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THE HICKORY DEMOCRAT

The Democrat
Gives the news of Hickory and the Catawba Valley in full. The news of the world in brief.

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Under the Hemlocks in an Auto-Car.

C. & N. W. Auto Mountain Pike Trip Takes 18 Machines Over 6 Per Cent. Grades with all Ease.

Staff Correspondence of the Democrat
The sight of a string of 18 automobiles, skimming along over perfect mountain roads, at altitudes from 1500 to 4500 feet,—their hoarse honk now and then eliciting a resentful scream from the hawk in the gorge below,—astonished the mountaineers of the Blue Ridge in a recent Mayday outing. It also delighted a merry party of 70 men and women from the lowlands.

The time was from May 12 to 16. The occasion was the Auto Mountain Pike Trip of the Carolina & Northwestern Railroad. The purpose was to prove the accessibility and adaptability of 100 miles of good mountain roads to that Twentieth century necessity, the automobile. The scene was the very heart of the Land of the Sky.

The tour was daring in its conception, perfect in its execution and convincing in its proof. It originated in the mind of Capt. L. T. Nichols, general manager of the Carolina & Northwestern. Out of 40 invitations, 18 machine owners accepted. The scheme provided free transportation for their machines and themselves from the point where they reached the C. & N. W. There was an harmonious mutuality about it, each car owner bringing a lady guest and leaving a couple of seats which were filled by newspaper men and other special guests of the railroad. A special freight train hauled the automobiles from all along the line to Edgemont on the day before the start. A Charlestonian in a big White steamer ran 139 miles to Chester to catch this freight. On the return this space annihilating driver, Mr. Wm. E. Hughes, ran all the way from Edgemont and Linville via Blowing Rock and Lenoir to Charlotte, N. C. and thence to Charleston with a perfect score for his machine.

The start was made at Edgemont at 3.30 o'clock Thursday, May 12, and the first machine ran into Linville, 18 miles away, at 7 o'clock. The highwheeler, the bell wether of the flock of auto-cars, got lame a time or two on the road, and delayed the rest. The ascent was from 1500 to 3800 feet at Linville, passing the 4000 mark en route. The engineer of this road, Mr. J. R. Ervin, of Lenoir, was one of the party and said that for the first three miles the maximum grade is 6 percent, and after passing Cary's Flats, half way, it is 5 1/2 percent.

One of the expert automobile men along said that the grades were without objection and that the cars could make from 10 to 15 miles an hour on them. There was a spiteful spit of rain at Edgemont out of a frowning cloud but the autos climbed above it and there was sunshine for the remaining four days of the trip. At the top of the ridge, shortly before the sharp drop-down into Linville, the roads were a bit heavy and it was learned that there had been a big shower in the morning.

The smooth, sandy, climbing road lifted the machines high and almost seemed to dandle them in the air, as a playful father when he tosses his baby boys. As the cars mounted to an altitude of from 2700 to 3500 feet the people who know about machines sat up and took notice. The majority of the machines began to develop carburettor trouble, due to the rarity of the mountain air and the lessening of the pressure. They were gasping, fish-like, as they swam along in seas of ozone, and the chauffeurs were opening the gates to the carburettors to let them draw a deeper breath. It meant low gear for the running. The machinists in the crowd of 70—and there were half a dozen of the experts—said that by some contradiction of nature, this sort of air condition helped a steam engine while it choked a smaller mechanism. The remedy, it was said, was to change the mixture. At any rate

there was either the proper adjustment or else acclimatization of the machines, for on Saturday morning the 22 mile run from Linville to Blowing Rock was made on high gear without the slightest trouble of this kind. Elisha Gray said that the North Carolina mountains had the most diversified flora of all mountain regions. Throughout the trip the high-growing flowers charmed with their brilliance. The purple rhododendron gave the travelers a royal welcome. The mountain laurel or calmia was taking its first pink peep at the Spring. The dogwood was just finishing its Chautauqua salute in blossom, while the flame azalea with its chrome and orange torch lit a forest fire in bloom—this golden incendiary. In the lower reaches the Indian pink was a-blow in splashes of blood, like a reminder of some ancient aboriginal fray.

The Grandfather, 7000 feet, is the towering peak of this region. Every now and then, as the caravan rounded a sudden bend, his Old Man profile, set upon an up-heaving shoulder, would deign a patriarchal benediction upon this bit of wheeling civilization in the hemlocked wilderness. He was awed with his rugged aristocratic mien in his nearer presence, while distance lent enchantment to his view. But far from or near him, one could not escape his colossal, haunting, Tyrian-blue omnipresence. Today he was feeling a bit headachy and his rocky forehead was tied up in a rag of cloud. Tomorrow like sacred Fujiyama he was blocked out in the mist like a rare Japanese print.

At Sunset Rock a car stopped and its occupants looked below from the edge. The cottages of Linville cuddled down in the deep, distant vale, while over them brooded the shadowy, sheltering Silence of Solitude, like a hen over her little family.

The fair photographer of the tour, Miss Juliana Royster, gazed a moment and then she quoted Oliver Wendell Holmes: "When soothing silence comes to heal the wounds of sound." General Manager Nichols loomed the-loop from poetry to prose. Said he: "And you can travel to the cure in an auto on a 6 percent grade!"

Commencement At Lenoir Near

Conference Over Union with Mt. Pleasant a Feature VERY ABLE SPEAKERS

New Church on Campus to be Dedicated—Occasion one of the Most Important in History of College
Times are interesting around Lenoir College. The committee from the North Carolina Synod to unite Mt. Pleasant Institute with Lenoir comes on Monday. The new St. Andrew's church on the college campus is rushing to completion and will be opened for the baccalaureate sermon next Sunday. More than a thousand dollar art hand-painted display will be in evidence, beside the other usual pleasing attractions of interest at the coming commencement.

There is much concern centering around the coming of the committee from the North Carolina Synod relative to the union of Mt. Pleasant Institute and Lenoir College. The committee is composed of excellent men. The chairman is Rev. B. S. Brown, who once was pastor of Holy Trinity congregation in its early days. Two other ministers, Rev. H. A. McCullough, formerly President of Mt. Pleasant Institute, now pastor of the Albemarle congregation, where Synod held its sessions, and also Rev. J. L. Morgan, Synodical missionary for the North Carolina Synod, a talented young pastor and organizer, alert and progressive. As laymen B. E. Miller, has held since its inception, the Recorder's place for the city of Salisbury. Mr. Efrid, a successful business man and cotton manufacturer from Albemarle, N. C., together with Prof. Rom. Smith, a successful educator of Liberty, N. C., compose the committee.

A FINE CHANGE.

Forty Moretz Lots Going at Auction on May 27.

The Carolina Development Co. of Greensboro have purchased from Mr. McCoy Moretz 40 beautiful residence lots near his beautiful home in this city. These they will sell at auction to the highest bidder on Friday, May 27, at 1:30 p. m. A number of silver presents will be given free during the progress of the sale. The terms of the sale will be easy, and the lots will go absolutely at the highest price bid.

The Carolina Development Co. of which Messrs. Halladay and Tavis are the leading spirits and auctioneers have had great success in Greensboro, Charlotte, Asheville and many other cities in the State and have gained an enviable reputation for fair dealing. The Moretz property is in the southwest part of Hickory and is high commanding pretty views. A great opportunity is presented in this auction sale.

Church of the Ascension

Next Sunday, the feast of Trinity. Services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. It is earnestly urged that all unbaptized children be brought to the church next Sunday. The Rev. J. S. Moody was the preacher last week at the Special Missionary Convocations held in Asheville.

The first of the regular monthly services at the Highland school house last Sunday afternoon was well attended, and the use of the building highly appreciated.

Presbyterian Church Notes.

The pastor preaches both morning and night next Sunday,—at 11 a. m. to the children. The Covenanters debate the relative greatness of Julius Caesar and Napoleon meeting Friday at 8 p. m. Refreshments afterwards. Dr. Ramsay will speak to the boys on some topic connected with dentistry.

The children are practicing for children's day, May 29. The Nagoya Girl's School in Japan is the object for the gifts and mite boxes.

Sunday school is for the orphans next Sunday.

Program	
Saturday, May 21, 8:15 p. m.	—Annual Dramatic Entertainment.
Sunday, May 22, 11:00 a. m.	—Baccalaureate Sermon, The Rev. C. Armand Miller, Charleston, S. C.
Sunday, May 22, 8:15 p. m.	—Address before Missionary Societies. The Rev. Robert L. Patterson, Charlotte, N. C.
Monday, May 23, 1:30 p. m.	—Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
Monday, May 23, 2:00 to 5:00 p. m.	—Art Exhibit.
Monday, May 23, 8:15 p. m.	—Junior Orators' Contest.
Tuesday, May 24, 10:30 a. m.	—Annual Address before Literary Societies, Attorney Clyde R. Hoey, Shelby, N. C.
Tuesday, May 24, 2:30 p. m.	—Annual Address before Alumni Association. The Rev. John C. Dietz, Cherryville, N. C.
Tuesday, May 24, 3:30 p. m.	—Annual Meeting of Alumni Association.
Tuesday, May 24, 5:00 to 7:00 p. m.	—Annual Alumni Banquet.
Tuesday, May 24, 8:15 p. m.	—Expression Contest.
Wednesday, May 25, 9:30 a. m.	—Senior Class Day Exercises.
Wednesday, May 25, 10:30 a. m.	—Graduation Exercises.
Wednesday, May 25, 8:15 p. m.	—Annual Concert.

Commencement At Claremont

A Brilliant Concert by Signor D'Anna's Pupils DR. ROWE'S SERMON Remarkably Inspiring Lesson Drawn from Text: "What is That in Thine Hand"—Next Term Begins Sept. 8

Claremont has just closed a delightful commencement. Dr. W. Rowe preached a brilliant sermon to a packed house Sunday night on "What is that in Thine Hand," drawing a lesson of present day opportunity from Moses' rod. Two anthems were given under the direction of Sig. D'Anna by a select choir. The previous Saturday night was given to an entertainment by Miss Hellers' children of the primary department and the elocution pupils. On Monday evening, May 16th the annual Commencement of Claremont College was given, under the direction of Signor Saverio D'Anna.

The auditorium was filled to overflowing by a cultured audience, and every number of the program, from the first played by Miss Gladys Reid, to the brilliant chopin Polonaise played as a quartette and which was the last, was beautifully rendered and enthusiastically received. The program consisted of alternate songs and piano pieces. Two of Signor D'Anna's younger piano pupils, Misses Constance Bost and Gladys Reid, appeared on the first part of the program and no other numbers were more enjoyed than the ones played with so much expression and such nimble fingers by these talented little pianists. Three of the advanced pupils, Misses Adelaide Johnson, Essie Robinson, and Grace Patrick, delighted the audience by the brilliancy and accuracy with which they executed their difficult numbers. All of these young ladies have proven their faithful work during the year by the remarkable progress shown on this occasion.

Local and Personal

Miss Bonnie Cook, of Hildebran, was in the city Thursday.

There was no preaching at the Baptist church Sunday, the pastor being absent in Baltimore.

Editor R. G. Mace attended the Republican county convention in Newton Saturday.

Olen Abernethy has returned from Rutherford College, the winter term having closed May 11.

Butler Martin has returned home from Rutherford College, the winter term having closed May 11.

Q. M. Smith of Oxford Ford and W. W. Holler of Conover, have gone to Kansas City for special treatment.

Attorney Clyde R. Hoey of Shelby N. C. delivers the Annual Literary Address of Lenoir College May 24, at 10:30 a. m.

Rev. J. C. Moser, who has been unable to fill his pulpit at the Lutheran church for some time, preached Sunday, morning and night.

East-bound passenger train No. 36 was delayed six hours early Monday morning by a freight wreck which occurred just ahead of the passenger train in Tennessee.

There was an increase of 20 percent in the local postal receipts for April over the corresponding month last year. Asheville is bragging about an 11 percent increase.

There will be a special meeting of Hickory Rebekah Lodge, No. 67 on Friday night, the 20th, at 8 p. m. for degree work. It is requested urgently that all members be present.

At the Baptist Sunday School Sunday a committee was appointed to make arrangements for a picnic. It is believed the school will visit the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville.

The 20th of May, being a legal holiday, the postoffice will observe Sunday hours. The office will be open for sale of stamps and the delivery of mail, from 2 to 3 p. m. Rural carriers will make their regular trips.

The Democrat has great pleasure in printing the following from the editorial page of the Charlotte Observer: "The Observer has great pleasure in announcing the addition to its regular staff of Messrs. Preston Allen and Hazel Aiken. Each is 'making good' emphatically." Mr. Aiken went from the Democrat to the Observer. He has an eagerness for journalism that is a prophecy of success in this profession.

The Woman's Home Mission Society of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist church is in session at Waynesville. The session promises to be an unusually interesting one from the fact that the president of the Woman's Board, Miss Belle Bennet, and the General secretary, Mrs. R. W. Macdonald are present, both of whom have been attending the General Conference in Asheville in interest of the Woman's memorial to that body asking for the women of the M. E. Church South the rights of the laity. Mrs. J. W. Blackwelder is delegate to Waynesville from the Hickory auxiliary.

Ex-Congressman W. H. Bower died at his home here after an illness of several years. He was first stricken with paralysis about four years ago and since that time had suffered strokes, the last one being only a few weeks ago from which he never rallied.

Death Of John Miller Of Burke

Mr. John Miller died at his farm and mill on Henry river, six miles from Connelly Springs Monday night at 9 o'clock. The summons was sudden and death was caused from neuralgia which struck the heart. Mr. Miller would have been 83 years of age on the 26th of this month. He was a life-long Christian and said a few hours before he died that he was ready to go to his heavenly home whenever his Father called for him. He was a consistent member of the Baptist church.

The funeral took place from the old Robinson burying place this morning at 10 o'clock and was attended by most of his family and many other friends. Mr. Miller leaves the following children: L. F. Miller, of Catawba; W. L. of Burke; Mrs. T. Allran, of Cleveland; Mrs. Frank Vanhorn of Brookford; R. E., of Nashville, Tenn. Mrs. Jennie Wilson, of Iredell; Mrs. Jesse Fisher, of Catawba; and Mrs. Mary Hahs, of Tennessee. Mr. Miller lived in his earlier life at Ransom's Mill and then at Horseford's ford. For the past 34 years he has been a resident of Burke county.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Corrected weekly by Whitener & Martin.

Hens, per lb. 12c
Spring Chickens, per lb. 22c
Turkeys, per lb. 12-12c
Eggs, per doz. 16c
Butter per lb. 15 to 25
Apples, eating. 2.50 a bu
Sweet Potatoes. 1.75 a cr
Irish Potatoes. \$1 00 a bu
Cabbage, per lb. 3 to 4c
Strawberries. 5 to 7c a qt

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA