



The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

Headlines from the Past

Inside this issue

More Headlines
Ads from Rabun's Past

Don't Buy ANY Round-Tub Washer...

till you see the

Maytag Chieftain

A Genuine **Maytag** for only **\$124⁹⁵**

WITH PUMP ADD \$7.50

Look at them all... compare... make sure before you buy! Prove for yourself that the Maytag Chieftain is the best buy in the low price field!

THE MAYTAG COMPANY
America's Finest low priced washer

January 22, 1948

- Please visit our museum and research library on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 until 2:00 and on Wednesdays from 12:30 until 4:30.
- Group tours by appointment

Here's what was making news in Rabun County 100 years ago:

In April 1913, the Tallulah Falls Dam was completed. The 11-foot wide and 14-foot high tunnel, through which water flowed from the dam to the penstocks at the power house, had been cut through solid rock. The result was described as "... one of the most wonderful engineering feats in the development of the Falls."

Also in 1913, the National Forest Reservation Commission approved the purchase of 30, 937 acres of forest land in Rabun County, at an average price of \$7.05 per acre. These were among the first purchases in the U.S. of the fledgling Forest Service

Another event of historical significance in 1913 was the swearing in of Luther F. Rickman as Deputy Sheriff. Upon his entry into office, Mr. Rickman was characterized as "... a bright young man and it is hoped by his many friends that he will make a sober and upright officer." In fact, Mr. Rickman went on to serve as Sheriff from 1917-1940.

A final news item from 1913 was the announcement that Clayton's new railroad depot was nearing completion. The old depot was built in 1905, the same year the Tallulah Falls Railroad reached Clayton. The 1913 depot was demolished when the railroad ceased operation in 1961.

80 years ago:

In April 1933, Forest Ranger Roscoe Nicholson announced



Crowd at the Clayton Depot, 1913

the pending construction of a forest reforestation camp in the Warwoman Community. The camp, part of President Roosevelt's emergency employment program (originally called Emergency Conservation Work and then the Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC), was to employ 100 to 125 men. Additional CCC camps in Rabun County eventually would include Camp Lake Rabun, Camp Gaften (at Moccasin Creek and Camp Tree (on Coleman River). Work assignments at the camps involved restoring land devastated by logging, planting trees, building roads, constructing fire towers (atop Rabun Bald and Glassy Mountain), and creating recreational areas. Employment benefits included a salary of one dollar per day, food, clothes and

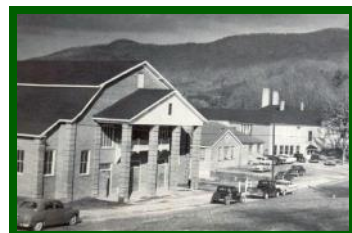


Warwoman CCC Camp, 1933

medical attention.

Having been in receivership since 1923, in 1933 initial approval was given to shut down the Tallulah Falls Railroad. Despite continued efforts to make the line a success, passenger service on the railroad finally ended in 1946 and the line was totally abandoned in 1961.

For almost a quarter of a century prior to 1933, Clayton had "... pointed with pride to the old school building on



Rabun County High School gymnasium, circa 1960

Picket Hill as it stood out in prominence on the little mountain just back of town." Nevertheless, in November 1933 the Board of Education voted to tear down the school, which had not been used since 1927, and use salvaged materials to construct a gym on the new Rabun County High School grounds on Savannah Street. In 1999, the gym was renovated and today serves as the Rabun County Civic Center.

70 years ago:

With World War Two underway and the demand for leather increasing, production of civilians shoes for slowed.



More Headlines from the Past

Beginning in February 1943, civilians were required to present stamp No. 19 from their War Ration Book One ("the sugar book") to buy a pair of shoes.

Following public safety precautions associated with World War II, in April 1943 a practice blackout was announced for Clayton. Everyone was "... urged to find out the air raid warden in their section and give complete cooperation in the practice." Citizens were especially encouraged to "... study the different alarms in order to be familiar with them."

In May 1943, Jessie Mae Justus became the first woman from Rabun County to join the Women's Army Air Corps (WAAC), later working in military hospitals in California and Texas. Following the war and her subsequent graduation from Western Michigan University, Ms. Justus worked at Oteen TB Sanitarium in East Asheville, North Carolina.

During the summer of 1943, Mr. Hugh Bryan, Vocational Teacher and supervisor of the local canning plant, was described as "... just about the busiest man in town," helping families to can apples, beans, corn, okra, soup mixtures and applesauce." As of August, the plant had canned 31,232 No. 2 cans and had served 279 families. Families were charged three and four cents for cans and a one cent processing fee. The WPA had constructed two canneries in Rabun County in 1935.

60 years ago:

In February 1953, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School observed its fiftieth anniversary. Both the Nacoochee Institute (established in 1903 near Sautee, Georgia) and Rabun Gap Industrial School (established in 1903 by Andrew J. and Addie C. Ritchie) had been destroyed by fire in 1926. Fortunately, "out of the ashes came the merger" of the two schools whose shared purpose was to "... meet human needs in the lives of people living in the mountains of North Georgia and surrounding territory."

In April, 1953, the long talked about and planned road to the newly named Black

Rock Mountain State Park was paved. Paving was to be completed within two months, making the drive "one of the most beautiful mountain panoramas in the entire nation." The new park was officially dedicated on September 24,



Grading the road to the top of Black Rock Mountain was done by men and mules, 1930s.

1953, featuring a barbecue and an address by Governor Herman E. Talmadge.

50 years ago:

In March, 1963, the Mountain City Playhouse was nearing completion, the previous Playhouse having burned. As a popular entertainment spot for local citizens and summer visitors alike, many looked forward to hearing the buck dancing of feet and a voice calling, "Chicken in the bread tray, scratching out dough, granny will your dog bite; no child, no." Over time this form of entertainment lost its appeal, and the Playhouse ceased operation in the early 1980s.

40 years ago:

In March 1973, the School Properties Committee of the Grand Jury recom-



Mountain City Playhouse, 1950s

mended that "... the present Rabun County High School building be evacuated and ... construction of a new one begun." Citing several structural and maintenance problems, the committee noted that the high school was "... in a very rundown condition ... past the point where repairs would be feasible." Two years later, in 1975, the main part of the high school burned. The current high school at Tiger was occupied in 1977.

30 years ago:

On February 20, 1983, an early morning fire caused extensive damage to Sky Valley Lodge. Fire departments from all over Rabun County, along with three from North Carolina, were needed to fight the fire. Estimated damage at the lodge was \$500,000. Fortunately, only one minor injury was reported.

Following the success of Foxfire Magazine and a series of books, Foxfire Press was established in 1983 to publish books, calendars and related items.



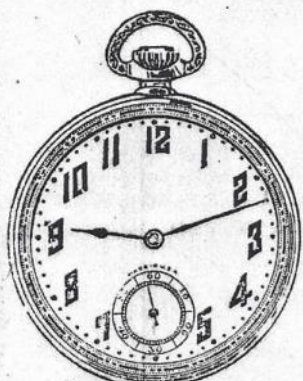
Fire department responds to fire at the Sky Valley Lodge, 1983.

Signs of the Times

Ads from Rabun's Past

BE ON TIME

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**REPAIRING
SPECTACLES AND JEWELRY
ELECTRIC SOLDERING**

W. I. PRATER AND SON

Courthouse St. Clayton, Ga.

May 5, 1938

FOR THAT
**SUNDAY
TRIP**

One cent per mile

Round Trip Fares From
Clayton, Ga.

FRANKLIN, N. C.	\$.50.
CORNELIA, GA.	\$.70
TOCCOA, GA.,	\$1.00
GAINESVILLE, GA.,	\$1.20
SENECA, S. C.,	\$1.45
CALHOUN, S. C.,	\$1.65

**AND TO ALL OTHER
POINTS WITHIN 100
MILE RADIUS**

Take a Train Ride and
Visit Your Friends
Safer Than Staying At Home

Ask The
Ticket Agent

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SYSTEM**

May 28, 1931

Special Bargains

SO LONG AS THE PRESENT SUPPLY LASTS

JERGENS SOAP, 1 cake FREE, with each one you buy.

1 50c pkg. PROBAK RAZOR BLADES	
1 50c Tube COTY'S SHAVING CREAM, both	59c
3 10c Cakes COLEO SOAP for 1 Trail Size FREE.	

1 50c. Dr. WEST TOOTH BRUSH	
1 50c Bottle THYMOLINE, both for	59c

1 Tube FALMOLIVE SHAVING CREAM	35c
1 25c can Talcum Powder FREE.	

1 35c Tube MENNEN SHAVING CREAM	
1 25c TALCUM POWDER, both for	45c

And Many Other Articles at Bargain Prices

DOVER & GREEN

"Everything in the Drug Line"

CLAYTON .. GEORGIA

June 11, 1931

FOREST HILL INN

CLAYTON, GEORGIA

In the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Near great Tallulah Gorge; beautiful Steeon Falls, Mountain City, Rabun's placid mountain lakes. Golfing, fishing, dancing, mountain climbing, gorgeous scenery.

COOL, PLEASANT DAYS AND NIGHTS
DELICIOUS HOME COOKED FOODS

CHICKEN SERVED EVERY DAY

The rates are astonishingly reasonable. Make your plans to enjoy your vacation at

FOREST HILL INN


Write at once for rates and other information.

B. T. DOCKINS, Clayton, Ga.

On All-Paved Road From Atlanta to Asheville

June 25, 1931

**DAINTY
DELICIOUS
DESSERTS**



Served from
your

**GENERAL ELECTRIC
Refrigerator**

May 9, 1929

GRIMES GOLDEN APPLES

**\$2.50 per bushel Tree Run
\$1.50 per bu. Culls**

BRING YOUR CONTAINERS

Tiger Mountain Orchards

TIGER, GEORGIA

September 11, 1952

**DERRICK & BEARDEN'S
Offerings**

For This Week WE Have

For Horses and Mules: Oats, Sweet Feed, Choice Timothy Hay and Blackman's Medicated Salt Brick.

For Cows: Hay, Good bright 7% C. S. Meal, Hulls, Shorts, Bran, Beet Pulp and Sweet Feed.

For Chickens: Pul-O-Pep Laying Mash, Growing Mash and Scratch Feed,

For Yourself: "Miss Dixie" and "Rebel Girl" Self-Rising flour; "Dunlops Best" plain flour; Talmadge corn meal, Sugar, Lard, and Salt. Buy your Hulls and meal now as the market is advancing rapidly. Also Beet Pulp is very scarce and hard to find.

DERRICK & BEARDEN

April 17, 1924

Rabun County Historical Society
81 North Church Street
P.O. Box 921
Clayton, GA 30525

Phone: 706-782-5292
E-mail: rabunhsy@windstream.net



NEW SPECIAL ONLINE EXHIBIT:

We're on the web!
www.rabunhistory.org



25 Years That Changed History

- Three important occurrences in Rabun County history shaped who and what we are today.
- Amazingly, all three events happened during the first quarter of the twentieth century, from roughly 1900 to 1925.

The most important event, because it influenced the other two, was the coming of the railroad.