

Best Meals in United States.

The little town of Hickman has become famous, all on account of the hotel conducted by Mr. F. W. Huddleston. Hugh S. Fullerton, globe trotter and epicure, writing in the American Magazine for March, sings the praises of the Hickman hotel in the following words:

Having eaten at almost every city, town, village, cross roads, and lunch counter in America I ought to be competent to select an ideal dinner. It is extremely difficult to assemble such a dinner, and it is impossible to get it in any one place, because much of it will not bear transportation, without losing flavor and individuality.

The best assembled dinner to be found on the North American continent is open to the public at the eating house at Hickman, Tenn. The cost is seventy-five cents, special rates to traveling men and railroaders. The place is conducive to appetite, and the air and scenery (here advertised for the first time) would make a millionaire dyspeptic relish a pounded flank steak. The house is of frame, colorful and clean, and it sits perched right under the eaves of the mountain and almost overhanging the broken, rushing, sweet waters of the Caney Fork. The porch is wide, and windows open from the dining-room upon it so that, as one eats, one may follow with the eyes the riotous riverette as it tears and rages at the cliffs, above which rise the great hills with their untouched cloaks of fir and pine. It is a railway eating house, but one need not hasten. The trainmen are willing to remain as long as the passengers so incline.

There are eight kinds of meat—all cooked. There is that kind of fried chicken one reads of in the romance of the South, which are mostly fried in the fervid brains of the writers; chicken fried in butter until one might wrap a sizzling "drumstick" in a napkin and leave no speck of grease. There are five kinds of vegetables, out of the little garden that struggles back up the mountainside and cream gravy, floured, and salt pork, breaded in cornmeal and fried until crisp, and seven kinds of preserves and three kinds of pickles—and, oh well, what's the use? If you ever travel over that travesty of a railroad, stop there and eat. It is the oasis in the desert, one of the few places where men still eat, and where, if a fellow renegs after the third helping of anything, the pretty mountain girl (who does not feel that "hashing" is anything detrimental to her social standing) feels that you do not appreciate her cooking.

Mr. Huddleston is also a popular stock dealer and buys hundreds of mules in this section every year.

Raymonville, Mo.

Good morning Mr. Editor and Herald readers, as I live in the Ozarks where the big red apples grow and never have seen a letter from this place in the Herald, I will write.

Health is good in this part and the winter weather is very bad. The ground has been under a blanket of snow for more than two months.

Benny Wilson, of Overton county, Tenn., and Martha Copeland of this place were married last Sunday, March 3. Benny has bought a good span of mules and is going to farm in Missouri this year.

I would like to hear from Obey City as I once owned the land it now occupies.

J. C. Wilson, of Raymonville, lost a good mule last Saturday with blind taggers.
A. B. Wilson.

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