

TEACHER WALKS 24,000 MILES

Surry County Man Has Covered That Distance During Long Career

IS STILL GOING STRONG

(Mount Airy Times)

A person can do a lot of walking in 38 years—so says S. F. Jarrell, 60-year-old adult education instructor of the Stewart's Creek section a few miles northwest of Mount Airy, who has achieved the distinction of having walked more miles during the almost two score years he has taught school in Surry's rural sections than any other person in the county. He has covered more than 24,000 miles afoot—according to his recent calculation—almost enough miles to circle the globe!

Still going strong today, Mr. Jarrell recalled in an interview with a Times reporter this week that he started out in 1902 as a rural public school teacher in the Round Peak section of Surry county in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, traversing afoot a round trip of approximately six miles each day—rain or shine—from his home to the little one-room school in the Ivy Green community, where he taught an average of eight pupils six hours each day in a four-months school term. Paid by the county school board and, in some instances, by the popular subscription of the patrons of his school, his salary ranged each month to about \$25.

The demand for teachers in the public schools of the county was so great at the time Mr. Jarrell was receiving his own education that he was taken from the student body of the Dobson high school and placed in the "master's seat" of the Ivy Green school long before he would have been graduated. The only additional educational instruction he received after that time was the training he received in a summer course at the Appalachian State Teachers College, in Boone, and from a short course taken in 1929 in the N. C. C. W. College (now dissolved), at Mountain Park. That was 26 years after he started teaching.

When the World War claimed many of the young farmers of his foothills community, Teacher Jarrell had to reduce his hours in the classroom to take over some

These Three Get Free Theatre Tickets



Everything was smiles as The Tribune photographer made these candid pictures on Main street the other Saturday. And those pictured will perhaps smile even more when they are presented with two free tickets each, good for admission to the Lyric and Elk theatres. Just call at The Tribune in person for tickets. More pictures will appear next week.

of the agricultural work in his neighborhood. However, he still made the six-mile trip to and from school each day, never, in all those years, missing a class—excepting a three-day period in the early 'Twenties, when he contracted influenza.

Only one time since he launched his scholastic career has he resorted to any medium other than his feet for transportation to and from his work. One winter, shortly after the close of the war, he rode a mule to school when the snow lay fourteen inches deep on the ground.

He began his adult education work in 1934—at the expiration of his state certificate for public school teaching—and he has at present a total of 50 farmer-pupils receiving his instruction in how to master the principles of "reading," "riting" and "rithmetic". Visiting an average of 27 homes each week—spending one-half an hour with each family—he travels approximately 120 miles each month. He teaches all members

of the family who are over 16 and who are inclined toward further educating themselves.

In addition to the family classroom work, Mr. Jarrell also conducts projects and contests between farm families in the production of bees, swine, poultry and cattle. His students are mostly the heads of the households, hard-working farmers, who labor all day in their fields, coming home at night to ponder over and work out the "school-master's" varied assignments.

Aside from his walking and his school teaching, Mr. Jarrell has found the time to rear nine children, all of whom are living in Stewart's Creek township, near the adult educator's own little farm.

Employed in a federal adult education project under the supervision of Mrs. Grace S. James, of Elkin, Mr. Jarrell estimates that, barring all accidents, he is good for another decade of rural teaching.

BENHAM

Mrs. Roe Yarboro was the guest of her mother, Mrs. Lodema Harp, also her sister, Mrs. Milt Windsor, and Mr. Windsor, a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Gentry announce the birth of a daughter on February 29. Mother and baby are getting along nicely.

We have on the sick list this week Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Smith, Mrs. George Curry and Miss Kathleen Hayes.

Mr. Paul Cothren, of Camp Jackson, S. C., was the week-end guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Cothren.

Mr. Warren Burcham was the Sunday guest of Miss Grace Cockerham, of Little Mountain.

Mr. Conrad Atkins, of Elkin, was the Sunday guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tyra Atkins.

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