

PINEBLUFF

Mothers Entertained

Troop 33 of the Girl Scouts entertained their mothers at a spaghetti dinner Wednesday evening at the Home Demonstration club house.

Guests were Mrs. Lewis Marts, Mrs. Phillip Schnell, Mrs. Hardister, Mrs. King, Mrs. Charles T. Creel, Mrs. La Dette Boyd and Scout Leader Mrs. Herbert Van Boskerck.

Scouts present were Eleanor Boyd, Nancy King, Helen Hardister, Jacquelin Van Boskerck, Doly Creel, Carol Baker, Faith Ann Marts, Iris Williams and Harriet Schnell.

New Library Books

New books in Pinebluff library are as follows:

Father of the Bride, Edward Streeter; Mingo Dabney, James Street; Let Love Come Last, Taylor Caldwell; Ever After, Elswyth Thane; The Light Heart, Elswyth Thane; The Plague and I, Betty McDonald; Papa Was a Preacher, Alyene Porter; The Harvey Girls, Samuel Hopkins Adams; The Queen Bee, Edna Lee; Cannon Hill, Mary Deasy; Cheaper by the Dozen, Gilbreth and Carey.

Children's Books

Honey Bunch—Her First Little Club; Honey Bunch—Her First Summer on the Island; Honey Bunch—Her First Visit to the Seashore, all by Louise Thornydyke; The Happy Man and His Dump Truck, Myram; We Like To Do Things, Walter Mason; Animal Allies, Nila Mack; Five Puppies For Sale, Esther Brann; The Little Trapper, K. and B. Jackson; Small Rain, selected by Jessie O. Jones; Three Little Pigs and The Little Red Hen; The Secret of the Old Sampey Place.

Library hours are Tuesday and Friday: 3 to 5 p. m.

Potluck Dinner

The Cub Scouts entertained their parents and a number of invited guests at a potluck dinner in the Methodist church basement Saturday evening at 6 o'clock.

Present as guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Marts, Mr. and Mrs. Granland McCaskille and daughter, Nancy, Mrs. J. R. Lampley, Mrs. Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Manly Wellman, Mrs. Joe Smith and mother, Douglas David, Mrs. Cora Alcroft, Sergeant Geisler, Mr. and Mrs. James Teal and daughter Juanita, Mrs. Phillip Schnell, Den Moether, Jimmy Smith and Mac Mills.

Cubs attending were Maurice

Pickler, Billy Marts, Andy Alcroft, Wade Wellman, Wilson Teal, Tommy Bryant, Sterling Carrington and Lester McCaskill.

Revival Services

Beginning Sunday night, April 23, and continuing through April 30, a series of revival services will be held at Ives Memorial Baptist church each evening at 7:30. Harvey White will deliver the message on Sunday, April 23, and the remainder of the services will be conducted by the pastor, the Rev. W. Ray Gosnell. Edwin Baughn will lead the singing. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

Brief Mention

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ussery and sons, Richard and John, of Fayetteville, were guests of Mrs. Ussery's mother, Mrs. J. R. Lampley, Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Haglund and daughter, Mary Lynn, returned to their home in Buffalo, N. Y., on Sunday after a two weeks' visit with Mrs. Haglund's father, Louis Vellenga, and Mrs. Vellenga. While in Pinebluff Mr. and Mrs. Haglund visited the azalea gardens in Charleston.

Ray Padgett of Fort Bragg was a guest Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Adcox.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Payson and Mrs. Ida Payson visited the mountains of North Carolina over the Easter holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Hearn attended funeral services for Mr. Hearn's mother, Mrs. J. A. Hearn, at Albemarle Wednesday.

The Rev. and Mrs. W. Ray Gosnell and Mrs. O. C. Blake of Aberdeen visited Mr. Blake at Charlotte Memorial hospital, Thursday.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Parsons had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Phillips of Bear Creek, Mrs. Nina Ailiff of Greensboro and Buford Goins of Sanford.

Gary Wilson of New Brunswick, N. J., is visiting his cousin, Leon Wylie, and Mrs. Wylie.

Mrs. Ethel Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones of Goldsboro, Albert Willet of Durham, and M. L. Carpenter and Claude Adams of Raleigh were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Carpenter, Sr.

Charles G. Tiedge returned to his home in Richmond, Va., Tuesday after spending the past two weeks in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Creel.

Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Dyer of Graham, N. H., spent a few days last week in the A. G. Wallace home.

Perkins Letters Give Sidelights On Some Outstanding Literary Careers

Scribners Editor Was Close Friend of Boyds and Burts

A new book, "Editor to Author," published by Charles Scribners Sons, is of unusual interest to Southern Pines. Subtitled "The Letters of Maxwell E. Perkins," it is a collection edited by John Hall Wheelock of letters of one of the most unusual literary figures of our times.

Maxwell E. Perkins worked behind the scenes at the publishing house to discover new talent and help it shape itself to editorial requirements. Known principally as the man who launched Tom Wolfe, he also had a hand in other brilliant literary lives, among them those of Southern Pines authors James Boyd and Struthers Burt. Letters to both are included in this volume, also to young Jim Boyd containing an "old hand's" advice to a young man interested in writing.

His letters are revealing not only of himself but of the times and talents with which he worked, and the understanding relationship which can help such talent to fruition.

He was a close friend of the Boyds and the Burts, visited them in their homes here, and his death in the summer of 1947 was a personal loss to them.

His book has been ordered for the Southern Pines library.

Richard Waiser, assistant professor of English at State college, Raleigh, reviewed "Editor to Author" as follows in last Sunday's News and Observer:

In a textbook of American literature which this reviewer teaches in his classes at State college, one may read this statement:

"Wolfe provided the vigor, the verbiage, the color; his editors (Maxwell Perkins and Edward C. Aswell), the form." It is a notion which is widely held—by various scholars, even by those readers who love Wolfe; and it is vehemently upheld by those readers who do not. Wolfe himself gave credence to the legend, particularly in that glowing dedication to Perkins in "Of Time and the River."

By that time Wolfe's loud-spoken devotion to his editor had provided such momentum that literary critics, and his friends as well, began to believe he could write nothing without Perkins' help. Then in a fit of establishing his integrity and independence, Wolfe changed from Scribner's to Harper. It was one of the most startling reversals in publishing history, for Scribner's had fostered and nurtured this exuberant giant. It was Perkins who first recognized his genius.

Now, once and for all, the true story is told. And the legend is not true. In these letters of a great editor (among others he launched Hemingway, James Boyd, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings on their literary careers), almost the full account of Wolfe's connections with Scribner's is explained.

It begins in October, 1928, after an agent had left the manuscript of "Look Homeward, Angel" with Perkins, who wrote Wolfe that it was "a very remarkable thing, and that no editor could read it without being excited by it and filled with admiration by many passages in it and sections of it." It follows the editor-author relationship through those harrowing months after "Look Homeward, Angel," when Asheville shocked Wolfe with its resentment and when Perkins attempted to assuage Wolfe's depression by reminding him that he was "a born writer if ever there was one." It tells of the years of work on "Of Time and the River," years of strenuous labor for both of them, when Perkins said of Wolfe that he "seems to feel a certain shame at the idea of turning out a book of reasonable dimensions."

Perkins wrote Mrs. Rawlings in 1934 that he was "struggling with Tom Wolfe for a couple of hours every night now, and he is going to get his book done for the fall. But it is the most difficult work I was ever engaged in." Finally "Of Time and the River" was published. It was an instantaneous success.

And then came the days when Wolfe seemed to blame Perkins for the help he had been given. Perkins replied to Wolfe's charges that the tremendous manuscript had been cut: "But there are limitations of time, of space, and of human laws which cannot be treated as if they did not exist. I think that a writer should, of course, be the one to make his book what he wants it to be, and that if, because of the laws of space, it must be cut, he should be the one to cut it; and, especially with you, I think the labour and discipline that would come from doing that without help or interference would further the pretty terrible task of mastering the material. But my impression

was that you asked my help, that you wanted it. And it is my impression too that changes were not forced on you (you're not very forceable, Tom, nor I very forceful), but were argued over, often for hours. But I agree with you about this too, fully, and unless you want help it will certainly not be thrust upon you. It would be better if you could fight it out alone—better for your work in the end, certainly; and, what's more, I believe you are now in a position to publish with less regard to any conventions of bookmaking, say a certain number of pages almost, whether or not it had what in a novel is regarded as an ending, or anything else that is commonly expected in a novel. I believe the writer, anyway, should always be the final judge. . . .

And again: "I know your memory is a miracle, but it seems as if you must have forgotten how we worked and argued. You were never overruled. Do you think you are clay to be moulded? I never saw anyone less malleable."

But Wolfe was not satisfied, and the break came. The shift to Harper was to show the world what he already knew, and what Perkins knew, that he was his own judge, his own master, as every genius must be. But his great devotion to Perkins remained steadfast. Wolfe appointed Perkins his literary executor and, in the last words he ever wrote, just before he died, sent Perkins that letter which is one of the most moving, magnificent documents of all times, beginning, "I'm sneaking this against orders—but I've got a hunch—and I wanted to write these words to you. I've made a long voyage and been to a strange country, and I've seen the dark man very close; and I don't think I was too much afraid of him. . . ."

Perkins had previously written to Tom that "the plain truth is that working on your writings, however it has turned out, for good or bad, has been the greatest pleasure, for all its pain, and the most interesting episode of my editorial life."

So many of these letters are either to Wolfe or about him that Perkins' connections with other writers fade in proportion. Of Hemingway, he wrote, "Nobody ever edited Hemingway beyond exciting a line or two for fear of libel or other legal dangers."

It was Perkins who first saw in F. Scott Fitzgerald a stirring painter of his times. It was Perkins who actually thought out the idea of Mrs. Rawlings' "The Yearning," which won the Pulitzer Prize, and then nursed it to completion. Yet he held to the individuality of the author. "Editors aren't much, and can't be," he wrote. "They can only help a writer realize himself, and they can ruin him, if he's pliable, as Tom was not." And on another occasion—"It is my conviction that an editor should be even more obscure than a child, who should be seen." He was in the tradition of William Dean Howells, though unlike Howells he was not a writer himself. Perhaps he was the last of the great publishers' editors. Certainly there is none like him today.

The Struthers Burts and the James Boyds were great friends of his. After a week's visit with them, he wrote, "My only objection to Southern Pines was that the warmth, and the perfumed air and all, put me in a kind of somnolent condition, where I could not even converse. It seemed to me inconceivable that anybody could do any work at all in that climate, but that if one had none to do, there was no climate so pleasant to be in. The atmosphere even suppressed a New England conscience which makes it always seem incumbent on one to be busy."

John D. Currie Rites Held At Pinehurst

Funeral services for John Duncan Currie, 57, who died at his home in Pinehurst Friday after a short illness, were held Sunday at 2 p. m. at the Pinehurst Community church, with burial following in Bethel cemetery near Raeford.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Leonard Yearby and Mrs. Tommy Currie of Pinehurst; two sons, Horace and Eldon Currie, Pinehurst; one sister, Mrs. T. F. Davis of Raeford; one brother, A. T. Currie of Raeford, and four grandchildren.

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SPEAKING

Robert R. (Our Bob) Reynolds, candidate for United States Senate in the Democratic Primary on May 27th, 1950, will speak in the Moore County Courthouse at Carthage, N. C. on Saturday, April 22nd, at 8 p. m. He will talk on the subjects of

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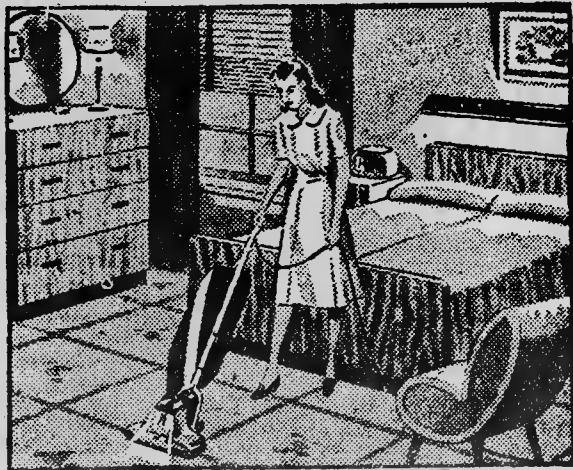


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