

Public Gambling; Wide Open Club Is Sensation In Western N. C.

Many Prominent (?) People Asheville Flock To Gambling Tables. Large Sums of Money at Stake.

(Asheville Citizen-Times, 26th) Western North Carolina for generations noted the world over as a resort and playground, is now making flourishing strides in the attractive pastimes that have made Monte Carlo, Reno and Miami famous. The amazing popularity of the new public gambling establishment, the Clairmont Country Club, on the Hendersonville road, indicates a decided new trend of affairs for this section.

The gambling tables, where real money changes hands with gay flourish, are proving a great attraction. The crowds at the Clairmont Country Club, including many men and women prominent in affairs in Buncombe and Henderson counties and numerous members of the younger social sets, have been growing steadily of late. Visits to this gambling place are becoming a fad with many and the whole subject of this new pastime is now the talk of Asheville and Hendersonville communities.

It should be explained at the outset, for the benefit of the uninitiated and uninformed, that the Clairmont Country Club is located between Asheville and Hendersonville, in Henderson county, two miles north of Hendersonville. It is conveniently located just off the highway, and is well marked so that it is easily found both by day and night. At night a long string of gay colored electric lights marks the location of this popular sport and social establishment. The club offers an amazing variety of attractions—golf, dancing, food and refreshments, and a wide assortment of world-famous gambling games.

Draws Patrons From Wide Area. The gambling games, of course flourish mostly in the late evening and early morning. The crowds and the business reach their peak, as a rule, at about 1 o'clock in the morning. The patrons generally pour in after the shows and baseball games, parties and other attractions in Buncombe and Henderson counties are over. The popular resort also draws quite a number of patrons from other Western North Carolina counties and even from more distant communities. Many summer tourists are also patronizing the place.

The gambling games include the most popular Monte Carlo and Reno devices, such as roulette, craps, chuck-a-luck and blackjack. These games are located on the second floor of the club. In the lobby of the first floor there are seven slot machines, the sizes varying from the small nickel and dime types to elaborate machines for larger coins. Some dozen or more efficient and courteous attendants are on hand to receive the patrons and care for their wants. The place is conducted on a proper social plane and no riotous conduct is permitted. For the most part the games are conducted in a quiet, businesslike manner, with ripples of gay laughter and banter that mark other social gatherings. The stakes in the various games run from a nickel in the smallest slot machines to almost any amount the patrons might care to wager. Hundreds of dollars change hands every evening and on a flourishing night the "house" probably take in a couple of thousand or so.

No Secrecy Maintained. It should be explained also, for the benefit of the uninitiated and

SERVICE AT ZEB'S BARBER SHOP

If it's a good barber you're looking for — one that makes a trip to the barber shop a pleasure — drop by Zeb's where there are five high-class barbers. Here's the way they line up on the chairs:

- HUBERT ADDINGTON—A veteran at Zeb's shop.
 - TOM CHRISTENBERRY—former Central Shop barber.
 - HOYT NICHOLS—former Palace barber.
 - TOM S. ELLIOTT—former Shelby Cigar and Billiard parlor barber.
 - ZEB E. BEAM—the proprietor.
- You'll get first-class, satisfactory service in either chair.
- Haircuts 25 cents
Shaves 15 cents
All Tonics 20 cents

Three Shower Baths
Graham Street, Around Corner From Carolina Theatre.

uninformed, that absolutely no secret is made of the business and purposes of the Clairmont Country Club. The public is cordially invited to come and gamble to their hearts' and purses' content. No questions are asked—visitors have only to walk in and participate or merely look on, as they may desire. The club management serves soft drinks and smokes free to patrons and guests. A visitor does not have to spend a penny if he does not want to.

The club does not sell or give away intoxicating drinks. The patrons, of course, are permitted to bring their own, and many of them do. Occasionally a patron or guest gets a little too much liquor for the good of either himself or the others present and the management courteously, but firmly, conducts him to the open air.

Causing Lot of Talk. The Clairmont Country Club is causing a lot of talk and is drawing crowds unprecedented for an establishment of its size.

It is in the building occupied years ago by the Hendersonville Country Club and it's reached from Highway No. 69, by turning east opposite the Stoney Mountain entrance and travelling a hundred yards or so.

If you go to the country club in the daytime, you may play golf on a fairly decent nine-hole course. Some people do.

If you go there at night, and that is when most people go, the country club isn't so much concerned with golf. One may dance to a radio on a cool side porch, one may drink cool, soft beverages and partake of sandwiches. However, that is not all.

As one enters the main room on the main floor, he sees a lot of queer-looking machines, and if he has a memory that goes back a few years, or if he has visited Reno, Miami, or European resorts, he will recognize them as the old fashioned gambling machine, manufactured in Chicago. There are seven of these in the room.

Seven Slot Machines. Closer inspection shows these machines are for various sized coins. Put a nickel in the slot, pull a lever, turn the crank, and maybe two nickels or eight or none will come out. If playing with nickels isn't diverting, move to the next and try a dime, or go on the quarter or the half-dollar machine. They all work on the same principle. Pick the slot according to the odds you wish to play and take your chance.

Surely, you will think, these machines do not account for the 20 or 30 or perhaps 50 automobiles parked outside. They don't. The visitor hears a noise from above. He sees a stairway with a low gate across the entrance, but the gate isn't locked and he ascends.

The secret of the popularity of the place is immediately apparent. The upstairs is a brightly lighted room, brimming with humanity. In one corner, one sees the backs of 20 or 30 persons crowded about a table. In another, there is a handsome machine which is recognized as a roulette wheel. A croupier stands behind it, ready to explain the game to all who would learn and play.

Along the side of the room, a dealer passes cards to a half dozen or so players. They are playing the game that made the World War famous, "blackjack." Besides the stairway is a revolving wire cage with three large dice. It is a chuck-a-luck outfit.

Across the room, there is another deal table that doesn't appear popular. It is rarely played.

Craps Popular Game. The crowd in the corner, obscuring the table, is playing none other than the old-fashioned game of craps. They are standing before a crap table. It is a billiard table, with a chart laid out on the felt. Behind the chart stands the cashier. He hands out chips for cash, picks up the house winnings, and pays out the chips to winning players. Another attendant is necessary. He stands opposite the cashier, calls the fall of the dice and with a cane sweeps the dice back to the persons holding them.

The chart provides a simplified method for "fading" and allows all at the table to play no matter who holds the dice. You can bet the thrower will "pass" or "won't pass," by putting your chip on the places so marked on the diagram. You can bet he will "come" or he "won't come," or you can bet fancier odds by putting your money on a place marked "11," taking a long shot that the 6-5 will roll up. The odds are something like 14 to 1 on this bet. There are various other combinations, but most of the players stick to the "pass" or "won't pass," playing with or against the thrower.

Play on the crap table is fairly

expensive. The chips cost a dollar and no smaller amount is played. Chips are not distributed through a central cashier but are given out by the attendant at each table and redeemed by him.

The croupier at the roulette table will tell you that the game is not yet very popular here, because few persons understand it. However, there are times when the wheel spins regularly and the little white balls roll and rolls until it finds a resting place spelling success or failure for those who have wagered. The cheapest chip is 25 cents at this table, but there is no limit upward.

The roulette wheel is similar to those to be found in Reno, Monte Carlo, or Biarritz or any of the other well known gambling resorts. A large board beside the machine displays the numbers and the various combinations that may be played. You can play "red" or "black" or "odd" or "even," or "upper eighteen" and "lower eighteen," or numbers in groups, first, second or third dozen, or single numbers, or columns of numbers. The odds are all figured out accordingly to the chance the number will occur.

"Chuck-a-luck" Is Simple. Chuck-a-luck isn't so popular, but perhaps it is the simplest of all to play. It's a game worked out on a combination of the three dice.

Who runs the house? That question is difficult for one not knowing the inside details to answer. In charge there are Luther J. (Happy) Wilson, of Asheville, who genially greets persons from his home town who appear there, bids them enjoy themselves, and O. K.'s checks for those who need money; and J. K. Livingston, of Hendersonville, who appears to be the manager. Livingston is most affable, and is willing to explain all about the Clairmont Country Club. Some believe

that "outside" money is behind the project.

The system employed is this. The place is "wide open." The lights beckon to all who may wish to visit the club. Any one may come and eat and dance. Members may play. It's easy to be recognized as a member and the formality of signing up is waived. Yet, it gives the managers a chance to keep out undesirables. They boast that no whiskey, nor even home brew, is sold.

Crowds Well Mixed. What about the crowds? It is well mixed. Well known figures in the social life of Asheville and Biltmore Forest and of Greenville and Spartanburg, as well as many visitors to Western North Carolina, may be seen there. Also there are working people from Asheville and Hendersonville and a considerable group of youths who might be seen at nearly any public dance.

A glance at automobile licenses on the parking grounds shows that numbers of tourists are frequenting the place.

The crowd is orderly. The management says proudly that not a single disturbance has occurred there since the place was opened three months ago.

There have been other places of the kind in this section, but they have been extremely exclusive. Clairmont Club is the opposite. Everything is there for the public at large to see and partake of. The management is frank. They claim the place is absolutely "on the level." Persons come and lose \$1, \$10 or \$100, or more, or they come and win in such amounts. One day last week, the "house" is said to have lost \$500 on the crap table.

At any rate, Clairmont Club is an exceedingly interesting place, and unusual in these parts. Just how it may be rated as one of the leading attractions for Asheville and Hendersonville people and for tourists to this section.

Senator Claude Swanson of Virginia, visited President Paul Von Hindenburg in Berlin on Wednesday.

In The Motor And Business World

How Cars Stand in Sales in Carolinas. According to official figures, Ford stands first, Chevrolet second and Plymouth third in sales in the two Carolinas during the month of June. All three cars are low priced, which gives them an advantage in sales during the business depression over more expensive cars. Plymouth with its new free-wheeling, leaped into third place following an extensive advertising campaign on the free-wheeling device and the vibration motor.

Commercial Bodies on Fords Are Shown Here. A caravan of commercial truck bodies passed through Shelby Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, showing the various types of bodies equipped on the Ford. The caravan made a stop-over at the Rogers Motors garage and salesroom here and many visitors inspected the units. Some dozen or more different bodies for all commercial purposes were shown. The Ford commercial caravan is moving throughout the country, displaying the bodies wherever there are Ford dealers.

Friendly Five Flyer Here On Thursday 30th. Cohen Bros Friendly Five shoe dealers announce a visit on Thursday of this week on the "Friendly Five Flyer," an automobile that is literally a broadcasting station, a miniature movie theater, a show room and a movable living room all combined. It is the good will ambassador of Friendly Five shoes. The flyer was built of special aeroplane construction by Glenn Curtis, one of the fathers of aviation. With its

full stream line effect, it is capable of a road speed of 75 miles an hour. The interior is comfortably fitted with wicker chairs. The broadcasting station is in the rear offset where program may be broadcast or received, whether the car is moving or standing. A moving picture machine projects the manufacturing process of Friendly Five shoes and will give a demonstration in front of Cohen Bros. store on Thursday.

Oldest Resident of Cleveland County (Charlotte Observer.) A Cleveland County woman was last week one hundred years old, but the folks in that region of long-lived people did not think much about it, nor did the centennarian figure largely on the front pages. The lack of notoriety was perhaps because her life was of the humdrum character different from that of the other women at Jackson, Miss., whose hundredth anniversary was signaled by administration of a spanking at the hands of her 128-year-old mammy. The 100-year-old daughter rebelled at this kind of celebration and had her mother haled to court. There she protested that she had received spankings from the time she was a baby and had become tired of them. The mother told the court that her daughter had failed to pay a debt of 75 cents owed as money borrowed from the mother, and insisted that, "law or no law," she intended to spank her children every time they were naughty, indicating that she has more of them up in the eighties mebbe.

The court turned her loose with implied permission to go to it. The consolation here is that the neighboring Cleveland County centennarians are better behaved than that.

Material law is in force in Seville, Spain, because of fatal clashes between strikers and troops.

STAR ADS. PAYS

Beams Mill Dots Of Personal Items

Picnic at Battleground Saturday August 1. Teachers Off to Their Schools. (Special to The Star.)

Beams Mill, July 28.—The Sunday school contest came to a close Sunday July 26. The blues won. The reds will entertain the blues with a picnic at the Kings Mountain battleground, Saturday August 1. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Wright July 18, a fine son.

Mrs. Carl Gardner and son from Washington, D. C., are spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Gardner.

Mr. Clyde Ledford spent a few days last week with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Perry Costner motored to Charlotte Friday.

Misses A. V. and Irene Costner visited Misses Eury and Evelyn Hendrick Sunday.

Misses Ethel Williams and Aletha Hoyle motored to Lenoir Friday.

The following teachers in this community took up their duties on Monday in the following schools: Misses Lena Williams and Vevette Elliott teach in the elementary department of the Belwood high school. Mr. Chivous Hoyle teaches 7th grade and coaches high school athletics in the Sterns high school, Columbus, this state. Miss Aletha Hoyle is principal of the elementary school at Alexis, this state.

A schedule for conducting a series of prayer meetings the first week in August is being prepared by the board of deacons and Sunday school superintendent. The prayer meeting will be held in the homes of this community and conducted by the officers of the church and Sunday school.

Mrs. Clyde Dalton and two children of Virginia are spending awhile here with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hoyle.

Mrs. Frank Hoyle and sons Clark and Everett and daughter Mabel from Chase City, Va., are visiting

STAR ADS. PAYS

Nudity Grows In Popularity

Claim German Nude Clubs Now Number 150,000 Men and Women in Membership.

New York.—Over 150,000 men and women members of some 1,000 "nature culture" clubs have become devotees of the German nudist movement, according to survey published here recently by Physical Culture.

"Nature culture camps can be found from one end of Germany to the other," says Gebhard Hirschfeld, author of the article. "The doors are open to all who heed the two rules governing membership: decency and nudity. The federal association for free development of the body, in Berlin, is one of the most important of the organizations furthering the movement. Its purpose is to establish tracts of land where men, women and children may follow their inclinations undisturbed. The membership fee is 50 cents per month. The practice of nudity has been legalized in Germany, in places shielded from public view.

"Regardless of what scandalized derogators may say," the article continues, "the nudist movement itself is pure although the conservative German general public has looked upon it neither with favor nor tolerance. Those who violate the unwritten laws of the movement meet with summary expulsion from the camps. Its members, with deep and earnest sincerity, endeavor to overcome the shame and fear which naturally possess newcomers and those who wish to try the experiment but lack the courage to take the initial step."

relatives in this county for two weeks.

Mr. Huey Williams of Kings Mountain visited his father Mr. Billy Williams Sunday.

STAR ADS. PAYS

"It so happens I don't smoke..."

BUT I've noticed recently that more of my girl friends are smoking CHESTERFIELD, and I asked why.

"One of them said that CHESTERFIELDS really are milder and taste better—that there is nothing strong or sharp or bitter about them.

"Another one spoke up and said that she too liked the taste of CHESTERFIELDS; but that she was especially pleased with the package—so neat and attractive. Chesterfields—she added—are made right—properly filled—and burn evenly; and she thought possibly they were using a better cigarette paper.

"Still another one agreed with all we'd said. She'd been smoking CHESTERFIELDS for a long, long time, and had always liked them; but she also liked the way they were advertised. The advertising seemed to her to be the truth and the whole truth—it wasn't always knocking somebody or something!"

