

Station Spotlight

Asheville "In the Land of the Sky"

Natural Beauty Brings Visitors

Asheville and the hills around it are full of many sights and sounds, from outdoor drama to the East's highest mountain.

Famed as a resort city, each year the area attracts thousands of visitors from all parts of the United States. They may come to see the countryside, attend the two nearby outdoor dramas—"Unto These Hills" and "Horn in the West"—or perhaps stay just to get a whiff of the mountain air.

Attracts Industries

It has become a popular spot for retirees, as well as industries such as General Electric, duPont, and Gerber Baby Foods which have all recently built plants near the city.

Perhaps the most outstanding man-made attraction in the area is the Biltmore House and Gardens, built in 1891-96 by the late George Vanderbilt. Located near Asheville, the estate originally encompassed 100,000 acres. Mr. Vanderbilt was possibly one of the few men in the country to have his own mountain, since Mt. Pisgah was part of those original holdings.

The house and gardens are now open to the public and part of the acreage has been donated to form Pisgah National Forest. The main residence has 365 rooms — one for each day in the year — and is furnished with rare antiques and objects d'art. Some of the more unusual furnishings include Caesar's bathtub, Napoleon's chess table and men, and huge medieval tapestries.

Beautiful Scenery

The area also has its share of natural attractions. Over two million people visit the surrounding national parks and forests each year. Mount Mitchell's peak of 6,684 feet is the highest east of the Mississippi, and is part of the Black range in the Southern Appalachians.

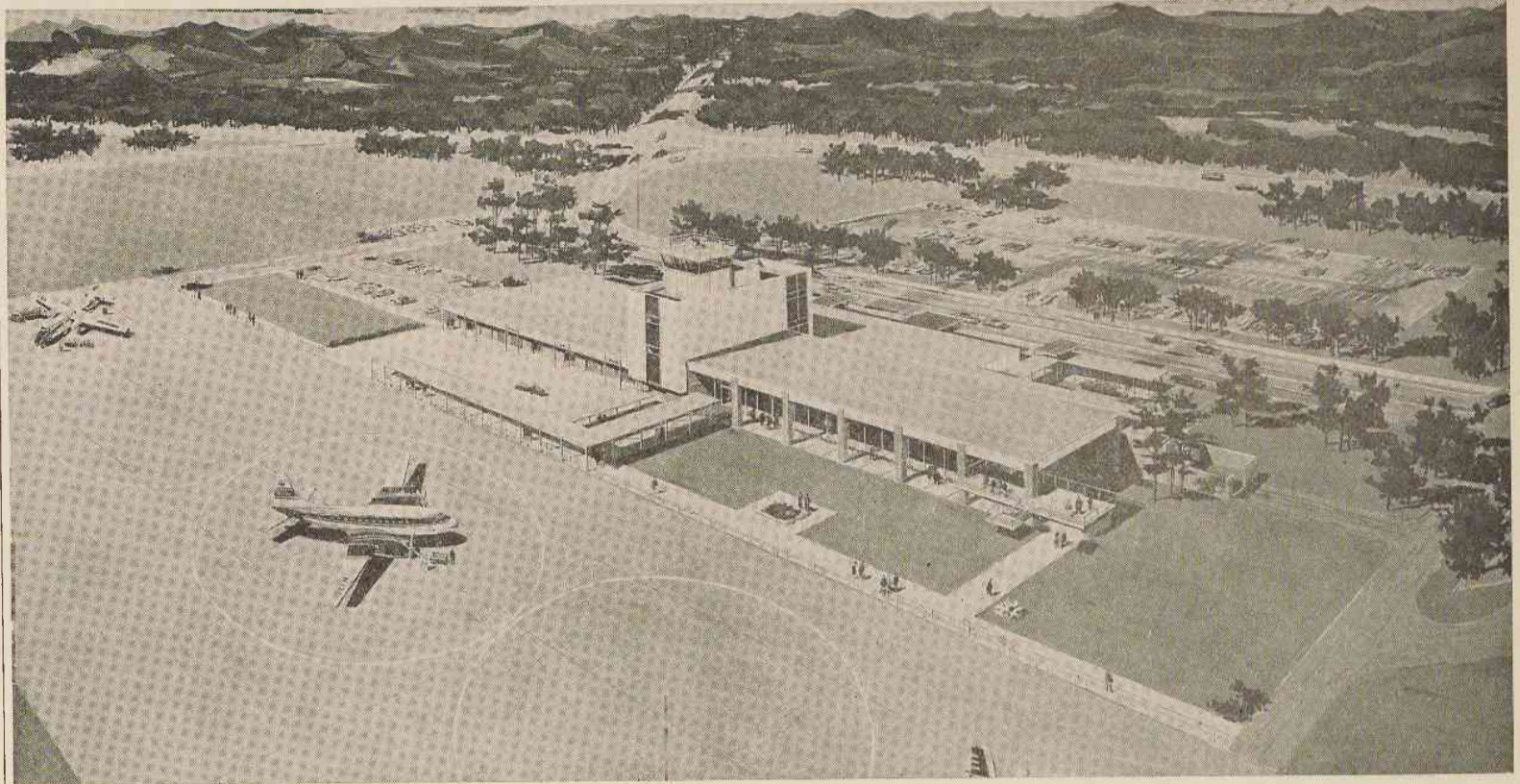
South of Asheville is Chimney Rock, a huge granite bolder sitting chimney-like on a mountaintop. For a fee of two dollars for adults and one dollar for children, (plus a considerable expenditure of energy) visitors are allowed to climb to the top of the rock. For less hearty souls there is an elevator available for a quarter extra. Those who have managed to make it say the view of Lake Lure and Hickory Nut Gorge is worth the effort.

The first settlers in this part of the country were a rugged breed who made most of their own furniture, clothing, and household goods. The handcraft workers are still in evidence today, though of course now operating in a more commercial vein than their predecessors.

Handicraft Guild

The Southern Highland Handicraft Guild conducts tests and maintains rigid standards to keep high the quality of workmanship. Workers must submit samples to a board of judges and meet certain qualifications before they can be admitted to the Guild. At present the organization has members in eight states of the Southern Appalachians.

Biltmore Industries features another native art which has found wide commercial acceptance. Hand-woven wool fabric is the product of the business which was started in 1901 under the sponsorship of Mrs. George



New multi-million dollar airport is latest star in Asheville's Crown.

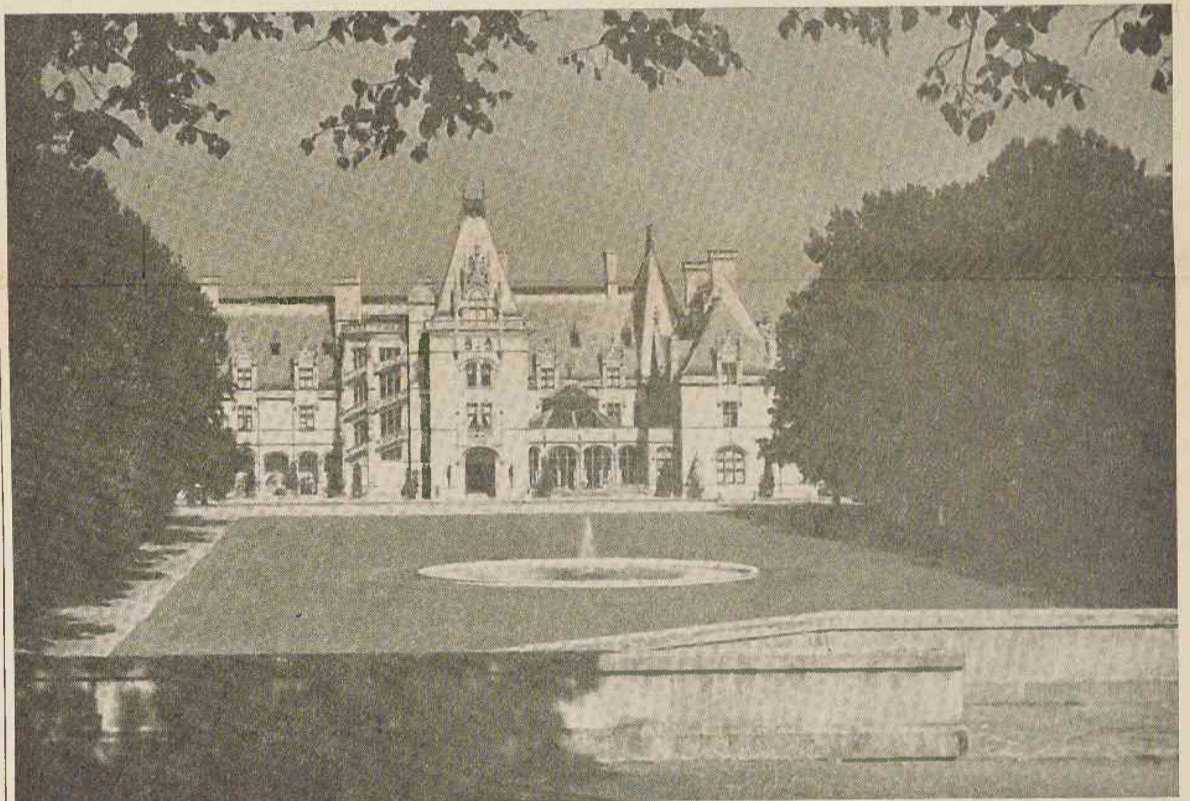
Vanderbilt. Today the material is still carded, dyed, spun, and woven by hand.

New Airport

One of the newest features on the Asheville landscape is its \$2,200,000 airport. Since its completion the area has had F-27 and night service for the first time.

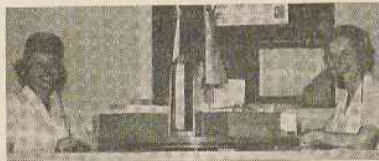
The 6,500 foot runway accommodates the prop-jets, and there is an 830 acre tract of land on reserve which would allow the addition of another 1,000 feet of runway in future expansion.

The airport is currently served with 15 Piedmont flights a day, making it a busy stop for both passengers and crews alike.

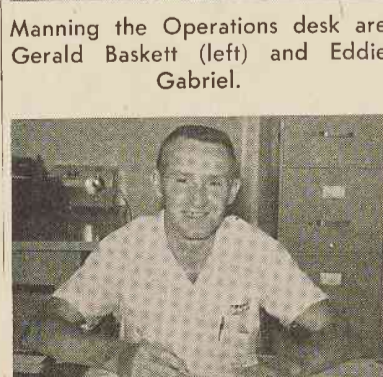


(Right) The Biltmore Estate, one of the country's finest private homes. The walls are Indiana Limestone and the roof is slate. The house and gardens took five years to build.

AVL station crew are proud of their new quarters. (Right) Meet Reservations lovelies Naomi McGuinn (left) and Evon Whitacre.



(Left) Julius Dean (left) and George Gentry on duty at the new ticket counter.



Manning the Operations desk are Gerald Baskett (left) and Eddie Gabriel.



Dave Smith, Chief Agent



Jack Gwennap, Station Manager



Asheville craftsmen practice arts handed down by their forefathers. (Above) Worker at the Biltmore Industries weaves handspun wool into cloth famed for its color and sturdiness.