

ABERDEEN

Mrs. Eli Wishart of Lumberton is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Freeman.

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Farrell spent last Thursday in Raleigh.

Mrs. Kenneth Keith is spending this week with her mother in Creedmoore, N. C.

Mackie Caldwell returned to Fayetteville Monday after spending the week-end at his home here.

Elizabeth Caviness returned Saturday from Lake Junaluska, where she spent a week.

Birth Announcement

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Dowman of Maxton, formerly of Aberdeen, announce the arrival of a daughter, Ann Wimberly, at the Moore County Hospital, on August the 20th.

Miss Frances Pleasants is returning this week from a month's stay at Hyannisport, Mass., and New York City.

Billy Ellis, who has been visiting his aunt in Washington, D. C., returned home last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Freeman, and Earl, Jr., visited friends near Candor last Sunday.

Little Nancy Bowman, of Maxton, is spending some time here with her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Bowman.

Dr. J. P. Bowen spent the week-end at his home in Belton, S. C. His mother returned with him to spend several days here.

Mrs. Ralph Caldwell and Mrs. Leon Seymour are spending this week at the Beach.

Miss Kathryn Charles is visiting friends in Plainsfield, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Reihm have returned to their home in Washington, D. C., after spending a week with Mrs. Reihm's mother, Mrs. A. B. Freeman.

Mrs. E. M. Medlin has returned from a visit with relatives in Davis.

The average dollar value of U. S. farms, as shown by the 1940 Census, was \$5,518.

Negro Mourned 40 Years As Dead Is Welcomed Home by Aged Wife

John Johnson Thought Lost in Smallpox Epidemic Four Decades Ago Turns Up

By BESSIE CAMERON SMITH

"You've been dead so long I think you might as well stay dead," were the words of "Aunt Caroline" Johnson, 70-odd-year-old Negro woman of Vass to her husband, John Johnson, long mourned as dead, when he reappeared on the scene recently, after an absence of more than 40 years.

And it is little wonder that "Aunt Caroline" felt as she did.

Nine children had been born into the Johnson home and Sandy, now almost 44 years of age, but a baby when John decided to go to Portsmouth, Va., to seek employment. Sandy crawled to the door as his daddy left.

For two months letters came, then they suddenly stopped. An uncle who lived in Virginia wrote the young wife about a smallpox epidemic that was raging there, and expressed the opinion that her husband had died in the "pest house." John's rubber boots were sent to the sorrowing "widow" and that was all.

Caroline Carries On

Heroically "Aunt Caroline" rose to the task of making a living for her brood of nine, for "Muh," as they called her, was the only one now to whom they could look. She began ordering fish and oysters in season and selling them each week to the people of the community, being the town's only fish dealer for quite a while. She later added a restaurant to her business, serving meals and home made ice cream. And she managed to get along.

Years passed. Most of the children married and settled in the community. "Muh" grew feeble and more feeble and her eyes dimmed. More and more she depended upon Anna, the daughter who remained at home with her.

Father! Father!

Several weeks ago reports of a John Johnson, elderly Negro man who had arrived in Cameron, five miles away, began to reach Vass and speculation was rife among the colored folks as to whether the stranger was the husband of "Aunt Caroline." Some of the Johnson children were determined to find out.

They got the stranger to come down to Vass and took him around to the homes of some of the old settlers to see if they could identify him. "Muh's" eyes were so dim that she could tell little about his features.

Finally, it has been settled to the satisfaction of all except one son that the man is really their father, and he is now a welcome guest on his frequent visits and the past is seemingly forgotten so far as blame for his neglect is concerned.

John's story is that he left Virginia for South Carolina, then went to Alabama, where he worked turpentine for Bud Arnold of Cameron. It was at Mr. Arnold's request that he recently came back to Cameron to work.

One point still to be explained is: why he "stayed dead so long."

Nearly eight million pounds of wool are used annually in the manufacture of hats by U. S. factories.

Fire Chief



WAYLAND KENNEDY

The old Elise Academy in Hemp is now the spacious home of the Kennedy Funeral Home, operated by Wayland Kennedy, one of Hemp's youngest and most active citizens. Young Kennedy has one of the most exacting town jobs—he's chief of Hemp's volunteer fire department, and tries to be on hand at all calls.

LOSS OF EATERS

Disappearance of horses and mules on American farms in 20 years has taken away the capacity to consume the food from 70 million acres, according to the Census. This is more than the entire farm acreage of Iowa and Missouri combined, and would be sufficient to feed 84 million human population.

VALUE OF RURAL PEOPLE

"We must remember that one indispensable element in national preparedness is a well-fed, well-clothed, and well-housed rural people"—Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF EXECUTRIX

Having qualified this day as Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas B. McCain, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said estate to present them to the undersigned Executrix within twelve months from this date, otherwise this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment.

Dated this 9th day of August, 1941.
JULIA C. McCAIN,
Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas B. McCain, deceased.
J. Vance Rowe, Attorney A29-02.

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Vass Has Nomination For 'Meanest Person'

Unknown Thief Robs Family Cemetery Plot of Valued Boxwood Plants

Vass has a nomination to make for the title of "meanest man in this section." Identity of the person is not known. Someone has acquired two small boxwoods recently, but the new ownership isn't aware of the heartache his ownership has caused two other persons.

Miss Bessie Cameron, who resides near Vass, told Sunday about the two boxwoods which had been stolen from the plot in Johnson's Grove cemetery where her parents, Norman and Margaret Cameron, are buried. Her mother got the cuttings at least 40 years ago from the home of the grandfather of N. N. McLean of Vass, and rooted them. They were the slow-growing variety and had not attained much size. Miss Cameron and her sister, Sallie, who reside at the old home, moved the boxwoods to the graves of their parents. They were thriving in their new location and the sisters were so proud of them.

On a visit to the cemetery a few days ago they found only holes in the ground where the cherished plants had been.

The person who stole the plants evidently knew their value, for they had been carefully spaded up with plenty of soil around them. Miss Cameron thinks that the thief put burlap around them right there and carried them away to sell.

"And we wouldn't have taken anything for them," she lamented.

"A nation, like a person, has a body—a body that must be fed and clothed and housed, invigorated and rested, in a manner that measures up to the objective of our times."—President Roosevelt.

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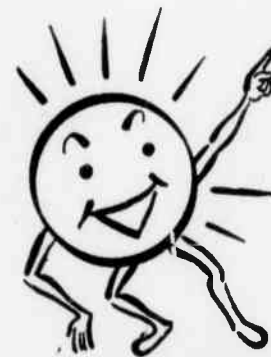
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