

**REPORTER-
PHOTOGRAPHER**

*They Tell About
Hills of Home'*

A few years ago Oscar J. Fox, American composer, conductor and folklorist, wrote about the "Hills of Home." His song gave universal expression to the sentiment which memory entertains about the scenes of Yesterday.

While the majority of people employed here have always been familiar with the

cotton stubble and the red clay of the Piedmont, several hundred folks who work here are adoptees of "these parts".

To tell you something about their hometowns, here are Mrs. Robert Kilby, Main Office; Lela Cobb, Weaving (synthetics); Bernard Alm, Shop (carpentry); S. P. Bolding, Industrial Relations (plant security); and Ernest Keenum, Supply.



Lela Cobb, Murphy, N. C.: My hometown is in the extreme Southwest corner of the state, 91 miles from Asheville. It is a summer resort in the Nantahala National Forest near the Georgia state line.

Industries include factories for making veneer, packing boxes, furniture, lumber, hosiery, general textiles. Timber, apples and berries are leading crops for the county and surrounding area.

Murphy, county seat of Cherokee, puts on the "Wagon Train" celebration every July 4. Nearby is the Fields of the Wood, famous Church of God Park. It features, in concrete, the world's largest tableau of the Ten Commandments; also arches, crosses, altars and other religious markers.

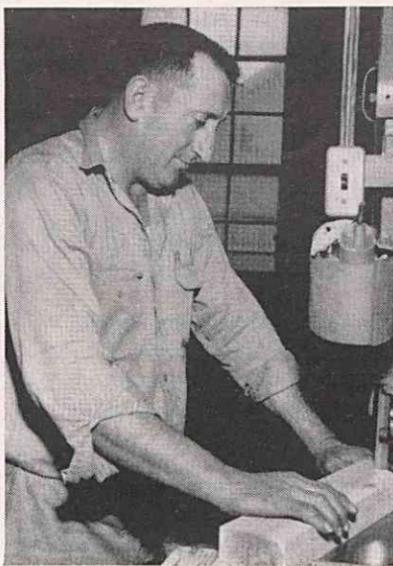
Most interesting fact about Murphy is this: Her people live closer to the capitals of seven other states, than to their own at Raleigh. The 375-mile trip from Murphy to Raleigh is longer than the mileage to the capitals of Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.



S. P. Bolding, Pickens, S. C.: My town, seat of government for Pickens county, is in the Northwest corner of the State. North of town is 3,560-foot-high Sassafras Mountain, loftiest point in South Carolina. The county bears the name of an illustrious family. Andrew Pickens, a general in the Revolution, later was a member of the State legislature, also served in Congress. His grandson, F. W. Pickens, was a Congressman, later a governor of South Carolina.

Pickens has lumber and grist mills, and textile works. Something unusual about one of the county's oldest textile mills is that employees enter and leave through the tower. Pickens is a tourist resort in the Blue Ridge mountains. Of historical interest is nearby Cowpens Battleground.

Among points of interest in Oconee county — immediately West of Pickens—are Fort Hill, home of John C. Calhoun; Oconee State Park; Old Indian Trading Post and Fort; Issaquenna Falls, Lake Cheohee; and Whitewater Falls, highest cascade in Eastern America.



Bernard Alm, Hinckley, Minn.: This town in Pine county is 80 miles below Duluth. Hinckley, like all Minnesota, is cattle-and-dairy land. Besides this, there are poultry farms, and potatoes and rutabagas are main crops.

Hinckley will long be remembered for the great forest fire of 1894. This tragedy is recalled in Stuart Holbrook's book, "Burning an Empire." The awful fire, driven by a wind of hurricane force, killed 700 persons. A monument has been erected to their memory.

Around 500 persons fled in some boxcars and were pulled out of town by a switch engine. Ten miles north, the train raced across Kettle river only two minutes before the burning trestle collapsed. My maternal grandfather was saved on the St. Paul-Duluth train.

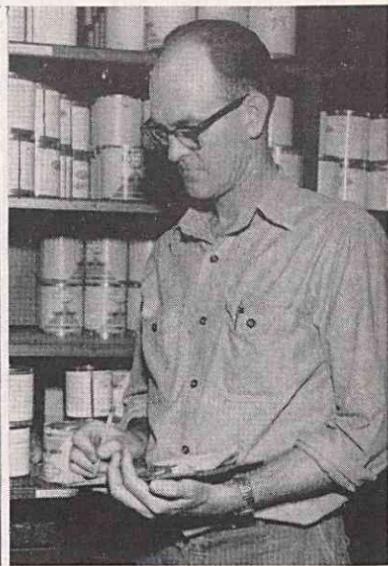
The fire caused Minnesota to enact its first forestry law, and made America more aware of the need of forest fire prevention. I hope it doesn't take another tragedy like the one at Hinckley to drive the lesson home in our time.



Mrs. Robert Kilby, from Newport, Tenn.: In Cocke county, Newport is 42 miles east of Knoxville, and at a location near which the Big Pigeon river joins the French Broad. Nearby are the John Sevier Preserve and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Settled in the 1700s, the town in later years became famed as a great lumbering center, operated by European investors. But in the late 1800s the Pigeon river "busted its britches"—as the natives say—and the flood ended the fabulous business venture.

Newport has tanneries, wood extract industries, hosiery, and grain-processing mills. It is best known as a food-canning center. The leading plant of this kind was the first to successfully process sugar peas that far South. Two brothers founded the company after they had raised some tomatoes in the garden and had their mother can them on the cookstove. They sold them, canned other vegetables, and developed their business into one of the nation's leading canneries.



Ernest Keenum, Friendship, N. C.: Go West to Friendship in Cherokee county, and you're in a stone's throw from Georgia and Tennessee. This little community is in the Nantahala Forest area, also the Appalachia and Hiwassee reservations, and the Unicoi mountains. Hiwassee Lake is a sportsman's paradise.

To the South is the Georgia highland country; across into Polk county, Tenn., are Copper Hill and Ducktown, great mining and smelting centers. Today, on U. S. Highway 64 you can see a man-made desert of thousands of acres, caused by the killing acids of careless copper mining, then erosion.

In recent years, the harmful smoke has been controlled and a reforestation program has been carried out by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the mining company. Kudzu vine, the Japanese legume, has been planted and is doing wonders to heal the ugly earth scars. The green things you see growing there today remind you that once a great forest covered the region—that some day another one may stand there again.

**To Talk Of Fire
At May Meeting**

Fire-control leaders from around the world will meet at Montreal, Canada next month to deal with ways and means of making people and property safer from fire.

Topics from industrial plant protection and fire department equipment to school fire problems and community fire safety education are on the program of the 64th annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association, beginning May 16.

Among subjects to be discussed are developments in extinguishing agents, flammable liquid hazards, storage of gases, and cutting and welding hazards.

One panel discussion will deal with people's awareness of fire hazards in the home, and simple rules of personal fire safety.

Other topics: A report on a study of fatal fires, improved safety in school buildings, hospital operating room fire hazards, and methods to improve fire protection for libraries and museums.



FIVE GENERATIONS

Represented here are five generations in the family of Mrs. Robert C. Wallace of Weaving (synthetics). Arranged from right to left in picture, they are: Mrs. J. M. Reynolds, mother of the employee here; Mrs. Brady Cook, Mrs. Reynolds' daughter; Mrs. Floyd Bridges, daughter of

Mrs. Cook; Mrs. Hugh Eaker, Mrs. Bridges' daughter; and Sherry Eaker. Besides Sherry, Mrs. Reynolds has five other great-great grandchildren. The five persons in this picture live in the Spartanburg-Clifton-Cowpens area of South Carolina.

NEWSWEAVERS:

PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS

Main Office

Payroll manager Mrs. Clayton Wilson, with Mr. Wilson and in company with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilson, toured portions of inland South Carolina in March for a preview of the State's famous landscaped garden attractions. They visited the beauty spots at Camden and Bethune, before going on to Columbia.

This year's extended winter delayed most blooming shrubs and other plants for which the gardens are well known, the Gastonia visitors reported. Peak season for many spring blossoms will be pushed to around mid-April in such inland gardens of the State as Edisto, Lamis, Kalmia, Swan Lake, and Dundell.

Quality Control

Robert B. Hull and Ray Pearson are among eight men elected recently to three-year terms as deacons at First A. R. Presbyterian Church of Gastonia. Mr. Hull is manager of the Quality Control department at Firestone; Mr. Pearson, an electrician in the Shop.

The two Firestone men were elected at the same time the church chose three new elders, a congregation chairman, and a clerk. All officers assumed their duties on April 1.

Winding

Mrs. Frank Peele of Salisbury, N. C. spent a recent weekend in Bessemer City, where she visited in the home of Mrs. Pearl Peele, a twister tender in this department.

E. P. McArver, second hand in Winding (sales yarn), was recovering nicely in late March, after a surgical operation in a local hospital.

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