

"Story of a Fishing Party" In Brief: In the Beautiful Sapphire Country

It was the writer's pleasure to spend several days last week in the beautiful Sapphire country. In company with Mr. W. K. Osborne, Prof. W. L. Carmichael, of Brevard, I boarded the train at Transylvania's "Capital City" on Tuesday of last week and soon found myself passing swiftly through the far famed valley of the Upper French Broad. Nature has certainly been kind to the people of that delightful section, and man, too, has played an important part in beautifying and improving the country. When quite a youth I used to roam over those hills and along the valley, through the fields and down to the very brink of the sparkling Tahkesostee, delighted with the charming handiwork of man and his Creator. The Upper French Broad has always been a lovely country, but I was agreeably surprised upon this recent trip to note such a marked improvement in every condition of life since I left there some ten years ago.

Toxaway City.
At the old Eastatao ford, ten miles west of Brevard, a veritable little city has been planned and is already heavily populated for a country place. It contains three stores, a hotel, postoffice, depot, many residences and a mammoth tannery. The latter establishment is a revelation, and the process of tanning quite interesting and wonderful. The genial manager, Mr. Silverstein, directed our party through the various departments of the establishment and pointed out the various changes which undergo in completing the process, from the starting point to the shipping room. The concern sends out the most beautiful and serviceable leather that can be produced anywhere, and the output is very large. This enterprise has proved a great assistance to the farmers in that vicinity and thousands of dollars are distributed every month. The investment is profitable, however, and the company is pleased with the location and business prospects. The same corporation is operating a spoke and handle factory, from which it derives considerable revenue. Thus it will be seen that the farmer finds a ready market for both bark and timber. Who ever dreamed of these things ten years ago?

On Up the River to Lake Toxaway.
Resuming our journey we found ourselves travelling up the north fork of French Broad and leaving that stream we traversed the valleys of Flat Creek, Indian Creek and were soon crossing the Blue Ridge overlooking the Toxaway river. This ridge divides the waters of the Atlantic and those flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. The elevation here is about 3,000 feet above the sea. The descent from this point was of brief duration and we soon found ourselves awe-stricken before the great Toxaway lake and the magnificent Toxaway Inn. The water line of this great inland sea is fifteen miles in length stretching far into the fastnesses of those suburban hills. The dam across Toxaway river, which forms the basis for the lake, is wonderfully constructed, being more than 200 feet at its base and forty at the top. It is ten feet higher than the normal height of the lake and the huge waves are prevented from striking it by a breakwater, consisting of a line of logs chained together and stretching entirely across the "big pond."

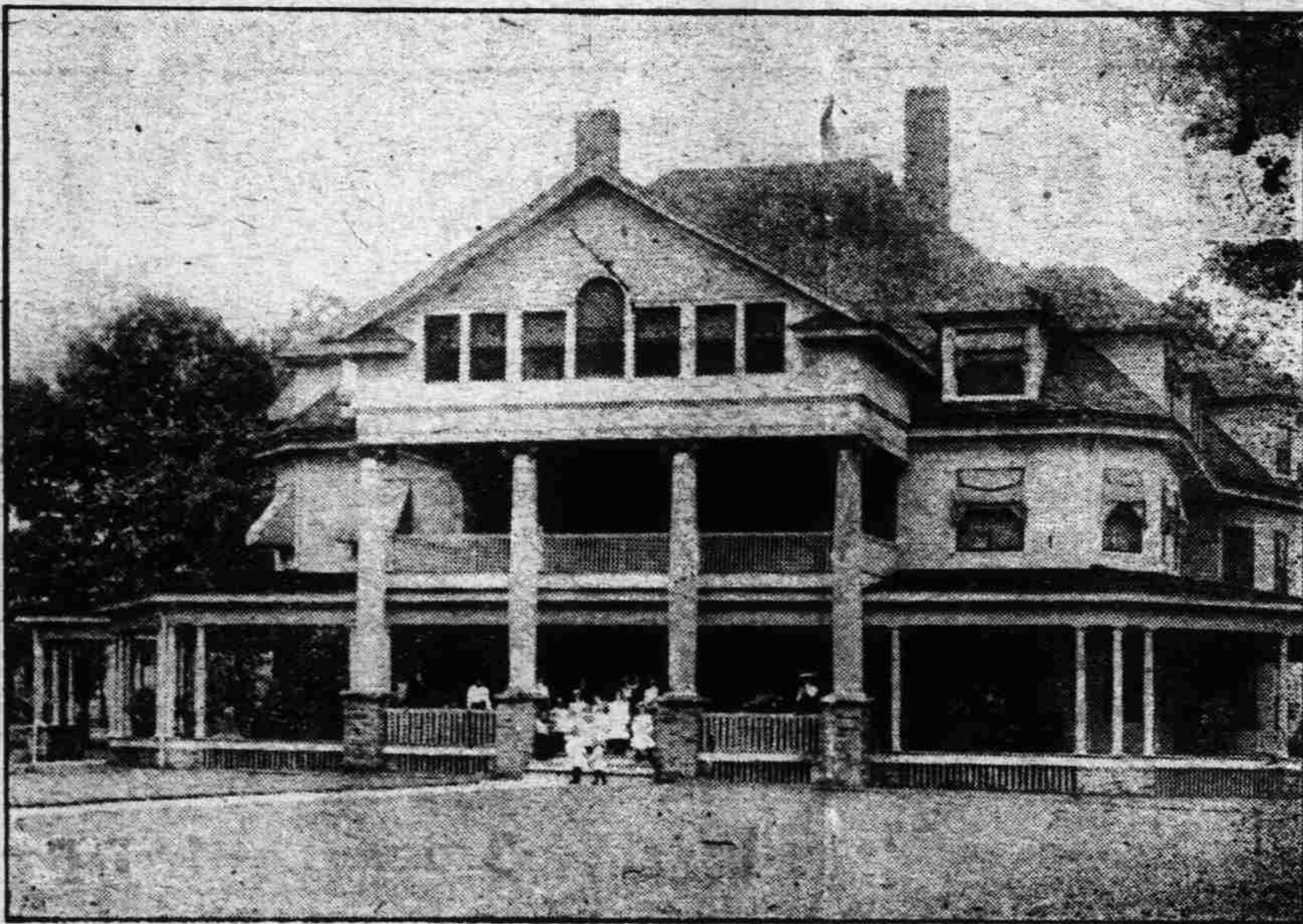
The watershed of the stream feeding the lake is very limited containing but 7,500 acres. To keep the water ten feet below the top of the dam a wasteway, or escape, was cut through granite, and to insure the water being held at the low level the space in the aperture for its escaping was made eleven times greater than the cubic space occupied by the highest water ever recorded in that stream. So it is accurately calculated that a rainfall eleven times greater than the record might occur without affecting the splendid wall retaining Toxaway lake's waters.

Toxaway Inn.
Upon entering this magnificent hotel I was reminded of the language of the Queen of Sheba, who spoke to King Solomon of old, "the half has never been told." It is a dream of beauty and I heartily concur with the opinion of a prominent writer who said of it:

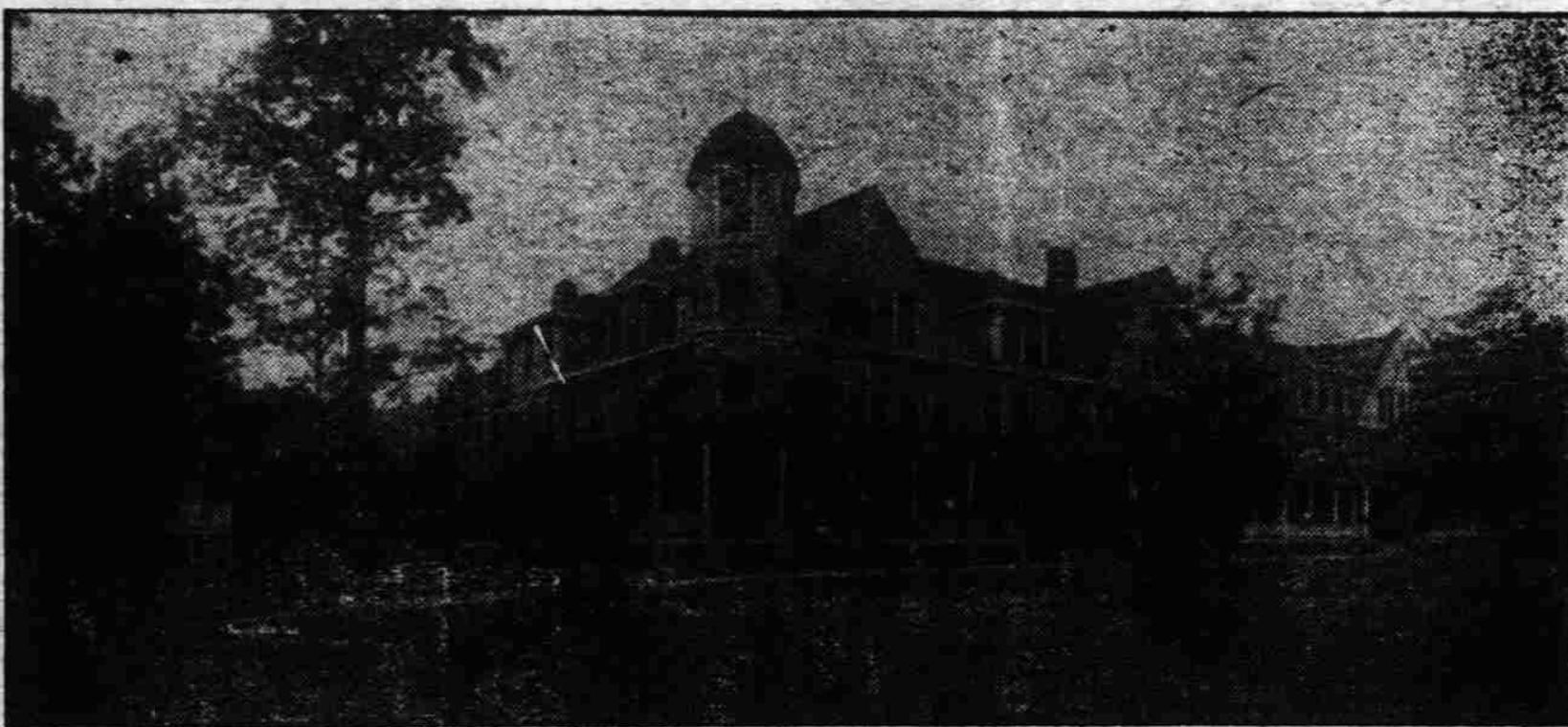
"But it is the Toxaway hotel which will entrance the traveler at first sight. An imposing structure, five stories high and of peculiarly appropriate architectural design, it is half surrounded by the waters of Lake Toxaway, which driven by a strong breeze lap upon the shores—a delightful lullaby. There are fifteen miles of wood-fringed coast around which one may row or plow his way in a naphtha launch; there are numbers of inlets and coves and arms, and often as one skirts the shore a delightful picture of valley, hill and mountain is revealed.

"Exclusive of the advantages of its lo-

Some Things Concerning the "Switzerland of America" Which May Interest You--Hendersonville the Gate-Way to a Veritable Paradise.



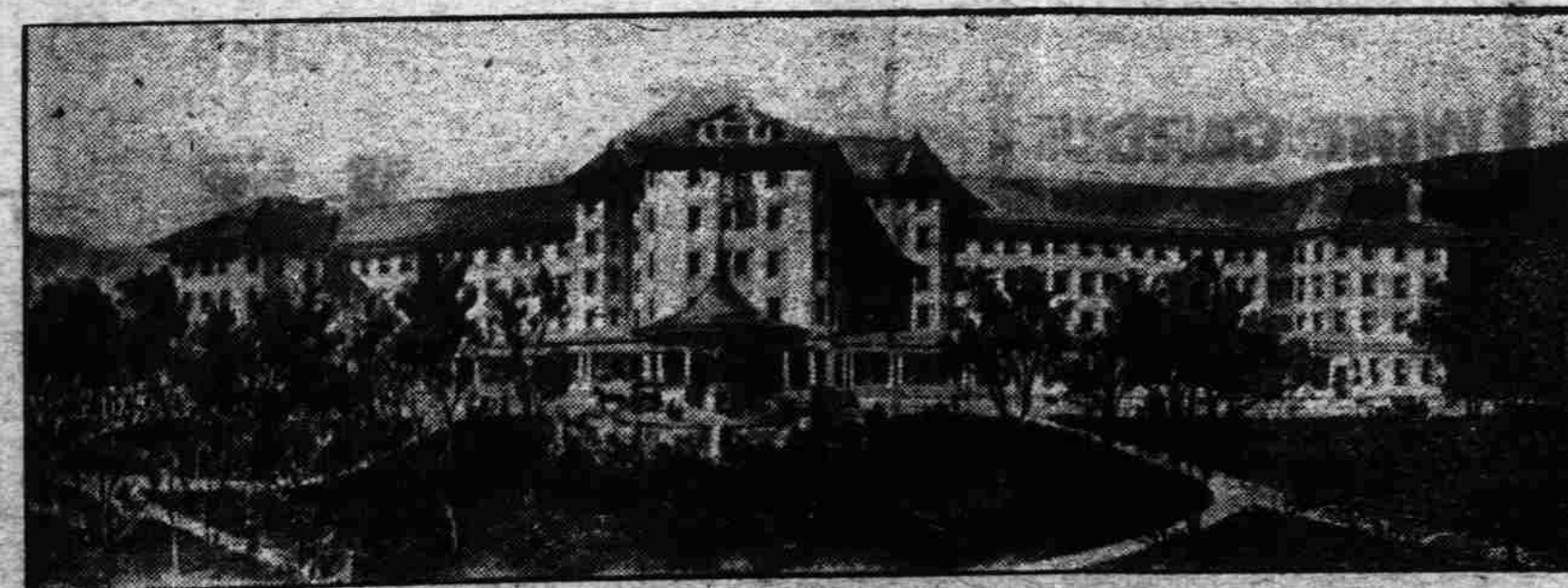
"THE FRANKLIN," AT BREVARD.



FAIRFIELD INN, ON LAKE FAIRFIELD.



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE LOVELY LAKE COUNTRY FROM THE SUMMIT OF TOXAWAY MOUNTAIN.



TOXAWAY INN, ON LAKE TOXAWAY.

cation upon a beautiful sheet of water, surrounded by mountains and having an altitude of more than 3,000 feet, Toxaway hotel is unequalled by summer resort hotels in the south. The great hall, the dining room and the music room would attract attention anywhere, while the finishings and decorations throughout the house are very pleasing. The rooms are large and arranged to great advantage, all of them being so situated as to command both lake and mountain views. Of course there are apartments en suite, elevators, electric lights, bath rooms on every floor, etc." It is handsomely constructed of native woods and the furniture of like material, the first story being constructed entirely of Birch; the remaining three of Oak, Chestnut, and Poplar, respectively. It is without doubt the most elegantly appointed hotel in the South and accommodates 400 people.

On to the West We Go.
Having taken in the wonders just briefly described, our party is ushered into a comfortable vehicle drawn by two spans of splendid steeds and borne on to the westward, along the lake shore, across the big dam and over the verdant hills to Sapphire Inn, which is really the central and distributing point for the Sapphire Country. This excellent hostelry is under the splendid management of Mr. I. A. Phillips, of New York. Sixty guests are accommodated here the year round. Mr. Phillips is thoroughly conversant with the affairs of this house and the sixty visitors there seemed contented and happy. Here we obtained permission to disturb the sparkling waters of Horse Pasture river and try our luck at fishing for the pictorial deizens of that fast-flowing stream. Fortune seemed to smile upon our efforts and many "speckled beauties" were taken on the first round. Under the rules of the company each person fishing in the streams are limited to twenty per day and three in the lakes. "We" did not quite reach the limit, but had plenty of fish and to spare.

At Lovely Fairfield Inn.
"Beyond the Alps lies Italy" and beyond Sapphire lies Fairfield, one of the most beautiful spots imaginable. On account of the crowded condition at Sapphire Inn our party were conveyed by the management to Fairfield Inn for lodging. This is also an elegantly appointed hotel located upon a commanding elevation overlooking Fairfield lake which is one of the prettiest of them all. It is belted by a beautiful driveway. The entire Fairfield property is a dream of beauty.

The Lodge.
Two miles to the North of Sapphire, on the topmost point of Toxaway mountain, is the Lodge. Many people prefer stopping at this great elevation and the Lodge usually has its quota of twenty-five guests. There is a well graded carriage road to the summit of this great mountain and guests of the other hotels often go up to the Lodge, if only for a day.

Who Did All This?
The power behind the throne in the wonderful enterprises looking to the development of this delightful piece is Mr. Hays, formerly of Pittsburg, who is the general manager for the company and directed the work which will be a monument to his memory. About \$1,650,000 have already been expended and the end is not yet. The corporation owns the Transylvania railroad, and about 6) miles of finely graded turnpike. Also the Franklin hotel at Brevard which accommodates 160 people.

Mr. Hays came South for his health several years ago and improved so much that he decided to bring the merits of the country to the attention of his Pittsburg friends. The result has already been told. A property comprising about 30,000 acres, with all the wonders described above, rich mines game etc, has been secured. It is wonderful to relate—to behold it all is amazing. Such enterprise is bound to success and time will tell the tale in glowing letters of gold, and silver and precious stones. There is no more desirable property in the Union.

The Assistant Manager.
When business matters claim the attention of Mr. Hays elsewhere the management of the company's affairs in Transylvania and Jackson counties devolves upon Mr. Thos. H. Shipman of Brevard, who is the genial and efficient assistant manager. Mr. Shipman is thoroughly conversant with every detail of the matters in hand and handles things in a manner entirely acceptable to the officers and members of the company. He is a young man of pleasing address and fine business sense and the Toxaway company is

RUSSIA HAS CALLED OUT 100,000 MORE TROOPS

The Japanese Lose One Of Their Torpedo Boats While Attempting to Remove a Mine.

PORT ARTHUR IS STILL CUT OFF

It is Said the Russians Have Destroyed the Docks and Piers at Port Dalny to Prevent Japs From Landing.

Monday in the East at a Glance.
It is generally expected at St. Petersburg that the Russian army in Manchuria will continue to fall back. Viceroy Alexieff has already removed his headquarters to Harbin.

The Russians are still in possession of Niuchwang, but are preparing to evacuate. It is reported that Russians and Manchurian bandits have crossed the Yalu far above Wiju, and have made a raid into Korea, getting 150 miles south.

Russia has called out 100,000 more troops who will be hurried to the front.

Tuesday at a Glance.
Within 50 miles of Liao Yang, where General Kuropatkin had his headquarters, the Russians have been defeated by the Japanese and driven back. The Japanese won by dragging guns into position upon seemingly insurmountable mountain sides.

The Russians claim that railroad communication with Port Arthur has been re-established and the telegraph line is being repaired.

The Japanese are closing in on Niuchwang, which the Russians seem about to abandon. Four of five regiments have left the port.

It is announced that a ship-building firm at Newport News is constructing four submarine boats for Japan.

Wednesday at a Glance.
Admiral Togo reports that for several days loud explosions have been heard in the Port Arthur harbor. It is believed that the Russians have blown up their warships to prevent their falling into the hands of the Japanese.

The small Japanese garrison at Anju succeeded in holding off an attack by Cossacks until reinforcements arrived. Russian scouting parties have got behind the Japanese lines in Korea.

The United States cruiser, New Orleans, has been ordered from Shanghai to Niuchwang to protect American interests when the Russians withdraw.

fortunate in having the benefit of his experience and untiring energy in promoting the success of the immense enterprises of that beautiful and wonderful region.

When the Hotels Will Open.

The four hotels of the company, which were closed for the winter, will be opened at the beginning of the summer season, on June 1, under the following excellent management: Toxaway Inn, by Geo. A. Keeler, former manager of the Walden Hotel, Clarksburg, W. Va.; Fairfield Inn, M. J. Stamp, of Atlanta, late proprietor of the Mimosa at Lynn, N. C.

Franklin, Brevard, to be managed by F. P. Morton, of the Benbow, Greensboro.

The Lodge, on Mt. Toxaway, will be under the supervision of Mr. Phillips, of Sapphire Inn.

This chain of hotels can accommodate about 800 people.

The Gate-Way.
Hendersonville is really the gate-way to the Sapphire country. Here the change of cars is made from the Southern to the Transylvania which extends far into the heart of the Toxaway mountains. Ten years ago when the talk of constructing a railroad from Hendersonville to Brevard was begun many people shook their heads with surprise. But with the assistance of the citizens of Hendersonville township and those of Transylvania together with the indomitable courage and energy of Messrs. Warren, Jenks and McNeely the road was completed and equipped with rolling stock and proved to be a paying investment, almost from the start.

Some five years ago the Toxaway company purchased property and has since extended the road to Lake Toxaway, twenty miles beyond Brevard. This company has already attracted thousands of people to Western North Carolina and the future bids fair to an increasing number every year. Hendersonville, as well as every other town in this section is benefited thereby and all should thank Mr. J. F. Hays and his enterprising associates for the interest they are manifesting in the development of this wonderland.

M. L. S.