

Waynesville 50 Years Ago Was 'Rip Van Winkle' Town

Fifty years is a long time in the life of any man and especially does it seem like a long time to those who are still in our teens. We could turn back the pages of our history for 50 years our county would look pretty primitive to all of us.

Fifty years ago there were no paved roads in our entire county. Horses and mule teams were a common sight on the few muddy roads which led from our coves to the towns and villages. The telegraph and electric lights in use could be counted on one's fingers. There was no such thing as a consolidated school, and school buses were unknown. The one-teacher school with a four-month school year was about all our county afforded in the way of elementary education.

Our rural people depended almost entirely for a cash crop on the little pittance received from the sale of tobacco, and the little truck could produce and get to market during the summer season. Hunting and fishing provided about the only recreation known to most of our rural people, while the people of Waynesville looked forward to the summer to the little influx of city folk who came in on the train, packed their trunks and found roomy lodging on Eagle's Nest Sulphur Springs.

Due to the lack of adequate roads, this entire section of our state was almost isolated from the rest of the state during today would open his eyes he



WINNER of a speaking contest sponsored by the North Carolina Bankers Association at Waynesville High School Tuesday was George Williamson, sophomore at WTHS, who will compete against other Western Carolina high school students at a group contest in Asheville next Wednesday. (Mountaineer Photo).

the long and cold winter months. Fifty-two years ago the First National Bank of Waynesville opened its doors for business, but it is a well known fact that there was little business, if Rip Van Winkle had chosen to take a nap anywhere in Waynesville 50 years ago, and

would see some strange and unbelievable sights. First of all he would be scared to try to cross one of our busy streets lest he be run over by one of the many horseless carriages which run up and down our paved streets.

If he chose to take a walk down Main Street after dark he would find that he no longer needed to carry his lantern lest he stumble and fall in a mud hole, for our modern white way would illumine his path all the way from the Gordon Hotel to the Baptist Church. He would not even need his trusted muzzler-loader to protect him against wild animals should he venture as far as Maggie or Soco Gap.

Should his stroll take him toward Hazelwood he would be amazed to see under construction one of the most modern school buildings of our time, and should he pass Waynesville High School at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he would think that everyone in the county had become young again as he would see 1500 boys and girls all piling out of the building after the day's classes are over. And what would he think when the shifts change at Dayton Rubber or the employees of Unagusta and the Tannery come out of the factories after the day's work?

If he should go to Canton, he would rub his eyes in wonder as he saw the smoke and fumes boiling out of the great stacks of the Champion Paper and Fibre plant, and when he would be told that this great industry alone employed nearly 3,000 people and that it grossed over \$13,000,000 per year, he would be moved to exclaim, "I must have had quite a nap".

But this is not all. Poor Rip of Sleepy Hollow fame must take a trip to Crabtree, Iron Duff, and Fines Creek—he must go to White Oak and Jonathan Creek—he must go to Soco Valley—to Saunook and Balsam—he must go to Allens Creek and to Francis Cove—to Bethel and Cruso—to Ratcliffe Cove, to Henson Cove, to Hominy and Thickets—and in all of these rural areas he will see what the Community Development Program has done within recent years.

He will see modern school buildings and beautiful churches, paved highways and attractive homes all lighted by electricity and many of them with telephones, radio and television sets. Everywhere he goes he will see farms well cultivated by modern tractor-drawn machinery, dairy barns and feeder barns. In the lush meadows and on our mountain sides he will see great herds of dairy cows and beef cattle grazing contentedly.

He will soon learn that for the farmer this means a cash income which would stagger his imagination. He would also learn that whereas 50 years ago a farmer grew 20 bushels of corn to the acre that now in our county it is not unusual for a farmer to grow 100 bushels of hybrid corn to the acre. He would see curing barns packed full of the finest burley tobacco that can be grown anywhere and he would learn that a farmer last year received \$1,400 for one acre of tobacco.

Should he become weary from his journey and choose to spend the night in the home of one of our farmers, he would be awakened in the early morning by the crowing of a chanticleer as he heralded the dawn of a new day. And at the breakfast table his host would tell him that he gathered from his flock of New Hampshire Reds the day before 1500 hatching eggs, which would be picked up that day by a mobile truck and taken to a large hatchery where the baby chicks would in nine weeks time be processed into 2½-pound broilers for the tables of city dwellers in all parts of the county.

Should he take a walk around the house after breakfast, instead of seeing the old time apple house,



VISIT NEWSPAPER PLANT—Members of the Bethel high school journalism club visited The Mountaineer office Wednesday, and saw first hand how a newspaper is assembled, edited, set into type, and printed. The students were shown every phase of news gathering from reporting to photographing, setting of type, engraving pictures and press room activities. Here the group is shown gathered around one of the Linotype machines in the composing room.

The operator of the complicated machine is Charles Miller. Looking in from left to right, standing: Nicholas Bonarrigo, instructor, Bobbie Jean Blaylock, Patricia Teague, Judy Welch, Hazel Henson, Helen Ledbetter, Catherine Donaldson, Nancy Davis, and kneeling, Edith Pressley and Barbara Rogers. Absent when the picture was made was Billie Joe Davis.

(Mountaineer Photo).

Brown Shoes Aren't Proper With Everything

Lots of men harbor a mistaken idea that brown shoes go with everything. Taint so!

The current fashion for suits of light navy in flannels and tropical weights for spring and summer wear is a case in point. The man who wears them with his neatly polished shoes of tan or brown is completely off base. Black shoes, if you like blue suits, even if it means an extra pair. And the new navy shoe is permissible, also.

Other don'ts include the wearing of real loafers for business as well as sports. Slip-ons, yes. Loafers in the accepted sense, no.

In other words, elaborate buckle treatments, tassels, handstitching in rugged leisure types are distinctly off base with your neatly tailored office suit. If you like the comfort of the laceless slip-on shoe this spring there are dozens of smart correct patterns to choose from.

These are styled like orthodox dress shoe fashions with the added attraction of trim look, no lacing bother. Popular fashions include the plain tip, the U strap and even in some cases the straight and wing tip. They are usually high on the instep, with elasticized goring with no trim.

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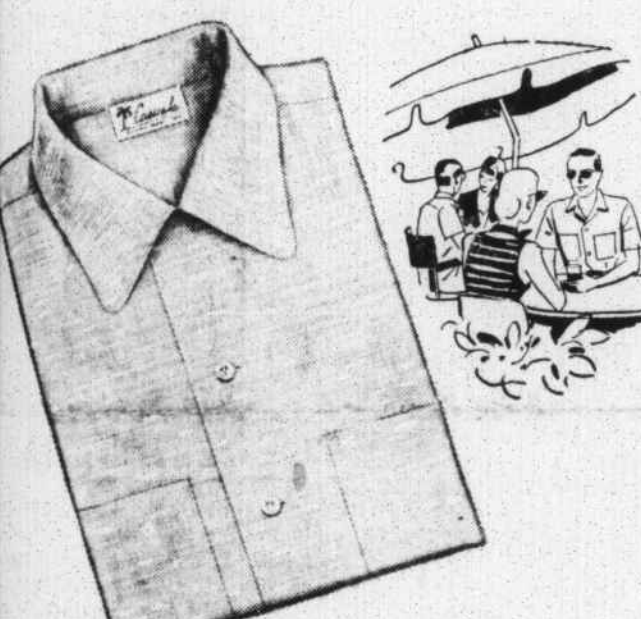
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