

Waldesians Plan '4th Of July' Feb. 17

At Valdese the little community of Waldenses will celebrate their "4th of July" or Independence Day February 17, with a dinner at their church and a speech by Mrs. Catherine Anderson, of New York, secretary of the American Waldensian Aid society. It was on this day in 1848 that Emperor Charles Albert restored civil and religious liberties to the followers of Peter Waldo.

The Waldenses settled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge here more than 50 years ago, coming from a French Alpine section, where a large number of them had taken refuge. While

the original idea was to establish an agricultural community, the newcomers quickly turned to textile manufacture and other occupations they found in their new home. Most of them are now in industry, and their enterprises here include hosiery mills, a winery and a bakery.

In the half century of residence they were quickly assimilated, and now there are perhaps less than 1,000 of them in this section. A very few of the older women occasionally wear the ceremonial caps, and on Sunday the men contest vigorously at bocci at the community club. Until a few years ago their services were held once a month in the French language; about the only other evidence of their presence as a group are the numerous backyard vineyards and an occasional stone house attesting to their skill as stonemasons.

Waldenses are descendants of

the followers of Peter Waldo, one of the forerunners of the Protestant movement. They underwent a long series of persecutions because of their faith, and did not come into full civil and religious rights until 100 years ago. About 90 per cent of

the Waldenses here, however, are members of the Presbyterian church, and not of their traditional denomination.

They have an exceptional record as a law-abiding people in this area.

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix, c. t. a. of George W. McGee, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of

February, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 10th day of February, 1948.

KATE MCGEE, Executrix
F12-6tc-M18

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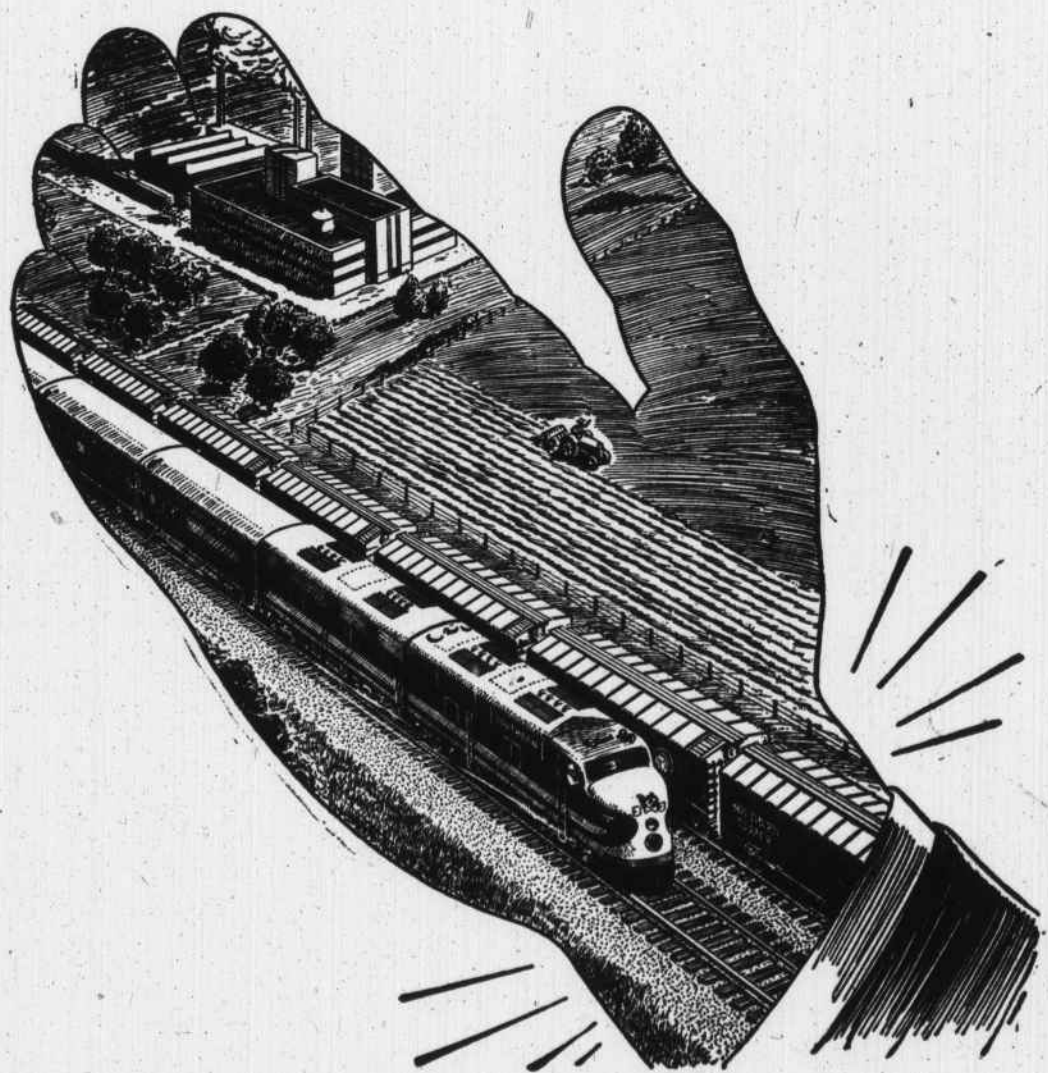
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