

Lanier Library Wonderful Help to Tryon People

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR IN WESTERN CAR.

OLDEST CLUB IN NORTH CAROLINA

Club Now Has Over Five Thousand Books During the War Building Was Given Up To Red Cross Work.

Some of the men in the leisurly mountain fashion, got up and drove him out. Once, in Tryon, after the Episcopallians had a little frame chapel of their own the Bishop was making his visitation, and the congregation, unusually large in consequence a black snake was seen climbing around the rafters over heads of the people. The Bishop did not seem to notice it and continued the service the congregation becoming slightly nervous as it would travel from side to side over their heads, finally dropping in front of the seats where one of the men dispatched it and carried it out.



The Lanier Library

At time in which the trip could be made, landing at Spartanburg, the nearest railway station. In order to secure the plantation in the valley of the pacolet, now known as Mimosas, which particularly attracted him, Dr. McAbooy purchased many separate tracts of land, scattered over the adjacent mountains. The price asked for the home tract of 2200 acres, was \$12.50 per acre, but, said the owner, if you will take the whole mountain, land, and about 4000 acres you can have it for \$15 per acre. Why that, according to my arithmetic would be less for the whole than for the farm, said Dr. McAbooy. Well I don't know how to reckon it, but that is my price, said the owner. As it was cheaper to buy the whole than a part, Dr. McAbooy concluded to take the mountain as well as the valley, without knowing exactly what he would do with it. He had no desire to live on the mountain, which shows color all over this section and could make no profit out of the valuable timber, but he wanted a hickory, chestnut, locust, ash, etc. for there was no means of transportation. And except for that use he did not know that to do with the fruit unless he converted it into western North Carolina brandy for home consumption.

Every week a big wagon was sent to Spartanburg to bring up supplies and once a week the mail was brought to Columbus, the nearest Post Office. Many Slaves on Old Plantation. Many of the old slaves were retained on the plantation and Dr. McAbooy became the greatest authority on the climate, the Thermal Belt and the possibilities of the country. The delicate members of his family were restored to health and many friends, desiring to avoid the severe winters of Pittsburgh came to stay with him, taxing the capacity of the old plantation house until it was necessary to build additions from time to time. Then a few years later, when the railroad was built, the terminus being at the Block House, three miles away. For a long time (owing to the difficulty of building across the mountains) all passengers for Hendersonville and Asheville, had to spend the night at Tryon, taking a stage coach for the rest of the journey, a regular old fashioned coach and six, sometimes eight, horses, or mules and the sound of the musical horn used to be listened for just as one expects the whistle of the locomotive. When the railroad reached here the President gave Mrs. Abooy the honor of naming the place and she chose Tryon (probably being fond of the mountain.) For a long time there was only a tiny little station house and it was several years before there was any telegraph and, if the daily train, consisting of several passenger coaches and freight cars was late, perhaps one hour, perhaps four or five, one had to wait. The conductor would always wait the train for Dr. McAbooy, if he did not find him waiting and once, the last time, he found Dr. McAbooy had died suddenly of heart trouble on the station platform.

Ballengere a Real Pioneer. Mr. T. T. Ballenger is a pioneer of Tryon as he was one of the first settlers, building several buildings, starting a store and finally building the hotel now known as Oak Hall. There was a little union chapel built in the early days in which all denominations worshipped in Tryon. We used to all attend the services whenever a preacher was to be had, and sometimes the little place would be full of persons of all ages and several dogs which occasionally had a fight, which made a lively time, when we would all stand on the seats to be out of the way. Dr. McAbooy used to preach at Columbus on the upper room of the Court House regularly once or twice a month, and once we heard a plat on the stairway and a big plat walked solemnly up the aisle until

that we had the honor of seeing Mark Twain impersonated by Mr. William Gillette. In the fall of 1892 it was voted to donate the fees of the coming year to the Village Improvement Assn. in purchasing land for a town cemetery and also to suspend study for the same time that all possible assistance might be given. After this date the Club met only when called by the President for special business, even after the improvement Assn. had accomplished its object for it was inconvenient for most of our members to give the time but the dues were kept up and books added from time to time both by purchase and donation. Mrs. Lanier gave two readings at difference times from her husbands letters, adding much to our funds. In September, 1896 the Library, which up to that time had been in the Congregational Church was moved to the Fisher Block, now burned and from then we had to make several moves until in 1899 it was moved to the late Major Strong's office. In February 1898, on account of renewed interest in club work, a desire was expressed to reorganize for more active work, the library now numbered over 200 volumes all in good order and well selected. An entertainment was decided on for February 22. The Lanier Club infused with new life took up their work again with renewed courage. January 1900, the tenth anniversary of the club, the library had been increased to 400 volumes, the lot for a club house assured, there were funds in the bank, and the Woman's Exchange started. Then came the disastrous fire of 1904 when all the books were burned with the exception of the few loaned out. We now rented a building, formerly H. E. Church south, now used as a grocery. In 1905 it was decided we must have a building of our own, the necessary funds borrowed to add to our own \$400 and the present building was moved into January 1, 1906. In the meantime we had been slowly accumulating books. On our 30th anniversary our building was nearly paid for and more than 1500 books on our shelves. A great many of these had been donated. The money to do this was raised by entertainments, suppers and the exchange. Since that time the porch has been added a well equipped kitchen established, and still later in 1918 sanitary toilet arrangements. During these last years we have had the Civic and Education committees which have accomplished much. The club now has over 5000 books notwithstanding the six boxes that were sent to the soldiers. During the war the building was given up to Red Cross work, the members giving their time to that while all club work was suspended. The Lanier Club is the oldest in the state. There are several charter members living, three in Tryon.

Play House Opened in 1895. One interesting event to be spoken of in the early history of Tryon is the building and opening of a playhouse in the summer of 1895. This house was built by Mrs. Dowe and stood between Tryon Lodge and the Episcopalian Church on Melrose Ave. With the permission of Mr. Gillette, "Esmeralda" was selected as the play to open the house, the parts being taken by members of the Tryon Dramatic Club, with Miss Lillian Pierce, a professional actress here for her health, in the title role. The performance being pronounced a great success. To speak more definitely about the house, it would seat from 200 to 250 persons, with four dressing rooms and eight sets of scenery painted by a scenic painter from Columbia, S. C. The footlights being a row of lamps, so placed that they gave the proper effect but were not in evidence themselves. Later in the summer a minstrel was given, the text of the play and the costumes were produced by home talent and the musicians and singers all belonged to Tryon. For several years many plays were given, ranging through all shades of sentiment, but those intended to make merriment were selected as they thought a hearty laugh was good for folks. One of Miss Pierces best roles was the old man's part in the Violin Maker of Cremona. At one performance our, "Our Boys" a stranger in the audience proved to be an actor who had played one of the boys for eight years. He was enthusiastic over the presentation. The music for these plays was furnished by a splendid home talent orchestra of 8 persons consisting of a piano, three violins, a viola cello, and two flutes, playing the best music, well rendered, no jazz. During this time we had several professional players to help or coach the plays.

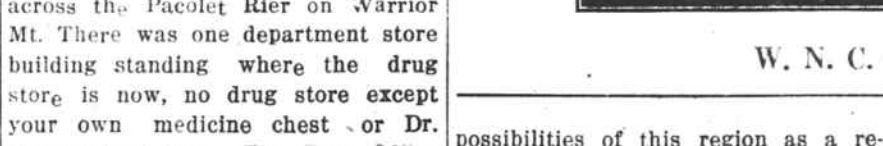
Housed Entertainments. The house was open every Tuesday evening during the season, for some sort of entertainment, a play, a card party, dance, or reception. Then there came a time when no one seemed to be able to give the time to carry on these social events and Mrs. Dowe very properly took away a useless thing and built cottages that would be of service to someone. That was one great blunder which hwe of the town realized when it was too late. In the last twenty years the Congregational Church had been beautifully remodelled and the Episcopalian Church is a new building. When we first came to Tryon the only building on the north side of Melrose Ave. where the playhouse, 2 churches and 2 dwellings, and on the south side 6 homes 2 homes on Melrose Circle, 2 homes on Laurel Ave, and 3 homes on East Hill or Godshaw Hill as we knew it, with a few more homes scattered around. The Beatson home was the only one across the Pacolet Rier on Warrior Mt. There was one department store building standing where the drug store is now, no drug store except your own medicine chest - or Dr. Kenworthy's bag. The Post Office was in a small building since burned. Our meat market was a traveling one, there was no water system or lighting plant. These conveniences and the many new stores and dwellings have come along slowly in the last twenty years. But we always had had much sunshine, good fruit and many noted and charming visitors and much happiness in the little mountain nook.

FINE RESULTS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA HEALTH CONTEST. Recently we published a photograph showing the healthiest girls from each county at the Winthrop Short Course this year. Now some readers wisely want to know more about this contest and how it is conducted. This South Carolina State Health Contest, begun in 1924 and having more far reaching results each year is conducted by the home demonstration forces of the state with the cooperation of the State Health Department. 1. Drink at least six glasses of water each day. 2. Brush teeth night and morning. 3. Sleep at least nine hours with windows up. 4. Drink three glasses or more of milk daily, or part chocolate - no tea or coffee. 5. Eat fruit and vegetables daily. 6. Take plenty of exercise, and rest when necessary. 7. Have your bowels move at least once each day. 8. Take a bath at least twice a week. 9. Stand, sit, and walk erect. 10. Be cheerful and learn not to worry. -The Progressive Farmer. Eggs from blood-tested poultry flocks are in good demand at hatcheries which specialize in selling high grade baby chicks.

READ THE POLK CO. NEWS. Several years many plays were given, ranging through all shades of sentiment, but those intended to make merriment were selected as they thought a hearty laugh was good for folks. One of Miss Pierces best roles was the old man's part in the Violin Maker of Cremona. At one performance our, "Our Boys" a stranger in the audience proved to be an actor who had played one of the boys for eight years. He was enthusiastic over the presentation. The music for these plays was furnished by a splendid home talent orchestra of 8 persons consisting of a piano, three violins, a viola cello, and two flutes, playing the best music, well rendered, no jazz. During this time we had several professional players to help or coach the plays.

The New York Sun in its recent issue on North Carolina carried the following interesting article on the resort developments of the west made possible by the building of fine highways leading into all parts of the mountains: "The 25 counties in the western part of North Carolina have been brought into their own by the state highways; that is almost axiomatic. Until the hard surface highways made this area available to motorists not one-hundredth part of the

dollar hotel is being built on top of the mountain. "Near Chimney Rock, one of the natural wonders of the mountain country. In Rutherford county, a company which holds 8,000 acres of land is creating a 1,500 acre lake. "Sulphur Springs Park is to be a suburb of Asheville built close to the city in the French Broad valley. "Near Tryon a development known as Blue Ridge Forest is being brought into existence. Two golf courses are under construction and



W. N. C. Good Roads

possibilities of this region as a resort area had been realized. Individuals had discovered the climate, the scenic beauty, the natural resources of western North Carolina, but the discovery by a great number of people necessarily waited on good roads.

"This resort area, lying in the Southern Appalachians, with the peaks of the Great Smoky and Blue Ridge mountains towering above timbered spurs and foothills, has an elevation varying from 800 feet above sea level to over 5,500 feet. The annual mean temperature for the region as a whole is shown by government observations to be about 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The influx of visitors, summer, winter, spring, and fall, has led to a number of developments. Many of the most ambitious of these are grouped at Asheville or Hendersonville. Outside Hendersonville, P. L. Wright has developed Druid Hills, an extensive suburban community. He is also active in the development of the Lake Lanier project, near Tryon where an artificial lake is being created to supply the one recreational element sometimes lacking the North Carolina resort.

"Another extensive Hendersonville development is Laurel Park on Jump Off Mountain. A two million sea level and ten miles from the nearest town, one might think the visitors would be confined to local cities, but not only are North and South Carolina widely represented but also Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Toronto, Canada, and Havana, Cuba.

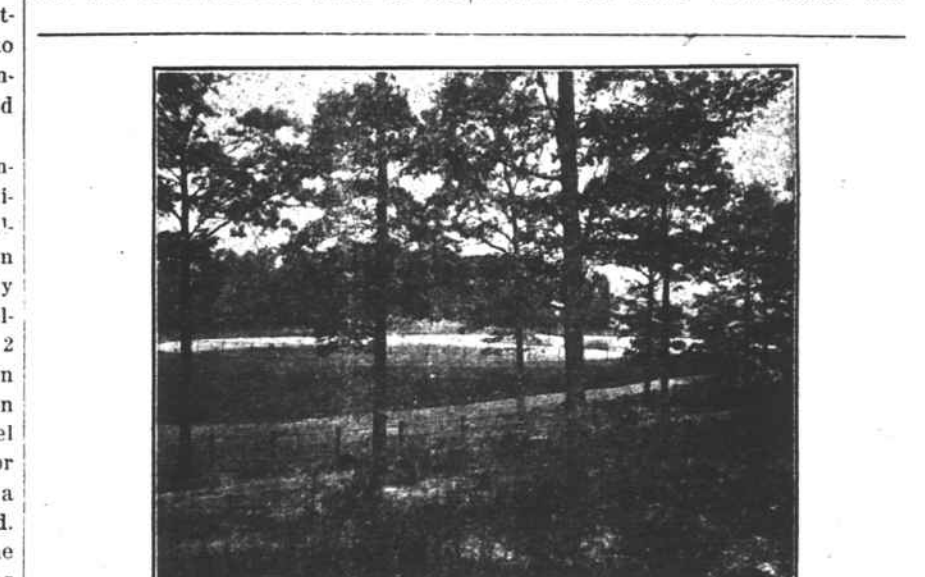
Among those who have bought homesites and will build cottages are citizens of North and South Carolina, Florida, Illinois, New York, Alabama, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Consider that Tryon has never been loudly exploited, over-developed or widely advertised, except by its satisfied visitors speaking kindly of it. It would seem to recommend highly its unusual beauty, comfortable climate, congenial companions and agreeable accommodations.

Forty-four hogs belonging to two farmers of Pasquotank County were vaccinated by the county agent in time to stop an outbreak of cholera. The hogs were valued at \$500. B. D. Nelme of Anson County plants ten acres to sorghum, cane and sells his syrup in gallon cans at one dollar per gallon. It's too late for farmers to think of holding cotton after it has passed from their hands.

GOOD HIGHWAYS HELP TO CAROLINA

Good Roads Have Helped Developments Much in Western North Carolina

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A View in Tryon