

# The Watauga Democrat

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## Story of The Experience of a Pioneer Hunter.

(By L. D. Lowe.)

It was well known by the old hunters that deer would shed their horns each year; that the old horns, regardless of size or length, would drop off in the spring and new ones would come in their place; the difference being that each year's growth would show an additional spike on each, and it was very easy to tell the age of a deer by the number of spikes. After the old horns dropped off the new ones would immediately shoot up. The new horns while growing are covered with a velvet-like film as a protection against the heat of summer. It was also well known that upon the approach of autumn the deer could seek a southern slope and after rubbing his horns through the shrubs and underbrush to clear them of the summer coating of velvet-like substance, he would bask in the sun for his horns to harden.

In passing over the mountains Harrison Aldridge while quite a young man observed a place on the point of a ridge, where a very large buck had left quantities of velvet on the shrubs, and he also observed that he had been lying on a large flat rock where he could get the full benefit of the sun. Harry at once made up his mind that he must kill the largest buck then in the forest, and to do this he knew that he must take the advantage. He well knew that if a wild deer once gets the scent of man he immediately turns his course and goes in an opposite direction. A few yards below this rock and on the south east side he found that a tree had been uprooted, leaving a large mass of roots and earth behind which he could conceal himself from sight, and he discovered an opening through which he could just see his trusty rifle. After making his plans he must wait until the weather conditions would be favorable to carry them into effect, but he waited with patience.

Some day in the early autumn the sun was coming down with great heat and there was a gentle breeze coming from the north west, and Harry thought the golden opportunity had arrived. He overhauled his flint-lock gun and found it to be in good shape. He put on his best flint and shouldered his rifle. He hurried on his way until he got within a short distance of the upturned tree, and then he crept up as noiselessly as a cat. After reaching the killing place he quietly placed his rifle through the opening in the tree root to await developments. He knew he might be detained in this position for quite a long time so he placed himself in as easy a position as possible. While he was waiting the chipmunks were scampering among the leaves and running up and down the logs; now and then he would hear the yelps of passing wild turkey; the trees seemed to be alive with squirrels, jumping from branch to branch, barking, chattering and having a gay time; the birds were singing in the tree tops in their sweet ecstasy, and all nature seemed to be overruling with joy.

While Harry was thus engaged in deep thought and the great wonders of nature were revolving in his mind, he was startled at a noise coming from the direction the gentle breeze was coming; his heart began to beat with such terrific force he feared the deer would hear it and become frightened. Each step would bring the object of his curiosity a little nearer, but he soon found that it was only a hog coming across

the point of the ridge. The hog came leisurely down the slope until it reached a damp place where it stopped, turned up some fresh earth and laid down for a rest. Harry again began to study over the wonders of nature; watch the nimble squirrels chase one another up and down the trunks of trees, jump from one branch to another and from one tree to another, and seemed to be vying with one another to see which could take the most hazardous chances; and he was wondering if, after all, the man who lives in closest touch with nature is not the happiest creature on earth.

Harry was quick and always on the alert but he had learned that at times he must be patient. He did not have to wait long, however, until he again heard the soft tread of some animal, then his heart began to flutter again, and he felt sure that this was the large buck approaching, but in this he soon found that he was mistaken. This proved to be a large black bear which was following the hog. The bear came across the point of the ridge, and almost from the same course the hog had taken. He would walk a few steps on his four feet then rear up on his hind feet and look in different directions, and he was evidently looking for the hog; he would again drop to the ground, walk a few paces and again rise to his full height and walk back and forth with measured tread, like a soldier on drill, each time coming a little nearer and further down the slope of the hill. Harry was amused as well as astonished at this strange performance, he had never seen such an exhibition before, and he was anxious to see what it all meant. He thought the bear was a little too far off to get in a deadly shot with the size of the load his gun was then carrying, and he knew that if he only crippled the bear, with the vantage ground bruin had, he was likely to get into trouble and with an unloaded gun, and without dogs, the odds would be in favor of his adversary, so he considered that the safest plan was to let well enough alone.

Harry's curiosity soon reached the climax; the bear soon had the hog located; he dropped to the ground and crept stealthily along until he approached within a few feet of the hog which was apparently asleep, and with a mighty bound he sprang upon the hog, grasped him tightly in his muscular arms while the hog was powerless to do anything but wriggle and squeal. While the bear held the hog in his embrace, standing erect like a man with a heavy load in his arms, he moved about from place to place, and as Harry had concluded in this time to take chances, and was almost in the act of bringing his flint-lock into play, the bear suddenly hurled his victim aside and departed as suddenly as if he had received the leaden ball from Harry's rifle, but no gun had been fired. Harry was greatly amazed at this strange performance and he was unable to account for it. The hog went limping along through the woods and Harry went up to investigate the cause of bruin's sudden flight; there he found a huge rattlesnake. In moving about with the hog the bear had approached too near the rattle snake which was lying in its coil, and while the bear was standing in an upright position the rattle snake pierced the tender part of his flank with its fangs; the bear dropped his intended meal and departed in great haste, while Harry retraced his footsteps to his home a disappointed but wiser man.

(To be continued.)

## Boone Trail Highway Association.

Communicated.  
In 1759 Daniel Boone sold his 150 acre farm in Davie county for 75 pounds proclamation money to Aaron Van Cleave, and with his wife Rebecca started out through an unknown wilderness to the "Dark and Bloody Grounds" of Kentucky. The land was obtained by grant by grant from the Earl of Granville by Esquire Boone, Daniel's father, who was buried at Mocksville, Davie county. The Bank of Davie has for safe keeping the old tomb stone of Esquire Boone and his wife Sarah. The trail of Daniel Boone is being traced and tablets set up at principal points along the trail and this scheme, which is being put through by the Daughters of the American Revolution, with Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, of Winston-Salem, as one of the moving spirits, and Mrs. William Reynolds. The State Regent, gave birth to a new idea which the men have taken up and hope to put through, following the marking of The Trail. That idea is the building of a graded highway, called the "Boone Trail Highway" following the route the old pioneer traveled as nearly as the character of the country will permit, and to be a fit memorial to the brave man who blazed the way for civilization up through the great resourceful northwestern section of North Carolina, East Tennessee and Kentucky.

Mr. J. Hampton Rich of Winston-Salem, met a few public spirited business men in North Wilkesboro Monday night and organized a local branch of the Boone Trail Highway Association, whose duty it shall be to do anything they can toward making the thought a reality especially with reference to that part of the trail in Wilkes county.

Mr. H. W. Horton was made chairman, Mr. E. M. Blackburn Secretary with Messrs. Leonard Vyne, C. H. Cowles, F. B. Hendren and T. B. Inley as an active committee to receive members and otherwise direct the enterprise.  
Aside from the historical side of this subject memorializing the pioneer the actual benefit, or rather the necessity of this highway, has for years been a dream of those who see ahead of us great prosperity if we take advantage of our opportunities. This highway would enable travel from the central and eastern portions of the State to go directly into the heart of the mountains for outings and vacations and at the same time serve nicely as a cross connecting link between the great crest of the Blue Ridge Highway, now almost a reality, and the National and Central Highway.

The tentative route of the trail is beginning at Salisbury, then through Mocksville, Farmington, Huntersville, Yadkinville, Wilkesboro, Boone and into Tennessee and Kentucky. It means much and should receive the hearty support of every citizen.

H. W. HORTON,  
North Wilkesboro, Oct. 28.

A vast amount of ill health is due to impaired digestion. When the stomach fails to perform its functions properly the whole system becomes deranged. A few doses of Chamberlain's Tablets is all you need. They will strengthen your digestion, invigorate your liver, and regulate your bowels, entirely doing away with that miserable feeling due to faulty digestion. Try it. Many others have been permanently cured—why not you? For sale by all dealers.

The wise man is not the one who proclaims himself so.

## STATE AND GENERAL NEWS.

The cane crop of Louisiana, is said to have been seriously damaged by a recent tornado that swept the State.

Ernest M. Green, of Newberne, has been appointed Assistant District Attorney for the Eastern District of N. C.

The Lexington Dispatch says that much of the cotton in Davidson county is still unpicked, some fields not yet having been touched.

Work has been begun on a new postoffice building in Hickory, which is just opposite the new passenger station. It is to cost \$65,000.

Work is progressing on the Dreadnought, Pennsylvania, at Newport News, Va., which when completed, two years hence, will be the world's largest and most powerful battleship.

It is said that Porfirio, former President of Mexico, will live in Miami, Florida, this winter. His family will be with him. He is now in France, but wishes to spend the winter in a warmer climate.

The will of Adolph Busch, the millionaire brewer, has been filed for probate in St. Louis. The estate is estimated at fifty million dollars, of which \$170,000, are bequeathed to charitable institutions.

An exchange says that that the bones of Cristopher Columbus, now in a cathedral at Santa Domingo, will be sent to the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, as a part of that republic's exhibit.

Four North Carolinians, namely, Charles N. Vance, Black Mt.; A. C. Avery, Morganton; Wm. Wilson, Henderson, and D. H. McCulloch, Charlotte, are candidates for the position of Collector of Revenue at Panama.

King Otto, of Bavaria, who is insane, has been deposed from the throne, which for 27 years, he has occupied, without having been aware of his position. Prince Regent Ludwig to be known as Ludwig III, is now King.

From the Topic we learn that Editor H. C. Murtin, who, for years, has been the efficient Agt. for the Southern Express Co. at Lenoir, has sent in his resignation to take effect as soon as his successor can be appointed. Mr. Martin's health is not robust, and other business interests claim all his time.

On the morning of the 31st ult., a severe rain storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, prevailed along the coast about Hatteras, and a surfman, while patrolling the beach, was killed, the lightning tearing his body to pieces.

On the 4th, David L. Walsh, Democrat, was elected Governor of Massachusetts by a plurality of 50,000 over Augustus P. Gardner, Republican, Chas. S. Boid, Progressive, and Eugene C. Foss, Independent. Henry C. Stuart was elected Governor of Virginia with an entire State ticket, the Republicans and Progressives having declined to nominate candidates, because they could not agree on a State ticket. The Fusion candidate for Mayor of New York City, John Purroy Mitchell, was elected by a plurality of 75,000, over Edward C. McCall, Tammany's nominee. New Jersey elects James C. Filder, Democrat, Governor, The Democrats also gained control, of both houses of the Legislature.

Mr. Edwin B. Davis, of Morganton, and Mr. J. Gordon Ballew, of Baltimore, have bought Mr. J. E. Shell's drug business in Lenoir and took possession last week.

Charles H. Duls, of Charlotte, who was appointed judge of the new Superior court district comprising Mecklenburg and Gaston counties, and who has been ill ever since appointed, has instructed his friends to send his resignation to Gov. Craig. The judge is in a Philadelphia hospital.

William Sulzer, who was last month impeached as Governor of New York, and deposed from that high office, was on the 4th elected to the State Assembly from the 6th New York district by a sweeping plurality. He ran on the Progressive ticket, and it is estimated polled more votes than both the regular Democratic and Republican opponents combined.

## Beaver Dam Dots.

[Too late for last issue.]

We are having fine weather for this season of the year.

Mrs. Wm. Eller is right sick at this writing, but we hope she will recover soon.

Mrs. Solomon Greene, of Sullivan county, Tenn., who has been on Beaver Dams for the past two weeks visiting her sisters, returned to her home last Saturday.

Mr. Jasper Wilson, who was stricken with paralysis about two weeks ago, is but little if any improved.

Married on Sunday, Nov. 2, Mr. Clyde Hilliard to Miss Pearl, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Eller, Rev. J. H. Farthing officiating at his home. Those present were Clyde Eggars and Crete Hagaman, Charles Dougherty and Nettie Eller, Claude Williams and Dessie Eller. They all dined to Mr. Harry Hilliards, where a sumptuous supper was spread. All report an enjoyable time. We all wish them a happy and successful journey through life.

On last Friday night the death angel visited the home of Mr. Grant Lowrance, and called his father, Mr. James Lowrance, to the home above. Miss Mary, daughter of Mr. Thomas Stansberry, died on the same date, and both were buried in the same grave yard on last Sunday evening. Rev. J. F. Eller preached both their funerals.

Prof. B. R. Dougherty visited Forest Grove Sunday School last Sunday and made a splendid talk. He remained here until Monday and visited the schools on Timbered Ridge. Glad to have the Prof. with us any time.

Chester, the little son of Mr. James Culyer, has been quite sick with pneumonia, but is improving fast.

Mrs. Fred Hagaman visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shell last Sunday.

## The Family Gough Medicine

In every home there should be a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery, ready for immediate use when any member of the family contracts a cold or cough. Prompt use will stop the spread of sickness. S. A. Stid, of Mason, Mich., writes: "My whole family depends upon Dr. King's New Discovery as the best cough medicine in the world. Two 50c bottles cured me of pneumonia." Thousands of other families have been equally benefited and depend entirely upon Dr. King's New Discovery to cure their coughs, colds, throat and lung troubles. Every dose helps. Price 50c and \$1. All drug gists, H. E. Bucklen & Co., Philadelphia or St. Louis.

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2-27-13 1 yr.

## VETERINARY SURGERY.

I have been putting much study on this subject; have received my diploma, and am now well equipped for the practice of Veterinary Surgery in all its branches, and am the only one in the county. all on or address me at Vitas, N. . R. F. D. 1.  
G. H. HAYES,  
Veterinary Surgeon.  
1-17-11.

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7-6-11

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