

## Visit To Chinqua-Penn Plantation House

By Adelaide Van Wey

When I was a student at Salem College in Winston-Salem a million years ago, I was invited by friends of my mother's, Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Penn, to spend a day at their palatial home, Chinqua-Penn, in nearby Reidsville.

Last winter I read an article in the New York Times that this home now belonged to the University of North Carolina, having been presented to the university on October 20th, 1959 by Mrs. Penn.

Mr. Penn died in 1946, but Mrs. Penn continued to live there until her death in 1965. In April of 1966 the home was opened to the public, and as a more than worthwhile sight-seeing trip it was so described in the article in the New York Times.

All these years I have remembered the beauty of the gardens and the lavish furnishings of the house, and last month, on a vacation trip North, my husband and I stopped the first day to visit Chinqua-Penn.

The fact that the home is now open to the public is not well known yet, and that is the purpose of this article, to try to acquaint as many of our North Carolina friends and neighbors of this outstanding attraction within a half-day's drive from home.

Chinqua-Penn Plantation House was begun in 1923 and was completed in time for its owners to enjoy Christmas of 1925 in their spacious new home. The Penns built and furnished it for their own pleasure and purposes, gathering its lavish furnishings during two round-the-world tours and many visits to Europe and the Orient. The beautiful gardens, art treasures, furnishings, and decorations of Chinqua-Penn reflect the life and tastes of a discriminating couple.

The 27-room mansion of stone and logs is of no specific architectural style, but it is more like an English country house than anything else. It is Y-shaped and is situated on a knoll affording a wide view of the rolling coun-

tryside. An Italian stonemason was brought over to lay the beautiful colored stones which were quarried there on the plantation.

The many rooms are filled with a priceless collection of furnishings and art objects. The furniture is mainly European and the art objects Oriental. There are also many pieces of religious art. The collection includes altar pieces from a temple in Nepal, rare Chinese terra cotta, sculptures, Flemish tapestries, a 15th century Byzantine mosaic, two life size Chinese statues dating from about 700 A.D., and many other unique treasures. One small touch that particularly intrigued me was the jade doorknobs in one of the guest rooms, which was done in all China decor.

I can never forget the beautiful grounds around Chinqua-Penn house. There are rock walls, masses of dark green ivy, a formal garden lined with hundreds of boxwoods, and a large rose garden. Perhaps the most impressive sight of all is from the foyer doors, looking across the paved courtyard centered with a magnificent fountain. Steps, over which water falls, lead to the large Italian blue tiled swimming pool. On the opposite side of the pool is the ornate Chinese Pagoda with tremendous Chinese statuary in and around it and the pool.

Walter Liebscher is the charming curator-manager of Chinqua-Penn House. He is seeing that this beautiful property is kept in perfect condition. Delightful, knowledgeable guides are on hand to give one all details about the many interesting features of the house and grounds.

From Reidsville, continuing on our vacation, we drove to Newport, R. I. to see the famous millionaires' "cottages," that are in reality practically palaces—"The Elms" built for E. J. Berwind, "The Breakers" built for Cornelius Vanderbilt, "Marble House" built for William K. Vanderbilt and "Belcourt Castle" built for Oliver H. P. Belmont.

It is interesting to note that

the latter three mansions were all designed by the famous architect, Richard Morris Hunt, who also did our nearby and famous "Biltmore House," at Asheville. All of these homes are lavish with marble, with tremendous elaborate staircases and ceilings and walls of the most ornate frescos and painting, and are furnished mainly from European castles.

Despite the beauty and grandeur of these over-elaborate establishments none, in our eyes, can hold a candle to the livability and unique and unusual beauty of the treasure trove called Chinqua-Penn.

### Mrs. Barton Buried Tuesday

Mrs. Minnie Faye Barton, 66, of Brevard, route 1, died in a local hospital early Sunday morning after a brief illness.

She was the widow of Lewis P. Barton and a member of the Little River Baptist church. A native of Marietta, S. C., she had lived in Transylvania county most of her life.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Julia Hoxit, Mrs. Emily McMurray and Mrs. Ella Stepp, all of Hendersonville, and Mrs. Mary Garrett of Long Beach, Calif.; four sons, Claude and Allen of Brevard Rt. 1, Ralph of Penrose and Walter Barton of Pickens, S. C.; 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday in Little River Baptist church. The Rev. Jarvis Brock officiated and burial was in the church cemetery.

Frank Moody Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

### Science Writer

(From Front Page, Third Sec.)

tionable. The opera is a long one.

A reviewer would be derelict in his duty if he did not mention two other factors influencing the enjoyment of the operas.

First, many of the people who came from warmer altitudes had no wraps, and must have been very cold, yet so good was the production that very few of them left. Perhaps something in the publicity about the chilly nights in the mountains would be helpful.

Second, this reviewer has never seen better organization among the many people who control the traffic and parking. Parking, of course, is free, yet the attendants direct it perfectly, both before and after the performances.

"Opera at Brevard" will become a nationally loved cultural asset for Western North Carolina if the present trend and excellence are continued. Except for occasional times when the orchestra gets out of hand, the productions equal or surpass those in Cincinnati and St. Louis.

The selection of the operas has been good. "Faust" and "Carmen" (Carmen will be sung August 11) are two of the four most popular grand operas in the United States; "Aida" and "Madame Butterfly" are the other two. Selections other years have been good.

This reviewer's only complaint is that the opera season is not longer in Brevard.

### Friends Of The Library Story Hour To Have Program On Pets

On Saturday morning at 9:30 at the Library, Mrs. Gerald Grose will talk to the children about a subject dear to their hearts—their pets. Mrs. Grose will emphasize both the importance and the fun of giving pets

the regular care of feeding and grooming and training that pets need. All children are invited to attend.

Last Saturday 90 children listened attentively as Mrs. Vasant Chapnerkar described life in India. In government, the Indian Prime Minister holds a position of authority similar to that of the president of the United States. In education, the grades, once through twelve, are called standards, and children of the educated classes learn to speak three languages usually. Of these three, one or two will be chosen from the fourteen native languages of India; the child will use the dialect of his own area. More than 200 dialects are heard in modern India.

Mrs. Chapnerkar taught the children an Indian word of greeting—namaste—and her two small daughters, who were attired like their mother in the native dress of India, sang two Indian love songs.

On July 29 Mrs. Joseph Dixon will entertain the children with a puppet show.

### ASCS News

By JULIA WESTWOOD  
Office Manager

North Carolina's acreage allotment for the 1968 wheat crop has been set at 451,645 acres. This compares with the 1967 allotment of 519,587 acres and the 1966 allotment of 393,286 acres.

The 1968 national wheat allotment of 59.3 million acres compares with a 1967 allotment of 68.2 million acres and a 1966 allotment of 51.6 million acres.

As indicated in the announcement of the national allotment figures, the 1968 allotment—with average weather—would provide a crop of approximately 1.5 billion bushels. A crop this size will balance with es-

timated domestic use of 735 million bushels and an export target of at least 750 million bushels during the 1968-69 marketing year which begins July 1, 1968.

The eligibility for price-support loans and wheat marketing certificates, as in previous years will depend on farmers' meeting program provisions. Individual farm allotments for the 1968 wheat crop will be mailed to farm operators by ASCS county offices in the near future.

Other operating details for the 1968 wheat crop will be announced soon.

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This the 18th day of July, 1967.  
John R. Hudson, Jr.  
Commissioner  
7-20-2tc