

# BEASLEY'S FARM and HOME WEEKLY

Volume 11.

Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, July 31, 1941.

Number 31.

## CARRIER PIGEONS TRAINED BY ARMY FOR MESSENGERS

### Both Dogs and Birds Have Often Proved Valuable Servants In Country's Defense

#### THE TRAINING OF BIRDS

A stout heart is honored by all men, by all nations, and special tribute is paid to voiceless heroes. That is why out of every war has come acclaim for the animals and winged messengers who serve men alike in the fields of peace and the fields of battle.

The annals of the United States Army are rich in tributes for their comrades who, bearing no arms of defense or offense, have gone into the fight with hearts of steel. Into these records have gone the history of "First Division Race," hero of valorous deeds deeds in France and beloved buddy alike of generals and privates and on whose tombstone in an East Orange (N. J.) cemetery is chiseled the simple epitaph: "Rags—Wounded in Action With the American Expeditionary Forces in France, 1918," of "Old Cap," wire-haired Griffon who served with distinction in the World War, winning a French medal, and who sleeps today in Ware, Mass.; of "Stubby," famous war dog of the Twenty-sixth Division, painted by Charles Ayres Whipple; of Mr. Downing, General Pershing's favorite mount who answered the last call in 1933, and of "President Wilson," but the scarred war pigeon among one of several hero pigeons of the World War, says a New York dispatch to the Christian Science Monitor.

#### Training For Birds

It is to these sky messengers that the United States Army is today devoting attention and training comparable to that given trainees in any branch of the service. Maj. John K. Shawman, pigeon expert of the Signal Corps, is in charge of the work of training these birds at Fort Monmouth, N. J., and has recently staged eight-day flights in New York City of his feathered wards.

The United States Army is second to none in the development of its communication service, having found that carrier pigeons have increased in importance with each development of the blitzkrieg, since through their defensive communications are maintained and opportunity developed to shatter the enemy lines.

Formerly homing pigeons could not be moved around, but insisted upon returning to the spot. Army Signal Corps officers have developed the use of a mobile loft that can now be taken on maneuvers to any part of the country. Within five days of their arrival at destination, the birds will be performing their duties.

An exclusive development of the United States Army is a two-day pigeon service. These birds will take a message to a special point and return to the place of take-off. How the birds are thus trained is a close Army secret. It is believed this country is the only one to have developed such two-way feathered couriers.

Major Shawman's carrier pigeon training in New York was carried on from Rockefeller Center. Among the most interested spectators were the pigeons that make their homes on the set-backs of the city within a city in midtown Manhattan, and who find easy living in the hands of bird-lovers. They looked up in wonderment at the swift flight of the winged soldiers of the army.

Major Shawman gave his pigeons several days in New York to permit them to get accustomed to their new surroundings. Short flights were made during these days. Then, for the big test, six birds were taken by underground railroad to six points in the outskirts of the city. The subway in no way affected their sense of direction, and when they were released they flew as straight as an arrow at a mile-a-minute clip back to their mobile loft at Rockefeller Center.

#### In War Service

The carrier pigeon service of the Army is being greatly expanded. Another duty that has fallen to the care of Major Shawman is the registering of every private pigeon loft in the Nation. This was done not only to list a reserve of birds in case of an Army shortage, but more importantly, to keep a careful guard over the activities of saboteurs and fifth columnists who might use the birds for message carrying.

Great Britain has been using pigeons to carry dispatches in the present war and has appealed to American loft owners to donate birds for war service. Each British airplane when it takes off carries two pigeons for dispatching messages back to its base in case the radio fails to work.

Military use of pigeons dates from the days of the Roman Empire. Decius Brutus used homing pigeons to get in touch with the Roman Consuls in 43 B. C. when Mutina was besieged by Mark Antony. The Saracens used sky messengers during the First Crusade. The Crusaders tried to interrupt this service by sending falcons after them, but many of the enemy birds got through.

In the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, when the Germans surrounded Paris, homing pigeons were used by the defenders to keep in touch with the outside world. The Germans countered

MORE ON PAGE THREE

## Horrid Thought, We May Have to Go Without Silk Stockings

Dr. Lingle, late president of Davidson College, published an article in the current issue of the Christian Observer, giving documentary accounts of suffering in the South just after the Civil War. There was a philanthropic couple in New York who undertook to aid to the extent of their ability people all over the South who were in dire need. This did not apply to the colored people who were the proteges of the Federal government. They were the white people, poor before the war, but left like Scarlett O'Hara, on the land with nothing to eat. Letter after letter is given from Southern people, merchants or others of known probity, who told of such lack of food that it in some cases amounted to starvation.

Well, we must have the hardships of war, even before we have actual war. In some of the countries which have had or now have war, people are begging for bread. And right here in our own beloved land we are threatened with a shortage of silk stockings. Of course people do not eat silk stockings. But Shylock said, "You take my life when you do take the means whereby I live." And that being so, people in America who might find life unbearable without silk stockings may face the stern necessity of shuffling off this mortal coil.

Of course the soldiers of Washington at Valley Forge had no

silk stockings. Many of them had no stockings at all and a good many of them no shoes. But times are different now. What were then unheard of luxuries are now necessities. The government may find it necessary, in warding off the attempt of Japan to stab freedom and democracy in the east while Hitler is murdering in the west, to forbid the shipment of silk from Japan to this country. That means no silk stockings, for all the silk that we can get will have to go into parachutes to save the lives of men who find it necessary to jump from death in the air. You can't make parachutes out of cotton. Can you make stockings of cotton? No, not silk stockings, and who would scratch his or her legs with cotton or wool socks? Therefore, the people representing the silk stocking manufacturers will endeavor to show the government what a suicidal policy it would be to prohibit the importation of silk from Japan. And we do not yet know how large and powerful a silk stocking block may arise and exert its pressure upon the government.

Freedom and democracy are nice, if they do not cost anything. But when the necessities of life must be given up in their behalf, that is something to talk about. Would America give up silk stockings for freedom? Would America give up anything for freedom?

## WHY WE STAND PAT WITH JAPAN

### Her Threat Is Not Theoretical But Involves Material Things Already in Our Possession

Notes, reprimands and warnings have been going to Japan for some time. The last went Wednesday of this week in consequence of the narrow escape of a United States gunboat, the Tutuila, on the Yangtze river, from Japanese waters. The boat was where it had a right to be and if the bomb had not missed, the boat would have been blown up. "So sorry," is the usual Japanese reply. This will not go any longer.

The meaning of all this is perfectly clear. The United States means business, and for a reason which Japan may have overlooked. There is a significant difference between the Far East and Europe. In the Far East the United States has actual possessions and existing, established, recognized territorial rights and responsibilities. The ban on use of "selectees" does not apply to the Philippines. The Philippines are a dependency of the United States which Washington is bound by treaty to protect and defend with its military forces.

#### Threat to Philippines

President Roosevelt is criticized for sending United States marines and naval forces to Greenland on the ground that it is getting too far away from the United States. The Philippines are much farther. But they belong to America to defend, and the army and the navy are already there. When Japan went into French Indo-China it was an immediate threat to the Philippines comparable with the threat which a German invasion of Canada would be to the United States itself.

Up until this latest Japanese move every effort has been made to leave a friendly path open for Japan to reconsider its ways and abandon its Axis alignment. But the moment it went into Indo-China everything changed here. It was the move advocates of firm action had been waiting for. It made the whole pattern of Japanese aggression too plain for any doubting. The countermeasures and the counterpolicy were all ready and in order.

Japan has chosen to make the last threat and the last advance which can be made into the East Indies without war. Washington has been busy ever since making sure of two things:

A. That if war comes American forces will have the Allies and the strategic positions necessary to assure quick and certain victory.

B. That Japan is under no illusions. There is also a powerful positive retaliatory side of the matter. Even if Japan heeds the warning and stops where it is in Indo-China, the pressure of the American economic blockade, implemented by Britain and the Netherlands, will put an increasing strain on the existence of Japan itself.

The assumption in the background is, actually, that the economic blockade is going to force Japan to choose between war and retirement. The best estimates of the blockade's effect on Japan are that it will be impossible for the islands to maintain their present extended positions with all trade to the outside world shut off. They must break that blockade to live. They can break it by abandoning Indo-China, and withdrawing from China itself. Or they can attempt to break it by war.

Washington is watching and waiting, prepared if Japan chooses to attack and confident that if Japan is so foolish as to decide on the course of war the outcome will be quick and disastrous for Japan. The Axis may

MORE ON PAGE TWO

## FASTER IT RUNS MORE IT BURNS

### One-Fourth of Gas Used Is Wasted Mr. Ickes Finds Out and May Get Mad About it

The pighead driver not only endangers the lives of others and himself but throws away a lot of money by wasting gas. Mr. Ickes, Petroleum Conservator, may have to do something about it. What he proposes is sound economy.

This is the verdict of the American Automobile Association, official spokesmen for more than 1,000,000 drivers. The Association is not trying to meet the present-day emergency with arguments concocted over night. For 40 years it has been engaged in studies intended to prove that wasteful driving habits are taking millions of dollars annually out of the pockets of the Nation's more than 40,000,000 licensed operators.

"Uh . . . uh . . . watch that accelerator . . . ease up on those speeds . . . let the car properly adjust its gasoline dollar on jack rabbit get-aways and neck-jerking stops" . . . that is the advice the Association has been projecting into motor circles for years.

And to this money-saving plea of motor groups, State agencies have added the safety angle, for such things as tires, for instance, not only wear out faster at high speeds, but they project the blowout into the daily motoring of 36,000,000 car owners.

#### Meet the Patriot

Now comes Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, to glorify the safe and economical driver with the title of "patriot." For the Nation is asking voluntary reductions of 30 to 35 per cent in its "gas consumption . . . or else. The "or else" is assumed to imply either rationing, gasless Sundays, or drastic Government regulation of all gas sales. And if anything can convert the gasoline glut into a member of good standing in the fraternity of safe, sensible, money-saving, car conserving drivers . . . it is the urge to do something for his country in its hour of need.

The glutton for gas consumption which the Association hopes to reach and reach quickly "or else" is he who tramps up the accelerator, generating more power than the car engine can use; he with a passion for using second gear which burns up 50 per cent more fuel than high gear; and he with the futile complex for beating all comers to the getaway at traffic signals.

The gas burner picks up on hills where slow, steady speeds mean smooth, economical operation. He handles the choke like a bicycle pump with no thought for the technical point that over-choking the engine can consume more gas in starting than would ordinarily be used in a mile of top-gear driving.

#### Elementary Fact

The basic rule the Association is trying to get across to motorists is that physical things are hard to move. The bigger they are, the more stubborn they become. And the harder they are to stop. Hence, to hurry them takes extra power on gasoline. So the mark of the unpatriotic will fall upon the driver who henceforth goes roaring off in first gear, then into second and high with the throttle wide open. He is wasting gasoline needed to keep Hitler away from America.

But why spend money for power that is never used by the engine? The Association has posed that question for years. And with Mr. Ickes waving

MORE ON PAGE TWO

## Human Interest

### MOSCOW A BIG TOWN

Moscow, the Russian capital which the Nazis are now bombing, is a big town. It is larger than Chicago and has lately been growing faster than Washington. With a population of 4,000,000, the Soviet capital is more than twice as large as it was 20 years ago. Among cities of the world it ranks sixth, behind London, New York, Tokio, Paris and Berlin. In the same latitude as northern Labrador, Moscow is the farthest north of major world capitals and its life is geared to long winters when the rivers freeze solid and become roadways for horse-drawn sledges. Summer comes to Moscow not in the mild form known to Berlin, Paris, and Chicago, but with extremes of heat to match the winter cold. In these extremes Moscow climate is comparable to that of the northern plains states of the U. S. A. On an ancient trade route between the Baltic and the Caspian, Moscow existed as far back as 1147. It was the seat of the center of the movement which united the feudal Russian states. The city suffered a setback in the early eighteenth century when Peter the Great moved the capital to a site on the Gulf of Finland, where he built St. Petersburg (Leningrad).

### LENINGRAD ALSO LARGE

Leningrad, the old capital of the Czars, on the Gulf of Finland, is also a big town. The Germans are reaching for that, too. Second to Moscow among Russian cities and the fourth largest in all continental Europe, Leningrad has a population of 3,200,000 and industries that are vital to Russia's defense. Peter the Great founded the city at the beginning of the eighteenth century and called it (after himself) St. Petersburg. He sought to give Russia a capital that would compare with cities of western Europe. The capital to Moscow, since Soviet industrialization, the city has made steady population gains. Built on low land on the delta of the Neva river, Leningrad is subject to flooding. A flood in 1924 was highly destructive.

### KING SNAKES KILL OTHERS

Some people kill any snake they see regardless of its kind and character. Yet there are two kinds of snakes which should never be killed. One is the blacksnake, which is a great rat killer, and the other is the king snake, which kills any poisonous snake. Neither harms man. Saturday morning Mabel Coffey, ten-year-old girl of Edgemont, near Lenoir, was bitten by a rattlesnake and died Monday. Saddened by the death of his daughter and seeking revenge upon her assailant, the father of the girl, Cuba Coffey, and several of his neighbors in the Edgemont section, kept a watch on a hole near the home which, it was believed, the snake inhabited. On one of these visits to the hole, the father found the rattler and a king snake engaged in a violent battle. The fight that followed between the two snakes lasted for seven hours, a struggle in which only the victor could survive. Large numbers of people were attracted to the scene when the word passed out, and watched the battle. The two snakes matched their strength in a dramatic conflict, lashing the ground, hissing, each struggling in the coils of the other. Finally, the king snake was victor. When hours after the battle began, Mr. Coffey looked in upon the affair again, only the 12 rattlers and the last foot of the snake's long four-foot body could be seen. The king snake had swallowed all but the tail of his opponent.

### IT'S WET IN GEORGIA

In some sections of Georgia, says the Atlanta Journal, crops have been so rained out that starvation faces many people unless they get help. It has been wet in Georgia, but some of the Georgia editors will have their jokes about it. The following is from the Omega News: "Windy Harris says his uncle up in north Georgia has a grist mill that operates by water power, and that recently it rained so hard the water was backed up the river, turning the water wheel backwards and ungrinding 250 bushels of meal before his uncle found out about it."

### WHERE THE DANGER IS

In a speech Wendell Willkie summed up the difference between the danger from Hitler and the danger from Stalin. He said: "The only thing we have ever had to fear from communism is the possible triumph of an ideology. Never even the idea of communism is no longer a real menace to democracy. Its appeal is rapidly dying; its propaganda is confused and futile. It is a dream that didn't come true. Russia has never been a military menace or a trade menace to us. For 25 years the Communists have been on the Bering Strait, and we've never had any reason to fear that they would attack us across that narrow water. But the picture with Hitler is different. He is engaged with all the terrible power of his military machine in conquering the world. He succeeds he means to enslave it economically, politically and culturally. He has plainly told us so."

### THAT UKRAINE WHEAT

The Germans were supposed to get into the breadbasket of Russia.

MORE ON PAGE TWO

## FIRST OF ALL, DESTROY THE MAD DOG—

## Then the World Must Find Way To Live in Peace and Goodwill

(AN EDITORIAL)

We are told that chemists, knowing the results of action and reaction of substances, can tell in advance when and how a new substance may be discovered or produced. It may require time and patience to make the discovery but it is known to be within the field of possibility.

There is something like this in human society. Students may guess or even be assured that certain things must take place. The time may be far from "ripe" for them and educational processes are long and difficult. The inertia of custom, the opposition of self interest, the inability of the masses and the classes to comprehend the necessities, all tie up to make a lag which makes it difficult for development of much that is admittedly desirable and necessary.

It was thus with Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations. The time was not ripe. Men could see the purpose and the need, but few of them could see that something of the kind must come before the world could have peace. The future effects of the World War were reckoned as similar to the effects of other wars. But they could not be for the world had changed. At the peace council Wilson envisioned it, but Lloyd George and Clemenceau did not. None foresaw that the conquerors would relax in a moral slump and that the vanquished would immediately start a quest for revenge.

But Wilson, bringing home a scant victory over Lloyd George and Clemenceau, met defeat in his own country from the same elements that are now estimating war and worldwide influences in the terms of war with powder and ball and world commerce as when carried in sailing ships. But Wilson saw the great truth—the constant and increasing integration of the world in which old things had passed away and new methods must be devised for new conditions. To him the

League of Nations was to be a supervising agency through which all nations, coming into court with clean hands might receive justice, and with reason, tolerance and cooperation established, wars might become obsolete.

But once more the old methods must be depended upon, and now what have we? Another world war more cruel, more unnecessary and more far reaching than the first. So Wilson's idea, the stone rejected by the builders, may yet become the corner stone of a new edifice of world peace and justice. And now reasonable men are talking of what must come after this war is over, and that is the enthronement of the principles of Wilson. This idea was concisely set forth by Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Wells, the other day for the consideration of the world. His utterances were in part as follows:

"I feel it is not premature for me to suggest that the free governments of peace-loving nations everywhere should even now be considering and discussing the way in which they can best prepare for the better day which must come, when the present contest is ended in the victory of the forces of liberty and of human freedom, and in the crushing defeat of those who are sacrificing mankind to their own lust for power and for loot.

"At the end of the last war, a great President of the United States gave his life in the struggle to further the realization of the splendid vision which he had held to the eyes of suffering humanity—the vision of an ordered world governed by law.

"The League of Nations, as he conceived it, failed in part because of the blind selfishness of men here in the United States, as well as in other parts of the world; it failed because of its utilization by certain powers primarily to advance their own political and commercial ambi-

MORE ON PAGE SIX

## State of Mecklenburg

### THEY MARRY YOUNG

A preliminary survey of 100 questionnaires returned by the men 21 years old and registered July first, indicates that one fourth of them are already married. The government has announced that the former policy of extreme leniency on account of marriage will be modified. Whether marriage excuses a man from service will depend upon time and circumstances of the marriage. The young gentleman who acquires the marriage status as a lesser veil than military service, may find some difficulty ahead.

### BACK TAXES

The county commissioners authorized Revenue Collector Joe A. Sherrill, to create a back-tax department which is to try to collect back taxes that have accumulated on the books. "Nothing is sure but death and taxes," yet in Mecklenburg county it seems that the nemesis of tax paying falls to over take a great many people. Mr. Sherrill presented a list of about 5,000 names of individual and business organizations that owe taxes through the years 1927 through 1934. All are supposed to be insolvent, but the commissioners thought that a good strong effort might result in getting some of the money. Mr. Sherrill was authorized to employ help and make an effort. The unpaid tax on businesses is supposed to be about \$8,000, while the long list due by individuals averages about \$5 each.

### PARACHUTES IN ORDER

When a flyer for any reason has to jump from his plane in midair, his life depends upon how perfectly his parachute work. A swimmer in the ocean may save himself without a life preserver but in the great ocean of the air there is no refuge if the parachute fails to unfold.

Whether the big silk ball billows out and slows the diving pilot in his plunge to earth is a question of the expertness with which the parachute was folded and the time it was done. For parachutes packed too long are useless.

Giving rigid inspection to parachutes used at the Charlotte air base is the duty of Technical Sergeant J. B. Baker, who has become a veteran in the parachute division. He entered the branch when the army first issued parachutes at Kelly Field. Before that, he was among the youngest men

in the service, for he enlisted during the World War 19 years ago when he was 16.

Among his tasks is arranging for fest drops, plunges in which dummies are dressed up in parachutes and tossed from planes to give the 'chutes a try-out. A dummy's average life is four years before being banged around wears it out. It is made of heavy hemp rope, canvas, and lead, and it weighs about 130 pounds.

Silk is used almost exclusively to make the canopy, and the 'chutes cost about \$90 apiece. Very recently, some have been made of nylon, and they cost a little less. With trade in silk halted by the United States, it is a good guess that stock on hand will go mainly to make this important part of a flyer's equipment and not—as in the past—to flatter the ladies' legs. Also nylon canopies are expected to become more common.

The harness into which the wearer fastens himself is also given a thorough inspection. Included in the harness is an air cushion to protect the wearer and a pocket in which is kept the 'chutes history.

### MR. MARTIN COMING

Representative Martin of Massachusetts, national chairman of the Republican party, has promised State Chairman Jake F. Newell that he will speak in Charlotte sometime in October. Chairman Newell has been joined in extending the invitation by John Crowley of Charlotte, a personal friend of Chairman Martin, Chairman Ernest M. Morgan of the Mecklenburg organization of the party, and other leading Republicans of the section. Mr. Morgan, as county chairman, will likely have general charge of the plans for the big rally, the exact date of which will be announced as soon as it can be arranged.

### CLERK'S OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Robert L. Smith, the very efficient deputy clerk of the court in charge of fiscal accounts, has made up a report showing receipts and disbursements of the office since it came into the hands of the present clerk, J. Lester Wolfe, in December 1935. These accounts relate to fees received and disbursed. During the period this department of the office took in \$178,226, and paid out \$151,899. This left an operating profit of \$26,326, which goes to the county treasury.

## FIRST YEAR AFTER THE WAR A TRYING TIME FOR SOUTH

### Ups and Downs of Daily Life Given in Highly Interesting Diary of Capt. Ardrey

#### MARRIAGE AND AN INFANTRY

(By H. E. C. (RED BUCK) BRYANT) The diary of Captain William E. Ardrey, of Providence township, Mecklenburg county, may give intelligent citizens suggestions for the present, and post-war days. That the South was poor, and down after the War Between the States, no student of history can doubt, but just the same its people were courageous and proud.

January 1, 1866, nine months after General Robert E. Lee surrendered, Captain Ardrey wrote, in his day-book: "We (meaning he and his wife) commenced farming and housekeeping to ourselves with all the responsibilities of a family, either to sink or swim, or to rise or fall in the world's scales. A happy pair to walk the paths of life together, to enjoy the pleasures and share the sufferings with each other."

"Maggie's father moved her furniture down—a large house and poorly filled, Brother Joe living with us and going to school to Rev. A. N. Mills.

"Our labor for the year: Adam Withers, colored, and Dorcas, Jake Stewart, colored, and family; horses, 1, hobbals, mules, 2, Bess and Rose; cow with young calf, 1; dry cows, 3; hogs, all sizes, 12; land, 255 acres.

"My indebtedness for the house and lot, after deducting my interest, \$1,100, in gold. Other debts about \$1,000 total, \$1,500. Owing to my balance about \$300. Balance against \$200.

"The weather bitter cold.

"Fifteen Dollars War

"Miss Lizzie Rea

"White visited us

"ther Robinson"

"I bought

"Mr. Vail at the

"January 6: Mr. Davis

"wife, Miss Tessa Day, and sister Mollie, visited us.

"January 20: Building, repairing

"fences etc.

"February from the first to the

"15th: Planted my Irish potatoes;

"clearing the old pine field above the

"Warwick new ground.

"March 1st to 15th: Seeding oats

"and clover—my first experience with

"clover.

"March 6th: 'My first baby born—

"James Potts Ardrey. I went for Mr.

"Thomas Kell, rode Bony, and found

"the doctor at Maek Davis'; great excitement—an important era in our

"lives.

"March 6th: I went to Potts' store

"for medicines. Saw Mr. John Wadsworth going south with a drove of

"mules. Father Robinson and family

"came down to see us.

"March 10th: 'Bedded my sweet

"potatoes.

"March 25th: Commenced planting

"corn. Ached my meat and put it away

"in the garret for safe keeping, as

"breaking into smoke houses is a com-

"mon occurrence. Hams 13 shoulders

"18, and sides 18. The spring very

"backward, and wet; continual rains

"and cool.

"Loses Old Cointail

"April 25th: Commenced planting

"cotton. Seed very scarce and in great

"demand at \$1 per bushel. Still very

"wet.

"May 1st: Baitball horse accidentally

"stabbed and died. Strip cow calved

"25th, first mess of Irish potatoes

"freshet in the water courses.

"May 30th: Plowing and planting

"my creek bottoms; first mess of beef

"June 1st: Purchased a pony horse

"Andy from Dr. P. for \$165.00 in gold.

"Proved to be unsound; I was

"cheated.

"June 9th: Big rains; creeks

"in the bottoms.

"June 12th: Finished setting of

"potato slips. Fine rain and plenty of