

French Broad Hustler

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

MAY BUILD BIG BEET SUGAR FACTORY HERE

Possibilities of a million dollar beet sugar factory in Hendersonville with more than half a million dollars annually placed in circulation was the theme of an interesting talk given before the last meeting of the board of trade.

Victor J. Garvin told the members of the civic body that one of the big sugar companies had their attention fastened on Western North Carolina and that he had 200 pounds of free seed for distribution among the farmers of this county. If the beets grown here analyze a satisfactory sugar content, it is believed the factory will be built.

Mr. Garvin said that Western North Carolina was one of the few districts suitable for growing sugar beets and spoke of the transformation of the country where the crop is a staple. He thought the total returns to the farmer would be \$215 an acre, said there was a certain market and emphasized the soil improvement which follows a sugar beet crop. To be a success there must be 3,000 acres planted, he said.

Mr. Garvin's address follows: "Although one of our newer agricultural industries, sugar beet growing has probably done more to encourage agricultural development in certain sections of our country than any other one industry. True enough its growth has been rapid, but instead of being of the mushroom type it is founded upon a sound foundation.

Suitable Sections

"There are only certain limited sections of our country which, because of climatic or soil conditions, or both, are suited for the growth of sugar beets. Generally speaking, the sugar beet districts of the country lay north and west of a line drawn from southern Ohio to lower California. True enough, sugar beets will grow south of this line, but with the exception of a few elevated sections, the climatic conditions are not conducive to the formation and storage of sugar in the beets. It is thought that Western North Carolina is one of these exceptions and it is because of this fact that tests are being made at the present time to determine whether sugar beets can be profitably produced here.

"About eight years ago one of the large sugar companies of the country had their eye on this section, but for certain reasons, chief among which was the lack of transportation facilities, they did not start development work. Now the eyes of certain outside capital are again upon your country, and it is hoped that thorough tests and investigation will result in favorable action.

What It Means.

"To one not familiar with this great industry, it is a hard matter to describe it in such a way as to give you even a slight idea of what it means to a community or to a state. Would that you might travel with me through the great sugar beet producing sections of the north and west and see for yourselves, at first hand, what it means to districts which it has entered. With your permission, I shall endeavor to take you on a hurried trip, starting in the State of Ohio, going westward into Indiana, Illinois, and then up through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, which states comprise the sugar beet area of the east. Taking the Great Northern out of Minneapolis, we go through the Dakotas, into Wyoming and Montana and then into Washington and over into Oregon. We get on the Southern Pacific and go down into California, then up into Nevada over into the states of Utah, Idaho, Colorado and finally jump over into Kansas and Nebraska. Continuing into Iowa we find the eastern extremity of the industry. The aforementioned states comprise the great sugar beet area of our country, which furnishes over two-thirds of the sugar made in this country.

(Continued Next Week)

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB

(Contributed)

It has been requested that a report be made and published, giving the work which the Woman's Club accomplished last year, which was from October 1917 to October 1918.

The work of the Club during this period was of course chiefly of a patriotic nature—the first work being the organization of a sweater league by Mrs. Kirk, through which twenty-five sets of knitted garments were made for the battleship North Carolina. In December 1917, at the request of the local Red Cross, the Woman's Club sent fifty-eight Christmas packages to the soldiers.

The Club also formed a unit of the Red Cross and took charge of the work room on Wednesday's. Other active Red Cross work was done by club members.

The Woman's Club co-operated with the National League for Woman's service in furnishing kit bags for the soldiers. The committee from the Woman's Club was Miss Edith Waldrop, chairman, Mrs. C. A. Hobbs, Mrs. A. S. Truex and Mrs. W. R. Kirk. About three hundred kit bags were given by the Club to the soldiers as they were leaving home and farewell services were held for them. Mrs. Hobbs furnished the chocolate for these kit bags while Mr. Hobbs furnished the tobacco. There were a good many articles left over after making the last kit bags and these have recently been used in the refugee boxes.

In the Red Cross seal campaign of 1917, \$157.57 was made and sent to Dr. McBrayer to be used in helping tuberculous soldiers in North Carolina. Through the instrumentality of Mrs. C. R. Whitaker, a room has been furnished at the State Sanatorium, named for the Woman's Club of Hendersonville.

Several donations were made by the Club during the year. \$5.00 was given to the Domestic Science Class at the High School, \$10.00 toward the wool fund for soldiers, \$3.00 towards carrying out the Thrift Stamp campaign.

Active part was taken by club women in the Liberty Loan campaigns, and also in the sale of Thrift Stamps. A house-to-house canvass was made in the interests of food conservation.

During the summer of 1918, the Community Club was turned into a soldiers club by the Club women, a member being in charge every Saturday night. Books, magazines, games, writing facilities and shower baths were supplied to soldiers.

A Dahlia Show was given, out of the proceeds of which \$67.00 was contributed to the Red Cross.

Altogether about \$710.00 was raised by the Club during the fiscal year.

The Club officers for 1917-1918 were: President, Mrs. E. W. Ewbank; Vice-President, Mrs. J. W. Bailey; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. A. McMillan; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. C. Tebeau; Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Garlington; Parliamentarian, Mrs. A. H. Morey.

THE FIRST SAND CLAY

Sand-clay roads have fully demonstrated their worth in Henderson county. The very first sand-clay road, or piece of road ever so improved here was a part of the Edneyville road, the other side of the long bridge.

The work was done while George Justice was road overseer, in 1911-12. Mr. Justice co-operated with the people of that section and a piece of road which was absolutely impassable in bad weather was transformed into a fine highway. From that small beginning has come the fine system of sand-clay roads which has brought so many more tourists here. Mr. Justice, is just as ardent an advocate of sand-clay roads now as he was when he first started them years ago.

CAROLINA TERRACE TO OPEN

The Carolina Terrace, under the same management which has made the Kentucky Home famous, will open on June 15. From the number of reservations already coming in, Mr. Wooten, recent purchaser of the fine property, expects a capacity business season.

STORIES FROM THE OLD TOWN OF FLETCHER OFFERS LAND FOR CITY PARK FOR \$34,900

(By Patsy O'Brien)

There is a fascination about old places, a mystery hangs over old houses the poet sings of old wine, old books, and old friends, he forgot, old house, or maybe he was not romantic enough to enjoy the creaking of old timbers and revel in the shadows of bygone ghosts that haunt the corners. But we in this country have no ancestral homes that have come down in the family for thousands of years, the best we can hope for is a half a dozen hundred.

An Englishman came over here and was told by the true born American that that house was old, very old.

"Why," said the American, "it must be a hundred years old." John Bull smiled to him the house was in its infancy. But we are proud of our old places, we think them old, and we try to create the atmosphere and coax the moss to grow on the roof.

In our own county of Henderson the "little town of Fletcher" has a past worth learning about. When Asheville and Hendersonville were in the first stages of their upgrowth, Fletcher had already made a good start. When the railroad came through it found sizable little village. While Fletcher will never boast that it is a metropolis it has an age charm of its own, and the few old houses could relate history if they could speak.

Sometime in the 18th century Dr. Fletcher, after whom the place is named, came down from Virginia. He loved the mountains and having an adventurous spirit he welcomed the hardships that were connected with making a home in the wilderness. The land he settled, on the south bank of Mud Creek, dates back to an old State grant in 1771. He built on a hill commanding a good view of the creek bottom and the distant peaks.

His son, John Fletcher, ran the old house as a stage stand after his father's death and the wilderness began to disappear. The great lumbering stage changed horses here and the passengers supped. The drivers all put up here at night when on their way south with hogs or cattle. It was a famous old house known to country round in those days and still is remembered by a dwindling few. John Fletcher raised eighteen children out of whom married in the neighborhood so that Fletcher can be said to be sixty percent Fletcher. The old homestead has slipped out of the family, Dr. Egerton of Hendersonville came into possession and he sold it to a Mrs. Cushing, who lives there now. The Fletchers have been removed to another site.

The late Dr. C. W. Fletcher, one of the eighteen children, put up a modest two-room house opposite where the station now stands, and began his practice there about 1880. He married Miss Clayton and in a few years they raised the two rooms and built a stone wall under them forming a ground floor. It was later added to in the rear and the quaint rambling old house smiles on the hurrying, scurrying automobile, that has taken the place of the ancient ox team of its early days. The house now belongs to Dr. Hall F. Fletcher of Asheville who served during this war as a Major in the army.

Squire Newton Lance, whose old home is still standing on the Buck Shoals road, married one of John Fletcher's daughters. One of his sons married Miss Malloney from Limerick, Ireland, who came to these mountains in quest of health. He was overseer on Mr. Blake's large rice plantation in Georgia. He went through the civil war and is now living out the last years on his farm which is part of the old homestead. Squire Newton Lance has long been gathered to his fathers. He lost four sons in the Confederate cause and left a fine old home as a memorial to a long and busy life.

On a gentle hill commanding an extensive view of the mountains and (Continued on Page 7)

OFFERS LAND FOR CITY PARK FOR \$34,900

It is understood that the board of trade committee appointed for that purpose has induced W. A. Smith to consider an offer of \$34,900 for his property on Main street corner Fourth avenue, west, the property to be used as a city park.

A real estate man said, yesterday, that this was a lower price than had generally been anticipated would be asked for the land, and that it is lower per front foot than that paid by the Citizens National Bank for the corner lot of the property.

It is generally believed that Hendersonville will soon have a city park and it is pointed out that to fully meet the demands of a city park it must be centrally located. The property now under consideration by the board of trade meets, it is said, not only this but all other requirements. The city already owns a certain part of the entire block of which Mr. Smith's property is a part. It has a frontage on three sides, the shade is abundant, and most of all, it is insisted by those desiring to see a suitable place secured for the park, it is in the very heart and centre of the city.

A board of trade committee was recently appointed to secure from Mr. Smith, if possible, a price on his property. Mr. Smith, it is understood, has offered to take \$34,900. One of the buildings on the land would be allowed to remain, it is said, for it would be admirably adapted to park purposes.

There has long been an agitation here for a city park, but so far nothing but agitation has resulted. At one time it was suggested that the old Hawkins property would be a desirable place, but there were certain objections to it. Later the Noterman property has been considered, but nothing has come of it. There seems to be an almost universal desire that the city should secure property for a park, and at once.

THE PRISON CAMP

The chaingang camp is on the outskirts of the city—somewhere, below the foot of Fourth avenue. "Somewhere" is right, for it is hidden in a wooded grove in a place where but few people go.

The stockade, work on which is to soon begin, will be screened from all passersby, the woods mercifully concealing the prison camp yet affording a pretty place for the men o' nights. It will really take some little searching on the part of the curious to find the stockade when it is built.

It's rather a curious place—the convict camp. Last Saturday the white tents gleamed in the sunshine, the long row of cots were awaiting their occupants, and a "trusty" was lazily splitting wood preparatory to getting the evening meal. The great iron prison van, where some of the men are confined at night, was the only ugly and discordant thing there. It had the peculiar and quite-unforgettable odor of all jails which even its lattice work walls did not permit the mountain breeze to purify.

On a hanging bough low over the van a bird has built its nest. Its little head was cocked to one side and its tiny eyes contemplated the week-end visitor without dismay. Fluttering fiercely overhead was its mate, prepared to die, if need be in the defense of its home and family.

A queer place, private and secluded and, surrounded by nature's gifts is the temporary home of the Henderson county chaingang.

GOOD SHOW COMING

Manager Loop says the musical and vaudeville show coming to the Opera House on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week is one of the best on the road. The Asheville papers highly commend it. There are 14 people and they present an absolutely clean, enjoyable vaudeville performance. There will be no Saturday matinee.

JUDGE C. M. PACE HOLDS COURT

"The object of this court is to reform—not to punish," said Judge C. M. Pace, Monday, in opening the first juvenile court ever held in Henderson county. "The stigma attaching to a conviction in the higher courts does not obtain in this court, whose sole object is to make better boys and better girls of those who may be brought before it. It is a court for children—not criminals."

The first session of the court was held in the county commissioners room which was well filled with an interested audience. Judge Pace presided with that judicial dignity which is peculiarly his and talked as a father to the young delinquents before him.

Wilbur Phillips, white, and Tim Byrd, colored, were charged with stealing the automobile owned by P. S. Wetmur. The boys told absolutely conflicting stories as to which one actually took the car from in front of the Methodist church. Wilbur is nine years old and indicated a surprising knowledge of motor cars. So did Tim. The white child was released in custody of his father. The colored boy was remanded to jail. Both are to appear at the higher court.

Stanley F. Landrum, colored, was accused of taking \$20 from a man's pocket. The case was investigated and the boy released on probation to appear before the judge at stated intervals.

HENDERSONVILLE A PORT

Many will remember the time when John Grant, one-time congressman from this district, was accused of intending to have a navy yard here—to make of Hendersonville a port. It was supposed to be funny—at that time.

However, in the following letter from Col. J. C. Woodward of the Georgia Military-Naval academy, to W. A. Smith, references will be observed to a "fleet of cutters" and "boats of a lighter draft." Of course Mr. Grant never said anything about making Hendersonville a navy yard, but it is interesting to note what queer pranks Father Time does play, after all.

The letter to Mr. Smith follows: "Please accept our hearty thanks for your good letter. I am pleased to tell you that the United States Navy has granted us a fleet of cutters with sails, landing guns, etc., and that we have just ordered a fleet of new boats of the latest type and of lighter draft. This will give us a fleet of about fifteen boats on the lake this summer. We have also received from the War Department absolutely new tentage and Gold Medal cots for our camp. Thus you will see that we are making considerable headway, and I hope we shall have great success while there. I am trying to get the Carolina Military Naval Academy catalog ready for the press this week. I trust the good people of Hendersonville and North Carolina will help us this summer to place at least one hundred boys in the school as a beginning.

"I shall leave here Wednesday morning for Hendersonville by automobile, and I hope to pay you a personal visit sometime in the latter part of the week."

METHODISTS GO OVER TOP

The captains and their teams for the Centenary drive began the drive on last Sunday afternoon, \$17,000 was the amount for the local Methodist church and over \$18,331 was subscribed to be paid within five years. Sam T. Hodges and his team were the victorious leaders.

The sermon of Rev. M. F. Moore on Sunday morning was a strong one and showed that much time and thought had been given to it. Rev. Raymond Browning conducted the evening service. Miss Louise Hodges, who has recently returned home, sang "Oh, Song Divine," at the morning service and Miss Louise Browning at the evening service sang, "Where the Shadows Flee." Both young ladies have highly cultivated voices.

SOLDIERS WILL PARADE HERE AND EAT, TOO

Hendersonville and Henderson county will attempt to manifest its gratitude to the returned soldiers and sailors when, on May 30, there will be a basket picnic in their honor at Laurel Park. It is being noted around that already many of the plumpest, tenderest, juiciest, young frying-size chickens in the county have a foreboding that something is going to happen to them in the near future.

There will be a parade of the soldiers here at 11 o'clock in the morning. Dinner will be served in Laurel Park at 1 o'clock. All men in uniform will be transported to the park free of charge, and when they get there they will be the guests of the city and the county.

"The park is there, for the day," is the way W. A. Smith puts it.

Arrangements are being made for the suitable entertainment of the colored soldiers in the park at the same time. These arrangements are being made by the colored people.

Everybody is asked to bring a well filled basket, for it's going to be a basket picnic, served under the great old trees there, where nature smiles and everybody will feel free and at home. If it should be impossible for you to be there in person, by all means, the committee urges, send your basket to the city hall, where Dr. and Mrs. L. B. Morse will care for it.

The Meeting

There were 20 enthusiastic business men and women at the meeting in the Library, Thursday afternoon May 15, who decided that on Friday, May 30, in honor of the returned soldiers, sailors, marines and ex-confederate soldiers of Henderson county an invitation would be given to them to attend a parade at Hendersonville which would be followed by a basket picnic dinner, etc., in Laurel Park.

In the near future some central permanent memorial will be erected or established in their honor.

Arrangements will be made whereby the colored soldiers may be entertained by the people at the same time in a section of Laurel Park.

The chairmen of the following committees were appointed:

To look after getting the soldiers together, Capt. Wiltshire Griffith.

Cars for transportation of soldiers, Brownlow Jackson.

Cars for transportation of civilians, Erle Penny.

To plan for the parade, Otis Powers. For entertaining, Mrs. Raymond Edwards.

To solicit funds, Mrs. Charles R. Whitaker, Chm., Mesdames C. N. Allison and John Forrest, assistants.

A RECORD-BREAKER!

Last Sunday there were 133 new guests registered at the Kentucky Home. This is believed to be a record breaker and is a faint indication of the popularity of this most popular hotel.

The guests came mostly from South Carolina, but there was a goodly number from Georgia and many from Asheville. Motor parties added to the total, for the weather was fine and the roads from the south no less.

The Kentucky Home management believes there will be the largest crowd ever in the mountains here this year.

NEW LAW FIRM

Smith, Shipman and Arledge is the title of a new law firm in Hendersonville. The firm will have offices on Main street in a building occupied by a somewhat well known firm here during the past many years—Smith and Shipman.

In other words, then, A. Y. Arledge, of Columbus, Polk county, is now a member of the old firm of Smith and Shipman. Mr. Arledge already has a reputation as a lawyer which time will but add to. He has recently returned from overseas where he gave a good account of himself. He is the son of the Superior Court clerk of Polk county and is by no means a stranger in Hendersonville. The new partnership is now effective.