

Mystery Of Ancient Wall In Rowan Still Unsolved

(BY MAX CHAMBERS)

Recently a great deal of interest has centered around an ancient hidden subterranean wall about which many legends and stories have sprung. The earliest known record describes this wall as being 200 miles from the ocean and 70 miles from the mountains in Rowan county. This account was given in Moores geography when Rowan county included all of western North Carolina and Tennessee and as some say "even to the South Seas." And then in 1795 the Rev. James Hall wrote an account of this strange phenomenon and let the Rev. James Hall speak:

"Near the confluence of the South Yadkin and 3rd creek about 14 miles from Salisbury in North Carolina a phenomenon of great antiquity has been discovered which has engaged the attention of the curious in that part of the state and which I have endeavored to explore. During the heavy rains which fell in the summer of 1794 a cavern was formed in the side of a hill, near a small stream of water, by the successive torrents of rainwater which issued from an adjacent field. The hill is between two and three poles in surface where the cavern is formed about the middle of which stands a subterranean wall, composed of small stones laid in white cement resembling lime of a very fine texture.

"The cement I have examined in not less than 40 different places in the wall, and could not find among it any appearance of sand, or common earth, except where there has been an opportunity of the earth mingling with it from the top of the wall. Both sides of the wall are plastered with cement so that not a stone has appeared when the wall was completed, supposing it to be a work of art and that this case is in my opinion evident from this circumstance. And from the opposite nature and situation of the materials it appears probable to me, that when the wall was dry and above the ground it was nearly as firm as a solid rock of the same dimensions."

Now Owned By Burton

Present day directions would locate the wall in a ravine, on a small stream on the Hillard farm in Pot Neck, near St. Andrews church, which is about 10 miles from Salisbury. It is now owned by John Burton. All of the old local histories and geographies mention the wall as a natural curiosity, but make no explanation of its origin other than to say it was "built by nobody knows who, when or what for."

At late as 1915 children waded in the branch and played on a part of the wall which projected out of the side of the hill about three feet high and several yards long. About every 25 years there is a revival of interest in this unusual structure. Exploration during the summer of 1932 exposed several feet of the wall and bears out the findings of the Rev. Mr. Hall. Lack of proper implements prevented exposition of any great length.

The construction of the wall is peculiar in that the stones are laid in courses with precision and well fitted in the joints and even on the side walls. The stones vary in size and shape from 3-4 of an inch "square" to 5" across the end to 16" long. Some are long and slim while others are broad and thick but all seem to fit into the wall with equal alacrity. The whole is apparently fastened together with a sort of putty like cement, brown, white and black in color. The ends of the stones form the sides of the wall, the outside stones appear to have been placed and the stones in the middle seem to have been thrown in. It has been explored for a distance of about 300

Lady Took Cardui And Got Rid of Pain In Her Side

"Last summer, my health was bad, so I began taking Cardui," writes Mrs. H. E. Slaughter, of Norman, Okla. "My mother had given me Cardui in girlhood, so naturally I turned to it when I felt I needed it. I felt run-down and a general weakness. I had had, dizzy headaches when everything would seem to dance before my eyes. My right side pained me so much, but since taking Cardui the pain has left me. I have taken several bottles of Cardui and have improved a great deal." Cardui is sold at drug stores here.

feet and found to be uniform in shape, being 2" wide at the top, slightly wider at the bottom, 12 to 14 feet high and running in a southeast direction.

Nor is this the only wall, for a short distance away there are two other similar walls but they have not been so extensively explored. The wall is made of rock known locally as "Black Whin" which can be found on the surface in the surrounding country. Nor is any other kind of stone to be found in the wall.

Origin Unknown

What is left of the wall is standing today just where it was countless years ago and the answer as to its origin among the natives is still divided as between the handiwork of God and the precision of some ancient and unknown artisans. Many stories have been told explaining its presence but none of them satisfy all.

Rev. Mr. Hall's account covered the subject thoroughly and the integrity of the Rev. Explorer must have been well established, for Foote in his history says:

"There is not perhaps another instance of a man, a licensed preacher of the gospel that took part in military expeditions, and commanded companies and still retained character and dignity and office of a minister of the gospel besides that of James Hall, preacher, educator and soldier; captain of the regiment—founder of Clio's Nursery School on Snow Creek at the headwaters of the South Yadkin river about 1778."

This school had an interesting life and preached out its teaching as many boys who otherwise would have been lost to the great causes which they afterwards promoted. Later he was the sole professor of his Academy of Sciences which he continued for many years. It was considered the best scientific school in the state of North Carolina previous to the opening of the University and some of the South's great men passed out through the humble portals of this one-man University, which, by the way, must have been the fore-runner of the present fine institution. Certainly, it made the way easier.

For a long time nothing was heard of or no mention made of the wall until about 50 years ago, when Franklin Hillard, while plowing in the field on top of the hill a few yards from the cavern, uncovered an earthenware pot made of baked blue clay. It was about ten inches in diameter, twelve inches high and so hard that when hit, it would ring like a bell. It was of perfect shape with a flared top, showed the upward finger marks and handiwork of its maker and was buried bottom up with some small stones like the one found in the wall arranged in symmetrical fashion around the pot. The oldest residents (and several old Indians had never seen crockery of this type. It appears that no further effort was made to locate the source of this unusual find or to dig deeper. There was a certain amount of superstition about the "bottomless pit" (cavern) in the ground at the point where the wall passes through the small declivity.

Indian Legend

There is an Indian legend about the wall and "bottomless" pit which has just recently filled up or been covered over by the roots of nearby trees. The depression in the earth is clearly visible as well as the line of the wall which is now covered except for the north-west end which is exposed. One old native recalls the story told in his boyhood about the Indian city and temple and the annual religious festivities when the bowels of the earth to be digested that crops might prosper and game be abundant.

At other times "possum hunters have heard strange sounds coming from the direction of the wall and again lights have appeared to move around the branch. Bullfrogs dance in the water and then croak. It is a screech owl heaven. They even "work" in daytime. Nothing has been found sufficient inducement to interest the local "cullud troops" to go anywhere near the location. One said, "Cap'n, Boss, de lef hin foot of a fast graveyard rabbit sin't wurf a durn around dat wall. Dey is things down dare."

Visited By Many

Many people have visited the wall and have expressed their opinions but the natives are a bit "skittish" and think that "God, Almighty" made the wall but are

RIP-SNORTIN' BATTLE ENDS BADLY FOR OUTLAWS IN "DAYS OF '49" MINING CAMP AT WORLD FAIR

CHICAGO, —Alive with the whinnying of bronchos and pintos at their hitching posts, a grimy street swells with the roughshod gaiety and six-gun sociability of the early West.

From one bare-board building pours the quickening melody of accordion and fiddle; from another the howling song of a jovial, if over-fed, bar-hostess; from still another the clatter of clumsy caulked heels, thumping in the madness of the "fandango"

Lanterns hanging overhead throw light on the chatter and good-natured banter, parleyed under forty-gallon hats.

Dust clouds settling about the hoofs of the halted mounts bear testimony that claimstakers are seeking relief from the toil of their day, and, for all the noise and activity, it is a peaceful night in Gold Gulch.

Suddenly in the distance a faint rumbling sound adds a new undertone to the more blatant clatter of the little town. Steadily increasing in volume, the rumbling becomes more and more prominent.

Outside the buildings, there is now a hush of apprehension. As if by telegraphy the silence spreads inside. Dances, songs, conversations are choked half-finished.

Pistols Bark.

In a roar of thunder, a body of horsemen, cursing and yelling bursts into the street. The stillness is broken by a scurry for cover. Bang! Bang! Bang-bang! Pistols bark. The lights go out. Flashes of fire, screams of pain fill the night.

Outlaws! From its very fury, the battle cannot last long. In a minute or two the smoke clears away. Lights are brought. Half a dozen outlaws lie in the dust of the thoroughfare, some dead, some dying. Again the sheriff and his courageous posse have saved the bullion in the assay office. The law wins!

not alone in wondering how the stones were fitted with such neatness and how the line could be so true, the wall so evenly plastered and the pit so deep that when last measured, the longest rope available (several hundred feet) would not reach the bottom, or why the rain water from the nearby fields would not fill the pit or even be heard to hit the bottom.

Widow's 'Cattle Man' Vamooses With Her \$1,000

Chicago.—Her two grown sons frowned upon the idea, but could not convince their widowed mother, Mrs. Dora Waterman, fifty, that her romance with the big cattle man from Texas, a mysterious Mr. Stanley, was a mistake. But she admitted it was.

When she and the man whose first name she could not supply motored to the marriage license bureau, "Mr. Stanley" suddenly felt a pressing need for \$1,000 cash—her cash—and his own presence at the stockyards "to close a big deal."

She gave him the money, expecting the marriage to take place the next day, but that was the last seen of "Mr. Stanley." Adolph Cohn, foreman of Mrs. Waterman's building wrecking company was arraigned before Judge Howard Hayes on confidence game charges, for it was he who introduced the couple. He was held in \$3,500 bond.

KILLS OVER KISS

Edwardsville, Ill. — Seventeen-year-old Stella Christoff, a truck farmer's daughter, was being held in the Madison county jail here after admitting, State's Attorney M. L. Geers said, that she killed Nelson Voss, a rural mail carrier, because "he tried to kiss me."

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Scenes like the foregoing one were not infrequent in the California mining camps of 1849 and the few years following. Such scenes

or chucker, after parking his shooting irons at the bar. Sheriff Tex Cooper and Mayor Don C. Hall, elected early in the

Fair season by the '49 visitors, enforce the law. Swift is the justice of their homely court-room, and fast are the locks on the city jail.



are a nightly show for visitors to the "Days of '49" at the Chicago World's Fair—A Century of Progress.

The authentic atmosphere of a mining camp that might have stepped right from the pages of a Bret Harte story has been created in this World's Fair showplace.

The buildings in their rough wood, the characters in the costumes of prospectors, the dance hall girls in curls and spangles—all figuratively roll back the curtain of the years to the days when men were men and boss thieves were hanged.

There are more than a few bright spots in this colorful show. There is the Spanish dance hall with its bar and tables and old time chorus girls; the Miners' Pandango, a naughtier dance hall where fancily-garbed hostesses help to lift the burdens from the mind of the tired prospector; "Deacon" Oakhurst's recreation parlor, where the visitor may play faro, dice games, roulette



A real mining camp town of the gold rush period dropped into the heart of a great modern city is this "Days of '49" show at the Chicago World's Fair—A Century of Progress. Inset: Jim Moore 77, famous scout, reveals the technique of panning for gold to "Days of '49" visitors. Real gold nuggets are buried in the ground.

Need \$75,000,000 to Meet All Requests For Roads

Fully \$75,000,000 would be required to do the highway construction sought by several hundred persons composing delegations from almost every county in the state who appeared last week before the State Highway commission and Public Works commission to try to convince that body of the need for certain roads and streets, to be built with the \$11,000,000 this state will get as a part of the President's public works program.

Chairman E. B. Jeffress has put a mark or a dot on a map at every place at which work was sought and the map looks like a cross between the old speckled hen and a zebra with stripes awry. Many of the delegations appeared in behalf of Federal work on streets of cities and towns over which state and federal roads are routed, as "not less than 25 per cent" of the amount this state will get is for street work. The North Carolina Municipal league had a delegation to protest an apparent effort of Chairman Jeffress to reduce it.

Although it is not too late to get in requests, Chairman Jeffress asks that those wishing to file them, do so, with maps or plots when possible, showing the work wanted. The highway division will get these appeals in shape during the next few days to place before the commission at a meeting later.

The work is expected to get started in two weeks. Washington advices are that common labor will be paid 30 cents an hour, as compared with 20 cents on previous work, and skilled labor 40 cents, increased from 30 cents. Capus Waynick, state director of re-employment, estimates that 11,000 workers of all kinds will be put to work at some time during the program.

2,102 BEER LICENSES

Raleigh—Beer dealers in North Carolina had reached the total accumulative number of only 2,102 at the end of two months of operation, or only about one-tenth of the total number of retailers of all kinds in the state, which is around 20,000. In other words, only about one firm out of 10 that might be expected to sell beer was actually selling it.

Legion Rallies In Support of Mr. Roosevelt

The American Legion has rallied behind President Roosevelt, the commander-in-chief, to fight the economic war of 1933.

Louis Johnson, national commander of the legion, made public through the president "battle orders" summoning 10,760 posts into immediate mobilization for the "Argonne of 1933."

President Roosevelt in a message in reply said:

"I have just received your battle-order. I have a supreme faith that the loyalty of the legionnaires will manifest itself in this crisis just as it did a decade and a half ago."

So the warriors of 1918 were re-assembling for a "fight to give an honest job with an honest living wage to every bread-winner who wants to work."

The American legion war-cry sounded the loudest of any so far in the All-American economic offensive and Mr. Roosevelt was quick to welcome it.

BANK BANDITS OUTLAWED

Taylorville—Three magistrates here outlawed B. G. and Lester Green, of High Point, for their alleged part in the holdup of the Merchants and Farmers bank here when the cashier was fatally shot. Two of the bandits have been captured.

Either this 3.2 beer doesn't work or else men have quit crying when they are misunderstood at home.

Say Children Wrote Letters Of Extortion

Philadelphia—Extortion letters supposedly written by school children for prizes were under investigation by police with a man held under bail charged with sending the missives.

Police said Stephen Crispino, forty-five, under \$5,000 bond for a further hearing, gave school children the prizes for making the best copies of the letters which were sent to South Philadelphia storekeepers, demanding money under threat of death or injury.

Meanwhile, police endeavored to obtain threatening letters received by John M. Disilvestro, supreme venerable of the Sons of Italy in this country, whose home was bombed last January, in order to check the handwriting with those received by the South Philadelphia storekeepers.

Mrs. Disilvestro was killed and four children were injured. Disilvestro now is in Italy. Crispino denied sending any extortion notes but detectives said they have found a little girl who told them she wrote such a letter under his dictation.

'SIGN FROM HEAVEN' MADE NEGRO CHANGE HIS MIND

Anderson — Cotton campaign canvassers had a hard time trying to convince an old Negro preacher in this county that he should agree to plow up a part of his small cotton farm in accordance with the government control plan. The negro objected on the ground that it would be a sin to plow up the cotton after it had started growing.

The canvassers finally decided the case was hopeless. So when the preacher sent word a few days later that he was willing to sign up, they were naturally surprised. They went out to the farm and soon discovered the reason. Lightning had struck in the middle of his most prized cotton patch. After this "sign from heaven" he was only too eager to put himself on the dotted line.

Would Revise U. S. Tax Laws

Bob Doughton Hopes To Prevent Large Taxpayers Evading Payment

Representative Robert L. Doughton has returned to his home at Laurel Springs, after a trip to Washington to outline plans for a new revenue bill to be enacted at the next session of congress, to urge that public buildings be erected in North Carolina as provided two years ago when \$90,000,000 was appropriated to construct 900 postoffice buildings throughout the country, and to ask the President and Director of the Budget Douglas that two million dollars be set aside from the public works act appropriation to finish Smoky mountain National park.

Mr. Doughton is the first chairman of the ways and means committee to formulate summer plans for a careful study of the tax situation, preparatory for a forthcoming session of Congress. A sub-committee has been named by Mr. Doughton comprising Representatives Hill of Washington, Vinson of Kentucky, Cooper of Tennessee, Democrats, and Frer of Wisconsin, Treadway of Massachusetts, and Crowther of New York, Republicans, with Mr. Doughton an ex-officio member.

Seeking Loop-Holes

"Our objective is to so amend the revenue laws to prevent large taxpayers from evading the payment of taxes and thereby escape carrying their share of the burden of the government," said Mr. Doughton. "Also, to find new sources of taxes which will enable us to do away with certain excise taxes, such as two cents on checks and the one cent and a half gallon on gasoline. We will also endeavor to relieve the taxpayers of enormous taxes in every instance possible. While the sub-committee is now in recess, our experts are at work and we hope to have a tentative bill in shape by the convening of Congress January 3, next."

Urges Public Buildings

While Mr. Doughton has only one proposed postoffice building in his district held up by diversion of the \$90,000,000 public buildings appropriation to the Civilian conservation fund at Alhambra, he is anxious to see necessary public buildings erected.

"I feel that the administration will approve meritorious projects," said Mr. Doughton. "I am also interested in the proposal for the President to allot \$2,000,000 from the public works fund for the completion of Smoky Mountain park, and after talking to the President and Mr. Douglas, I believe that the necessity of completing the Smoky Mountain park program will be recognized and that it will be carried out."

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