

Monroe M. Redden

Democratic Candidate For
CONGRESS

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"The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most valuable national attraction in Western North Carolina. More publicity on a national scale is given to Western North Carolina by reason of this park than any other attraction we possess. It is up to the people to exploit the possibilities of this treasured possession. It fits into the life of this section. We have long been a tourist center of wide attraction. Our mountains are famous for their scenic beauty. The time has come when we should now—not two years from now—call together our congressional leadership of North Carolina and Tennessee in order that a program of progress and development of this park may be inaugurated."

**REGISTER AND VOTE
PRIMARY ELECTION
MAY 25, 1946**

NATURE STUDY

GOD'S GIFT
WILD FLOWERS
Mrs. Thos. S. Sharp

"I meant to do my work today—
But a brown bird sang in an apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me,
And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand—
So what could I do but laugh and go?"
(Contributed by Miss Lide Wilson)

And now—"will you walk with me?
Will you talk with me?"

I have no sinister designs upon you as the Walrus had upon the Oysters. Instead of eating you, I'll tell you what you can eat, for many of our wild plants are very palatable.

You have often heard that "there is a skeleton in every family closet." I am not sure of that, but I do know that there is one in the closet of the Crowfoot Clan. Would you suspect the larkspur and the aconite? Well, they are two of the guilty "members" for they have certain highly poisonous qualities. Cattle know this. The poisonous—do not "touch" sign is on them. So, the glittering yellow buttercups, scintillating with the sun's radiance, bold and fearless, bid defiance to the cattle. They are avoided because of their acrid, caustic juice, though non-poisonous. When hay is cut and cured, this causes the buttercups among the other grasses, to lose the objectionable qualities, and to make them relishable as a fodder.

The yellow star-grass belongs to the Iris family. Its starchy blossoms spangle our open woods and grassy fields. Its six petals are waxy within, and at least three of them are greenish and hairy without. Several buds make a loose cluster, opening one or two at a time. The leaves are grass-like, slender, grooved, and

more or less hairy. The plant is fibrous-rooted, with an egg-shaped corn.

The dainty, exquisite white Star of Bethlehem (lily family) is thought to resemble the hallowed star in the East that guided the Wise Men to the stable in Bethlehem. It has a wide green stripe on the outside (rim) of the petals. The flowers open only in the sunshine. The slender stalk branches at the top for the solitary flowers. The leaves are long, narrow and fleshy. They rise in a tuft from a thick, egg-shaped bulb. This bulb is pleasant and nutritious when cooked. It is often eaten in eastern Europe and western Asia.

The Whorled Pogonia (certicalata) is a member of the Orchid family. "Pogonia" is a Greek word for "beard." In the middle of the fancy lip (look closely) you will see a beautifully tufted, hairy crest. In North America, we have only five of the thirty species of pogonias scattered over the world. These are spurless, with highly-colored, "bearded" lips. Would you suspect that an orchid of this group gives us our familiar and aromatic vanilla bean? This whorled pogonia—"whorled" because the five lanceolate stemless leaves are in a whorl about the stem just below the flower—has long, linear greenish ("verti") yellow sepals, with edges rolled or folded together; oblong, lanceolate purple petals, and a purple wedge-shaped, three-lobed lip. (Miss Florence Drinker kindly contributed this flower. It is in a pot in the window of the Black Mountain Drug Co., with the other flowers mentioned here.)

The Wild Parsnip (with early or Golden Meadow) belongs to the Parsley family. It bears the Latin name—Pastinaca sativa—pastus being a Latin word for food. Pliny tells us that this plant was cultivated along the Rhine before the Christian era, because of the edible qualities of its fleshy roots. It was imported by Liberius, one of the Roman Emperors, for food. The plant is from two to five feet in height, widely branching, long and thick-rooted. The stalk is tough, finely-grooved, and juicy, emitting an aromatic, parsley-like fragrance when

bruised. The numerous tiny yellow flowers are in small clusters, all grouped into broad, open, flat-topped, terminal disks on the slender stems. The seeds are shiny, flat, thin.

The rue anemone, exhibited two weeks ago, has a starchy tuberous root, edible when cooked. Some of the natives, in the mountain districts of Pennsylvania, call this plant "the wild potato."

This article must not end without paying a special tribute to the charm and cheerfulness of the maligned butter-cup, flashing its dazzling brightness even during this supposedly gloomy day. Many of our older friends can tell us how they used to hold a buttercup under their chins or the chin of another that by the reflection "it

might be decided to what degree butter was liked"! (Yes, "they" had butter in those days!) "Knowledge never learned of schools Of the wild flower's time and place." (Copyright 1946, Black Mtn. News)

Note—As Mother Nature re-

fused to wait, the promised articles on Oaks and Bird's Nest, though ready, can and, must wait. Especial appreciation is due the Black Mountain Drug Co. for cordial co-operation. Never fail to look in the window there for the flowers mentioned in these articles.

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MONTREAT ROAD
H. M. BAUCOM, Pastor
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.; Morning worship—11:00 a.m.; B. T. U.—6:30 p.m.; Evening worship—7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.—Prayer meeting. Choir practice immediately after prayer meeting. You are invited to all the above services.

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church
W. H. STYLES, Minister.
WEEKLY CALENDAR: Sunday—9:45 a.m. Church School; 11:00 a.m. morning worship; 3:00 p.m. Lakey Gap Chapel; 6:15 p.m. Young People's League. Wednesday—7:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study.

Black Mountain Methodist Church
H. GRADY HARDIN, Pastor
SUNDAY SERVICES—10:00 a.m. Church School; 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship; 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening forum. You are invited to the Methodist Church for all services.

Swannanoa Methodist Church
REV. V. R. MASTERS, Pastor.
Swannanoa—1st and 3rd Sunday, 7 p.m.; 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday at 11 a.m. Bethel—2nd Sunday at 10 a.m., 4th Sunday at 7 p.m.; Azalea—1st and 3rd, 11 a.m.; Bethesda—1st and 3rd 10 a.m.; Tabernacle—2nd Sunday, 7 p.m., 4th Sunday at 10 a.m.

Friendship Chapel
Montreat Road, Near the Gate
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; Church services 11:00 a.m. Rev. W. H. Armistead, Minister.

Church of God
Lakey Street, Black Mountain
DIXIE CHAMBERS, Pastor
Sunday—10:00 a.m., Sunday School; 11:00 a.m. Preaching; 7:30 p.m. Preaching. Wednesday—7:30 p.m. Prayer meeting. Saturday—7:30 p.m. Y. P. E.

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