

The population of the Republic of Ireland has been virtually unchanged since 1826.

Feed grain supplies for the United States are about 8 per cent larger in 1955 than in 1954.

According to the 1950 census, 48 per cent of North Carolina's farms had no swine.

Trees growing in Brooklyn and other New York City boroughs number about 2,300,000.

The annual U. S. income tax collected from Delaware figures out to about \$60,000 a square mile.

There were 12,000 U. S. farms with milking machines in 1910; 686,000 in 1952.



BOB LONG, who lives on the Lake Logan road, remembers the days of his boyhood when he fished in McClure Creek while the old mill ground away on corn meal for his mother. (Photo by Bob Conway).

Bob Long Recalls Days Down By Old Mill Stream

By HUGH ROGERS
Special to The Mountaineer

The above picture of Bob Long was made by an old-time water mill in Cecil Community on McClure's Creek. This mill ground the corn meal for the old settlers of another generation.

Mr. Long, one of the few remaining men of a past generation, comes from an honest and upright family, who were pioneers of this section. His age of better than 70 years has not slowed down his activities very much as a good worker in the community. He probably owes his good health to a life in the open, plenty of good food enjoyed by the old timers.

As Mr. Long stood by the old mill, many memories flooded his mind of the good old days of his youth. He says he thought of his old friends, many of them buried in a cemetery not far away. He also remembered the many turns of corn he had carried to this mill when he was a boy. He remarked that it usually took about an hour and a half to grind a bushel of corn.

With a smile he told how he used to carry a fishing line in his pocket and would often cut a birch pole and go fishing while the old mill gently creaked away, grinding his turn of corn. In no time he would catch a good string of speckled trout. Then he would carry his meal and trout home and enjoy a meal of corn pone and fried trout.

In the early days, Mr. Long says, there was an abundance of wild game in the Cecil section. A farmer could step out before breakfast and kill a mess of wild turkeys and squirrels. Bear, deer, coons, and pheasants were also quite numerous.

Mast was very plentiful, too. Mr. Long related how the farmers used to let their hogs run out and fatten on acorns and chestnuts. At this point he grinned and told about an old pioneer who went barefooted so often that his feet grew so tough he was able to stomp down and crack open a chestnut burr with his bare foot.

In those days, there were no engines. People had to depend on water power to grind their corn and saw their lumber. Mr. Long remembers seeing several saw mills powered by water. One quaint type was the saw mill that had a blade that ran up and down vertically, called the ransh saw.

The power for running threshing machines was often furnished by horses. Of course, these machines were not always available. Mr. Long recalls doing some threshing with his hickory poles. It usually took about eight horses to furnish enough power to operate one of those machines, called scufflers. A large box-like contraption called a windmill was used to blow the chaff from the wheat.

In talking of the windmill, Mr. Long was reminded of a story about the big flood. This flood came down when he was about 10 years old and was the worst one he has ever seen. It covered almost all of Pigeon Valley and in some places the river was nearly a mile wide. One of his neighbors told him about seeing a windmill float down the river with two sheep standing on it.

Mr. Long attended school at Ivey Hill. It was a frame building, but the benches were dressed by hand. The benches were made from hewn logs with wooden pegs to hold them up. Mr. Long's father was the instructor of this school, and the children studied from the "Old Blue Back Speller" and "Davies Arithmetic," and wrote on slates. Mr. Long later attended school at Mt. Grove.

Schoolmasters of those days believed in strict discipline. Mr. Long says he remembers the bundle of switches that stood in the corner as a part of the furniture. In those days the children carried

Last Concert At WTHS Set Friday

The last concert of the present school term will be presented by the band, orchestra, and chorus of Waynesville Township High School at 8 p.m. Friday in the school auditorium.

Entitled "Commencement Concert," the program will be divided into five parts. The orchestra will present the first part of the program, performing four numbers: "Symphony No. 12" by Mozart, "You'll Never Walk Alone" by Rodgers, "Blue Tango" and "Jazz Pizzicato," both by Leroy Anderson.

The chorus will be featured in Part 2 of the program with four selections: "All American Choral Selection" by Peter De Rose, "While We're Young" by Ringwald, "Johnny Schmoker," a Pennsylvania Dutch folk song, and "Battle Hymn of the Republic," arranged by Ringwald.

The senior band, which won a superior rating in Group 6 in the state music contest at Greensboro and which will go to Miami in June, will take over for Part 3, presenting: a march, "Lights Out" by McCoy, "Das Pensionat" by Suppe, "Blue Danube" waltz by Strauss, and "Auditorium Session" by Moffitt.

The school's annual music awards will be presented as Part 4 of the program, and then the band and chorus will ring down the curtain with "Pomp and Circumstance" by Elgar.

Lamb Pool Set Friday Morning At Clyde Yards

The first lamb pool of the year will be held at the Clyde stockyards Friday, according to County Agent Virgil L. Holloway.

The stockyards will start receiving animals at 7 a.m. and all must be in by 10 a.m.

Mr. Holloway said this morning that 259 lambs have already consigned from several WNC counties, and several more are still to be heard from. Haywood County is expected to have between 175 and 200 in the sale.

their lunch to school in buckets and baskets. And, as the story goes, one girl got hold of the wrong bucket at home one day and when she opened the lid, she found herself staring at a bucket of lard!

Mr. Long often went to church at Ivey Hill. About the first time he went, a spring freshet had washed away all the foot logs, so his father hooked up a yoke of oxen and took his family to church in a wagon.

Mr. Long is noted in his community for his sense of humor and cheerfulness. He visits many of his neighbors and is always willing to lend a hand in case of sickness.

His wit will be remembered in years to come. At one time a friend was complaining about so much rain. Mr. Long looked up and said: "Well, there's something wrong with those clouds, but I can't get up there to fix them."

On another occasion when the clouds were real dark and it looked like it might snow, a neighbor said: "Bob, I believe it is going to snow." The answer he got was: "I wish it would come one so deep a mouse can't crawl beneath the earth and the sky."

One day, Mr. Long met one of his friends in the road and talked for a spell. When he got ready to go, he said: "Well, I'm going on down the road, and if I find a man that's any uglier than I am, I'm going to shoot him."

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