

MOUNTAINS

Blossoming of the dogwood, the near approach of blooming time for mountain laurel and rhododendron and the peeping up through the rich woods-dirt of the scores and hundreds of tiny plants that will, ere long, bear many-colored flowers, constitute a call to the lowlander that is well nigh irresistible. It is a call that grows rather than diminishes as one advances in years.

Summer in the mountains! Who can describe it? The vocabulary of a Bob Taylor or a Brann, an Ingersoll or an Elbert Hubbard is too feeble. No artist's brush can tell the story. Its glamour and its glory has the same effect upon one as do the languorous, mellow notes from a violin under the soft light of a Southern moon as two kindred souls, speechless, gaze out into the future and build aircastles that make the glitter of mere gold look like the concentrated essence of blue mud. It makes one glad he is living. It superinduces forgetfulness of life's tragedy, its turmoil and its tawdriness. Shakespeare said that "He who hath no music in his soul nor is not moved by concord of sweet sounds is fit for treason, stratagem and spoils." The same might be said with equal truth, we believe, of him who hath not in his heart great love for the mountains.

There is a majesty in the mountains—to him who hath eyes to see and ears to hear—that is missing from the lowlands. True there is a majesty in old ocean, but the roar of its whitecaps as they approach a rock-bound coast speaks of power and force and might—there is missing from it the soft light and shadows, the whispering stillness, the mellow twittering of birds and the unvoiced but none the less insistent beckoning of the mountains to come up higher.

A large majority of people—perhaps ninety-nine per cent of us—love the mountains instinctively; love them for their beauty, for the pure cool atmosphere that ever hovers around their peaks, for the sparkling streams that leap joyfully down their precipitous sides, for the restfulness to the eye of the deep shadows cast by a descending sun, for the golden glories of the myriad-hued sunsets presented over their crests.

Rarely does one appear who analyzes this appeal to the mountains or who delves down deep to the fundamental basis of this affection. Perhaps no one has done this for us so thoroughly, so painstakingly and so illuminately as did John Ruskin who wrote his "Modern Painters" 70 years ago. Mountains, this noted author tells us, have their glory and their gloom—and they have their uses. In fact the earth would be uninhabitable were it not for the mountains; for, as he points out, they do at least three things essential to life, namely:

First, they give motion to water, affording not only dry land on which man has his habitation, but rivers, lakes, irrigation and therefore vegetation for the subsistence of man; second, they give motion to the air for they "divide the earth not only into districts but into climates, and cause perpetual currents of air to traverse their passes, and ascend or descend their ravines, altering both the temperature and the nature of the air as it passes, in a thousand different ways; moistening it with the spray of their waterfalls, sucking it down and beating it higher and thicker in the pools, of their torrents, closing it within clefts and caves, where the sunbeams never reach, till it is as cold as November mists, then sending it forth again to breathe softly across the slopes of velvet fields, or to be scorched among sunburnt shades and grassless crags;" third, they give change to the ground, providing for the earth's surface perpetual renovation.

Cheap and unlimited hydro-electric power—the foundation stone of the vast and constantly increasing industry of the piedmont and other sections of the South (to localize our story) is a blessing directly traceable in toto to the mountains. This is a debt we owe the mountains, yet the thought perhaps never occurs to thousands whose livelihood depends upon waterpower-driven wheels that run our mills and factories.

Ruskin discovered that the mountains have exerted, throughout the ages, a wonderful effect upon the religious, literary and artistic life of the Nations of the world as well as upon their agricultural, industrial and economic life.

In a volume entitled "The Sacred Mountains" by J. T. Headley, published in 1883 by Scribners and probably now out of print, the author shows that the greatest events of the religious life of the world have had their setting on mountain peaks. He names thirteen in this order: Mount Ararat, Mount Moriah, Mount Sinai, Mount Hor, Mount Pisgah, Mount Horeb, Mount Carmel, Mount Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Mount Tabor, Mount of Olives, Mount Calvary, and the Mount of God, this last being the mount which John saw in his vision on the Isle of Patmos which, the author says, "rose before him bathed in an atmosphere

all its own, and on its dazzling top, stood the still more dazzling form of the Lamb, in more than earthly transfiguration, and beside him a hundred and forty-four thousand resplendent beings, with the Father's name written in strange but heavenly characters on their foreheads."

Mountains have given us our life, our living, our industry, our commerce, our business; they have given us a large percentage of our greatest thinkers, musicians, artists; they have been the breeding place of our greatest civilizations—in short they have contributed so great a part of all the good and glorious and grand things of the world that it is not to be wondered at that our eyes turn mountainward, and especially at that season of the year when they are wrapped in an endless garment of green and flower forth in all the glorious colors of the rainbow.

STILL COURTING DEATH

According to figures just released by the Interstate Commerce Commission, 2, 644 trespassers were killed and 2, 928 injured on the property of the railroads of the United States during the year ended December 31, 1925.

This shows an increase of 23 in the number killed and a decrease of 201 in the number injured as compared with the previous year, the figures for 1924 having been 2, 621 killed and 3,129 injured.

Taken as a whole, the figures show little hope for the belief that there has been any decrease in trespassing on railroad property though there was an actual reduction of 178 in the total number of casualties due to trespassing.

It is important that these figures be brought to the attention of railroad men and their families since they furnish quite a large proportion of the victims of this dangerous practice, although they should know better than others the hazard involved.

—Southern News Bulletin.

TO SAVE LIFE AND LIMB

The peril of the road crossing has become a national problem with the multiplication of automobiles.

The Southern Railway System has eliminated 300 grade crossings, and is eliminating more every year, but over 6,000 remain to be separated on this system alone. The total cost to complete this work is a stupendous sum—probably half as much—has the cost to build the railroads.

Even if the money were available and the public willing to pay the increased freight and passenger rates necessary to provide a fair return on it, many years would be required to do the work.

Protection from the peril for the present generation at least must be found in some other way. Trains cannot stop at every crossing if they are to be run at the sustained speed expected by the public and required to carry the commerce of the country. The train crosses a highway about every mile. The motorist encounters a railroad only occasionally.

It is necessary, therefore, for the automobile driver to stop in order to avoid risk. No one who did this was ever killed.

It is better to save a life than to save a minute.—Southern Railway Advertisement.

"Gimme a tablet."
"What kind of a tablet?"
"A yellow one."
"But what's the matter with you?"
"I want to write a letter."

MADISON COUNTY SINGING CONVENTION

Madison County Singing Convention will be held in Marshall on Sunday, July 4, 1926, beginning at 10:00 A. M. We are planning for the largest gathering Madison County has ever had, and the best singing you have ever heard.

Prizes have been offered as follows:
I. \$10.00 cash for the best singing of a class with above 15 members. (Class must have 16 to enter this contest.)

II. Prize—A set of books of their own selection to largest class represented (That are actual singers.)

No Marshall class eligible for either of these contests, and the prizes are for the best all-round singing—no individual pieces.

Quartettes, Duets and Solos—welcomed.

Any kind of singing—we want it. All classes must be in by 11 A. M., and report to Secretary.

Tell all your friends to head towards Marshall and let's celebrate this 4th of July by singing praises to the Lord.

Everybody bring their lunch so there will be no extra trouble and let's make it one big day.

See either of us for any particulars.

Dr. W. A. SAMS,
President.
ROY L. GUDGER,
Vice-President.

THE VOICE OF THE LIBERTY BELL



This is one of the two new official posters of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition, opening in Philadelphia June 1 to celebrate 150 years of American Independence. The Exposition will continue to December 1. Dan Smith, the artist, has symbolized the epoch in history which the tolling of the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall, July 4, 1776, marked and has depicted the growth of the United States from the original thirteen states, represented by the thirteen stars which emerge from the mouth of the Liberty Bell.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Edited by O. S. DILLARD

SCHOOL NEWS

One of the greatest needs of the country from an educational standpoint, is better school opportunities for the children of the rural districts. Practically all the town and villages have good schools, but the rural sections are far behind in this county. However, during the past year a large number of children have been brought into larger and better schools, with longer terms, more adequately trained teachers, and a better spirit of cooperation among the people of the community.

The people of the Walnut section have the privilege of bettering the school facilities of all the children in that section at the election to be held next Saturday, June 26th. For some time the school at that place has been handicapped for the past several years from the fact that so many of the children who were enrolled in the school came in from outside the local tax territory, and at the end of the six months' term, the children were forced to stop or pay a tuition fee, which a great many of them could not do. The results have been such therefore that the last two months of the school were more or less demoralized, and the

children who stopped at the end of the six months, started back at the beginning of the next term, and had to take up the grade where they left off the year before.

The carrying of this special tax in the territory of Dry Branch, Brush Creek and Stackhouse, means the equalization of educational opportunities for all the children there. It will guarantee to every child an eight months' term of school in this territory described. It will mean transportation for all the high school pupils in that section to the standard school at Walnut, with tuition and truck charges without any direct cost to the parents. It will provide transportation to all the elementary children who now attend school at the Walnut High School for six months, for eight. It will, in other words, give the children on Brush Creek, Dry Branch and Stackhouse, the same educational advantages as far as term and transportation, etc., is concerned, as the children of Walnut.

The Walnut High school will benefit thereby, because it will keep more children in school and enable a better attendance record to be made, and thus enable the district to secure

SINGING CONVENTION TO BE ON ISLAND IN NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

The Madison County Singing Convention which is to be in Marshall on Sunday, July 4, will be held on the Island and arrangements will be made so that those who take part in the singing may occupy the stage of the new school building now in process of construction. A temporary shelter will be provided and seats on the stage for the occasion. Be planning to come, as it is expected that the Island will be densely populated that day.

more teachers, especially in the high school. Furthermore, it will lessen the tax burden that is being borne by the citizens of the small taxing district that comprises the Walnut district at present.

It has been rumored that if this election should carry it would put an additional tax on the people of Walnut district. This is not true. If this election carries the most that can be levied is 50c on the \$100.00 now under the two levies as much as sixty cents can be levied. Also under the present arrangements by which the tax was voted, the district has more funds than it can use in the Building Fund, and does not have enough in the special tax fund for maintenance. The carrying of this election will remedy this, for the funds will all go into one general special tax fund for the Walnut District and will be apportioned to all the districts to give them an eight months' term, and the remainder will be more than sufficient to care for the building debt there. We sincerely hope that this election will carry so that these great needs may be cared for in a wise and equitable manner.

The County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners have approved a loan for the new school in Number Four Township. We are only awaiting action by the State Board of Education to start work there. We will soon have one of the best schools there in the county.

Work is progressing nicely on the building in Marshall. Mr. Sprinkle, the contractor is exerting every effort to have the building ready for the beginning of the fall term. This is going to be one of the best school buildings in western North Carolina, outside of the city of Asheville. The comments upon the work so far have been more than favorable and we believe that by the time the building is finished, that the opposition will have died down.

The time has come in this county that the bickering and petty jealousies must stop and we must educate the children of all the county at the expense of all the wealth of the county, and we long to see the day come when every child in the

county has an eight months' term of school, a standard high school, and the best elementary school possible within his reach and well trained teachers. There is only one way to do this, and that is to stop this petty politics, neighborhood jealousies, and say that this is our county, and we must provide for all.

FROM HOT SPRINGS

LADIES AID SOCIETY PICNIC
The Ladies Aid Society will hold their annual picnic on Tuesday, July the 6th.

The Hot Springs people who attended the old time picnic and barbecue at Mack's Patch Saturday, the 19th, were: Mr. and Mrs. Ellerson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Davis and family, Mrs. Safford and niece, Miss Mary Roberson, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fowler, Rev. A. A. Angel and sons, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Brooks, Mr. Harry Hill, Miss Peggy Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fribee and others.

All reported a delightful time, although rain somewhat interfered with the program and caused several important features to be omitted.

The office for the Log Cabin estate will soon be completed. Fishing, hiking and all kinds of outdoor sports will be for all to enjoy. Plans are already underway for the building of a dam, electric light plant, swimming pool and running water. In a few years all who love nature and her beauty will doubtless be found on Log Cabin Estates.

The local power plant has been sold to the Carolina Light and Power Co. They plan to thoroughly overhaul and rebuild the plant and promise 24 hours light service within ninety days.

We regret to state that Mr. and Mrs. Lon Brooks and family moved Wednesday to Fletcher, N. C. Their many friends wish them much success in their new home.

Mr. Glenn Brooks and family moved Tuesday to Chimney Rock. We regret very much to have them leave, but wish them much success.

J. B. Harrison has leased the new Piemmons building and has his store in one department and a modern cafe in the other.

Mrs. Jack Parris, who had been home from the hospital a week, had to return again. We hope she will soon be able to be back home.

Mr. Bob Smith, who has been ill for months, is very much worse at this writing.

Mrs. J. C. Fleming from Bluff was taken to Asheville Tuesday to the hospital.

Mrs. R. T. Ruffy has her sister from Little Rock, Ark., visiting her for two weeks.

Mr. D. G. Ellerson from Richmond, Va., is visiting his brother, W. R. Ellerson.

Master George Jared is spending his summer vacation with his aunt in Tennessee.

Mr. J. D. Hensley spent Monday in Knoxville, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Landers of West Palm Beach, Fla., are spending some time with her mother, Mrs. Lela Gorman.

Miss May Fleming went to Bulls Gap, Tenn., Thursday of last week to spend some time on a visit.

MEETING AT ROBERTS CEMETERY

There will be a meeting at the Roberts cemetery on Little Pine on the first Sunday in July.

CARD OF THANKS

TO THE VOTERS OF MADISON COUNTY

Ladies and Gentlemen: I wish to thank you for the large vote you gave me in the Primary for County Commissioner. As Mr. Buckner, Mr. Wild and I were the three highest, I know no reason why we cannot work together for the interest of the people. I shall endeavor to do my best. I hope to receive a large vote in the general election this fall.

Yours to serve,
JONAS C. CHANDLER