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Obituary of Virgil Lusk Edwards,
Written By Himself

V. L. Edwards, pioneer printer and publisher, who passed away last week was a person who took pride in looking after his own affairs and below is his self written obituary which is proof of his thoroughness.

Mr. Edwards wrote the following obituary on July 20, 1963.

I was born about 4 miles north of Burnsville, N. C., August 30, 1878, and died near my birthplace (Thursday, March 18, age 86). At this time I am going through a great Natural change, called Death. I write my own obituary because long ago, I learned something of the art of writing; and I doubt if any other writer or speaker knows enough of the facts of my past life to do the subject justice. It is now time for my departure; and I must depart from all whom I have lived with and for. Some have preceded me, and all others must soon follow. So, to you: Kidered, Friends, and Fellow Mountaineers, I am writing this final parting salutation in form of a personal obituary, in order to save others the time and trouble in thinking up something worthy to say about me.

It has, for the most part, been a pleasant and good world to live in, although its elements of life have been partly composed of many hardships and privations. Most of us learn to endure and overcome these hardships and obstacles, especially when we are young, capable and patient.

I have no doubt, made some mistakes during my lifetime. I once regarded these as serious faults or sins. But I finally decided that faults and human errors are not always sins or crimes, but due mostly to human weaknesses, partly due to evil environment. They are often forms of experience that lead to good, as

we try all the more, to mend our ways,— as I tried to do. Life, with all its obstacles, is filled with interest; and the time comes to most of us when we may look back and hope that we served as good examples to others, as we passed through the periods of progress in the right direction, and have thereby helped, and not hindered others.

My life has been spent in three general stages:—

First stage, Birth to age 25.

Second stage, Middle life, age 25 to 75.

Third stage, Old age and decrepitude.

Most of what I have said applies to my second age stage of middle life. During my first stage of life, I found life very captivating, which charmed and lured me by its beauty and happiness. It was joyful in the extreme. There was occasionally some trouble and pain that momentarily beset me. There were natural enemies which all normal youngsters must face, elude and oppose in all the ways they can. There are not necessarily personal enemies, or rivals of evil intent, but evil circumstances, conditions or obstacles.

Early in my second stage of life, I learned that if we are endowed by Nature's biological and ethical laws of reason, we early become immune, or should to the world's group fights and strifes, as we grow up and see on all sides group fighting group, race fighting race, and creed fighting creed.

For all of us the world moves too rapidly; but giving each generation a chance to develop its own sense of justice and ways of living. For me, I had too many personal plans and duties to perform. I had "my own row to weed" the hard way, in the fields of labor, agriculture, education

and society, and all the trades I was interested in; my specialties being Commercial Printing and Mountain Farming. In middle life every normal person must fight either a good fight or a bad one for survival of himself and family. This was the age when I encountered the most resistance. Old age brought suffering, weakness, physical and mental disability. Harshly and the fun of living is all over when one grows old. I have talked with many old people and most of them agree that life is not worth living after age 75 or 80. It has been so in my case. We can only wait in despair for the end—which as you see, has finally come to me. Shortly before my passing I read a sentiment with which I agree, which said:—

"At best the span of life is short. Our entrances and our exits on the stage of passing time and controlled by a Destiny higher than we with our finite minds are permitted to understand. When the hour approaches for the Final Curtain, there is not time to look back or try things over again or even to transmit to others the advice of the era which, having discovered its own mistakes, years in vain for another chance."

Getting started on my life career was not looked on by me wholly as a toilsome burden. Getting started early was the main plan, thereby making it mostly a pleasure. I always saw two sides to every problem: The sunny, or funny side, and the sadder side; and even that side amused me more than it troubled me.

As for me, I led the plain, simple life within my particular environment; and at a period of the world's development when much progress and new conveniences were coming into use; most of them too late to be of much benefit to me. Somehow, though, I made out as a common man, never seeking power, or honor, or pomp. About that I agree with what Thomas Gray once wrote:—

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth ever gave,

Awaits alike the inevitable hour. The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

O

HAVE I TARRIED TO LONG? Too long, it seems, I have drifted down

The troubled, crowded Stream of Time.

The end draws near, even the sound

Of the Cataract is near enough for me to hear.

I've roved and rambled, but greatly strived

To keep myself in line.

I once thought it slow and really funny

To wander down The Stream

of Time.

Somewhere it might end in a land of milk and honey—

Or a land of gold, to me, without a dime.

Off the Wolf lay near our door, But I only worked harder—

laughed with glee.

My friends could boast of more plentiful thrills.

The Wolf might get others, but not us.—

I held my place amongst the rocks and hills;

In the Plow and Printing Press I put my trust.

First came Youth's ecstatic, simple stage;

But I was then, so immature and far behind;

Cares and yitrs found me a ways down, in a grind;

Tho' hopes of success seemed remotely sure.—

Sorrows looked vague and far away;

But the Fates were always kind.

Now my allotted time is ended,—suffered, endured.

I now join the "Majority" on the hill.

Millions of years I'll erode,—my ills all cured.—

All Nature's life plans have been fulfilled.

My moral duties and work, I've somehow carried on well;

Which has left me weak, old, worn out, tired.—

Time has come to say to you, one and all,—

A final— — — — — Farewell!

VIRGIL LUSK EDWARDS

ASCS Office
Offers Pre-measurement Service

It means a great deal to farmers to be able to get a correct acreage of all allotted crops planted. J. T. Randolph, Office Manager of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office, says that ASCS office will again offer pre-measurement services to farmers.

Randolph went on to say that after a farmer requests pre-measurement, a representative of the ASCS office will visit the farm and measure and stake the exact acreage to be planted. The farmer is then assured of getting the correct acreage planted. He does not have to worry about wasting fertilizer, seed, insecticides, labor, etc. on acreage over his allotment. He is also assured that he will not lose income as a result of failing to plant the full allotment.

Since the pre-measurement is a special service, farmers must file a request with the Yancey ASCS office and pay the cost of the service. Randolph says that every effort will be made to perform this service on all farms that file a request. Farmers desiring to get their crops measured prior to planting time should file a request before March 31, 1965 at the Yancey ASCS Office.

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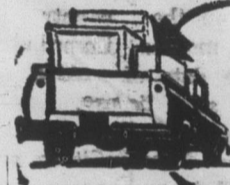
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