



Charles Hamrick and his sister, Nova

Employees' Son Unruffled At \$1,000 Streak Of Luck

Charles Keith Hamrick, six-year-old son of Charles W. Hamrick, Shop, and Mrs. Hamrick, Cotton Weaving, will have a trailer truck this Christmas, besides \$750 in savings for his future education. Then, too, Lora Baptist Church in the Firestone community will benefit \$100—all because the son of the employees was the winner of the grand prize of \$1,000, awarded on a lucky ticket at the November 7-8 open house program of the new drive-in National Bank of Commerce in Gastonia.

A first-grader at Abernethy School, Charles was home at 110 South Elm street the night of November 8, when the winning number was drawn. Thousands jammed the bank edifice for the drawing and thousands more heard the lucky numbers announced over the radio.

HEARING her son's name called over the radio, Mrs. Hamrick hurried Charles into his pants and jacket, for a quick trip downtown to claim the prize at the new bank headquarters on Franklin avenue.

"How much is a thousand dollars?" inquired Charles.

"More'n you've ever had," his mother told him.

Once the money was claimed, Charles admitted that the \$1,000 bill "looked just like any other bill, 'cept it had different figures on it."

Next day, at Abernethy School, he told Principal T. L. Looper, "I can't count to a thousand." But he intended to have his nine-year-old sister, Nova, teach him how right away.

The employees' son says he's a bit too young to have decided what he will do with his life. But he plans to keep his savings from the big prize, to help him along in high school and college, when the time comes.

In addition to the savings of \$750, his tithe of \$100 to the church and money for his trailer truck, Charles kept out \$100 to pay taxes on his prize.

AFTER first hearing of his luck, he envisioned a tremendous supply of bubblegum, but the wisdom of his parents helped him to a nobler decision.

A newspaper reporter asked Charles if his popularity had picked up any at school since coming into his wealth.

"Naw," he grinned, "they don't know any more'n me about how much a thousand dollars is."

Prizes Ready For Gridiron Prophets

Three cash prizes are waiting to be claimed by the top football prophets at the plant. In the annual bowl winners-and-scores guessing contest, prizes are:

First — \$15; Second — \$10; Third — \$5.

All employees are eligible to

enter the competition, which consists in attempts at predicting the winning teams in the nation's major gridiron clashes, most of which are scheduled for New Year's Day.

In the guessing rivalry, which is sponsored by the Recreation Department, winners will be determined by the highest number of team victors picked correctly. In case of ties, the most nearly accurate prediction of total scores of the games will decide who wins in the contest.

ENTRY BLANKS and instruction sheets may be had from the Recreation Department office, the Personnel office, Men's Club and refreshment wagon. Each employee is allowed only one entry in the contest. The deadline date is December 29.

Last year, Lennell Keenum, Refreshment Department, was first-place winner in the contest. Second place went to Charles A. Small, Spinning; third, to C. W. Donaldson, Cable Twisting.

Chosen NCRS Vice-President

Ralph Johnson, plant recreation director, has been chosen vice president of the North Carolina Recreation Society for the coming year. He was chosen to this office at the 12th annual Recreation Conference in Raleigh in mid-November.

Also attending the meeting was Bob Purkey, assistant plant recreation director here. During the three-day conference a total of 159 recreation directors, supervisors and park directors registered for the program.

YOUR TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Varied Attractions For December Vagabonds

The December menu for traveling and sight-seeing includes a varied listing of things to do and places to go on a short trip, a week-end journey or wintertime vacation. Attractions add up to a lively schedule with something to suit almost every fancy of employees here.

One of the unusual and rapidly-growing tourist attractions which has become a must on the winter trip-taking of many Firestone families is the refuge for Canadian wild geese at Gaddy's Pond, near Ansonville, N. C., on U.S. 52. Here, some 10,000 wild geese take up their winter residence in October and remain through March. The refuge was founded by the man whose name it bears, and is now operated by his widow.

In a similar attraction, westward in the state, ducks are arriving at Lake Junaluska near Waynesville. The waterfowl, both at Ansonville and at Waynesville, are for sightseeing only—no hunting, please.

FOR THE culturally-minded, the "Rembrandt and His Pupils" art exhibit at the N. C. Museum of Art, Raleigh, promises a treat. The special showing opened November 16 and will continue through December 31. The exhibit, in observance of the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth, is adding new glitter to the State Art Museum's \$2,000,000 collection of Old Masters. Consisting of some 20 paintings by the great Dutch master, and 40 others by teachers and pupils, the exhibit is valued at over two and a half million dollars. It will be the fourth collection of its kind assembled in the United States during the past 25 years.

OUTSTANDING of special events during the month is a program commemorating the Wright Brothers' first airplane flight. The event which celebrates the 53rd anniversary of aviation is set for December 17 at Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, on North Carolina's northern coast.

In the spirit of the Yule season, travelers may attend the ceremony of the lighting of the world's largest living Christmas tree at Wilmington on December 15.

May Yuletide Sparkle—But Not With Fire

The festive celebration of Christmas is often turned into pain, loss and tragedy in the home—all because of the lack of precaution with fire.

Each year before Christmas, the National Fire Protective Association reminds householders to be especially careful, because of the increased danger of fire from home lighting systems, Christmas trees, gifts, decorations and wrappings, to mention but a few causes.

The following commonly-known rules of safety can help you avert tragedy and disaster from fire this Christmas season.

The Christmas Tree

Find a growing tree or one that has not dried out from long storage. Stand it in water outdoors until you're ready to decorate it inside the house. Bring it inside just before Christmas and try to remove it as soon after December 25 as possible.

Since the larger the tree the greater the fire hazard, let your tree be no larger than you need. When you set up the tree, saw off the trunk at an angle at least one inch above the original cut. Put the tree trunk in water and keep level of water above the cut all the time the tree is inside the house.

Anchor the tree well, and keep it away from heat sources, or where standing or fallen, it could obstruct the passage from a room or out of the house, in case of fire.

Decorations and Wrappings

Put Christmas wrappings in a metal covered trash container or burn them in an incinerator without delay. To burn paper in an open fireplace is to invite fire-out-of-hand.

Non-combustible materials, such as glass, metal, asbestos, are best to decorate the home for Christmas. If you must use combustible materials, let them be "flameproofed", particularly if they are to be used near the tree or other lighted decorations. Many paper decorations and materials for clothing will ignite easily. That goes for Santa Claus whiskers, too.

FOR LOVERS of the outdoors, Tryon, in the western part of North Carolina, offers its winter resort facilities. Because of the unusual characteristics of the "Thermal Belt," which makes its winter climate milder than that of the surrounding area — although located at an elevation of 1,000 feet—Tryon offers riding and hunting as big attractions. Too, the golf course and the beauty of the village and surrounding country make it equally popular with those who neither ride nor hunt.

In the Piedmont, and a short drive from Gastonia, Pinehurst lives up to its reputation as a favorite winter meeting place. Among December events scheduled here are the Christmas Hole-in-One Turkey Shoot, December 24; the ninth annual Donald J. Ross Junior Golf Tournament on the same day; the 20th annual Winter Informal Horse Show, 30; and the New Year's Eve Ball, 31.

THOSE WHO LIKE sports afield, are reminded that there is dove hunting, statewide, December 14 through January 10; boar hunting at Robbinsville, ending December 17. These are in addition to the already-opened seasons on other wildlife in the Carolinas.

Other events of interest to the recreation-minded are the Carrousel Basketball Tournament, Charlotte, December 17-19; the 8th annual Dixie Invitational Basketball Tournament, Raleigh 27-29.

At Morehead Planetarium, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, you may see the Christmas story in all the splendor which the Biblical account gives it. "Star of Bethlehem," which runs through December 31, turns back the hands of time some 2,000 years. Through the planetarium instrument, the 60-minute celestial pageant recreates the skies of Judea on the planetarium dome, just as astronomers say they appeared in the year 7 B.C. Five tableaux and other effects add splendor to the presentation, based on the King James Version of the Christmas story in the Bible. The program begins with a narration on science in Bible times, ending with the pageant itself, which recounts the Annunciation and the Christmas story through the Nativity.

Home Lighting

Candles on the tree or an open flame near combustibles invite tragedy from fire. Use only electric lighting systems that bear the UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) label. Check lighting sets each year for frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets. Do not overload the fuse in the electric circuit.

If extensive holiday wiring is what you want, employ a competent electrician. This is no time for the do-it-yourself flair.

Don't overload extension wires. Turn off tree lights when you go to bed or go out for the evening.

A Word About Gifts

Non-flame-proofed articles such as cowboy suits, pyroxylin plastic dolls, and toys operated by alcohol, kerosene or gasoline are firestarters. Look for the UL label when buying electrical toys, for it means that they have been tested for fire and shock hazards and may be reasonably safe if properly handled and maintained.

And Some Other Reminders . . .

When Careless Dan smokes close to the Christmas tree or other combustible material, he's asking for a pack of trouble. Plenty of large, safe ashtrays around the house are necessary equipment for fire control.

Guard against flying sparks from an open fireplace by using a good screen.

The inquiring hands of small children should not be allowed to reach matches, lighters and candles.

What if fire should break out at your house? While there's opportunity, give some thought to what you would do, in case—and keep calm if the emergency should arise.

Have water-type fire extinguishers that are kept in working order, buckets of water or even your garden hose attached to a faucet and in reach of the tree.

Can you extinguish the fire? If not, call the fire department immediately.