

AGENT'S KIN ILL

Mrs. Charles Chuber of Long Island, N. Y. mother of Bill Chuber of Statesville, is recovering from a major operation that she underwent recently. She has left the hospital and is at her home in Long Island. Her son expects to go up sometime in July and bring her back with him for a visit.

Carolina, Land of Beginnings, Starts Precedent With Art Museum

"Alone as a historic precedent, the North Carolina State Art Museum readily earned its right to a particular fame . . . for not only does it represent the first of the 48 states to vote and expend public

funds to acquire a public art collection, it also becomes the South's first museum of extent, and consequence in possessions, below Richmond and east of the Pacific." Thus wrote Editor Alfred Frankfurter in the April issue of Art News Magazine, announcing the opening of the Museum at Raleigh, housing more than 200 paintings and objects of art, valued already at \$2,000,000—with an additional million dollars worth of art to come as the donation of the Kress Foundation.

LAND OF BEGINNINGS

It is not surprising that North Carolina should be the home of the first major museum of art, which was dedicated April 6, as a state institution. North Carolina is a Land of Beginnings. It has been so since the First Englishman came ashore on Roanoke Island to begin colonization of the Western World. Tourists travel easily to Roanoke Island today, and to nearby Kitty Hawk where modern flight began, because of another North Carolina Beginning—the first state administered highway system. Over these same highways they journey from the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Smoky Mountains. In between, they may visit Chapel Hill, where the University of North Carolina was the first state university to open its doors, and the industry of the Piedmont, which is symbolic of North Carolina's leadership in the New South, because this was the first Southern state to strike off the fetters of agriculture undiversified. North Carolina, Land of Beginnings, acclaims this new first in the field of culture, embracing as it does the opportunity of sharing an outstanding art collection with the people of all the world. (Special tribute to North Carolina in April issue of ART NEWS.)

By June 1, the new museum, which opened on April 6, had already counted 21,402 visitors.

In celebration of the opening in Raleigh, 30 North Carolina painters held an exhibition in New York, May 16-30. The painters were presented by Ruth Faison Shaw in the Coach House, 422½ West 46th Street.

BAD ROADS

Continued From Page 1

across the mountains often induced others to follow the pioneers. An example of such a letter is one written in 1817 from Christian County, Kentucky by Moses Stevenson to William McClelland in Iredell in which the writer said "You ought to come to this or some other new country where you could live more easy and more plentiful" and again, "as you complain of grain being very scarce with you at present—but sir let me inform you that we have plenty of everything in this country."

Among descendants of Moses Stevenson and Ann Ewing, his wife, are Vice President Adlai Ewing Stevenson, vice president of the United States, 1893-1897, and Governor Adlai Ewing Stevenson of Illinois, 1949-1953, and Alben W. Barkley, vice president, 1949-1953.

Other families moved into Tip-top County, Tennessee, Bellevue, Missouri, and to Bloomington, Illinois.

Agitation for better roads resulted in a growing demand by the people of the Piedmont for a railroad.

By 1857 this dream was realized when the tracks were laid through Iredell on the spur line to Asheville from the North Carolina Railroad with connections at Salisbury.

A business boom developed as a result and prosperity came at last to Iredell. A direct result of this was seen in the promotion of a grand scheme to make Eagle City a Hunting Creek metropolis.

For almost ten years prior to 1857 Andrew Beggerly had promoted his pet project in selling lots in the fictitious town variously called "Eagle City", Eagle Mills and South Troy" through advertisements in state papers.

His pleas met with marked success and with the money that poured in a cotton mill was actually built. However, a depression that began in 1857 fell athwart Beggerly's plan which thereafter vanished into thin air.

About 1950 some of Iredell's citizens through the county too large and petitioned the legislature to divide it. However, James Harbin, a public spirited man who had moved to Statesville as owner and keeper of the old Saint Charles Hotel, and others signed a counter petition to the legislature protesting any division. He and his friends claimed that Statesville and Iredell were just beginning to realize a growth unequaled by any situation in the piedmont with new plank roads and railroads coming through the county. "Any division," they said, would injure materially such growth, and inconvenience hundreds of our fellow countrymen."

Through Harbin's work the division never materialized and Iredell continued on its way to becoming one of the leading counties in the west.

Further evidence of Iredell's progressive march can be observed in a report by Dorothy Dix on the county poor house in the 1850s.

At a time when the insane and poor were practically ignored in the state, Miss Dix found that Iredell's poor house was "a model of neatness, comfort and good order having a most efficient master and mistress," and "all in all it was in much the best condition of any poor house I have been in North Carolina," she wrote, "and would do credit to any state."

(To Be Continued)

ELMWOOD

Mrs. W. R. Byford is going to be a "news gatherer" for this paper in the area about Cleveland. Oh, there won't be much, she said, and just on the heels of that she called in about a fire down there. Here is her report:

It is very dry. Grain fields are like tinder and a fire that started in an oats field belonging to Mr. Clarence Reitzel might very well have proved disastrous except for the quick thought and action of three boys, "Spray boys" with the Iredell Health Department. The boys are Jack Cobb Jr., Pete Eisele and Ronald Harmon. They were passing by on their job with the department when they noticed fire in the field. They accepted it as someone's responsibility at first but, having gone a little distance, they decided to check, again and going back they realized the danger. A wind was whipping the flames, there was a house, the Turner home, very near and a field of ripe wheat within a few hundred feet.

The boys fought the fire, saw it gaining and put out for help. They called the Statesville fire department, rounded up local help and everybody went to firefighting. Mr. Jim Benfield took his tractor and ploughed about the fire center, making a fire brake to protect adjoining areas and neighbors fought with wet sacks and buckets of water. The fire truck arrived in time to take over and save spreading damage. A large area of oats was damaged.

The jeep the boys were using suffered some fire damages also.

The News
Although all the Piedmont is sadly deficient in normal rainfall, Mecklenburg county seems hardest hit; corn and cotton loss is put at 20 percent. Mountain tobacco seems okay.

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