

Methodist Meeting Ground Proves Interesting

On my recent trip to the mountains one of the stops made was the Ball Creek Camp Meeting ground. Located west of Catawba, North Carolina, it was begun by the Methodists in 1853 and yearly revival services in camp meeting style have been held here every year since, except two years.

In 1853 the first sermon was preached at Ball Creek. At this time there were only ten or twelve tents. People who didn't have tents took shelter under brush.

Over four-hundred-numbered tents, built in four rows around a central arbor, form a blockade effect, shutting out all outside interferences.

The tents are in reality small crude buildings, usually consisting of two rooms and a loft with the ground as a floor, resembling the cow and horse stables of today. One room is used for cooking and eating purposes, while the other one and the loft have bunks for sleeping.

During the revival week entire families move out, baggage and all, to spend the week camping. Today concession stands are found around the outer rim of the circle.

A large arbor occupies the center of the grounds. This has rows of seats, a pulpit, and a platform for the choir. The services are held four times daily during the week's revival.

These religious meetings have a social side also, since old friends and relatives from great distances come just for the purpose of attending the camp meetings, held the last week of August. Thousands participate in this yearly gathering.

This, like any other meeting place, has had amusing incidents to take place. During one of the sermons of 1836 one of the brethren was asked to pray so that they might have a great meeting. He prayed "for the Lord to shake up this old ground and give us a revival to be remembered." Just at the moment he prayed these words, the earth began to shake and tremble. Reports have it that the old man stopped praying and was the first one out. This earthquake is now known as the earthquake of 1836.



REDGER EDWARDS

Fancy & Heavy

GROCERIES

Your Patronage Is Appreciated

R. F. D. 1

WILSON, N. C.

At Horna's Church

Lamm's
DEPT. STORE



Men - Women's
Children's
Ready To Wear

Bailey

N. C.

HOME-COOKED
MEALS

Our Speciality

Bridge
Banquet

Private Parties

Tasty Ice Cream

Magic Sundaes

Milk Shakes

And

Assorted Sandwiches

COLLIES CAFE

PHONE 376