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Prophet of The Smokies

own interpretations. God and the angels and the spirit world were very near to him. The Maid of Orleans heard voices, we are told: so did Uncle Josh—voices from the hills and the God of the hills!

With all his mysticism, however, there was sense and logic to what he said. As a logician, had he been schooled, he would have been the peer of the master logician, John C., whose grand-nephew he was. Like most mountaineers, also, he had a keen sense of humor, which he used for seasoning in his private conversations and public discourses—rich, racy, original humor that came largely from his own observations and experiences.

His wealth—if his moderate circumstances could be called such—consisted in cattle and bees and timber. Once he said to his friend, Phil Elliott: "I've made my money honest. My cattle have grazed the grass in the Smokies that the frost would otherwise have got, and my bees have sucked the honey that would have otherwise evaporated and gone back to heaven." And when the W. M. Ritter Lumber Company came to Hazel Creek, he sold many acres of valuable timber to the lumberman, enough to provide for him and his family in old age.

Bids Farewell To Smokies

And in time this economic security was needed. With advancing years came ill health, and Uncle Josh was finally forced to leave his cabin in the laurel and move to Bryson City, the county seat, where he might be near a physician. But he grew progressively worse. Came the time for his last visit back home. It was a poignant moment when he bade farewell to the crags and peaks, the streams, fields, forests, and flowers of his beloved Smokies, for he knew he would never see them again.

Finally he was carried to the hospital in Sylva for an operation. The ordeal, however, was too much for him. By and by the stout old heart ceased to beat and Uncle Josh fell into dreamless sleep. At long last, weary and worn, he crossed over the mystic river to rest under the shade of the trees. Out of

the clay cottage, in which he had lived, moved, and had his being for eighty and six years, he moved to the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

In the little cemetery at Bryson City they laid him to rest. Beautiful beyond compare for situation is that city of the dead. Nestling atop a lovely knoll, which forms the southeastern rampart of the tiny town, it overlooks a winding river, the blue, classic Tuckasee of the Cherokees, river of the red man's dreams. To the north, in the dim distance, stretches the mighty expanse of the Great Smokies, mid-streather and cloud-engulfed, to Uncle Josh the hills of home, the hills of God. Through the midst of the village, dividing it in twain, flows the murmuring stream, winding like a silver thread about the base of cemetery ridge, whereon he lies, and singing for him an eternal requiem.

—The Rev. Wayne Williams in the Biblical Recorder.

J. Norman West has returned to his home near the Iotla bridge after a trip to Staten Island, N. Y., where he visited a former "fox hole buddy."

Mrs. Joe Lassiter, of Rocky Mount, is here for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Calloway, at their home on Bonny Crest.

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America was made great by the work of all kinds and conditions of men.

And so, in appreciation of Labor, of whatever kind, we the undersigned Franklin business houses will be closed all day Monday in observance of Labor Day. Those that have been closing on Wednesday afternoons also will be closed next Wednesday afternoon as usual.

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- BANK OF FRANKLIN
- BELK'S DEPT. STORE
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