

Pickles, Poundcake Party Is Held on Pilot Mountain

Pickles and pound cake and Pilot Mountain were combined a few twilights ago as a renowned Surry County woman staged a private presentation of pickles and pound cake.

The hostess, Mrs. Pearl Beasley of Pilot Mountain, selected the mountain for the party for a simple reason. She owns the mountain. She is the only woman I know of who does own a mountain. Hers is a gem of a tourist attraction.

Not only does she own Pilot Mountain, she loves it; she loves it so much that she spends the day on the mountain supervising workmen. After lunch, she stretches out on a bench in one of the shelters for a little nap.

Too Busy for Contest

Mrs. Beasley said she would have liked to enter the Surry County Pickles and Pound Cake contest but was just too busy, "What with the mountain, you know."

I am glad she didn't enter as her mountain party was a prize package made up of a small group of family and friends.

Somebody like Mrs. Beasley and her helper, Wilma McMillan, had been standing over a hot stove for quite some time and knew what they were doing as they stood there.

They turned out honest southern fried chicken, baked ham, baked beans, green beans from the garden, platters of sliced tomatoes, cole slaw, the best applesauce anyone ever made, buttered homemade yeast rolls, homemade cheese yeast rolls and Mrs. Beasley's special pickles.



MOUNTAIN'S OWNER—Mrs. Pearl Beasley gave the party on the mountain she loves.

When Mr. Beasley died, Mrs. Beasley inherited the mountain with its scenic beauty and legends, which make it a continuing attraction for picnickers.

Homemade Ice Cream

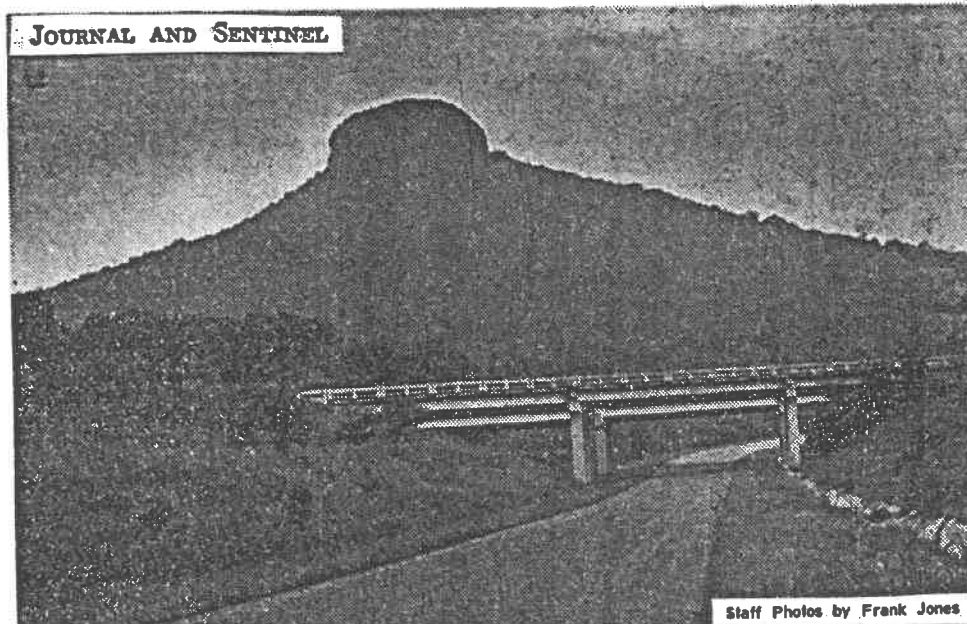
Her daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Glace of Elkin, brought a freezer of homemade ice cream which another daughter, Mrs. Carol Sperry, helped serve. With the ice cream was Mrs. Beasley's special pound cake which Wilma whips up in 15 minutes.

There is a secret to that applesauce. It was made from early harvest apples which have been in Mrs. Beasley's refrigerator since about the Fourth of July. She makes all her apple sauce from these apples.

She said, "You remember what that fellow from Australia wrote about apple pie, that Australians knew how to make it better than we did." She went on to say that he was right, that too many people ruined the flavor of apples with spices. "Apples have the best flavor in the world but you kill it with spices," she said.

The other night Mrs. Beasley hovered over the line of food, eager to have each guest get a well-filled, king-size oval paper plate. She brought along mugs for coffee as she thinks coffee is terrible in paper cups.

The Rev. Gene Little, formerly of Winston-Salem and now of Pilot Mountain, gave the invocation.



OLD PILOT—The outline of Pilot Mountain, which can be seen for miles, is a

happy sight for travelers. The mountain was the scene of a recent party.

Carol Sperry



GETTING BETTER VIEW—Matthew Dalton Phillips made telescope that focuses on objects miles away.



DISHING IT OUT—Mrs. Carol Sperry serves home-made peach ice cream from a handcranked freezer.

Matthew Dalton Phillips who grew up at Dalton, had a telescope which highlighted spots miles away. Mr. Phillips spent many years teaching math in Cleveland, Ohio. When he retired, he returned to Dalton, his old home. He said, "I'm a mountain man and a mountain man is a mountain man all his life."

As a mathematician, Mr. Phillips designed his retirement home so he could sit on the porch and see the sun set in a specific spot over the mountain.

Mrs. Beasley had asked Mr. Phillips to prepare a brief history of the mountain, which he presented the other night. The history only makes one want a more detailed one.

It seems a Frenchman by the name of Matche, a contemporary of Napoleon, came to New Orleans. The implication was that he left France under fire, so to speak, and landed in Surry County via Charleston. He acquired Pilot Mountain.

The Frenchmen's descendants and other owners of the mountain were various families including Gillions, Boyds, Bernards and Spoons.

The variety of families and the heirs led to a multiple ownership of Pilot Mountain, which led to suits, litigations and finally, on March 22, 1944, to the auction block. John W. Beasley, a Pilot Mountain business man who had always wanted to own a mountain, was the high bidder.

With the mountain, he got numerous legends like the one that Noah's Ark ran across on the mountain and that there is a footprint of Noah on top of the mountain to prove it.

It is fact, not legend, according to Mr. Phillips, that Daniel Boone used the mountain as a guide as well as a refuge.