

Around Our TOWN Shelby SIDELIGHTS

By RENN DRUM.

IN A COMMUNICATION to the Charlotte Observer, G. F. Ivey, of Hickory, becomes a bit riled with an article in the Saturday Evening Post which refers to the pioneer settlements in North Carolina and to a region in the State known as "Blank Ankle".

Not having read the article, this column is not inclined to enter a controversy with the Hickory man. However, we do believe that there could be a section in Tarheelia known as "Blank Ankle", and we do know that there are certain mountain sections in the State where citizens still retain many of the customs and habits of pioneer days. First of all, it is a known fact that a score or so miles from Shelby, in the South Mountain region, just a bit west of the highway which links Shelby and Ivey's town of Hickory, there is a mountain known as "Dirty Ankle". If the Observer contributor takes exception to a section known as "Blank Ankle" what will he say about one known as "Dirty Ankle", a section not over two or three hours drive by motor from his home? This department has attempted for several years to learn the origin of the name, and has failed.

JUGS AS TOMBSTONES

One statement in the Saturday Evening Post article which the Hickory man objects to is that which says "jugs are used as tombstones in the Blank Ankle section and the people have never passed the pioneer stage."

There may be some truth in that. This column admits that it has not seen jug tombstones. Howbeit there is a plausible explanation for that, perhaps wrong and perhaps right. In many mountain and isolated cemeteries in this State there are few, if any, tombstones. In the remote rural sections the relatives of the departed cling to the custom of keeping living flowers and shrubs about the graves of their departed kin. Often in these graveyards far removed from the modern whirl one sees stone and glass jars on the graves, often at the head and foot of the mounds. These jars were and are used to place flowers in so that water in the jugs may keep them fresh for a time. As the years pass the habit of placing flowers in the jugs at intervals is forgotten. Gradually the jugs sink slightly into the mound, and there they remain. Perhaps the visitor from the north who wrote the article was not accustomed to the practice and thought the jugs served as tombstones.

As to the fact that there are citizens in the hinterlands of the State who have not passed the pioneer stage and retain habits and customs of the Revolutionary period, why go up in the air over that? It isn't anything to be ashamed of. Maude Minnish Sutton, the writer, learned several years ago that folks songs and ballads of the old days could be learned in the mountain sections of North Carolina better than anywhere else. There the words of the songs are retained just as they were when America was first settled. One may stop at a small mountain home, far removed from the main arteries of travel, for a drink of water from a gourd dipper and while there hear old English words and phrases never heard any more in what some may call the "civilized" regions. There, too, the antique hunters have found the best prizes of their collections.

Anyone who doubts these statements might find it very entertaining and educational to take a week's jaunt through these regions with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Suttle, of Shelby, who have traveled the entire section building up their remarkable collection of antiques.

Not many months ago a local music store delivered a radio to a mountain home not so far from the "Dirty Ankle" section referred to above. Three miles was as near as an automobile could get to the home of the purchaser, and a sled with a rope, used in block-and-tackle manner, was necessary to get the radio up the mountain slope to the house.

Say that there is no region in North Carolina almost out of touch with the modern world, yet there is. Nearly every year this paper publishes an item about visitors from the mountain section who haven't been to town in a score of years. Shelby to them is a metropolitan city with all the wonders a Shelby man expects to find in New York or Paris. Charlotte is way off at the end of the world. Just this year an old lady from the South Mountain section was in Shelby for the first time in a half century. She wondered where they put all the automobiles at night, heard her first radio, and saw her first building over two stories high. She wouldn't take a chance on listening to the talkies, but she talked perfect English—so perfect that a modern slang spreader found it hard to understand her conversation.

Why be ashamed of these people?

They're primitive, yes, so primitive and different from towns-boosted by chambers of commerce that they still put honesty and 'tendin' to one's own business above everything else.

There are many things about North Carolina that North Carolinians do not know, and many sections they have not visited.

CONSIDERATE, EH?

The contribution today comes from a reader who does not withhold his name, but prefers, if you please, that it not be published.

"Say, you Rounder-about-town, here's another one for the books about Shelby. This city, or town as you please to call it, has one of the most considerate, thoughtful bootleggers that I've ever encountered. Last week I purchased a pint from him. Tied about the neck of the short (very short) pint bottle was four packages of Stankback headache powder. No one knows how I appreciated the free package next morning. But isn't that a new wrinkle for bootleggers—give you a kick and a headache, and then something for the headache all for a dollar?"

Get the brunettes about Shelby got all bristled up because it was just a blonde girl who won the Galveston bathing beauty contest this week.

Among other news items of the day it is noticed that wives of convicts out in Idaho are running for office. In Cleveland county there are usually a couple dozen candidates every election, but there are 60 convicts out at the gang camp and if the wives of all of them decide to try the Idaho stunt next election, the county may have to create a few new offices to take care of 'em.

THE SILVER LINING

Says another of Shelby's alleged wise-crackers who wants to help fill this space: "If Mr. Hoover is feeling the pinch of these hard times as we are, I bet he will be tickled pink when he's nothing but an ex-president and can get \$2 for every word he writes as does Calvin."

If as many people are looking for jobs this Fall as appear to be seeking work now there'll be no need of importing Eastern Carolina pickaninnies to do the cotton picking in Cleveland county, no matter how big the crop may be.

STAND BY, PLEASE

Next week the conductor of this trolley o'type will take his annual siesta. But here's the pleasing portion of the announcement for readers: The colyum will not vacate. W. Speight Beam, the bar-bar, will unleash some of his words which would have puzzled Webster and some of his Parisian phrases to fill one colyum. Dewitt Quinn, the apothecary shop proprietor, will let flow some of his

More People Kill Selves

Suicide Increases in Certain Seasons and Under Certain Conditions

Why do people kill themselves? Why do more of them kill themselves in certain seasons of the year than in others, and more in hard times? Giving the fact found by the vital statistics bureau in this State, Miss Nell Battle Lewis answers these questions in the Sunday newspapers.

In May, 1930, a month of 31 days, there were 30 suicides in North Carolina, approximately one a day. In June there were 26. During the first six months of 1930 more people in this state killed themselves than during any 12 months from 1914 through 1925. If the present suicide rate continues here, the total for this year will be decidedly in excess of that for 1920, the state's largest up to that date, which was 214 cases. The most obvious explanation of this marked increase in self-destruction is the present economic depression. During hard times suicides always increase.

One observes in the suicide statistics for North Carolina during the first half of 1930 a feature which has long been conspicuous in statistics of this kind everywhere, that is, the fact that there is a seasonal increase in this form of death in the late spring and early summer. There were 24 suicides in this state in January of this year, 20 in February, 17 in March, 17 in April, with the peak for the year coming in May with 30, followed by 26 in June. The total number is 134.

Total of 2,024 Cases

From 1914 when statistics of this kind were first recorded in North Carolina, through June, 1930, there were 2,024 cases of suicide in this state. Of the 1,890 cases recorded from 1914 through 1929 there were 1,656 whites, 229 negroes and three Indians. The yearly average for all races is 118 plus; for the whites, 103 and a fraction; and for the negroes 14 plus.

Ordeal of Civilization

Suicide is as old as history, perhaps older. It seems to be one of the tragic by-products of civilization, and as "the ordeal of civilization" has increased in complexity and strain, suicide also has increased. In "Suicide, An Essay on Comparative Statistics," Henry Morsell says: "The certainty of the forces and regularity of the progressive increase of suicide from the time when statistics were first collected until now is such and so great even in respect to countries different in race, religion and number of inhabitants, that it is not possible to explain it otherwise than as an effect of that universal and complex influence to which we give the name, Civilization."

General Facts

Statistics collected during the past 70 years have revealed certain general facts which are true to suicide everywhere. Two of these have already been mentioned, the seasonal increase of this form of death each year in late spring and early summer, and the greater proportion of men than women who kill themselves. Some writers hold that the seasonal rise is due to physiological changes resulting in low vigor following what corresponds to a period

of hibernation. The fact that the number of male suicides is three or four times greater than the number of suicides by women may have two causes, the fact that women in general have greater powers of endurance—though no more courage—than men, and the fact that until recently most of the heaviest responsibilities of life were borne by men. Hence, the new freedom by means of which more and more women are engaging in stress-producing activities would suggest a probable eventual increase in the proportion of female suicides.

"Hard Times" a Factor

Suicide has an economic correspondence, and the rate rises during "hard times" such as the present when unemployment also has increased. During wars the number of suicides decreases. According to one writer, this is due to "the great opportunity for one type or another of war service, the increased prosperity among wage-earners, and the deflection along more useful lines of the interests of morbidly introspective individuals." An additional reason for the decline in the suicide rate during wars very likely is that many potential suicides become soldiers and are killed by the enemy faster than, ordinarily they would have killed themselves.

Another general feature of suicide is the fact that the rate is constantly higher in cities, especially in very large cities, than in rural communities. Urban life is more complex than life in the country, and also it may be true that persons who are predisposed to suicide tend to congregate in cities. The fact that in North Carolina during one year (1928) the suicides were divided equally between town and country does not disprove this, first, because there are no very large cities in this state; and second, because figures for one year only are not comprehensive enough for comparison.

Why Do They Do It?

Why do people kill themselves? Apparently, for a variety of reasons. The newspapers recently carried an account of an old man in Nebraska who killed himself, it was said, because of the terrific heat. Soon after the last Presidential election a passionate supporter of the Democratic nominee took his own life ostensibly because Al Smith was not elected. Recent suicide in South Carolina left a note saying, "To hell with Hoover prosperity!"

Obviously, the reasons given in these cases were merely secondary. The primary cause was that which underlies the overwhelming majority of suicides, namely, a psychological constitution which cannot stand up under stress. The suicide may be definitely insane, and it is estimated that at least a third of them are. Comparisons of statistics on insanity in North Carolina with those on suicide in this state should prove interesting. Apparently, the majority of those who kill themselves are persons of neurotic or psychopathic temperament which produces a high degree of instability. "The burden of proof in each individual case rests upon those who claim normality for the suicide," according to one authority. For one reason or another life, which even for the stoutest-hearted is often "a grim struggle," becomes too much for the suicide and he retreats from a situation which he feels himself unable to master and takes flight in self-destruction.

Virginia Senator Calls Tariff Act Vicious



One of the most effective ways of relieving the depressed condition of business and agriculture would be to revise the "vicious" rates of the Grundy tariff act, according to Senator Swanson (above), Democrat, from Virginia. The Senator declared that world markets are being steadily closed to American trade.

CONVICT'S WIVES SEEKING OFFICES

Wallace, Idaho — Two women whose husbands are serving prison sentences for violating the Federal prohibition laws appeared to have been nominated to succeed their imprisoned mates in county offices here.

On the face of primary election returns Mrs. R. E. Weniger, wife of the former county sheriff, received the Democratic nomination to succeed her husband. Mrs. W. H. Herrick, wife of the former county assessor, won the Republican nomination for assessor, registering a large plurality over the Democratic candidates.

Walter Hendrickson, who was appointed sheriff after Weniger's resignation, will oppose Mrs. Weniger in the Fall election. Herrick, who also served as mayor of Wallace, and Weniger were sentenced to McNeil Island penitentiary upon being convicted of conspiracy to violate the dry law and collecting fees from bootleggers. The revenue thus obtained was used for municipal purposes. Herrick and Weniger asserted the town was "wet" in sentiment and that the system of collecting fines saved the municipality from financial difficulty.

She'll Be Princess Flora At Asbury Park Fete



Janet Viola Ingalls, of Los Angeles, Cal., will be Princess Flora, one of Queen Etanah's ladies-in-waiting, at the thirty-ninth annual national baby parade on August 27. She is a graduate of the Westlake School for Girls in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Here's A Touch Of Some Real Tragedy

Birmingham, Ala.—D. T. H. Williams was completing a caesarian operation in a hospital here last week. Turning suddenly to Dr. R. M. Coston, he gasped, "Doctor, take care of my patient," and fell dead upon the floor.

Dr. Coston completed the operation without delay and later in the day the mother and her newly born daughter were reported as "doing well."

More Praise Given Cleveland Officials

Rutherford County News. Mr. A. E. Cline, chairman of the board of county commissioners of Cleveland county announced last week that every item of expense Cleveland county has will be published monthly. Mr. Cline and his board are to be highly commended for this move. The taxpayers have a right to know where their money goes and what it goes for. There should be no "secrets" in operating a government, whether it be city, county or state and we commend the example of Cleveland to the other counties of the state. If people knew just where their money went, they should be willing to pay their taxes promptly.

VIII 2½ Cents in the Dollar Not Wall Street's idea of money making

Why has A & P more customers than any other grocer on earth? . . . "It sells for cash at the lowest price possible," answers The Business Week, a magazine that studies business methods.

And why are A & P's prices so low? . . . "It buys direct from original producers, and makes every known short cut in distribution," says The Business Week.

Then, not satisfied with other people's say-so, Business Week digs into the official records of A & P's sales and profits, and by a simple sum in arithmetic gets the rest of the story—namely, that A & P keeps only 2½ cents of every dollar taken over its counter.

"Two-and-a-half cents profit is not Wall Street's idea of something to capitalize," says Business Week, explaining Wall Street's complete separation from so large a business enterprise as A & P. But it is A & P's idea of fair treatment of the housewife.

OTHER A. & P. NEWS ON PAGE EIGHT

THE GREAT ATLANTIC & PACIFIC TEA CO.

Census Will Change Congressional Plan

As Result of Reapportionment Under New Census Various States Will Lose, Gain

Washington — Dividing up 435 seats in the House of Representatives so each State will have an equitable share of members on the basis of its 1930 population occupied experts of the census bureau.

The secretary of commerce has been directed by Congress to submit on the first day of the December session of a compilation of the population of the States and the number of members to which each is entitled under the method known as "major fractions."

That method, roughly, applies the principle of counting as a unit any remainder more than half and the dropping of a remainder of less than one-half.

Twenty-Six Seats Involved. Application of this method to the first complete preliminary census figures indicated today 26 seats would be affected in the coming reapportionment. Twenty States probably will lose one or more members. Ten States are expected to gain the 26 seats. Legislatures in the States affected will have to rearrange their congressional districts before the election of 1932.

The first actual census total, which still is subject to final re-

More than a Million and a Half see it the very first day

THE EIGHT AS BUICK BUILDS IT

Over 1,500,000 people visited Buick showrooms on Saturday, July 26, to see The Eight as Buick Builds It . . . the greatest reception ever accorded an eight-cylinder car.

Bona fide orders for these new Buick Eights totaled 7000 before the car was presented—a greater volume of business than any single month's sales of any other Eight* ever built.

And within the first five days, this record volume of orders had doubled.

There are four series, in four price ranges, including one series priced fully \$200 lower than last year's Buick Six. It is the world's lowest priced Valve-in-Head Straight Eight!

BUICK MOTOR COMPANY, FLINT, MICHIGAN
Division of General Motors Corporation
CANADIAN FACTORIES: M. LAUGHLIN-BUICK, OSHAWA, ONTARIO

FOUR SERIES	
1025	1335
1095	1585
1285	1810
1355	2035
ALL VALVE-IN-HEAD	

J. LAWRENCE LACKEY Dealer Shelby, N. C. WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT . . . BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

Eskridge News

VOL. 2 AUG. 8, 1930 NO. 22

The honest value and reliability of the New Model A Ford Car is emphasized after the first 25,000 miles of service. All cars run and perform good while they are new but the quality of materials and workmanship will show up very clearly after 25,000 miles of continued service.

Young Husband: "I can't stand this suspense any longer."

Doctor: "Calm yourself, my dear sir. I've brought thousands of babies into the world and never lost a father yet."

It is expected that a new car will drive good and operate economically while it is new but the true value of the car is determined on the performance, economy and upkeep costs after the first 25,000 miles.

Mr. J. W. Hartgrove, Shelby N. C., popular Rural Mail Carrier, has purchased a New Model A Ford Tudor Sedan which he will use on his mail route. Another tribute to the reliability of the Model A Ford as the mail must be delivered every day regardless of weather or conditions.

"I had a funny sinking feeling when Jack tried to kiss me." "Hadh't you ever been kissed before?" "Not by a submarine sailor."

Auburn Stenog: "Why the deuce do I struggle with this piffing job?"
Blonde Stenog: "Don't be discouraged; think of the mighty oak. It was once a nut like you."
We delivered Mr. T. C. Brackett, R-4, Shelby, N. C., a New Model A Ford Town Sedan.
Ask an owner of a Model A Ford of the performance and the economy of his car. All of the large corporations that operate a fleet of cars and trucks heartily endorse the Model A Ford. Swift and Company own and operate 8500 Cars and Trucks and all of them are Model A Fords.
Mr. W. A. Williams, R-1 Lattimore, N. C., is the proud owner of a New Model A Tudor Sedan.
"What time do you get up in the summer?"
"As soon as the first ray of the sun comes in at my window."
"Isn't that rather early?"
"No; my room faces the West."
We delivered Mr. John Campbell, Shelby, N. C., his third Model A Ford Tudor Sedan. Mr. Campbell is very enthusiastic over his Model A Ford Car.
Your neighbor drives a Model A. Ask him about it.

Just imagine!
We thought we couldn't afford one

THE General Electric Refrigerator is not an expense. A family in the most modest circumstances can afford one. The General Electric Refrigerator has the money-saving Monitor Top!

The Monitor Top operates the General Electric Refrigerator at a cost of but a few cents a day.

A cash payment of a very few dollars will put one in your kitchen within forty-eight hours.

GENERAL ELECTRIC ALL-STEEL REFRIGERATOR

Join us in the General Electric program, broadcast every Saturday Evening on a nation-wide N. B. C. network.

SOUTHERN REFRIGERATION
Charlotte Distributors

Robert C. Hord PHONE 805
CHAS. L. ESKRIDGE SHELBY, N. C.