

MEMORIES OF ELKVILLE

By REV. R. L. ISHELL

About midway between Lenoir and Wilkesboro on the old road leading down the river valley in Elkville, once a community store and post office. It was the gathering place and mecca of the people for miles around.

The store ranked high as a place where most everything could be gotten—everything for those days. Here the people brought their corn, wheat, rye, peas, dried fruit, dried black berries, chestnuts, beeswax, hides, chickens, ducks and geese, together with tallow and feathers to exchange for coffee, tobacco, snuff, leather, pegs and salt, jeans, calico, linsey, lamp oil (kerosene), and many other articles, including sugar, pepper and brogan shoes.

Elkville was located in a delightful spot on an upland overlooking the fertile valley with large oaks of the virgin type standing around like well-disciplined sentries to protect the peace and dignity of the place.

Weekends were great events at Elkville when people filed in from the surrounding territory reaching back for many miles, and the conglomeration was not always peaceful. There were certain bullies, good natured fellows, who could just stand for so much and then, things some times got serious. An incident like this once occurred when a visiting bully came upon the ground boasting of what he could do and would do and that he took no foolishness.

Just before going home time came this big boy sided up to another

bully with boasting words, whereupon he was treated for his intrusion without any formality and was taken away with two severe lashes which left bare his jugular veins. He barely escaped with his life. (But God spared him and he made a gospel minister, a wonderful tribute to the grace of God.)

In those days whiskey was plentiful and cheap and Elkville was known as the fountain of supply. There were churches there in those days, of course, but with all the fervent appeals of the man of God, he couldn't restrain everybody.

Before Lenoir was born, Elkville was a noted place and a muster ground for the militia. It was a place for public speaking during political campaigns and great crowds came to hear the vital questions discussed. The writer shall never forget one of those days in the early '30s, when Governor Zebulon B. Vance delivered a great speech at Elkville. He came down from Lenoir and a crowd of young men on horses went to meet the Governor and escort him back.

When the idol of the State came upon the ground, there was a mighty acclaim of welcome. It scared me when I saw the old men waving their hats and yelling loudly. I didn't know what it was all about. But young as I was, about ten, I still remember some things very clearly that was said by the Governor Vance.

Dressed in Prince Albert coat and hair touching his coat collar, somewhat streaked with gray, he rose to speak. William H. Bower, dressed in the same fashion, and a young lawyer of outstanding ability, introduced the Governor in a very eloquent manner.

The Governor rose and said, "Ladies, gentlemen, and fellow comrades, I am very happy to meet you here today. The last time I saw some of you we were on the frightful field of battle in Virginia. But the white snow that never melts has fallen upon your heads and mine."

Governor Vance did not rank along with Caesar, Alexander or Napoleon for bravery on the battle field but always stood firm for honor's sake. It is told of him that in making a charge a rabbit was scared up and started to the rear when Governor Vance said, "Go, Mollie Cotton Tail, if I had no more honor to maintain than you, I would go with you."

My mother used to say Vance got braver when he was made Governor of the State and declared that, "We would fight the d... Yanks till H... froze over and then fight them on the ice."

Well, all is peaceful now at the old Elkville stand and those who made it the once popular meeting place have long passed to their silent rest.

But to me it holds precious memories. Its store was the first I ever saw. To me it was a world within itself, and above and below it lived my kinsfolk. Many negroes, all ex-slaves, farmed the fertile soil and sang their sad and lonesome songs as they toiled in the fields.

They, too, have vanished from the scene and are where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. They hear not the voice of the oppressor and the servant is free from his master.

But the hills and valleys abide and the same restless waters flow on with their lullabys as in the long ago. The Bob White still calls for his mate as the golden

wheat is harvested; a thousand streamlets hasten along to augment the dear old Yadin, which has heard the voice of many generations; the majestic mountains towering high above all look down upon a valley rarely equalled for its beauty and where once such a noble and happy people moved in a phalanx of unexcelled hospitality.

A happy memories, you are pleasant to recall!

Surplus Fund Will Be Used On Roads

Raleigh.—A surplus now accumulating in the State's highway fund will be allocated to rural road improvement at the end of the fiscal year, Governor Cherry disclosed.

During the first seven months of this fiscal year highway revenues have run an average of \$433,500 a month ahead of estimates, he said. If this rate continues, the surplus by June 30 will be \$5,200,000, all of which will go to rural road work, the Governor declared.

Governor Cherry made his statement at a press conference in response to questions about a proposal Wednesday by State Treasurer Charles M. Johnson, a candidate for Governor, that the State should issue bonds to construct more all-weather rural roads.

Return that Book to the Library.

NOW AVAILABLE

Only Two
Four-Drawer
Steel
Cabinet Files
One With Lock

**Carter - Hubbard
Publishing Co.**
Office Supply Department
Telephone 70

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of James C. Ellis, deceased, late of Wilkes County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at Champion, N. C., on or before the 29th day of January, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their right to recover. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 29th day of Jan., 1948.
A. L. ELLIS, Admr.
Of James C. Ellis, dec'd.
J. Allie Hayes, Atty. 3-4-67

**For the Shut-Ins
HYACINTHS**
White, Pink, and Blue. Potted and Ready for Immediate Delivery

**HENDERSON'S
FLOWER SHOP**
Telephone 545
Wilkesboro, N. C.

LIN BUMGARNER
3 Miles West On Highway 481
Phone 28-F-21 North Wilkesboro

1732
1799

Take advantage of the New LOW PRICES at Dixie-Home Stores.

It is our fixed policy to reduce our retail prices as rapidly as market conditions permit.
You can SHOP HERE with complete confidence.

White Lace Flour
PLAIN OR SELF-RISING
10 Pounds 99c

SMALL SIZE
CUDAHY PURITAN SMOKED SMOKED HAMS
WHOLE OR HALF POUND
55¢

(Quantities Limited)
SUNBRITE CLEANSER
2 for 13c

ARMOURS STAR 3 LB. CTN. Pure Lard 87c

SHARP DAISY CHEESE
POUND
55¢

MEDIUM
Ivory Soap 2 for 22c

RED BAND
FLOUR
10 lb. Bag Plain or S. R.
1.06

Heavy Thick
Fat Back 29c

PERSONAL
Ivory Soap 3 for 23c

FRUITS - VEGETABLES
U. S. No. 1
Irish Potatoes 47c

Southern Gold Pound Prints
Margarine 38c

MEDIUM
Ivory Snow 15c

FANCY (Dewey Fresh, Crisp, Tender)
Green Cabbage 5c

U. S. GOOD BEEF
SIRLOIN STEAKS

LARGE
Ivory Snow 36c

YORK (Wonderful For Cooking)
IMPERIAL APPLES 37c

POUND
79¢

MEDIUM
Lava Soap 2 for 19c

CANADIAN
RUTABAGAS 15c

SWIFT'S PREMIUM SLICED Lb.
BACON 69¢

MEDIUM
OXYDOL 15c

FANCY
SLICING TOMATOES 31c

SEA FOODS

MEDIUM
SPIC-SPAN 22c

FLORIDA
ORANGES 37c

Medium
Oysters 73c

BATH SIZE
CAMAY 2 for 29c

WASHINGTON STATE
WINESAP APPLES 41c

Select
Oysters 79c

LARGE
OXYDOL 36c

TEMPTING ON ANY MENU
GOLDEN HEART CELERY 21c

Fillets of
Red Perch 39c

...but my new **SKOOTERS** are cuter!

This California designed casual pump is side-gored for action. Soft elk-skin in the new bright California colors... hand lasted... **\$6.95**

nationally advertised

AA—5 TO 9 B—4 TO 9
IN RED, GREEN, OR WHITE

THE FAMILY SHOE STORE
North Wilkesboro, N. C.

DIXIE HOME SUPER MARKETS

Fine Foods Quality Tender Meats Self Service