

# Sylvan Valley News

Our County—Its Progress and Prosperity the First Duty of a Local Paper.

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1903.

VOL. VIII—NO. 19

## Dunns Rock Lodge No. 267

A. F. & A. M.

Meets Friday on or before the full moon in each month, at 2 p. m. Visiting Masons are cordially invited to meet with us.  
sptly WM. MAXWELL, Sec'y.

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Calvert, N. C.

## A Visit to Lake Toxaway.

Good Roads, Good Teams, Beautiful Scenery and a Very Enjoyable Outing.

The Lake—Its Views and Surprises. The Dam—Its Strength of Construction and Absolute Security.

To attempt an accurate description of Lake Toxaway and its surroundings is most presumptuous. Mere words fail to convey the true beauties of this magnificent section—we only hope to excite the curiosity of the pleasure seeker and cause him to decide to visit the Sapphire Country and see for himself. We shall confine our descriptions to plain every day language, no flights of poesy are needed in this case and none will be indulged in. Furthermore every word is based on the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. No one can truthfully say after reading this article and knowing the country that we have even exaggerated. In fact no one, however talented in flow of language, could ever state the beauties of this section. Both the natural and man-made attractions are too pleasing for any one to be disappointed.

You arrive at Toxaway station after a pleasant and comfortable trip over a fine roadbed through the beautiful valley of the French Broad and alight at the above named station. Here you see evidences of business activity—a little settlement with a large tannery and locust pin factory, and openings for many other industries of like nature. Roomy, comfortable carriages with four horses take you over a first class turnpike to Lake Toxaway. You drive through a country unsurpassed in scenery, and over a road that is as good as dirt roads can be made.

You make a turn in the road and Lake Toxaway bursts into view; you behold a panorama unequalled in America. You see before you a lake, crystal clear, having a circumference of over 15 miles with low, rolling shores, sand covered beaches and primal forest extending to its very edge. To one who does not know the lake appears natural and as old as the surrounding hills—the dam is inconspicuous. You here find a large body of water 3060 feet above sea level, covering hundreds of acres of land, teeming with game fish and surrounded by the grandest scenery imaginable.

You look towards the south and you can well imagine yourself on the coast, so level is the surrounding contour of the low hills. To the north and west loom the grandest mountains in this section, Cold Mountain and Panther Tail, standing ruggedly forth nearly 2,000 feet above the level of the Lake, but the grandest view is that of Mount Toxaway. The waters of the lake reach the very foot of this peak and rising in its majesty over 2,

000 feet almost perpendicularly from the shore it makes the grandest view we have ever seen. One is literally struck dumb—this tremendous mass of rugged grandness arising with its awe-inspiring might from the calm bosom of Lake Toxaway. Would that it could be described in fit words. Here is where words fail, and imagination must perform its part. Come, see and be convinced.

On the shore of the lake is a magnificent hotel, large enough to entertain 500 guests, built under the personal supervision of one of Pittsburg's most eminent architects. The hotel is to be finished this season and is modern in every respect—electric lights, steam heat, four large stairways, two elevators, and every room is an outside room with a fine view of the lake.

And besides there are craft of all kinds on the lake—naptha and electric launches, row boats, sail boats and canvas canoes. The hotel impresses the beholder with the idea of solid comfort, rest and recreation—nothing giddy or frivolous—all indicative of good, solid, healthy pleasure and wholesome comfort. What more can one desire?

The construction of the dam is worthy of a careful study and will bear a most critical inspection. Being built between two hills whose bases touch, the dam at the top is but little over 200 yards in length. Before one inch of the dam was built a strip of ground was cleaned to solid bed rock, a trench was then blasted in said rock 6 feet wide and 4 feet deep, extending from end to end of the dam. In this trench a stone wall, laid in the best cement, was built eight feet above the level of the rock. This wall was made to prevent seepage and it has done so. It also forms a core for the dam and adds largely to its strength. Above and on each side of the core there was a puddled clay core made that is water-tight and very strong. The lower side of the dam has a stone retaining wall and is covered with huge rocks weighing from 500 to 4,000 pounds each. The upper side is also covered in like manner with huge boulders, and for ten feet (3 feet under and 7 feet above the water line) has a facing of heavy oak planks to prevent any wash from the waves. The dam rises 9 feet above high water mark and is 60 feet thick at the water line. At the bottom it is 280 feet thick.

But the greatest safeguard is the spill-way, which is not connected with the dam at all. A large hill is between the end of the dam and the spillway. Here

is a large cut, over 100 feet in width, blasted through solid rock and its bottom so precipitous that the overflow from the lake falls 60 feet in less than 100 feet from the outlet, so there is absolutely no danger of any washing away or bursting of this dam.

The specifications were prepared by Mr. Kitchen, of the University of Illinois, who is one of the best civil engineers in the United States and has made a specialty of dam building. The work has been done under the personal supervision of Capt. Thos. S. Boswell who is a civil engineer of great ability and who is thoroughly competent in every respect. Any one who knows Capt. Boswell is sure that good honest material and labor has been put into the dam under skilled and scientific supervision. And also the dam was built by day labor, not by contract.

Again acknowledging our inability to do justice to this section we ask the pleasure seekers of America to come and see this country; and once here to criticize you will remain to admire, and we hope to reside among us.

## A Wise Decision.

The recent opinion handed down by the Supreme court of the United States in regard to the "Grandfather" clause in the election laws of Alabama is entirely just and according to the Constitution. It has forever settled the question of legality of the Constitutional Amendment in this state. We hope that no further legal steps will be taken by the republicans to make the negro a political issue again. The Supreme court of the United States has decided that he can be kept from voting so let the matter stop. The negro being eliminated from politics will prove of great value to the republican party in this state. It has raised it to a high plane and many will be converts to republican doctrine who would never have been if the negro was still prominent in that party. We are glad of the decision as it goes to prove that democratic laws are always Constitutional. We have both the desire and ability to effect legislation that will be upheld by the highest court in the United States. So tell it to your neighbors that the Constitutional Amendment has been declared legal and that the democrats have won a great victory. We remember how many republicans said that the Supreme court would declare it null and void and this decision upholds us and defeats them. Democracy and democratic principles are right and best for all the people and will ever triumph in the end.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has just donated \$600,000 to the Tuskegee Institute. This is entirely in addition to the \$20,000 which he gave recently for a library in Tuskegee and the \$19,000 he has been giving the Institute annually. If a few more wealthy men would contribute as liberally the endowment of the institution would be completed.

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## M. M. SHEPHERD

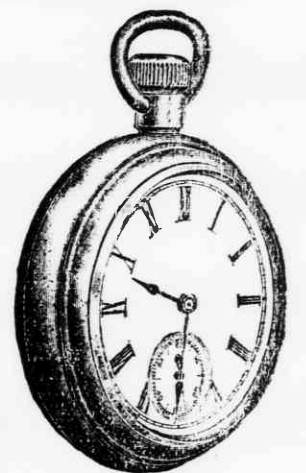
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