

A Trip from Watauga to the Florida Coast

M. Editor:

I have been thinking for some time I would write a few lines, telling of our trip from the mountains to the seashore. We left Watauga Nov. 29 arriving in Lawdesville, S. C., on the next day, going by way of Lenoir, Morganton, Shelby, Spartanburg, Greenville and Anderson. Here I spent four or five days visiting relatives and friends and having a good time in general. On Monday the first we pulled out of Lawdesville, headed for Dothan, Ala., passing through following towns in Georgia: Hartwell, Athens, Madison, Macon, Montezuma, Columbus, Dawson, Albany and others, reaching Dothan at 5 o'clock the next day. While here we were guests of Mr. J. E. Mullan, whom many of the people of Boone and Cove Creek know. Mr. Mullan, being the Sept. of a large oil mill, took us to show us how his extract is made from peanuts and cotton seed. I was amazed at the great amount of labor and machinery it takes to keep the mill running at full capacity. We saw in the storage houses, cars and mill, over one hundred tons of peanuts, a great amount of them being already shelled. To say that we enjoyed ourselves while there would be putting it too mildly. We simply had a glorious time.

After spending two nights and a day in Dothan, we once again took the road for Sebastian, Fla., our final destination, and I will say right here that the most beautiful scenery on the entire journey was on this trip up—fine roads, beautiful homes and so many wonderful tropical flowers of all kinds. There were so many fine towns through which we passed that we could only mention two, Lake City and Gainesville. I believe that Lake City is the prettiest town I ever saw in my life. My sister, parents and Grandmother also were here. We arrived in Sebastian, Florida, this morning, Monday, Sunday the 27th of December. This is where Mr. W. W. Muller, formerly of Watauga county, is located in the mercantile business. We found them all well and prosperous.

We had as fine weather as any one could wish for on the entire trip and a deep of rain fell anywhere. I would be ungrateful if I didn't drop a word of praise for the wonderful roads over which we came. Truly it was a pleasure to travel over such roads and they are a living monument to the push and energy of the citizens of the different states as well as the different road commissions, but I found that S. C., Georgia and Florida have good roads as well as North Carolina, but being a Tar heel you know I swell with pride when I hear all the tourists say to each other, "If you want to see real roads go through North Carolina." They all say that North Carolina has the best roads of any state through which they pass.

Florida in all her history has never had half the number of tourists with her borders as she has this year, and all of them were pleasure seekers by any means, but thousands and thousands of them hunting suitable locations for winter homes and the investment of their money. I can't describe the wonderful change that has taken place on the East Coast of Florida in the last five years or since I was here last. The towns have all taken on new life, building, mending and enlarging their city limits and the country between the towns which was nothing but real jungles five years ago is now being all cleared up and fine Spanish style orange homes are being built and orange and grapefruit groves being set out everywhere, the Dixie Highway being beautiful which will in the near future be a great boulevard from Jacksonville to Miami.

Can this wonderful progress continue? I will let the reader draw his own conclusion. I am sure I can't tell, but I do know the greatest changes imaginable has taken place all over the state since 1919.

Tourists as well as natives are very optimistic over the future of Florida. Hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars are being invested in Fla. real estate every day, and if I had the time I could get the evidence where only here in St. Lucie county hundreds of thousands of dollars have changed hands since I arrived here. In my opinion any one wishing to invest money would do a wise thing to invest it in real estate anywhere from Jacksonville to Miami. Any one having as much as 50 feet of frontage on the Dixie Highway on the Indian River is sure of a good per cent on his money.

Just to show you the amount of southern capital being invested in Florida, I happened to see the statistics for the three states of N. C., Va. and Florida. This was for the year 1924. There were \$19,000,000 invested in North Carolina, \$8,000,000 in Georgia and \$450,000,000 in Florida. So you see that if this holds out, that Florida is destined to be a

WARNS PLAGUE IS EVER A MENACE

Public Health Service Gives Out Some Figures.

Washington.—It is estimated that 10,000,000 human beings have died of the plague in the last 25 or 30 years. These figures are from the current health reports of the United States public health service.

The report estimates that hundreds of millions of people have died of plague in ages past and says that the present pandemic of plague began in China in 1894. The report continues: "During the calendar year 1923 plague was reported to the surgeon general of the public health service as being present in the following countries, namely: Algeria, Australia, Azores, Brazil, British East Africa, Canary Islands, Ceylon, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Hawaii, India, Indo-China, Iraq, Japan, Java, Madagascar, Mauritius Island, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Portuguese West Africa, Russia, Siam, Siberia, Spain, Straits Settlements, Syria, Tunis, Turkey, Union of South Africa and Venezuela.

"Some of these countries have been plague infected for many years and no doubt will remain so for many years to come, possibly for centuries even. The most common way in which plague spreads from one country to another, from one city to another, is by means of rats on board ship.

"When the rats of a large city become infected with plague it often takes many years to eradicate the disease. The fact that there are no human cases does not mean that there may not be rat infection. In at least one city there is a record of rat infection extending over a period of 10 years without the occurrence of a human case during that time.

"As is well known, the pandemic form of plague may, and sometimes does, spread with great rapidity among people who live under overcrowded and other insanitary conditions, that is, where there is close personal contact. Under favorable conditions pneumonic plague spreads along the lines of travel by human beings, by rail or by any other mode of travel, but this is not generally true of the bubonic type, which goes where the rat goes and reaches human beings from the rat.

South American Birds Act as Sheep Herders

Husain, Wash.—A South American bird, called the yacambik, is just as efficient a sheep herder as the collie, declares August Baehler, owner of large flocks near by. A cousin shipped two young yacambiks to Baehler last summer from Venezuela and now, matured they are inseparable from the sheep.

The yacambiks are a sort of crane, long domesticated in Venezuela, and, dog-like, showed marked faithfulness and intelligence regarding sheep herding. In the day the long-legged birds waddle around the side of the sheep bands, keeping watch for foxes and wanderers. When darkness comes they fall in at the rear until the sheep are corralled, then seek a roosting place on the highest object found.

Like geese, they eat forage with the sheep. The yacambiks are adept in attacking and beating off eagles, coyotes, foxes and will even go after bears and wolves, beating them with wings and stabbing with needle-like beaks. According to Baehler, dogs for foxes the two yacambiks have kept the collies in a state of fear for several months.

Kanakas Plan to Show Sailors Their Volcano

Hilo, Island of Hawaii.—Every sailor of the United States fleet, which is to visit the territory next spring for maneuvers, will be given an opportunity to visit the volcano of Kilauea, thirty miles up the slopes from Hilo, the greatest continually active crater in the world.

Avalanches and earthquakes now compose Kilauea's activities almost solely. 41 earth shocks having been recorded at the volcano observatory in the week ended December 17.

Since the volcano's latest violent eruption in May, 1924, there has been slight activity at the fire pit of Halemauau. The dimensions of the crater, increased greatly by last May's activity, are approximately 3,500 by 3,000 feet, with a depth of about 1,200 feet.

Now a word about our home county St. Lucie. (I say our home county because I happen to have a home in this county.) The government says that St. Lucie county is the best sheltered county from frost and freezes in the entire state and is the home of the citrus fruits.

This county was awarded the grand citrus prize at Tampa again this year which establishes the fact that St. Lucie County fruit is practically unexcelled. In competition with the citrus products of other counties in the state, seven successive first prizes leave this hardly open to argument.

That St. Lucie county should be able to go into the heart of citrus Florida and carry away the principal honors year after year is no mean achievement and one of which her people are justly proud, knowing the best oranges and grape fruit in the world grow here.

H. E. DEAL
Sebastian, Fla.

FINDS SECRET CANNIBAL CULT

Explorer Tells How Human Flesh is Eaten.

London.—A "secret society of cannibals" who consume human flesh purely from a sense of public duty is the discovery claimed made in the Belgian Congo by E. Torday, who describes his adventures among these folk in a book entitled "On the Trail of the Bushinongo," just published here.

Torday, who in the course of study of the Bushinongo arts and crafts made a collection for the British museum, is enthusiastic about the artistic qualities of the Bushinongo—as the secret cannibals are called.

The tribe does not profess cannibalism publicly, and it was necessary to obtain their confidence before it was possible to obtain inside information as to their rites. Torday liked the Bushinongo and they liked him, hence he got behind the reserve which has prevented the ordinary traveler penetrating their secrets.

Dealing with the "public duty" aspect of the tribe's cannibalism, the writer says: "In every village there are a certain number of people who sometimes, simply out of a sense of duty for the public good, dispose of the corpses of slaves and murderers by eating them." The idea was that this prevents souls of the dead returning to take vengeance on the village for wrongs suffered during life.

This sort of "public duty" cannibalism is conducted on secret society lines, owing to unpopularity of the practice among the neighboring white folk. There is a distinct rite of initiation. The initiate of a new member must first "touch his tongue with a piece of pudding dipped in the stew (human), then he will be made to eat some of this in tiny bits and finally will swallow a piece of flesh."

After this the novice has to attend several meetings, and on each of these he will consume soaked human flesh, Torday goes on.

When he has been sufficiently hardened to the practice by eating the preserved flesh used on these occasions, he will be given opportunity of becoming a full member by assisting at consumption of a fresh corpse.

The Bushinongo are expert weavers and the women excel at embroidery. Torday says they make beautiful clothes and the pile of some of their stuff is short and close, like the finest velvet. Another cloth is made with diamond design, but among the colors used are delicate mauve-yellow with a black.

He writes that it is as sculptors and carvers that the Bushinongo are known in the world, and within the last few years African sculptures have become the vogue.

The principal objects produced are ivory, cups, dishes, drums, chairs and, ranking above all, human figures, of which the most remarkable are the statues of ancient kings.

63,000 Varieties of Stamps, World Record

Leipzig.—There are now 63,000 different varieties of postage stamps extant in the world, of which 22,985 are credited to Europe and 40,000 to the other continents, according to the publishers of one of the best known stamp catalogues of Germany.

Within the last two years 4,000 new stamps were issued by the governments of the world.

This enormous increase in postage stamp production has made collectors a domain of ever expanding anything like a complete collection of existing stamps, and the special collection has given place to the general collection.

Before the inflation period, one saw many rare old American stamps in German dealers' windows. These have now disappeared, almost entirely, for American dealers and stamp collectors visitors bought them when the German mark was cheap.

Hawaii's Famous Hula Traffic Cop Passes On

Honolulu, Peter, Hise, Hawaii's famous "hula traffic cop" is dead, a victim of tuberculosis.

Well over six feet in height, always smiling and genial, "Peter," as he was known universally, was wont to amuse and entertain visitors and residents of the islands by directing traffic at the busiest street intersection in Honolulu to the motions of a whistling hula dancer. He became a well-known character both to residents and tourists, as he had served eighteen years in the police department.

Some months ago he contracted tuberculosis and was placed in a sanatorium. Prior to the holiday season he suddenly arose one night, dressed and walked to his home with the remark that he desired to die in his own home among his family. Death came quietly several nights later.

Throughout the night before the funeral around Peter's coffin relatives and friends kept watch over the dead. After the Hawaiian custom, the silence being punctuated occasionally by wailing, for Peter had been a native of the Islands, and island customs were his.

Demolish House Where William Penn Preached

Oxford, England.—Stias Norton's house, where William Penn preached one of his unpopular sermons in 1687, has recently been demolished.

Penn was at that time in Oxford only as a visitor. He entered as a student at Christ Church college at the age of sixteen, but was very shortly expelled for his religious opinions. Thomas Lowe, who induced Penn to become a Quaker, was for a good many years an Oxford resident.

Penn's old college, by way of amends, has his portrait hung conspicuously in its hall.

As the Pilgrim divines were chiefly Cambridge men, Oxford, not to be outdone, makes the most of all its American connections. Lord Baltimore is still without a memorial in his old college, Trinity, but as Trinity has portraits of two of its students well known in American history—William Pitt, who won the continent, and Lord North, who lost half of it—the colleges feel satisfied.

Safety Drive Reduces Auto Deaths of Kiddies

Los Angeles, Cal.—A reduction of 22 per cent in child fatalities due to motor vehicles has been made through systematic teaching of safety in the public schools of Los Angeles. It has been revealed in a check made by the Automobile Club of Southern California.

The safety curriculum in Los Angeles public schools was begun about three years ago through the co-operation of the board of education and the public safety department of the automobile club.

Children are given practical instruction, and, in addition, they compete in designing posters and verses for bulletins used in the safety movement. Diplomas are issued to students completing the course.

English World Tongue, Says Globe Trotter

Seattle, Wash.—English is the only language needed when touring the world, according to Benno Jacob, twenty years old, of Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany, who arrived here from Japan after two years, wandering through the Near East and Orient.

The youth had walked over most of Europe and through various sections of Arabia, Egypt, the Sudan, China and Japan. Virtually everywhere English was spoken by those with whom he came into contact, he said.

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A BANK ACCOUNT

will do more to systemize your business than any other dozen of things.

It will prevent mistakes promote economy and prove an incalculable point to the business man

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Blowing Rock, N. C.

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Sloan's Liniment—kills pain!

Just Unloaded....

SEVEN CARS OF BUILDING MATERIAL

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We do not buy cheap shoddy material of any kind, but handle only the best, and will meet legitimate competition any time, quality considered.

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by W. R. Gragg, General Manager.

Prosperity

We have longed and hoped for the appearance of better days. It is beginning to dawn on us.

Money is getting easier. People are meeting their obligations with less burden. Everyone seems to be more courageous and have determined to go to work and earn a living for themselves, which is the one thing we ought to all feel the importance of. Demands are heavy on manufacturing enterprises, and as a result more folks get jobs and circulate more money.

Let's keep our community in the forefront by our perseverance and integrity. Just remember that what it takes to back up the farmer in his production can be bought at conservative prices from us.

Quality and Service combined with adequate supplies is our business. Come in and get your part as you need it.

BOONE HARDWARE CO.

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Let us quote you prices before you buy.

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Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of J. G. Norris, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate of deceased to present them for payment within twelve months of the date of this notice or the same will be paid in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This February 2, 1925.

MRS. MARY NORRIS, Adm.

5-12-19-25-5-12