

THE CLAY COUNTY NEWS

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OLDEST CLAY COUNTY MAN, 97, STILL EXPERT HUNTER; HAS BAGGED 800 TURKEYS

By CHARLES S. FLYLER

One of the most interesting men in Western North Carolina is John Moore Crawford, of Clay county, whose post office is Hayesville. He is the oldest man in the county. He was 97 years old last Christmas day.

He was born in Macon county on Cartoogachaye, on Christmas day, 1829, and he added it was a "wet Christmas." It was not the typical old time white Christmas for it "rained all day, the said," he added. He has one of the most vivid memories I have ever known.

His mind is clear and keen and he has a keen sense of humor. While I was interviewing him, we were assembled about the fire, for it was a cold crisp day, he kept up laughing at his good clean-jokes until it was difficult to write.

I think the most medicine this great old man has ever taken in his life was that packet which he carries about in his bosom, a merry heart.

He has been an outdoor man and has taken the weather as it came. He has been a great hunter, and of all his varied experiences through life he likes to talk about his hunting exploits best.

Game was plentiful in his young days. Bears and deer were all around. He killed his first deer with a rock.

"Uncle John" was thirteen years old when, one evening, he started to carry up some wood and heard a dog baying. Out stepped a "spike buck" in the open. Another dog came from apparently nowhere and fastened his teeth in that deer and threw him. Johnnie proceeded to the a large stone in his hand dispensed scene of battle in post haste and with with the buck by the shortest rule he knew—he knocked it in the head.

Uncle John has killed forty deer in his life and between 800 and 1,000 wild turkeys.

"The most narrow escape I ever had was not hunting bear or deer but hunting a coon," he said. "I was by myself. The dogs had it treed up a large tree on a hillside. I proceeded to cut the tree down though the light was poor. When the tree began to crack I thought it was going the right way, but it wasn't. When I discovered which way it was going it was falling right on me. I managed to step to one side and scrambled out of the way."

Uncle John moved to Clay county in 1851. The first thing he did was to go to school for three months, then he taught for five terms before he married again, for he had been married before he moved to Clay county.

While in Macon county he married Martha Bryson, who died seven months later.

When questioned about his pay for teaching, he said, "I could almost put a month's pay in one eye, for it was twenty dollars, and that in gold."

"After five terms of teaching," he continued, "I thought I would try something else, so I got married again."

This marriage was to Miss Arbena Ledford. To this marriage was born nine children, three girls and six boys. All of them lived to be grown.

Two of these boys studied medicine, George M. and James Wiley. George died early while James Wiley is practicing medicine at Cornelia, Ga., and is considered one of the leading practitioners of the south.

The other children have reared large families that are making good in varied walks of life.

Uncle John once made a trip to the west in an ox wagon that is interesting to every detail, but let him tell it.

"In 1859 I had two brothers in Benton county, Arkansas, who wrote such glowing accounts of that country that I decided to leave Clay county, North Carolina, and go to the land of promise. We were told that if we would drive east it would be cheaper than horses as we could let

RESULTS OF HOG FEEDING

The first car load of hogs to be shipped co-operatively from the counties of Western North Carolina, was shipped from Clay County on the 13th of last April. Probably at times before there were a few hogs fed scientifically and shipped to outside markets, but Clay County took the lead over all other Western North Carolina counties in feeding out and shipping in carload lots. Since this car was shipped last April Jackson and other counties have shipped in carload lots. Every few weeks a car of hogs is shipped over the Murphy branch from the counties which it traverses. Clay and Cherokee shipped a car of sixty-seven hogs from Murphy last Wednesday and County Agents, Arrendale and Gray plan to ship another this week.

Scientific hog feeding was first started in Clay County by Mr. W. R. Anderson, County Agent for Clay County during 1924 to February 1927. County Agent Anderson got a number of farmers interested in this work in the fall of 1926. He helped personally each man to get started in this work by weighing his pigs when they started on feed at six weeks old, working out the feed schedule for them. Mr. Anderson had two things in mind when he started this work; First, to teach the farmers of Clay quickest and most economical way to make a pork hog of a six weeks old pig; second to provide a market which would bring the farmers more than seventy-five cents per bushel for his corn.

The result of this demonstration is as follows. These figures were prepared by the State Swine Specialist at Raleigh:

The initial weight of the sixty-seven hogs which were fed out, was 2086 pounds, the final weight 140 days after starting on feed was 14849 or a total gain for the feeding period of 12763 pounds. The hogs were fed for a period of 140 days. They made a gain per pig of 190.5 pounds, the average daily gain per pig was 1.36 pounds. Total feed consumed, 43292 pounds. Total cost of feed consumed \$734.19. Feed required for 100 pounds gain, 339 pounds. Feed cost per 100 pounds gain, \$5.75. Profit per pig, \$9.60. Value of gain over feed cost, pork selling at 10.75, \$642.98.

Deducting the actual cost of purchased feeds—wheat mill feed and fish meal or tankage \$224.95 from the value of gain at 10.75 cents per pound, 12763 pounds at 10.75 per pound, \$1377.18, there remains \$1,152.23 as return for the 678.98 bushels of corn feed, or \$1.70 per bushel each farmer received for corn fed to hogs.

How much does it cost you to produce a bushel at seventy-five cents? The profit would be, \$642.98. The fertilizer, or plant value of the above feeds, which remains on the farm is \$193.18.

FIRES CREEK

The farmers of this section have been very busy for the past week pulling fodder.

Uncle Eud Leatherwood has been at Andrews the last ten or twelve days at work.

Rev. R. B. Ledford made a business trip to Murphy last Saturday.

What has become of the fox hunters? We have not heard their dogs running for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Hicks and Mrs. Haseltine Roach visited Mrs. Hick's mother last Sunday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Homer Auberry, September 9th, a boy.

Mr. Arthur Bristol, of Andrews was in our community last week.

If you don't want your boy to smoke—don't let him go around with his sister.

HAYESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The members of the Lanier Society met Thursday, September 1st and organized. The former president acted as Chairman. William Scruggs was elected president, Ralph Killian, vice-president and Miss Mendell Passmore secretary.

There being no other business we adjourned. The president and secretary appointed as program committee, Robert Penland, Lola Duvall and Ralph Killian, critic, Miss Hearn.

A very interesting program was rendered by the Lanier Literary Society Friday, September 9th.

The following program was given: Song by School.

Prayer by Ray Crawford.

Musical reading by Reta Hyatt.

Jokes—Lola Duvall.

Quartet—Moon Beam Kiss Her for Me.—Marjorie and Wendell Passmore and William Scruggs and Robert Penland.

Piano Solo—Katherine Scroggs.

JUST A THOUGHT FOR YOU

Although it has been now 3 weeks since Hayesville High School opened its '17-'28 session and not a word of publicity has been heard or said about it. To the average citizen here and there it may mean just another school year but to us students it means more than it has ever before—work, seriousness, earnestness, companionship, new acquaintances and associations, pleasure, and joy mixed with a little sadness sometimes when Prof. Shuler takes the helm. To these five hundred students it means the finest school spirit and the greatest school year in the history of old Hayesville High.

Prof. Shuler's three minutes talk at chapel the other morning on envy was to the point and penetrated to the core.

Many extra-curricular activities are now under way and we certainly hope to see every one concluded successful.

Organization of Basket Ball Team

The Hayesville High school basketball team reorganized last Friday, September 1st. The following boys were included on the squad: Robert Penland, captain; Ferman Smart, manager, Ray White, Clay Rogers, Pearl Cherry, Frank Beal, William Scruggs, Neal and Pearl Kitchens. Mr. Bee Scroggs is coaching the boys this year. He seems to think that hard work and practice makes the team. He is pushing the boys into condition fast.

The boys are confident that they will be fifty percent better. The coach and manager are working on an extensive basket ball schedule.

The team this year as the school realize that a floored court is essential for them to compete with other schools. There is a move going forward in the school itself to get a court. Each member of the team is contributing five dollars a piece which amounts to forty-five dollars. Mr. Shuler is helping the boys on every turn, he is asking the teachers to contribute to the court.

A Minstrel

Talking about fun, laughter, amusement, a good hour and one half of merry making will be put on in about three weeks. Some of the best humor and fun, jokes and comical action will be pulled off at Hayesville High School in about three weeks. If you want to know what a Goofis is ask somebody who is playing the minstrel. Set your mouth in a laughing position, your mind in a humorous mood and come to Hayesville High in three weeks and laugh until you cry, cry until you thoroughly enjoy yourself.

The Editor, "Bill"

It may be a fact that present day liquor doesn't go as far as in the old days, as claimed by bootlegger patrons. But—they should also remember this: neither does the person who drinks it.

STATE SCHOOL OFFICIALS TO VISIT COUNTY

Mr. J. Henry Highsmith, Supervisor of High Schools, and Mr. L. C. Brogden, Supervisor of Elementary Schools, will be in Clay County for the purpose of inspecting high schools and elementary schools of the county on September 28. Mr. Highsmith will make a close check up on work being offered in the high schools of the county to determine if such work comes up to the standard required by the State Department of Education.

A meeting of the County Board of Education, County Commissioners, School Committeemen, and all others interested persons will be held at the Hayesville school house September 28 at which time Mr. Highsmith will outline just what a standard high school is and what must be done in the schools of the county offering high school instruction before the students can receive credit towards graduation in a Standard high school.

This meeting is very important and it is urged that all interested in the development of the schools of the county be present at this meeting and hear what Dr. Highsmith has to say.

MOORE REUNION HELD SUNDAY

The Moore familly of Clay county held a family reunion at the beautiful picnic grounds on Neal Gap in Georgia last Sunday.

Those attending the reunion were: Mrs. Mary A. Moore, Mr. W. F. Ruth V. Moore, Miss Mary L. Moore, Mrs. Bertha C. Moore, Miss little William and Bertha Hellen Moore, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Moore and Master James and Paul Moore, of Hayesville; Mr. N. W. Moore, Mrs. Sallie Moore, Miss Sarah K. Moore and Mr. John Moore, of Decatur, Ga.

The party met at the gap about 11:00 o'clock A. M. Sunday the 11th. The meeting was a most delightful one. Every one enjoyed the beautiful mountain scenery which is so pretty on this mountain road. A gentle breeze came through the gap which helped to make every one enjoy the hot day.

A most delicious picnic dinner was spread under the cool shade of the beautiful trees near a good spring of cold water. At dinner the party was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Shay and two children, of Atlanta, Ga., and Mr. and Mrs. O. L. and Mr. B. Scroggs, of Hayesville.

STATE LINE

Miss Etna Kimsey and Mr. John Ferry Moore were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Kimsey Sunday.

Misses Charm Waldroup, Edith Kimsey and Veva Logan spent Saturday afternoon with Miss Gladys Neal.

Mr. Alex Neal is at home this week working in his fodder.

Misses Elva Matheson, Ethel and Jessie Long were the guests of Miss Euna Sams last Sunday.

Mr. Otto Brown of Macon county was here on business last Tuesday.

Miss Clarica Webb returned to her home in Atlanta after spending five weeks with her grandmother, Mrs. John Parsons.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Swanson visited Mr. and Mrs. Ed Swanson Sunday.

Miss Gladys Neal spent last Friday with Mrs. Raq Duvall, formerly Miss Belle Parsons.

FAIR ENOUGH

He: "I am a self made man. I began life as a barefoot boy."
She: "Well, old dear, I wasn't born with shoes on, either."