NEWS PAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY AT RIDGECREST N. C. FROM 1925--1936, GIVING SOME EARLY HISTORY AND LIST OF COTTAGE OWNERS IN 1925.

REALIZING THE VALUE OF NEWS PAPER ACCOUNTS OF HAPPENINGS IN YEARS GONE BY, I HAVE TYPED COPIES OF THESE PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN PASTED IN MY SCRAP BOOK. HAVING DONE A GOOD DEAL OF RESEARCH IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF EASTERN CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA, I REALIZE HOW VALUABLE AN OLD LETTER OR NEWS PAPER ACCOUNT CAN BE SOMETIMES.
I HOPE THAT THESE RECORDS WILL BE PRESERVED AND THAT THEY MAY SOME DAY BE OF HELP TO SOME ONE.

MRS. RAYMOND FOWLER STAPLES.

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1a Formal Opening at Ridgecrest, June 14, 1925

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, June I5, I925, ASHEVILLE, N. C.

FORMAL OPENING AT RIDGECREST HELD LAST NIGHT

AROUND 250 PERSONS ATTENDED OPENING BANQUET IN PRITCHELL HALL

RIDGECREST. June I5.- The formal opening of the I925 session at Ridgecrest the summer assembly grounds of the Southern Baptist Church, was held tonight with a banquet in Pritchelle Hall, which has been remodled at a cost of $35,000. Some 250 persons, many of them prominent in the work of the Southern Baptist Church, assembled to celebrate the opening of what is predicted will be Ridgecrest's greatest season.

Rev. Dr. R. J. Bateman of the First Baptist Church of Asheville, acted as toastmaster, The program which was very interesting, was prepared by H. B. Easom, of the First Baptist Church of this city.

The address of welcome was delivered by Rev. R. F. Staples, recently elected manager of Ridgecrest. Others introduced were: Rev. Dr. J.W. Cammack, secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Board, Rev. Dr. B. F. Dement, president of the Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, La., Rev. Dr. W. O. Carver, professor in the Theological Seminary, Louisville Ky., Rev. E. F. Grice, of Calvery Baptist Church, Asheville; Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, Biltmore Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. P. D. Mangum, Marion Baptist Church; Rev. Wayne Williams, Black Mountain Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. A. R. Bond, corresponding secretary of the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Musical Numbers

The musical numbers were excellent. The Bareca Male Quartet, of the First Baptist Church composed of H. B. Easom, George Hartrick, W. M. Hunt, and C. R. McIntosh, accompanied by Miss Lucile Fitzgerald on the piano, gave several good numbers. A vocal selection was given by Mrs. L. D. Twiford, which was followed by selections by the male quartet from Marion. Mrs. Shores, soprano, of the First Baptist, also rendered a solo. Miss Ruth Hood played the violin accompanied by her brother Carl Hood. This was followed by a solo by Frank Hill. George Hartrick, baritone of the First Baptist Church, gave a vocal selection, which was followed by the choir of the First Baptist Church, which rendered an anthem. The pianist accompaning the choir was Miss Margaret Smathers.

Representatives from nine towns in this section were present at the opening tonight.

Officials state that 5000 visitors are expected at Ridgecrest during the summer conferences, which last until Sept. Ist.

Extension

A program of extensions and improvements involving expenditure of $300,000 was authorized recently by the Southern Baptist Convention. This program will be carried over a period of two years. When the assembly opens this year however, many improvements will be noted. Pritchell Hall has been enlarged by 20 rooms and now has 74 guest rooms. Under the direction of E. L. Draper, landscape architect, the grounds have been beautified throughout. New roads have been built. Shrubbery has been set out and a new concrete swimming pool has been built in the rear of the hotel. Bath houses have been erected and a baseball diamond built. Three tennis courts have been established and a children's play ground is being equipped with all manner of apparatus.

Baptist Board

The assembly is under the direction of the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, which serves a total membership of three million seven hundred thousand in I8 states.

Formal Opening at Ridgecrest I925, continued

Improvements that have been authorized for Ridgecrest include a new hotel to cost $I50,000 and numerous other additions over the 940 acres included in the assembly grounds.

The first assembly is that of the Young Women's Auxiliary of the south, under the direction of the Women's Missionary Union. This will last for ten days, commencing on June I6 and will be directed by Miss Kathleen Mallory, of Birmingham, Ala., secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union. Miss Juliette Mather, also of Birmingham, young people's correspondent of the Woman's Missionary Union, and Mrs. W. J. Cox, of Memphis, Tenn. recently elected president of the Union. An attendance of 250 is expected at this conference. More than 50 able church leaders and speakers will be present, including men and women from all sections of the United States. Study courses will be held in Sunday School Training, Baptist Young People's Union Manual, Missions, Vocation and Bible.

Copied from

THE CHRISTIAN INDEX, ATLANTA, GA. SEPTEMBER 3rd. 1925
by L. D. Newton

UP IN THE LAND OF THE SKY *** AND BACK AGAIN
A Little Visit to Ridgecrest and Nashville

RIDGECREST is rightly named -- it is on the very ridge of the Appalachian Mountains, two thousand and eight hundred feet above sea level. If a breeze is in the air, You'll feel it at Ridgecrest. Asheville is the center of that wonderful district which we call the "Land of the Sky" and Ridgecrest is the highest inhabitable point of the area. Mt. Mitchell lifts its massive form near the very spot where Southern Baptist have secured one thousand acres on which they purpose to build a really great assembly for our people.

I do not believe you could improve on the site. It is true that our Presbyterian friends have a wonderfully pretty place at Montreat, two miles away; and that the Methodists have a fine place at Junaluska, twenty miles away; but neither of them has the altitude of Ridgecrest. And isn't it true that when you are looking to the hills for to take a little rest that you want to be on the highest hill? Well, we have the altitude, we have the acreage, we have the water, we have the railway and highway facilities - we have every requisite, it seems to me, for a worthwhile assembly. Our great need, of course, is money.

Secretary J. W. Cammack of the Education Board asked me to come up and talk to the people about the denominational paper, etc. I didn't have any notion of trying to tell a bunch of pastors and secretaries anything particularly, but I did want to see the assembly under the new management, and so I wemt up last Wednesday. I got off the train at Ridgecrest station at noon on Wednesday and Mr. A.H.Link, manager of the dining room, kindly took me up to the hotel in his car. I found out that this Mr. Link is the manager of the dining room at the Baptist Bible Institute. He and his wife make a rare combination in this important phase of the assembly and I do not hesitate to say that one of the distinct features of my twenty-four hour visit to Ridgecrest was the exceptionally fine service and general atmosphere of the kitchen and dining room. I can well understand that President Dement is glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Link in charge of the eating department at New Orleans.

As Mr. Link drove up to the building I couldn't see for looking. Every thing has undergone a change. The main building is no longer a conventional sort of structure with its narrow entrance and its flat front. It is now a thing of beauty with its eight classic columns, thirty-three feet high, and its spacious terrace stretching almost the length of the building. The lobby opens up beautifully with large fireplaces at either end and with a mezzanine which forms the reading and lounging rooms for the assembly. In front of the building is a remarkable result in landscaping - remarkable in the fact that it has been brought about in one season, and such a dry year at that. Drives and walks have been laid out, giving the place a distinctive air of orderliness and of beauty.

I had heard about the wonderful combination of Cammack, Bond and Staples, and of their achievements in the first year of the assembly under the new management, but you must go there to appreciate it. I saw Ridgecrest fourteen years ago when a group of Mercer students were at Robert E. Lee Hall and on a hike to Mt. Mitchell we stopped by to see the Baptist Assembly. The contrast is beyond description.

This man Staples is a Virginian - a preacher. He is a genius at organnization and details. He understands our Baptist people. He saw the need of a real assembly and Dr. Cammack persuaded him to go to Ridgecrest and take charge of the plans for making there a great gathering place for our Southern Baptist Convention. Drs. Cammack and Bond, backed by the Education Board, have wrought a miracle under the local management of

Mr. Staples. They have spent thirty-five thousand dollars and they have a showing for that money which will please every Baptist that sees it. Walter Binns had told me about it and had expressed his opinion of the place in such terms as to make me wonder if he had not seen only some very exceptional side, but it is there - all of it.

The assembly this summer has been in session since June the 15th. They have had a remarkable program from the first day until the day when they felt impelled for some reason to venture upon the newspaper crowd. All phases of our work have been presented and the people have attended the meetings with keen interest and with enthusiasm. The hotel accommodates several hundred guests and then there are some fifty cottages owned by individuals. The total attendance during the summer has gone into the thousands.

They have had a number of families thate this summer with children. Now where can you find a place where a mother can go with her little folks and get a fair deal, you've made a discovery. I dare say there are many disappointments this very moment over summer trips to some hotel for the reason that when the little folks appeared on the scene the guests began to raise their eye brows and sigh. I know what I am talking about, because I associate with some folks that have been up against that sort of thing. Well, they tell me - the mothers themselves - that a child is regarded as a human being at Ridgecrest and Dr. Cammack told me himself that they were delighted to have whole families come and enjoy the wonderful place provided there for our people. At the table where they allowed me to eat were several children and it was good to see how they were treated by everyone. I say this for the reason that next summer I hope our Baptist people who can go away for a little rest in the mountains will keep Ridgecrest in mind, remembering that the children and that both they and their parents will be treated courteously. They have a beautiful play ground and every thing desirable for the little folks.

The paved highway runs within one hundred yards of the main building and the railway station is within sight of the building. It is close enough to Asheville to provide every comfort of the city and at the same time it is as quiet as the fartherest nook in the hills. Sleep? Why you just feel like you were let down into the cool folds of your boyhood bed room where gentle breezes wafted you out into the enchanted land of dreams. And I do want to come back to the dining room to say that the girls who wait on the tables are, every one of them, college students. Here is the list: Blanche Brooks, Meredith College; Zeneth Armstrong, Florida State College for Women; Laura Armstrong, Florida State College for Women; Mehala Hays, Intermont College; Kathe Gerwich and Amala Gerwich, Training School, Louisville; Edwarda Dickinson, Blackville, South Carolina; Cordelia and Mary Helen Johnson, Intermont College; Elizabeth Logan, Asheville Normal College. The Gerwich girls are from Budapest. They are very fine young women and they contribute greatly to the joy of the visitors.

Dr. Homer L. Grice was at Ridgecrest in his faithful ford and he kindly took me to see the wonderful roads about Ridgecrest and over to Montreat where the Presbyterians have a wonderful assembly equipment.

I was privileged to sit only the one evening that I was there in what was known as the Rocking-chair Council. This "sanhedrin" was composed of the preachers and laymen who were staying at the hotel and who would congregate about the big log fire in the lobby after the folks had gone to bed. The chief topic of conversation the night I was there was the situation in North Carolina. There were a number of North Carolina pastors present and they got all sorts of advice from that crowd about how they should deal with the Wake Forest difficulty. I believe that the president of the Rocking-chair Council was Pastor Welch of Court Street Church, Portsmouth. Editor Masters and I heard a good many words of advice about how to run a church newspaper for which we were duly grateful. The fellowship was superb.

Space forbids the report of a famous game of horse-shoe pitching which occurred on Thursday morning.

But this thing must come to a close. I have gone beyond all bounds and have yet to deal with the meeting down in Nashville on Friday. Dr. Cammack and I got away at one o'clock on Thursday afternoon to go to Nashville for the meeting of the committee on co-operation, called by Dr. Burts. The Rocking-chair Council decided that it would not be safe to risk Dr. Cammack and myself in Asheville without someone to see that we got on the right train and so Editor Victor Masters was detailed to go down there and put us on the train. He did it well. We got to Knoxville at sundown after having ridden through that stretch of mountain country in East Tennessee where the drough has wrought indescribable havoc. Trees are dead, the rivers are drying up, the crops are an utter failure and the people are in desperate straits. If a fire were to break out in Asheville they couldn't fight with water fifteen minutes. I saw a fire sweep through a corn field that afternoon where the farmer had cut his drying up crop and shocked it. The fire swept every thing to ashes.

We got the Memphis Special at Knoxville and awoke Friday morning in Nashville. It was hot at sunrise and continued to get hotter till in the middle of the afternoon it was the nost awful weather I have felt this summer. The bretheren were there from every state except Kentucky, Florida and Arkansas. The meeting opened at nine oclock and continued until after six in the afternoon. It was a helpful conference. Reports were heard from the several states as to receipts from May to August this year and as to the outlook for the fall and winter. Let me give some of these facts regarding receipts: (have skipped this report).

It was stated by Dr. Burts that Secretary Thompson of Kentucky had wired that Kentucky receipts were approximately ten thousand dollars larger in the three months of 1925 than in 1924. Reports from the brethren indicated: that the best we can hope for this year will be to equal the receipts of last year; that business conditions through-out the south are dreadful; that our greatest peril is the universal lack of enthusiasm for our co-operative work, resulting, no doubt, from so many special institutional and individual campaigns; and the apparent inability to relieve the heavy debts on our two great boards out of the receipts coming in between now and May 1, 1926.

These conclusions may sound pessimistic, but I think they represent the essence of what was said last Friday by these respective state leaders. The only word I would add, on this point, is this: There was unmistakable evidence in the discussions throughout the day that the spirit of our people throughout the south is positively hopeful. What is now essential to our progress is Divinely guided leadership. This must largely be supplied by the pastors. The laymen will fall in, but in most instances the pastor must lead the way.

Secretary Love reported the present indebtedness on the Foreign Board to be fourteen hundred thousand dollars, in round numbers. He stated that the Board will meet Oct. 14 to face once again the fearful situation brought on by the decreased receipts. I wish every Baptist in Georgia might have heard Secretary Love last Friday afternoon as he stood there in that unbearably hot room and talked to that body of men about our mission work. He is apparently stronger than he was at Memphis, but he shows the strain of this great burden - a burden which Southern Baptist could so easily take from his shoulders and from the shoulders os his associates. He asked us to pray for the board and for the secretaries as they plan for that meeting in Oct. I hope all our readers will unite in prayer to God that somehow the Holy Ghost may dorect us to a solution of this crushing problem of debt. Secretary Love insisted very definitely that the Foreign Board was not willing to make social appeals to raise this money. It was a vigorous appeal for co-operation which the great and good missionary statesman made that Friday afternoon in Nashville. Secretary Gray was detained in Atlanta and could not report on

the Home Mission Board.

Secretary Cammack told us that there was an indebtedness of more than fifteen million dollars on the state work of Southern Baptist! Think of it brethren, more that fifteen million dollars indebtedness on the local work of the conventions in the south! He told us of one college that pays approximately one thousand dollars a week interest - fifty thousand dollars a year. Let us be grateful that in Georgia we do not have such debts on our state work, thanks to the Holding Commission and to our wise leadership. Ofcourse we do have a heavy debt on our hospital, but it has never been turned over to the Holding Commission and will not be until the debt is lifted. In our neighbor state of South Carolina they owe a half million dollars on their state work and up in Tennessee they owe eight hundred thousand dollars on their state work. But there is this bright side to all our debts. We have many wonderful results to show for every dollar invested. That is particularly true of our mission work at home and abroad. After all, we should be thankful that God has so richly blessed our missionaries and we should come quickly to their support by paying these debts and putting more money in their hands with which to carry forward the work of winning the lost world to Christ.

It was reported by the brethren that in every state there is a growing sense of co-operation with our great agencies in carrying forward our mission and benevolent work. We are learning better how to work together. We are learning that special campaigns, extra drives, and all that sort of business will break up any co-operative program. The associations throughout the south are adopting suggested quotas for 1926 and they are asking their local churches to unite in proposed budgets which will place our co-operative work on a sound basis in the future. Dr. Burts made a number of practical suggestions about the work which will be embodied in announcements in later issues of the paper. Let me say in passing that Dr. Burts is growing on our people as a practical, optimistic, cheerful leader and I believe his work will help us forward as he points out the definite lines along which we may safely travel as a denomination.

President Mullins gave a report on the seminary building campaign, announcing approximately a half million dollars subscribed. He stated that the two buildings now under constriction will be ready for occupancy by January first. Dr. Mullins looks better than I have seen him look in three years.

It was good to have fellowship with the brethren at Nashville. I saw Drs. Dargan, Hight Moors, Alldredge, Editor Freeman and ofcourse Dr. Van Ness, who presided at the conference. I was specially glad to be with Secretary Jones of South Carolina. He is an excellent gentleman - a native Englishman and a man who is working earnestly at the task of lifting the debt in South Carolina and leading the people of that good state into a larger program of service for the Master.

Friday night while we were waiting for time to get on the train Secty. Jones, Secretary Cammack and I walked up to the capitol grounds to see if there could be found one breath of fresh air. As we walked up that well known street we saw the beautiful Memorial Building, recently completed, which is one of the rare specimens of architecture in the south. The following inscription from Woodrow Wilson is engraved in the stone: "America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles which gave her birth and happiness and peace which she has cherished."

Over to the other side of the street was the brilliantly lighted new Andrew Jackson Hotel, being opened that night to the public. It is a magnificient Inn, belonging to the Dinkler interest. Nashville is a fine city, marked by its culture and its conservative attitude. It is always good to go there. - L. D. N.

by Frank Willis Barnett, staff correspondent

WHERE BAPTIST ARE IN SUMMER CONCLAVE

RIDGECREST, A BEAUTIFUL RESORT WHERE ANNUALLY CHURCHMEN GATHER

The writer feels like he "has been every where and see'd every thing", as he once spent some time in Bourbon county, Kentucky; and is now sojourning in Buncombe county, North Carolina.

The congressman who gave to America the expression, "it's all buncombe," did his country real service. He may have indulged in a lot of spreadeagle oratory for his constituents back home, but the truth is that nothing he could have said about the beauty of his district could have been overstated.

The writer who attended the Southern Confectioners Association at Asheville took the opportunity to play around in western North Carolina for a while. He had, a quarter of a century ago, put in two summers at Johnson City, Tenn. fishing and tramping all over the Linnville and Blowing Rock sections, and learning for the first time the joy of the mountains.

President Wynn and family before reaching Asheville for the Candy Convention spent some time at Black Mountain and were so pleased with it that they fired the writer and his wife with a desire to put in some ~~in~~ time in the hustling little city which is central for many of the resorts in western North Carolina, being two miles from Montreat, the Presbyterian camp, two miles from Blue Ridge, the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. camp, and two miles from Ridgecrest, the Baptist camp, etc. We spent a couple of days there, but naturally the Baptist magnet drew us to Ridgecrest.

A Trio of Sectional Boosters

Get a Californian talking about "climate" and there is no end to his fervor; get a Floridian talking about "The Land of Flowers," and it soon becomes a case of self-hypnosis; but both of them put together are amateurs when it comes to piling up adjectives when ranged along side of the dwellers in "The Land of The Sky". Even the hot air artists of Atlanta create no smoke when your true "tar heel" gets talking about the "great smoky" and other mountains.

During the two days the writer spent at the Monte Vista Inn, Black Mountain, he had ample time to see the flow of traffic passing on the highway in front of the door. It made him homesick for Mountain Terrace Junction, for there was a constant stream of cars going and coming, with this difference, however, many of them bore tage from far away states. It was while he was at Black Mountain that he learned how it was possible for Florida to hold the visitors pouring in from the outside states. The cat's out of the bag, all the natives are here in western North Carolina. In plain v iew of Monte Vista Inn is the home of a Floridian, who running to form, is advertising his home state, for on the side of the mountain in bold relief stand out great white letters easily read for miles around "Miami."

Beautiful Ridgecrest

Ridgecrest is well named as it is on the highest ridge between Asheville and Marion, N.C. Now this is no fairy story. There is a point just in front of the main building here where one can empty a bucket of water and part of it will start for the Gulf of Mexico while part of it will begin to race for the Atlantic ocean. If anybody doubts this just call on Dr. R.J.Bateman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Asheville, and one time shepherd of the Baptist saints at Troy, Ala. Or better still if you still doubt it after giving him as reference come up and see it for yourself. If, however, you believe the water story, then here is something to arouse doubt. The writer slept under double blankets last Sunday night.

A Loyal Memorial

Many are the ways in which the living commemorate the memory of the

blessed dead. Some erect chimes in church steeples to ring out to the world hymns in memory of loved ones gone before. Some build churches where prayer is made. Some construct libraries, where books give solace. Some endow colleges in whose halls preparation is made for life. Some raise towering monuments pointing heavenward to the heavenly home. These are some of the forms in which love expresses itself; but here at Ridgecrest is one of the loveliest tokens ever raised by a father to a child. It was just a little over two years ago that America was startled by the burning of the little school house at Cleveland some nine miles from Camden, S.C. The Associated press told graphically the story of how out of some one hundred and twenty-five men, women and children who had gathered for the commencment exercises, more than fourscore were cremated.

At the time, the writer read of how the son of a Baptist preacher was among the number burned, but he never realized that Rev. J.J.Johnson, was once pastor at Sylacauga, and at Huntsville, Ala. It was here that the fact dawned on him. He and his wife strolled down to the spring through as lovely a walk as can be found any where, for the spring comes gushing out of the mountainside as cold as ice water. It is hid away in a virgin forest, mountain laurel and rhodendrons give just the touch of color to the grass, leaves and ferns as to make the coloring of the picture complete. Birds were singing and the air was like fine wine as Brother Johnson told us the tragic story of how his eleven year old boy, Jeter, went to his death, but how by heroic work, in which he was burned, he saved a younger son and daughter.

The horrow of the awful night for two years has hung over him like a nightmare. He came to Ridgecrest and bought a little home near the spring where he is restoring his shattered nerves, and soon will be able to get back into a pastorate. Time has hung heavily on his hands, but he has relieved the tedium of many weary hours by building a rustic summer house and bridge out of hickory poles and logs, and in cementing up the spring and bottoming it with beautiful clear rocks, and planting the borders of the little stream with ferns. The water comes over the spillway through little spouts and have the air of being little icicles. He has put months of labor on his work, but the Lord only knows how much of loving thought has gone into the building of the memorial which stands as a tribute to William Jeter.

Alabamians ought to have him and his dear boy in mind and loving rememberance as he was born in Sylacauga. Can you imagine the horrow of seeing a child die after having have saved two loved ones? Yet this is the thing which has haunted the memory of the man who has tried to forget it here in these mountains. He reached his boy who was wedged under a pile of dead and living bodies, but all he could do was to pat him gently on the head, while uttering words of love. The flames were all around him and neighbors against his will pulled him out of danger. That was the last he ever saw of Jeter whose ashes were mingled with scores of others, a terrible indictment against permitting children to attend school in a fire trap. Here is hoping that before fall Brother Johnson, of Ridgecrest N.C., will be fully able to take up his work again and that some Alabama church will call him for pastor. His dear wife has been mighty brave and has given her time to teaching. Let every one who reads this get in behind Chester Johnson, the state fire marshal.

Gone to His Reward

Rev. J.R.Pace, the oldest resident of Ridgecrest, the preacher who organized the Ridgecrest Baptist Church was stricken with paralysis on Monday morning and passed away shortly, was buried on Tuesday. His death cast a shadow on the camp as he was greatly beloved. Miss Mary Ward, of New York, formerly of Asheville, who was down the past week for a series of lectures on church Pageantry on Monday was rushed to a hospital to undergo a serious operation. Her many friends rejoice that she stood the ordeal well and is rapidly recovering. Sorrow treads on the heel of joy even where the environment is all that could be wished.

Isn't So Big After All

Here at Ridgecrest the greater part of the work is done by college boys and girls who come from all over the South. A college lad takes your grips, a college girl keeps your room tidy. A college girl waits on you at table. The writer and his wife on being shown to their room by a lovely girl asked her name and where she lived. "Oh", said she, "I am from the Argentina." "And in what city do you live?" "Buenos Aires," was the answer. "How unfortunate," the writer replied, as my namesake is on the ocean on his way down to see you. We tried to get him to come with us but failed to change his plans, but if he had known you were here, perhaps he wouldn't have bothered to go all the way to South America looking for an Argentine beauty."

There are two girls here from Budapest. Their father is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of that great city in Hungary. The sisters are in America attending the W.M.U.Training School at Louisville, Ky., in order to fit themselvs for some kind of Christian work. The girl behind the desk is from Bulgaria. She is a student of the University of Richmond, the state Baptist college of the Virginia Baptist. She is a sister of the Bulgarian Minister accredited to Washington. Then there is a missionary and his wife here on their furlough from the South China Mission which is at or near Canton. He is a North Carolinian, a graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and she is a Tennesseean, a graduate of the W.M.U.Training School. Seven years they have spent in China, and unto them were born there two lovely little boys. They will soon be on their way back in spite of the serious trouble which has raged around Canton, counting it a joy to get back on the mission field after a year's vacation at home. Ridgecrest is a haven not only for workers from over seas but for workers from all over the south. One can come here in the spring and stay through until the autumn and in that time meet many of the leading Baptist of the South.

How about the Bill of Fare?

Some people get the idea that the food at a summer religious assembly is poor and scant, but this wann't the case during the week the writer spent at Ridgecrest, and he ought to be able to pass on eats, as it's his specialty and if the table isn't good he makes a quick get-a-way. A New Orleans chef prepares the meals. Now at the first dinner ham was served in a new style so far as your correspondent was concerned and running with Caprian Jack Phillips he thought he knew all about serving the best part of a hog. It's an old dish in Louisiana, but some how the writer never ran across, or as a matter of fact in his visits to the "Crescent City" he had specialized on fish, oysters and gumbo and had never even ordered "ham and eggs." The way the ham was served being so delicious, the writer sought out the chef and took his wife along to take notes. It seems after boiling the ham in hot water until it is thoroughly cooked, it is then put in cold water before being sliced. Dressing for it was made in about the same way that chicken or turkey dressing is made, with the exception a sauce thick and rich with raisins is put over the ham and dressing. Now the writer suspected that the original Creole or French recipe called for Sherry wine sauce, and on inquiry was told that it was the case, but the chef shook his head sadly and said, but that doesn't go hare. Well, it was good enough without the sherry. The was this chef sends it to the table, here is one preacher who feels himself backsliding on the orthodox chicken diet for the ministry.

The meal isn't everything, although A.H.Link, the dietician from New Orleans, sets an excellent table. The air of the dining room, the table decorations, and the service count for a lot of the pleasure of eating. Here at Ridgecrest the dining room is bright and attractive. There are always ferns and flowers on the tables. It's one of the cleanest places to be found any where. The tops of the tables being plate glass makes it unnecessary to bother about the naperie. Manager Staples says that he

ordered 2I pieces of heavy plate glass 3x6 fett and when they arrived I7 were broken, but he got in another order by telegraph and coming by express he was able to open on time. The guest rooms are large and airy, and the lobbies attractive.

A Little History

The Southern Baptist Assembly is located at Ridgecrest, N.C., on the Southern Railway, eighteen miles east of Asheville, N.C. Ridgecrest is at the crest of the Blue Mountains, 2,800 feet above sea level. The main line of the Southern Railway and the National Central Highway run through the property of the assembly.

The founders of Ridgecrest had in mind the establishment of an assembly where we might "Captalize recreation for Christ." The property is owned and controlled by Baptist. The dominant purpose of the assembly is to provide the "Chatauqua" and "Northfield" of the South.

The enterprise in its earlier days was fostered by a number of outstanding Baptist, who gave a real sacrificial service to the assembly through its days of uncertainty and struggle. Perhaps to no other man is so much credit to be given for the establishment and growth of Ridgecrest than to Dr. B.W.Spillman of Winston, N.C. who is known throughout the South as field secretary of the Baptist Sunday school board of Nashville, Tenn. Other names prominent in the history of Ridgecrest in its management are Judge J.C? Pritchard, Asheville, N.C.; Hon. J.H.Tucker,Asheville N.C.; Prof. McKay Goodwin, superintendent of school for the deaf at Morganton, N.C.; Dr. J.M.Kesler, of the Baptist Orphanage, Thomasville, N.C.; Dr. M.A.Jenkins, now a prominent pastor of Texas; Dr. J.D.Moore, recently editor of the Baptist and Reflector at Nashville,Tenn.; Mr. J.D.Elliot, contractor at Hickory, N.C., Dr. L.T.Mays, now pastor at Montgomery, Ala.

The Southern Baptist Convention in I907 endorsed the movement of the establishment of the assembly and work of improving the thousand acres of ground begun in June I908. The main building of the Assembly, Pritchell Hall, was opened for guests August the 3,I9I4. The assembly is a corporation chartered under the laws of North Carolina with five hundred constituent shares. No one but Baptist can be a stockholder. In I920 the stockholders of the assembly voted to deed to the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention of Birmingham, Ala., a majority of the stock and the physical properties of the assembly. Thus the Education Board became the virtual owner of the assembly, and on Jan.I,I92I the board assumed control and appointed one of its secretaries, Albert R. Bond to have supervision of the work.

Having been elected by the Education Board as the business manager of the Assembly, Rev. R. F. Staples took charge of the local management on January I, I925.

Dr. J. W. Cammack is the corresponding secretary, Dr. Albert R. Bond, editorial secretary of the Education Board, and through them the Education Board directs the general policies and management of the Assembly.

Ridgecrest presents one thousand acres of land, concrete highway, streets, roads, paths, hikes, mountain climbing, mountain streams, springs, cool nights all summer, swimming, tennis, archery, good water, good meals, good hotel, cottages, big log fireplaces, excellent music, entertainments, sermons, addresses, lectures, six weeks school for religious workers, teacher training courses, tutoring, etc.

The Assembly seeks in its platform and recreational program to furnish the very best stimulus and recreation for both soul and body. A list of the platform speakers contains some of the most prominent names among Southern Baptists. The series of conferences and addresses will indicate the wide scope of the purpose of the Assembly.

June I6-26 was Y.W.A. week; June 28-July, education week; July I-II, work for Junior leaders; July 6-I7, Baptist history week; July I3-I7, church pagentry week; July I9-Aug. 6, will be training school week; July I9-22, denominational ministries; July 23-26, a quickened spiritual life;

July 27-29 within our borders; July 29-Aug.2, laymens conference; Aug.3-9, foreign missions; Aug. 3-II, church music; Aug. IO-I7, Evangelism; Aug. I8-23, Baptist opportunity; Aug.24-30 Baptist prospects at home, etc. Tutoring during the season by George Carver and Miss Antonia Apel. W.I.Willia, the clerk, has been behind the desk for the past five seasons and is always courteous and helpful to the visitors and guests. R. F. Staples, the business manager is a "Wheel Horse" for he has certainly pulled the Assembly out of the ditch.

Birmingham Week at Ridgecrest

The past week without any one's planning turned out largely to be a Birmingham week as three Birminghamers starred in the Assembly Hall. First Dr. J. W. Cammack, secretary of the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention located at Birmingham. On Sunday morning he gave a brief history of Baptist education. Among other things he said:

"Responsibility rests on the Baptist as a denomination for the II7 schools and 38000 students in the Southern Baptist Convention. God expects much from those whom He has given much.

"Ridgecrest also is an educational institution, and evengelistic institution. Its motto is "Capitalize Recreation for Christ." Dr. Cammack said in closing. Definite instruction is given by able speakers, which is a challenge to every heart."

The Baptist in America have a wonderful heritage - the statement is substantiated that the first public, tax supported free school in America was established by John Clark, a Baptist. Brown University, in Rhode Island, was founded, chartered, continued and is maintained today by Baptist.

Baptist have always believed in education - opportunity. We do not agree with the professor in the Boston University who declared that all denominational schools should be abolished, nor with Cardinal Gibbon, who listed state schools as one of the five of the most prevalent evils in America. We believe that there is great need for both; we willingly support both - from the kindergarten to the University.

These words coming from the authority on education, both secular and denominational ought to carry weight. It is just such broadminded sentiments which makes for a better understanding between the public and the church schools. Dr. Cammack is recognized as one of the South's most constructive thinkers in the educational world. His is a big task and he is making good in it.

Big old Fred Scholfield

There was general rejoicing when it was announced that J. Fred Scholfield, assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church, Birmingham would conduct the singing through the week and give instruction in chorus, solo and congregational singing. Fred is always a big card at religious Assemblies, not merely because he is a singer and conductor of renown, but from the fact that he is a great big red blooded he-man. Things begin to pep up the moment he "breezes in."

Lectures of the Life of Christ

Dr. B. H. De Ment, president of the Baptist Bible Institute gave a series of lectures on the Life of Christ, which were greatly enjoyed, not only for their scholarly treatment, but for their spirituality. Dr. De Ment is writing the Life of Christ, and those hearing him were fortunate indeed. He has made good as pastor, in many prominent Southern pastorates, as professor in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and as president of the great institution at New Orleans. He has recently bought a cottage at Ridgecrest, acquiring the one built by the late Dr. Bell, for years editor of the Christian Index, and one of the first to build at Ridgecrest. There are many attractive cottages here perched on the heights and in the valley. Cottage life is a distinct feature at Ridgecrest. The following own cottages while scores of others have bought lots on which to build.

Ridgecrest Cottage Owners

Mrs. Annie Griffin, Goldsboro, N.C.; Dr. F.V.Baldy, Marion, Ala.; Dr. B.H.De Ment, New Orleans, La.; Rev. Wade Bostick, China.; Mrs. B.F. Briggs, Rocky Mount, N.C.; Mrs. R.W.Carroll Estate, Monroe, N.C.; Mrs. V.P.Green, Canton, China; Dr. J.F.Highsmith, Fayetteville, N.C.; E.L.Hon, Deland, Fla.; Mrs. J.M.Hurst, Albany, Ga.; Mrs. C.B.Hole, Greensboro,N.C.; Mrs. M.L.Hutto, Springfield, S.C.; Mrs. A.T.Jamison, Greenwood, S.C.; Mr. A.C.Dickerson Estate, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Cora Lee, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Mrs. Dora E. Ashcraft, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Ben S. Meeks, Florence, S.C.; Rev. J.J.Johnson, Ridgecrest, N.C.; S.B.Moore, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Mrs. C.M. Murchison, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Mrs. C.J.Biggers, Mars Hill, N.C.; Dr. Chas. H. Nash, Greensboro, N.C.; Dr. J.E.Gwadkin, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. J.R. Pace, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Mrs. Emma G. Padgett, Greenville, S.C.; Mrs. E.C. Lucas, Rocky Mount, N.C.; Dr. Lula G. Winston, Richmond, Va.; Dr. Jenny Lucena Spalding, Asheville, N.C.; Mrs. J.A.Stevens, Deland, Fla.; Mrs. R. H. Roper, Sumpter, S.C.; Dr. Bartlet A. Bowers, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mr. Blain Gilliam, Ridgecrest, N.C.; Eugene Moore, Ridgecrest, N.C.; George H. Holman Ridgecrest, N.C.; Dr. B.W.Spillman, Kinston, N.C.; H.B.Stevens, Deland, Fla; J.T.Collins, Chester, S.C.; Mrs. J.H.Tucker, Asheville, N.C.; Mrs. E.F.Ward, New York,N.Y.; Rev. G.E.Brinson, Durham,N.C.; Miss Emma Whitfield,Richmond, Va.; Mrs. D.J.Richard, Greenville, N.C.; Dr. W.V.Powell,Ridgecrest,N.C.; W.I.Willis, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Charles P.Watson,Ridgecrest,N.C.; H.S.Winters, DeLand, Fla.; Mary G. Adams, Darlington, S.C.; Mrs..Annie P. Farrar, Greensboro, N.C.; Mr. J.W.Stroud, Florence, S.C.; Perry Priest, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Mr. Ward, DeLand, Fla.; J.Paul Harris, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Mrs.J.D.Elliot, Hickory,N.C.; Mrs. J.K.Harrow, Columbia, S.C.; Mr. H.F.Curtis, Chicago,Ill; Mrs. E.J.Pendergrass, Florence,S.C.; Mr. D.M.Dew, Latta,S.C.; Mrs. J.H.Dew, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Mrs. R.J.Dew, Latta,S.C.; Mrs. W.E.Shank, Greensboro,N.C.; Mrs. Fannie Regar, DeLand, Fla.; Mrs. Z.C.Lynch, Coward,S.C.; Mrs. Mollie Harris, Ridgecrest,N.C.; Dr. C.L.Greaves, Raleigh,N.C.; J.T.Taylor,Fla.

The New Construction Program

When Dr. J.W.Cammack, accepted the position of corresponding secretary Of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Board he immediately took a strangle hold of the situation and began to plan carefully to make our educational program one of the vital assets of our denomination. In his vision Ridgecrest was not overlooked. He saw the large possibilities, through development of this beautiful spot in the mountains of Western North Carolina, and at once began to lay plans to make the Southern Baptist Assembly, at Ridgecrest one of the most beautiful and useful recreational centers in all the world.

It did not take ~~long~~ Dr. Cammack long to make known his ideas to the Education Board at Birmingham. His enthusiasm was so contageous that it captured the board and they agreed to co-operate with him in a new plan of immediate construction, but the money and the man were both lacking.,It was easy to get the man but not so easy to obtain the money. When R.F.Staples of Virginia was secured as the business manager, one of the major problems in Cammack's estimation, was solved. But the money was the next great question, how to get the money for the development. It was not until about the 5th. of March that money was available, and only a limited amount was obtained. The board agreed to project improvements this year to the amount of thirty five thousand dollars and with this authority back of him Cammack directed Staples to go to it. In the interim when the work of development was uncertain the new business manager began to work out the details of the prospective developments. He, through co-Operation with the Advisory committee, secured Mr.E.S.Draper, one of the most reputable land scape architects of the South to come to Ridgecrest and make left contours of the 25 acres lying immediately around the old hotel, Pritchell Hall. His next move was to get in touch with competent architects for plans to enlarge, improve and make over the Hotel both inside and outside. He then secured the services of Mr.Manning.

Mr. J. Woodward Manning, another landscape man of large experience and reputation, enlisting his interest. Manning geve himself to the study of the needs of the layout as planned by Mr. Draper, finally making contour maps and drawings in detail of the needs of this part of the grounds as above mentioned. Thus was set in motion to work out the details of the needs of the contemplated work. So when the board on the 5th. of March authorized an expenditure of $35,000, all the details were in shape and work was begun by the landscape force March 9th, and on the I6th. of March the carpenters were on the job. When the night of June the I5th. arrived the doors were thrown open wide and over two hundred and fifty guests at the opening night, with vocal and instrumental music, speech making etc.

Some of the things accomplished in this work of remodeling was the terracing in front of the hotel, new roads constructed, woods opened up, swimming pool with concrete dam built, fifteen additional rooms added to hotelcapacity, new baths, public and private, a new downstairs lobby, dining room made over, a new auditorium of temporary character constructed. This building to be turned into dormitory in keeping with original blue print. In addition to the things mentioned the outside of the main building, the Southern Baptist Assembly hotel, has been made into a thing of beauty. There is no more attractive building along the celebrated highways of North Carolina than this building. It is classic in appearance and design, with 8 large columns 33 feet high, a combination of Doric and Ionic construction. As it stands on the eminence overlooking the well known number I0 highway, the greatest piece of road engineering in America to day, it reminds the passedby of the old colonial mansions of the past.

Some plans for I926

For next season the assembly plans to establish a summer school of theology, which will have the co-operation of the faculties of the southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas; Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, La. The purpose of the school will be to gather together a large number of pastors and theological students who might desire to do intensive theoligical study under the most favorable climatic conditions. Credit will be given for this work by the three co-operative seminaries.

Another new plan will probably be the establishment of a Sunday School clinic, to which will come some three or four hundred Sunday School experts from the states east of the Missippipi. This course will last about three weeks, and will be directed by the most expert Sunday School men in the world.

A further plan calls for the establishment of a camp for boys and a camp for girls. Under proper supervision the boys and girls will have the time of their lives, for they would have all of the joys that can come from the mountains.

The writer congratulates the projectors of Ridgecrest as it is really one of the most beautiful assemblies in America. He saw it when "God's out of doors" was at its best, and will long carry in his mind's eye the loveliness of sky, the beauty of landscape, and the joy of sparkling waters.

Note: I would like to state at this time that our Baptist Sunday School Board would have nothing to do with the assembly at Ridgecrest, nor would they put a paid ad in any of their literature.

M. H. S.

Copied from

CHARITY AND CHILDREN, THOMASVILLE, N. C.

by Archibald Johnson, Editor

Thursday, March 25, I926

Steady improvement in material equipment at Ridgecrest is drawing larger crowds, and getting that wonderland more and more into public favor.

For many years Ridgecrest was so crude and uncomfortable, and managed with so little business sense that nobody went there except those who had a vision of what it is to be when it grips the hearts of the Baptist people of the south. That day is rapidly approaching.

The Southern Baptist Convention turned a deaf ear to its appeals and the leaders laughed at its claims; but for the past several years the attitude of the convention has completely changed, and the glory of the place has gradually dawned on its mind.

Since the Education Board has taken it over and Dr. Cammack, the secretary of the board, has given it his intelligent interest and effort a transformation has been wrought.

Rev. R. F. Staples, who is business manager, is an excellent man of business. Ridgecrest never before had a man of business capacity at its head. The place has been wonderfully brightened and enlarged. The hotel is kept as clean as a pin and is thronged with guests through the season. The fare is excellent, and the price reasonable. Proper attention is paid to the guests who are met at the train and conveyed to the hotel.

The grounds have been beautified and the hotel refurnished, repainted and generally improved. Instead of a bleak and barren look to the strainger it is now attractive and inviting. The prospect is that those who do not apply for rooms in time this summer will fail to secure entertainment in the hotel. Last year the building was generally crowded to the limit.

It is a wonderful place to spend a week or a month, in congenial company with refined and cultured people instead of the roughnecks of the average summer resorts.

This is written without a suggestion from the management but sorely for the benefit of the brethren who are casting about for somewhere to go.

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER? RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 12? 1928

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY GROUNDS SHOWS RAPID GROWTH SINCE 1910

Ridgecrest August 11.- From one building known as Bluemont Inn, Ridgecrest, Southern Baptist Assembly, has grown to above 100 buildings in the group. Included in this list is a girls camp "Swannanoa" and the assembly hotel, Pritchell Hall, the auditorium, dining room, cafeteria, theological dormitory and several cottages. A number of privately owned cottages are in the confines of the holdings. The original holdings consisted of about 1,000 acres and was purchased in 1910 for about $10,000. The propertyés latest valuation was $710,000 which was the mean valuation from a bonding company's and real estate men's estimates, showing extraordinary growth.

A Lake covering five and one-half acres, nestling among the hills, is one of the prettiest spots on the grounds. The lake has a depth of about 35 feet. A splendid water supply with abundent pressure is another valuable asset to the hotel and cottages. The average height of the Ridgecrest property is 2,800 feet. The name "Ridgecrest" grew out of the fact that it is indeed the crest of the ridge, the continental divide being near the hotel. The railroad station in the days of the early beginnings of the assembly was called Bluemont, and after the old inn was burned and the present buildings erected, the name was changed to Ridgecrest and the post office bears the same name.

North Carolina's famous highway No. 10 runs through the grounds and the busses include the hotel in their stops, as well as service given by the Southern Railway Company, making it accessable from all directions. A private swimming pool is kept at the camp, and also a small lake near the hotel where the children may enjoy swimming.

Though young, the future of Ridgecrest, which is being operated under the commission appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention, whose property it is, is bright. The assembly, though never run for profit, has proven an asset, and never a liability, under the expert management of R.F.Staples, who is in charge, and has never cost the denomination any money for running expenses, and at the same time has provided annually many permanent improvements.

DR. TRUETT OPENS RIDGECREST SERIES

Ridgecrest, Aug. 11, 1928, Sunday Aug. 12, will be one of the red letter dates at the Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, for it marks the first address of Dr. George W. Truett, of Dallas, Texas, who will open the Bible Conference here and will speak twice daily for five days. Dr. Truett is considered by many people to be the foremost preacher in Baptist ranks today, either in the south or north. He represented Dr. E.Y.Mullins, of Louisville, Ky., who was president of the Baptist World Alliance which convened in Toronto, Canada, in June and to which Dr. Mullins counl not go owing to his health at that time. Dr. Truett read Br. Mullins address to the Alliance. Dr. Mullins was president of the body.

On this page of the Observer, there was a large picture of the new dining room and Auditorium building and of the girls camp girls at big lake and on diving tower, also pictures of Mr. Staples and Dr. Truett.

M. H. L.

THE BAPTIST MESSAGE? SHRIEVEPORT, LOUISIANA. OCT. 4, I928.

THE VALEDICTORY OF THE EDUCATION BOARD

In obedience to the instructions of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Education Board ceases its activities on Oct. I, I928, nine years and five months after its creation. During this period four men have served as secretaries - Dr. J. E. Dillard, Dr. W. C. James, Dr. J. W. Cammack and Dr. Rufus W. Weaver. Dr. Albert R. Bond was for years editorial secretary.

The auditor of the Education Board reports the total assets which are being transferred, Sept. 2o, I928, to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention as $80I,76I.79, of which $605,4I6.84 are properties at Ridgecrest, N.C., $80,000 at Nuyaka, Okla., and $II3,5I2.50 at Umatilla, Fla., the remainder being bank balances and accounts receivable.

During this period the Education Board received from all denominational sources $2,2I4,756.67. The Education Board disbursed to the denominational causes and institutions $2,588,4I7.4I, or $373,600.74 more than it received from all denomintional sources. The obligations transferred to the Executive Committee amounted to $38I,378.72, while the assets transferred have a valuation of $80I,76I.79.

The Education Board during this entire period has kept its operating expenses within its income, paid its share of the support of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Woman's Missionary Union, the Inter-Board Commission, supported the Nuyaka Indian school and orphanage and operated the Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, N.C., and the Baptist winter Assembly at Umatilla, Fla. Its total receipts from denominational and all other sources for its own work since its founding in I9I9 has been $228,I83.49. No funds whateder have been received from the denomination since May I, I928. All interest charges on money borrowed were paid in full to the above date, while $6,063.68 of the operating funds of the Education Board were used to pay obligations created by the instructions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The indebtedness transferred to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention includes the following:

I. Advances made to colleges and seminaries by order of the Southern Baptist Convention - $I06,787.79
2. Expenditures at Ridgecrest, N. C., in the development of the Southern Baptist Assembly, including the purchase of property, buildings, equipment and annual support ----- $2I6,743.95

The Southern Baptist Convention authorized expenditures on the Ridgecrest properties to the sum of $300,000. On these two groups of obligations, which the board assumed upon orders given by the convention, $63,9I0.66 has been paid in interest and in financing the bonds. Since all the interest paid by the board was in connection with advances made to these institutions by order of the convention, the interest should be properly apportioned and added to the above items. The indebtness of the Education Board on May I,I928, including interest, properly distributed is:

I. Advances to colleges and seminaries ----------	$I27,930.4I
2. Southern Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N.C.---------	$259,5I2.09
Total	$387,442.50

The Education Board after meeting all of its own expenses, paid out of its operating account $6,063.68 for interest, reducing the indebtedness to $38I,378.72.

The cost of operating the Education Board is the only amount Southern Baptist will save by the discontinuance of the board and this has averaged during the past nine years less than $I9,000 annually.

There has been no loss of trust funds because every safeguard was used and audits were made each month. It is the hope that Southern Baptists will do, as the opponents of the board have assured us, give this year with greater generosity because of the destruction of the board. The next convention will reveal whether there will be a marked reduction of the indebtedness now carried by Southern Baptists.

The Education Board recognizes that mistakes have been made, but these mistakes must be shared by the Southern Baptist Convention, which body authorized the actions of the board which have created the greatest criticism. The members of the board are keenly disappointed, not only because the ending of the board is a reflection upon their management but more so, because activities of the greatest value to the denomination are abruptly and inconsiderately terminated. The Education Commission is unable to take over but a small part of the work which has been done by the Education Board. The teachers' bureau has been discontinued. The commission on promotion and standardization, which has accomplished so much in promoting Christian standards in our institutions of higher education, is destroyed. The department of publicity will function, if at all, on a greatly reduced scale. Efforts which gave promise of far reaching good, in the eradicating of native white illiteracy and in the promoting of better rural schools are rendered ineffectual. At a time when Southern Baptist needed most a clearing house for educationsl information and an agency for the promotion of its educational institutions through the development of a sound conscience regarding the supreme importance of Christian education, the Southern Baptist Convention destroyed the only instrument existing for this purpose - the Education Board.

The members of the Board wish for its successor, the Education Commission, every success and express the hope that the small annual appropriation $2,500 may be greatly increased. All the tracts, books and other literature owned by the board have been transferred to the Commission.

The retiring secretary, Dr. Rufus W. Weaver, may be addressed upon any matter pertaining to the board at "The Northumberland," New Hampshire N. W., Washington, D. C.

Education Board.

Copied from Winston-Salem, N.C., Journal and Sentinel,
Sunday, August I8, I929

RIDGECREST IS "CLEARING HOUSE" FOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST WORK

(A large picture of group attending young peoples conference at Ridgecrest. Another picture of front view of Southern Baptist Assembly Hotel at Ridgecrest. Another picture of large lake with canoes and a picture of Rev. R. F. Staples, manager of the Southern Baptist Assembly.)

BECOMES REAL CHURCH CENTER, HUNDREDS FLOCK TO MOUNTAIN RETREAT FOR THEIR VACATIONS. BY William H. Richardson

Ridgecrest, Aug. I7 - Ridgecrest awaits with deep interest the coming of Dr. George W. Truett, of Dallas, Texas, who will begin a series of addresses at the Southern Baptist Assembly on Aug. I8. He will speak twice daily throughout next week.

Dr. Truett, native North Carolinian, is known the world over as an evangelist and student of the Bible.

The Rev. R. F. Staples, manager of the assembly, stated that he looked for a large crowd of visitors during this period. He is the manager of the assembly hotel and reservations request should be mailed to him.

Although Dr. Truett's visit will constitute one of the high spots in this summer's activities at the assembly, yet there have been present numerous other denominational workers whose addresses have awakened inspiration among those who heard them.

For twenty years Southern Baptist leaders have gathered at this spot to exchange views or denominational activities and to plan for the future. During this period, practically every outstanding worker in the Baptist Brotherhood in the south, to say nothing of the visitors from the north and even from abroad, has visited Ridgecrest, either to speak or hear others.

Ridgecrest should be the clearing house for Southern Baptist activities. It has been, to some extent.

At the begenning of the present season, the Sundayschool Board, with headquarters at Nashville, began a three year program at the assembly. By next summer the benefits from this agreement on the part of the board to foster the work here for the time mentioned is expected to be felt with force.

Conferences during the coming fall are expected to result in definite plans for next season that will draw Baptist in even larger numbers than heretofore.

No attempt has been made to make Ridgecrest "Metropolitan". That would thwart the purpose for which it was established. It is meant to be a place where earnest workers can gather, in peace and quiet, and consider together the "affairs of the kingdom". Its elevation something over 3000 feet, insures visitors against the discomforts of a too high altitude. At the same time hot nights and mosquitoes are unknown, and the days are always pleasant.

ON "WEST MAIN STREET"

Located on "West Main Street", for they call Route IO the "Main Street of North Carolina." It is within a days ride by motor of any point in the state. However, it is more than a North Carolina enterprise. So its proximity to other Southern States must be reckoned. Here is an example.

The other day a man from Georgia left Ridgecrest in the morning. He planned to have lunch somewhere in South Carolina and dinner at home that evening. By train, it is a night's ride from Louisville and within easy reach of New Orleans, Nashville, Chattanooga, and other Southern centers, including Knoxville, from which it may be reached in five hours by automobile.

The Appalachian Divide is here. There is a little pool of water from

an iron spring located at the west end of Swannanoa tunnel into which bits of paper may be seen to separate, part going east toward lowland rivers of North Carolina, and part west toward the tributaries of the Tennessee and the Ohio.

So much for the geographical location of the Southern Baptist Assembly Grounds. It can be very readily seen that, in order to have an appeal, any location of this sort must have good climate, good water, comfortable hotel and cottage accommodations and other things which the modern world demands.

Ridgecrest's forts is not, however, its location, as pleasant as that is. Its future lies in the hands of Southern Baptists. Will they give it the support to which it is entitled? Will the ministers of the Southern church addressing their congregations, encourage them to spend their vacation periods there? Will the ministers go in large numbers themselves, thereby setting their congregations an example?

Bigger Things in View

While next years program which will begin early in June and last through August, has not been arranged at this time, yet it is known that it will be made extremely attractive. Some of the leading Baptist workers of the South will take part.

In a place such as this, there are periods of intense activity and periods of quiet, earnest work. For example, the young peoples conferences bring large crowds. At other seasons, although the program may be of just as vital interest, the crowds are not as great.

Recreational facilities have not been neglected. In passing, it may be said that the water supply at Ridgecrest is one of its drawing features. The water is cold, pure and wholesome. Within a stones throw is the entrance to the road leading up to the top of Mount Mitchell, over which trips are made daily. Adjacent to the Assembly grounds of the Baptists is Montreat, the summer home of Southern Presbyterians, while just across the way is picturesque Blue Ridge, the scene of continuous young people's conferences throughout the summer months.

On the Assembly grounds is a lake, where both swimming and boating may be enjoyed. Within "Three city blocks" of the hotel, which occupies a commanding position on Route IO is one of the best views in Western North Carolina, overlooking the Royal Gorge, through which pass the Southern Railroad and Route IO. From train or car as one approaches the summit, where Ridgecrest is located, the view is superb, especially in the eyes of those who have never before witnessed it.

Asheville is about forty minutes away, by train or automobile. The proximity of this flourishing mountain metropolis means that the sojourners at Ridgecrest are supplied with all the luxuries which may be found in the city.

But, nearer still -two miles distant - there is Black Mountain, one of the busiest towns in the western part of the state, where modernity has gained foothold. It is just out from the point where the Blue Ridge Assembly Grounds are located, and from Black Mountain one takes the picturesque route to Montreat, which is one of the most ideal spots in the Blue Ridge section.

Hundreds of cars pass Ridgecrest daily, braring every conceivable State license. Numerous tourists stop here for a meal and a night's lodging. The leading morning papers of the State arrive early and the afternoon papers from Asheville may be read before supper.

In short,at Ridgecrest, one sees passing in review daily the activities of rejuvenated Western North Carolina. Highways have opened up the whole section until there are now few isolated places. But this activity does not detract from the quiet influences that surround the place. One does not hear the grinding, grilling noises that disturb the rest of the urbanite. The groans of the city are forgotten in this quiet mountain retreat.

Like Clock Work

As to the assembly programs, they are carried on with great precision.

The guests are all up at 7 oclock each morning, while breakfast is served at 7:30. This gives ample time for a mountain walk or a drive before 11, when there is usually some feature in the auditorium. Dinner is served at 12:30, and supper at 6. Excercises in the auditorium begin at 8 morning. Traines musicians furnish the music. Congregational singing is a feature. There are solos, quartets, vocal and instrumental features to enliven each service.

The auditorium is one of the leading features at the Ridgecrest Assembly Grounds. It will seat hundreds of people and the accoustics are perfect. Any speaker may be heard in any part of the building, talking in a conversational tone. The interior finishing is bright and cheerful. There are no decorations, gaudy or otherwise, but the finishing is in native North Carolina wood, while the auditorium is well lighted with electricity, as are all the rooms in the Baptist hotel. Hot and cold water, together with other conveniences, are found here.

Copied from

THE CHRISTIAN INDEX, AUGUST 7, 1930. by L. D. Newton.

IF SOUTHERN BAPTIST KNEW

If Southern Baptist knew what they would get at Ridgecrest there would be a waiting list of reservations a yard long. What do I mean? I mean just what I say. For the very reasonable rates charged, you cannot hope to find the equal of Ridgecrest for a delightful summer vacation - whether one week or one month.

I do not believe that our people have any idea of the place. I was here about five years ago and it was a very good place, I thought, but I couldn't believe my eyes when we rolled in here the other afternoon. Bob (should be Ray) Staples has really wrought a miracle in the five years he has had charge of the place.

Assuming that nine out of every ten readers of this little squib have never been here, which I believe is a conservative estimate, let me tell you in a word what it is like. Southern Baptist have approximately one thousand acres of land seventeen miles east of Asheville which we call the Southern Baptist Assembly grounds. The tract of land is at the very crest of the Blue Ridge mountains, getting the name Ridgecrest from this fact. The Southern Railway station, right at the entrance to the grounds, is called by this name, and North Carolina Highway number ten splits the grounds ~~xxxx~~ in half.

On this beautiful tract of land are any number of cottages, most of them privately owned - on small lots, and two units of assembly buildings The principal unit is composed of the big hotel, the auditorium and dining hall, the annex, the cafeteria, the dormitory, and the residence of Mr. Staples and a few other homes privately owned. The second unit of buildings is composed of the boys camp. I do not know the exact number of buildings over there. There are two large buildings and about a half dozen shacks.

There are two lakes on the assembly property - a small lake right near the hotel, suitable for swimming, though planned principally for children. It is large enough for canoeing. The larger lake is at the boys camp and is a beauty. They have canoes, of course, and a large body of water, varying in depth from one to twenty feet. They have all sorts of water sports with life guard etc. I was glad to hear Dr. Ayers say that they had a couple of thousand trout in the lake, furnished by the government. So far, he thought, none of them had been caught. All right little friends, but you had better watch out next summer!

And they have beautiful tennis courts, and a baseball diamond. Over at the camp they have a rifle range, a Tom Thumb golf course and plenty of other lively sports. The nearest golf course is fourteen miles away, charges: fifty cents per day.

You never saw prettier mountains than these that lift you up to the skies at Ridgecrest. And they are unusually wooded. Every foot of space is covered with trees and shrubs. The altitude is two thousand and eight hundred feet. When I tell you that we have slept under two blankets every night since we got here you can imagine that it is up where the cooler breezes are, eh?

And the whole place has the atmosphere of a home. One of our deacons Mr. Burgess, said to me today: "You know this is the first place I ever saw where you felt absolutely at home as soon as you landed." And that is what we all say. There are several hundred persons here, counting the folks in the cottages, it is just one big family. From morning until night, we are all easy and free to do what we want to do. If you don't want to sit down and talk, you can go on to your room, or to walk, or pitch horse shoes, or go to ride or go to meeting, or any thing that you want to do, and no body will shake a finger at you. You just feel at home.

Ray Staples, the general manager, has made the place spick and span from the front steps to the garage. The yards are literally gardens. I do not see how he has done it with such little outlay of money. Every direction you look you will have a beautiful view. There are special provisions for the little children- slides, sand boxes, swings, and so on, and for the older children all sorts of games in the prettiest settings you ever saw.

The buildings have all been painted this spring and summer, the stately white buildings stand against these gorgeous mountain sides like diamonds against rich velvet. Outside and inside, the buildings are in excellent condition. Every room is in good condition, inviting and homelike.

But I haven't got down to the things I wanted to say yet. You know, when folks get off for a little summer outing, they want to have something good to eat. We had just as well be honest about it. And the eating here is first rate. I have checked it and double checked it, and it is first rate. Mrs. Holland is the lady's name. She runs that dining room to suit me and suit every body else I have heard talk. Ray Staples was telling me today about the head cook. Mrs. Holland brought her down here from Virginia, Ibelieve he said. She knows how to cook vegetables, meats, and don't forget the rolls! And here is what I mean, you can have all you want. The cornbread is enough to make this place famous. Now when you find good corn bread in this late day and generation, you have done gone and made progress, I claim. The cornbread is good. Another severe test to subject any kitchen to in these paper bag days is chicken pie. Am I right? Well, they have the real thing here. So much for the food. I could write a book about it, but these few remarks will indicate that they have food and plenty of it.

We have been here nearly a week and it looks to me like I have seen nearly every body I know. They just keep coming along, the very sort of folks you have always thought you would like to be with on your vacation. Here, for example, is Dr. John R. Sampey, and Mrs. Sampey and the little grandboy you have heard him tell that bedtime story about. And Dr. and Mrs. Van Ness, and Dr. and Mrs. W. O. Carver, and Dr. and Mrs. W. J. McGlothlin, and Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Ball, and Dr. and Mrs. Dobbins, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leavell, and Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Poteat, and Dr. and Mrs. Charlie Burts, and well I had better stop this business of trying to name all these good friends because I am already over spent in space and I

havent started on the list.

I went over tonight and spoke to the boys at the camp. Young Mr. Burts of Macon is director and Dr. T.W.Ayers is camp "Father" and doctor and friend, and it was just wonderful to be with them. I don't know when I have seen a finer set of boys. They have every thing in this camp that you can get in any mountain camp except a little finery in the way of buildings. It is absolutely ideal. Mrs. Dawson helped the assembly folks in developing the camp. It is used interchangeably for boys and girls. The boys have eight weeks and are just now half through for this summer. The rates are very reasonable. If you are thinking of sending your boy away for camp next summer, write these folks before you finally decide.

This week has been the Young People's and Adults' week. Mr. Phillips is in charge, of course, and it has been a remarkable program. The training work has been divided into departments with demonstrations and very practical discussions, followed by inspirational addresses. Each night this week Dr. Sampey has been speaking on Old Testament characters. I wouldn't have missed it for a pretty. Last night he had Amos and I want to tell you I never will be the same man after that great hour. Dr. Sampey knows Amos and he brought him before us last night in a marvelous address. The night before he had David, tonight he had Jeremiah, but I was speaking at the camp and had to miss it. Tomorrow night he will have Jonah. Don't you wish you could be here?

Now it's just like all the summer. You have all this variety of delightful recreation - anything from walking and swimming and boating and golfing and what not - and this beautiful homelike place in which to live and the best food you ever tasted - and friends from every where for fellowship - and the best sort of addresses when you want to go to meeting - and all for practically cost. I don't see how they do it.

I have gone on here entirely too long, but I did want to say a word about how fine it is - ask some of these other Georgians here. We are going to be rolling over the hills back to Georgia in a day or so, but this week here is worth saving a long time to pay for, and you will find it so.

Mr. Staples believed in wholesome recreation for both young and old. His first year at the Assembly, he had horse-shoe pitching for the men on play ground where new auditorium now stands, and croquet for the ladies, tennis courts across the highway for the young people.

Later, Mr. Staples made two shuffle board courts on play ground, the first to be used in this whole section, and introduced the "Skittle Board" to the upper lobby. The history of the Skittle board was this,- Miss Goodwin, a missionary to Korea and daughter of Mr. E. McK. Goodwin, head of Institute for the deaf at Morganton, brought back with her a blue print of the skittle board which she had the boys in work shop at the Institute for the deaf, to copy and make a board for her. She brought this board to Ridgecrest to be used during Y.W.A. conference. Our young son borrowed the board from Miss Goodwin one morning and took it to the Village Work-Shop in Black Mountain. Mr. DuPey took measurements and drawings and soon had one made for us. The people went wild ov er this game and gave us 100 orders for Mr. DuPey before the summer was over.

Miss Goodwin said the game was brought into Korea from Russia, but it must be an old English game as it is mentioned in Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol.

M. H. R.

ANOTHER DELIGHTFUL SEASON AT RIDGECREST

BY Louie D. Newton.

RIDGECREST, of course, is an institution. It is not just a summer place, not just a hotel in the mountains with delightful recreational features,- it is a gathering place for kindred spirits on the very crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains where fellowship in Christ Jesus is sweet and real.

mIt is very natural, therefore, to feel that the last session of the Assembly is always the best. It is. It will continue so. I think this year's session has brought increasing blessings to all hearts present, and next year's session will be better than this year.

The 1931 assembly opened June 16 with the Y.W.A. encampment, under the direction of Miss Pearl Bourne of Birmingham. Then followed the Baptist Student Retreat, under the direction of Mr. Frank Leavell. Camp Ridgecrest for boys opened July 2, under the direction of Mr. Charles Burts. The North Carolina B.Y.P.U. and Sunday school conventions followed, under the direction of Secretary Charles E. Maddry. Then came the Social Service Week when our Baptist hospitals and orphanages had a conference under the direction of Secretary Thomas J. Watts of Dallas.

The Young People's and Adult Bible Class Teachers' Conference, under the direction of Mr. Wm. Philips was held July 26-Aug. 1. During August the assembly program has consisted of preaching each morning and evening, with a very delightful feature the first week in August when Writer's Week was conducted by Dr. Hight C. Moore with Mr. Gerald Johnson of the Baltimore Sun lecturing each day.

The assembly will close August 29 with a week devoted to the teachers of our Baptist colleges, under the direction of Dr. W. R. Cullom and Dr. Kelly White.

Just now, the week of August 16-23, Dr. George W. Truett is preaching twice each day. I need not stop to comment that this week is the peak week of the assembly. The people are coming in from every quarter to hear this matchless preacher tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. I am writing Sunday afternoon, just after a delightful lunch and almost within the sound yet of his voice in the sermon this morning.

It was the best sermon I ever heard Dr. Truett preach. I said that a few minutes ago in the presence of Dr. T. B. Ray, Dr. J.L.White and Dr. W.L.Ball, and they each agreed that it was so for their own hearts.

His text was: "We preach Christ and Him crucified, the power of God." It was his favorite theme, of course, and he was at his very best. A large gathering of people, mostly from the mountains of Western North Carolina, had come to hear this "mountain-minded man". Every seat in the assembly auditorium was taken, and a few were standing around the wall.

He proclaimed the power of God in the birth and death and resurrection of His Son as manifested, first, in His Person, second in His Gospel third in human experience. I have heard him preach the sermon several times and use every illustration time and time again, but he was more powful this morning than ever before.

Why? For the very reason that he was preaching Christ and Him crucified - the power of God. I wouldn't and you wouldn't, listen to Dr. Truett or any other person preach the same message about any other person, or any other movement, but the gospel is ever new and fresh when we hear it in its simplicity and power.

This is the first Sunday since I was ordained that I have not had an engagement and I am having the time of my life enjoying Dr. Truett. I hope to hear him through the week, returning to Atlanta in time for Sunday. Pastor H.C.Whitener of Buford is doing excellent service leading the singing.

continued on next page

Another Delightful Season at Ridgecrest
by Louie D. Newton.

Mr. Ray Staples, manager of the assembly, is a wizard at the job. I do not see how he attends to so many things. One way to explain it is in the fact that he has such a wonderful corps of helpers. They have select young men and women here from every section of the South, most of them college boys and girls, who are working their way through school, and they make the place a veritable home for all who come here. Mrs. Holland is in charge of the dining room, and I tell you she is better this year than ever before,too. These rolls! I remember I said something about them last year and a fellow down in Georgia asked me what I meant by implyinh that Virginia ideas of making rolls excelled Georgia ways of making up dough. Well, I didn't, but I do tell you that Mrs. Holland does something to a roll that just makes it hit the spot every time. And all the food - the delicious vegetables and the milk and the deserts - all are just like the sort you get at home.

And over at the Boy's Camp they have wonderful meals and every thing that goes into the making of a great place for boys in summer. The new out-door chapel is one of the features of this summer. They have a wonderful group of boys, about seventy in all, and Mr. Burts and Dr. Ayers and Dick Gresham and the other camp leaders have provided an ideal for these young friends. Dick Gresham, by the way, pastor at Moultrie, has brought seventeen boys from his church up here and they have made a great record. I see Moultrie mothers and fathers every day, and they are tickled to death with the idea of having their boys under the influence of Dick Gresham at home and abroad.

Miss Mable Gower, who has charge of the floral decorations for the assembly, has fed our souls on beauty every day as she fills the big urns in the hotel and auditorium and dining hall and other buildings with the marvelous flowers of the hills and valleys. She has wonderful taste and she loves this entrancing task.

Every thing is turning out wonderfully. I think it will go down as the most successful assembly yet held in every respect. Secretary Van Ness told me at the table just now that he was well pleased with the record of the assembly thus far. We have more Georgians here than I have ever seen before. Everybody joins me in wishing that all our people might enjoy this feast of fellowship.

Mrs. R. E. Holland from Danville, Va., who was dietitian at the Assembly for ten years and Mr. Staples who was manager of the Assembly for three years.

Copied from

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER, RALEIGH, N. C., SUNDAY MORNING

July 26, 1931

RIDGECREST CELEBRATES 25th. BIRTHDAY NEXT YEAR

Ridgecrest, July 25.- Ridgecrest will celebrate its silver anniversary next year when one-quarter of a century will lie behind its history. During the time in which the Southern Baptist Assembly has stood on the "Crest of the ridge many outstanding accomplishments have been achieved. Many young people, scores without number, have dedicated their lives to definite Christian service. Foreign missionaries, ministers, social service workers, student religious workers, and many other types of activity have received attention and some of the brightest of the Baptist youth have answered the call on the mountain. Many outstanding workers in the denomination today trace their inspiration back to the experiences at Ridgecrest.

The early history of Ridgecrest is written in romantic fashion by Dr. B. W. Spilman, one of the pioneers in the field the first general manager and secretary, and moving spirit. He recounts the fine services of James H. Tucker, attorney, of Asheville, whose legal talents were dedicated to the work of securing the deeds and all routine matters in connection with the purchase of the grounds. He was an eminent lawyer and wrote the cgarter for the assembly, and secured its adoption by the General Assembly of North Carolina, and cared for multitudinous details.

In the beginning lots were sold at $100 each, each lot entitled the owner to one share of stock in the association. Many of these built private homes on the grounds, while others still own the property but have not built yet. The original plan was to found a "Congenial" Christian colony where people could enjoy the delights of the climate without things which at times make other resorts undesirable." The original meeting place was an open air arbor located near the present Camp Ridgecrest for boys, which would seat 1,000 people. The station was called Blue Mont in the early days, later changed to Ridgecrest.

On these grounds the North Carolina Baptist Young People's Union was formed, according to Dr. Spilman, and many other significient movements that have far reaching effect. The stockholders have never realized one penny for their investment and seek none, according to the early reports. As time passes and the idea of the possibilities of the place spread, a general manager was elected. This was E.L.Hon of DeLand, Fla., and his efforts were very fruitful, he being a good business man, whose advice was appreciated, and whose council was sane and good. His efforts forwarded the assembly noticibly. He was one of the first stockholders and a member of the board of directors. E.F.Mumford was chosen as general manager, and resided on the grounds for full time services. Several other men have held this position since the original manager.

During the stressful days just preceding and during the World War, there were strenuous days for the young assembly. The fine work of Judge Jeter C. Pritchard cannot be over-estimated during these days, and work which had been halted on buildings in process of erection, was resumed. J.D.Elliott of Hickory, an excellent contractor and Christian layman, also rendered service that will never be forgotten. The large hotel was named in honor of these two men, Pritchard and Elliott, and is called "Pritchell Hall". The stupendous struggle faced by the assembly to meet debts demanded by the creditors created another crisis between 1915 and 1919. Rev. Livingston T. Mayes,D.D., was secretary in 1919 and his ability to get funds meant much in tiding over the places that threatened almost the life of the project,

Continued - History of Ridgecrest Assembly, copied from

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N.C., Sunday July 26, 1931

The faith of business men in this section of Western North Carolina was noted when Black Mountain capital was secured to save the day for Ridgecrest. The faith of these business men has been amply justified in the marvelous records made at Ridgecrest since that day. The Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention took control of the assembly in 1920, and retained it until the board was discontinued three years ago, at which time the Sunday School Board, of Nashville, Tenn., was given the management. Dr. J.W.Cammack, now of Averett College, Danville, Va., Dr. Rufus Weaver, and Dr. Austin Crouch each played an important part during the time Ridgecrest was in the hands of the Education Board, and in the interim, when the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention had control previous to the Sunday School Board's tenure.

With the coming of R. F. Staples of Virginia, to the general managership in 1925, a new era began for Ridgecrest. An astute business man, a keen manager, and economical expert, and a general good mixer, Mr. Staples has made phenominal progress in the material development of the assembly. When he took charge there was one building on the grounds. This served as hotel, assembly hall, auditorium, class room, kitchen and every thing. Since Mr. Staples and his capable wife, who has been a great asset to him in all the progress achieved, came, the hotel has been remodled into one of the prettiest places in this section of the state, and its white colonial columns make an imposing appearence facing the famous "Main Street" of the North Carolina road system, Highway No. 10. Two annexes have been built which will care for a large number of people. He has led in the erection of a beautiful auditorium with dining room and kitchen, large lobby and attractive front, also featuring the large white columns. In front of this he has developed a play ground which has paid supervisors for the summer season where the children of guests may enjoy the outdoors with care and safety. A fountain plays in its rocky basin day and night in the center of the play ground.

Under the sympathetic vision of Dr. I.J.Van Ness of the Sunday School Board, many late improvements have been accomplished. Ten new huts have been added, which will house 160 people, these being in use for the first time this year. Roads have been built over the property, and many miles of graveled streets laid out to and from cottages scattered among the hills, there being about 90 private homes.

There are 32 buildings now in the group which was just one when less than 10 years ago the present manager took charge. Five cottages completely furnished for keeping house, each having hot and cold water, are erected on the grounds. A water system second to none has been established, with a reinforced concrete tank of 113000 gallons capacity high up in the mountains, piped by eight-inch mains to the property, with pressure 105 pounds per square inch. There have been automatic sprinkler systems installed in the two main buildings.

Cafe service is available in the dining room of the hotel as well as regular board. Ridgecrest provided an expert dietitian in the person of Mrs. S. E. Holland of Virginia, and has a corps of college girls and boys who work during the summer season in the dining room and at the hotel, in office and lobby.

The Boys' Camp operated on the grounds is filled to capacity, and under the leadership of an excellent young Yale student, Charles Burts of Macon, Ga., is serving its third year. A girls' camp under Mrs. J. M. Dawson of Texas was formerly operated on the camp site now used by the boys.

A lovely lake in which boating and swimming is enjoyed covers five acres at the camp site. Lake Dew, located on the hotel grounds, affords a place for the younger children to enjoy the water, and at the same time is deep enough for the expert to use. Boats are kept on this lake also.

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C., Sunday July 26, 1931

Johnson's Spring is one of the show places of the assembly. It is said that once one drinks ~~from~~ water from Johnson Spring, there will ever be the desire to return to Ridgecrest for another drink from the cold, rock covered spring. Cox spring is also one of the pretty spots on the grounds.

The manager's home has been built, and an office is maintained at Ridgecrest the year round, while the manager looks after upkeep and repairs and improvements during the fall and spring season.

This year all conferences have been full and records broken for attendance.

Speakers from almost every state in the Union and from many foreign countries have appeared on the platform of Ridgecrest, representing many denominations besides the Baptists.

The Sunday School Board will have the managership of the assembly two more years, and this will conclude a five-year period for that group. Far reaching plans are in the mind of the secretary for the building of a great religious gathering place at the site of the Baptist Assembly.

Ridgecrest has the highest altitude of the assemblies in the mountains, and has therefore advantages in coolness. It is directly on the highway and railroad, being easily accessable. The Southern Railway has done much to help develop the project. It is located close to many of the scenic beauties of the Western Carolinas, Mitchell, Chimney Rock, Kitazuma, Andrews Geyser and Little Switzerland, as well as in driving range of many other points of interest.

Copied from - The Asheville Citizen - Times, Asheville, N.C.

Sunday July IO, I932

GOOD WORK DONE BY R. F. STAPLES

Assembly at Ridgecrest Has Grown Under His Management

Ridgecrest, July 9. (Special) - Ridgecrest, summer gatherung place of the Southern Baptist Assembly, has no more active nor busy men in its service than the Rev. R. F. Staples, who for seven years has managed the place and helped it to expand from one building to a large and valuable church institution.

Mr. Staples is a native of Portsmouth, Va., and was ordained in the First Baptist Church of Staunton, Va., in I904. He was actively engaged in pastoral work in Virginia for 20 years. In Jan. I925, he accepted a call to Ridgecrest to become manager of the Assembly.

When Mr. Staples came here there was only one building, Pritchell Hall, with 54 rooms for guests, an auditorium, a dining room and a kitchen. Seven years under his management, with the aid of others who are interested in the church, have brought about remarkable changes. Pritchell Hall has been changed inside and out. Another large building has been erected and includes the auditorium, dining room and kitchen formerly located in Pritchell Hall. The new building also has a large lobby which is used for small conferences.

In addition 35 other buildings have been erected. These include two annexes for hotel guests, cottages, huts with central baths, buildings for Camp Ridgecrest, and other structures. A water system and two lakes supplied by springs at the top of the mountain have been built. This system has never failed to supply water, even in years of drought.

All the buildings are modern, well arranged, and attractivly planned.

Copied from
The Asheville Citizen- Times, Asheville, N. C. Sunday, July 9,1933.

RIDGECREST ASSEMBLY ENJOYS STEADY GROWTH

Has Been Managed By Dr. R. F. Staples Since 1925

Ridgecrest. July 8. (Special) - The Southern Baptist summer assembly, Ridgecrest, has no more active or busy man in its service than Dr. R.F. Staples, who for eight years has managed the place and directed its growth from but one building to a large and valuable denominational institution.

Dr. Staples was born and reared in Portsmouth, Va. He attended Windsor academy, Windsor, Va., Richmond College and Crozea seminary at Crozea, Pa., just outside of Philadelphia. He was ordained in the First Baptist Church of Staunton, Va., in 1904 and during his active pastorate in Virginia for 20 years, served churches at Orange Court House, Luray, Emporia, Fordwick and Parksley, in Accomack county.

Manager Since 1925

Accepting the call to Ridgecrest to become manager of the denominational summer assembly in January 1925, when there was only one building on the grounds, Pritchell Hall, Dr. Staples has supervised all activities in such a remarkable manner that the assembly plant now includes 35 buildings, the operation of a boys camp in connection with the assembly, construction of a water system and two lakes, and the introduction of many other improvements. Only the widening od roads and a few other essential improvements have been made the last two years.

The Ridgec rest manager belongs to the Masons, Knight Templars, Phi Gamma Delta, national social fraternity, and was formerly one of the trustees of the Fork Union Military Academy, Fork Union, Va., and a member of the Southern Baptist State mission board of Virginia. He is fond of hunting and fishing. While attending the University of Richmond he was outstanding in athletics, being captain of baseball and manager of football team. He won declamation, debating, and literary honors at Windsor.

He married Miss Mary Elizabeth Waff on June 14, 1905, in Brunswick Ga. They have two children, who will be a junior at Meredith College, Raleigh, this fall, and Raymond Fowler Jr., who will be a senior in the Athens, Ga., high school next year.

Many Improvements Made

The results of Dr. Staples fine work have been shown in the many modern improvements made, the increased attendance from year to year, a full and varied program with a number of outstanding speakers regularly appearing here. The meetings of the Southern Baptist Student union, representative of college men and women from 18 states of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the North Carolina state B.Y.P.U. convention always have the largest attendance, while the Rev. Dr. Georgs Truett, noted Baptist minister of Dallas, Texas, who preaches each year during a week in August, is another big attraction. Ridgecrest especially stresses young peoples meetings.

Baptist Student Union retreats have been held the past eight years while the Young Women's Auxiliary camp is holding its tenth annual session. In spite of the depression, well rounded assembly programs have been given yearly at Ridgecrest, which have brought unusually large crowds to the grounds. Dr. Staples doesn't make improvements he can't afford, and each year turns back some of the profits of the establishment to be used in numerous improvements, which has tended to give the place a better appearance, more.convenient and efficient accommodations and a greater prestige.

For the fourth straight year the Ridgecrest Assembly is under the jurisdiction of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville,Tenn.

with Dr. I. J. Van Ness as secretary. Ridgecrest was formerly under the control of the Education Board and the executive committee of the Southern Baptist convention. These denominational groups time and again have given a vote of thanks to Dr. Staples for his splendid accomplishments the past eight years at Ridgecrest. Under his management the regular summer staff has increased in eight years from 30 persons to the present mark of 65. In addition to the large lake a smaller lake has been constructed for children and those learning how to swim; playgrounds for grownups as well as for children have been built. The hotel, cottages, huts and annexes will now take care of from 500 to 600 persons, while the auditorium in the main chapel building seats more than a 1,000 persons.

Buildings are Modern

All the buildings are modern, well arranged, and attractivly planned. Pritchell Hall has been changed inside and out. Another large building has been erected which includes the main auditorium, dining room and kitchen formerly located in Pritchell Hall. This new building also has a large lobby which is used for small conferences.

The other buildings which have been erected include two annexes for hotel guests, huts with central baths, buildings for camp Ridgecrest, and other structures. The water system and two lakes are supplied by springs at the top of the mountain. This system has never failed to supply water even in times of drought.

When in January 1957, Mr. Robert Middleton wrote me asking for any news paper accounts giving history of the development at the Ridgecrest Assembly during the years 1925 to 1936, I was with my daughter, Virginia (Mrs. C. David Blanton) in Marion, N.C., recovering from a serious illness. My papers and other possions were in my home in Asheville, N.C.

I sent Mr. Middleton some papers and pictures I had given my daughter, also typed for him a complete outline of growth and development, year by year during that period.

As the Education Board had been done away with, few if any records could be found from that source. I realized then how necessary it was to preserve these old news paper accounts which I have now pasted in a scrap book and have at the age of almost 79, typed copies of these accounts to preserve them for future reference. I am also typing in the following pages outline of my husbands work in the development of the Southern Baptist Assembly, at Ridgecrest, in the eleven years he labored there, doing a magnificent work for which the Sunday School Board has given him little credit or consideration.

Mrs. R. F. Staples.

September I958

How well do I remember my first view of the Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, N.C., in January I925, when the trees were bare and that large grey and bleak looking building with its flat front and high sagging porch under which were kept the wheelbarrow and the few tools then belonging to the assembly. Window panes had broken places put there by young boys with sling shots and some with pistols. This building "Pritchell Hall" was the only building then owned by the assembly and all activities of the assembly were carried on in this building, which contained the one lobby which opened on the high porch; 54 bedrooms, 5 public and 5 private bathrooms, two large class rooms and the auditorium in west wing off lobby and under auditorium on ground floor was the dining room and kitchen.

The grounds were ugly and unkept with one straight road up from highway which circled around a small flower bed in front of porch, surrounded with rocks. At the back door outside of the kitchen was a large pile of tin cans and parts of discarded stoves. An old man called "Dad Morrow" by all of Ridgecrest, whose only distinction seemed to be that he was the father of 2I children, was allowed to live in a house on the highway near the Rail Road Station, belonging to the assembly and occupied in earlier days by some of the managers of the assembly. "Dad Morrow" was allowed to live in this house rent free with one stipulation - and that was - to haul off trash and garbage from the assembly.

The assembly did not at this time, own a car, or truck, or a horse and wagon, nor a typewriter, a lawn mower or garden hose.

Our own car was used all of our first summer there to meet trains and bring people up to the hotel, also for bringing mail and running errands to Black Mountain, even making trips to Asheville when necessary. The first truck for the assembly use was bought that first summer, a little Ford pickup truck.

Mr. Staples flat top desk and his typewriter were set up in one of the rooms for his use and were used there as long as we remained.

Our garden hose, lawn mower and other tools, which outnumbered those belonging to the assembly, were put to good use.

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Willis, with their two small children, were living in some rooms in the hotel to look after the property. They had lived there for five years, having come right after Dr. Mays left.

We spent our first winter in Black Mountain at the Monte Vista Hotel as there were no comfortable houses for winter use to be found - Black Mountain and Ridgecrest both being summer resorts only had cottages suitable for summer occupancy.

The Education Board had owned and operated the assembly for 5 years before we went there, sending Dr. Albert Bond there in May to, with Mr Willis' help, get the place readied for the summer meetings. Not one single year of these five had the assembly even made running expenses and the Education Board had to pay out from $2,500 to $3,000 each year for the program and other expenses.

When Dr. J. W. Cammack was made Secty, of the Education Board in Oct. I924, He wired Mr. Staples in Nov. of that year asking him if he would consider going to Ridgecrest to become manager of the Assembly. Mr. Staples wired back - not until he could see the place - so Dr. Cammack wired again and asked him to meet him in Raleigh where the North Carolina State Convention was convening. Iwas, at the time, in Norfolk with Mrs. Pendleton Jones attending our W.M.U.meeting at Freemason St., Baptist Church. We were then living on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where Mr. Staples was pastor at Cheriton, in Southampton County and Dr. Pendleton Jones was at Red Bank, about fifteen miles from us. Mr. Staples called me to come home to stay with the children while he went

to Raleigh to join Dr. Cammack.

When Mr. Staples saw "Pritchell Hall" at Ridgecrest, his heart sank at the looks of the place in its run-down state, needing every thing done to it, inside and out. He told Dr. Cammack under no conditions would he try to run that place in the condition it was in. Then Dr. Cammack assured him that the Board was going to spend some money there in improvements and that was why they wanted him to go there. So, Mr. Staples agreed to go, and, on Jan. Ist. 1925 we went to Black Mountain.

January and February of that winter were mild months, compared with some we had in years after that, and some real progress could have been made if any money had been available to do.any thing with, but, on the promises made to him before going there, he had not been idle. Mr. J. Woodard Manning, a landscape architect from Boston, Mass. was spending the winter at Black Mountain in the Monte Vista where we were staying. Mr. Staples took him up to Ridgecrest to look the grounds over near hotel and outline some plans for landscaping. He also found there in Black Mountain, staying in a cottage with his wife and baby, a young architect from Raleigh who was there for his health. Mr. Staples took him to Ridgecrest and told him what he wanted to do to "Pritchell Hall", inside and out and that he wanted him to draw up some plans for these changes and improvements. This young man got busy, and, I will say here his plans were carried out except that Mr. Staples insisted on having the columns 12 inches larger than the plans called for.

When by the first of March no money was coming for these improvements Mr. Staples wired Dr. Cammack to call a meeting of the board and that he was coming down. He went and he told the board what he had been doing - the weather had been good and they might have been making some head-way with improvements if the money had been available. He then told them if there was no money for these improvements he was going back to Virginia, he would not stay there and try to run the place in its present condition. They then authorized him to borrow $40,000 on Ridgecrest valuation and start to work.

The services of Mr. E.S.Draper, one of the most out-standing landscape architects in the south, was secured. He came to Ridgecrest and made left contours of the 25 acres lying immediately around the hotel. Then the services of Mr. Manning were secured to study the layout as planned by Mr. Draper and make contour maps and drawings in detail of the needs of this part of the grounds. By March 9th. Mr. Manning was busy on the grounds with a crew of workmen, and by Mar. 16 carpenters had started work on "Pritchell Hall."

Never have I known a busier time. As our children were in school, I went with Mr. Staples every morning to Ridgecrest and kept the books and did other office work, as none of the work was done by contract, but by day labor and Mr. Staples was out seeing to all of this work.

By the first of May most of the 18 new rooms, 3 public and 3 private baths which had been made in the old auditorium and class rooms were completed, we furnished two of these with our own furniture and moved in so we could work early and late to get things ready for the opening date June 14th. which was our 20th. wedding anniversary.

My children and I watched the erection of the lovely columns from the windows in these rooms.

Hillside Annex at the back of hotel was being built for a temporary auditorium. The plans were already drawn for converting this the next year into 17 bedrooms, each with private bath. These were to be choice rooms for guests.

Dr. R. J. Bateman, who was then pastor of the first Baptist church in Asheville, had told Mr. Staples he would like to bring his choir and some members from his church out for an opening night before the Y.W.A. conference. This was arranged for. 175 reservations were made but 250 came and we managed to feed all. Mr Bobbie Link with his cooks

from Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, was our dietitian that year and every one worked that night. Our college boys and girls had just arrived and Mr. Link and cooks had only been there a few days.

Mr. Horace Easom was choir director at the first Baptist Church in Asheville and he put on a good program of music there in the dining room, some speeches were made and every one had a wonderful time including the Y.W.A. leaders who had arrived a day early, Miss Juliette Mather and some of her helpers. The Y.W.A. conference opened the season, this being their second year here and our first.

Few neighbors at Ridgecrest

We had few neighbors at Ridgecrest, there were two large cottages on hill back of hotel - one of these owned by Dr. Highsmith of Fayetteville the other by four Winston sisters of Richmond, Va. Mrs. Dora Ashcraft owned Crystal Springs Lodge and ran a boarding house there in summer months. Mrs. J. H. Dew was living in her home on the hill just off of Stroud Blvd., her aged mother, Mrs. Baker, lived with her. Mr. J.J.Johnson with his family was living in cottage, formerly owned by Dr. Hight Moore, just above the Johnson Spring. Mrs. Johnson was teaching in Black Mountain, their three older children, Cordelia, Mary Helen and Herbert were in school, Bradford was too young to go. Mrs. Johnson's mother, Mrs. Volmer, lived with them.

Lake Dew

The little lake near hotel was nothing much but a mud hole, with some logs and a dirt bank to hold the water. Mr. Staples had this made larger that first year, put in a cement wall with spillway and built some bath-houses. This lake had a gradual slope which he had covered with white sand to resemble a beach and was nice for young children. At the far corner near spillway the depth was 7 feet so a diving board was placed there.

Mr. Willis had for five years been managing the front desk for registrations and reservations of guests - he did that,this our first year there. Dr. Bond came with Dr. Cammack from Birmingham. There was little Dr. Bond could do as every thing was well organized before he got there. Dr. and Mrs. James also came that year and Mrs. James was a comfort to me when telling me of some of her trying experiences when they were running the hotel with Dr. Bond and Mr. Willises help.

First summer 1925

Our first summer was a full and busy one, the hotel was filled to capacity and many had to be sent to private cottages.

I shall never forget what some of the people in Black Mtn. asked me our first winter there. They wanted to know where all the rich Baptist were - said the Presbyterians had a wonderful assembly at Montreat, the Methodist at Junaluska, the Y.M.C.A. at Blue Ridge, and the Baptist assembly at Ridgecrest was a disgrace to the highway. Well, after those beautiful white columns were put on the front of Pritchell Hall and the building painted a beautiful snow white, and the grounds so beautifully landscaped, they changed their tone of voice.

Our first summer was a success financially as well as otherwise. Mr. Staples not only paid all operating expenses but had $3,000 left over. One dear old lady said to me that summer - that she did not approve the Southern Baptist Convention spending so much money there when the need was so great on the foreign field - I was glad I could tell her that the convention had not spent a cent there - that all money spent there that year had been borrowed on Ridgecrest own valuation. I wonder what she would say now in 1958.

I have failed to say that excavation was made on ground floor and a lower lobby made which was used as main lobby. A road was built around the hotel at back and a stone wall put there, a bridge over this road was built from upper lobby to bank for convenience in going to Hill Crest annex, which was in 1925 used as temporary auditorium.

In Sept. of this year I925, the Education Board gave my husband and me a trip our west to study other assemblies. This trip was in appreciation of the stupendous work we had done there that year. This was the first, last and only thing ever done for us in the eleven years we spent there - for in three years the Education Board was done away with then we operated under the executive committee of the S.B.C. - then in I929 under the Sunday School Board.

Also in Sept. I925 work was started on house near little lake and near the hotel for us to live in. We moved in this on Jan.Ist. I926, and for ten years thereafter this was our home.

I926

By the time the hotel closed in Sept., boys, girls and grownups were making applications for jobs the next season - finally Mr. Staples had to make it known he would consider no applications until after Jan. Ist. Applications poured in by the hundreds with many letters of recommendation following each. All had to be answered and Mr. Staples did not have a secretary or any office help in winter in all of the eleven years he was there. I was forced to help him with office work as it was more than any one man could do. All of the building done in those eleven years was done by day labor, nothing by contract except the big lake and the water tank. This kept him on the job outside seeing that every thing was done right.

After improvements had been made in I925, the Education Board had property appraised and a valuation of half a million dollars was put on the property. Upon this valuation the Education Board borrowed $450,000 from Bonding Co., in New Orleans. This was to take care of debts of the Education Board, $75,000 to the Louisville Seminary and $50,000 to Montizuma College which the Convention had authorized the Education Board to pay. $I50,000 to be spent at Ridgecrest, this was to include the $40,000 already spent. With the remaining $II0,000 other improvements were made in I926 and thereafter.

In I926 the large building with columns to the right of Pritchell Hall was built. This building housed the new dining-room and kitchen with temporary auditorium above. This auditorium was later to be divided into class rooms and a new auditorium was to be built to the right of this after buying up some of the property there. This was never accomplished.

Two servants houses were built back of this building.

Hillside Annex, back of the hotel, was converted into I7 bedrooms, each with private bath. Old dining room and kitchen in Pritchell Hall were converted into more bedrooms and baths. Additional public baths were put in hotel.

The big lake and Girls Camp -"Camp Swannanoa"- was built. Dr. Spillmans property, consisting of large house at Camp site, "Fidelis Hall" and a house on the highway known as the "Goodwill Center" were bought for $6,000.

Springdale Annex with cafeteria and 5 cottages near Johnson Spring were built and equiped for use.

I927

Water shed rights on mountain back of hotel were secured and a large reinforced concrete tank with a capacity of II3,000 gallons of water was built high up on the mountain, piped by eight inch mains to the property, with presure I05 pounds per square inch.

Automatic sprinkler system installed in two main buildings.

I928

More cabins built at camp which was now to be used as a boys camp. Roads widened and improved, some buildings painted.

I929

Buildings painted and property and grounds improved, Garage built.

I930

Six Nash cottages bought and repaired, improved with running water, sewage and bathrooms added, houses painted and equiped for renting.

I93I

Ten Bird Huts built, each with four bedrooms, with two double deck beds in each room, taking care of I60 additional people. A central bath-house with both tub and shower bath for both men and women. All equipment for these cabins, furniture, blankets, linens etc.
Some lots were bought back.

I932 & I933 & I934

General upkeep of property, painting buildings, widening roads etc.

I935

Crystal Springs Lodge with five lots was bought for $6,000 from Mrs. Ashcrafts heirs. This property was bought by Mr. Staples for the Assembly his last year there, under great protest from Dr. Van Ness who was not in favor of spending any money at Ridgecrest, but the Sunday School Board owed the Assembly $6,000 for their conference entertainment which they had not paid. When Mr. Staples called this to the attention of the Board, Mr. Hill said "If the S.S.Board owes this amount to the Assembly, I say the S.S.Board should pay this amount to the Assembly and let Mr. Staples buy Crystal Springs Lodge." This property adjoined the Assembly property right at the entrance to the grounds and was greatly to their advantage to own.

On this Crystal Springs property the S.S.Board the next year, I936, built the Girls Home with the $I0,000 Mr. Staples had left over from I935 assembly receipts after buying Crystal Springs Lodge property. And in I938 they built new auditorium with money from the Convention, partly on this property.

I have often wondered why the Sunday School Board could see no future for the assembly at Ridgecrest in its struggle for survival, when one of their Sunday School men, Dr. B. W. Spillman, was so intensely interested in it.

continuation of writeup by Mrs. R.F.Staples, Sept. 1958

SOME VALUABLE HELPERS AT RIDGECREST

1925 - 1936

No history of this period at Ridgecrest would be complete without mention of Miss Mable Oldham - later known as Mrs. Robert Young.

Mable was Mr. Staples very efficient helper in the front office, always gracious and pleasant with her dealings with the public while registering those for different conferences. Not one time did I ever see her get impatient or flustered, and there were many times when she might have. Some one has said that a hotel clerk should have - "the wisdom of Solomon, the diplomacy of Bismark and the manners of a Chesterfield." Mable had all of these requisites.

Another is Miss Mable Gower, our "Flower Lady", as she was affectionately called, who was up early every morning gathering wild flowers ~~every morning~~ from the mountain side and arranging them so attractively in the lobbies. Each year she brought some Pas dyes and when the Queens Anns lace was at its peak she dissolved these dyes in coffee cans, let the stems of the Queen Anns lace stand over night in the cans - each with a different color - and when the next morning she was busy at her table back of the hotel arranging these beautiful flowers in pastel shades - she was amused at the men going to breakfast, who stopped and wanted some seed from those flowers to take home to their wives.

An old man on the grounds made her a vase out of a quart milk bottle, covering it with native rocks cemented together. When this was finished and placed on the front office desk, Miss Mable called me to see it, "lift it"she said, I tried and couldn't. "How on earth" I said, did you bring it home? "I didn't" she said, I had to send the truck after it.

And last but by no means least - Mrs. S. E. Holland - our faithful and excellent dietitian who served us such wonderful meals for so many years. Now when every one is serving no supper at all on Sunday nights or very skimpy ones, we look back on Mrs. Hollands wonderful Sunday night suppers with delicious sliced baked Virginia ham, a beautiful congealed salad, whole spiced peaches and delicious fruit punch made from the different fruit juices she had saved during the week and combined with a tea base. Her Spanish omlet, fricasseed chicken, hot rolls and peach cobbler were out of this world.

I would like to mention our supervisors and others who helped us so wonderfully, but, not having a list of these over a period of eleven years, I am afraid I might leave out some. All I can say is that we had wonderful co-operation from all of our help, girls, boys and supervisors.

Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of First Baptist Church,

Dallas, Texas.

Lynchburg, Virginia,
Aug. 2I, I928

My dear Bro. Staples;

Arrived here a few hours ago where I am to get a few days much needed rest, and at the same time have a little visit with my daughter and her husband here - Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Gilliam.

Before turning to any other duty, let me again thank you and your associates, from my deepest heart, for your overflowing gracious consideration of me in connection with my visit with you, the past week. The week sped away all too fast and every memory of it will gladen and bless me. And, certainly, I shall hail it as a gracious privilege if maybe with you there, again and again.

Every best blessing for you and Mrs. Staples and your blessed children, now and always. And every best blessing for the Assembly. May God guide us all to make of the Assembly all that He would have it to be.

Hastily but gratefully yours,

Rev. R. F. Staples
Ridgecrest, N.C.

Geo. W. Truett.

Personal

Lynchburg, Va.,
Aug. 28,I929

My dear Bro. Staples;

This is again to thank you and Mrs. Staples, from my deepest heart, for your gracious and unceasing goodness to us all, in the Assembly just closed. All of us must ever remember your goodness to us, with inexpressibly grateful appreciation. The Lord himself served you both - and He will.

I came away from the blessed Assembly Grounds, Monday, with a heart glowing with greatly intensified confidence and hope for the future unfoldment of the Assembly. At every step of such unfoldment, may the Great Master guide us all.

Am here for a few days of quiet and rest at my little daughters home, and then on to Dallas, (D.V.) next week, to begin my 33rd. pastoral year there. Let us pray for each other, often, as we journey on.

More and more, may our gracious Savior bless you and all your house, and enable you all and each to be an ever increasing blessing.

Faithfully and gratefully yours,

Rev. R. F. Staples)
Ridgecrest, N.C.)

Geo. W. Truett.

Ocean Grove, N. J.
Monday, Aug. 26, I935.

My dear Bro. Staples:

I have just arrived here to give several messages at this world famed Camp Meeting.

Before turning to any of the demands here awaiting me, let me pause to thank you and yours, from my deepest heart,

for your overflowing gracious consideration of me, at the closing week of our glorious Ridgecrest Assembly. The Lord Himself served you all, and He will. It was good to be there.

Every blessing for you, and for your dear family, and for your blessed work, onward always.

Ever gratefully yours as the best bonds.

Rev. R. F. Staples)
Ridgecrest, N. C.)

Geo. W. Truett.

There were other letters like these but some have been misplaced, one came every year as long as we were at Ridgecrest, and some after we left.

In a comment for the press, Dr. Solon B. Cousins said of Dr. Truett: "Our first and last thought of Dr. Truett is that he was a great Christian. He adorned the Christian ministry. He combined intellectual strength with evangelical passion. The Christian church in our generation has had no greater gospel preacher. We shall not see his like again."

LAST RITES OF R. F. STAPLES TO BE FRIDAY

Asheville Resident Served As Ridgecrest Assembly Manager For 11 Years.

Funeral services for the Rev. Raymond Fowler Staples, 66, of 150 East Chestnut street, who died unexpectedly yeaterday afternoon, will be conducted at 2 oclock Friday afternoon at the First Baptist Church Chapel, the Rev. John W. Inzer officiating. Burial will follow in Lewis Memorial Park.

Mr. Staples suffered a heart attack on Pack Square yesterday afternoon and was taken to the hospital. He was pronounced dead on arrival there.

He was manager of the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly for 11 years and was a member of the board of directors of the Black Mountain Bank.

Ordained in Virginia

Mr. Staples was a native of Portsmouth, Va., and was the son of the late Samuel Alexander and Mary Ellis Staples. He attended Windsor Academy, Richmond College, and Crozier Theological Seminary. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity while at Richmond College.

He was ordained in the First Baptist Church at Staunton, Va., and for 20 years held pastorates in Orange, Luray, Emporia, Parksley and Cheriton, Virginia.

In 1905 he was married to Miss Mary Elizabeth Waff of Brunswick, Ga.

He came to Ridgecrest as manager of the Southern Baptist Assembly in 1925. He was instrumentsl in the reopening of the Bank of Black Mountain in 1931.

Mr. Staples gave up his work at Ridgecrest in 1936, retired and came to Asheville. At one time he was owner of the College Street Storage and Garage. He was active in Masonic work and was a Master Mason and a member of the Royal Arch Masons of the Fairfax Commandery, No. 25, Knights Templar, at Culpeper, Va.

Survivors Listed

He is survived by his wife; one son Raymond F. Staples, Jr.; one daughter, Mrs. C. David Blanton of Marion, N.C.; two brothers, S. A. Staples of Houston, Texas, and K. D. Staples of Culver City, Calif.; and two sisters, Mrs. C. Reid Hudgins of Waterford, Conn., and Mrs. Thaddeus Lassiter of Portsmouth, Va.

Funeral arrangements are in charge of Dunn-Groce and the body will be taken to the home at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Active pallbearers will be Charles M. Crow, Dr. J. A. Sinclair, Philip C. Cocke, Jr., T. W. Lipscombe, Charles D. Parker, W. C. Honeycutt, J. P. Ashley, R. J. Johnson, James Dotson and W. H. Powlas.

Comprising the honorary escort will be DR, R. C. Anderson, W. S. Cain, C. Hamlet Pettus, Will H. Holman, Richard T. Green, Frank Goldsmith, J. D. Blanton, Hal Brown, Dr. Paul Ringer, Dr. A. B. Craddock, Dr. A. S. McCall, S. G. Jones, M. R. Felkekl, Tom Cushing, W. M. Jamieson and Fred Smathers.

Copied from the Religious Herald, Richmond, Va.

January 7, 1943

IN MEMORIAM

RAYMOND FOWLER STAPLES

Rev. R. F. Staples was stricken on the streets of his home city, Asheville, N.C., on Dec. 9th. and died in a few moments. He was a native of Portsmouth, Va., and spent all of his ministerial life in Virginia, having served churches at Craigsville, Orange, Luray, Emporia, Parksley, and Cheriton. In each and every one of these pastorates Brother Staples did a constructive and lasting work. He was gifted in winning his way into the hearts of his people, both the old and the young. His memory is cherished in every church he served.

Perhaps the outstanding work of his busy life was done as business manager of the Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, which position he held for eleven years. It was during those years that the future of Ridgecrest became assured. In Nov. 1924 I wired him at his home in Cheriton, Va., from the office of the Education Board in Birmingham, asking him to meet me at the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in Raleigh. It was then that he accepted an offer to come to Ridgecrest as the business manager of the Assembly property. He and his accomplished and capable wife, who before her marriage was Miss Mary Elizabeth Waff of Brunswick, Ga., placed their lives upon the altar of service and sacrifice at Ridgecrest for eleven years. They labored in season and out of season for those years. The present generation should not forget that Ridgecrest is largely a monument to their unremitting toil. In those years the old hotel was made over, the porch with the large columns added, and all the other buildings now on the grounds were erected with the exception of the new auditorium.

The Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention had faith in Ridgecrest when all the other Boards were playing hands off. When its future was practically assured the Sunday School Board took over management and it has gone steadily forward. Dr. H. W. Battle, now in retirement in Charlottsville, Va.; Dr. B. W. Spillman, of Kinston, N. C; Rev. R. F. Staples, now dead, and Dr. Hight C. Moore, of Nashville, are the four names that should have a large place when the history of Ridgecrest is written. At one time in the earlier period of Ridgecrest, Dr. Battle and Dr. Spillman were among the few who still had faith enough in its future to meet there on top of the mountain - Ridgecrest - and pray for the Assembly. They prayed for it, kept life in its body, and later Brother Staples came in and, backed by the Education Board, built it. Today it is perhaps the greatest Summer Assembly in the world.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Mrs. Staples and her daughter, Virginia, and son Raymond, whose husband and father went away to spend Christmas in heaven.

J. W. Cammack.

325 15th. Ave., N. E.
St. Petersburg, Fla.

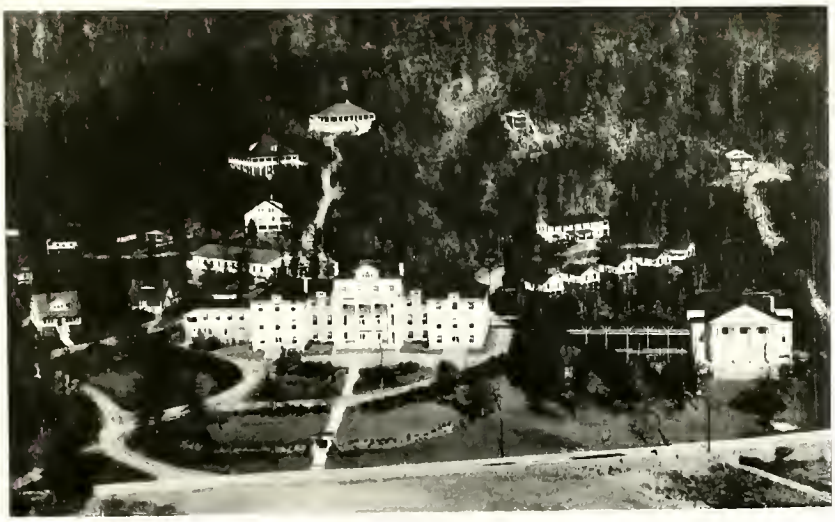
850 acres in Blue Ridge Mountains on Southern Railway and National Highway. 6 mountains 6000 feet high in vicinity. No summer heat June 12 to Sept 12 Rates $2 to $3 per day $10 to $14 per week Lower rates to Bible Students.

American Plan

PRITCHELLE HALL. ASSEMBLY HEADQUARTERS RIDGECREST N. C.

SEPT 1958

THIS IS THE WAY PRITCHELL HALL SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY LOOKED IN 1925 WHEN MR. STAPLES WENT THERE AS BUSINESS MANAGER UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE EDUCATION BOARD. THIS BUILDING WAS COMPLETELY DONE OVER INSIDE AND OUT IN 1925 BY MR. STAPLES AND THE FRONT COMPLETELY CHANGED MAKING GROUND LEVEL PORCH AND THE LOVELY 33 FOOT COLUMNS ERECTED.



THIS IS THE WAY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY LOOKED WHEN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD TOOK OVER. THE HOUSE TO THE LEFT WAS BUILT IN THE FALL OF 1925 FOR MANAGERS HOME. THE BUILDING TO THE RIGHT WAS BUILT IN 1926.

MANAGERS HOME BUILT BY MR. STAPLES IN 1925 AND OCCUPIED BY HIS FAMILY UNTIL 1936. HIS FIRST WINTER THERE WAS SPENT AT THE MONTE VISTA HOTEL IN BLACK MOUNTAIN, HIS FIRST SUMMER IN PRITCHELL HALL.

BELOW -- MR. STAPLES.

THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY MR. STAPLES YOUNG SON AND WERE USED FOR POST CARDS IN 1932

This has been copied from a clipping from Biblical Recorded, date not on clipping but must have been in 1935 as Dr. Spilman said Mr. Staples had been at Ridgecrest about ten years and he went there in 1925.

R. F. STAPLES

Rev. R. F. Staples was born and reared in Virginia. Educated in Richmond College, he served churches in Virginia. He came from the pastorate to Ridgecrest about ten years ago.

He brought to his task all of the business ability which had characterized him in his ministry. Not only was he a good preacher, but he knew how to deal with people. It was his outstanding ability as an executive which attracted attention to him as a suitable man to develop Ridgecrest under the new program inaugurated by the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ridgecrest was well developed before he took charge of the work. The original corporation, known as the Southern Baptist Assembly, had made a good beginning. It had carved out of a wild wilderness on the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains a place for a delightful summer colony and a world-wide assembly ground.

What was needed first of all was an expansion of the physical plant. To this task Staples devoted himself as he took the helm. He is a builder. National Highway No. 70, known then in North Carolina as Central Highway No. 10, extended through the grounds. But the other roads were mostly trails of mud. These roads have been greatly improved, much of the work being done by the cottage owners.

A large lake, which is a source of delight to assembly visitors, was constructed. Lake Dew, a small lake back of the main hotel, affords a delightful place for an early morning dip or for twilight religious services on its grassy shore.

Other recreation features were added, such as shuffle board, baseball grounds, tennis, children's play ground, etc.

The Assembly had held its meetings in the open air under trees; then in the big open auditorium. Later the meetings were in Fidelis Hall, then in the west end of the hotel, later in a small hall back of the hotel.

One of the first improvements undertaken by Staples was the erection of an adequate auditorium. A large central dining-room was needed. Under his direction there was erected the large building in which are two assembly halls, a few bed rooms, a dining-room and kitchen.

Five cottages were erected immediately behind the hotel. These were for families or other groups who wished to keep house during the summer.

Ten cottages with accommodations for sixteen people to each cottage were erected on the slope of the hill east of Lake Dew, near the Assembly Hotel.

The Annex, erected on the hill a few feet north of the hotel, was transformed from an auditorium into a rooming house with private bath in each room.

Staples is a builder. He operated the hotel like a veteran hotel man; he handled the religious program in a splendid way; he beautified the grounds; he provided recreational features; he found time to be the genial companionable friend of every guest.

All of this was done without a dollar of debt for operation.

No appraisal of the work of Brother Staples could be complete unless it took into the account the splendid work of Mrs. Staples. Through the summer rush when thousands of people were in Ridgecrest she worked with an intelligent, untiring devotion. At all seasons of the year there is work to do at Ridgecrest. Mrs. Staples gave her time and talent to the work while she also kept the home fires burning.

BURNARD W. SPILMAN.

Note added by Mrs. R.F.Staples.

I appreciate this write up by Dr. Spilman about Mr. Staples work at Ridgecrest, but, I beg to differ with him on one point, that is his statement that -"Ridgecrest was well developed before he took charge of the work. The original corporation, known as the Southern Baptist Assembly, had made a good beginning."

I think it would be easier for any man to build up a good reputation for a place in the beginning than to try to build up a place which had gone on the rocks financially and otherwise. This had happened to the Ridgecrest Assembly. Our Baptist people generally were ashamed of the place, many going to Montreat or Blue Rudge where they could have better accommodations. Our Baptist Sunday School Board had completely washed their hands of the place and would not even put a paid ad in any of their Sunday School literature about it in I925, our first summer there.

The water supply was inadequate, a hole on top of a hill lined with crossties served as a water tank. This hill was not high enough to force water to the fourth floor of the hotel in dry weather.

The small hot water tank would hardly supply the kitchen, never enough for a hot bath. I shall never forget the shout for joy from Y.W.A. girls, our first conference in I925, when they found they had hot water for a bath.

Mr. Staples had installed a 500 gallon hot water tank outside the kitchen which was partly in the ground and partly above with a shed built to cover it. Pipes went through the brick wall to kitchen where a large coal burning jacket heater was kept going night and day.

The silver was dime store stuff which had rusted from lack of care and quality, Some of the loyal ladies who liked to come to Ridgecrest regardless of accommodations, took up a collection one summer to buy some silver fit to use on a few tables. This, however, was only enough for a few, so Mr. Staples had to buy enough silver for all the tables in the dining-room.

There was not a wool blanket in the hotel, only a few thin cotton ones and some terrible looking army cotton comforts. The summer nights got awfully cold at Ridgecrest and Mr. Staples bought I00 good all wool blankets for our first summers use. It was amazing how people would call for more and more blankets - sometimes five would be found on one bed. People would not hesitate to go in a vacant room and take blankets off those, which often had just been made ready for an occupant.

The windows are very large in Pritchell-Hall, only shades and sash curtains were used, but all of the sash curtains which were probably old, had been left unwashed in a pile on the floor in one of the rooms, after we had them washed we had only a bundle of rags. We had to get busy and make sash curtains on my machine which I had placed in rooms we were to occupy that summer with our two children. We had spent the winter at the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain.

There were no dresser scarfs so we made those too. The rooms had no closets - no place to hang any thing. Mr. Staples had some open closets made in each room and we made curtains of creton for those. Some of the early come cottagers helped me with this. I especially recall that Mrs. Jeter Johnson and Mrs. Stroud helped me. We were hanging curtains and fixing rooms until midnight many nights before our opening on June I4th.

Our children and the Johnson children carried around soap, towels and clean glasses for each room in the afternoons after school. Beds were made and every thing in good order when we opened.

There were no rugs any where. Mr. Staples bought rugs for first floor rooms which had cement floors and small ruge to go by each bed in other rooms.

I don't think that so much has ever been done at Ridgecrest for so little $35,000.00, either before or since I925. Doing over the whole of Pritchell-Hall inside and out, putting up the large white columns, digging out hillside to make lower lobby, landscaping grounds and making road all around hotel - building rock wall to retain hill, building bridge

from upper lobby to top of hill for convenience of those going to Hillside Annex which had also just been built and was used that year for a temporary auditorium. Converting old auditorium in West end of hotel into I8 more bedrooms with three private baths and three public baths.

Doing over the dining room in an attractive color scheme, using chintz draperies at windows and buying glass tops for all tables to eliminate laundry and buying table cloths.

All of the I8 new bedrooms had to be furnished and additional linens bought for these.

Lake Dew was enlarged and a cement wall built with a spillway and bath houses built. Play grounds for both grown ups and children were made. Old comers that year could not believe their eyes when they came and saw the place.

Neither my husband or I had ever had any experience in this sort of work before. Mr. Staples was born and educated in Virginia, we had been in the pastorate together in that state for twenty years before going to Ridgecrest. Mr. Staples had done an outstanding work in every pastorate he held and was generally loved by all.

All of the above work done at Ridgecrest for our first summer there was done between March 9th. and June I4th. because no money was available until that time. I can truly say that Mr. Staples not only worked but slaved to build up the Assembly at Ridgecrest physically, financially and socially, giving such long hours to the work that he broke his health down completely after eleven years and had more than earned a good rest.

Lower part of page 41

I failed to add one other item of added comfort for those staying in the hotel our first summer there.

The beds were in terrible condition, many of the springs and mattresses had to be discarded entirely and new ones bought. All of the mattresses we kept were made over with new covers and these were used in rooms for the staff.

Another item was this - Most of the privately owned cottages had not been occupied for years and had been left to the ravishes of the elements - this included the large Spillman house near Fidelis Hall and the six Nash cottages which Mr. Staples later bought for the Assembly use.

None of these cottages had any modern conveniences except electric lights, no bath rooms and no running water in the kitchens, only pumps and wells outside, many of which had gone dry.

BAPTIST BOYS' CAMP

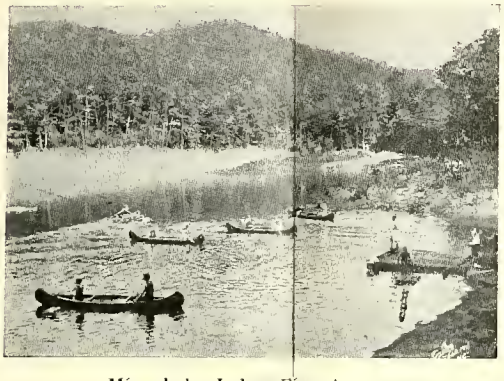
RIDGECREST, N. C. **JUNE 16-24**

ROYAL AMBASSADORS, SCOUTS AND OTHER BOYS

Dr. J. W. Cammack
Secretary Education
Board
Chief Advisor

Miss Juliette Mather
Young People's
Secretary
General Director, Royal
Ambassadors

Wade H. Bryant
Camp Director
General Director

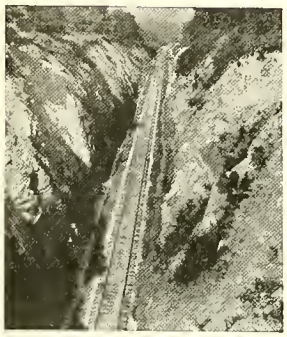


Minnehaha Lake—Five Acres
All Sorts Water Sports
Guarded by Life-Savers

ONE FARE
ROUND TRIP
Tickets Sold June 15
Good for 20 Days

MUST GET
CERTIFICATES
From

J. W. Cammack
517 N. 22nd St.
Birmingham, Ala.



Going Up to Swannanoa Camp

Good Eats—Well Selected
Bring Your Appetite
Dietitian, Mrs. Holland

Water Supply
From Cool Springs
Perfectly Pure

Dr. F. H. Richardson
Noted Child Specialist
Camp Phiysician

Campalogs
Modern Camp Outfit
Sleep a Joy

One Mile Away

Hear the Assembly Speakers at Night
See "The Land of the Sky," where laurel and rhododrendon
are in their glory
Famous Kitazuma Mountain overlooks the Camp

HIKES! HIKES! HIKES!
Overnight hike to Mount Mitchell
Hikes to Catawba Falls, Kitazuma Top, Swannanoa River,
Wren's Nest, and other points of interest

1927–Royal Ambassador Boys' Camp–1927

JUNE 16-24

Where Is It?

At Ridgecrest, North Carolina, 2,800 feet above sea level, on the 600 acres owned by the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The concrete state highway passes our grounds, and the Southern Railway depot is right at hand, eight trains daily. We are on the "Crest" of the Blue Ridge, 18 miles east from, and 400 feet above Asheville.

Who Is It For?

It meets a long-felt want. Provision has been made for the Southwide Y. W. A. Camp at Ridgecrest for four years. This is a Camp for ROYAL AMBASSADORS, SCOUTS AND OTHER BAPTIST BOYS from all over the South. It is recreation and religious development, under most wholesome influences.

Who Directs It?

Wade H. Bryant, who holds the B.A. degree, and who graduates this spring from the Seminary at Louisville, and has been called as pastor to the College boys at Clemson College, South Carolina, is CAMP DIRECTOR.

Miss Juliette Mather, Editor of "World Comrades," and Young People's Secretary of the W. M. U., will be present and render most valuable service, also your state leader.

Also Dr. John R. Sampey, Louisville; Mrs. W. J. Cox, Memphis; Mrs. J. M. Dawson, Waco; Miss Emma Leachman, Mrs. Una Roberts Lawrence, Dr. J. W. Cammack, Birmingham; Dr. B. H. DeMent, New Orleans; Dr. W. O. Carver, Louisville; Dr. R. J. Bateman, Asheville; Dr. J. W. Shepherd, of Brazil, and other missionaries.

What Do We Do?

When the bugle blows in the morning, the boys run a race to the swimming pool and the shower baths. The forenoon is devoted to conferences, Nature Study, Bible Stories, Study of Missionary Heroes, and other well-regulated courses. After dinner, it is mountain climbing, bird studies, basketball, baseball, tennis, canoeing and boating on the lake, all under competent guards and instructors. Spend one night on Mt. Mitchell.

Where Do We Live?

The living quarters are in the Headquarters Building, the dining room, the recreation building, and the bungalettes, which will be occupied by the Swannanoa Camp for Girls from June 30th to August 25th.

What Do We Bring?

Sheets, blankets, pillowcase, towels, toothbrush, heavy shoes, tennis shoes, Bible, baseball, glove and bat, tennis racquet, fountain pen, Boy Scout knife.

What Do We Pay?

$2.00 for enrollment fee, which admits to all classes and all activities, and $16.00 for all other expenses. Only a limited number can be cared for and reservations will be made in the order in which they are received.

Write for reservation blank at once, to Dr. J. W. Cammack, 517 North Twenty-second Street, Birmingham, Alabama. With the blank you will receive an Identification Certificate, which will enable you to purchase a round trip ticket for one way fare from points east of the Mississippi River and including St. Louis.

When Do We Start?

If coming by train, you must start on June 15th to get advantage of the one-way fare for the round trip. You can also come by auto, or by bus, or flying machine and arrive on June 16th, opening day. Write for reservation blank today, and spend a period of recreation with happy, wholesome boys, with the best of counsellors and guides. Don't delay writing.

EDUCATION BOARD, S. B. C.

517 North Twenty-second Street — Birmingham, Alabama

Boys live for ten days with the lads who will be leaders tomorrow

EXPENSES

NO TUITION FEES CHARGED FOR COURSES

Hotel Rates (American Plan)—Per week, $12, $14, $20; per day, $2.50.

Pritchelle Hall has been thoroughly renovated and much new equipment put in; professional caterer in charge of dining room and kitchen; matron of experience for housekeeping.

For further information, address

ALBERT R. BOND
Corresponding Secretary
RIDGECREST, N. C.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

RIDGECREST, N. C.

SUMMER CONFERENCES

JUNE 11-SEPT. 10, 1922

IDEAL RIDGECREST

In the "Land of the Sky," 2500 feet above sea level, 18 miles from Asheville, surrounded by mountains, unsurpassed scenery, on main line of the Southern Railway, Conferences that touch the vital life problems, speakers of wide reputation—just the place for Christian recreation and study.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Faculty—Dr. W. H. Davis, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. W. T. Conner, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Dr. W. E. Denham, Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, La.

Credits—Students will be credited at these institutions for work done at Ridgecrest, just as work done in the seminaries.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS

This is a new feature and should appeal to a large class of people who desire special training. Credit certificates given for courses taken.

The following conferences will be held at the Assembly, and in addition to these many prominent speakers will deliver special addresses:

1. Summer School of Theology ..... June 11-August 6
   - (1) First Term ..... June 11-July 8
   - (2) Second Term ..... July 9-August 6
2. Mountain School Faculties ..... June 14-June 16
3. Stewardship of Life ..... June 18-June 24
4. Training School for Christian Workers ..... July 11-August 18
   - (1) First Term ..... July 11-July 21
   - (2) Second Term ..... July 25-August 4
   - (3) Third Term ..... August 8-August 18
5. Southern Baptist Bible Conference ..... August 1-August 15
   - (1) First Term ..... August 1-August 7
   - (2) Second Term ..... August 8-August 15
6. Denominational Ministries ..... August 16-August 28
7. Rural Life Problems ..... August 29-August 31
8. Song Leaders Conference ..... September 1-September 10

SELLING DATES

Special rates of one and one-half fare for the round trip have been secured on the identification certificate plan. Those who desire this rate must secure before purchase of ticket a card from the undersigned secretary. This may be had for the asking. The following are the dates for the selling of these tickets:

June 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17.
July 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 21, 22, 24, 31.
August 1, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30, 31.
September 1st.

EXPENSES

No Tuition Fees Charged
For Courses

Hotel Rates (American Plan)
Per week, $12, $14, $20;
per day $2.50

Pritchelle Hall has been thoroughly renovated and much new equipment put in; professional caterer in charge of dining room and kitchen; matron of experience for housekeeping.

For further information, address

ALBERT R. BOND
Corresponding Secretary
RIDGECREST, N. CAROLINA

GROVES PRINTING CO., ASHEVILLE, N. C.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

RIDGECREST, N. C.

Supplemental Program

I. SUMMER SCHOOL of THEOLOGY

Second Term July 9--August 6

1. Old Testament—Dr. W. E. Denham
2. New Testament—Dr. W. H. Davis
3. Theology—Dr. W. T. Conner
4. Greek—Dr. W. H. Davis

II. TRAINING SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS

1. First Term—July 11--21
2. Second Term—July 25--August 4
3. Third Term—August 8--August 18

Courses Offered--Teacher Training, B. Y. P. U. Training, Other Christian Culture Courses.

Teachers--Drs. J. C. C. Dunford, A. G. Moseley, Albert R. Bond.

Reprinted 1925

III. SOUTHERN BAPTIST BIBLE CONFERENCE

1. First Term—Dr. J. E. Dillard—August 1--August 7
2. Second Term—Dr. A. T. Robertson—August 8--August 15

IV. DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

Inspirational addresses Morning and Night by Representatives of the Various Boards

1. August 16th—Sunday School Board
2. August 17th—Foreign Mission Board
3. August 18th—State Missions
4. August 21st—Home Mission Board
5. August 22nd—Denominational Literature
6. August 23rd—Ministerial Relief Board
7. August 24th—Layman's Movement
8. August 25th—Woman's Missionary Union
9. August 28th— Education Board

V. RURAL LIFE PROBLEMS—August 29--31

Led by Miss Sarah Luther, Director of Exceptional Education, Montgomery, Ala.

VI. SONG LEADERS CONFERENCE—September 1--10

Prof. M. G. Beckwith and Prof. E. O. Sellers

Platform addresses daily 11:30 A. M. and 8:00 P. M.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

July 15-17
11:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.—Mr. Kirk.

July 18-20
11:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.—(Except 8:30 p.m. the 20th, no meeting) Mr. Arnette.

July 22-27
Program in charge of the W.M.U.

July 29-August 3
10:00 a.m.—Dr. Spilman.
11:00 a.m.—Prof. Hunter.
8:30 p.m.—Mr. Hunter, 29th, 31st, 2nd.
Mr. Spilman, 30th, 1st.
Mr. Justice, 3rd.

August 6-9
11:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.—Dr. Moore.
Except 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 7th, Stockholders' Meeting.

August 12-17
11:00 a.m.—Dr. Powell.
8:30 p.m.—Miss Sims.

August 20-23
8:30 p.m.—Music Week, Directed by Miss Ward.

For information, address, The Southern Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C.

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA

JULY 14-AUG. 23, 1918

July 14-17—Conference on Rural Church Life.

July 18-21—Conference on Industrial Church Life.

July 22-27—Woman's Missionary Union Week.

July 28-August 4—Sunday School and Baptist Young Peoples' Union Conference.

August 6-9—Prayer Week.

August 11-18—Bible Conference.

August 20-23—Music Week.

The expenses of the Assembly are provided by voluntary contributions.

PERSONS ON THE PROGRAM

Rev. J. M. Arnette, Badin, N. C., Pastor, Leader of the Conference on Industrial Church Life.

Miss Bessie Campbell, Buies Creek, N. C., Pianist.

Professor H. T. Hunter, Chair of Education, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex., will teach Sunday School Management and B.Y.P.U. Work.

Rev. J. M. Justice, Black Mountain, N. C., sometime Missionary in Argentina, Assembly Pastor.

Rev. J. E. Kirk, Farmville, N. C., Pastor, will lead the Conference on Rural Church Life.

Rev. Hight C. Moore, D.D., Editor of Sunday School Periodicals, Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, will lead the Meetings during Prayer Week.

Rev. W. F. Powell, Asheville, N. C., Pastor First Baptist Church, will speak during the Bible Conference.

Miss Rachel Cabe Sims, Ridgecrest, N. C., Student Secretary, The Baptist Student Missionary Movement of North America, will teach during the Bible Conference.

Rev. B. W. Spilman, D.D., Kinston, N. C., Field Secretary to Educational Institutions, Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville Tenn., will teach Sunday School Pedagogy during the Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. Conference.

Miss Mary Ward, New York City, Director of Music Week.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ridgecrest is on the Southern Railway, eighteen miles east of Asheville.

The Railroads granted reduced rates. Later the Government withdrew the rates. As this statement goes to the printer, the matter is being again considered by the Government. Ask your Ticket Agent a few days before you decide to start.

Pritchelle Hall will not be opened this summer. There are a number of good boarding houses in the grounds whose rates for board are from $1.50 to $2.00 per day, and from $8.00 to $12.00 per week. The Assembly does not reserve rooms for any one. All inquiries are referred impartially to the boarding houses with request to communicate with the inquirer.

During the sessions of the Assembly there is a Public Worship Service every Sunday morning at 10:30. B.Y.P.U. every Sunday at 8:30 p.m.

TWO SPECIAL RIDGECREST FEATURES

CAMP RIDGECREST

For Boys

First Term: June 28-July 26
Second Term: July 26-August 23
For Information, Rates and Reservations Address
CHARLES W. BURTS, Director
Greenville, S. C.

RIDGECREST SOUTHWIDE CLUB

For Girls—Ages 11 to 15

July 14-August 11
For Information, Rates and Reservations Address
MRS. FRANK H. LEAVELL, Director
161 Eighth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tenn.

For information as to detailed program and rates, and regarding cottages and reservations, address
R. F. STAPLES
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

LOCATION

Eighteen Miles East of Asheville, N. C.
On State Highway Number 10
Southern Railway
Reached by Train, Bus or Auto
(Ask your local Railroad Agent for special rates)

MAKE YOUR VACATION
MEAN MOST AT RIDGECREST

Auspices The Sunday School Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

RIDGECREST

THE SUMMER ASSEMBLY
FOR SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

1934

The Ridgecrest Hotel

For full information, address
R. F. STAPLES
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

RIDGECREST PROGRAM - - - June 14-August 29, 1934

June 14-22

SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST STUDENT RETREAT

Under the direction of Department of Southern Baptist Student Work, Baptist Sunday School Board, FRANK H. LEAVELL in charge.

June 26 - July 6

YOUNG WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CAMP

Under the direction of Woman's Missionary Union—MISS JULIETTE MATHER, Y.W.A. Secretary, and associates in charge.

July 8-13

N. C. YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

Under the direction of North Carolina B.Y.P.U. —MISS WINNIE RICKETTS, B.Y.P.U. Secretary of North Carolina, in charge.

July 15—Sunday

PREACHING—SPECIAL SERVICE

July 16-21

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

(1) Book Store Managers' Conference

(2) Lesson Writers' Conference

Editorial Department in Charge

(3) Intermediate Approved Workers' Conference

Intermediate Department in charge

July 22-28

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Direction of Baptist Sunday School Board.

(1) Department of Sunday School Administration

ARTHUR FLAKE in charge

(2) Department of Young People's and Adult Sunday School Work

WILLIAM P. PHILLIPS in charge

(3) Intermediate Department

MISS MARY VIRGINIA LEE in charge

(4) Elementary Department

MISS LILIAN S. FORBES in charge

July 29 - August 3

SOUTHWIDE B.Y.P.U. AND BAPTIST ADULT UNION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Under the direction of B.Y.P.U. Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, J. E. LAMBDIN in charge.

August 5-11

FOREIGN MISSION WEEK

Under the direction of DR. CHARLES E. MADDRY, Secretary, Foreign Mission Board. A great missionary week, with our own missionaries, and other speakers. A week of mission study and world vision.

August 12—Sunday

JOINT SESSION: FOREIGN MISSIONS AND CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE

In charge of DR. CHARLES E. MADDRY and DR. P. E. BURROUGHS. A rare day with a program of absorbing interest.

August 13-17

CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE

For deepening and enriching the Christian life. With outstanding speakers and dealing with the vital themes of religion.

DR. P. E. BURROUGHS in charge.

August 19-21

PREACHING—TWICE DAILY

By DR. LEN G. BROUGHTON, Atlanta, Ga.

August 22-26

PREACHING—TWICE DAILY

By DR. R. G. LEE, Memphis, Tenn.

August 27-29

CLOSING DAYS

Special entertainments for Ridgecrest residents and visitors.

EN

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Vacation

YOU

-25, 1927

d of the Sky"

Friendship

Fellowship

Frolic

And His Spirit Over All

—CUT OFF, FILL IN, MAIL NOW—

Miss Juliette Mather,
1111 Age-Herald Bldg.,
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Miss Mather:

I'm coming! I can hardly wait to start. Such high fun and bi-
blessings you promise. Here's my enrollment fee of $2.00. I'll bring
my hotel money $18.00 when I come.

I'd like to room with .....

Name .....

Address .....

Church Membership. Where? .....

OP

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Complete

for

JUNE 16

"In the Lan

Ridgecrest Y.W.A. Camp

JUNE 16-25, 1927

AT RIDGECREST, N. C., 18 MILES FROM ASHEVILLE

Selling date for half-fare tickets, June 15
on Southern Railway System

Room and board at Hotel	$18.00
Enrollment fee	2.00

Get that good old Ridgecrest Spirit
and
Come Along
Ask Anybody Who's Been

For the tang of the keen mountain air,
For the touch of the Master's Power,
For the thrill of friendship, delightful to share,
We'll have our gay Ridgecrest hour.

If you want to know more about it,
Please write
JULIETTE MATHER,
1111 Age-Herald Bldg.,
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Morning

7:00 Reveille
"Good Morning"

Praise Service
Mrs. Janie Cree Bose

Mission Study Classes

Conferences on Methods
and Ideals

Address
Dr. John R. Sampey

Afternoon

Hiking

Swimming

Boating

Other Out Door Sports

Sleeping

(Horseback ride and auto trips arranged)

Evening

Vesper Service
At the lake

Mrs. W. J. Cox
and
Miss Kathleen Mallory
speakers

Night

Miscellaneous Programs

Missionary Addresses

Talent Hour

10:30 "Good-night"
Taps

Southern Baptist Assembly

RIDGECREST, NORTH CAROLINA

Spiritual *Educational* *Recreational*

We Capitalize Recreation for Christ

SEASON
June 15 Until
September 1,
1926

In the Land of the Sky

RATES
Low Enough
For
Everybody

Program for 1926

PARTIAL LIST OF GOOD THINGS

Y. W. A. Camp
Summer School of Theology
Kamp Kitazuma for Girls
Laymen's Conference
Home Board Mountain School Conference
Sunday School Officers' Training School
Educational Conference
School of Church Music
Conference for Junior Leaders

"The location and environment are beyond compare and the fellowship indescribable."—C. B. Arendall

PRITCHELLE HALL

COOL BODY
CLEAR HEAD
CLEAN HEART

Ridgecrest is the ideal vacation place. On the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it has the climate of The Land of the Sky.

The Program invites one to clear, vigorous thought on the most worth-while subjects. Mountain visions of truth are the daily privilege.

The spiritual atmosphere and purpose make Ridgecrest the Southern Northfield, where the heart is stirred with holy impulses.

"Sapphire skies and mountains green,
That's Ridgecrest for me;
Bathed in blue with golden sheen,
That's Ridgecrest for me.
There, in fellowship joyous we meet,
There, new visions of service we greet,
Blend personalities in heaven's realities,
That's Ridgecrest for me."

Chimney Rock—A Nice Drive from Ridgecrest

RIDGECREST FELLOWSHIP

"I believe there is need for one great Southwide Summer Assembly. Ridgecrest is the place."—C. E. Burts.

"If Southern Baptists realized what we have in Ridgecrest, a 500-room hotel would be needed next Summer."—J. H. Anderson.

"It is the best site for denominational work in all the country."—B. D. Gray.

"Ridgecrest has made a distinct advance toward realizing the ideals of its founders."—I. J. Van Ness.

"Ridgecrest is coming to be the Summer capital for Baptists and their friends all over the world."—B. W. Spilman.

" 'Ridgecrest' is a name to conjure with, to charm and inspire."—Juliette Mather.

One Mile from Ridgecrest

Mt. Mitchell and The Craggies can be seen from Kitazuma.

View from Kitazuma at Ridgecrest

KAMP KITAZUMA

K—amp for girls of ten years of age and up

A—thletics under expert supervision

M—others need have no anxiety about their girls

P—leasure under religious environment

K—eep mind, body and heart in trim

I—ndividual direction of each girl

T—raining in swimming, tennis and archery

A—ble councilors for every ten girls

Z—ealously carving character

U—nited and happy family

M—eet two hundred choice girls

A—ll through July and August.

For information write Education Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 517 North 22nd Street, Birmingham, Ala.

"Southern Baptists ought to build at Ridgecrest the greatest center for wholesome recreation and sound religious instruction to be found in America."—Charles E. Maddry.

"The fellowship is excellent and bids fair to rival that of the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention."—J. Elwood Welsh.

CATAWBA FALLS
Three Miles from Ridgecrest—A Delightful Hike

HOW TO COME

Ridgecrest is on the Southern Railway, 18 miles east of Asheville; the Central National Highway runs through the Assembly Grounds.

Buy round-trip tourist railroad ticket, if you come by rail.

For information about hotel reservations, write Rev. R. F. Staples, Ridgecrest, N. C.

For information about Program, write until June 15, to Education Board, S. B. C., 517 N. 22nd St., Birmingham, Ala.

"A visit to Ridgecrest during the Summer of 1925 gave me a new impression of Ridgecrest, and a new hope for the Baptist Assembly at that place."—J. F. Love.

"I could wish that Southern Baptists would put their hearts, their best plans and much money in this great Assembly grounds."—L. R. Scarborough.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Baptist Bible Institute will furnish the faculty of the Summer School of Theology. The regular two quarters work will be done during July and August and these three institutions will give full credit for the courses thus offered and completed. This is a great opportunity for theological students and for pastors to freshen up on their studies.

Baptist Educators at Ridgecrest

Program for 1926

PARTIAL LIST OF GOOD THINGS

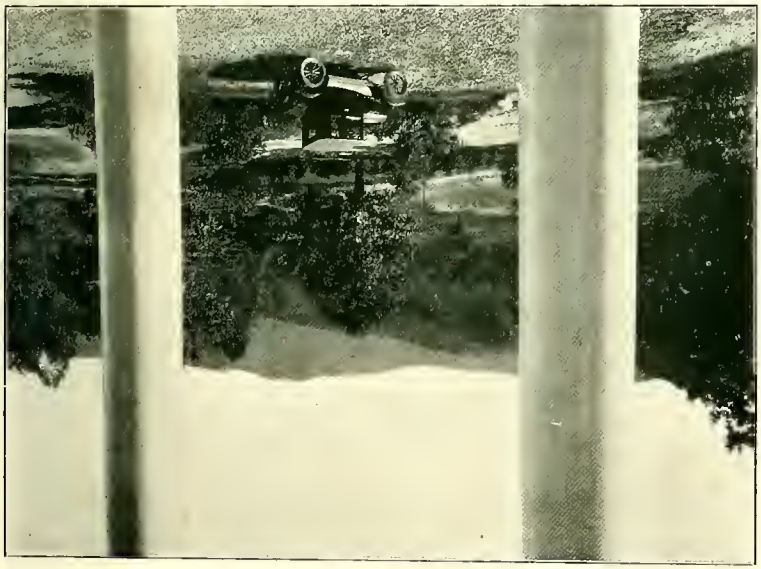
Church Pageantry Classes
Bible Conference
Evangelistic Conference for Evangelists and Singers
College Students' Conference
Home Mission Week
Foreign Mission Week
Training School for Christian Workers

"The atmosphere of the 'House by the Side of the Road' was one of Peace and Love and Good Will to men."—Mrs. W. J. Cox.

Going Up to Ridgecrest

"It is a place to be near to God and many of our best people."—W. J. McGlothlin.

"Go there next Summer and 'find the secret' of its beauty and blessing."—Kathleen Mallory.



Looking Out from Ridgecrest

"DOUBLE TUNNEL," IN THE LAND OF THE SKY.

A-23892

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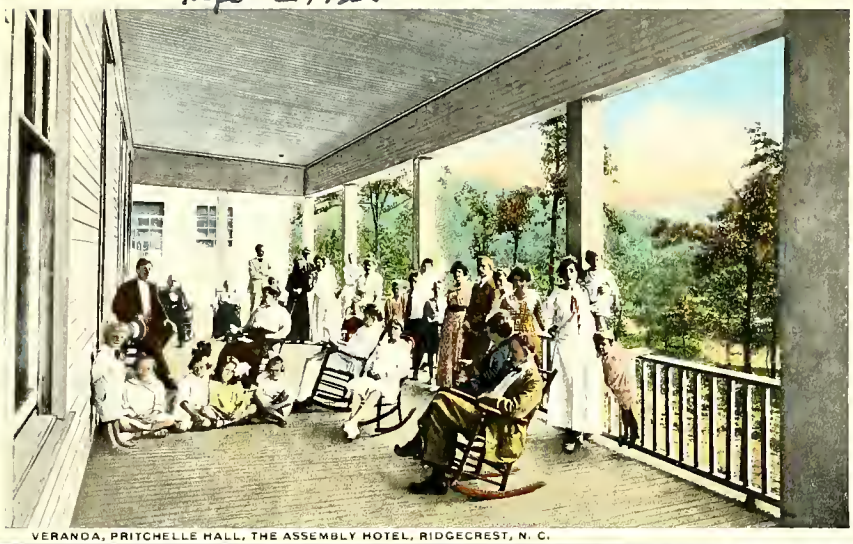

VERANDA, PRITCHELLE HALL, THE ASSEMBLY HOTEL, RIDGECREST, N. C.

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1933

Picture of Missionaries Children at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, all on staff except children in front. From left to right.

Can't identify first boy & girl, children, I think of missionaries in China. Next two Gallimore boys.

2nd row: Mary Swaim, Lois Hart, Helen Sorrier, can't identify next girl, Nathan Nafier, Lucile Clark.

3rd row first boy was son of missionaries in China who were members of Northern Baptist Convention, next to him John Swaim, William Swaim and girl I can't identify.

before. Late afternoon leaving camp
been [illegible] that [illegible] has
made connections at Addison, he was
to speak at B.Y.U. meeting and
Frank Lovell contracted him to have
been [illegible] to Ridgeway to have
car freed back to Safe Feed. We
hurried to Stanaway, Rec'd this
Virginia came home from Broadway
soon after we came.

Think Tuesday morning Eva & Wilson
radioed 1933 and hurried to Pittsburgh
and completed front tires were
loosed by Oldsmobile Dealer by Eva.

I do not recall giving Victoria
Dr. Trible & Ella H.C. [illegible] fried
out of Jade bracelet, [illegible]
they have all gone in that [illegible],
not a single thing [illegible]
[illegible] Good. Ten [illegible]
Single Dr. Trible [illegible]
two days.

[illegible] Lake married
[illegible] Jefferson, N.C.
1933

[illegible] Geo. T. B. Rogers 2 [illegible]
[illegible]
5. [illegible] Mordecai in Jefferson
6-8 7 Mordecai [illegible] the Colonel
[illegible] letter [illegible]
[illegible] do not recall names, but
[illegible] are not to them)
Second row, do not know any of them
[illegible] Mr. Coleman [illegible]
Third row, to at home, [illegible]
Fourth row [illegible]

[illegible] lodge - left by Colonel,
[illegible] Hugo Mordecai [illegible]
[illegible] Richmond [illegible] to the left
[illegible]

[illegible] then with the Lake & Geo. T. B.
Rogers and Hugo Mordecai [illegible] in 1933.
Mr. Lake about two weeks [illegible]
[illegible] the date on letter from Mrs. Lake:

Missionaries Children 1925 # 1.

Alaska State News Department
Tonight

[illegible]

Return to
Matthew
Ridgeway

1933

Foreign Mission Week at Ridgecrest.

2.

1933

Dr. Ray and Dr. Madrey,

Dr. T. B. Ray & Dr. Chas. Madrey during Foreign Mission week at Ridgecrest. 1933

From left to right

1- Dr. Harold Trible

2- Dr. Hudson

3- Dr. J. J. [illegible],

4- Dr. Ellen Fuller,

5- Dr. P. E. Dorrough.