

## A NEW PLAYGROUND

R. E. Wicker Tells of Exploring  
Little River and How to  
Prepare for Such Trips

Ever since John Warren Achorn had cleared up Drowning Creek swamp and brought Indian guides from the Maine woods to brave the fastness of Lumbee River; it had been my desire to do a little pioneering of my own. Several trips down Little River to the two electric plants below Lakeview didn't serve to appease the desire and after several attempts and as many disappointments the writer, in company with three others who were willing to risk the navigability of the stream, put off from Leslie's bridge, between Lakeview and Vass on the tenth of May, destination: Fayetteville; schedule, none.

Five days later, almost to the hour, we tied up to the wharves at that old town; changed our river clothes for railroad style, bade our boats farewell and bought tickets to Aberdeen. In that five days we had spent seven dollars and a half each, which included pots, pans, grub, tent, boats and oars. In return we had had the satisfaction of sleeping on the ground five nights, eating fried cats and corn bread five days and seeing one of the prettiest rivers on earth from the vantage point of our boats. And it was worth the trouble.

I append the following instructions, gleaned from our experience, for the benefit of any who would like an outing of a week, inexpensive, healthful and satisfactory.

**Boats:** Make them out of two pieces of pine boards  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. thick and 12 inches wide, bottomed with  $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 in. stuff put on cross wise. Nail a strip over these, on each edge of the boat to prevent snags, rocks, etc., tearing off the bottom. It is also a good idea to put a runner in the center from end to end, about an inch thick, so that the boat will readily slide over logs. Our boat was thirteen feet long and three feet wide at the widest part just back of the center. It comfortably carried half our load and two passengers, a total weight of about three hundred pounds. My next boat will be smaller, rather than larger.

Make a boat hook about seven feet long out of light pine. The hook should be made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. rod iron, and so fashioned that it may be used either like a spear or a hook. This implement will be of a great deal more use than an oar during the first part of the trip.

Don't attempt to make a paddle. You can buy a canoe paddle for a dollar which is light and fits the hand and is well worth the money. Take two five-foot oars and the pins necessary to use them on the boat. These will come in handy in the still stretches on the Cape Fear.

For grub, buy eggs and canned goods. Take along plenty of meal or flour and the ingredients necessary to make flapjacks. We carried a little iron rack with four legs, covered with chicken wire, which we used as a stove, and

found it much handier than a pile of sticks which will burn in two and turn the pots over just as the coffee is boiling.

For a tent we bought a 7x7 ft. wedge tent with rope ridge. This tent doesn't require poles for its erection and can be put up wherever there are two trees within twenty feet of each other. Bedding is important, but one blanket is all we found necessary for comfort.

Be sure to provide at least twenty feet of small rope with which to tie up the boat at night. Sometimes we had to climb up a forty foot bank to make camp and it's rather distressing to go down to the river in the morning and find the boat gone.

Now as to the trip: You'll find the first four miles from Leslie's bridge rather hard going, but with the assistance of a sharp axe you can get through without unloading the boats. In a great many instances the boat will either go over or under a log if the weight is shifted and the hook used freely.

I am under the impression it would pay to have the boats hauled to the bridge at White Rock and start from there.

You will have to unload at both of the electric plants and at Manchester, but after that, it is clear water to Fayetteville.

There are no rapids or falls in Cape Fear that cannot be safely run with wooden boats. We counted thirteen which made pretty exciting going for a short distance, but some of these would be covered in high water.

If this article reaches someone who would like to undertake the trip, the writer would be glad to correspond with him and to render such assistance as he is able.

R. E. WICKER,  
Pinehurst, N. C.

**Mrs. Newcomb Leads the Ladies**

Mrs. Charles H. Newcomb of Philadelphia, wife of the famous champion at the Traps, entered the shooting game to such good purpose that she captured the Annie Oakley prize for the best score made last week by any woman at the butts. This is a rifle shooting contest running through the week, conducted by the famous shot for all the ladies of the village. Mrs. Newcomb had never handled a gun before the other day, when she took her first lesson from Annie Oakley. Marksmanship must run in the family, and was rapidly developed under the distinguished teacher.

Her score was 123 out of a possible 150.

**Mrs. Bosse and Mrs. Gilman were  
the Prize Winners**

at a Bridge Whist party and afternoon tea given by Mrs. J. Ebb Weir of Brooklyn, N. Y., last Tuesday at the Country Club. Among others present were Mrs. C. B. Hudson, Mrs. L. D. Pierce, Mrs. A. S. Gilman, Mrs. Clarence Lake, Mrs. J. de S. Bosse, Miss Stevens, Mrs. H. M. Warner, Miss Brayton.



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