

The Watauga Democrat.

R. C. RIVERS, Editor and Owner.

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Thursday, May 1, 1924

The State in the Long Ago

Rev. A. W. Pyle, editor of the North Carolina Christian Advocate, writes interestingly in a recent issue of that paper about old times in the state of North Carolina. It is all the more entertaining by way of contrast to conditions of the present day and it will serve to give many readers their first information of how affairs were in this state in the days just previous to the War Between the States. Then the great majority of the people lived on the farms, because the towns were small and had the characteristics at best of rural communities. It was altogether an agricultural state, with mighty few factories of any kind. Manufacturing was confined to the household. The people made all their clothing, even to the hats and shoes, and plows, hoes, harrows, and all farming implements were made on the farms or in the village shops. The roads—so called for want of a more appropriate name—were rough in summer and often impassible in winter. And the only means of getting produce to market was by hauling it at wagons over these impassible roads to Charleston or Camden, S. C., Fayetteville and Wilmington, N. C., and Petersburg, Va., Petersburg at that time was a great tobacco market to which the farmers rolled their tobacco in hogheads.

Seventy five years ago railroads in North Carolina, like every other part of the world, were in their infancy. The Wilmington and Weldon Railway, chartered in 1833 and completed several years later was the longest railroad up to that time constructed under one charter. The Raleigh and Gaston road entered Raleigh in 1840. Ground was broken in Greensboro in 1851 for the North Carolina railroad, which ran from Charlotte through Greensboro and Raleigh into Eastern Carolina.

In fact up to the middle of the Nineteenth century transportation facilities were such that the marketing consumed all the profits in agriculture and some freely prophesied that North Carolina would never become a great commercial state.

This opinion on the part of not a few seemed to be confirmed by the constant emigration which reduced the gain in population in the state from 1833 to 1840 to two and a half per cent. The tides of emigration flowed continuously into the great Middle West, where free lands and the enticing stories of the fertility of the soil caused the people to go by the thousands never to return. It has been said that in 1845 one third of the people of Indiana were from North Carolina. Even now one can find the descendants of North Carolinians in practically every community from the Appalachian Mountains to the Golden Gate on the west and Canada on the north.

Yet in spite of the utter lack of means of transportation and the heavy drain through emigration there were up to the Civil War evidences of progress in the Old North State especially in education and religion. For there was a growing desire on the part of the more progressive citizens for a better system of education in the State. The "old field" school with its haphazard methods and limited curriculum, to say nothing of incompetent teachers, had served a good purpose in giving large numbers of the youth of the country an acquaintance with the "three R's, reading, riting and rithmetic," but this method of education had come to be realized as inadequate. And foremost among the leaders in an effort for a better system were the ministers of the gospel.

If evidence of this should be desired, it can be found in the fact that the churches were leaders in the establishment of schools and colleges. Wake Forest Baptist College, opened its doors in 1834; Davidson a Presbyterian College and Guilford a Quaker College in 1837; Normal College, which a few years later became Trinity College, a Methodist

institution was established in 1838. Greensboro, a Methodist College for girls, began its work of education in 1846.

With these evidences of educational progress came the organization of the Baptist State Convention and also the organization of the North Carolina Conference, which indicated a growing sense of unity and a desire for increased effectiveness on the part of these churches in the State. It was also a period of numerical gain for the Methodist Church which in 1840 had in the North Carolina conference approximately 15,000 members, while twenty years later the membership was 30,000. To double its membership in 21 years and the constant drain through emigration is a remarkably fine showing.

CULTURE OF WILD FLOWERS

(Indiana Farmers' Guide)

Do you find yourself without funds to realize the dream of the beautiful flower garden you've had ever since the first seed catalogues of the year came into your hands?

If so go into the woods, the meadows, and even to the roadsides and bring from their generous store of flowering things the plants for your bare spots.

All these lovely things we find growing wild about us are cherished in places where they are not native and are sold by nurseries for quite high prices. Many landscape gardeners use with splendid results our native sumac, elder and the coral berry which on Indiana farms is commonly called buck brush. We rarely find flowering trees more beautiful than our wild crab apples, dogwoods and redbuds. The crab is worthy to be set as a specimen plant.

What can be lovelier than wild roses along a fence? then there are so many of the smaller interesting flowering plants, such as Sweet William, larkspur, Jack-in-the-pulpit (Indian turnip), lady slipper, lilac bell (cowslip), snowdrop, spring beauty, May apple, Dutchman's breeches, wild rose, blackberry, lily, iris, columbine, pussy willow, wood sorrel, geranium and the "mood" violet. Both of these latter plants are lovely for edging beds and planting under shrubbery. They are fine too, for baskets and boxes, as are also many of the native trailing plants or myrtles.

There are the wild ferns that may be dug and removed to cool shady places. Growing along the streams are the large hibiscus-flowered marsh mallows, and in the fields are daisies of several varieties.

Always there is the Virginia creeper (five-leaf ivy, non-poisonous) in great quantities and it is one of the best vines for any porch. One of the coolest prettiest back porch work-rooms I have ever seen was covered with this vine.

One of the loveliest of all woods vines is the wild clematis with its feathery, white, starlike blossoms.

Another vine of beauty and quite showy is the trumpet vine, a farm pest, but from the florists at 75 cents the root. Other vines are the bitter-sweet wild grape and blackberry.

There may be many other native plants with which I am not familiar, but there seems a goodly number from which to make a selection.

Only those really needed and that will be used to beautify one's premises should be taken. We've always been too careless and wasteful with our natural resources, and in the matter of plants many species once abundant in our state are rarely found.

BILLY SUNDAY'S BIBLE

"Twenty-two years ago with the Holy Spirit as my guide I entered the wonderful temple of Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art galleries where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob and Daniel hung on the wall. I passed into the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature until it seemed that every rod and pipe in God's big organ responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chamber of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard, and into the conservatory of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valley's sweet-scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, and then into the observatory room of the prophets, where I saw telescopes of various sizes, pointed to far off events, but all concentrated upon the bright and Morning Star, which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience room of the King of Kings and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, passed into the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His work in the formation of the infant church. Then into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Ueter, James and John penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation where towered the glittering peaks and got a vision of the King sitting upon the throne,

in all His glory, and I cried: 'All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.'"

YOU CAN PICK AND CHOOSE

Collectors: Of the great army of Federal office holders only 533 are elected by the people. All these except 64 members of the Senate will come up for election in November. They include the president, the vice-president, 32 members of the Senate, and 455 members of the House of Representatives. For these 469 jobs there are now not less than 20,000 candidates, active or receptive. Except for two thirds of the Senate every Federal elective office becomes vacant on March 4 next and will be filled in November. You will have an opportunity to vote for only four men to fill these 469 places. Each voter will have an opportunity to name his choice for president and vice-president, one senator and one representative. That holds true in only thirty-two states. In the other sixteen states the electors will have only three choices. This year the voter will have few political issues to confuse his mind. Unless he is a convinced and narrow party man, he will not have to bother about the difference between Democrat and Republican. Character in the candidate will count more than his party label. It should not be difficult for you to choose three or four good men. If you should exercise the care and attention you should and do give to hiring a man in your private affairs, you will have done your duty. Congressman and senators and presidents are your employees. You hire and fire. Help pick the right sort this year.

A WOMAN TREASURE-DIVER

A woman has now invaded one more field of activity hitherto occupied only by men. At Tobermory, Scotland a scientific search for sunken treasure is under way and "the first woman deep sea diver" has arrived there to assist in the work.

The treasure is said to be in an old Spanish ship buried under three feet of clay at the bottom of the sea near Tobermory. It is supposed to contain millions of gold doubloons and similar things dear to the hearts of treasure hunters and readers of treasure hunt fiction. Some things were brought to the surface from this ship in a search conducted in 1919. The leader of the earlier work has trained the woman diver especially for the work. She has already made several successful descents, adding useful information to that already known concerning the ship's location and the machinery necessary to facilitate its salvaging. Women are not supposed to care

much for that sort of adventure or exploration, and the present woman professional diver probably will not be troubled with rivals. She is likely to remain the exception rather than become the first of a school of lady divers.

The Unpublished Goodness

(From the N. C. Christian Advocate)
The upright go unnoticed, while the criminal gets his name in big letters on the front page. The name of a murderer for example, is heralded in and near, while 10,000 go without crime and without notice too. One cashier defaults, while thousands glow no dirty dollar to touch their fingers. Of the thousands nothing is said, while the name of the one is on every man's tongue. Such facts, and they appear in every department of life, give a warped and erroneous notion of things. The unusual constitutes news. Crime though far too frequent, is unusual, and for that reason finds a place in the news columns of the day. If there were more thieves than honest men, the honest men would get into the headlines simply because they are honest. Our confidence is in the unpublished goodness of the world that does not lift up its voice in the streets. Crime is the earthquake and the storm, while goodness is the silent force that pulls the tides and swings the spheres in the moral universe.

PIANO RECITAL

Miss Andrey Clyde Alphin and Miss Mahala Kate Wilson will give their graduate piano recital Monday evening May 5, 1924 at 8 o'clock at the A. T. S. auditorium. They will be assisted by Miss Margaret Remine, soprano; Miss Sallie May Alphin, soprano; Blanche Horton, piano, and Nelda Wilson.



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CARD OF THANKS
The death and burial of our dear boy Max. God's richest blessings rest with you all.
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Greer.



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"Save the Surface and You Save All"
This is the slogan of all the paint manufacturers of favorable repute in the United States.
Our line of paints is complete and we are having the best paint business we have ever had from the fact people have learned how dependable are the lines we carry.
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We have just unloaded another car of Wire Goods and can serve you with anything you may want or need. Plenty of poultry and rabbit fence in 4 and 5 feet heights.
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Why send away from home for the goods you need when you can get them here and always as cheap, quality considered.
Let's make this the banner year for our community.
Slogan: Watch Boone and Watauga grow.
Nissen Wagons, Oliver Chilled Plows, and Deering Mowers
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HELP!
"LOOKING FOR MARY JANE!"
A FARCE IN THREE ACTS—PRESENTED BY
Senior Class Appalachian Training School
Auditorium May 8, 8 p. m.
This play comes from among the best productions and has met with universal recognition as one of the best things of its kind going the rounds
THE DRAMA IS FILLED FROM BEGINNING TO END WITH ROMANCE, COMEDY AND PATHOS—SOMETHING TO APPEAL TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL TASTE. THE LOCAL TALENT PLAYERS HAVE HAD INTENSIVE TRAINING, AND PUT THE PLAY ON IN AN UNUSUALLY CLEVER WAY.
For instance, imagine a handsome young opera star attempting to smuggle a Chinaman into the U. S. in a trunk!—but to get the thrills out of the thing you must be there.
PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A RADIO SET TO BE INSTALLED IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAINING SCHOOL.
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