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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C. THURSDAY MARCH 31, 1921.

NO 23

REMINISCENCES.

Personal Recollections of a Trip to Texas in Pioneer Days, and Some Incidents in Cow Boy Life in the West.

(By L. N. Perkins.)

NOTE—This installment of this article should have appeared before the last one, the mistake being made by a confusion of manuscripts.

Soon after our return from Fanning county the Adams' traded a half interest in 500 head of cattle to a man by the name of Hatcher for a farm near Fort Worth; two hundred head of beef cattle and three hundred head of stock cattle three years old and under. The cattle were to be gathered at once and driven to the Northern markets, Adams to be at the expense of getting the cattle to market. Hatcher and Frank Adams were both to accompany the outfit, and the money be divided equally. The beef cattle had to be gathered in Erath county, one hundred miles west of Fort Worth, while the stock cattle were scattered over two or three counties, so all hands went to work to get the cattle gathered and ready for the drive.

Gathering wild cattle then was no easy job. They were very wild and it required no little strategy to handle them successfully. It also took a fleet horse and a good rider to outrun these long legged, wide-horned cattle. The cow boys would go in squads of 12 or 15 in number, and when they came to a knoll overlooking a large number of cattle grazing in the valley, they would halt before the cattle became frightened and two of them would start in opposite directions as rapidly as possible, and when at a proper distance two others would start the same way until they had formed a circle around the bunch, then some in front, on sides and rear, they would move the cattle to a strong corral built for the purpose, where they were assorted and those retained that were wanted. Some of those wild cattle when corralled were mean to fight and to guard against that the boys would use what they called a "karowho" pole (a Mexican word). The "karow" pole was a strong pole, of convenient length, with a raw hide loop to go over the saddle horn on one end and a sharp steel spike on the other end. This usually conquered them, but occasionally an old native could not be subdued and had to be shot to get him out of the way. Only the most expert could use the pole, so I was not called on for that business, but I've seen them used.

During the time we were gathering the cattle I received a letter from home folks which perhaps changed the whole course of my life. The letter informed me that my brother, next to me, had the "Western fever" and was soon to leave home and I was implored to return home, as my father and mother were left in an almost helpless condition, my father being a cripple and physically unable to look after the farm and stock. This was a sore disappointment to me as I was just getting interested in the cattle business and did not wish to give it up. I liked Texas and expected to go into the stock business and "grow up with the country." I had some flattering offers from prominent stock men which was another inducement to stay.

After carefully weighing the matter over I came to the decision that a young man's first duty

was to his parents in their declining years. So I wrote them that I had engaged to help take a drove of cattle from Texas to Kansas, and in the coming fall, nothing preventing, I would return home.

As fast as the cattle could be gathered they were brought to Fort Worth and kept under herd in the day time and at night put in a strong corral a short distance from town. The requisite number being obtained, and our camp outfit in readiness, on the 25th of July we started on the drive.

The outfit consisted of five hundred head of cattle, two hundred stock, a team and wagon with a tent and camp supplies, ten hands and a negro cook and driver, beside the two bosses, Adams and Hatcher. Each hand used two horses, one of their own and one of the owners of the cattle. The cattle were used alternately, one day under the saddle and the next day loose in the herd. The wage paid the hands was \$1.50 per day in gold.

The route selected was from Fort Worth via Plano and Sherman, Texas, to a place on Red River known as Boggy Depot, where there was a good ferry kept in operation. Red River at that place was the boundary line between Texas and the Indian Territory. The provisions consisted of flour, bacon, beef, coffee salt and soda, no vegetables or fruit. To keep a supply of beef we would lay over a day about once a week at a suitable camping place, and slaughter a calf or small yearling. The flesh of the beef would be sliced thin and dried on a scaffold built of forks and poles, and a hot fire kept under it till it was dry enough to be sacked to haul. The bones would all be cooked and used before starting to drive again. The weather was hot and dry and the water bad. The water we were usually forced to drink was standing water in the creek beds, where hundreds of cattle and horses passed through it every day. We had no feed of any sort for the stock as grass was plentiful everywhere and all stock was expected to live on it. The average drive was from ten to fifteen miles per day, giving the stock plenty of time to graze. The cattle were kept under herd day and night, the hands taking it by turns, usually about two hands on only at one relief, and two hours at one time. The loose horses were allowed to run with the cattle.

Before we were out of the state of Texas our cook was detected stealing coffee and selling it to other negroes who would come about the camp. So he was dismissed and told to "hit the grit" for home, which left us without anyone to prepare anything to eat.

As I had had some experience cooking in army life in camp, I was asked to supply for a while until a cook could be obtained. Mr. Adams tried to hire a cook to go with us, but without success. So the boys made a proposition to me that if would continue to cook for them they would relieve me from day herd duty, but I had to perform my part of night herding. There seemed to be no other way, to do for we had to have some one to cook, so I took them up and did the cooking the remainder of the drive. Usually we could find wood enough to cook with, but at times all the fuel to be had was large, dry weeds that grew along the water courses, which was very unsatisfactory as any one who has tried it can testify. When we arrived at Red River we found it to be a

Resolutions of Respect.

On Jan. 29, 1921, an honored brother, Rev. Asa Brown, dropped forever the working tools of life to enter the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the universe presides.

Uncle Asa, as we affectionately called him, lived to the ripe age of nearly 83 years, and was a minister in the Baptist church more than 50 years. He was made a Mason when our Lodge was working U. D., thereby becoming a charter member of Elk Lodge, No. 373, which bears the date of Dec. 8, 1881.

Brother Brown soon became Master of the Lodge, serving in this capacity for several years, and installed his successors in office more times, perhaps, than any other Past Master of this Lodge.

His last attendance in Lodge was June 24, 1920.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved: That we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well.

Resolved 2, That the Lodge be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

Resolved 3, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Orphans Friend and The Watauga Democrat for publication, to the family of our deceased brother, and that they be spread upon the minutes of the Lodge.

W. H. MCGUIRE
W. G. COOK
J. W. BARLOW
Committee.

Good Farm For Sale.

105 acres near Rutherford, six miles east of Boone. Half cleared, balance in good timber. Good six-room dwelling; outhouses; well-watered; good orchard. An ideal place. State Highway through center. For particulars see

R. L. Bingham,
3-24 4tp. Boone, N. C.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Jas. P. Mast, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of March, 1922, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This the 10th day of March, 1921.

JOE K. MAST, Adm.

A Bargain in a Splendid Farm.

I am ready to sell my farm of about one hundred (125) and twenty-five acres at a BARGAIN PRICE. This farm is located in Watauga county, on the waters of Meadow Creek, about two miles from Brownwood depot, and is in good condition. A good ten-room residence, practically new, with running water in house, a good barn and other out buildings. Would sell on easy term. Property assessed for taxes at \$7,600; would sell for \$9,000 and give immediate possession.

R. T. Greer, Marion, Va.

Notice of Administration.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of M. A. Johnson, deceased, late of Watauga county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased, to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of March 1922, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement and payment. This 10th day of March, 1921.

E. S. Coffey, Administrator.

narrow, deep, muddy stream, but we had no difficulty in swimming the horse across into the Indian Territory.

(To be continued.)

Orchard Pruning on Large Scale.

Asheville Special.

The most extensive training and pruning experiments on apple trees done by any state horticultural department in the entire country is now under way at the State Test Farm at Swanannoa, North Carolina" is the statement made by C. D. Matthews, State Horticulturist in a conference with the Secretary of The Asheville Board of Trade last Saturday on his way from the State Test Farm to his office in Raleigh.

Mr. Matthews states this is the third year of the experiment, and that at the end of each five year period a detailed report of the work and results would be published for distribution to the apple growers of North Carolina. He said the object of the work is to determine the most desirable methods of training apple trees, whether it be the open head or modified leader, whether high headed or low headed, and to determine the effect of the different degree of annual pruning on the shape and productivity of the trees.

"The Swanannoa Test Farm orchards," he continued, will in a few years be living models, and the department will be in positive position to advise apple growers the very best pruning practices for the Southern Appalachian section."

Mr. Matthews and the Asheville Board of Trade urge the orchardists and prospective orch-

ardist to visit the State Farm and see the results of the pruning and training experiments as often as possible.

Report of the condition of The Valle Crucis Bank

at Valle Crucis, in the State of North Carolina, at the close of business on Feb. 21, 1921.

| RESOURCES: | |
|---|--------------|
| Loans and discounts | \$109,838.25 |
| Demand Loans | 9,002.08 |
| Overdrafts | 1,894.56 |
| U. S. and Liberty Bonds | 2,275.00 |
| Banking house | 1365.39 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 1140.41 |
| Cash in vault and ams due from banks, bankers and Trust Companies | 6,689.70 |
| Cash items held over 24 hrs | 1,255.41 |
| Total | \$134,060.80 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Capital stock paid in | 51,000.00 |
| Surplus Fund | 3,150.00 |
| Undivided profits less current expenses & tax paid | 590.10 |
| Dividends Unpaid | 30.00 |
| Notes and Bills Rediscounted | 2,500.00 |

Bills payable 15,000.00
Deposits subject to check 26,713.15
Time certificates of deposit 61,088.64
Savings deposits 3,748.58
Cashier's checks outstanding 2,260.33

Total \$134,060.80
L. M. FARTHING, Cashier.
C. D. TAYLOR
H. B. PERRY
D. F. MAST Directors.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March, 1921.
W. H. MAST, J. P.

Notice—Sale of Land.

A farm of 325 acre, part of which is in the Graded School District. House of eight rooms; a good well a small barn; three tenement houses with 3 rooms each, and one with two. For terms and other information desired, apply together of the undersigned at Lenoir, North Carolina. This March 21, 1921.

LAWRENCE WAKEFIELD,
E. E. WAKEFIELD.

If you want to buy good cut over mountain lands, write or call to see T. W. Hampton or J. H. Murphy of B. F. Lumber Co., Shulls Mills, N. C.



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