

"OLD TIMERS"

(By Patsy O'Brien)

The Henderson County method of building roads years ago seem queer to us in these days. Dynamite was unknown and tools were scarce, and tops of ridges offered the best roads for the least work, as it was only necessary to level off the crest enough for a wagon to pass along. The next best location was the level ground along rivers, but this being subject to overflow was not so practical. Only when extreme measures demanded, did our pioneer road builder resort to side-cutting into the cliffs. It took a longer road to go by a gentle grade, so the steeper road was invariably built, as some of them still show. Whenever rock ledges were encountered the road-builders took to the woods, and where it was impossible to avoid the rock great piles of weeds were heaped up and burned on the rock until it was well heated, then barrels of cold water were hastily poured over it, causing the rock to split and permitting it to be quarried. These roads were far from ideal, as the sticky red clay peculiar to these mountains made rough going ten months out of the year. Heavy vehicles would sink to the hubs and horses and oxen floundered helplessly in the mud.

The road over the Saluda gap is the oldest road connecting the mountains with the towns in the lower country. It was built in 1793 by Col. Earle a South Carolinian. The Asheville and Greenville road company was incorporated in 1851, and built a plank road from Greenville to Asheville, this road however, falling into neglect after the Civil War and remaining practically impassable until re-opened some time later.

When Henderson County was formed in 1838, many other roads were being built, Solomon Jones, a man of rare engineering talent who built the road over the Jones gap in Transylvania County, which today is one of the best roads in this section, built a road from Hendersonville to the summit of a mountain seven miles from town which he named Mt. Hebron. His home and grave are on the mountain side, and many passersby have read the simple inscription on the stone.

Over these roads, mostly laid out by hunters and farmers, mainly men who had little knowledge of engineering, rolled the stage coach. We mentioned before that the stage coach figured largely in the history of our country. The stage coach is a very old institution. It grew out of the old Roman chariot and began to appear early in the 16th century. So great became the demand for coach service that large establishments for their manufacture sprang up in all sections and the coaches soon became models of perfect construction. The coach known to these mountains was called The Albany, and was especially built for rough roads. It was hung on leather braces and seated nine passengers inside, two with the driver on the box, and three upon a seat behind on the front edge of the top. This style of coach Col. V. Ripley ran over the almost impassable mountain roads carrying the mail and most of the time with a full load of passengers.

Dickens in his Sketches by Bez thus details a punishment for obstinate miscreants—"and then we would have booked him for an inside place in a small coach which traveled day and night; and securing the remaining seats for stout men with a slight tendency to coughing and spitting, we have started him on his last travels." Had Dickens lived in these mountains we believe he would have been more lenient.

The driver was invested with absolute power, at his signal the coach went forward, at his command the passengers assisted in extricating the wheels from the red mud. At regular intervals were inns where fresh horses were put in and the passengers found entertainment of varying quality. On approaching these stopping places, the driver blew signals on his horn to let the inn-keeper know the number of passengers, and in the years between 1828 and '82 the mountains re-echoed with the sweet notes of the long tin horn until the staccato of steam drowned the echoes.

So far as we have record of the early roads, stages were never robbed in these mountains but many incidents occurred which were almost as exciting as the stage coach hold-up of fiction. We have only space here to tell the humorous story of the very deaf driver who on starting the journey up the steep rough grade of the

old Howard Gap road was urged to hurry by an important passenger. Speed over the rough roads proved disastrous when the belt that connected the fore wheels with the perch that passed under the body of the chaise to the hind wheels, snapped. He braces broke and the coach body, liding backwards of the running gear, remained stationary in the road. In vain the passengers yelled and screamed, the deaf driver rapidly disappeared from view. It was not until he drew up at the door of the next inn that he discovered his accident. Nothing could equal the utter astonishment which his features then displayed as he gazed at the bare running gear where the body of his coach should be. It is said he did not show himself for three days.

In the spring great bands of slaves with large canvas-covered wagons come up from the cities to open the houses in preparation for the summer visits of the owners, who followed in their private coaches a week or two later. All the old places in Flat Rock had their slave quarters. At Barnwell's estate "Many Pines," afterward owned by the late Mr. Smythe, are still standing many houses of the "quarter." The postoffice is there and several cabins.

The people of the county had hard work to get their produce to market. There was little money among them, their crops serving as a medium of exchange. It was a three weeks trip to Augusta, the nearest large town so the people of a neighborhood would bunch their produce and two or three wagons would start down together, coming back weeks later laden with sugar, coffee and salt instead of the bacon, pelts and grain which they had hauled down. And then as now many men went through the country buying stock, bunching them together and driving the animals down the mountain road to the markets in the larger towns of the low country.

Not Adapted for Pet.

The average-sized Alaska walrus is as big as an ox and often weighs more than a ton. A walrus was recently killed by some whalers near Point Barrow whose head weighed 80 pounds, and skin, including flippers, 500 pounds. The animal had a girth of 14 feet, the skin was from half an inch to three inches in thickness, and the blubber weighed 500 pounds.

HENDERSON COUNTY MAN HAS CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL.

Probably the only man in Henderson County who has so far received the Congressional Medal of Honor is one who received it for distinguished service in the Spanish-American War. Zebulon A. Shipman, rural carrier on Etowah Route One, owns the coveted decoration, awarded to him by a vote of Congress for distinguished service in the line of duty at Guantanamo, Cuba. Mr. Shipman was one of the small landing party of U. S. Marines who were put ashore on the famous "Point" at the entrance to the bay on the south coast of Cuba, and with his comrades held their ground for days against the murderous attacks of many times their number of Spanish troops. Invalided home, he was discharged from a naval hospital in 1898. It is not known just what amount of money and other property Mr. Shipman claims title to, but it is a safe bet that he would part with most of it rather than give up the big medal bearing a profile of Rear Admiral Sampson.

SAYS LOCAL DEPREDATIONS DUE TO DRUG-HUNTERS

Sheriff Case in discussing the numerous depredations on unoccupied houses of late, states that he is of the opinion that much of the evil doing should be charged to local dope-fiends who find their supply cut off by enforcement of state and federal legislation. It is of course well known that victims of cocaine, morphine and similar drugs become desperate when refused fresh supplies, and will hesitate at nothing which offers a chance of more dope. Circumstances connected with many of the recent house-breakings indicate that general looting was not the object, in many cases houses being ransacked from top to bottom and many articles of high value being simply cast aside. In one case the thieves ransacked the drawers of a bureau, turning everything out on the floor and leaving with the other contents a solid gold watch. This as the sheriff points out, seems to indicate that the thieves are not intent on getting money or plunder to turn into money. They are hunting something else, and that something is in all probability the white powder which the drug stores no longer sell.

KENTUCKY HOME LEADS HOTELS IN THE STATE.

Hendersonville has the cleanest and most sanitary hotel in the State, as stated in an official bulletin from the State Board of Health under date of January 25th. Of the twenty-three hotels covered in this particular report only three of the number made a score of 90 or better, Kentucky Home leading the entire list with a score of 93.

It is pretty generally recognized over the entire big territory from which Hendersonville draws visitors that one simply gets the best things to eat at Kentucky Home that you can get anywhere; one can hardly stop in the lobby of a hotel in other parts of the state without hearing the traveling men dilate upon the abundance of good things they never fail to enjoy here, and this fact has caused a very noticeable increase in the number of traveling men who see fit to make Hendersonville their objective for the Sunday stop-over and rest.

Home folks have known all the time we had about the best hotel in the state, and it is fine to see this official bulletin come out and confirm the knowledge. The present management of Kentucky Home has made a number of improvements in the equipment of the hotel, on a scale which is in fact seldom warranted except in the big cities, and only in the finest hotels there. For instance, the new kitchen and its equipment are fine as can be found in the South. If money will buy any item which will add to the quality of the food served, or the speed and convenience and sanitation of the kitchen service, that item will be found installed and doing its duty. Absolutely nothing seems to be lacking, from the high-speed potato parer, the two enormous ranges, the aluminum meat boiler (bigger than an ordinary wash pot), the five steam dish washing machine, the battery of steam vegetable cookers, the steam tables or heating foods, the big store rooms filled with the most lavishly supplied of fruits and jellies and jugs and smoked meats; canned and fresh vegetable tables. A walk through the store-rooms in these high-priced times is like being escorted through the treasure vaults of the Mint, and one can't help thinking that if he had a wheelbarrow and a good chance he would tote off a load that would make that big gray express horse look like a pony.

A VOW—NOTHING GERMAN

I will not drink from a German cup,
Or eat from a German plate;
I will not deal with a German man,
All foul with German hate.

I'll use no drug with a German name,
That's grown on German land;
I'll eat no food and drink no beer
If made by a German hand.

I will not use a German tool,
Razor, knife or saw;
I will not trade with a German shop
That lives by German law.

I will not sail on a German ship
Where German songs are sung;
I will not breathe where God's clean air
Is soiled by a German tongue.

I will not forget those awful deeds
To girls and little boys;
No more I'll hang on Christmas trees
Those blood-stained Christmas toys.

I will not take a German's word,
He'll break it if he can;
There is no love in a German heart,
Or faith in a German man.

This is my oath, now war is done,
I'll swear to keep it true;
And, since I know you feel the same,
I'll pass it on to you.
—That's Me, "Duffy."

U. S. HOSPITALS IN NORTH CAROLINA TO BE CLOSED.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The government hospitals at Waynesville and Hot Springs will be abandoned. The Kenilworth Inn hospital has not been passed upon yet. The war department has reached a final decision on the two plants at Waynesville and Hot Springs. Representative Webb introduced today a bill for \$75,000 for a site and public building at Morganton. This is one of many public buildings bills going in now.

Aceticism.
Aceticism means the practicing of severe virtues, or the mastering of desires and passions. It might be termed the extreme practice of the simple life. Among the ancient Greeks it denoted the exercise and discipline practiced by the athletes and wrestlers.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD A HOME

With an abundance of employment at high wages and the recent stimulus to economy provided by the war, there is more money in the United States that could be utilized for home building than has been available for many years. In the face of these facts, building materials are relatively low in price. The advance in cost of materials has not kept pace with the increases in wages and in other commodities. Hence, now is the time to build a home, whether it be the modest home of the workman or the more pretentious home of the capitalist. As a competent writer has lately said: "The present moment is favorable to the building of homes of all classes, from those of the millionaire to those of the workingman. The object in building a home is comfort. The opportunity for home building and owning comes with the possession of surplus means which can be invested in that way. Many persons of wealth have largely added to their fortunes through the war, even after deduction of income and profit taxes. The present is a favorable period for the use of such gains in the immediate building of new homes, so that the desired increase of comfort or of luxury may be enjoyed at an early date. Many wage earners, recently earning more than ever before, have prudently laid aside a part of their earnings and have now accumulated, either in Liberty bonds or in savings banks, considerable sums with which they can begin home construction. Delay may result in the spending or the unwise investment of such savings. It is a part of wisdom to begin promptly the best form of investment for the workingman—a home for himself and his family. Don't you expect to stay here? Then why not own your home? Owning your home will make this town your town in a way that merely living in somebody else's house cannot. The house you build for yourself may not be perfect, but it will come a whole lot nearer suiting your needs than any rented house. The four Hendersonville concerns talking to you on this page believe that now is the time to build, and they are confident that an investor is not risking anything seriously by building at this time. They are supporting this campaign of advertising for the purpose of bringing this building a home idea before the largest number of people here.

Buy a Lot — "OWN A HOME" — Build It Now

- J. R. Willson Lumber Co.
- Rigby-Morrow Company
- Smith, Jackson & Morris
- Citizens National Bank