

# Distaff Deeds

By Janice R. Christensen

## New Attitude Toward Living

Families who are elevated from substandard to minimum and above minimum standard housing have a more favorable attitude toward living.

That's the observation of Mrs. H. Vivian Morris, home economics Extension agent, Martin County, who has helped 10 marginal-income families become home owners.

Through educational meetings, the families learned about the FHA low-income housing program and made applications for loans.

Then Extension agents provided help with house plans, kitchen arrangements, furniture arrangements and home grounds beautification. "The families now believe they can reach other goals through planning, hard work and the unity of family members," Mrs. Morris adds.

## Jack-of-all-Trades

Women hired as nutrition aides in North Carolina counties find themselves jacks-of-all-trades, notes Judy

Steadman, assistant home economics Extension agent, Cleveland County.

For example, a homemaker told Julia Clark, a Cleveland County aide, that she didn't know how to read and write. She had had to quit school to help support her family.

Julia asked the lady if she could write her name. The answer, "No." Julia asked her if she would like to learn. The answer, "Yes." So the aide printed the woman's name and the homemaker copied it several times.

She added, "After I finish the family washing, I'm going to practice some more."

## Sentimental Value

Decoupage, or the art of a Wayne County homemaker, used an etching of her husband's family house on a plaque she was designing.

Decoupage can be an ideal way to bring a favorite print or drawing out of storage and to preserve it for family and friends to enjoy, Mrs. Evelyn D. Raper, home economics Extension agent, Wayne

County, agrees.

## Stop the Trend

Members of Extension Homemakers Clubs in Forsyth County have vowed to do their bit to stop the trend of the young toward no foundation garments. For they believe that foundations help refine the figure, make outer garments fit better, improve posture, provide support for lost muscle tone and ease strain and fatigue.

Even so the homemakers decorating surfaces with applied paper cutouts, is one way you can preserve an item of sentimental value.

So, Mrs. Gordon Whitaker, didn't realize how fortunate they were until they looked back through history. Women of the past refashioned their figures with rings around their waists, woolen bands, steel-plated corsets that held their waists to 13 inches and other heavily bonded corsets.

Today's foundations are designed to make the figure of every woman look good and at the same time to be comfortable, Mrs. Jane B. Davidson, home economics Extension agent, observes.

# Ports Of Call

By Edward H. Sims

Charleston, S. C. - This is a city worth visiting in fall. It's too hot in summer but fall and winter are pleasant and winter can sometimes be surprisingly mild.

Charleston is, of course, one of the historic centers of the nation. South Carolina is observing, next year, its 300th year-as noted on car licenses and was founded in 1670. Charleston dominates the state's history.

The Carolina colony, unlike most of the others in the earliest days of the country, was a business enterprise. A group of proprietors drew up the colony's charter and the king approved a grant of land. The proprietors were to govern the colony under terms of that charter, which was a democratic one, especially for its day.

By the time of the Revolution, the colony was prosperous and contained some of

the noble names known in England-sons or cousins or adventurers seeking profits or a new life or adventure. (Naturally, the fat cats of the old country who had it made seldom left the comforts of relatively civilized England to migrate to the frontier life of the colonies.)

In the war itself many important battles were fought in South Carolina and the climatic campaign of the war began at Charleston. The colonialists lost most of them, for British redcoats were well-trained, well equipped and brave. But the colonialists won key victories and Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, waged a guerrilla warfare today's revolutionaries envy.

Winston Churchill, writing in his four-volume history of the English-speaking peoples, notes that South Carolinians were fiercely divided in the revolutionary war-and also that South Carolina was the

only one of the thirteen colonies to fully restore property rights of loyalists after the conflict.

Charleston is where the Civil War began, of course. By firing on the Union flag at Fort Sumter the South blundered and gave Abraham Lincoln the public relations weapon he needed to invade. Lincoln, smart at public relations, played a role in initiating the conflict too.

Southerners had a commitment from his administration not to reinforce the fort. When Lincoln decided to resupply it militarily its com-

manding officer wrote the President not to take that step which would mean war-and made it clear the fort was amply supplied with fresh food and provisions daily from the South Carolinians.

The first submarine was built and used to sink a union ship at Charleston. General Robert E. Lee stayed at the city for a time early in the war, engaged in organizing its defenses. Many interesting homes can be seen and special tours through them are arranged.

Conversation is often dominated by the loudest voice.

People often seek excuses for their failures instead of trying to do something about them.

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