

Harry K. Eustace In Western North Carolina

Chimney Rock, N. C., June 14.—It is a wonder to some people that the various zoological societies in this country have been comparatively unfruitful. Col. Harry K. Eustace, a hunter and explorer in the African for twenty-five years, is now spending some time in Western North Carolina in connection with this project. He has been in the Chimney Rock Club, "Explorers are not made or bought. They feel a burning desire from within to answer the money call without if they would be successful in a place like the jungles of Africa."

During the twenty-five years of jungle life in his half-century lifetime, Colonel Eustace has had hair-raising experiences and narrow escapes from death on many occasions, but in some of the most crucial moments he has been able to take moving picture films with him and get "scenes in action" while capturing rhinoceros, lions and other ferocious animals of the jungle. On elephant drives he has been able to get close-up views of the snorting tuskers as they were giving him a real battle while he was trying to capture them in order to secure and sell the ivory of their tusks to help finance further exploits. For several months these

films have been shown in this country, and particularly in Florida recently where Colonel Eustace, his wife and daughter have been making temporary headquarters. At the present time Colonel Eustace is investigating the possibility of establishing an open air wild animal zoo at Lake Lure on a favorable spot for a mountainous jungle of reed and scrub with a portion covered by shallow water, with underwater caves to serve as habitat for hippopotami, seals and wading birds such as flamingo. He expects to find a suitable location directly alongside State Highway No. 20 so that travelers and tourists between Charlotte and Asheville will participate in this unique additional attraction.

The prospects for a good crop of early Irish potatoes in some parts of eastern Carolina are bright. The dry, cool spring has held back the crop somewhat, but growers are now beginning to ship.

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Your co-operation will be Greatly appreciated.

POLK COUNTY NEWS

Mayor Laurence Young Discusses Sport in Honolulu and North Carolina

Chimney Rock, N. C., June 15.—"Gee, it's great to be back in Western North Carolina, the scenes of my boyhood days," said Mayor Laurence Young recently while shaking hands with friends on every side soon after his arrival from Honolulu, where he is stationed with the United States Army. It seems natural to his old friends, too, when they see him mount the grandstand at the Asheville baseball park to engage again in his former job as rooster extraordinary.

Major Young, during and before his term as Adjutant General of the State of North Carolina under Governor Locke Craig, was considered in his native county of Buncombe as one of the most ardent followers of sports in this territory, and seldom missed a game of any consequence; and that same love of sport followed him to Honolulu.

On being asked about sports in the Hawaiian Islands, Major Young said: "The list of Hawaiian sports must, of course, be headed by surfing, for this along with outrigger canoeing are the most ancient, although from the standpoint of interest, they have been overshadowed by the steadily increasing enthusiasm in the great American game of baseball."

Hawaii has seen in the field of swimming the rise of many world and local champions who have achieved fame at home and abroad. Few people appreciate the magnitude of water sports, as they will later be able to with the creation of Lake Lure, believes Major Young. Continuing to comment upon future participation in water sports, the Major said: "I have just inspected the Lake Lure site, and I look for North Carolina, and other eastern American champions to challenge our champions of Honolulu to contests right here."

Football has found its place of prominence as well in the list of island sports during recent years. The University of Hawaii led all the teams last year, and crowned its season's record with a 13-0 victory over the team of the University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain conference champion.

Due to the absence of "blizzard-like" weather in Hawaii, baseball is played practically all the year around and, like other island sports, knows no racial barriers. Hawaiian teams have been honored by visits from the Waseda and Meiji teams of Japan and the nines of the University of Chicago, California, Stanford, and the Portland, Ore., Coast League baseball club.

"Golf is by no means off the list of Hawaiian island sports," said Major Young in continuing to comment upon the subject of sports which hold so much interest for him. "Many splendid golf courses dot each of the main islands of the group. The most popular of these is on the very ground over which King Kamehameha the Great made his historic drive. Important personages play on these grounds while spending time in that country, and even those only temporarily stopping while the great ocean liners load and unload cargoes at this, the cross roads of the Pacific. Quite frequently a dozen nationalities are represented in the number of players seen on the golf links in Honolulu during a single afternoon. Then it becomes a contest of nations, and in-

dentally promotes the subject of sports in the Islands.

"Polo was introduced into Hawaii in the year 1886, so I am told, which makes it just one year after the game became definitely known in the United States."

"The waters about Hawaii teem with fish of the game type, and for years angling has been a favorite sport. Fish is one of the cheapest foods obtainable because they are so easily caught. I have, however, noted that game fish in Hawaii are just as gamey as in the streams of the mountains of Western North Carolina, where I caught them when a boy and where I have come back to resume the battle. Some of those fish which defeated me at that time might be told now and here that I have some practice angling since I left the states, and they had better look out now. I am an experienced hand back on the old job, and, Mr. Goldfish, look out for Laurence—I am coming. That recalls a panic we had years ago at Bottomless Pools near Chimney Rock where we fished with the wrong kind of bait, I presume, for we caught only a few little perch."

"The visitor to Hawaii will find practically every sport, except ice-skating, ice hockey, skiing or sleighing, for Hawaii knows no cold, blustery winters."

It is the opinion of Major Young, a veteran sports follower, that Lake Lure will soon have become the nucleus of big contests in the various branches, and will attract pleasure-seekers as well as sport champions from all parts of the nation. With the inlets on the property of Chimney Rock Mountains, Inc., being heavily stocked with game fish, with landscape architects now at work laying out superb golf courses, with construction work on the million dollar dam now advanced almost to the point where it will begin checking water to cover the 1,500-acre basin, and with hotels of the finer resort type being built to give accommodations for tourists and sport-seekers, Major Young is loud in his praise of the mammoth development program at Lake Lure and the manner in which it is already being materialized.

Prices of Mules and Some Horses Advancing

Chimney Rock, N. C., June 17.—Prices of mules and certain types of horses are advancing. An actual shortage of supply over demand exists on the market, according to Col. Harry K. Eustace, the African wild animal expert, here to investigate the feasibility of putting in an extensive zoological garden along the shore of Lake Lure.

"Look at the large number of mules playing their part in the development going on here. Your mule pen is just as important as the truck shed. It contains ten times as many mules as there are trucks on this job. The same situation prevails at other places. How would your 500 men get along without the mule in grading highways, working streets, laying out golf courses, working in quarries, snaking out forest growth where the waters of the great national resort lake will soon be a reality. It has been necessary for you to import several hundred animals to speed up the work where trucks are less advantageous. I note quite a few in the corral alongside State Highway No. 20, and this exhibit has opened the question of the passing of the mule and the horse."

"The greatest mule market in the United States is at East St. Louis. Statistics given out by officials there show that there is great activity in the horse and mule market. Not only is there at the present time a great demand for commercial horses and farm mules, but also as great demand for saddle horses as there has been at any time during the past fifty years." Vacationists everywhere are giving horseback riding a prominent place on their list of pleasures, and this is doubly true in those sections of Western North Carolina, like the Lake Lure district, where some of the best and most luring bridle paths in the whole world may be found. The horseless vehicle and the muleless plow have not supplanted old Dobbin or his cousin, the mule. They are here to remain even under changed working conditions."

STATE HIGHWAY TRAVEL INCREASES 100 PER CENT

Asheville, N. C., June 16.—A day's actual official count of the automobiles entering Asheville on just four of its highways showed 7,731, a hundred per cent increase over the same day last year, at which time six routes were counted. The traffic census is taken regularly by state officials. Over 3,000 of the cars counted bore foreign license tags. One of the most popular state highways is No. 20, connecting Asheville, Chimney Rock and Charlotte. Traffic is considerably congested on this paved road by reason of the large number of cars used to transport men and supplies for the big Lake Lure dam now under construction.