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Reflections

by
GORDON GREENWOOD



"Sing" Many times while growing up over across the mountains in the Barnardsville section I've walked mile after mile through the woods looking for what we called "Sing."

Imagine my surprise when a few years later I learned that the official name for this elusive plant was not "Sing" but Ginseng.

Even during the days when we searched the hills for this plant which sold extremely high on the root and herb market in Asheville, it was hard to find. In fact you had to go deep into the woods behind the tallest peaks to find any at all. Everyone who could climb a mountain was out looking in those days.

Mr. Ager To Rescue

Any good mountaineer knows what "sing" is but last week J. W. Ager sent me the following article from the National Observer which tells the complete story:

Ginseng is a medical plant whose name suggests exotic far-away places. Strangely enough, the plant is a native American one which is shipped to the Orient. Ginseng (panax, meaning panacea) has always been held to be of questionable value by medical men here. But it is esteemed in the Orient. It is still collected here in the wild; however there are sizeable plantings under cultivation.

Apparently some of our early settlers had an appreciation for it. William Byrd (1674-1744) wrote: "It cheers the heart even of a man that has a bad wife. 'Tis friendly to the lungs, much more than scolding itself it will make a man live a great while, and

very well while he does live."

Letter Appreciated

Congressman Roy A. Taylor took time out from his busy schedule in Washington to write following the article last week on our 17th anniversary in Black Mountain.

Roy, who is making an outstanding record in Congress, was a debater and athlete of much promise at Biltmore College.

Following speeches by Roy and Lee Whitaker, now an executive with an Asheville Bottling Company, the dean of the college S. B. Conley, said that "some of the speeches made on this stage last night were equal to those made in congress. "Some of the voices heard here may be heard some day in the Congress of the United States."

He predicted correctly.

The letter follows:
Dear Gordon:
I noticed that it was seventeen years ago last week that you became owner, operator, publisher, editor, etc. of the Black Mountain News. I was then practicing law in Black Mountain, and was pleased with your arrival since we had attended college together at Asheville-Biltmore. But I did not realize then what the Black Mountain News could be

made to mean to Black Mountain and to the Swannanoa Valley.

During the past seventeen years, the Black Mountain News has been a means of making us better understand and better appreciate our home community, its aspirations, and its accomplishments. It has supported and unified our people behind every worthwhile cause and community development project.

I take and read nineteen weekly newspapers in my Congressional district. The Black Mountain News is one of the finest. On this seventeenth anniversary, I want to express my appreciation for the News and its outstanding service it has rendered to the Swannanoa Valley.

Sincerely,
Roy A. Taylor,
Member Congress
11th District
North Carolina.

Penn Hunter

Seventeen years ago one of the first people to come through the door of the News office after we took over was L. Penn Hunter, Black Mountain florist, now postmaster at Marion. Penn brought a huge bouquet of flowers and a bigger smile.

OLD FORT NEWS
BERTHA GREENE
Phone 668-7752
Old Fort, N. C.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Allison spent their week's vacation in New Mexico. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Allison's grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. McArthur and two children, Charles and Brenda from Chadbourn, spent last week end with Mrs. McArthur's mother, Mrs. Nora Setzer.

Earl Silver of Canton spent last Monday with his mother, Mrs. Omie Silver on Curtis Creek.

Miss Loretta Allison of Greensboro spent last week end with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Thomas Allison.

Mrs. Gladys Gibbs and Miss Ada B. Silver spent last Wednesday in Ellenboro with Miss Silver's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Blanton.

There were several people from Old Fort who attended the big parade in Marion last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steppe spent several days last week with their aunt, Mrs. Omie Silver on Curtis Creek.

The Old Fort Wash Pot caught on fire last Tuesday morning. The fire was extinguished by the Volunteer Fire Department of Old Fort. The building was damaged only by water and smoke. It is owned by James David Faw.

Mrs. Bertie Allison and other relatives.

Mrs. Viola Nesbitt and her sister, Miss Eula Grant, have bought out the H. and W. Store from Mrs. Clarence E. Williams.

H. D. Club Meets

The Bethlehem Home Demonstration Club met Oct. 10, at 10 o'clock at Mrs. Hugh Guffey's home for a Textile Paint Workshop, with the regular meeting in the afternoon. Many lovely items were painted which will be displayed for Achievement Night at Old Fort School on October 29. Nine ladies and five children were present for the workshop. Plans were made for our part at Achievement Night and for Christmas Holiday House which each club will take part in.

OBITUARY

Francis Stevens

Services for Francis Stevens, 75, of Marion, Rt. 2, who died Saturday in Marion General hospital were held at 2:30 P.M. Monday in West Marion Baptist Church. The Rev. W. C. Keller officiated. Burial was at Zion Hill Cemetery. Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Fannie Earley Stevens; three sons, Kiplin of Charlotte, Ogle of the U. S. Air Force, and Lindberg of Houston, Texas; a daughter, Mrs. Paul Morgan of Marion, Rt. 1; three brothers, Clayton of Rt. 3, Roy, and Alden of Old Fort, Rt. 2; and eight grandchildren. The body remained at Westmoreland-Hawkins Funeral Home until taken to the Church to lie in State 30 minutes before services. Mr. Stevens is formerly of Old Fort.

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