

POLK COUNTY NEWS

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POLK COUNTY—The Gateway of Western North Carolina

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\$1.50 a Year

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SHOULD BE SELLING ORGANIZATION WITH SALARIED EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Secretary Keenly Felt By Every Latent Possibility of Development To the Limit

estate developments of major importance and other business activities in the present year. Prosperity is in the

of Commerce, with a paid secretary to sell the scenic and climatic advantages to interested visitors.

City Advertising Tax

Criminal Motive Back of Forest Fires in Pisgah

County, State and Federal officers Hot on Trail of Incendiaries who Will Get Full Penalty of Law.

State, Federal and county authorities in Western North Carolina are working together hopefully in the effort to clear up what appears to have been a widespread plot to cause destructive forest fires on Pisgah National Forest and in several other areas. Especially have destructive fires in Henderson and Blunome borne earmarks to indicate that they were caused by the same malicious incendiaries whose acts have caused such great losses in several spectacular fires.



CHICAGO OPERA STAR TO SING TWO NIGHTS AT MUSICAL EVENT

Frances Paperte, Mezzo-Soprano To Entertain Spartanburg Audience At Musical Festival



Spartanburg, S. C. April 30, 1925.—Frances Paperte, Mezzo, of the Chicago Opera Company will sing at the Spartanburg Music Festival on Thursday evening May 7th and on Friday afternoon, May 8th.

FAMOUS CARTOONISTS AND WRITERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWS

In order to publish many attractive features not obtainable including news photographs of current interest the NEWS has installed a casting box and a complete news and advertising service.

This service includes news photographs, Arthur Brisbane's column, comic strips, crossword puzzles and an advertising service covering every line of business.

The installation of a casting box also enables the NEWS to handle more foreign and local advertising as we can make without delay, where prior to the installation of this equipment we were forced to send them away and have casts made and mounted.

We aim to give Polk County a real newspaper and no measure will be overlooked which will in our opinion increase the value of the periodical to the community as a whole and to our advertisers and subscribers.

Advertisers local and foreign are requested to get their copy into the NEWS office before Wednesday of each week in order to have it attractively displayed. Last minute copy gets a last minute position and mars appearance and value of the advertising.

Phone 99 or mail your copy the earlier part of the week and you will get pleasing results. In order to reach our readers in the outlying districts we must be in the mail Thursday afternoon, and the last run goes to press at 10 A. M. Thursday making it impossible for us to handle any advertising or news on that date.

A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO LEXINGTON MEN REPULSED BRITISH IN FIRST AFFRAY

At four o'clock in the morning on the 19th of April 1775, a century and a half ago, Lieut. Col. Smith of his Majesty's Tenth Regiment, commanding a detachment of several hundred redcoats, reached the village of Lexington, on his way to Concord. According to the report of General Gage, Commander in chief of the British forces in America, the little army found there a body of country people drawn up under arms on a green, close to the road; and upon the King's troops marching up to them, in order to inquire the reason of their being so assembled, they went off in great confusion, and several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall and also from the meeting house and other houses, by which one man was wounded and Major Pitcairne's horse shot in two places. In consequence of this attack by the rebels, the troops returned the fire and killed several of them after which the detachment marched on to Concord without any further happenings.



With Gen. Pershing and Vice-President Dawes looking on, modern Massachusetts minute-men re-enacted the battle of Lexington and Concord in the 150th anniversary of the historic battle. Above is a view of the Concord bridge today, showing the modern minute-men opening fire on the British as the Colonials did April 19, 1775.

Uncle John's Josh



DESPOILING FOREST FLOWERS MARS SCENERY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Flowers Make Mountain Doubly Attractive To Visitors In Other Sections

The mountain sides are white with dogwood and other varieties of wild flowers are blooming in profusion. Thermo Ink, the Chimney Rock publicity organ says in a recent issue. All of Western North Carolina is approaching the season of the mountain blooms. First come the dogwood, a little later the beautiful azalea, followed by the laurel and rhododendron. A myriad of other mountain blooms make their appearance during the spring, summer and fall. The following essay on rhododendron and laurel of the section has been written by Margaret Sharp. Western North Carolina has many names; names that are appropriate, and names which suit her not at all, but the names which more clearly express and speak her beauty is "The Land of Rhododendron."

There is not a more beautiful flower in the world than these delicate clusters of white, pink, carmine or lilac colored bloom. Their blooming season is in June and July, although some blossoms earlier; they flourish in a moist, well drained soil, and the plant is somewhat more often it is a shrub of about 20 feet. The twisted limbs and thick, dark, evergreen leaves tapestry the damp walls of ravines and hillsides in an exquisite pattern even when the blooms are gone. Growing side by side with the rhododendron and closely rivaling it in its beauty is the mountain laurel. It is especially abundant in the mountains of Carolina and Tennessee. It does not reach the great height of the rhododendron—the size varies from two to 20 feet. During June and July it bears white or rose flowers of such marvelous note of color and bloom is never seen elsewhere. The leaves are rather large and lance shaped, shining and leathery. When the laurel is blooming the ground beneath is a carpet of white and rose and the plants themselves form an arched corridor above.

Range is it not that man cannot enjoy a thing without the accompanying, overpowering desire to possess it? Fruits on a tree, money, or the flowers by the wayside, it is the same with them all. They must be his; and when they are he no longer wants them. But it is a pity to destroy something which cannot be restored; worse than that it is a crime. A fruit may be plucked, next year there will be another; money may be spent, more may be earned; but when flowers are broken from trees or pulled up by the roots they will no longer grow again. Many flowers that once grew here in abundance are practically extinct, and if we thoughtlessly pull the flowers and break the limbs of the rhododendron, there will soon be no rhododendron, and so we would rob this section of the state of one of its most picturesque assets. Many of the country estates around Tryon have been posted and admittance refused because thoughtless visitors insisted in destroying the shrubbery and flowers. Mr. R. C. Remick recently posted notices on all of his Rocky Spur and Hog Back property warning visitors against destroying the natural beauty of the scenery by gathering and destroying wild flowers.

Piedmont Council Boy Scouts Offered Permanent Camp at Tryon By Officials of Lake Lanier Co.

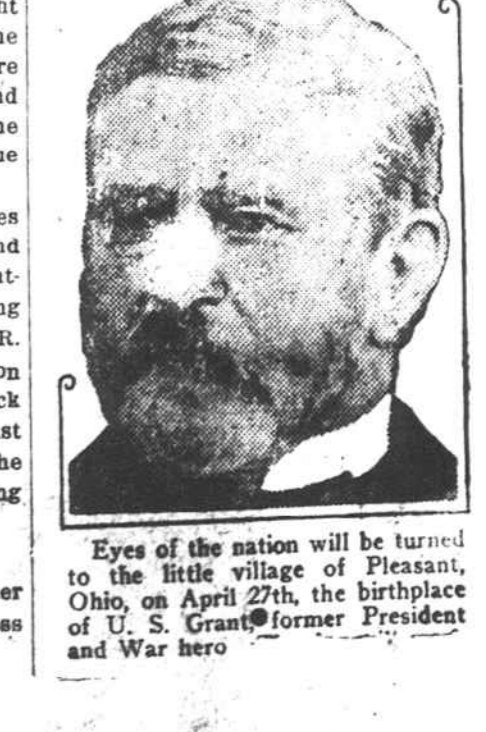
Rutherford, Cleveland, Lincoln and Gaston Counties in Piedmont Council With Total Membership Of over One Thousand

A tentative offer of several acres of ground in the fast developing Lake Lanier tract, made by Mr. Wright, representing the real estate department of the work, was received with much satisfaction by the officials of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, at Gastonia. Piedmont Council, comprising the counties of Rutherford, Cleveland, Lincoln and Gaston, was organized January 1, 1924. At that time there were but 60 registered scouts in the in the four counties. Scout Executive R. M. Schiele, of Augusta, Ga. was employed and under his direction the council had grown in one year, at the beginning of 1925, to 700 full registered scouts and 300 accredited scoutmasters, assistants and member of the official staff. Courts of honor are regularly held at different points in the council territory and hundreds of these scouts have regularly been examined and passed to the succeeding grades of scout promotion, several of them thus becoming Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in the organization. All of the tests and examinations must be successfully passed solely upon merit.

From the time a boy enters scouting by pledging himself to the scout oath, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to obey the scout laws, help other people at all times, and keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight," until retired by the age limit from active service, he is continually upon his individual honor in all the duties of life. He learns from nature what every boy should know concerning woodcraft, art, science, bird and animal life, self protection, self preservation and duty to his fellowman. Not another organization in the world so touches the boy life between the ages of 13 and 18, in such a conservative manner as does the Boy Scouts of America. Every boy in the world, privileged and unprivileged, deserves a chance and that is exactly what scouting offers every boy. It appeals to his latent manhood, it provides the means and method to tide him over the sissy period, moulding the future man, in the process of making, by putting within his grasp the lessons of nature that appeal to boyhood of the 'teen age.

No coercive or disciplinary methods are used rather all that is good and true and noble in his nature is brought to the forefront, his natural craving and ambition given full range, and he is permitted to develop himself. And he does. Lake Lanier offers an unsurpassed site for a permanent summer camp for 1000 many boys, and their officers, and Tryon will extend a warm and hearty welcome to the sons of her near neighbors. The site here offers wonderful opportunities and privileges for such a camp and it is to be hoped the offer will be accepted and that Piedmont Council will immediately begin operations in the building of camp bungalows and other necessary improvements. The officials of Piedmont Council are: Fred L. Smyre, President, R. M. Schiele, Scout-Executive, Rev. Geo. R. Gillespie, Scout Commissioner and H. Prince Lineburger, Treasurer. Mr. Smyre, cotton mill owner, Mr. Gillespie, Presbyterian minister and H. Lineburger, real estate dealer, are all of Gastonia.

TO HONOR GRANT'S BIRTH, APRIL 27



Eyes of the nation will be turned to the little village of Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27th, the birthplace of U. S. Grant, former President and War hero