

Traveling To Become Hobby Man Who Traveled 25 Years

By WAKE BRIDGES

In Hickory Daily Record
What was part of his work for more than a quarter of a century is to become a hobby of H. L. Lyon of Fifth Street, NE, Hickory.

As a representative of the C. F. Sauer Company, Richmond, Va., in the western third of North Carolina for almost 27 years, Lyon traveled between 28,000 and 29,000 miles a year by automobile.

All told, he traveled an estimated 778,000 miles—more than three times the distance to the moon.

Yet, Mr. Lyon, who recently retired, is to make traveling one of his hobbies.

Almost immediately after his retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon began planning an extensive trip into the western part of the United States.

Plans Leisurely Trip

"It will be a leisurely trip," they smiled the other afternoon as they sat in a shaded nook of their spacious front porch. "There will be no set time for leaving or returning. And we will do what we want to when we want to, while on the trip."

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon plan to leave on the trip early in August, return home when they please.

A second hobby Mr. Lyon will devote himself to in his retirement is a 116½-acre farm in Watauga county.

"I play 'mountain golf' up there with a mallet and a briarsythe," Mr. Lyon chuckled.

In time, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon may build a summer house on the farm, but they have no intention of making the farm their year-round home. "Nobody is going to get me out of Catawba county permanently," Mr. Lyon said.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon built their present brick home in 1940. "It is the longest either of us has lived in one place in our lifetime," Mr. Lyon said.

Watauga Native

Mr. Lyon was born in Watauga county June 2, 1896 and was twelve years old when he made his first trip outside the county of his birth.

The trip was from Boone, the county seat of Watauga, to Lenoir, the county seat of Caldwell, and was in a covered wagon loaded with produce and drawn by two oxen.

"The trip took us three days," Mr. Lyon said. "We camped out two nights."

Mr. Lyon attended Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, then the University of Virginia during military training in World War I.

Mrs. Lyon, the former Miss Floretta Lewis of Ashe county, is a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College and was the first principal of Union High School in Lincoln county.

The Lewis family moved to Boone so that Floretta and two sisters, Ethel and Lula, could live at home and attend college.

When the three sisters began teaching at Union High school,



H. L. LYON

the family moved to Lincoln county so that the family ties would not be broken.

Ethel is now Mrs. Edwin De Journette of Elkin and Lula is Mrs. Carlton Jetton of Vale.

"Yes," Mrs. Lyon smiled, "all

three of us taught at Union at the same time."

Married In 1921

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon were married August 31, 1921, and rode Tweetsie through western North Carolina into eastern Tennessee on their honeymoon.

The narrow-gauge railroad has since been abandoned, but Tweetsie is once again in operation as a tourist attraction between Blowing Rock and Boone.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon have a daughter and a son. The daughter, Mrs. H. Ralph (Willie Earl) Bolick, is a teacher of English and French at Grandview Junior High School in Hickory. The son, Lewis Lyon, is affiliated with Yount Transfer Company, Hickory.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon's grandchildren are Rebecca, Lee and Earl Lyon, Herbie, Corinne, Anna and Bill Bolick.

Mr. Lyon is the eldest of the six children of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lyon.

Mr. Lyon served in the Army in 1918, then taught school for two years.

Becoming interested in general store work, Mr. Lyon became a clerk in the store of M. B. Blackburn in Watauga county. Mr. Blackburn, now deces-

ed, was a brother of the late Dr. Tom Blackburn of Hickory.

Suddenly becoming interested in traveling, Mr. Lyon became a salesman for Transou Hat Co., Greensboro, representing the firm in a portion of the Piedmont section and western North Carolina for four years.

Liked Area

"During that time I learned to know and admire this section and its people," Mr. Lyon said.

In 1929, Mr. Lyon, now 35 and snow white of mane, became affiliated with the Carolina Stores and lived in Boone, Newton, Rutherfordton and Hickory as a supervisor. He left the firm when it was sold to Dixie Home Store.

Mr. Lyon went with the C. F. Sauer Company Sept. 14, 1936, selling Duke's mayonnaise, relish, spices, cooking oils, and various allied merchandise.

"When I started out with the C. F. Sauer Company I was told that if I sold \$1,400 worth of merchandise a week they would be satisfied. During my almost 27 years with the company I sold volumes of better than a half million dollars a year. The last week I worked was my biggest in 1963."

High pressure salesmanship is a thing of the past, Mr. Lyon said. "If a man doesn't have the confidence of his customers he's out of luck as a salesman. In my book, a little humor pays off in a sales effort where a solemn face might fail. And there is nothing in my book that takes the place of respect and confidence."

Gained Status

Mr. Lyon suddenly smiled and said, "When I started out we were called drummers. Now we've moved up to salesmen."

Timbered Ridge 4-H Club News

The first meeting of the Timbered Ridge 4-H Club was held July 10 at the community building with Miss Jean Smitherman and Fred Tester presiding.

Officers elected are: president, Geraldine Dishman; vice-president, Bynum Dishman; secretary, Norma Dishman; and reporter, Margaret Arnette. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Martha Jenkins.

Mr. Lyon said that when he started working for Transou Hat Company there wasn't a paved road anywhere in the territory he traveled.

When the Sauer Company began introducing peanut oil to its customers, Mr. Lyon led the sales and as a result became known to company officials as "Mr. Peanut." He has only the highest of praise for the company he represented in Western North Carolina for almost 27 years.

Mr. Lyon is a member of First Methodist Church, Hickory. While in Rutherfordton he was a member of the board of stewards.

Politically, Mr. Lyon is a staunch Republican. In the

early 1940's he was honored by being chosen chairman of the Republican Party in Catawba County but was unable to accept the position because of the large territory he covered for his company.

While in Rutherfordton he was a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Among the hundreds of merchants Mr. Lyon called on in his almost 27 years with the Sauer Company was J. B. Myers, now sheriff in Caldwell County.

"Give my very best regards to J. B. the next time you see him," Mr. Lyon said.

"Yes," Sheriff Myers replied when the message was relayed to him, "he's a very good friend of mine."

Post No. 130 Meets Friday

The American Legion Post No. 130 will have a special meeting at the Legion Hut Friday evening, July 26, at 7:30. Commander Cloyd Norris urges all members to be present.

DILLON ON TAX CUT

Treasury Secretary Dillon believes Congress will vote some kind of a tax cut this year, despite the pre-occupation with civil rights legislation.

The cut in taxes is still needed even though the economy performed better than expected in the first half of this year, according to Mr. Dillon.

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Watermelon, Boy

All dressed up and nothing to do except pass the time of a cool, cool July day, young Douglas Austin chops his smackers into a slab of watermelon. A 3½-year-old son of

Mr. and Mrs. John Austin of Boone, the young fellow looked up with a wet smile and said, simply, "It's good!" — Staff photo.



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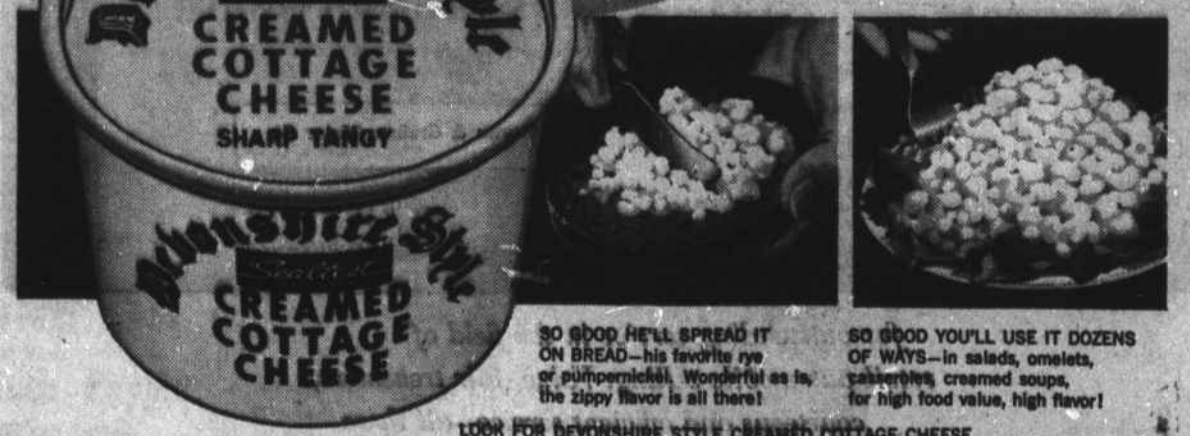
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