

A Good Time Was Had By All

When I was growing up in Rutherford County, North Carolina, we of course read the weekly Rutherford County News religiously. The county seat was Rutherfordton. In the event you are trying to figure out the pronunciation of Rutherfordton, here's the way my grandfather referred to it: ruff/ton.

R.E. Price was the editor of the paper. Among other things, he wrote about funerals. That is, he covered funerals. For the most part, that's a dying art these days.

The churches were often out in the country, in the foothills of the mountains. Mr. Price didn't bother with the funerals in town. I guess he figured that everybody knew about them. Except when someone important died.

I wish I had saved some of the stories about the country funerals. They had wonderful detail. I especially liked reading about the hymns that were sung and what the minister said about the deceased. The services often took up much of the day, oftentimes a Sunday.

Mr. Price almost always closed the stories same way:

Dinner on the grounds was served and a good time was had by all.

■ David McHam