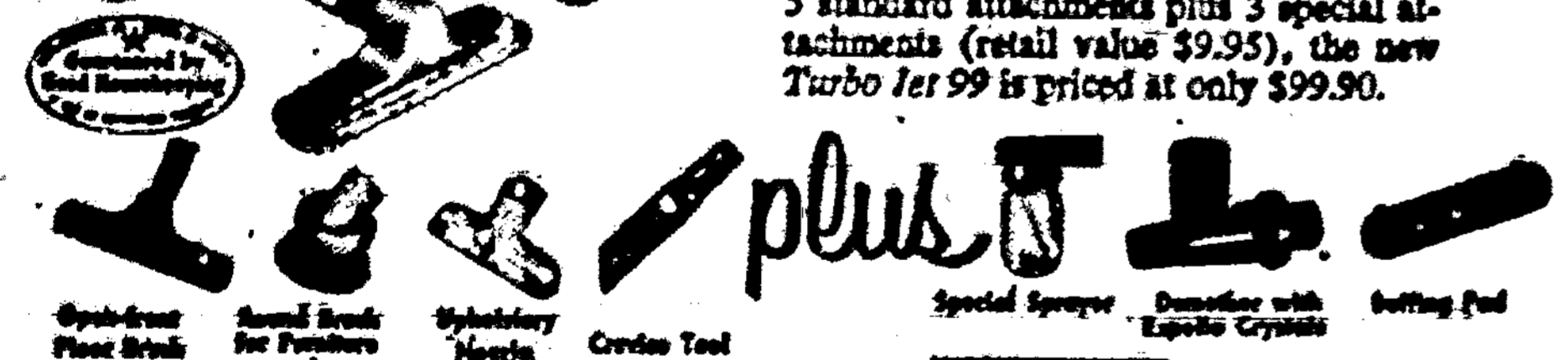


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