

POLK COUNTY NEWS

Pages
his Week

PRICE
5 Cts.

POLK COUNTY—The Gateway of Western North Carolina

Volume XXX No. 5

Tryon, N. C., August 14, 1924

\$1.50 a Year

Search For Stills Through High Hills In Cooper Gap Township

Sheriff's Vigilant Aides Introduce News Editor to Moonshiner's Lair in the Top O' the World.

"Fate" Thompson, with deputies, has been working over the hills lately trying to reduce the manufacture of moonshine to a minimum within the confines of his bailiwick, and from time to time he has threatened to take the editor of the NEWS in order that he might see an article still in all its glory.

On Thursday morning, the editor had a business which took him to Columbus, N. C. Nosing around for news he met across Lynn Smith, the husky sergeant from the Sixth Infantry who is cultivating a farm near Cooper Gap, and spending his spare time as Sheriff "Fate" Thompson's blockader.

"What's doing, Lynn?" we casually inquired.

"Sheriff Thompson, Constant, and I were over in Cooper's Gap yesterday and got the biggest copper still yet seen," he said. "The plant, hidden in the hills had been operating on a big scale for months. Guess they were getting ready to move it when we ran in on 'Nobody home' but we smashed a lot of equipment and destroyed their supplies. Still had a capacity over one hundred gallons."

"Then why in thunder didn't you get a picture of it! I've been wanting one ever since I came to North Carolina," said the editor.

"Want one bad enough to go get 'em sure do!"

Then trot home and get our picture machine. Constant and I have a hot tip, and we are going over to bring one in this afternoon. Better bring along your artillery and wear boots—lots of rattles snakes in the hills.

We explained the situation to Sikes, and he rolled out his Roamer guaranteed to step the limit, and before we realized it we had jumped into our khakis, donned our war paint, and grabbed a fresh film pack, not forgetting an ample supply of Camels. Sikes straightened the Roamer out, and slid into Columbus hitting on all six.

Smith and Constant were waiting, but we had to satisfy the inner man before heading for the hills, and Mrs. Smith is an honest-to-goodness cook. She set before us hungry fellows a real boiled dinner, with buttermilk and apple pie. It sure was good!

After dinner we embarked in one of the "ten million" variety of motor cars, and chugged along toward Mill Spring, crossing Green River at the site of the Blue Ridge Power Company's huge development, and out on the Cooper Gap road.

Finally the Ford swung to the left, and we headed straight for a break in the hills. Parking the buzz wagon at the home of a friendly farmer, we looked over our smoke poles, tightened our belts, and hiked for the tall uncut.

Up a wooded ravine we sneaked, thinking of the old days in the Islands when Colonel Hare had us chasing elusive rateros up and down Lazon. The cognon grass was lacking, but blackberry bushes made a good substitute. The dull thump of wood on wood, the sound of creaking axle coming down wind—and Smith and Constant were off like well trained pointers on the scent of a close lying covey.

The editor hung on to their heels puffing like a porpoise perhaps, but doing his best to keep up with the procession. The noise stopped, and we crouched in the underbrush listening, watching, waiting. But the quarry had slipped the net.

Quitting here and there, the two husky limbs of the law finally located a forty-gallon still hidden in a field. Fifty yards below on the creek we found the still stand. It was abandoned, and with little sign of recent operation.

Appropriating the hand-made copper container, we hid it in a near by berry patch, and proceeded with the search. A mile away we found another abandoned still stand, with boxes, barrels, sugar sacks, empty tin cans, and other moonshine equipment galore. Smelling the remnants of mash the ex-military man volunteered the information that the plant had been out

Kings Mountain To Celebrate Victory Over Ferguson's Men

King's Mountain is planning its annual celebration of the anniversary of Ferguson's smashing defeat by North Carolina farmers back in the stirring days of 1780.

C. E. Carpenter is head of King's Mountain celebration committee and it is planned to bring both presidential and gubernatorial candidates to the celebration on October 7th in order to pull the crowds.

As many Polk County people are lineal decedents of men who shouldered their squirrel rifles to march forth against Ferguson in the days when this country was young, the announcement of the coming celebration should arouse considerable local interest.

TRYON BAPTIST CHURCH

Thomas L. Justice, D. D. Pastor.

Regular services each Sunday 11 A. M. and at 8 P. M.

Special Music Evening Services Sabbath School at 10 A. M.

Public Cordially Invited.

ARRIVALS AT OAK HALL

Recent arrivals at Oak Hall since last week are: L. S. Whitman, Cincinnati, Mrs. A. H. Walker, St. Augustine, Fla., Mrs. W. L. Richie, Wash. D. C., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Little, Boston, Mass. Wm. G. Stigler, Cincinnati, O.

of commission for a week at least.

We got some pictures of the plant as it stood, Smith and Constant posing as "shiners" for our benefit.

Off again, up the hill and down dale we sped, through thicket and bush, across branches bearing mute evidence of the shiners recent operations, but without success.

Winded, scratched, demoralized, the editor posted himself atop a stump while the two deputies circled a possible hiding place.

The woods were uncannily still. Nothing moved—not a leaf stirred. Straining our ears to catch a sound of the "still hunters" we sat, alert and keyed up for whatever might happen.

Thud! A cracking of leaves, a scurry—the editor snapped to "tension, and grasping a life preserver swung into action ready to do or die, or get from there as conditions might warrant.

A big grey squirrel wrinkled his nose, stuck out his paws, and making a running jump, lit half way up a rugged pine. The editor breathed easier.

Lynn whistled from a nearby copse and we joined him. Constant had circled around the hills and just as we pounded up a heavily wooded slope he raised up from the brush like a ghost in the night. Take it from us, that boy can navigate the hills as easily as his old ship navigated the seven seas.

Joining forces, we trailed down a creek until we came to a cabin in the hills. Friendly folks they were, too, for they insisted on lending us their dipper that we might get a drink from a nearby spring.

Having read John Fox's stories of the Kentucky hills, we half expected to see the barrel of a Winchester thirty-some-odd poked through the chinks, but these were evidently peaceful folks who took no interest in the doings of "revenooers" or "blockaders".

Retrieving the captured still we sought the Ford, and attaching the trophy to the fender we stepped on the gas and lit for the county seat.

Enroute, we noted many knowing grins, and the quizzical expressions which seemed to denote superior wisdom of the shiner and his habit. One looker expressed it about right—"Yuh got a cold 'un, didn't yuh, boys?"

It was a cold 'un right enough, but the editor got his pictures, blisters, scratches, and chiggers. Tired but thoroughly satisfied, he was glad to get back to the little house in the hollow and assure Mrs. Editor that he was "still" kicking, and not held captive by a Blockader King in the fastness of the High Hills.

To The Citizens And Taxpayers Of Tryon

You are hereby notified that a copy of the proposed Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal year beginning June 1st, 1924, for the Town of Tryon is on file at the Town Clerk's office for your inspection.

It is proposed to finally adopt this Ordinance at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the first Monday in September.

The public is invited to inspect this Proposed Town Budget and appear at this meeting and make such protests as it deems proper, or else said Ordinance will be adopted.

W. S. Green, Mayor

Items of Local Interest About Tryon People and Their Friends

Mrs. T. J. Kennedy who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. M. C. Hunter in Marion, S. C., returned home Tuesday.

Miss Mary Louise Porter of the Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C., is a visitor in the home of Mrs. Florence Averill on Whitney Ave.

Miss Clyde Metcalf who is spending the summer in Spartanburg, spent the week end in Tryon with her aunt, Mrs. W. C. Ward.

Miss Della Plumley who lives about three miles from Tryon, was in town Friday with some fine apples which she marketed.

Mr. George Russell Agassiz, grandson of the famous naturalist, who with his wife has just been elected as one of the governing body of Harvard University.

Mrs. Ball, her sister Miss Beach, and her aunt, Mrs. Warner, are spending the summer at "Armored Pines."

Miss Ferdnand Poppe has returned from Asheville where she has been attending summer school. This school holds a session every year in Asheville, and is very popular with the teachers of North Carolina.

Mrs. Julia Mosely left for her home in Atlanta, Ga., Monday after a short visit with her cousin, Mrs. J. B. Hester. Mrs. Mosely had been in Asheville, a guest at Grove Park Inn, and her visit to Tryon was on her return trip home.

Last Saturday, while a bunch of bananas was being unpacked at B. L. Ballenger & Company's store, a tarantula, of medium size, sprang from the fruit, but fortunately was killed without biting anyone. The bite of a tarantula, while very serious, is not necessarily fatal, and a bunch of bananas seems to be a favorite hiding place of this dangerous spider.

Dr. Louis Fuldner has been marketing peaches in Tryon this week. These peaches are of the Elberta variety, and are the finest specimens we have ever seen. Dr. Fuldner, an expert in fruit culture, also has splendid grapes, which will be marketable within a short time.

Cleland Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Green of Columbia, will be in Tryon this week to spend the remainder of the summer with his mother who is a guest at Mrs. Williams boarding house. Cleland has spent a pleasant vacation in a boys camp in Virginia, and was expected in last week, but his visit was delayed a few days.

It is rumored that Mr. and Mrs. Peattie whose attractive bungalow bearing the name "Dunwandring" would indicate permanent residence in Tryon, have decided to purchase a country place in Virginia where they may reside near their son Donald. If this rumor is so—Tryon will lose a valued and highly respected resident. Mr. Peattie has done much to make Tryon a bigger and better town during his residence here, and his work on the recent Chamber of Commerce booklet, given gladly and without charge, has

attracted much attention throughout the country.

Mr. John Arledge of Hendersonville, N. C., who was clerk of the Superior Court in Polk County for thirty years will act in place of H. H. Carson who suffered serious injury in a recent automobile accident.

Mrs. Paul Curran Smith and daughter Sylvia arrived from Glasford, Ill for an indefinite visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Doubleday.

Mrs. Thos. L. Justice was in Landrum Sunday evening to see her friends, Mrs. Anne Boone, and her daughter, Mrs. J. F. Thorne. Mrs. Boone, who is quite elderly, suffered three paralytic strokes last week, but showed decided improvement Sunday. Mrs. Boone's Tryon friends hope that she will regain her usual health.

Dr. R. W. Butler, a well known physician of Sarasota, Fla., was in Tryon the first of the week, and before he had been here two hours had purchased Lot No. 1 in The Lindsey subdivision, and will soon begin the erection of a modern residence. Dr. Butler stated that he had investigated thoroughly the possibilities of every resort town in this section, and Tryon completely filled his expectations of what a town should be. C. J. Lynch acted as agent for the Lindsey estate in closing the transaction.

Wm. G. Stigler, editor of the Cincinnati Star and a nationally known newspaper man and writer, was in Tryon the first of the week, a guest of Oak Hall.

Mrs. J. D. Pierce, with her son-in-law Henry Fisher, were marketing some nice peaches and garden produce in Tryon Monday.

Tom Lynch, the accommodating clerk at Missildine's Drug Store, had a holiday last week end which he enjoyed with his mother at Columbus.

Mr. Fred Wolf and sister Mildred of North, S. C., spent a few days with the Johnson family this week at the Strong cottage.

Miss Nan Bell and Miss Alberta Lipscomb returned to their home in Gaffney Sunday after spending a few days with Mrs. Brian Bell in the Kennedy house.

T. T. Ballenger of Atlanta is in Tryon visiting his son, Claude. Ballenger. Mr. Ballenger's friends are always glad to see him on the streets and to welcome each visit he makes to this city.

Mr. L. W. Lanford, from South Carolina near Campobello, was in Tryon Friday. Mr. Lanford is one of the well known prosperous farmers of that section, and reports that the dry weather has stopped the deprecations of the boll weevil to such extent that his outlook for a good crop is encouraging. Mr. Lanford was incidentally marketing some excellent water ground meal from corn raised on one of his plantations.

Hendersonville Solidly Behind Move To Pave The Appalachian Highway To Line

FREE! To Paid Up Subscribers

Beginning Sept. first every paid up subscriber to the Polk County News will receive without additional cost The Southern Planter, the oldest agricultural journal in America, twice every month for a year. This subscription is paid by this paper as a part of its program to help the agricultural development of Polk County.

Federation Elects New Officers And Selects Directors

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Polk County Farmer's Federation held in the court-house at Columbus, Monday, August 11th, J. T. Waldrop was elected president; Frank Jackson, vice-president; and Mrs. J. T. Camp, secretary.

The new Board of Directors consist of J. T. Waldrop, Frank Jackson, J. C. Davis, Walter Westbrook, C. M. Howes, Rev. R. N. Hunter, Mrs. J. R. Foster, and Mrs. J. T. Camp.

The Federation executives predict a year of prosperity and bespeak for the organization the hearty cooperation of all good citizens of Polk County.

The Passing of Mary Stewart Cutting

Mary Stewart Cutting, writer of short stories, died Sunday, August 10th at her home in Orange, New Jersey, in her 74th year. Mrs. Cutting was the widow of the late Charles Weed Cutting of Auburn, New York and the daughter of General Ulysses and Mary Stewart Doubleday. She is survived by her brother, Harold Doubleday of Tryon, a son, Ulysses Cutting, and two daughters, Amy Cutting and Mary S. Cutting, who at present are making their home in England.

Mrs. Cutting's stories contributed much to McClures magazine in its earlier years and later many of them appeared in book form: among others, "Little Stories of Married Life", "Refractory Husbands", "Some of Us Are Married", and "The Wayfarers".

Mrs. Cutting was known and loved by people in all parts of the World. No act of charity or kindness was too great nor too small for her to perform for those with whom she came in contact. Such a spirit as hers cannot die but must live forever, a constant inspiration in the memory and the hearts of those who knew her.

W. W. G. Jr.

Again the delightful breezes and cool nights of Tryon are proving an attraction for out of town visitors. Miss Mary McGowan, the charming hostess of the Williams boarding house has entertained the following guests the past week:

Mrs. McLees of Greenwood, S. C.; Mrs. Marks and Miss Rice of Columbia, S. C.; Mr. Walker of Georgetown, S. C. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Conway Thompson of Spartanburg, who have been enjoying a long trip through the Western N. C. mountains and came here from Asheville.

Recent arrivals this week are Miss Mary Casey and Miss Margaret Casey of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Recent Developments in Western North Carolina Make it Imperative That Appalachian Hiway Be Paved Through to S. C. Line Says Secretary of Hendersonville Chamber of Commerce.

A. M. McWhirter, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Hendersonville in a recent interview with a NEWS representative asserted that Tryon and Saluda could count upon the active support of Hendersonville business men in their efforts to have the Appalachian Highway paved through from Hendersonville to the South Carolina line.

"The recent expansion of the Chimney Rock section, the construction of Lake Lure, the immense resort developments now under way in Hendersonville itself, including the twenty million dollar development at Laurel Park which is being promoted by New York and Florida capital—make it imperative that the highway leading to Spartanburg, Columbia, Charleston and Miami be hard surfaced every foot of the way to the state line.

"The South Carolina Highway Commission has definitely promised to complete a hard surface highway to the line, via Spartanburg, and Frank Page, our own Commissioner has agreed to meet them there."

"But why wait on our slower moving South Carolina neighbors? Why not rush the thing through and thus force their hands? The only way to do things—is to get out and do them. If the State Highway system hasn't the available money to construct such a highway at this particular time, I candidly believe that the proposition could be underwritten in Asheville, Hendersonville, Chimney Rock, Saluda and Tryon."

"The resort hotel here is going through. Another is under way in Tryon, I am told. Lake Lure is being constructed and the Lynch proposition at Tryon, has the approval of engineering experts as the most logical location for a great lake development in the Blue Ridge. It is only a matter of a relatively short time until the Tryon, Saluda, Hendersonville, Asheville section is better known than the famous White Mountain country of New Hampshire, the Adirondacks, or the Green Mountains of Vermont.

"Concerted action on the part of the resort cities of Western North Carolina can secure the paving of this artery of motor travel, and we should get together and see that it is done.

"The Land of the Sky is too big for petty jealousy. We folks in Hendersonville want to see Tryon grow, we want to see Chimney Rock grow, we are as much interested in Brevard as the people in Brevard are interested in themselves, we want to see Asheville a city of a quarter million. We earnestly believe that our development has just commenced. If we all pull together we can do it just as rapidly as the section around Los Angeles was developed.

Our climate is unexcelled. Even the Californians admit it. And we have advantages which far exceed anything Florida has to offer the investor. We must sell those advantages to the great American public. It can be done:

"Good roads will help us do it, and I say, again, let's pave the Appalachian Highway to the South Carolina line and do it while the Palmetto State commission is getting ready."

Mr. McWhirter has certainly proven well worth his salary to Hendersonville. He has worked day and night to help waken the inhabitants to the immense possibilities of the city in which they live; he has labored faithfully to attract outside capital to develop those possibilities, and now the work of years is bearing fruit.

His effort in behalf of the Appalachian Highway will in the end arouse interest and secure direct action. Tryon, Saluda and all of Polk County is with him—until the morning again in the cool grey morning. Hop to it Mac, and COUNT ON POLK COUNTY'S SOLID SUPPORT. We want that highway, too.