

**"OLD TIMERS"**

(By Patsy O'Brien)

These old mountains that hark back to the beginning of time could tell many strange tales. One among them would be the tale of the Welshman who started the charming little settlement of English people which is known as "Bowman's Bluff." Many travelers passing through the country wonder at the fine old homes set in the midst of the hills.

It was two years after our great struggle that a Welshman by the name of Evans came into this part of the world on horseback. He was a widower and came to America to get away from familiar scenes. This wilderness in its virgin beauty appealed to him, and the graceful French Broad river flowing through the narrow valley with the high peaks of the mountains in their blue haze crowding around, held him fascinated. He stayed and built a home after the architectural plans of houses in the old country. The house stands on a bluff overlooking a sharp turn in the river which affords it a duplex view of a beautiful valley. The bluff rises some five or six hundred feet and from it are visible many noted peaks in the Blue Ridge. The house itself is well worth describing. Made of cement, it stands high on its little bluff. The sunken porch, the iron pillars holding up the roof, the narrow windows that give hardly anything but air to the dark interior, all speak of the old world. Over the front door in colored glass is this Welsh motto—"Fib Inw Heb Idm, Idnw A Hagn." The place was named "Brinaven" meaning Mountain-Over-looking-River. Mr. Evans went back to England shortly after he built the house, and later brought out his second wife but they only stayed a few years when he sold the place and went back for good. The old house is standing almost unchanged. Mrs. Mallett who owns the place has added a modern kitchen but the rounded front and the huge front door remain as they were.

There is no record as to how Mr. George Holmes came to Western North Carolina, but we are sure that once getting here he could not resist the place and he either stayed or came back very shortly after his first visit. His fine old place called "The Bluff" is on the bank of the river a quarter of a mile down stream from "Brinaven." Mr. Holmes was an Englishman whose home had been near Birmingham England. He bought several thousand acres and built a charming English house on what was known as "Bowman's Bluff." This bluff rises nearly a thousand feet from the river and the whirling pool below is said to have no bottom. It was here the beautiful Polly Bowman leaped to her death because of a hopeless love affair. The vista from the Holmes house is even more extended than that from "Brinaven." Mt. Pisgah and The Rat appear to the right, lesser peaks crowd in the foreground. It was a noble estate, entered by the long drive bordered with great tall pines in profusion. To the south of the house was a tangle of garden with numerous overgrown arbors covered with rioting vines. In the spring great flocks of wild ducks settled on the river and Mr. Holmes held shooting matches where there was great rivalry between the young members of the colony. Out of the waters of the French Broad came delicious trout and other mountain fish and under the brow of the bluff Mrs. Holmes had a small house where she could sit for hours with her line angling for the dusky inhabitants of the stream. The house has been changed by the present owner, Mr. Smythe of Greenville, but the tall pines still stand grotesquely against the sky line and the wind still sighs through them to the running accompaniment of the river below.

To Mr. Evans and Mr. Holmes belong the credit of having been the first to start the colony, for it was not until 1863 that the third settler arrived. Mr. Frank Valentine whose ancestral home in England adjoined the Holmes' place there. The little colony set in the wilderness and the surrounding mountains looked wild and could be Mrs. Valentine, whose girlhood home had been in Australia. Mr. Valentine bought the place adjoining "The Bluff," and his house was set down in the valley and lacked the extended view of the Holmes' house. But there is a sense of cosy hominess about the low English house with the great mountains frowning over it. Mr. Valentine was a very fine musician and brought out with him a small organ over which he spent many happy hours. So wonderfully could he play that people in passing the house would never believe that he did not have a pipe organ. Following the Valentines came many other people—Mr. Joudweine who was a famous

singer and who spent long hours with Mr. Valentine. Another Welsh family called Thomas joined the colony. Their home was further back in the mountains and the winding drive gives glimpses of many beautiful vistas and hints of the wonderful view from the house. The Westons, old friends of the Valentines, spent many months with them, although their home was at Fletcher.

To a small log cabin set snug in the foot hills came Mr. Stone from England and with him came Mr. Henry Twyford, who had been sent out by his father to learn farming. Mr. Stone added room after room to the cabin until it rambled all over the landscape, but the farming adventure proved futile. Mr. Stone was too fond of his ease to get out and farm. He was only here a few months but Mr. Twyford stayed and bought a place on the river next to "Brinaven." There he built a house for his stepmother, who came out with a couple of sisters, but the country life proved too strenuous for Mrs. Twyford and she soon went back leaving Mr. Twyford here. The house is falling to ruin, but the creaking timbers whisper of times gone by.

Here in the list we find the name of Mr. Wainwright, an Episcopal clergyman, who came here seeking the health he had lost in the Hawaiian islands. He began religious services first in the houses of the parishioners, later Mr. Valentine gave a church-site and the community built a little church on a high hill in the center of the settlement. Back of the altar is a beautiful stained glass window portraying a biblical scene, which it is said was stolen from a church in Wales.

Several young sons of clergymen, who had been living wild lives in "Merrie England" were sent out here in the hope that the quiet life might correct them. The two Cowan boys and a young man named Jealson kept the neighborhood constantly aroused, but the life was too quiet for them and they finally returned to England, much to the relief of the other members of the settlement.

The social life with that one interruption ran very smoothly and happily. Parties, dances, and church affairs kept life from being dull. As the mountains abounded in wild game many famous hunts were held, and the men supplied the tables with meat the year round. The Valentines were the first to leave. They moved into Asheville and from there came to Hendersonville. The Joudweines, Wainwrights, Thomases and Evans soon followed, going back to England. The Scotts and Adenbrooks went over the mountains to Knoxville, Tennessee. Of the "Old Timers" only Mr. Eade and Mr. Finwick, a brother of Mrs. Stone, live in the neighborhood. Today the settlement is only a shadow of the past, a grim reminder of time. The houses, most of them empty, especially in winter look down upon the valley and river with their sightless eyes mourning for their lost grandeur.

**Iron Duke Was Good Musician.**

Most of you have heard of the Iron Duke, the duke of Wellington, who was one of the great commanders of England, winning glorious victories for her. But none of you, perhaps, know that this Iron Duke, notwithstanding that he was a famous warrior, was also something of a musician. At one time, observes a writer in the Brooklyn Eagle, he directed a concert in England, after he had become famous as a commander. Not every soldier could do that, and turn so easily from one kind of work to another.

**Got Something You Want to Sell?**

Most people have a piece of furniture, a farm implement, or something else which they have discarded and which they no longer want.

These things are put in the attic, or stored away in the barn, or left lying about, getting of less and less value each year.

**WHY NOT SELL THEM?**

Somebody wants those very things which have become of no use to you. Why not try to find that somebody by putting a want advertisement in THIS NEWSPAPER?

**REPUBLICAN BOSSES TO RULE CONGRESS.**

Penrose and Lodge, With Other Reactionaries, Will Control Legislation, Paying No Heed to Progressives.

Washington, D. C., March 11.—Under the direction of Senator Boise Penrose, Republican boss of Pennsylvania, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, and Reed Smoot of Utah, the Sixty-sixth Congress, will legislate for the United States for the next two years. The Old Guard, with its most reactionary leaders, will be in the saddle in this new Congress.

It was apparent immediately after the November election that these elements took full credit for the overthrow of the Democrats and would pay little heed to the wailings of the "Progressive" Republicans of Congress. It is now openly charged by Republicans of the House of Representatives that Senators Penrose and Lodge are going to dominate not only the Senate, but also the House of the next Congress.

The Democrats quit with a clean record. The lack of a controlling ring has been one of the causes of Republican criticism of the Democrats. That, of course, is a compliment to the Democrats. The sound and salutary legislation they have enacted has been influenced by the people back home and not by a little group in Congress. In a word, Congress, under Democratic control, has been responsive to the people.

The legislative record made by the Democrats since they came into power is a credit to the party and to the nation. When they took charge of the House ten years ago they found a system that worked to the interest of the few of great wealth. The Republicans in a long and complete domination of Congress had drifted far from the masses and ruled with autocratic sway.

**Democrats Instituted Reforms.**

The Democrats commenced reforms immediately and drove from high places the "Republican Ring" that had legislated for the powerful against the weak. The little coterie of leaders in the House, with its perfect system, and a military order and precision, had to yield to the rule of the majority. The back-room caucus of the "leaders" was supplanted by the Democratic conference.

The first step of the Democratic majority was to liberalize the rules of the House to insure more responsiveness to the people. They reduced the running expenses of the House by eliminating a lot of useless officeholders. The example of the House was soon followed by the Senate. It is evident now that the Republicans will return to their old way of doing things. The ring will dominate. A few men will dictate the kind and course of legislation. Senators Penrose and Lodge will say what bills shall pass and what shall die. They will respond to the wishes of a handful of constituents. Everything promises that sort of results. The lobby of the special interests will return to Washington with all its active agents.

Under Democratic control at Washington there is no back door to the White House or to Congress. No small group of men has been able to appear suddenly and change the policy of the President or the leaders of Congress. Everything has been done in the open. The President's advisers have been plain, simple men and women with intelligence and ability. No select class has benefited by legislation. Measures on the subjects of revenue, the trusts and other important problems have been enacted for all alike.

These Democratic measures have been so fair that Republicans have supported them. Many Republicans voted their honest convictions until the Old Guard started out last year to win control of Congress. A conference of leaders was called and adopted a program of obstruction. Since then all the cleverness of the reactionaries has been used to block Democratic legislation. Senator Lodge and Senator Penrose directed these forces of reaction.

**Drove Lobbies From Capitol.**

The Democrats rid the Capitol of its insidious lobbies. An investigation of combinations was followed by the uncovering of a lobby with a perfect system for influencing legislation on the tariff. It was found that for years agents of a powerful organization, maintained by manufacturers who demanded higher import duties, had been strongly entrenched at the Capitol. This the Democrats broke up. There are already signs of plans to return to the old practices. Representatives of predatory interests are beginning to situate themselves in Washington. They hope to direct legis-

lation; their friends will be in position to help them.

The great Federal Reserve Act, which revolutionized the currency system of the nation, is a most democratic law. Its enactment emancipated the industrial and commercial interests of the United States. It freed the smaller business man from the overlordship of the special interest. No one has been able to sustain a criticism of this act. Big banking concerns protested and frowned upon it at first, but they have come to see its justice and equity. No Republican would dare offer to repeal it.

The Democrats revised the tariff downward. In the eyes of the rabid Republicans that was their worst sin. The Underwood-Simmons law unshackled industry and commerce and destroyed monopoly's control over production.

The rural credits act, the income tax law, the Federal Trade Commission, the Clayton anti-trust act, the provisions for direct election of United States Senators, the workman's compensation act and many other important laws were enacted under the leadership of the Democrats. The Democrats do not apprehend the repeal of their constructive legislation, but they foresee efforts on the part of Senators Penrose and his associates to restore the high import duties.

**LETTER FROM FRANCE.**

Camp De Souge, France.

February 12, 1914

My dear Mother:—

I told you in my last letter that we were expecting to move. We left Le-Corneas, Feb., 6th, about noon. There were 1500 of us in box cars, pulled by two little engines. We call them pheasant roasters. Well about nine o'clock that night we got stuck on a little grade, they ran back and forth for about two hours trying to get over the grade. Then the conductor and engineer had to argue awhile before they could decide to cut the train in two and take half of the cars on to the camp and then come back after the others. In the meantime we were yelling at them to get us out, I was in an old German car and the floor was so muddy and dirty. It was raining and the car leaked like a riddle. We had to stand up all the way and hang our packs on the wall. One of the boys said, boys I wish we were back in the states and could hear a real honest to God engine make a pull at this train. Well they finally got us into the camp about one o'clock the morning of the 7th and you can bet we were hungry for we had not had anything to eat since ten o'clock the morning of the 6th. We got supper about three o'clock. There is 15 of us eating at one mess hall. It is colder here than where we were before. We have better quarters here there is some Flu in this camp, mumps also. One of our men died last week with the Flu. I have had the Flu twice, once in the states and once since I have been over here, but my health is better now than it has been since I have been in the army. We have got a lot of horses here. I don't think we will be here very long. I am in a casual company now, all the men in my company are from Florida, my buddy that left Jacksonville, Fla., with me is still with me. He is a cowboy from Texas. We have been together in the same Battery ever since we left Jacksonville. This leaves me well and I trust it will find you all the same. Give all the folks my best wishes.

AMBROSE M. FEATHERSTON, Camp De Souge, 13th Casual Co. A. P. O. 705, A. E. F.

**Builder of Pagoda.**

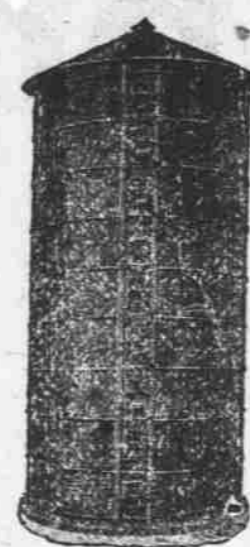
The Burman, if he acquires wealth, must also acquire merit—"Kuthar"—and this he must do by building a pagoda on which shall be set out on a marble slab how much money he spent on building it. He likes people to address him as "Builder of a Pagoda," and he will say to his wife before others: "Oh, wife of a builder of a pagoda!"

**Their Need for Safety Pins.**

An archeologist recently dug up a safety pin from the ruins of ancient Babylon. Judging from the pictures in the Babylonian section of the histories, however, it seems that safety pins were worn mostly by the grownups in those times.

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These items will be sold as a lot or separately as you wish, I want to get rid of them at once and will sell them cheap. See me on the street or at Glazener's.

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