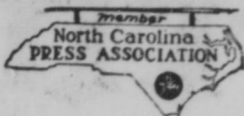


THE ZEBULON RECORD



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UP IN "GOD'S COUNTRY"

Rev. O. L. Stringfield could refer to the mountains of North Carolina as "God's country" in a way that made one feel that Western North Carolina was just about as near heaven in other respects than elevation as any place on earth. While raised among the mountains, the editor thought he had seen big mountains till he rode and tramped around Grandfather mountain last week.

Climbing

The N. C. Press Association met at Blowing Rock July 14-16. Leaving Zebulon Thursday afternoon with Lee Roy Harris, shop foreman, we rode for more than 200 miles over roads, after leaving Winston-Salem, that were both steep and crooked. One not used to riding sharp curves, will sometimes get seasick. Perhaps mountain sick would be the more correct expression. However, the feeling is not different. The road winds up over hills and into valleys so gradually that one does not realize how fast he is climbing till he reaches a peak and looks down on the world below. The journey was made in about 5½ hours—about 225 miles.

The Press Association

The opening session was at 8 o'clock Thursday night. This meeting was more or less formal. The chief address was by David Ovens of Charlotte. It was a mixture of sense and nonsense. One thing he emphasized is that newspapers are not truthful. After adjournment the younger set danced, older ones played bridge, the oldest went to bed. At least one of them did. The morning session of Friday began about 9:30 and lasted till noon. Group meetings for weekly and daily papers were held. Advertising and other practical matters were considered. At night a banquet was given and an address was made by Francis S. Harmon, a movie director. On Saturday morning addresses were made by W. C. Lassiter, attorney for the Association and Major A. L. Fletcher, N. C. Commissioner of Labor.

The following officers were elected for the next year: Talbot Patrick, Goldsboro News-Argus, President; Mrs. F. E. McCullough, Bladen County Journal, Vice-President; Miss Beatrice Cobb, Morganton News-Herald, Secretary-Treasurer; B. Arp Lawrence, Mecklenburg Times Historian. A memorial service was held for the following newspaper men who had died during the past year: Robt. Latham, J. P. Rawley, W. C. Manning and Rone H. Lewis.

The Association went on record urging the legislature to set Tuesday as the day for holding primaries instead of Saturday and to provide for closing of the polls at 6 p. m. instead of 7 p. m.

The Mountains

Friday afternoon was given over to seeing bigger things than a Press Association. Blowing Rock, Grandfather mountain and Linville were visited. Mr. Harris tested the much advertised handkerchief return at Blowing Rock. He threw it down, but it came back. Then putting a rock in it, he cast again. When the stone fell the handkerchief returned.

A toll road leads from the highway up Grandfather mountain for three miles. It is steep and undergrowth grows densely on either side. One does not realize what is there till he comes into the opening near the summit onto a great floored space for parking. A climb

of a half mile brings one to the first peak of Grandfather. There are two others farther on that are still higher. One of these is called Grandmother. One climbs upward over rocks that are bare save for a cluster of rhododendron or wild lettuce here and there as he nears the top. When the summit is reached everything is rock, bare and blazing in the sun. Pools of water from rain the night before, stood in bowls worn in the rocks. Linville valley lay miles below. A train could be heard somewhere far away puffing up the valley towards Johnston City, Tennessee. To the south could be seen a bare space where the scenic highway was being graded. Mount Mitchell like a blue pencil line could be seen southwestward towering high above the lesser peaks. The warden told us that we stood on the oldest known rock in the world according to the wisest geologists.

Temperature

While Zebulon was sweltering in a temperature of around 100, Blowing Rock barely went above 70 and the average temperature during the two days spent there was under 70 degrees. Boone is over 3300 feet high, Blowing Rock around 3500, Grandfather mountain is over 5900 feet high.

Gambling

At Blowing Rock in cafes, hotels and other public places are found a number of gambling devices. And the people played the game! At least the newspaper folks did. Without benefit of clergy or consent, prizes were provided for ladies of the Press Association to play bridge Friday morning. A crowd of the press early and late gathered around the slot machines. Not only men but women indulged their gambling instincts. We heard it on good authority that one man lost \$35.00 playing. A number of the members had a regular game of crap on Friday evening after the session and the fortunate man won the pot—\$31.00. Some one said newspaper publishers are nothing but gamblers any way when they go into the printing business. Some of those who unhesitatingly played the machines at Blowing Rock doubtless would not think of doing such back home. One wonders what such editors would do back home if called on to help rid the community of such degrading devices for the sake of children who will be the leaders by and by. The pen may be mightier than the sword, but the slot machine gets the wielder when he goes to Blowing Rock.

Appalachian College

A whole page could be interestingly written about Appalachian State Teachers College. As the guests of the college we ate dinner in the college cafeteria. A dinner of corn on cob, English peas, roast beef, butter, salad, gravy, bread, tea, milk and ice cream all to cost not over 30 cents. A 600 acre farm supplies all the beef and pork meats used by the college and also all the vegetables used in season. Many fruits and vegetables are canned. The college has its own refrigerating plant. The exhaust steam from the power plant is used to heat the buildings and also to heat water. The power plant furnishes power for the town of Boone and also subsidizes the plant in Blowing Rock. They have two hydro plants besides the steam plant.

Large brick and stone buildings are scattered over the slopes on either side of the little valley. While no survey could give order to them, yet the arrangement is wonderful in its natural setting. A modern infirmary has just been completed. Seventeen new residences of brick and stone are being built for faculty members of whom there are 85. From what we saw and learned, President Doughton is the most practical man in the state who heads one of our larger institutions. As a final proof, he has succeeded in giving the best educational and other advantages for the lowest cost of all our schools in North Carolina. A thousand students now matriculate in the college. When dormitories now in process of construction are completed 1250 students may be housed and educated in its walls.

Roadside Glimpses

Between Winston-Salem and Yadkinville there is a place by the road-side called Pfaff's Tavern. And it looks like a place to get good things to eat.

An elderly woman was seen by the road with a big old-fashioned slat bonnet on her head and

a big gum tooth (snuff) brush in her mouth.

For more than 100 miles one rides towards Boone without seeing even a stalk of cotton.

Just beyond N. Wilkesboro is a place called "Car Grave." Dozens if not a hundred of cars are to be seen. Most of them appear to have been burned and all were so battered that no part seems possible to be repaired. Among the cars was a large Carolina Coach Co.'s bus. Most of these were wrecked beyond repair on the mountain roads.

Every few miles one sees a neatly painted sign by the roadside something like this: "New Hope Church 1½ miles." Such a sign was seen on the side of a mountain more than 5000 feet high near Grandfather Mountain.

Acres and acres are planted in cabbage in Watauga and other counties around. While the farmers get only about two cents per pound, they make more from an acre than many farmers down east do on an acre planted in tobacco.

Blackberries are not yet ripe in the mountains. Cherries are just gone. Yet in Yadkin county tobacco is being barned.

While at breakfast in a cafe in Blowing Rock, a woman from New York asked, "Where are you from?" When told, "from Zebulon", after waiting a moment she asked: "Is that in the United States?"

OPEN FORUM

THE LOW DOWN FROM HICKORY GROVE

Fellow Farmers:

I do not often get steamed up and froth at the mouth or excited about what is going or not going on.

Most stuff being done, you forget about it anyway, by tomorrow, and all you get out of stewin' around, is a bad stomach. And I want to preserve my stomach for things like baked beans, etc., which my Susie, she is a champion at fixing up.

But once in a full moon something happens that gives me a half-way pain in the neck, and the latest, it is this talk about helping the farmer—like it used to be the fashion to get elected poppin' off about electric lights.

But farmers, I feel more like envying them, than being sorry. You don't see any farmer who is worth a hoot, going hungry like people in the city. He just waltzes out there and digs a few potatoes and carrots, and his wife pops a chicken in the skillet—and depression number one or depression number 2, it makes no difference.

Feeling sorry for a farmer hiding behind a plate of fried chicken—brother that is comedy.

Yours, with the low down,
JO SERRA.

FAMILY NECESSITIES

Sewing machines "hold their own" in numbers in American homes. But stoves have been discarded for heating plants. The open milk-pan in the cellar has been promoted to an honored place in the Frigidaire. Oil lamps are scarce.

Three out of every four families in the United States own a radio—a device that was in its cat-whiskers stage less than 20 years ago. Piano ownership in villages ranges from 27 to 42 per cent of homes, and phonographs—the rage

before radios, are only about half as numerous as pianos. Bicycles are having a steady boom in popularity, but the Government statisticians have neglected to supply figures about them.

A recent Government statement says that "American village life definitely includes the automobile." The cars are 100 per cent superior to the models of 20 years ago, and standard machines are only about half the former price.