

NORTH STATE HAS REAL OLD PEOPLE

They Live a Century in the Isothetic Belt.

ARCADIAN SIMPLICITY HERE

Small Territory in North Carolina Where Inhabitants Attain Great Age and Retain Bodily Activity to the Last—Nature's Sanatorium Seventy Miles East of Asheville.

By ARTHUR T. ABERNETHY.

I am going to tell the readers of The Washington Herald where they may find the oldest people in the world, not in old folks' homes, not reclining on the supporting arms of children, but fifty, healthy, and buoyant. Some of them are eighty, some ninety, some one hundred, even one hundred and fourteen years old, doing their own work in the garden and the fields.

This is no real estate advertisement. There is not a real estate agency in the place of which I write. It is simply a moral, healthful, correctly living, providentially blessed strip of land where the air, or the water, or the weather—something of which I know not—gives an affidavit of agreement with the inhabitant for long life.

Lying seventy miles east of Asheville and an equal distance west of Salisbury, N. C. If a visitor will leave the Southern train at a station known as Connelly Springs he can go ten miles in any direction and find himself in the universally recognized healthiest spot in the world. It is not an especially beautiful territory; it is only about 2,000 feet above the level of the sea—not so high as Asheville, yet neither is it so damp, and no consumptives are found in this belt.

People Are Peculiar.

The people who reside in the territory are a peculiar set. A reader compels the statement that while they are generally moral, social, and liberal, they lack ability to disprove in their own conduct any claim the medical scientists might advance as to presence of the hook worm or lazy germ among them. In and around these hills dwell the remnant of the once thrifty "moonshiners," still active as the vigilance of the revenue department will permit. But, perhaps, it is this very spirit of manana—this restful, freak-of-the-Lotus-land feeling—which brings such amazing restoration to visitors who come and settle here.

Oddly enough, money does not seem to influence these strangely fortunate original settlers. On an eminence a mile below the Connelly Springs depot, lives a widow, the mother of a family, who ekes out existence from a little one-horse farm, while on "Hocler's Knob" Mountain, towering over her, for which she refused \$5,000 offered by Vanderbilt when he sent his specialists into this section to find a location before he finally settled on Biltmore.

There are hundreds of such instances—tracts of land untouched for a whole life-time, like coveted possessions, where people who come here and breathe the exhilarating atmosphere of these Catawba highlands go away hoping some day to return and reside here the rest of their lives. There is a saying current among the natives that "no man who ever takes a drink out of Drowning Creek ever permanently leaves its banks." It seems almost incredible that such a country—different from any other spot in this land—should lie so near other territories so entirely different in climate, soil, and general conditions.

Came in Search of Health.

Last July I was lying ill in the Osborne Hotel in Rochester, N. Y., a victim of insomnia, nervousness, and general breakdown. I had spent the winter in Cuba, Mexico, and Florida, making my way leisurely up into Canada, where spring came, thence down to Niagara, where the summers are delightful but the winters intolerable for frailty. A doctor attending me from McGill University told me of this section; of having heard it related in a world's medical congress that here in the Catawba Highlands of Western North Carolina lay a territory in which not a case of tuberculosis, malaria, or typhoid fever had ever been known to originate, where people lived longest of any part of the world.

I came here to see for myself, and I give it to the readers of The Herald as the sacred truth that of the forty States and four governments under whose flags I have traveled, here is the sweetest, most healthful, most restorative, simplest section for peaceful life in a perfect climate I have ever observed. The location is 35 degrees and 45 minutes north latitude, and 81 degrees and 41 minutes west longitude. The nearest neighbor way it has the same latitude as Yeddo, in Japan, and Teheran, in Persia, and of Damascus and the Islands of Cyprus, and of Tunis and Algiers, and longitudinally it is in line with the center of Hudson Bay, Cleveland, Ohio, the Florida Keys, and the City of Matanzas, in Cuba. It is fifteen miles further west than Point Barrow and Cape Blanco, the most western projections of the South American continent. To the west the mountains attain an elevation of 7,000 feet, and the snows may be seen upon the monumental peaks while the Catawba highlanders roam leisurely in the balmy air below.

On the health map issued by the United States census department several years ago, this section is marked with the white, indicating it as freest from throat and lung diseases of any spot in this country. I find, on investigation, that the mean annual temperature is 58.3, while that of Venice—the great European resort—is 57.7, with a mean winter temperature of 38.6, making the winters hotter and the winters colder in Venice than here.

Needs No Overcoat.

I know this: I came here to spend a year in investigation. I have not worn an overcoat or overshoes since I arrived at Connelly Springs, and the little village of Rutherford College, yet I comfortably live in the open air, sleeping on the porch in a hammock in the winter (except when it rains), and there has not been a night this summer that I have not slept under a blanket.

I write all this to readers of The Herald who may be in quest of health; who are weary and tired and heart-sore; who long for the balmy breath of hygeia to fan their pallid cheeks into the glow of the sun kiss; who want to feel well, and impulsive, and capable; who wonder if the day of cherry song and laughter, and lightness of heart will ever be theirs again, but who have been often deceived by fantastic resort advertisements—just as I often have been—till the exchequer is well-nigh exhausted and there is still no health. To such I say, go to Lovelady Township, in Burke County, N. C. Two towns are especially blessed in the thermal belt—Connelly Springs and Rutherford College. The former is the seat of the railway station, and the latter is the location of the Methodist school for western North Carolina. The place used to be

COUNTRY HOME NEAR LEESBURG, VA.

Notes and Comment on South's Progress

The Central of Georgia Railway Company is preparing to make extensive terminal improvements in Savannah having bought the greater part of a block of land on the water front for the purpose of erecting docks and coal chutes.

Valdosta, Ga., has a newly organized board of trade, which will enter at once upon work for the advancement of local interests. Mayor J. T. Roberts was elected president of the board, and Norwood Holcombe secretary, at a largely attended meeting of the business men of the town early last week. A committee is at work upon constitution and by-laws for the organization.

The chamber of commerce at Savannah has a committee making an investigation into the possibilities of growing celery on lands near the city. The committee has had several soil and truck experts to inspect the ground, and has come to the conclusion that the growing of this form of truck can be advantageously carried on there.

Contract has been let to a local firm of contractors to construct the roadbed of the proposed Smithville-Arasas Pass railroad. Under the terms of the contract, the new road is to be in operation within two years.

It is now expected that the Quannah and Pacific Railroad, which is being constructed through one of the richest parts of Texas, will go into operation between Quannah and Lazare on August 16. The section of the line to be opened extends out of Quannah about fifteen miles.

The Central of Georgia Railway Company has awarded the contract for the construction of its new shops at Macon to G. B. Swift & Co., of Chicago. It is understood that the contract price for the new buildings is \$75,000.

Officials of the Mountain Valley and Plains Railroad, to run from the coal fields of New Mexico across the Panhandle of Texas to Guthrie, Okla., have received authority from the railroad commission of Texas to issue bonds for the construction and equipment of the line.

The city of Teague, Tex., has received authority to issue municipal bonds to the amount of \$25,000 to build water works and two schoolhouses. The bonds will run twenty years and bear 5 per cent interest.

The people of Beaumont, Tex., are rejoicing over actual work on the long projected extension of its street car facilities, connecting that town with the Port Arthur docks.

Negotiations are under way to effect a merger of two large cotton manufacturing concerns in Danville, Va. Meetings of the stockholders of the Riverside Cotton Mills and of the Dan River Manufacturing Company have been called to vote upon the proposition, and it is expected that they will ratify the recommendations of the directors and authorize the merger.

The Florida legislature recently passed a law forbidding the capture and killing of the succulent turtle, known down that way as the "gopher." Floridians near the State line have been busy during the

OLD LANDMARK IN THE VALLEY.



Byrd mansion, near Harrisonburg, Va., which is being remodeled by present owner.

closed season in their own State, across the line in Alabama, catching the turtles there. Now the people of Southern Alabama are up in arms against the poachers and want a stringent law passed to protect the turtle in their swamps, also.

The Carolina Asbestos Manufacturing Company is the latest business venture in Charlotte, N. C. The project has the sanction of the Greater Charlotte Club, and is said to be the only company of the kind in the State. R. G. Sloan is president and manager and A. Burwell, Jr., secretary and treasurer of the company.

Adolph Bolt has been elected secretary of the Houston Business League to succeed George P. Brown. The new secretary is a graduate from the ranks of the traveling salesmen of Texas and is expected to accomplish much as a "booster" of local enterprises in Houston.

High Point, N. C., is enthusiastic over the proposed street car line to be installed there soon by the North Carolina Public Service Company. The road is under construction and is expected to be carrying passengers about February 1 next year.

Citizens of Greensboro, N. C., turned out one night last week, 300 strong, to discuss the project of an improved automobile highway between Lynchburg and Salisbury. Many joined the good roads association and many more subscribed to the fund being raised to finance the project.

The county commissioners of Dallas County, Ala., are considering the question of employing a civil engineer to aid them in road building and in the location and proper construction of bridges. The people in Selma and the country about are in dead earnest to have the highways improved, and the commissioners want the work done well and cheaply.

Business men and citizens of Birmingham, Ala., have held one meeting, and will shortly have others in the advocacy of the commission form of government. They seem to have tired of the usual political powwow, with rival candidates beating of tom-toms on election day.

REBUILDS OLD HOME

Byrd House at Harrisonburg Receives Modern Dress.

GEN. SHERIDAN LIVED IN IT

Manston Had Curious Hiding Place Where Confederate Spies May Have Learned the Federal Plans—How the New "Stoneleigh" Will Look When It Is Finished.

Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 21.—One of the most noteworthy improvements made in Harrisonburg this year is that nearing completion by A. R. Rosenberger on what is known as the "Stoneleigh Heights" addition, East Market street. The transformation of the old Byrd mansion, as indicated by the new exterior and what will appear on the interior when finished, within the next few months, will be complete.

The old place, with its original acres, many of which have already been built upon, is one of Harrisonburg's ancient and honored landmarks. The original mansion was substantially built years before the civil war by the late Abraham Byrd, then a man of prominence and widely known among the people of Rockingham County, but the building has lately been so greatly changed in the remodeling that it can scarcely be known again as the same old place.

Will Have Twenty Rooms.

The new building will contain twenty rooms, besides four beautiful bathrooms and a number of large closets and pantries, and will be fitted throughout with new windows and doors, hardwood casing and floors, and modern improvements, such as water heating, electric lighting, and hot and cold water in every bedroom.

An attractive feature of the place will be its porches. The one to the first floor will be more than 150 feet long and from 8 to 12 feet wide. That on the second floor is in front, in the middle of the building, extending back into part of the main body of the house, forming an open room, in size 15x20 feet, from which there are beautiful views in different directions of the mountains and long stretches of the Shenandoah Valley. The stone work for the porch railing and columns is made of Dry River rock laid in cement, and is substantial and artistic in appearance. The terrace porch floor was put down by the American Mosaic Company, of Washington, D. C., and is the first floor of the kind made here.

Was Sheridan's Headquarters.

One historic feature of the place is that it was used by Gen. Sheridan as his headquarters on his famous raid through the Shenandoah Valley during the civil war, but whether or not the old general had any knowledge that a secret hiding place large enough for two or three men to secrete themselves comfortably was really in this house, and whether or not two or three Johnny Rebs were in this secret place at the time and might have captured him, is not now known; but it is a fact that such a hiding place was found in the building, and is there yet, and will be preserved.

A pair of soldiers' saddle pockets in perfect condition were also found there, and are in the possession of Mr. Rosenberger.

Mansion on the farm of Robert N. Harper, recently remodeled from design by R. Stanley Simmons, architect.

The mansion on the estate of Robert N. Harper, two miles east of Leesburg, Va., has been recently remodeled according to plans designed by R. Stanley Simmons, of this city. The walls and much of the construction of the old building have been retained, to which has been added features which will make the home comfortable and attractive as a twentieth century residence.

This fine old mansion has been in the Harper family for three or four generations. It was erected in the last part of the eighteenth century and the timbers of the house were all hand sawed from trees cut upon the adjoining acres. After more than a century of use these ancient timbers are sound and have been retained as part of the new construction.

The Harper farm is composed of the estate which Mr. Harper purchased a few years ago from his aunt with the house, to which he has added other holdings, which, in the boyhood of the present owner, belonged to his father, Mr. Harper has thus united the holdings of a division of the original estate, and with the remodeled house the Harper farm will represent practically the extent of the old home.

Mr. Harper uses the farm as his summer home, and with his family lives there about five months every year. It is a quiet place, sufficiently removed from town and city to give ideal rest to the jaded nerves of the banker after a winter of grinding labor at his desk. Mr. Harper has a handsome city residence at 1515 Sixteenth street northwest.

WANT WORLD'S FAIR

San Antonio Candidate for that Great Honor.

WHEN PANAMA CANAL OPENS

Suggestion Made that Exposition Be Held in Winter Months from November to May—Correspondent Thinks Time, Place, and Occasion Propitious—Chamber to Act.

San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 21.—A world's fair at San Antonio to celebrate the opening of the Isthmian Canal has become the all-absorbing subject in these parts, and for that matter, all over Texas. The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce will take the initial steps in the course of the next few weeks, and in the meantime a plan of campaign will be mapped out. While the date of the opening of the fair is still far distant, it is realized here that little time is to be lost if it is to be held.

Owing to the climate of these parts many are in favor of the event being scheduled for the winter season. The weather here is ideal from the first of October to the first of May, and even June, and for this reason a world's fair held in the winter time seems a novelty that could be judiciously undertaken.

Would Have Support.

A world's fair in San Antonio would meet with the heartiest support in Mexico and every other Latin-American country. Southwest Texas for several centuries typically Spanish, has still much that ties it to Latin America, and for this reason a fair here would meet general favor with the Latins.

Germany would give it a liberal support, and so, no doubt, would Great Britain. The former country is tied to Texas by some of her best blood and extensive commercial relations, and the latter is practically the same position. Another reason for their participation would be that being the two largest merchant marine powers they would find special cause why they should support an exposition that will mark the opening of the Panama Canal and the development of the Texas ports.

That a world's fair should mark the opening of the world's greatest engineering feat seems eminently proper, and that the State of Texas should be the scene is fitting for more reasons than one. That State would develop a maritime importance second to no other State in the Union as soon as the Isthmian Canal is thrown open. This has been recognized by the United States government with rare foresight, because to it alone are due the improvements now being made along the Texas shore of the Gulf of Mexico. The millions of the mine and timber deposits in Texas points in harbor improvements are to meet this condition.

San Antonio the Place.

San Antonio is the largest Texas city eligible to be the scene of the exposition. Even at present it has the best hotel accommodations of any city in the Southwest, and the constantly growing tourist traffic will tend to increase this. Moreover, it is the only Texas city having historical interest to the visitor, a circumstance which in the case of a world's fair would not be a small consideration. The Alamo, the Texas cradle of independence, and the noble ruins of the Missions could not fail to prove an attraction to the world's fair visitor from every part of the globe.

Ideal sites for the fair abound in the closest vicinity of San Antonio. Parklike slopes on the banks of the San Antonio River extending for miles, and in which the Missions are located, would form a fine an exposition ground as was ever procurable.

Interest in the proposed undertaking is red hot here among all classes, and there is little doubt that the world's fair celebrating the opening of the Isthmian Canal, the greatest engineering enterprise of the age, will be held in San Antonio.

May Build Railroad.

R. F. Kolb, of Montgomery, Ala., F. M. Clark, of Lebanon, Tenn., and others are reported as organizing a company to build a railroad to be used in the development of the mine and timber deposits in Shinbone Valley to Anniston, Ala., a distance of twenty-five miles.

Beaufort Makes Hats.

The first hat made in the Beaufort, N. C., hat factory was turned out last week. The material is a white duck, and the model a regular yachting hat. They are light, cool, washable, and look well. The hat making business in Beaufort may easily develop into a great industry.

POTOMAC HEIGHTS

An Open Gate to the Palisades! That Splendid Domain Overlooking the Potomac. Bordered by the Conduit Road and Potomac Avenue. Traversed Through Its Center by the "Georgetown Only" and Glen Echo Cars, on a 5 Minute Schedule and 5c Fare. Scenery Unsurpassed; Healthful; Elevation 150 Feet. This Great Property Is Now Subdivided Into 700 Beautiful Building Lots by a Corporation Expressly Created to Develop It. Water, Gas, Sewerage, Electric Lighting, Graded Streets, Granolithic Sidewalks, A Picturesque Little Park, Are Features Which Are Changing This Virgin Tract Into One of the Finest Subdivisions in the District. POTOMAC HEIGHTS IS NOW OPEN. SEE IT. 100 Lots Will Be Sold at 15c to 18c Per Square Foot on Terms to Suit. Buy a Lot and Build at Potomac Heights. Call on or 'Phone POTOMAC HEIGHTS LAND COMPANY, J. M. MAUPIN, Manager, 417 Colorado Building.

POTOMAC HEIGHTS

POTOMAC HEIGHTS