

GALAX INDUSTRY AIDS THE NATIVE

(Fred Smith in Gastonia Gazette)

When one thinks of the mountains it is usually terms of summer resorts, winding trails that lead to a vantage point where beautiful scenery can be seen for the trouble of looking around, and cool nights when the fragrant ozone from the high places gets into one's bones unless insulated by several thicknesses of woolen blankets. To one who lives in the mountains the viewpoint is entirely different, at least that is the impression gained by some little bit of conversation with sundry specimens of the race who inhabit the mountains, seemingly with as much joy if living as any who tread the asphalt aisles of the city's marts.

To the summer visitor the mountains offer a succession of days and nights filled with a health giving atmosphere of quietude and comfort, of living closer to nature than is habitual with him back in his home town, and of association with people whom he does not meet in the ordinary run of the day's events.

The mountain people accustomed as they are to their native haunts evidence none of the enthusiasm of the tourist as he beholds for the first time a particularly charming vista of blue-clad peaks, stretching as far as the eye can reach to the horizon. The wild flowers and ferns that bedeck the roadside hold for most of them no charm other than what material value they see in them. Of course not all of the good Anglo-Saxon stock who frequent the high peaks are thus blind to the aesthetic side of their beloved mountains. They love the first wild flowers of the spring and watch with a pang of regret the last red leaf of the chestnut tree falling off with the chilling blasts of the autumn.

Those people of the mountains have not been slow to take advantage of the money value of their tourists come in the spring to stay native products when the influx of out the whole summer through. Some of them have made themselves independent by means of selling souvenirs and trinkets to the ever hungry souvenir hunter who will pay well for what he gets. Little shops that turn out the quaint hand made articles make a good income through out the months when the tourists trade is at the highest.

Blowing Rock is one of the most popular resorts in the mountains these sweltering days of midsummer. Probably more Gastonia people travel to this place than any other resort, be it on the seashore or in the hills. All of them without exception have declared the place good, and all in all, it holds a variety of attractions that not all mountain resorts have to offer.

The route to Blowing Rock over the road to Hickory and through Lenoir is a fine one and the trip can be made by motor from Gastonia in four hours or perhaps less if the speedometer is registering so low through some mishap or other that one's conscience is not hurt by the speed made. After leaving Lenoir the twenty three miles is mostly an uphill pull, with just enough straight and level stretches to give the 57 varieties of motoring. Passing along side the bed of the Yadkin river, which is crystal clear, the road leads up and over a low ridge, then up the precipitous side of the mountain whose very nearness takes away one's breath. The grade is such however, that the car does not have to be driven in low gear except in a few places. The view from the top is well worth the climb though, as any one can testify who has ever let his eyes behold the grandeur that lies in the valley below and on the slopes beyond.

The village itself is a curiosity to one who has lived all his life in the flats. Rhododendron and galax are used as hedges to surround the unique little cottages that are built with a rustic touch that enhances their beauty. The cool, moisture-like their beauty. The cool, moisture-laden mountain air seems to make the grass and shrubs grow just a little greener than around in other parts and as for the flowers—they are beyond description. Dahlias, asters, daisies and the whole rows of native blooms and blossoms that one can only guess the names of, fill the air with their fragrance. The churches that have been erected by loyal members are particularly beautiful with their rustic exterior finish and the beautiful hand carved woodwork inside, all being done by native craftsmen.

The Episcopal church which is a gift to the parishioners as a memorial to a woman who did much for the mountain people is a beautiful building both inside and out. The interior is finished in the light chestnut woodwork and with beautiful appointments. A painting done by a man who lived in the village called "Madonna of the Mountains," depicts a mother and child on the mountain top and the piece of work is as fine as one sees in any art gallery.

H. C. Hayes, who operates two stores there, told an interesting story of the galax leaf industry, which has brought much money to the mountain people. Beginning at this time of the year, the natives pick these little leaves with their shiny wax-like finish, and continue gathering them until late fall. They find a ready sale for them in the northern markets where florists use them by the millions for decorating purposes. The bronze ones bring a higher price than the ordinary green ones, the variation in color being due to the effects of the sunlight and the autumnal frosts.

Mr. Hayes, who deals in more galax leaves than perhaps any other man in the state says that he paid one of his collectors last fall the sum of \$2,200 for these leaves and he has many of them who bring the bundles of leaves to him. They are packed in bunches of 25 each and these in turn are put in larger bundles. A moss that is peculiar to the grassy morasses near some of the mountain streams is used in packing these bundles and it keeps them in perfect condition for a year or more. One man whose farm produces a lot of this moss was paid \$40 for a single load of it. Seeing the profits to be derived from the sale of it he turned his entire hay field into the cultivation of moss. That serves to show that the galax leaf industry is really one of importance. Mr. Hayes receives something around \$7 or \$8 per bundle of 10,000 leaves and ships out thousands of dollars worth each season.

In the winter during the long nights, many of the natives devote their time to carving out little trinkets that catch the eye of the summer tourist. One old gentleman spends his time whittling marshmallow toasting forks from second-growth white hickory and he finds a ready sale for all he can manufacture. Of course the more modern ones turn to filling stations and refreshment joints where they make a good living. Instead of mountain dew they distribute gasoline and hot dogs.

Mayview Manor still holds its supremacy over the resorts in this section by virtue of its magnificent location on the cliffside overlooking the Johns River valley and Grandfather mountain beyond. Its cuisine and excellent service have won it a name all over the country and its guests are drawn from all over the South and East. It is a mecca for vacationists who can afford to vacation without a thought of a depleted bank book. Many such places in Blowing Rock that are less pretentious have a good clientele and are always filled with regular boarders and week-enders.

The new hotel that will soon be erected in Linville, some distance beyond Blowing Rock, will be one of the most up-to-date resorts in the entire United States. It will be located on an immense plateau overlooking Grandfather and several other prominent peaks.

When the park commission decides on the location of the national park that is going to be placed somewhere in the Appalachian chain, that place will draw a tremendous tourist trade. It is up to the Tar Heels to show the boys from Washington that they will make a decided mistake if they do not locate the park somewhere in North Carolina's territory. And the majority of the park's advocates believe that this is where it will be.

AGED INVALID EARNS LIVING BY KNITTING

Washington Aug. 25. — Earning her own living by knitting lace at the age of ninety-seven years, although so badly crippled by paralysis that she is bedridden is the record of Mrs. Martha Clemens, who resides at Eldersville in the northern section of Washington county.

This aged woman is so skillful with her needles, and her lace is of such a fine quality, that she is unable to supply her many patrons. She finds great satisfaction in her work and declares that life is still pleasant, in spite of her handicaps, although she has been an invalid, confined to her bed for the past eight years. Her lower limbs are paralyzed and she has little use of her back. Despite these disabilities she is able to lean over in her bed on her left arm, hold the thread in her left hand and operate two needles with her right hand.

WANTED — Bids to carry pupils from Zionville via Silverstone to Cove Creek High School. Truck to carry a maximum of thirty five students. Submit bid to county Board of Education by Saturday August 30 8-23-11c

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THIS COUNTRY PREACHER KNOWS HOW TO BUILD SOIL

Statesville, N. C. August 25. — Rev. J. N. Brinkley of Iredell county in addition to looking after the spiritual welfare of his community is also proving to be a farsighted teacher of improved farming methods according to report of County Farm Agent for the State College Extension Division in this county. Extension workers agree that more fertile soils is one great need in North Carolina and the use of lime and legumes in building up the soil is being strenuously advocated at this period of the year when clovers are to be prepared for or planted.

"Rev. Brinkley began keeping accounts with a two acre piece of land on his farm in 1919." "His demonstration was with wheat during the period from 1919 until the present he has built up his yields from four bushels per acre to 37 3-4 bushels by using soil improving methods. This is an increase of 844 per cent in crop yield and is worthy of consideration."

In 1919 with a wheat yield of four bushels per acre Rev. Brinkley seeded the land to cowpeas, turned them under and reseeded the land to wheat.

In 1920 wheat yield was ten bushels per acre largely on account of the exceptionally good year for wheat in the county. This spring red clover was seeded over wheat.

In 1921 the first crop of red clover was cut for hay and second turned under for soil improvement. Land was seeded to wheat in fall of 1921.

In 1922 red clover was again seeded over wheat. The yield secured was 15 1-2 bushels per acre and this was a poor wheat year.

In 1923 the first crop of red clover was cut for hay the second turned under and the field again seeded to wheat.

In 1924, this year, a yield of 37 3-4 bushels per acre of grain was secured and it is estimated that at least three bushels per acre was lost by sprouting from the cap sheaf.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Pollie W. Edmisten departed this life Aug. 17, 1924, at the age of 64 years and 21 days. She was the daughter of Eld. A. C. Farthing deceased and was born July 26, 1860. She was married to the late M. P. Edmisten Aug. 19, 1875.

The deceased was the mother of 14 children, 10 of whom are still living. Seven sons, George, Dallas, Carl, Marshal, Ira, Dwight and Edgar and three daughters, Mrs. W. D. Farthing, Mrs. Walter L. Johnson and Miss Anna Edmisten. All of the above children are professors of Christianity and members of Baptist churches.

Besides the ten children our sister left one brother and sister: Mr. John A. Farthing and Mrs. Caroline Green both now living in Missouri, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her loss.

Sister Pollie professed faith in the Christ in the year 1878 and was baptized into the fellowship of the Globe Baptist church of Caldwell county, N. C. In 1886 she transferred her membership to Bethel Baptist Church of this county by letter of recommendation, and again in 1888 she transferred her membership from the Bethel Baptist church to Zion Hill Baptist church.

Our sister's funeral was largely attended and was conducted by Eld. G. W. Trivett, assisted by others of her church. Her body was tenderly laid away by the side of her deceased husband in the C. S. Farthing family cemetery, near brother E. J. Farthing's home.

Sister Pollie adorned the profession which she made in 1878 by an unstained consecrated Christian life and left to her children a priceless heritage of good examples well worthy of their imitation and we would say to them, grieve not for the going away of your mother for death to a Christian is only a deliverance a translation from a lower to a higher sphere of existence, and when the summons comes to us may we all be ready for the change.

W. S. FARTHING.

WORTH WHILE CLUB

Mrs. Zeb Farthing and Mrs. Carl Winkler entertained the Worth While Club at the home of the former. The home was artistically decorated with sweet peas and ferns. Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. Bennett. The meeting was opened for the discussion of canning where many difficulties were solved. The meeting was turned over to the hostess first there was a nature contest, Mrs. Don Farthing being the prize winner, after which a most delicious salad course consisting of punch and sandwiches were served. The visitors were Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Farthing. The guests were delightfully entertained throughout the evening. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Don Farthing on Sept. 4.

THE WEARY SUMMER COTTAGER

At Pointe Aux Barques in Michigan I met a sad and gloomy man. A gloomy man behind a tree. In hiding there he seemed to be. "Why do you hide?" said I to him. "And why this look of anguish grim Why don't you boldly walk about?" He whispered low, "Pray do not shout I came out here to rest alone. And do not wish my absence known."

"Of what" asked I "are you afraid? Have you done wrong to man or maid That thus you hide yourself away And in such dark seclusion stay?" "Sit down," said he, "I'll tell my tale Why I seek cover like the quail And why it is I do not dare To occupy my rocking chair; I came out here to rest but oh, The good wife keeps me on the go."

"If she beholds me sitting down She promptly sends me into town For oil or cheese or bread and milk Fly swatters or a yard of silk; If I should take a book to read A chunk of ice at once she'd need; If I but pause to pet the pup She promptly wants a shelf put up The moment that I come in view She has a chore for me to do."

"I pick up bathing suits and chase Stray bits of paper round the place. I rake the yard and split the wood Run errands round the neighborhood And every time I think I'm through She's thought up something else to do. And that is why I sneak alone And keep my whereabouts unknown Behind the ancient friendly tree I come to rest where she can't see."

—Edgar A. Guest.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is to notify all my deputies to have the tax books in Boone on Monday of court that I may get a list of those who have not paid in order that I may advertise their property after that time.

C. M. Critcher, Sheriff.

Parent Teachers Association

The regular meeting of the Parent Teacher Association will be held on Thursday Sept. 1, instead of Friday of this week. The change in date is made necessary by the fact that the public school is not in session this week.

MRS. I. G. GREER, Pres.

Have you ordered your pecan trees? Bread butter and beefsteak are furnished by nuts in an airtight package concentrated and uncontaminated. Plant a few trees this fall, advice horticultural workers of the State College Extension Division.

Tom Tarheel says that he knows how farming should be done but he can't always do just as he wants to but at that, the county agent is continually suggesting good ideas that had been overlooked.

No one ever gets anything for nothing for very long.

A few flowers trees and shrubbery around any house help to make it a more attractive home and add to its value.

WANTED—Music teacher at Cove Creek High School. About 25 students expected. Would prefer one who could also teach voice. Apply S. F. Horton, Vilas, N. C. 8-28-1c

Hall's Catarrh Medicine will do what we claim for it—rid your system of Catarrh or Deafness caused by Catarrh. Sold by druggists for over 40 years F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio

Old Time Fiddler's Convention

at MAYVIEW MANOR, BLOWING ROCK NORTH CAROLINA

Thursday - Aug. 28th 8 P. M.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

First prize \$50.00
Second prize 25.00
Third prize 15.00

If you are a fiddler you are invited to participate in this convention and you will be accorded every possible courtesy.

There will be a real old time square dance after the contest.

For further information write JOHN J. FITZGERALD, Mgr.

JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR

Mountain City, Tenn. Sept. 3, 4, 5. Three Days and Nights

GOOD SHOW OR CARNIVAL. UP TO DATE FREE ATTRACTIONS. TWO GOOD BRASS BANDS. CONTINUOUS MUSICAL CONCERTS. GOOD EXHIBITS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS EXPECTED. NO CHANGES IN PRICE OF ADMISSION.

Something Going on all the Time

Everything larger and better than ever before. Races daily. Given up to be the best county fair in the state. Liberal premiums in all classes. Plenty of shade, good water and everybody welcome.

Remember

that our premium list is open to all adjoining counties and states. People of North Carolina and Virginia are urged to show their live stock, poultry. Ladies especially invited to contest for premiums in Ladies Department.

No entrance fees charged in any department. No stall rent. Reserve stall now.

Johnson County Fair Association