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Leading agricultural and tourist area. Livestock, dairying and truck farming of paramount importance. Blue Ridge Parkway traverses county and touches Blowing Rock, one of the principal summer resorts of Eastern America.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

BOONE
The educational center of Western North Carolina. Home of Appalachian State Teachers College, which attracts hundreds of students annually from all parts of the nation. Modern business district. A good place to live.

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FIVE CENTS

FAR-AWAY PLACES

Kepharts Visit Rome; See Many Landmarks

by A. P. Kephart

We were in Rome for five days and six nights, far too short a time to do justice to such a rich reminder of the past and such wealth of interest for the present. When one visits such a city he learns some things about it that a life-time of study and reflection have never revealed. It is now a city of two millions. At the time of Christ it had over three millions and ruled the world. The influence of the Rome of that day is apparent today in many ways. The Appian Way has always, since the Latin of my teens, impressed me as a city street extending out to the near-by outlying areas of Rome. We found it extending one hundred and fifty miles south to the city of Naples and north beyond the borders of Italy and around the Italian and French Riviera (the resort stretches of beach along the Mediterranean) and up into France, much of it still showing the original stone paving after two thousand years, and miles of it cut out of the face of the cliff, a gigantic scratch of the pen of history, still used as a principal highway, a vivid memory of the world's greatest imperialism. Near the city of Rome and in the days of ancient Rome it was bordered by the tombs of the important and great, very few of which still stand, nearly all having served other generations and other peoples as handy quarries for building stones. This is so characteristic of ruins everywhere, particularly of stone, that they did not usually tumble down with age and become rubble built mounds but became rich sources of building materials for their successors, even the palaces of the kings and emperors succumbing to this fate.

Another evidence of the influence of Rome is the discovery that the Roman Colosseum, gigantic relic of a sports crazy ancient world, is only one of a number of such arenas. We had thought that the Colosseum meant the city of Rome and that the city of Rome meant the Colosseum, the two being part and parcel of each other. We found them in a number of places in Italy, always accompanied by the typical semi-circular outdoor theatre, also built of stone, one in Arles in Southern France, and one in Carthage in northern Africa. In practically every major center of the then known world Rome made the colosseum its mark of distinction and staged her actors, athletes, and gladiators there for the world to see the might and culture of the conqueror.

In this connection it is interesting to note that gigantic as the Colosseum was, its massiveness almost staggering the imagination, its seating capacity some 80,000, its height from five to six of our stories high with seats sloping from the top rim to the ring in the center, it was comparatively small as compared to the Circus Maximus where the chariot races were held, the colosseum being largely confined to gladiatorial contests and such entertainment as throwing Christians to the lions. Some conception of the magnitude of this Circus Maximus can be had from the fact that it seated at one time some 450,000 people and covered what would be now about three complete city blocks. No trace of this structure is now left except the depressed area in which it was located, near by the Colosseum and on one edge of the Forum and just below the Capitoline Hills where the palaces of the emperors were.

Structures like the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus, the tombs and the palaces have been destroyed and carried away by succeeding generations having little regard for their historical or traditional significance who made use of the materials for their own preferred projects.

On the same tour to Arles, one of the Roman centers of the ancient world, also went up to the town of Avignon, having started the tour from the port of Marseille. To many this town means only a song, for an ancient bridge, now half destroyed, inspired the writing of a well known and beautiful song called, "The Bridge at Avignon." To a few it is known as the seat of the papacy for a hundred years when it could not be kept in Rome. We wanted to see the papal residence of that far off day as well as the romantic bridge, and our party made their first effort to be a chorus by singing the charming little song led by our guide. If one who claims to have no interest in ruins could see into and through them with the eye and mind cultivated by some knowledge of the past, he would in a very real sense extend his own



OLD-TIMERS . . . Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers (R., Mass.), compares length of service records with Rep. Adolph Sabath (D., Ill.) dean of house representatives. Sabath has served 22 consecutive terms.

life over the centuries and so become a part of every age.

As we returned to Marseille we drove for what seemed miles along a very large and level area spotted in a geometrically true pattern with piles of stones each about thirty inches high. Every few hundred yards among these piles were great three sided concrete boxes. We learned that the allies used these boxes as shelters for their planes, since in this way only direct hits could damage them. The piles of stones were to make it impossible for the planes to be landed. When the Germans got control of this area they forced women and children from the city of Marseille to gather and pile the stones in this way.

While I am writing of ruins I want to tell you about one of the most amazing of many we had the privilege of seeing, the remains of Emperor Hadrian's Villa about ten miles east of the city of Rome. I cannot tell you much of Hadrian without danger of tiring you. You must look him up. At any rate he built a summer place near the little resort village of Tivoli. It was not discovered by the modern world for many centuries and then only by an accident in plowing a field. When I first thought of a summer villa I had the notion that even an emperor might build himself a little cottage in the mountains or in the country to which he could retreat and be free from the cares of state. I was not prepared to find another staggering big and pretentious collection of buildings and gardens, sports arena, etc. To begin with a fish pond, in an area four hundred feet square, was surrounded by brick walls some twenty feet high. Some of this wall is still

From Our Early Files

Items from the Democrat of April 6, 1911

Friend W. F. Parker, who for some time, has been merchandising at Sands, has moved his business to Vilas.

State Senator Bennett, of Stanley county, was a guest of John S. Williams of Horton Sunday night.

A baby boy has joined the merry crowd of happy faced children at the home of ex-Sheriff John W. Hodges in East Boone. The first automobile to reach Boone this season made its appearance Monday morning. It was brought here by Mr. Zeb Buchanan of Hickory.

Mrs. R. C. Rivers, with her little son, James, left Monday for a few days visit to her mother and other relatives in Iredell county.

Miss Jennie Coffey, who spent the winter with her nephew, Mr. T. F. Coffey of Manning, S. C., has returned and is opening a pretty line of millinery at the Blair house.

The weather for the past two weeks has been almost indescribable. Heavy wind, snow, hail and rain storms and any and all other varieties that you might think of which go to make up the most disagreeable weather you could imagine.

On last Monday morning, Messrs. Frank (Cooge) Lovill, son of Attorney W. R. Lovill, and Alex Brown, brother of Mr. John E. Brown, left for the States of Oregon and Montana, respectively.

On last Monday J. M. May, chairman of the board of county commissioners, for reasons best known to himself, tendered his resignation to the clerk of the John Chapman, 23, was held in court, but as yet, the same hasn't \$2,500 bail.

Contour Stripping Is Recommended

One of the major practices recommended by the Watauga Soil Conservation district is contour strip cropping. This way of cropping is very effective for the control of erosion on farms that must use steep or rolling land for row crops.

Strip cropping is the growing of a strip of grass or other close growing crops between the strips of row crops. The strips of grass will cause any runoff water coming from the plowed strip above to soak into the soil before reaching the plowed strip below. If strips are placed on the contour each row of crops in the plowed strip will be on the level thereby acting as a small terrace holding the rain water where it falls. All work of land preparation, tillage and harvesting will be on the level even if the field is steep.

A good system of contour strip cropping also helps in planning good crop rotations and promotes a more balanced type of farming for many farms in Watauga county.

Many farmers in this county have been using a system of strip cropping in the past. Some of these farmers are Burl Broyles, Brownwood; Paul Bingham, Sugar Grove; Miller Brothers, Zionville; Carl Farthing and D. F. Greene of the Bethel community and many others.

The Soil Conservation service will be glad to help any farmer in the county to plan and establish a system of contour strip cropping on his farm if the farmer will let it be known. Wood A. Jester, 17, of Avon, N. J., was killed when a wheel torn from a "hot rod" racing car smashed into a crowd of spectators and struck him. The "hot rod" driver, resignation to the clerk of the John Chapman, 23, was held in court, but as yet, the same hasn't \$2,500 bail.

Rossellini Get Italian Newspaper's Backing

Rome—The Rome newspaper Momento said last week Senator Edwin C. Johnson (D.-Colo.) criticized Roberto Rossellini because the Italian director had pointed up "the crisis in Hollywood."

Rossellini who directed Ingrid Bergman in the film "Stromboli" was described by Johnson in a Senate speech as a former "Nazi collaborator, black market operator and notorious cocaine addict."

Momento said that in having Bergman act under his direction, Rossellini had "torn Hollywood's greatest star from it."

"Certainly," the paper said, "it's not the end of the world, but it could mean the end of a world—that of painted cardboard that the California showmen insist on distributing because they don't want to or don't know how to create anything that's more truthful."

CAR WHEEL KILLS YOUTH

Wall Township, N. J.—Albert A. Jester, 17, of Avon, N. J., was killed when a wheel torn from a "hot rod" racing car smashed into a crowd of spectators and struck him. The "hot rod" driver, resignation to the clerk of the John Chapman, 23, was held in court, but as yet, the same hasn't \$2,500 bail.

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CAROLINA'S LEADING FAMILY STORE
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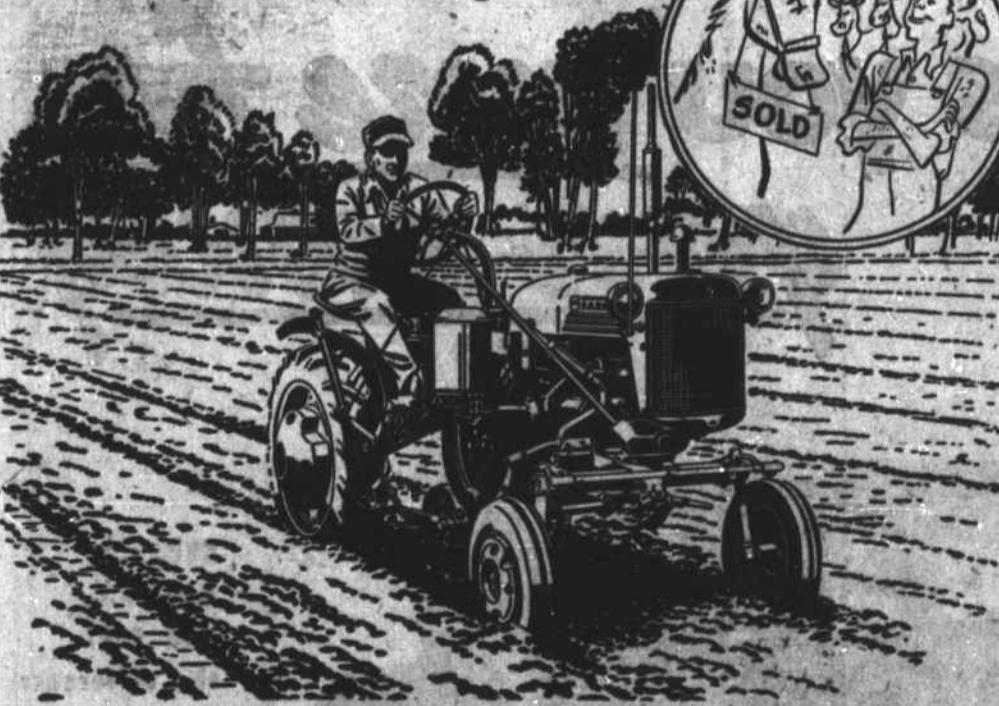


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COME IN AND LOOK OVER OUR NEW ARRIVALS—THEY WILL PUT YOU OUT FRONT IN THE EASTER PARADE

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EVERYTHING IN DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING
Phone 111 BOONE, N. C. King Street

"I Sold My Team and Bought 2 Cows"



... and Made an Extra \$300 Last Year!

I was glancing through the mail yesterday when a fellow comes in who bought a Farmall Cub tractor last spring. I says, "Sit down and make yourself at home."

"You know," he begins, lighting his pipe, "I always used to think I couldn't farm with-out a team. Well, I sold my team and bought two cows—and made \$300 extra since I bought that Farmall Cub last year!"

"How'd you get along with your field work?"

"Got the best crops I ever had. Had time to make a little over \$100 doing some work for the neighbors. Those matched, quick-change implements, with fingertip Farmall Touch-Control sure save a lot of time and hard work."

"How does your family like the Farmall Cub?"

"Well, we have more fun together, and live better, too. Like the kids say, even working's fun with a Farmall Cub!"

"Had any trouble with it yet?"

"No. Haven't cost me a cent, except for a little gas and oil."

"Well, don't forget—when you do need parts or service, I'm always here to help."

See this Farmall at work on your own farm . . . the white Farmall with the gold stars. Call us for a demonstration now.

BARNETT MOTOR CO.
East King at Blowing Rock Road

BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The local P. T. A. met for its April meeting last Monday evening. After the general business was transacted grades from seven to twelve put on a program which consisted of displays and acts that had been learned this year. There were several nice maps on display that the children had drawn and labeled. The tumbling acts were very interesting as well as other class activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Gentry made a business trip to Charlotte last week end. They were accompanied by Mr. Charlie Tester.

Mr. Greene, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Hoyle attended a science teachers meeting in North Wilkesboro last Wednesday.

An amateur program will be given by the Athletic Club Friday evening April 7 at 7 p. m.

The play presented by the Senior class, "George in A Jam," was a success. Everybody seemed to enjoy the play. We appreciate the efforts of the entire tire cast as well as the sponsors Mr. Centry, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. West.

Attendance has been good here this year. Considering that most students ride buses long distances we think that our attendance has been real good. Buses transport almost all the 400 that is enrolled here.

We are glad to report that some road work has been done in our school district this winter. Rock has been crushed on the Mountain Dale road and some needed fencing has been done on the Georges Gap road. These fences around sharp steep curves are very necessary where school buses run.

The people of Bethel church are busy putting the finishing touches to their nice parsonage. The new pastor will be in before long.

KENTUCKY DAM LURES MOST OF SIGHTSEERS

Knoxville, Tenn. — Kentucky dam on the Tennessee river near Paducah, Ky., attracted more visitors last year than any national park except the Great Smoky Mountains National park, the TVA reported last week.

The authority said Kentucky dam lured 1,304,176 sightseers in 1949 as compared with 1,510,636 who visited the Smokies in east Tennessee and western North Carolina.

Cattle numbers in the U. S. increased about two million head in 1949.