

MORE ABOUT Ramps

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grinned happily when asked why she and her two little boy companions weren't in school. "We were sent home," she giggled. "We went to the ramp convention."

Never heard of a ramp convention? You would have if you had ever lived in the Great Smokies. At a ramp convention you eat ramps, and a ramp is a wild onion which grows in "buckeye flats" high up in the mountains. A buckeye flat is a rich mountain cove, and when it is occupied in dogwood time by tender ramps, it is a favorite rendezvous of mountain folks.

There are two descriptions of a ramp which really is a leek. One is that it is "sort of like an onion except better," and the other is that it is "sort of like an onion, only stiffer." The wild vegetable has a root about the size of a walnut. Its two round leaves are about eight inches long, and in some places have been used as a sort of green salad.

Eat 50 Bushels

At this year's convention, several hundred people ate around 50 bushels of ramps high up on Black Camp Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near here. It is enough ramps to fog the fog of a whole community for a good time.

One most conspicuous thing about a ramp is its breath-taking odor. When it is fresh and raw, which it is when it is first dug, it has a strong, pungent odor which is something out of this world. Where he should be strong is the breath of a mountain. So strong is the breath of a ramp that a small group of people can easily empty a movie in a few moments, and they can force a crowd of an entire school. Not only that, but it takes three days for a ramp-eater to recover from the effects of his ramp-eating orgy. If one member of a family is a ramp eater, the whole family is not the most serious of ramp-eating disturbances can ensue. The wife of these handicaps, it has been found practically impossible to reform a confirmed ramp eater. In addition to the fact that a ramp apparently has habit-forming properties, it is also believed to have tonic values. One mountain man felt that if he could not resist until ramp time, he would be pretty sure he'd live on the rest of the year.

Custom Kept Alive

The convention itself was organized 17 years ago and is now headed by Sebe Bryson of Waynesville, who wanted to perpetuate the ancient custom of ramp eating, seriously diminished by the indifference of an effete generation. Back in the old days, he said, the Smoky mountaineer would come upon a buckeye flat whilst hunting down lost cattle and would return home heavily perfumed with the evidence of his indiscretion. Ramp parties also were organized and became social institutions.

Then people moved out of the Smokies, when the Park Service took over buckeye flats were remote and difficult of access, and "it got so you couldn't keep the ramps eaten down to decent level."

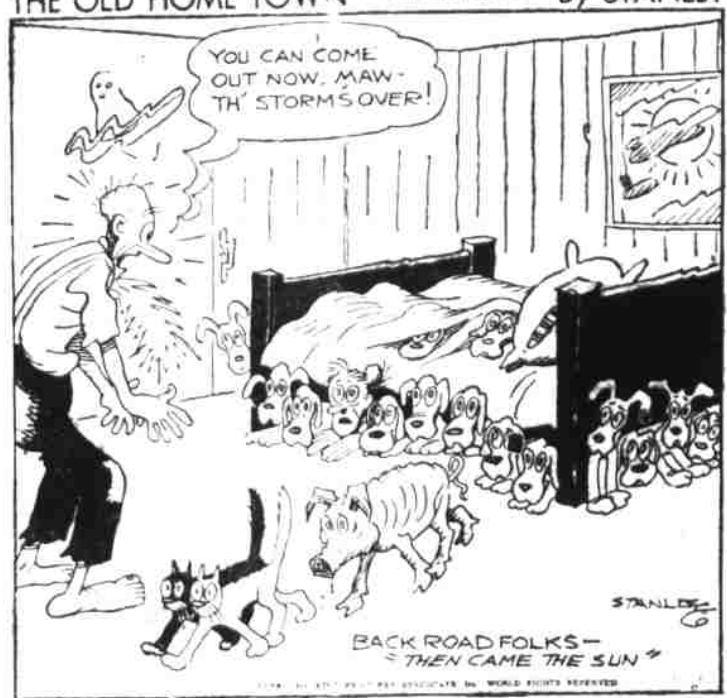
The conventions have halted this retrogression. Committees collect the ramps and bring them to the mountain top meadow where hundreds of ramp eaters and their friends have gathered for a day of fun and wholesome, if garlicky, eating. Picnics are spread fires are lighted, trying pants, cornbread, eggs and country ham appear. The ramps are the supreme touch, and everyone is supposed to eat one anyway, if not from choice then from self-defense, since a ramp eater gains some immunity from olfactory assaults by his fellows.

There is music, dancing, and visiting. Political speakers appear to say their pieces and it is a great day for everyone.

That is, a great day for everyone except the kin and neighbors who didn't go along. For them, a ramp convention lasts about three odor-ridden days.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



BACK ROAD FOLKS - THEN CAME THE SUN

MORE ABOUT

Membership Drive

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station WHCC, was presided over by David Felmet, chairman of the annual membership drive.

Drive workers held a luncheon meeting prior to the program, which was started with a parade down Main street and concert at the courthouse by the crack Waynesville Township high school band.

Mr. Messer remarked that the community could accomplish many desirable things by uniting its efforts and described the Chamber of Commerce objectives this year.

These include good roads, good schools, agricultural promotion with emphasis on dairying, beef cattle, better markets and orchards and industry. On this latter point he added that the tourist industry, with which the Chamber is so closely linked, benefits all residents here, not only those who deal with tourists directly. He urged that all persons support the Chamber of Commerce in its progressive program.

Mr. Walker related that during the past half century he has seen remarkable growth in Haywood. He spoke of bringing rural electricity as one of the most important accomplishments in recent years, and that the next important step in rural development is securing more complete telephone service. "Unless we have the help of the county at large, we can't do

MORE ABOUT Progress Of Home Clubs

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full-time agent was employed by the state and sent to work in Haywood and Swain counties. This arrangement continued for 10 full months. In July, 1936, both Haywood and Swain counties included funds in their budgets for a full-time agent.

At present there are 19 organized home demonstration clubs in Haywood county: Beaverdam, Cecil, Jonathan, Allens Creek, Dellwood and Fines Creek clubs were organized in 1935. In 1936 Bethel, Rock Springs, Iron Duff and Magie clubs were organized. Junaluska, Clyde and Crabtree clubs were organized in 1937. West Canton, Morning Star, Maple Grove and Francis Cove in 1938. Ratcliff Cove was organized in 1942 and Hyder Mountain club in 1943. The Waynesville Homemakers club was organized in December, 1946. Rogers Cove club in January, 1948.

There are about 500 members in the county. Members move away, drop out, but others join the club to keep the membership up.

The club women played an important part in the food production and conservation program during 1945. They helped the farmers win the "A" pennant for the county in the food, feed production and conservation program.

Club members also did their bit in the victory garden campaign. They held garden meetings for the people of their neighborhoods. The members have learned how to plan, prepare and serve better balanced and more nutritious meals. They have also learned the newer methods of preparing foods in order to save the greatest amount of vitamins and minerals.

The community and citizenship leaders sold bonds, worked for the Red Cross and served on committees for polo and clothing drives. Club members' families bought over \$212,000 worth of bonds during 1945.

The most important project in 1947 was the demonstration kitchen. Club members served meals, sold cards, hangers and finally each club member gave one dollar each to help finance the all-electric kitchen. A range, hot water heater, refrigerator and dishwasher sink was secured at cost. A rug and two kitchen tables were donated by local firms.

Club members are interested in the Haywood County Library. Book stations are sponsored by the home demonstration clubs in the following communities: Beaverdam, Cecil, Bethel No. 1, Bethel No. 2, Crusoe, Clyde, Dellwood, Fines Creek, Francis Cove, Iron Duff, Jonathan Creek, Maple Grove and Morning Star. Club members met with other organizations and clubs in January, 1948, to plan the drive to raise money to purchase a bookmobile for the people of Haywood county.

Each community was assigned a quota. \$700 was assigned the rural areas. Club members worked with P-T. A's, the schools and other people interested in the project. They have raised \$636 of their quota.

Future plans are to continue the work on home improvement such as housing, house furnishing, adequate and safe wiring for farm homes, food production and conservation, nutrition and health and clothing.

Since the theme this year is "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World," you can rightfully expect the club members to have an interest in the international situation and better understanding of homes and home life in other lands. This helps to make up home demonstration work. The whole plan is to help in the common interest of better homes and better communities for all.

Supersonic Wind Tunnel Part of Secret Project

LOS ANGELES (UP)—America's first large supersonic wind tunnel is rapidly nearing completion at the North American Aircraft plant here and aerophysicists credit German engineers with saving them two years of valuable research time.

The grotesque rig is specifically designed to be used in a hush-hush guided-missile project, and when completed will have a wind velocity of 3,400 mph. It will be used both in furtherance of the guided-missile project and for the study of sonic aircraft design, officials said.

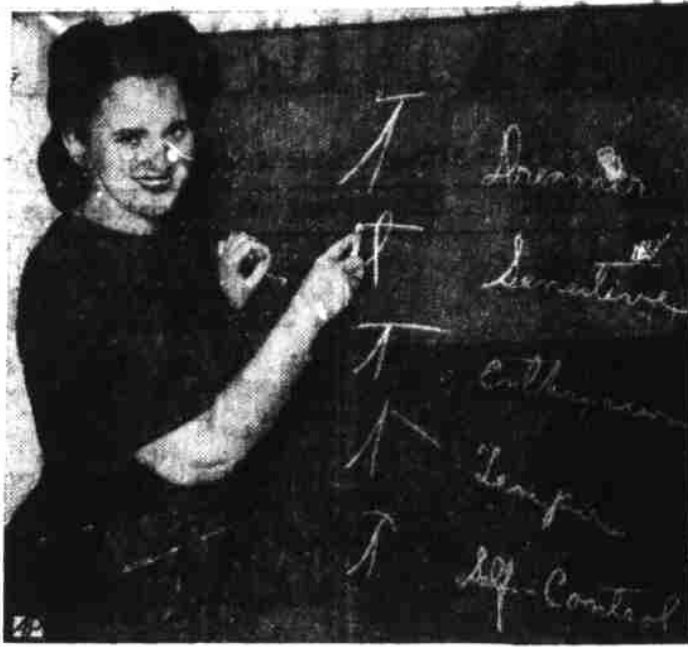
It differs from orthodox wind tunnels by sucking, rather than blasting, air which rushes in to fill a giant steel ball containing a perfect vacuum.

anything," he stated.

What builds up the rural sections will help build up the towns, he added. We have the "backbones" of our road system now, but "need to add the ribs to these backbones," to make possible the steady growth in the future.

Speaking "as a comparatively new citizen," Dr. Love stated that he had found "a rare charm" in this community. He complimented the faith and interest taken by leading citizens, stating that the Chamber of Commerce offered leadership of the highest type. "Let us move to the realization of the program outlined to you," he stated in conclusion.

Handwriting Analyst Gives Line On a Line



"T" READING: Miss Lila Denman, handwriting analyst, shows how crossing your "T's" can reveal your innermost secrets.

AP Newsfeatures

Summer Reading Club Receives Recognition

The "Vacation Reading" issue of the Wilson Library Bulletin carries an article and picture pertaining to the Blue Ridge Billy Reading Club, which was sponsored by the Haywood County Library last summer for children in the community.

The article, which was written by Miss Margaret Johnston, librarian, tells of the program of the club and expresses appreciation to the parents of the club members and guest speakers for their co-operation in making the club a success. This is the second consecutive year in which the story of the local reading club has been accepted by the magazine. Last year the story covered the Cherokee Reading Club.

For the past two years reading requirements have been based on subjects of local interest and the children of the community are anticipating their vacation reading this year.

The purple finch is not at all purple. The male is of an old-rose color and the female has the general sparrow-like appearance.

ATLANTA, Ga.—Better be careful how you cross your "Ts" when you are writing. You might expose mental secrets.

You can reveal a lot about yourself by the way you cross your "Ts," says Miss Lila Denman, a handwriting analyst here.

If you cross your T's above the stem, you're a dreamer.

If you loop the stem you are sensitive. Long crossbars through a "T" stem shows enthusiasm, cordiality. But beware the guy who misses the stem, making a heavy dash to the right of it. He possesses a bad temper.

If you cross your "T" with a down curved crossbar, you have self control, but if you cross the stem with an up-curving crossbar, you have a shallow nature. If the base of the stem is spread apart, you are stubborn.

Miss Denham, who began a study of handwriting as a hobby, plans to make it her vocation. "Understanding people is extremely important in business, politics, at home or wherever you are. Since people reveal themselves in their handwriting, they can be understood by the person who can analyze their writing," she says.

Crosses dating from the fifth century have been found on the British Isle of Man.

Say, "I Saw It In The Mountaineer"

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