

Camp Meeting Days Were Part Of Life In Haywood

By W. C. MEDFORD

Soon after this time of the year, or about the last of July, our grandparents were getting ready for the camp meetings—those "seasons of refreshing from the Lord". But they never started before the wheat was harvested and the corn "laid by". In Haywood county there were three principal places set apart for these annual occasions which usually lasted for two or three weeks—Shook's Camp Ground at Clyde, Reno's at Canton and the Davis-Ferguson Arbor in Iron Duff.

And those few who preferred to stay at home during these meetings knew that they were in for a solitary and lonesome time, for nearly everybody attended, both "saint and sinner". Sometimes it was necessary for some one to "look after the things" at home or else go back between services to do so; however, they always managed to not miss a service if possible. And why miss? For it was—

"God's Appointed Time"
So the "earthly things" of lesser importance were generally put aside and, indeed, as we of today would say, were sometimes neglected because of the fervor, ecstasy and excitement of the meetings. For instance, there was one old saint Uncle Hasea Mauney, whom the writer well knew; who today would lay everything down and walk for miles to attend every meeting (if it were at all possible to do so) during the revival season—simply putting their "trust in the Lord" that all would go well

at home? Not one!

Custom Lasted 50 or 60 Years
The camp meetings in this county were being held as early as the 1830's—mention of them was made at that time in the old reports to the County Court. Certain citizens who had "bound boys" reported that he bounden had lost time (so many days) "at camp meeting". These meetings were discontinued about the last of the 80's, when church houses had been erected in the principal sections throughout the county.

Under Brush Arbors
In making ready these arbors an extensive frame-work of poles was erected; over this a screen or layer of brush (freshly cut from the surrounding woods) was placed to keep out the sun—and rain to some extent. In the front was a crude platform of boards on which was the preacher's stand; back of this was his screened off private "changing-place" and sort of study. Also at the front was the long "mourner's bench".

But we must not go too fast. Before taking up the great significance of the mourner's bench and the activities that surrounded it, let's see something of the outside, that is, surrounding the arbor.

The General Picture
Here were the tents—of all those who could afford the luxury and privacy of a tent in addition to the expense of a covered wagon—nearly all had a wagon. So you can

imagine what those old camp meeting sites looked like on such occasions:

Look at all this assemblage of wagons and teams; saddle-horses haltered under the trees; rows of tents with here and there smoke curling up from the cook's fires surrounded by the individual family groups; knots of bewhiskered men—joking, laughing, narrating; women in long home-spun; bare-foot boys and girls; an occasional horse or gun trade being made; here and there a dog lying with muzzle on out-stretched paw or waiting for his bite of food—and with hogs and cattle roaming all

around!

There were few theologians in those days in the modern school sense; but many of the preachers were well-versed in the Bible and "sound in the doctrine". They knew nothing of social studies and sermons, and would have scorned the idea of money-raising campaigns. They considered it their mission to preach salvation from sin, to succor the needy and to pray for and comfort the sick and afflicted. And thus they went forth preaching—not only the love of Christ, but the wrath of God as well on unbelievers, without fear

Scout Map Reading Class Slated Friday

A class on the use of the compass or apology.

And in those days preachers were supposed to preach "hard"; and if they became overheated (as often was the case) they were expected to remove coat and continue to exhort, "score out" and entreat sinners to come and be saved before God's spirit would perchance be withdrawn—and it would be "eternally and everlastingly too late!" (To be concluded next week.)

Transactions In REAL ESTATE

Waynesville Township
H. P. Carpenter and wife to

and on map reading will be held Friday night at 7 p.m. at the Waynesville Armory for Boy Scouts of the Waynesville-Hazelwood-Lake Junaluska area.

Instructor will be Lt. Col. James M. Davis, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion of the 120th Infantry of the N. C. National Guard. All Scouts, scoutmasters and committeemen are invited to attend this class.

Robert Bradford and wife, M. O. Galloway and wife to Lem Shepard and wife.

R. A. Malcom and wife to Rufus A. Fowler and wife.

M. O. Galloway and wife to James R. Wyatt, Jr. and wife.

M. O. Galloway and wife to T. T. Jenkins.

M. O. Galloway and wife to John O. Bryson and Harriet Caldwell.

Beaverdam Township

M. M. Duckett and wife to Altha Fish.

Altha Fish to Harry W. Fish and wife.

S. T. Whitmire and wife to W. E.

Smith and wife.

Clyde Townsley

Frank Thompson and Milton Brown and wife.

Jonathan Creek Town

D. P. Brown and wife

Brown and wife.

Olis Allison and wife

Messer and wife.

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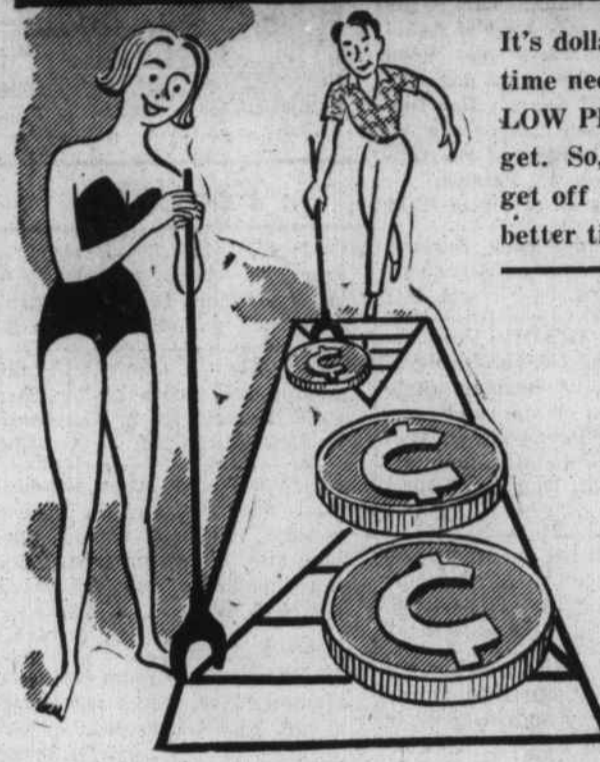
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