Valle Crucis School for Girls

To bring

"Out of the cold gray ashes
Life again"

is a difficult achievement at best, one accomplished many times in the histories of the various missions and at few more strikingly than at that outpost of our church—Valle Crucis, Watauga county, North Carolina.

Work in this beautiful mountain valley began in 1842, closed in 1862, revived in 1899. Then, very shortly after the consecration of Bishop Horner, the present plan of a school for girls was put into effect, his sister, Miss Mary Horner, serving as principal from 1910 until her death in 1922, at which time the school property consisted of some 500 acres of land, 100 of which are planted in apple orchards; Auchmuty and Auxiliary halls, an old mission house, a small frame chapel (never consecrated), and several cottages for workers on the far.

The educational work included only eight grades (all the school was known as a mission school).

Four years ago—on Ascension Day, May 10, 1923—the present rector, the Rev. James Preston Burke, gave up teaching work in Rutherfordville to take charge of the work at Valle Crucis, since when it has been vigorously prosecuted with very tangible results.

Perhaps the most conspicuous of these is the new (Holy Cross) church, a picturesque and beautiful structure of native gray stone, obtained from the school's own quarries and placed on the grounds within a stone's throw of the school buildings. Although when the foundations were laid there was only $200 on hand toward the building of a new church, more than $15,000 has been paid on the $20,000 building and it is hoped it may be consecrated within a comparatively short time. Enthusiastic efforts are continually being made to that end. Services have been conducted in it since July of last year.

The membership of the church has kept pace with its increased accommodations. In the past four years 43 persons have been baptized and 41 presented for confirmation.

Mr. Burke also ministers to congregations at Sugar Grove and St. Timothy's mission, within a radius of six miles and is priest in charge of St. Mary's, Bowing Rock.

Many changes have taken place in the school itself, which has been extended to include a four year accredited high school course. The name has been changed from Valle Crucis Mission School to Valle Crucis School for Girls. With the exception of the famous St. Mary's at Raleigh (founded in 1842) this is the only accredited Episcopal school for girls in the Old North State, and its aim is to supply the demand for an inexpensive church school for worthy girls. This has been accomplished by keeping the entire cost for board and tuition for the eight months school year down to the very moderate figure of $200 to the girls. There are a few scholarships for especially deserving cases.

One of the especially cheerful features of the situation is that the school buildings and equipment were planned for the future, so while the present enrolment comes fully up to expectations, there is plenty of room for additional pupils, and is likely to be for several years to come.

The low cost is maintained by the co-operation of the students who do all of the housework—which in itself supplements the course in domestic science and gives them the benefit of practical experience which has proved of great value. The system is somewhat like that maintained for many years at the famous Mount Holyoke College, and plenty of time is allowed for the required work in the academic branches.

Also the school has its own garden and raises a few pigs each year, all of which tends to keep down expenses. Milk is supplied from a herd of registered Holsteins, and perhaps the extraordinary good health prevailing among the student body and faculty would be largely ascribed by dietitians to the liberal quantities of this beverage which they consume, and needless to say, more than the proverbial apple a day keeps the doctor away.

The years have brought many improvements to the school estate. The Rectory, Valley View cottage (so named for its charming and extensive view) and the old Mission House have been painted and furnished and a small new cottage built. These last three are ready for the summer guests, thus supplementing the school revenue considerably. Indeed, such is the demand that the building of more small cottages would be an extremely good investment and would aid greatly in our church's work in this neighborhood.

As has been indicated, Valle Crucis is an exceptionally beautiful corner of beautiful Western North Carolina. It gets its name (in English, the Valley of the Cross) from the fact that two large mountain streams and their surrounding lowlands form a St. Andrew's cross in the midst of a bowl of wondrous loveliness formed by green and level pastures set in the midst of heights of gray granite, mountain laurel and rododendron—a veritable vision of Eden for the greater part of the year—indeed for all the year, since lacy trees against the sky, many evergreens and the occasional snows have their own austere beauty. These natural attractions, plus the views of Grandfather Mountain, Hanging Rock, Dutch Creek Falls and the scenes along the Watauga river, bring a large number of genuine nature lovers each year, without drawing the Goths and Vandals too often found at summer resorts where the prevailing type of amusements are to be found.

In order to meet a real demand for accommodations, as well as to supplement the revenues and help itself as far as possible, the school receives summer guests at reasonable rates, a source which has thus far proved mutually satisfactory and profitable.

Also, during the first week in July, a summer school for religious education is held, which many of the clergy and other workers of this and other dioceses have found most helpful.

Not very far in the school's power for expansion and growth in the immediate future, a few months work in the vocational, a few months work and extensive improvements. In addition to the housing and some forty students of the eighteen now being admitted to the day school are receiving their education. These and incidentally the parents, have access, under certain conditions, to the school library—the city one within a radius of many miles. Entertainments are given in the school dining room-auditorium, the Christmas entertainment especially drawing spectators from lonely mountain coves long distances away. And though the larger electric power plant recently erected by the aid of Bishop Horner, the village is supplied with lights at a less than standard charge.

All these things Valle Crucis School does, but it is not resting on its laurels but is always seeking further means of usefulness. Among its most immediate aims are the completion of Auxiliary Hall, which at present is in a usable but rough condition, and the erection of a gymnasium and a real auditorium. The uses to which the latter could and would be put have already been indicated; and the need for the former cannot be overemphasized. "A sound mind in a sound body" is the aim of most schools in these enlightened times. It may be argued that as many of the pupils are drawn from the folks of the mountains they are in rugged health. While this is true, they have not reached their highest physical development. Strength there is, but strength without co-ordination and training, so that the muscles do not respond to the will, as do those of pupils trained in athletics, and while there is as a rule very noticeable improvement after a few months, even with the present limited equipment, yet opportunities for bringing out the very best physically are lacking. Let us hope some person, persons or organizations will find means and the will to help us.—M. F.

Different Conditions

Wife: "Here's a story of a man in Arabia who sold his wife for a horse. You wouldn't sell me for a horse, would you, darling?"

Hubby: "Of course not, dear! But I'd hate to have anyone tempt me with a really good one."

Speaking of Shapes

Tourist (paying his bill): "Well, I'm square now."

Hotel Manager: "Yes, sir, and I hope you will be round again very shortly!"

Economy

"Look, papa, Ikey's cold is cured and we got left a box of cough drops."

"Oy, vot extravagance! Tell Abe to go out of town and get his few well."

He Teased the Cat

"You know, grandpa, your cat knows me very well, too."

"Really?"

"Oh yes. The minute he sees me he runs and hides."

VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Crucis, May 11.—Miss Beulah Townsend, a former pupil of the school, will spend the summer traveling in Europe in the course of her duties in a position obtained for her through a present member of the faculty.

The Young People's Service Leagues enjoyed an address by Mrs. Jean S. Knight, diocesan field secretary, Sunday evening, May 1st.

The third of the series of luncheons given to the faculty by the pupils of the domestic science course was fully up to the high standard set by the first two. The color scheme was black and white, and the menu, served to ten persons at a total cost of $2.50, consisted of potato soup, crackers, creamed chicken on toast, macaroni and cheese, creamed peas, pickles, biscuits, tomato and egg salad, crackers, chocolate blanc mange with prune whip, coffee, chocolate cream cake.

This luncheon was prepared and served by the Misses Dorothy Simpson and Emma Barns, under the direction of Miss Carrie Gudheim. Miss Mellie Townsend, lately returned from her work as missionary in China, was guest of honor.

Miss Ruthann C. Clough, teacher of the fourth and fifth grades, took her pupils for a very delightful picnic at the Mountain Orchard spring on Thursday, May 5th.

Meals Unsatisfactory

The old Gray Mare: "I don't care for the way they have been mixing bran with our oats lately."

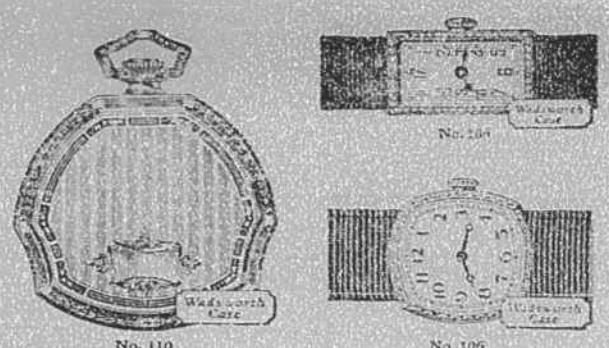
Brown's Mule: "No, it goes against the grain."

Fair Enough

Schoolmaster: "Give me a good example of a coincidence."

Pupil: "My father and mother were married on the same day."

Tom Turbyfill says he is getting his roadside market ready for the summer trade.



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Not very often, you'll agree, compared to the visits you make to your grocer and other stores.

This is natural enough. Silverware, watches, rings, etc., are not used for a brief period and replaced, as with other articles. Things bought at the jewelry store must *serve longer*.

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

DR. W. E. LARKIN, M. D.

Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist who has been coming to Boone every Monday, will open a permanent office at North Wilkesboro, in Dr. Cram's vacated offices over Bank. For the present the North Wilkesboro offices will be open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday every week, and later on will be open every Saturday. This will give the people of Watauga and Ashe counties this line of service all the time, and hospital cases will be taken care of at the Wilkes Hospital, at North Wilkesboro, one of the best in Western North Carolina. The offices at Boone will be open every Monday as before, and West Jefferson on Tuesday of each week.

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THE 1927 KIND

—SEE—

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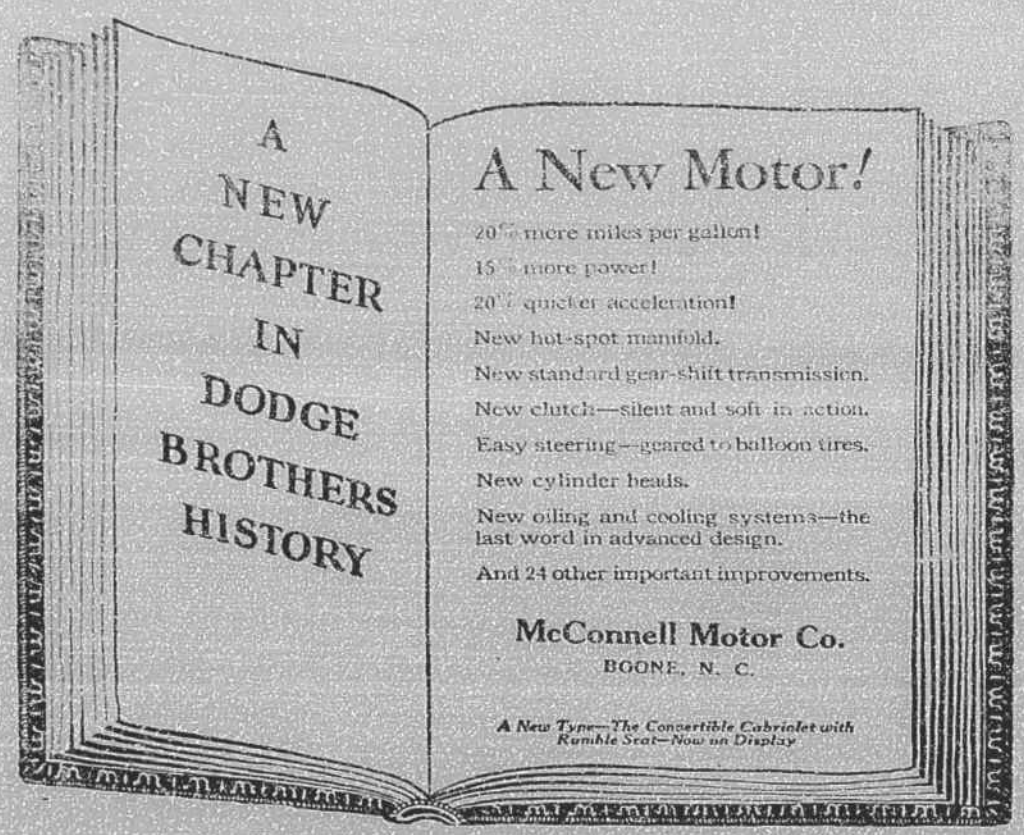

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