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Thumb-Nail Sketches Of Farmville Folks

MRS. GEORGE FARR

Experiences obtained while working for the highest obtainable rank in the Girl Reserves has proved invaluable to Mrs. George Farr in leading a Brownie troop last year and Troop 4 of the Girl Scouts this fall. Recognition of her efforts and those of the leaders of the other troops came in the spring when the local Junior Woman's club, which sponsored the Girl Scouts, received a trophy at the state convention for the fine work done in this field. Hiking and other sports such as tennis and swimming, all of which she likes, fit into the Scout program.

A native of Kinston, Louise Revere Mashburn lived in Farmville from 1910 to 1915 while her father was pastor of the Christian church and during the time was a first grade pupil of Miss Annie Perkins. Later she and her family made their home in Currituck, Ellington, S. C., and Charlotte. After graduating from Central high school, Charlotte, she studied piano with the idea of majoring in this art in college. She majored at Davenport Junior college, Lenoir.

There she was a member of the Yee club, the Masco, honorary dramatic society and continued studying piano. Entering George Washington university, Washington, D. C., the summer after finishing at Davenport she decided to take up library science. At Atlantic Christian college, Wilson, Lou received her A. B. degree and worked on the staff of the college magazine with Sue Todd (Mrs. Elbert Holmes).

The following fall she was again a student at George Washington, this time working for a degree in library science and holding a part-time position with the Library of Congress where she translated manuscripts. The dean at G. W. was always provided with a good laugh when Lou related incidents which happened while she was engaged in taking a survey for the Scott Plaine company, caring for a professor's home by notes left by his wife whom she never saw or being a governess to a baby who lived in a hotel.

One day the professor's wife left a note instructing Lou to wear the roast. Being unfamiliar with the term Lou consulted the dictionary which gave "to burn" as one of the

definitions of that word. Surely her employer couldn't mean burn the roast though the incident was at the fire was not too familiar with culinary terms. Finally she decided to eat her roast by hand, dainties and eat her what to do. Quite startled, Sister Margery brought out her cooking book and explained that eating meant to burn in order to hold the juices in while cooking.

Upon the completion of her studies at George Washington she was employed by the National Democratic committee in the publicity department to abstract editorials which were sent directly to the president of the United States. Arriving early each morning, Louise would open the mail bags containing clippings from all dailies of any importance, remove them and begin underlining any important phrases or sentences, mark each clipping as favorable, unfavorable or neutral, and write at the top the name of the paper and its political policy. For several weeks she attended night school and took typing, but she soon found that it was necessary to give up night school since the abstracting of the editorials often had to go on at night in order for the desks to be cleared and ready for another day.

When her mother wrote asking if she would come to the mountains and help her plan for the building of a summer cottage near Black Mountain, Louise decided to give up the work and take a vacation. Soon after arriving to visit her mother, she heard that the Soudley Reference library in Asheville needed a cataloguer to help get the books ready for the formal opening. Applying for the job which a number of others wanted, she was hired because of her experience obtained while working in the Library of Congress with rare books.

Asheville doctors decided to organize a medical library in 1935 and Miss Mashburn was employed as the head librarian. The novelty of having such an institution appealed to many clubs who invited her to speak to their members.

During her stay in Asheville Louise attended Asheville college, acting as assistant librarian at the time, and received a teacher's certificate after which she taught English for six months at Cantler high school. While at the college she cut classes, much to the annoyance of her teachers, prior to Book week and prepared one of the biggest displays in observance of that occasion that has ever been seen on the campus.

The Farmville Christian church was the scene of the wedding of Louise Mashburn and George Farr of Asheville on December 4, 1937. A newspaper account of the wedding stated that the bride was a member of the American Association of University Women, Medical Library Association, American Library Association, North Carolina Association and was serving as president of the Buncombe County Library Association. Mrs. Farr is planning to assist in the organization of an A. A. U. W. here.

BIRD CLUB

Charles Little read an article about the red-breasted nuthatch at the Bird club Saturday morning. The upper parts of this bird are bluish-gray and black; the under parts are white and reddish. The crown is uniform black with a faint bluish gloss. There is a broad white stripe over the eyes extending from the sides of the forehead to sides of nape. The nest is built in holes of stumps or dead trees, preferably white birch or poplar, from four to 20 feet up. It is constructed of fine grass and pieces of bark. The nuthatch has a curious habit of placing a coating of fir, balsam or pitch around the entrance to its nest.

It passes most of its life in the Canadian forests, and therefore sees comparatively little of human beings. For this reason, probably, it is less friendly in its habits than the other nuthatches but is more active and restless.

NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the many remembrances and kindnesses shown me during my recent illness.

Sue Taylor

in the near future. Moving to Farmville in the summer of 1944 with young George who is now 6, and Jeanne, who is a first grader, Mrs. Farr taught history and other high school subjects in the local school for several months while Mr. Farr was in the armed forces. The family cats, Snow White and Honey, came along also. The latter grew up so much that his name was changed to Tom.

Her hobbies are teaching Jeanne and George stories and music, and taking part in activities of the Woman's club. She teaches a class and is pianist at the Christian Sunday School. Another of her interests is designing book plates.

The Farris live at 110 Jones street.

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