

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE PRESS CONVENTION

NEWSPAPER MEN ROYALLY ENTERTAINED IN A WONDERFUL REGION

(The Times-News, Hendersonville)

The Times-News is delighted to give Wayneville credit for doing one of the best jobs of convention entertaining that has ever come under our observation when the North Carolina Press Association assembled there last week.

Much of the success that attended the meeting is credited to the editor of The Waynesville Mountaineer, W. Curtis Russ, general chairman of the entertainment organization. Editor Russ is a former citizen of Hendersonville and employee of The Times-News, and this newspaper is particularly proud of his success in managing one of the best weekly newspapers in the mountain area, and of the recognition accorded him by the Press Association in his election to the office of Vice President for the ensuing year.

A vivid outpouring of The Times-News would be inclined to detail a summary of the press convention and all of the delightful features of entertainment provided by the people of Waynesville, the other towns of Haywood County, and some of the scenic objects of adjacent counties. In Haywood the towns of Canton, Clyde, Junaluska and DeWoods met with Waynesville in making a splendid success of the convention. Silva, Bryson City and Cherokee made a substantial contribution to the entertainment program, and the people from Canton to Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome in the Smoky Mountains National Park received the courtesy and hospitality characteristic of North Carolina interest and hospitality.

Features of the convention were the visit to the great plant of the Champion Fibre Company at Canton, the motor ride to Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome in the park, and the luncheon and entertainment features which followed at Cherokee, not to mention the regular entertainment features at Waynesville.

The people of Waynesville and all the region visited by the newspaper men completely demonstrated their readiness and preparedness for receiving and entertaining strangers, and it was observed by the visitors that the region is in the tourist business in a big way. Thousands of people are visiting the park and, of course, traveling into the surrounding country, in addition to the thousands who annually go to that section of the State to spend the summer or for short visits.

A paved road is now open all the way from Hendersonville to Newfound Gap and while the highway on the Tennessee side of the park from the Gap to Gatlinburg has not been completed, we were informed that the trip to that place from the top of the mountains can be made with little trouble.

The Skyline Drive, designed to follow the mountain tops through the park, has been graded and rocked for a distance of 7 1/2 miles to Clingman's Dome, and is in daily use. This road is to have a hard surface and when completed will be one of the most impressive in the country, for both highway engineering and construction and scenic effects.

The people of this city and section, in so far as possible, should take advantage of opportunities to travel to the park, which is one of the country's foremost "wander-lands" and Hendersonville and this section should promptly formulate and perfect systematic and definite plans for contacting the tens of thousands of people from every part of the United States who are now visiting the park. Of this, more later.

A DELIGHTFUL MEET

(The Simpson Independent, Clinton)

The members of the North Carolina Press Association were never more graciously entertained than at their session held last week in the attractive, friendly city of Waynesville. From the moment that guests arrived, they were conscious of the gracious hospitality of the residents of Waynesville, and everything possible was done for their entertainment, recreation and comfort.

Curtis Russ, editor of the progressive weekly paper, The Waynesville Mountaineer, was general chairman, and he and his charming wife planned and carried out to perfection an incomparable program of entertainment and recreation. Waynesville was awarded in the entertainment of the guests by the nearby towns of Canton, Silva, Bryson City, Clyde and Lake Junaluska.

The first trip taken by press members after arrival was to Canton, where they were guests of the Champion Fibre Company, the largest pulp mill in the United States and one of the largest manufacturers of all kinds of paper in the world.

Editors and publishers were fascinated, as they were personally conducted through the gigantic plant, at the various stages in paper making. They saw huge logs lifted into the mill, ground into fine bits, cooked in huge vats with chemicals, and finally ground out into various types of paper—rough cardboard, slick poster paper and the finest watermarked bond paper for midday's daintiest notes. The plant cost \$9,000,000 and employs 1,800 people.

Following the tour through the mill, they were the guests at an informal reception in the Y. M. C. A. building, and a delightful hour was spent in getting acquainted with the mill officials and others.

A feature of the first evening session of the Association was the address of Arno B. Cammerer, director of all the National Parks in the United States. Mr. Cammerer's address was very enlightening to those of us from the East. He was introduced by Chas. A. Webb, of the Asheville Citizen-Times, who pointed out that Mr. Cammerer was one of the two men to whom most credit was due for the establishment of the park, the other being John D. Rockefeller, who contributed \$5,000,000. Mr. Cammerer gave interesting accounts of the beginning of the park, which was in the 1870's around a campfire in the great Yellowstone National Park.

On Friday, members of the Press Association made the tour to Clingman's Dome, in the heart of the park, and which is 6,642 feet in height. This is truly a spot where God and nature meet in perfect harmony. Here, with one's head in the clouds, it is difficult to keep the feet on the ground, so inspiring is the spectacle. In the Great Smoky Mountains Park, Mr. Cammerer pointed out the night before we made the trip, there are hundreds of acres of the secret sanctuaries of nature, many spots where

even the feet of the Indians never trod; remote fastnesses where only the foot prints of the wild animals have been; regions as deep within its tangled forests, as shrouded in mystery, as when De Soto first heard of this region 400 years ago. There are 200,000 acres of primeval forests in the park, with over 150 species of hardwood trees already catalogued, to say nothing of hundreds that have never been catalogued.

On the return trip a delicious luncheon hour was spent at the Indian Reservation, where only members of the Cherokee tribe of Indians reside. The delicious luncheon was furnished by courtesy of the citizens of Silva and Bryson City. Following the luncheon, Indian youths entertained with a game of Indian ball, which was enjoyed by all.

An elaborate banquet and dance was tendered the Press on Friday evening at the Gordon hotel, when many distinguished speakers were heard, among whom were Clyde B. Hoy, confederate secretary for Governor of North Carolina, and United States Senator Robert R. Reynolds. In addition to the delectable five-course dinner, guests were presented beautiful favors, typical of the mountain scene which they came. The men were presented with fast rulers and the ladies with letter openers made of Indian woods which grow in that section. Following the banquet a floor show and dance was given in the hotel ball room.

On Saturday morning the last session of the convention was held. The Association went on record at this time, asking in resolution a change of date of permiology from Saturday to Tuesday. This resolution was presented to J. I. Boone, Jr., chairman of the North Carolina Press Association Legislative Committee, for presentation at the next session of the General Assembly.

The editor of The Simpson Independent, who served the Association as president last year, was presented a large key to Haywood county, Waynesville, Hazelwood, Lake Junaluska, Clyde and Canton. The key is about 20 inches long, was carved from native walnut and is highly polished. It bears the names of the chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Haywood county, the mayor of Waynesville, the general manager of Lake Junaluska, the mayor of Canton, the mayor of Clyde and the president of the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce. It now adorns the office of this newspaper and is highly treasured by the editor.

Editors, particularly those in the east, were intrigued with the delightful trip which took them from the rolling waves of the Atlantic to the sublime cliffs which kiss the face of Heaven. They were charmed with the incomparable manner in which they were received and entertained, and they returned to their homes reinvigorated in mind, body, purpose and spirit.

MORE AREA NEEDED FOR SMOKIES PARK

(The Franklin Press, Franklin)

Development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park already has had a very marked influence in promoting the tourist business of Western North Carolina, but delay in the formal opening of the park is depriving this section of the full benefits to be derived from this marvelous public playground.

The very heart of the park is now accessible by hard-surfaced highways, and work is well under way on the scenic highway connecting the Smokies with the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, a highway which will pour many thousands of visitors into Western North Carolina.

But facilities for caring for the multitudes that are sure to visit the Smokies Park have not been provided, and likely will not be until the park itself is completed.

Half a million dollars is needed to buy land to reach the required area of the park. Arno B. Cammerer, director of the National Park Service, told the North Carolina Press Association at Waynesville last Friday night.

"I am not willing to recommend the complete establishment of the park until the original objective of 427,000 acres has been achieved," Mr. Cammerer explained. "We have in hand 392,000, but good faith compels us to abide by the original agreement."

Certainly we should not lower our sights from this original objective, it would not be dealing squarely by ourselves or by those who already have contributed to establishment of the park. The full area should be acquired and with as little loss of time as possible. It behooves the people of North Carolina and Tennessee to find means of supplying the necessary half million dollars. If congress cannot be prevailed upon at its next session to provide the money, then it should be appropriated by the two states or raised by voluntary subscriptions. The lack of half a million dollars should not be permitted long to delay completion of this great public domain. Let's not let another summer pass with the Great Smoky Mountains National park undedicated and unprepared to provide adequate accommodations for the beauty-lovers who each year are visiting it in increasing numbers.

COMMUNITY COURTESY

(The News-Enterprise, Newton)

An example of community hospitality, generosity, and courtesy hardly to be excelled was shown members of the North Carolina Press Association at their annual meeting in Waynesville during the past week. As a direct result of this cooperative enterprise on the part of the citizens of that and surrounding communities, every guest left with the desire to return himself, and to tell his friends of the unusual welcom accorded visitors in that section.

Standing at the gateway of the Great Smokies National Park, the city will be the mecca of thousands of people from all over the country who will make a trip to see the scenic beauties of Western North Carolina. Aside from natural friendliness of these people, they know and appreciate the value of welcoming strangers into their midst to a degree that is rare and that is worthy of emulation by citizens of all communities. A cordial welcome in any town will be remembered long after other incidents of the visit are forgotten, and is an asset that can be owned wherever a group of people are living, though they may not be rich in scenic beauty to draw visitors as other sections of the state.

A FINE COMMUNITY

(The Franklin Press, Franklin)

The attractive appearance of our neighboring town of Waynesville has always enchanted us; but until last week we had enjoyed only a casual acquaintance with the people of that community. Now, after having spent two days in Waynesville attending the annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association, we are more impressed with its people and their fine community spirit than we are with their corporate pulchritude.

Never in any town were visitors more delightfully entertained than were the newspaper folk of North Carolina who went to Waynesville. Upon inquiry we discovered the reason. For two years the people of Waynesville had been planning and preparing for the press convention. Some capable person was in charge of every minute detail, so everything went off without a hitch. But this was not the mainstay of entertainment, what was more important was the ever-dominant spirit of hospitality. The whole community joined in making the visitors feel that they were honored guests.

Convention-guests usually expect to pay and pay a penny for their good time, but that was not the case in Waynesville. The hotels, instead of increasing rates, cut them in half. Delegates, even found it difficult to buy a Connecticut a convention badge was a rarity elsewhere to everything.

Waynesville is situated in a natural beauty spot, but with the same setting if it were a true attractive town even if it were set down in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

PROGRESSIVENESS

(Newport Plain Talk)

Western North Carolina in recent years has stepped out ahead of East Tennessee in the development of mountain resorts. We have just as grand scenery on this side of the state line as they have in Carolina, but there seems to be lacking that disposition, pep and hustle that the Carolinians display on every hand. Visitors are shown every attention when they visit these resorts and this is a mode of advertising that cannot be excelled by any other method. A week-end in Waynesville by the editor, his wife and daughter, demonstrated this fact in no unmistakable terms. Everybody wants to aid in making visitors welcome, and Waynesville is certainly out in front when it comes to this. You just simply have to have a good time or those Carolinians will feel disappointed. Waynesville is the county seat of Haywood County. Their court house is a most imposing structure, built from native stone and occupying a large lot in the center of the town. The building would at once impress a visitor with the fact that he is in a live, progressive community. There are other towns in Haywood county, smaller in population, but no less enthusiastic about letting folks know what they have. And the communities unite as one in boosting their part of Western Carolina. It might be a good idea for East Tennessee to imitate some of the traits of our Carolina neighbors to the end that our section may take its place in the eyes and minds of those who are coming in as visitors every day in the week.

IN "THE LAND OF THE SKIES"

(The Roxboro Courier, Roxboro)

It was Christian Reid who first referred to the mountains of Western North Carolina as "The Land of the Skies," but little did she dream that the time would ever come when one could view these beautiful mountains from a vehicle propelled by gas, with all of the comforts of travel as were then found in a pullman car. But such is the case and it is no effort to climb to the top of Clingman's Dome, or Newfound Gap, and view scenery beyond description. The past week the North Carolina Press Association met in Waynesville, and it was said that many of them were nearer Heaven on Clingman's Dome, which is more than 6,000 feet above sea level, than they had ever been before, or possibly would ever be again. It was indeed, a wonderful trip to many sand lubbers who had never been quite so high. On this trip I was the guest of Mrs. Novell and myself to be the guests of our good friend Mr. E. N. Pope, advertising manager of the Carolina Power & Light Company. He is not only a most affable gentleman, but he is a driver after our heart, careful and cautious. It was indeed a pleasure to be his guest.

The Association met Thursday night and were given a royal welcome by the city of Waynesville, heard a splendid talk from Mr. Cammerer, director of the National Park Service. He told of the many possibilities of the park, and what it would mean to Western North Carolina in particular. Then on Friday morning the members of the association and guests visited the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, stopping for a brief rest and viewing the wonderful scenery at Newfound Gap, at this point is possibly the most splendid scenery to be seen anywhere in the Park; it is not the highest point, being 5,500 feet, but indeed in truth the scenery beggars description; after refreshments served by the various organizations of Waynesville the party proceeded to the top of Clingman's Dome, where you stand over 6,500 feet above the sea level. From here we retraced our steps and stopped at Cherokee, the capital of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Here we were served a plate lunch, which was furnished by the cities of Silva, Bryson City and Cherokee. Cherokee is a most interesting village, with a splendid hospital, schools, etc. After lunch the Indian boys put on an Indian ball game, which is not at all like our game of baseball. If you have witnessed a game of football you probably concluded it a rough proposition, but it is not in the same class with the Indian ball when it comes to being rough; but the boys seemed to enjoy it.

The high spot came Friday night when the citizens gave the editors and guests a banquet, and it was some banquet. Hidden Ramsey, of the Asheville Citizen, was toastmaster—and we have never seen better, and the wise cracks he got off as he introduced the prominent guests were exceptionally good, and appropriate. Among the distinguished guests were Hon. Clyde Hoy, Senator Robert R. Reynolds, William H. Smathers, a native of Waynesville, Democratic nominee for U. S. Senator from New Jersey, and others.

The association held its final session for the occasion on Saturday morning when only business matters were considered, with the election of officers as the closing of business. C. C. Council, of the Durham Herald, was elected president, with W. C. Russ, of the

Waynesville Mountaineer, vice-president. And thus closed one of the most pleasant sessions of the association which it has ever been our pleasure to attend. It seemed as if the city of Waynesville could not do enough for us; every institution—the Chamber of Commerce, all of the various clubs, women's club, merchants, etc. were at our disposal and we were urged to call for anything wanted which was not in sight. We were cared for at the best hotels, cars at our disposal at any and all times, we were dined yes, and we were winned, in fact everything was done for the pleasure of the living man and not satisfied they issued courtesy cards among which was an insurance policy for \$5000. So you see they even went so far as to look out for our heirs in case of death or accident which was indeed thoughtful for with such lavish entertainment it was natural to expect some most timely advice to avoid the thing. Yes, Waynesville and the surrounding towns did themselves proud and it might be many a fine day before this meeting was repeated by the editors of North Carolina.

THE EDITORS LEARN SOMETHING

(Kinston Daily Free Press)

Some twenty eager, able, prominent members of the North Carolina Press Association launched a campaign to "Know North Carolina." As a part of that campaign the press association adopted a plan of sending its annual midsummer messages from sea coast to the mountains, and as a result editors and publishers from the East have been taken on personally escorted trips to see the sights in the mountains and efforts in the mountains have been made acquainted with the scattered resorts from Manassas down to Wilmington.

Last week the press association held its annual gathering in Waynesville county seat of Haywood, in the heart of the mountain country at the very gateway to the Great Smoky National Park. It was the fourth time the convention had come to Waynesville. Back in 1881, when the late H. A. London was president, "Hurrygraff" J. A. Robinson, Dr. Talmsom John and Josephus Daniels were vice-presidents, and Jordan Stone was secretary-treasurer, the convention went to Waynesville. Again in 1899, when the late W. C. Dowd, Sr., publisher of the Charlotte News, was president, W. S. Herbert, former editor of the Kinston Free Press, D. J. Whitehead, Sr., of Greenville, and J. D. Boone, of Waynesville, were vice presidents, and John B. Sherill was secretary-treasurer, the publishers enjoyed a meeting in the mountain town. In 1921, when the late J. E. Hurley of Salisbury, was president, Mrs. W. C. Hamner of Asheville, Col. A. W. Burch of Charlotte, and H. G. Braxton of Kinston, were vice presidents, and E. B. Jeffress of Greensboro was secretary-treasurer, Waynesville again entertained the scribes.

The convention of 1936, however, was the outstanding one. Waynesville has grown by leaps and bounds. It now takes on the appearance of a small city and will, as the development and popularity of the Great Smoky National Park progress, assume even greater importance. Already its civic leaders are considering the building of a modern, commodious hotel.

The arrangements committee, headed by W. Curtis Russ, editor of the Waynesville Mountaineer, left nothing undone. No detail was overlooked for the comfort, convenience, pleasure and happiness of the guests. The welcome sign was not only chalked on every lined post, but the glad hand awaited those who entered, whether it was for gasoline or soda water. The neighboring towns of Junaluska, Silva, Canton and others joined in the entertainment. Members of the North Carolina Press Association who are veterans in attendance upon the annual gatherings, gave loud in their praise. Never have they been more hospitably treated, nor have they had more to talk about. Their visit to the Great Smokies to view the wonderful development there of the park, entertainment at the Indian reservation, and all other details and incidents were enjoyable.

The editors came away from Waynesville with a far better conception of North Carolina's wonderful asset, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the only one of its kind within 18 hours reach of two thirds of the population of the country. The 64th annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association was truly worthwhile.

WAYNESVILLE, AN ASSET TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

(The Transylvania Times, Brevard)

The town of Waynesville, and the county of Haywood should be given proper credit and due praise for being this section's greatest boosters, and The Times unhesitatingly makes the statement that no other community in Western North Carolina has done a greater piece of work toward selling the vacation land than did the people just over the mountain last week.

Always a congenial people, and a pretty community, the "Mountaineer-ites" went out of their way in showing the North Carolina Press Association members last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, just how enjoyable the mountains could be to visitors.

With over two hundred newspaper folk adding to the large number of the vacationists who have already found that Waynesville and its environs is a good place to spend a vacation, there was never a hitch, and there was never a dull moment, and further, it seemed as if there was never a man, woman, or child, but who co-operated with the newspaper and the civic leaders one hundred percent in making the editors from over the state feel that they were in a tourist mecca that was unexcelled.

Remarkableness of the event was the very evident fact to those editors who border on the Waynesville district, that the people of Haywood were intent on selling Western North Carolina, and that there was none of the "strictly Waynesville above all others" attitude being taken.

To try to enumerate the nice things that were done would be impossible— suffice it to say that W. Curtis Russ and Charles Ray had everybody in Haywood county (as well as some from Swain and Jackson counties) engaged in a task that was done perfectly—selling Western North Carolina and Waynesville to the people of the state through the only real media—newspapers.

EVENT AND COMMENT

(By The Editor Charlotte)

Newspaper people are always seeking information of value, and those who seldom ever tire of learning about the State. And so it happens that the annual meetings of the North Carolina Press Association are planned with a view to a visiting opportunity for those who wish to visit some important spot in the State which they are not so familiar with.

It was in keeping with this view that the recent annual convention of the State mountain resort town of Waynesville, N. C., did feature an excursion to the Smoky Mountains National Park. Chairman Philbe company at the time in the Cherokee Mountains, where one of the famous Indian villages was staged for the entertainment of visitors.

ON THE TRIP TO NEWFOUND GAP

Those who have many of the mountains have seen the Great Smoky Mountains. Most of them learned for the first time that a new seven-mile skyway to Newfound Gap in eastern America. Newfound Gap to the top of Clingman's Dome is nearing completion. The five-mile spiral highway is distinguished by the name of the Great Smoky Mountains as the visitor for the first time to the top of one of the 16 peaks in the Smoky Mountains, which have an average elevation of 6,000 feet. Clingman's Dome pierces the clouds at an altitude of 6,642 feet above sea level. This peak is 1,000 feet higher than Newfound Gap. The paved road crosses the crest of the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee. The last several miles of road leading up from the Clingman's Dome to Newfound Gap has a 25 percent grade and a similar grade marks the ascent of the skyway to Clingman's peak, which one looks over numerous smaller peaks in the two states.

IN THE PAPER PLANT AT CANTON

The largest in the world of its type, the paper people, most of them for the first time, saw the entire process of paper making, from the chopping up of the logs to the finished boards in great variety, including poster boards, of which an average of a carload is shipped to Uncle Sam to be cut and prepared and sold in his millions of newspaper newsies as penny postal cards.

Newspaper paper is not made by the Champion Fibre company, but it does manufacture a great variety of cardboards, cover papers, craft papers, wrapping papers, book cover papers, letter papers, etc.

The magnitude of the great variety of machines and of the plant as a whole was a surprise to many of the visitors, and the surprise was the fact that such a mammoth plant, covering many acres of ground, is operated with only about 1,300 employees, not including those in the woods and in the yards. Many of the massive machines operate apparently like clocks, with only a man here and there to watch them.

The plant turns out hundreds of tons of paper and card daily.

The Canton community reminds one of Kannapolis. While the industries are quite different, in each instance the town and community is built around a single industry, which is the center of the interest of the population.

AT CHEROKEE, the Federal government maintains a fine school for the Indians, the remnant of the great tribe that once owned over large areas of territory, but now confined to a part of Swain county. The school includes 12 grades, has excellent modern buildings, including dormitories for students who reside too far away to go home at night. Many pupils are hauled to and from school daily in buses.

The Indians still have their own elected each four years, and still speak the language of their forefathers in conversation among themselves, although they speak English well, particularly the younger generation and the older educated ones.

But they are not happy in their new life with the government, if one can judge some of their spokesmen. They wish to vote real citizens of the State and the nation, and have their ballots counted in the elections, and be treated like other citizens. They do not relish being regarded as wards of the government.

The newspaper people were outspokenly enthusiastic in their comments upon the courtesies and the hospialities lavished upon them by the people of the beautiful town of Waynesville, and of Bryson City, Silva and Canton.—J. A. P.

THE PRESS MEETING

(The Belmont Banner, Belmont)

The people of Waynesville and the surrounding towns, are to be complimented for the way in which they entertained the North Carolina Press Association at the annual convention last week.

It is no small task to house, feed and entertain some two hundred members of a press association in a town that is already in the heat of its summer tourist travel. Waynesville through its Chamber of Commerce and the delegates did it, and did it in a way that the delegates will remember for a long time.

It was a lot of hard work—but Waynesville and vicinity will be well repaid. Some of the visitors were seeing for the first time the Great Smoky Mountains, and the National Park there. All were impressed and delighted with the beauties of Western North Carolina, and the publicity that will be given to that section of the state is of immeasurable value.

Representatives of nearly every newspaper in the state were present, and the decorations of this ideal summer resort will be every state in the union. From this publicity will come increased tourist traffic, which means more tourist dollars for the State.

Even though Belmont is some 125 miles from Waynesville, every tourist who goes to the mountains, must travel through the county to get there—and each dollar spent in North Carolina eventually finds its way. In the least, to every section of the state. Again we offer congratulations to Waynesville, a hospitable, beautiful and growing city!