



## A Mountain Preacher For Fifty-Five Years

After 55 years as a mountain circuit-rider, most of us would at least be *thinking* about retiring—but not so with Rev. A. J. Manley.

It was our good fortune to meet this remarkable character at the wedding of Mildred Price and Clyde Rice recently. While riding back to Rosman with him after the ceremony at the Macedonia Church, conversation naturally drifted to subjects of the church, and it was then that we learned of the long, useful life Mr. Manley has lived among the people of this county.

Probably no other minister who ever labored in this county is as widely-known and universally loved and respected. Now 76 years old, Mr. Manley has been preaching since he was 21.

His pastorates cover practically every Baptist church in the county. He preached first at the historic Cathey's Creek Church known as the "Mother Church" of countless Baptist churches in this section. Then his fields of service carried him to Glady Branch, Carrs Hill, Dunn's Creek, Carson's Creek, Dunn's Rock, East Fork, Middle Fork, Old Toxaway, Zion, Oak Grove, Lake Toxaway, Macedonia, Shoal Creek, Mount Moriah-Calvert, Pisgah Forest, and Boyleston in this county, and Pleasant Grove in Henderson County.

During his ministry, he also served churches in Pickens County, S. C. and in Jackson County.

Asked to offer some statistics on his ministry, Mr. Manley replied cautiously, "I can safely say I have preached over 2,000