

selling so fast that Chiles purchased the hunt club on the old Patton place in Happy Valley. He then built a huge dam on Ross Creek. The dam was of solid concrete and was finished in 1925 at a cost of \$108,000. Dr. H. H. Briggs was a chief investor. Lakewood Drive was paved and lots overlooking the lake were sold. A new section called Fontainbleu was developed (Normandy - Duke Street area). Dr. E. E. Reed was a big investor in it.

Chiles died at his home in Kenilworth on June 1, 1925 at the height of his success. Mrs. Chiles then took over the management of the business. She was later elected mayor of Kenilworth and received national publicity as the first woman mayor in North Carolina history. She became involved in art again and she promoted several huge art shows at Kenilworth Inn. The initial show had 625 canvasses. Mrs. John Francis Amhurst Cecil opened it. Lending parts of their collections to the showing were Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Seely, Ronald Greene, Judge J. G. Adams, Dr. and Mrs. T. P. Cheesborough and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Robertson.

The town of Kenilworth became part of Asheville in 1929. The hotel was bought by Dr. Mark Griffin and Dr. William Ray Griffin and its name changed to Appalachian Hall.

The graceful Inn still stands, well preserved and groomed. much the same as it was in the 1920s. The great twin pictures of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and Amy Robsart, characters from the pages of Sir Walter Scott's novel, still look down from the walls of the grand ballroom --- a touch of romance that has now lasted almost a century -- the romance of Asheville's Kenilworth.