

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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MUSICAL FESTIVAL AT SANDHILL FAIR

Chorus Of One Hundred and Twenty-Five Voices to Sing Rose Maiden

(Bion H. Butler)

Tuesday night I dropped in at the Congregational church where Charlie Picquet is training his chorus to sing Frederick H. Cowen's cantata, the "Rose Maiden." To my mind this cantata, which is to be sung at the musical festival of the Sandhill fair is likely to find a greater popularity than the weightier choruses that Mr. Picquet and his singers have given on the previous occasions. In turning from the profound religious work of Mozart and Handel and Hayden to that of Cowen nothing is sacrificed in the material that is given the chorus to exhibit their ability, for Frederick H. Cowen is one of the foremost composers and directors of the present time. In 1882, when only 30 years old he became director of the Edinburgh Academy of Music, and five years later he succeeded Sir Arthur Sullivan as conductor of the London Philharmonic, and from that time on his triumphs have been numerous. He has a long list of famous compositions to his credit, but the "Rose Maiden" is given first rank by many of his admirers. At any rate it is one of the most entertaining things musically that will be heard in North Carolina in many a day.

I have expressed my opinion before this as to Charlie Picquet's ability as a trainer and conductor. Were it not that a question of his family's health brought him to the Sandhills where he caught that Sandhill fever that has held so many others in this section he would be in some broader field. But he is here, and there is no use to say anything to encourage him away. The main thing is that while he is here his remarkable work should be appreciated and enjoyed. He has gathered up this fall a chorus, as I have said, of 125 voices, and the large bulk of these are of better than ordinary ability. They have taken hold of the work, for they have the full confidence in their leader that inspires them to effort, and it is rather surprising to see the progress they are making. I listened through the entire cantata for the purpose of getting a line of the manner in which the singers and the conductor handled the work, and if my advice is worth anything the theatre at Pinehurst on the night of Wednesday, October 28, at 8:20 o'clock, will be full to the loft.

Here we are, a small rural community of three or four villages, far from any big center that might be expected to bring out patronage to warrant a pretentious thing of this sort, and solely because Charlie Picquet and those who will sing under his direction have an interest in choral singing we have the chance to hear this fine presentation. It is not possible that such an entertainment could be offered in any but two or three of the bigger cities of the state, and even at that they would be rare.

It is hardly worth while to go into a detailed description of either the cantata or the work. The cantata is one of the best that Cowen produced, and he is deservedly famous for half a dozen operas, two oratorios and a number of cantatas and other compositions. It has a marked simplicity in much of its chorus as well as in its solos, and its harmonies at times are impressive in this respect. Its movement will probably be more intelligible to the average listener than the oratorios of last year were, and altogether I imagine it will be more generally comprehended and admired.

The singers Tuesday night showed a remarkable control of their execution, and with several rehearsals yet until the entertainment is presented on the stage I am looking for them to show a proficiency that not many in the audience will be able to distinguish from that of professionals. I was not able to recognize any of the individual performers as I sat off at

one side to be out of the way, but one or two sopranos showed a wonderful power. Miss Erskine at the piano also evidenced a command of her scores that is highly clever. On the night of the performance the chorus will be assisted by Grady Miller and Dr. Bates, of Greensboro, bass and tenor solo singers of reputation, and by the Carolina orchestra and the organ. I am told that a large delegation is coming down from Greensboro to hear the singing, as the reputation of the Sandhill chorus has gone out into the surrounding communities, and a number of visitors are expected from the other towns. While the fair this year has advanced to many new and I think higher lines this chorus work by Mr. Picquet and his group of local singers strikes me as the most outstanding single feature of the whole affair. It is so much in advance of anything that is ordinarily to be found in a small community, and of such a high quality in both voice, training and the selections attempted that it stands in a class by itself. To my notion this is about the finest thing that is to be encountered in the Sandhills this winter.

OXFORD SINGING CLASS AT ABERDEEN MONDAY

The Oxford Singing Class will be at the High school in Aberdeen Monday night at 8 o'clock. The work these boys and girls are doing has become so familiar to this section that the announcement of their coming should be about all that needs to be said of them. They represent the orphanage at Oxford, and their work in this line is in aid of the institution. The school at Oxford is one of the most successful of its kind in the state, turning out a large number of boys and girls who on going into the world's activities are trained young men and women who become useful members of society. They put on a program that has always been highly appreciated and The Pilot is always glad to make the announcement of their coming to any place in this part of the state.

HALF MILLION IN NEW BUILDINGS

Pinehurst and Southern Pines Hammerin' Nails—New Structures Going Up

The amount of new work in building around the Sandhills has been big this year. The total amount of new construction at Pinehurst is figured around \$375,000, which includes several big jobs like the \$100,000 that has gone into rebuilding the Holly Inn, \$20,000 in the Pine Crest, nearly as much in improvements in the Carolina, \$50,000 in the Market Square new building and extension, a dozen new houses runing up to \$20,000 for some of them, and the Pinehurst Warehouses and changes at the railroad.

Over at Southern Pines the new building of the Citizens Bank and Trust company is one of the most pretentious and impressive buildings in this part of the state, and it gives a different tone to the street. All over the town new houses are under way or recently completed. Dr. Dickie is building half a dozen new cottages out at his hospital. A number of new houses are projected and will be carried on during the winter. It is doubtful if so many new buildings have been in progress in Southern Pines in a long time as are now under way.

At Aberdeen the builder is active while the new hotel at Pinebluff adds another \$100,000 down in that section, with a number of smaller jobs around the edges of all of the towns. Taking the towns of the Sandhills and the new building on the outlying lands and on the farms it is likely that three-quarters of a million dollars will not more than cover the new work that has been done or that is in progress.

On Wednesday of this week, John Warren Watson, of the John Warren Watson Company, Philadelphia, pur-

OLD TIME PICNIC AT CAMERON HILL

Gathering of The People From a Wide Territory For Annual Picnic

(L. M. McDonald)

There exists an eminently successful, widely recognized institution whose beginning the younger people do not recall. It is one which has never had a chief executive; secretary or other official, and during its existence although it has contributed to treasuries of church and school and accumulated an immeasurable measure of good for the community which gives it life, it has never had a treasury of its own, nor indeed has it ever had a slightest need for one.

This unique institution is the annual picnic at old Cameron Hill, picnic, community reunion, homecoming or what you will. One who has attended one day there will need no name by which to know it.

Its life is the old Scotch spirit that lingers yet around the prominent, high-shouldering red hill that first caught the eye of the wandering Highlander weary of seacoast and the sameness of the coastal plain, a spirit that will live until the last Cameron of that ilk has gone from the Hill. Its success depends alone upon the clanish friendliness and the love of homeland peculiar to Carolina folk of the Sandhills; its continuance has been and is assured by the wish within each heart, within which is flowing the Gaelic blood, to assemble again with the Camerons, the McLeans, the Darrochs, Stewarts, Shaws, McKays and Campbells near the old kirkyard where their past generations are sleeping; where the first grave was filled by a child whose body was brought on horseback from the level reaches of Long Street twenty miles away by a father who wished it to rest upon the crest of the one great hill of the New Land that he had found, as his sires were resting upon the bens (mountains) of his ain country. There they gather, where the old Plank Road crossed, against the spot where the mail stage driver winded his horn across the backs of his four horses as they thundered down the steep slope to signal his approach to the old Confederate post-office of Johnsonville; there they walk to and fro among the throng that increases during the morning and decreases with the day. Watching for the old friends that they know will be there ere the day has gone; missing with the one touch of sadness that the day ever brings the few who will come no more. No exacting program to adhere to; no chain of ritual to hamper the freedom of the day. Greeting of the old to the old; of the young to the young; of all to all. Handshakes free from all taint of formality, with sometimes a catch of the throat the while. A table overflowing with the best of a goodly land. Informal, sincere talks from pulpit-side or entryway. Songs, simply thrilling, by choirs that volunteer. Then home, as the glow of the west tints the blue of the ridges with the mellowness of gold, to remember perhaps curling locks about laughing eyes; perhaps grey heads bearing none too firmly the weight of years. Always to look forward to the day of the succeeding year when the gathering will be again. One there was who, not by appoint-

LADY RACE DRIVER TO BE AT SANDHILL FAIR

Mlle. LeCosta, Europe's Greatest Daredevil, To Participate in Races At Sandhill Fair

In addition to the half score of men drivers who have signed up for the auto race meet that is to be a feature attraction of the Sandhill Fair on October 27-28-29 is Mlle. Cozette LeCosta daring girl race driver hailed as champion lady race driver of Europe and Europe's greatest daredevil.

Miss LeCosta made a tour of Western Canada early this year and managed to win three out of five

ment but by common understanding without need of formal request or special appointment, always stood to talk to a hushed and intent assemblage; the "silver-tongued orator of Harnett," Colonel Dan Hugh McLean, whose head teemed with the traditions and the history of the people who surrounded him and whose heart went in earnestness with the words that tumbled like a silver torrent from his lips whenever he told the old lore; outlined the coming of the clans after Culodden, or spoke of Flora MacDonald and her home at the foot of the hill below him and lauded to the skies her loyalty and that of her countrymen for the bonnie Prince Charlie. But his presence is only in memory now. MacLean has gone to the gathering of his chiefs in the Far Country.

Old friendships, true ideals, loved memories and fond traditions are never forgotten or forsaken by these people sprung from the race of "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," who have grown up in the romantic envi-

AUTO POLO AGAIN AT SANDHILL FAIR

A veteran showman, in going over the programme arranged by Secretary Picquet for this year's Sandhill Fair, said; "In all of my experience, I have never seen so many first class attractions crowded into a four-day fair. Among the largest fairs held on this continent this Fall, I cannot, at this moment, recall one that would be willing to risk the enormous expenditure necessary to secure the headliners that are coming to Pinehurst, and some of these fairs run for a full week."

For many years, Mr. Picquet has kept several jumps ahead of the other fellows in the matter of picking good attractions, but this year he has left the whole crew so many ages behind that they'll never catch up. Many, many times, showmen have asked; "How does he do it?" But this is a mystery so deep that even those who

NEW VENTURES BY COMMISSIONERS

Tubercular Sanatorium, Forester and Board of Conservation

The county commissioners Monday at their Carthage meeting ventured into new lines in the creation of a fund to help maintain a forest warden, a sanatorium for the indigent tubercular patients, and a Board of Conservation and Development. These three things mark a positive step forward in county work, to which might be also added the appointment of W. C. Donaldson, another rural policeman.

The sanatorium was sponsored by Miss Eifort, the welfare agent, and Dr. Poate, of Southern Pines. With the help of Dr. Cain, of the Sanatorium, they presented a logical case, and the commissioners authorized a building at the county home, large enough to hold eight beds, and Tom Burgess, of Southern Pines was given a contract to build it at once. It will not be a very big hospital, but it will be a beginning, and will care for at least some of the invalids who have no other place of refuge.

The state forester from Fayetteville, Mr. Kimball, appeared before the board and urged the appropriation of a small sum to help secure a fire warden for the county, and after making his case \$500 was granted, to be met by additional sums from the state and other sources, and organized work against forest fires will be undertaken. The commissioners thought this a move in the right direction and were with it. Mr. Kimball will have more to say to the people later.

Following the lead of Governor McLean in the attitude he has taken regarding the state Board of Conservation and Development the com-

KIWANIS STARTS LOT OF GOOD PROJECTS

School Affairs Prominent Among The List of Plans

At the Wednesday dinner of the Kiwanis club in Southern Pines one of the most aggressive programs ever introduced unfolded itself as the meeting advanced. The thing started with a letter from Charlie Picquet who asked the backing of the people more vigorously in the production of the pageant at the Sandhill fair, saying that the pageant is one of the best advertising features the community can present, and that to the big crowds that gather it is a forcible bit of information as to the neighborhood. The idea met with approval and action will be taken.

Then the public affairs committee announced a resolution saying it recommended that a silver cup be offered by the club to the Moore county school having the best record of average attendance during the present school year. Contributions were asked to pay for the cup, and Dr. Poate started off with \$25, and this was followed by others until a sum sufficient to buy a right expensive cup was in the hands of Richard Tufts, treasurer, and more signified the intention of sweetening the pot when they could overtake a dollar or so. This cup will be ordered at once, and the school that wins it will have something to be proud of as long as they can hold it. They can begin now to work for it, and the only winning way is for every scholar to get out to school every day.

With school matters under discussion the Farm Life school came up again, and it was announced that in addition to the seven boys and girls the club is helping through the school there two others are aided by members of the club privately, making a total of nine in all. That started some more talk and a proposition was made that all club members broach to outsiders the suggestion that a few dollars, running from \$1 to \$120 be placed at the disposal of the Farm Life school as a revolving fund to be loaned to boys and girls to help them through school. This would constitute a perpetual fund, and would be available year after year, and the amount of good it would do would be great. This project met the approval of the members and probably they will be striking some of their neighbors for contributions for this purpose. Any sum is available, as several small contributions will stake one boy or girl, as well as one big one will. Money can be given or sent to Dan McKeithen at Aberdeen or Richard Tufts at Pinehurst, and any sum will be a deserved endowment.

The Kiwanis convention of North and South Carolina at Pinehurst November 5 and 6 promises to be the biggest gathering ever held at Pinehurst, as letters are coming in in numbers making reservations. The local organization will be a sort of welcoming committee of the visitors and guide and chaperon while the bunch is here and they intimate that it will not be a quiet two days while the strangers are inside the gates.

Arthur Newcomb started out to bring up that land speculation subject, and undertook to show that Bion Butler is a liar or not a liar, and so many members attempted to vote on one side or the other of the question that Newcomb arrived at a point where his hearers did not know which side of any of the questions he was on, and fearing he would start to tell about his uncle in Canada Talbot Johnson shut him off and adjourned the meeting. The land question will hang over until another meeting.

L. H. Jenkins who had come in with Gene Stevens, said he had come down for a few days, and while here he wanted to suggest the virtue of more advertising of the Sandhills in Richmond as he had been sending many folks down this way who knew nothing about the advantages here until he