

Reverberations. . .

From WNC Weekly Press Meeting in Murphy

LONG THE WAY . . .
(By B. Arp Lowrance, in column, "Long the Way", in Mecklenburg Times.)

With the newspaper in the mail just one day earlier than is the custom, Klaudeen and I left Charlotte at noon last Thursday for Murphy to attend the meeting of the Western North Carolina Press Association. In Mount Holly we picked up W. O. (Bill) Barrett of the News and Belmont Banner who was going with us. At Asheville his wife, who is spending some time this summer with her mother in the mountains, joined us to complete the party.

It was raining when we were in Asheville, the only rain of any account for the whole trip. A short stop was made in Waynesville at the newspaper office to exchange greetings. Then we stopped for a few minutes in Sylva for gas, a sandwich and a call at the newspaper office.

About 8 o'clock, just as it was getting dark, we pulled up at the Regal hotel at Murphy, registered, went to the cafe for a little supper. Then we looked up Miss Addie Mae Cooke, publisher of the Cherokee Scout, and hostess for the meeting. She has a new building for her office and we looked it over before going to our rooms.

Miss Cooke is president of the weekly newspaper group and had made big plans for the meeting which was one of the largest events in the history of Murphy. The entire people of Murphy cooperated in making the meeting a success

and looking after the comfort and interest of the visiting publishers. Several members of the North Carolina Press Association and not members of the western group attended the meeting as visitors and guests.

Friday morning at 9:30, after registration, all the visitors were taken into cars of the citizens of Murphy to Hitchcock Corporation Tale Mine. Here they bring the tale from the mine 200 feet below the surface, saw it into blocks and make pencils of several sizes for metal workers, tailors and others, and grind the bulk of the outcome into talcum powder. Each of the visitors were given something made of the tale and the women were each given a half-pint of the talcum powder. They can add that odor which they may like and will have a fine powder.

Then we were taken to the John C. Campbell Folk School. Here is a school for the boys and girls of the mountain sections patterned after the schools of Denmark and over which a Dane is the overseer. Mr. and Mrs. John C. Campbell had the idea but he died before it was started. His wife carried on the work and is now head of the institution.

The slogan of the school is "I Sing Behind The Plow." The students work while they get instruction, which is not along the accepted lines of our educational system. Besides farming the students are taught wood and metal work, weaving and carving. The items made by the students are sold to the school and the school sells them in wholesale lots to buyers in many states. It was one of the most interesting visits we had in the mountains.

Then we all had lunch at Cherokee Cafe as guests of the Town of Murphy. During the afternoon we visited the Hiwassee dam and power plant. Murphy is in the fork of Hiwassee and Valley Rivers and this dam backs the water up to Murphy. Also at this dam was the Naval Ordnance Experiment Station where, during the war, experiments of anti-submarine warfare were made. All of this area was

closed to the public during the war. Then we visited Ducktown and Copperhill, Tennessee, and McCaysville, Georgia, and returned for a stop at Fields of the Wood, which is being built and developed by the Church of God into one of the most beautiful places in the mountains. It is a vision of the late A. J. Tomlinson, for many years Overseer of the Church of God, whose followers are carrying out the order to "Write the Vision and make it plain on Tables of Stone." They are doing just that and many familiar Scriptures are written in stone at this time and arranged to attract thousands of visitors.

We were late getting back to Murphy but had just time to get ready for the big banquet given the visitors by the Lion's club and Business Men's Club, at which Cooke was toastmaster. It was one of the largest banquets ever held in Murphy and a most interesting program was arranged.

Saturday morning we were taken first to Columbia Marble company, one of the large marble quarries of the country and where they manufacture this marble into building and memorial blocks. The most modern machinery is used in this process. From here we went to Andrews and stopped at the home of Mrs. G. W. Cover, Sr., State Representative from Cherokee county, for a cup of coffee or a Coca Cola. She has one of the most lovely old homes in the beautiful and progressive town of Andrews. It was a delightful occasion for the newspaper people and one they will never forget.

Then we moved on to Robbinsville, with several stops at lookout parking places along the way to view some of the wonderful scenery. At Robbinsville I saw and talked a few minutes with Oscar H. Phillips. I was glad to see him and he to see us.

From here we moved around the beautiful lake San setlah and into the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in which is located some of the finest virgin forest in the country. Joyce Kilmer was the young author of the beautiful poem, "Trees," who was killed in World War I at the age of 31 years.

The next move took us to the big, new Fontana dam. Wish I had time to tell you about this visit but there is more to tell than there is space and time.

Fontana Dam is a notable structure, made so by its size and speed of construction. In size it is the fourth highest and largest concrete dam in the world. It contains 2,800,000 cubic yards of concrete, is 480 feet high, 376 feet thick at the base, 30 feet at the top and is 2,662 feet long. It will ultimately contain three turbo-generators with a total capacity of 202,500 k. w. Two units are now installed and in operation. The reservoir is 450 feet deep and ex-

tends upstream 30 miles. It contains almost 1,500,000 acre feet of water.

Construction work was begun in January 1942, and the first unit started power production in January 1945, three years later. The second unit went into service March 1945.

It is out of the question for me to tell much of this place in one week, or even touch on the fine accommodations and service that is being offered to the people of this nation by Government Services, Inc., who served us a delicious luncheon in the fine cafeteria there. I expect to tell more about this place later.

That night those of us who spent the night in Murphy were served a buffet dinner in the home of Miss Cooke. It was wonderful. She was assisted in doing this and many other things by Miss Mary Cornwell, county home agent.

ACROSS WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

(Editorial by R. E. Price in Rutherford County News)

We had the privilege of attending a press meeting in Murphy Friday and Saturday. It was most enjoyable. One has to see North Carolina to appreciate it. We went via Hendersonville, Brevard, Highlands, Franklin and Hayesville to Murphy. The mountain scenery from Lake Toxaway to Murphy this route is most impressive. Mountains, waterfalls, clear mountain streams, etc. are in abundance.

The people of Murphy "spread" themselves to give the visiting editors a "real treat." Miss Addie Mae Cooke, publisher of the Cherokee Scout led. The Murphy section is becoming more famous as folks learn more about it. Friday the visitors were guests of the town of Murphy at a luncheon. Friday afternoon we visited Hiwassee Dam, the highest overflow dam in the world. This lake has a 150 mile shoreline bordered by towering mountains. It is a part of the TVA. This dam is 307 feet high and 1265 feet across the top with a good paved highway across the top. It backs up the waters of three rivers for 22 miles extending around Murphy on two sides.

We next visited on Friday, Ducktown and Copperhill, Tenn., also McCaysville, Ga., traveling through the Copper basin. We were fortunate to be in the car with Mrs. G. W. Cover, Sr., of Andrews, representative from Cherokee county in the Legislature of N. C. the past two sessions and candidate for the coming Legislature. She knows the folks of her county and can tell a visitor many things of interest. She was host to the entire group at her attractive home Saturday morning to "ice cold cokes" in Andrews.

The Great Copper basin is a notable example of soil erosion, 25 miles from Murphy. One has to see this section to appreciate it. We visited the "Fields of the Wood," a most unique place, or shrine, or assembly of the Church of God. We found this a most delightful place. It has an open air pavilion, sanctuary hall, baptismal pool, memorial of the Vision, the sepulchre, the Spring House and the All Nations Cross. One has to drive or climb a steep hill to get a good view of the cross, which is 150 feet high, 115 feet wide and 15 feet wide at the base. It is the largest cross in the world. As this church is established in other nations, a flag is raised. The cross is on the ground in solid concrete. It is 18 miles from Murphy. We were told that plans are under way to put the Ten Commandments in bold letters in concrete, or marble, on the side of the mountain, or under the cross. This will be most impressive when completed. About thirty-six states of the Union are taking part in this gigantic development. It is worth a trip there to see the "Fields of the Wood."

Friday night the Murphy Lions club and Murphy Business Men's Club were hosts to the visitors at a banquet at the Regal hotel. This was a most enjoyable occasion, though it was "rather hot." Nights are cool in Murphy. The elevation is about 1500 feet. Albert Hardy, newspaper publisher of Gainesville, Ga. was guest speaker. The program was featured by "stunts" and wholesome fun.

Cherokee county court house in Murphy is a "thing of beauty." It was recently constructed of marble found a few miles from Murphy. It is the only marble court house in this state.

Murphy, it is stated is nearer six State capitals than Raleigh, viz: Atlanta, Ga., Columbia, S. C., Montgomery, Ala., Nashville, Tenn., Charleston, West Va., and Frankfort, Ky. We have not checked on this. It is 120 miles from Asheville to Murphy. We know it is only a short distance from Murphy to

the Ga., Tenn. and S. C. lines.

Saturday morning we visited the Columbia Marble Works near Murphy. This is quite an industry. Native marble and stone are made into attractive monuments and tombstones.

We left the Murphy to Asheville highway at Topton and went to Robbinsville, county seat of Graham county. This is a most scenic drive. We stopped at Lookout to get a wonderful view of the Nantahala Gorge.

It is 31 miles from Robbinsville to Fontana Dam, fourth highest in the world. Enroute we drove into the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, via the shores of Lake Santeetlah. Much of this is Government controlled forest and is noted for its variety of trees, flowers, shrubs, clear water streams.

The party was a guest of the Government Services, Inc. for lunch at Fontana. Uncle Sam has done a good job at Fontana. The cafeteria is new, modern and attractive. We were impressed with the courtesy and friendship of the officials at Fontana. They are ca-

tering to tourists. They are prepared to keep visitors over night in cabins. It took three years to build Fontana Dam. More improvements are yet to be made. Uncle Sam has an investment of \$70,000,000 in land, improvements and the Fontana Dam proper. Fontana Dam is on the Little Tennessee river and is in the Great Smokies. It is near the Tenn. line.

Upper Peachtree

The small son of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Griffith has improved some

at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster Cantrell and Harve Cantrell visited friends here the past week.

Pvt. Howard Leatherwood is spending a 15 day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Leatherwood.

The Robert Barker visited his sister Mrs. Math Leatherwood, Saturday afternoon.

Misses Valley and Wilma Moore spent Saturday night with Miss Opal Jean Curtis.

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