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MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1922

**BIBLE THOUGHT  
—FOR TODAY—**  
Bible thoughts memorized, will prove a  
priceless heritage in after years.

**SAFETY WHILE ASLEEP:**—I will  
both lay me down in peace, and sleep:  
for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell  
in safety.—Psalm 4:8.

**NOTES ON PRESS CONVENTION—  
CLEVELAND SPRINGS, SHELBY,  
RUTHERFORDTON, CHIMNEY  
ROCK**

Newspaper folk who attended the  
fiftieth annual convention—Golden  
Jubilee—of the North Carolina Press  
association, held at Cleveland Springs,  
July 25 and 26 (will never forget the  
exquisite hospitality of Shelby, which  
good town was host to the convention,  
Cleveland Springs being a beautiful  
all-the-year-round resort just two  
miles from town. The Kiwanis club  
of Shelby and Lee B. Weathers, the  
genial and modest editor of the Cleve-  
land Star and host extraordinary,  
were on the job of entertaining the  
newspaper women and men every  
minute. Almost every automobile  
one saw carried a placard large  
enough for those who ran to read, of-  
fering itself for service to any mem-  
ber of the association. An elegant re-  
ception was given Wednesday night  
at the Cleveland Springs Park hotel,  
where the sessions were held, and to  
make the measure gospel in its full-  
ness the Kiwanis club Friday fur-  
nished automobiles—Cadillacs, Pack-  
ards, Hudsons, and the like—to trans-  
port the editors to Chimney Rock,  
some 50 odd miles away, and at that  
far-famed marvel of nature, in a pav-  
ilion nearly at the very top, served  
an elegant lunch that beggars  
description just as does the glories  
to be seen from that wonderful spot.

It used to be considered that towns  
“down east” were the sincerest play-  
ers in the world and that towns in  
the western part of the State did not  
know how to play. It cannot be said  
now, certainly not of Shelby. Shelby  
has a splendid baseball team this  
year and the entire town closes up  
the day at noon each Wednesday  
during the summer. They don't be-  
lieve in half-way measures. They go  
the “whole hog” and enjoy them-  
selves. And that sort of play is worth  
while. It helps to cultivate the graces  
that make Shelby such a delightful  
place.

This was one convention at which  
there was no “shop talk” except on  
the side lines. All the prepared pa-  
pers were on the progress made in  
the State during the past fifty years  
along various lines. A feature of the  
convention was an address by Govern-  
or Morrison, who spoke Thursday,  
defending his stand in the matter of  
meeting situations brought about by  
strikes. Referring to the severe criti-  
cism of himself in some quarters and  
the veneration with which some of his  
critics now seem to regard the “great  
white father” at Washington, the Gov-  
ernor dramatically exclaimed that he  
wished to heaven they had had some  
of that veneration when they were  
hounding to death the greatest states-  
man of modern times, Woodrow Wil-  
son. That was where he brought down  
the house. The applause was loud and  
long continued. It was several min-  
utes before the Governor could pro-  
ceed. That demonstration left no  
doubt about the love and esteem in  
which former President Wilson is  
held by the large crowd of newspaper  
folk who heard the Governor on that  
occasion.

The convention proper closed Thurs-  
day night, and the trip to Chimney  
Rock Friday was so much extra.  
Many took advantage of this oppor-  
tunity to visit one of the show  
places of Western North Carolina,  
most of them for the first time.  
Those who had been there before en-  
joyed it just as much as those who  
were seeing it for the first time,  
for there are new sights to see there  
at every visit.

A stop of thirty or forty minutes  
was made at Rutherfordton, thirty

miles from Shelby, where a cordial  
welcome and reception were given by  
Editor R. E. Price of the Rutherford-  
ton Sun and the officials and citizens  
of the town. Refreshments were served  
on the court house lawn and several  
short speeches were made, no more  
delightful and informal affair could  
be imagined. Rutherfordton quite won  
the hearts of all visitors on that day.

Rutherfordton lies in the foothills  
of the Blue Ridge mountains, being  
surrounded by mountains on three  
sides. The elevation is eleven hun-  
dred feet and the climate is bracing  
and equable. On a commanding ridge  
above the town is located the Ruther-  
ford hospital, through which the edi-  
torial party was taken. It is said that  
this hospital has the largest quantity  
of the wonder-working radium to be  
found anywhere south of Baltimore.  
It is precious and powerful stuff. The  
amount at this hospital is just about  
a fourth of an ordinary teaspoonful,  
and it cost \$90,000, the additional  
cost of the equipment to use it run-  
ning the investment well over \$100,-  
000. The newspaper folk were permit-  
ted to visit the room where this pre-  
cious stuff is kept in a vault, to see  
the machinery, to the uninitiated most  
complicated and bewildering, by which  
the gas from the radium is collected  
for use in curing stubborn disease  
and in relieving pain. A physician ex-  
plained something of the process to  
groups of the newspaper folk. No-  
body in the party got a glimpse of  
the radium. It is hidden from sight in  
a vault built especially for it. This  
radium gives off a small amount of  
gas each day. The amount cannot be  
increased or diminished. After going  
through an intricate system of pipes  
it is collected in a tiny glass tube.  
This is placed upon a cancer for a few  
hours, the patient goes home, and  
then in two or three weeks the healing  
process is seen. In cases too advanced  
for cure patients have been relieved  
of pain and their lives prolonged.  
Radium, one is told by the patient  
physician in charge, is so powerful  
that after 1,700 years its strength has  
been diminished by only a small per-  
cent.

The expensive bit of radium at this  
hospital is the gift of Dr. J. W.  
Plonk, a South Carolinian who lived  
for many years at Hickory and gave  
this substance with the wonderful  
healing power to the Rutherford  
hospital in honor of his wife, who was  
treated at this hospital for cancer. He  
also gave to this institution an x-ray  
outfit, said to be one of the finest  
in the world. The workings of this al-  
so were demonstrated to the news-  
paper folk, one of them being placed  
under the ray and his inside workings  
being exposed to view.

Rutherford hospital was started in  
remodelled buildings of the Ruther-  
ford military institute. The present  
building is finished in dull red brick  
with Indiana limestone facings. It  
is 127 feet long, with two wings each  
104 feet deep, enclosing a court 50  
feet square.

Leaving the hospital and Ruther-  
fordton, the newspaper folk were  
transported to Chimney Rock, some  
20 miles away.

Chimney Rock is a wonderful  
place that must be seen to be appre-  
ciated, and no one should miss an op-  
portunity to visit it. You may read,  
of course, how one is fascinated by  
the beauties of Rocky Broad river, be-  
side which the road winds; about the  
double-track highway leading to the  
very base of the Rock; about moon-  
shiners' Cave, right down in  
the inside of the mountain,  
cold as an ice cellar; about the  
Applan Way and Needle's Eye;  
about the view from the top of the  
rock; but these are unsatisfying as  
the smell of delicious viands to a  
hungry man who may not partake.  
One must see it all and let it sink in-  
to one's soul.

It is understood that Chimney Rock  
mountain was purchased about twenty  
years ago for \$4,500 by Dr. L. B.  
Morse and brother. The Messrs.  
Morse are said to have spent some  
wonderful places on and around the  
mountain, and now it is one of the  
most easily reached and well-worth  
visiting places in the mountains of  
Western North Carolina, where one  
may see scenery not surpassed on  
the globe.

Dr. Morse threw the Rock and its  
sights open to the editors free of  
charge, and the following notes were  
furnished by him:

Location of Chimney Rock: On Wil-  
mington-Charlotte-Asheville highway,  
in Hickory Nut gap; distance Char-  
lotte 100 miles, Asheville 26 miles.

Chimney Rock highway is 1-4 miles  
long, double track, sand clay surface,  
winding up to the base of the “Chim-  
ney.”

Chimney Rock is 225 feet high, and  
50 feet across at top, scaled by  
stairways. Flag on summit 16  
feet.

“Needles-eye” a great crevice in  
the rock through which a stairway  
ascends 149 steps.

Main precipice is nearly 2,000 feet  
above floor of valley—probably the

highest cliff east of the Rockies.  
“Applan Way” is a narrow bench  
on the face of the precipice 3-4 miles  
long—leads from base of Chimney  
Rock to top of Hickory Nut falls.

Hickory Nut falls are 400 feet  
high. At Inspiration Point (where  
falls are first seen) is said by dis-  
criminating critics to be the finest  
single view in the Southern Appala-  
chian mountains.

Moonshiners Cave is a great cre-  
vice in the cliff made accessible by  
stairways and lighted by electricity.

The “Thermal Belt” is a feature of  
Hickory Nut gap—dews and frosts  
are practically unknown.

There is a greater variety of vege-  
tation in this section of the country,  
probably more than in any place in  
America.—Prof. Asa Gray, Harvard.

Reforestation (tree growth) is more  
rapid in the Southern Appalachians  
than anywhere in the United States.  
—Pinchot.

The Hickory Nut Gap (valley  
originally in early geologic times was  
non-existent, and has all been cut out  
by erosion.—State Geologist Holmes.)

All rock formations are igneous  
granite prevailing—no sedimentary  
rock or fossil formation exists, and  
the oldest rocks in North America  
save the Laurentians of Canada.

Water at Chimney Rock is also ab-  
solutely pure—same analysis as the  
Poland spring water.

Heavy winds are very, very rare  
due to the protection afforded by  
the high surrounding mountains.

The headwaters of Broad river are  
in the Chimney Rock country, where  
the stream is frequently called  
“Rocky Broad”. The river is here a  
turbulent stream with many cascades  
and shoals.

There is a great opportunity here  
for hydro-electric development with  
splendid reservoir sites.

The “Bottomless Pools” are only  
one mile distance—3 pools of un-  
known depths, and about 25 feet in  
diameter. Geologically they are known

as “pot holes” but of great size.  
Chimney Rock is lighted by elec-  
tricity developed from a water power  
plant on the Rocky Broad river. At  
night the effect can only be imagin-  
ed—not described.

The “Pavilion” at Chimney Rock  
is a commodious restaurant built on  
the edge of a cliff where every crea-  
ture comfort is provided.

A parking place for 100 cars has  
literally been blasted out of the  
mountain side.

Hotels in the vicinity are the Cliff  
Dwellers, a cottage colony among the  
cliffs, up at Chimney Rock. Mountain  
View inn, a commodious hotel at the  
entrance of the Chimney Rock high-  
way, Logan Place, Esmaralda Inn,  
Rockwood and several boarding  
houses.

Chimney Rock camp for boys and  
Camp Suwali for girls are in the  
vicinity.

Nor is there lacking a historic  
background, Dr. Sandley, in his  
“Hickory Nut Gorge”, states that it  
is likely that DeSoto fought his way  
through this same pass of the Blue  
Ridge. With certainty did some of  
the English explorers wend their way  
westward. Later, in the settlement of  
our country, the North Carolinian  
traversed this same gorge by covered  
wagon—frequently taking his stock  
with him. In 1842 the Cherokees were  
taken through this valley on to the  
Indian territory.

Many thousands of people visit  
Chimney Rock each year. No remote  
section is quite in its class in at-  
tracting motorists.

An unparalleled opportunity is here  
for a great high class winter as well  
as summer resort of first magnitude.  
Nature has been wondrous kind to  
Chimney Rock; has bestowed her  
blessings with a lavish hand. It only  
remains for men of vision and capi-  
tal to bring into existence a resort  
the like of which the world has not  
yet seen.

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- A. R. BULLOCK, Farmer and Business Man.
- R. E. PITTMAN, Merchant and Farmer.
- D. J. OLIVER, Farmer.
- A. F. FLOYD, Merchant and Farmer.
- E. G. FLOYD, Merchant and Farmer.
- T. L. JOHNSON, Lawyer.

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LIFE TIME, THE PAYMENTS ARE  
SO SMALL YOUR CHILDREN  
CAN.**

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