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and

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A Marvelous Trip

THE writer had occasion the other day to go to Asheville on the Smoky Mountain Stage via Highlands and Brevard. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most beautiful trips in the Southern Appalachians . . . or anywhere, for that matter.

We had traveled this route before, but always as a driver, which necessitates close attention to the ever-curving road, instead of as a passenger free to look at every glorious view.

This trip affords untold variety of scenery—close-ups of mountain flora and sweeping distant panoramas. From Highlands to Gneiss one sees the mists lifting from the verdant Cullasaja valley, and then begins the breath-taking ascent to Highlands through the awe-inspiring Cullasaja Gorge. One cranes his neck first upward to see the tops of the towering cliffs and then downward to glimpse the bottom of the ravine, where the water dashes madly between the rocks. The water falls, the Lower Cullasaja, the Dry Falls and the Bridal Veil, are passed all too quickly. One would like to linger at each for hours.

After the climb, the emergence on the broad plateau where Highlands is situated brings a new delight. Placid lakes and forests, dotted here and there with beautiful homes and simple cottages, give a refreshing variety. Then, beyond Highlands about five miles, the road turns abruptly to the left and there unfolds the grandest of mountain views. One's eyes sweep from majestic Whiteside Mountain at the right out across the quiet Sapphire Valley with a rim of monolithic mountains beyond.

In the valley below there comes a contrast. For miles and miles one passes through beautiful woodlands, marred only here and there by the axe. A rider is taking a string of fine saddle horses for a morning trot. One wishes he could exchange his seat in the bus with the rider and go for a canter along one of the many forest trails. But while he is musing, the scenery changes, offering something new to divert his mind. The wash-out at what used to be Lake Toxaway. What a torrent of water it must have been to strip the earth from the rocks below the old dam! We wonder if anyone will ever try rebuilding the dam and restoring Toxaway to its former position as an outstanding mountain resort.

Beyond Brevard the route passes through fine bottomland farms and skirts the Pisgah Forest. As the bus nears Asheville, one catches a glimpse of the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station on the left. A little farther on row after row of tall pine trees follows the road on the right. They were planted years ago by the late George Vanderbilt, one of the pioneers in forest protection and reforestation.

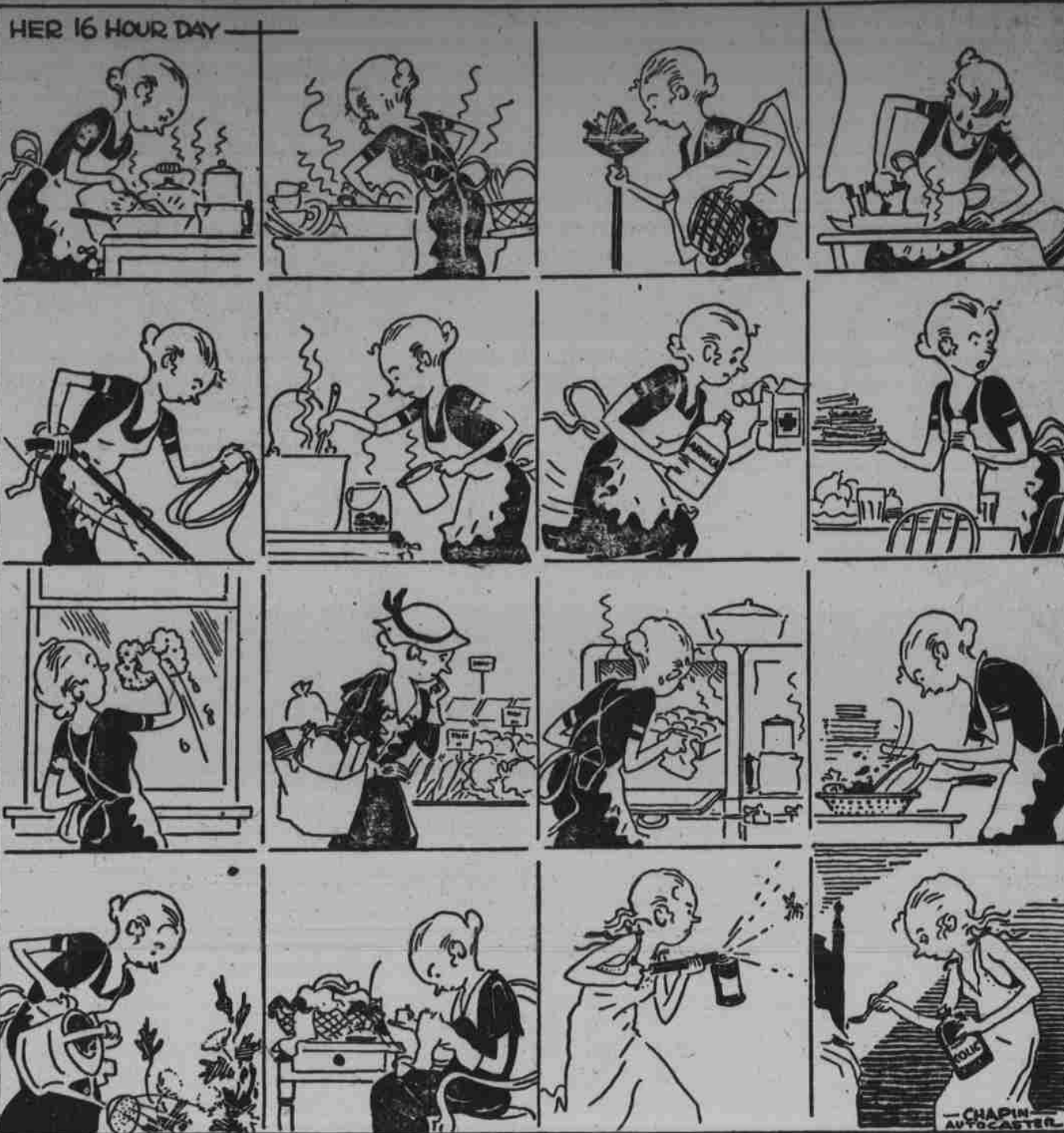
It is a marvelous trip over this route and in time it should become one of the most popular motor drives in Western North Carolina, which, of course, will redound to the benefit of all concerned.

Discrimination in Gasoline Prices

AUTOMOBILE owners are wondering why gasoline costs 23½ cents a gallon in Franklin, while just over the line in Rabun County, Georgia, the price is 18 cents, and in some of the Piedmont sections of North Carolina it is as low as 15 and 16 cents, tax included. Where, they would like to know, is the justification of this wide differential in prices? Certainly the difference in freight rates does not require this wide variance in prices. So, Mr. Auto-Owner can arrive at only one conclusion: the big refining companies are basing their prices on what they think the market will stand, rather than on actual costs plus a fair profit? We thought this manner of doing business had disappeared with the inauguration of the NRA, but evidently not.

Unless the refining companies voluntarily change their tactics, organized action should be taken by the public immediately to force them to do so.

How About A Labor Day for Ma?—by A. B. Chapin



THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES

BY BESS HINTON SILVER

Don't let anybody tell you that reorganization of the State Revenue Department has been completed. Even as you read this the Motor Vehicle Bureau is undergoing a thorough overhauling and it is entirely possible that some of the hired help may get the gate. All this is being kept as quiet as possible because most all employees can pull political strings and bring on a miniature war. Daily press dispatches that reorganization of the Revenue Department was finished were evidently inspired. If they had read "about finished" they would have been more correct, since the Motor Vehicle Bureau is the last unit to feel the axe that Dr. M. C. S. Noble, assistant commissioner, is wielding with an approving nod from Commissioner A. J. Maxwell and Governor Ehringhaus.

HAS CONFIDENCE—
The grapevine reports that Representative Tam C. Bowie, the "cut-in-to-the-bone" leader of the 1933 house of representatives, is telling it about among his friends up in his native county of Ashe that the reason the Raleigh news writers do not mention him in speculation on who will be the next Governor of North Carolina is because they know he would be nominated and elected if he decided to run. Raleigh news writers give other explanations. The vocative Tam is said to favor installation of radio facilities in the house of representatives to broadcast his and "other important" speeches.

HAS HIS TROUBLES—
One of North Carolina's two baby Congressmen, Harold D. Cooley, of the Fourth District, is having his troubles over patronage. Many constituents are up in arms over his appointment of a woman Hooverer at Randleman, Randolph county, and Selma dyed-in-the-wool Democrats complain in that he is about to appoint another Hooverer as postmaster of that Johnston county town. Like getting married, when a man's elected his troubles begin.

POWER RATES—
The State Utilities Commission is getting all set to cut power and electric light rates on the Carolina Power and Light system in Western North Carolina, where the federal government's TVA rates are causing utilities headaches. No relief is in prospect for Eastern North Carolina from the C. P. & L. at present. In fact, it may be

months before the western reduction is effective but it's in the cards.

YOU MAY GET STUCK—
Don't get the idea that your Uncle Samuel is going to pay for knocking down the bumps and filling up the mud-holes in your road if you live off the primary state highway system. Federal aid funds are limited to 10 per cent of the state's roads and you may live along one of the other 90 per cent. And if the next legislature gets its hooks on more than the \$1,000,000 that is now being taken out of motorists' pockets to pay bills instead of building roads, federal aid will be cut one-third under provisions of the federal statute. On top of that cities and towns are demanding that the state maintain streets in the highway system. Between diversion, loss of federal funds and upkeep of streets it looks like the farmer is in danger of losing what now parades in dust in the summer and mud in the winter as a road.

THREE RING CIRCUS—
There wasn't half the scramble you might have imagined after reading press reports, for the \$4,000-a-year job on the Industrial Commission, set adrift by the resignation of Major Matt Allen. A lot of the boys got mentioned in the newspapers for the simple reason that news was dull and the average reporter lives by the old axiom that "names make news." The reporters had no idea who would get the job so they mentioned everybody they could think of who was eligible. They even included George Ross Pou, former prison head, who is generally supposed to be making twice the amount of the salary of the Industrial Commission job in his law practice in Raleigh.

DOES THIS MEAN WAR?—
Former Senator-Governor Cameron Morrison, in his speech to the embattled farmers at Swannanoa, among other things said, "Public officials who voted against any of the president's agricultural relief program ought to be retired to private life." Senator Josiah William Bailey was the only member of the North Carolina delegation to cast a vote opposing the Agricultural Adjustment Act. No matter where he was aiming, "Cam's" dart took effect on Senator Bailey's button and politicians are wondering if he will bestir himself to get Senator Bailey's scalp in the campaign of 1936. If "Cam" smears on the war paint, "the fur will fly."

Enameled furniture in delicate colors should be cleared with sifted whiting applied with a moist cloth, and wiped clean with a cloth moistened in clear, cold water. Polish it with silk.

Public Opinion

Mr. Editor:
In reference to your editorial last week concerning the condition of the streets, I would like to say it is a most timely article.

Personally, I do not indorse your suggestion about more taxes. It costs me around thirty dollars a year now to have the garbage removed once a week, maybe, during the summer, and not at all in the winter.

Any of us who live on West Main street, walk in the mud from the beginning of the side walk beyond the creamery to the top of the town hill.

Some years ago Dr. Siler went to the expense of having a large sewer pipe put under the highway and into our meadow to carry off the wash from the Bidwell road. The entrance to this drain pipe under my driveway is completely stopped up, so the water runs down the side walk. My neighbor's drain under his driveway is also entirely stopped up, so all the water and mud run over my sidewalk and fill it with mud.

Last December George Dalrymple came with a half dozen men and cleaned the walks free of grass growing over the edges that turns the water and mud on to them. He cut the ditches deeper and for the first time the walks were in first class condition. I hoped as they had once been fixed right that they would be kept that way. I was away all the winter and when I returned in May I found the grass grown walks and mud as usual.

If you do not come forward with your town taxes you are advertised. Why does the town not do its part as promptly as they require you to do yours?

I thought town taxes were to pay for the privilege of living in town. Well all the privilege I get for that thirty dollars is walking on muddy side walks and having garbage sit until it sours.

I have no doubt that my neighbors on West Main street would put their names to this if I were to stop and show them this letter.

And the present town board is no worse than those that have gone before. It is just no better.

We have paid double the amount of taxes we are paying now with no better services rendered. If we had a brand new town "outfit" we might see if "a new broom swept clean," for it is sweeping, cutting and digging and mowing that we are needing.

—MARGARET R. SILER.

Egg stains may be rubbed from silver with the aid of a bit of table salt.