

## THE OLD HOMESTEAD OF J. A. WHITE

Mrs. S. R. White  
Dawson Club Member

The homeplace of the late James Alfred White (better known as Jim Alf White) is located about four miles west of Scotland Neck on the left hand side of the old road to Enfield, just as you come up the hill after passing through the creek near White's Cross Roads. This place was originally called the old Whitehead estate. Soon after the civil war Captain Alfred White, father of J. A. White, bought this tract of land from Mr. Whitehead and later sold it to his son, J. A. White, for one dollar.

In 1870, J. A. White married Patience Eugenia House and brought his bride here to make a home for him. The house consisted of two rooms and an attic. They lived in this house until there were four children. In 1878, they built a two story house on the front of the old house joining it by a porch, which made a very delightful place to sit on a hot summer day.

This new part had two rooms down stairs with hall between and the same upstairs. The new part was painted but the old never was. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. White lived here the rest of their lives. They reared a family of eight children, seven boys and one girl. J. A. White died in March 1903 and his wife in April 1921.

Sidney R. White, a son of J. A. White, moved to the home place in January 1926. After coming into full possession of the place he decided in 1935 to remodel the house. The old house, which was used as a dining room and kitchen, was moved and made into a tenant house.

In remodeling, the appearance of the front of the house was changed very little. The porch was ceiled, six brick columns added and new cement steps made. Double windows took the place of the former single ones both upstairs and down. On either end of the house the small windows were replaced by larger ones to correspond with those on the front. The front door was replaced with a new one.

The new part of the house consists of a bedroom, backhall, dining room, kitchen, pantry and porch. All walls are plastered with the sand finish. The living room, the front hall and the guest bedroom are wall papered in cream. The floors are oak laid over the old floors, thereby making the house warmer. These floors were scraped by use of a hand machine, since we have no electricity, then sand-papered well, all cracks filled and finished with shellac and wax. The floors of the bedrooms, back hall and kitchen are pine and painted a light oak and waxed.

A brick mantel was built in the living room. French doors connect the living and dining rooms. The stairs formerly were very winding and came down behind the back door in the hall. These were straightened and are entered from the back hall.

A swinging door is used to connect the dining room and kitchen. A linoleum covering is used on the kitchen floor. A ground flue was built to serve both the dining room and kitchen. On the left of this flue in the kitchen a cabinet was built. The upper half has three shelves with two double doors and serves as a china closet. The bottom half is enclosed and used to store groceries.

Under the double windows on the west side of the kitchen is a sink

with cabinets on either side, these are used to store cooking utensils. The color scheme in the kitchen is cream and green. Adjoining the kitchen on the south side is a big pantry, eight feet wide and sixteen feet long. This has a window in the west end, a door in the east end which opens on the back porch also a door opening into the kitchen. Shelves are on either side extending the full length of the pantry.

The back porch located on the east extends the full length of the kitchen and pantry. This porch is wainscoted about thirty inches high, then screened having two outside doors. The porch floor is of solid lightwood. A pump and sink are conveniently located on this porch.

The outside of the house is painted white with black trimmed windows and doors. As the remodeling was being done the house was wired for electricity, not being convenient to a power line, we are using a Delco plant.

We have a few pieces of antique furniture more than one hundred years old which we cherish very much. These pieces consist of a chest of drawers, a vanity dresser, a small four post bed, an old chest, a wardrobe, dropleaf table and a very lovely old side board.

Mrs. Wheeler, home agent, included our place on a tour made recently of club members' homes and the women admired these pieces of old refinished furniture very much and scolded me for having the drop leaf table upstairs. Since the tour I have placed this table in the front hall.

## SUPERVISED PLAY FOR CHILDREN

By Mattie Anderson

### President Ringwood Club

Recreation has long been a need of the children of our community. Our club women felt this need and last summer inaugurated a plan which we feel was well worth our time.

The children came to the school house once a week for four weeks. Here they were met by Miss Mattie Anderson and under her guidance the little girls were taught the basic rules of flower arrangement, while the boys built bird houses. At the end of an hour the children were carried out doors. Here all kinds of games were played. While resting from the more strenuous games stories were told by the children, one having been appointed beforehand, others voluntary, if there was time.

At the conclusion of the four weeks a tea and flower show was held to which the Mothers were invited. All the girls and several of the boys entered the flower show and here demonstrated how well they had learned to arrange flowers. Prizes were given in each group after which tea was served to those attending.

There was an average of 14 children each of the afternoons; their ages running from 4 to 12 years. Our club was very well pleased with the efforts to give our children more and better recreation.



Mr. and Mrs. S. R. White are seen sitting on the porch of their fine rural home in Halifax County. This was one of the first homes to be remodelled under the Better Homes Program of the Clubs. Mrs. White is one of the original members of the Halifax County Home Demonstration Club.

## Eating And Weighing In Halifax County Schools

By Julia Williams

Go with me back a few years when the tin-bucket parade was the most outstanding feature of the school day. The lunch usually consisted of a cold sweet potato, a very indigestible fried egg or meat biscuit sandwich—sometimes there may have been a slice of pie or cake. This type of lunch was eaten by a majority of Halifax County children prior to the Hot Lunch Project. The writer of this article is happy to say this is a faded picture. Visit the schools of Halifax County during the lunch hour, and see for yourself.

Due to the untiring efforts of our Home Demonstration Agent, Mrs. Hazel E. Wheeler, the Club Women of the county now put on a canning project in their communities during the summer in order that each school child may have a free hot dish to supplement his box-lunch during the winter months. A committee is chosen to collect all vegetables and fruits that may be available. A definite meeting place is chosen and there real "honest to goodness work" is carried on from sunrise to sunset. At the end of the day, the school store-room presents a very healthful picture of canned happiness for each child.

The soup mixture has to be supplemented with potatoes, meats, and vegetables, such as cabbage. This is made possible by a written notice to every home represented in the school. It is interesting to watch the smiling face of the child as their home contribution is delivered. In some schools the hot dish is prepared in the lunchroom, under the supervision of an adult, in those located in villages people living near prepare the lunch and send it in at the noon hour. In order to eliminate hard dish washing, each child brings his own bowl, and takes it home to be washed each night.

Another valuable project, in addition to the hot lunch, was that of weighing and measuring each school child. Mrs. Wheeler carried the scales with her from school to school. It is interesting to recall some of the experiences during the launching of this work. One of the biggest problems was that of getting the child to remove his shoes in order to be properly weighed. Some of the excuses, often heard, were: "My stockings have holes in them. The boys will laugh at me. I'll catch cold." Now with scales in many schools this job is only a regular part of the school work, as the children have become so health conscious that they feel they are neglected if this program is not carried out regularly.

Have these projects proved worth while? Yes, for their value can be measured in a physical and mental growth from this daily hot dish, which means a more alert child to be taught, with better social attitudes. One of the most important hours of any school day is the mid-lunch hour. When one makes a contribution towards making this more beneficial, he has made the

heart of the day beat stronger. In the words of Van Dyke, "They have lighted many candles that in later years will shine back to cheer them."

## MUSIC

By Mrs. K. B. Ewing  
County Music Project Leader

In the year 1932 music found its way into our club. At this time Mrs. Wheeler offered a cup for the best chorus. Each club was asked to learn a chorus and to be able to give it in July at the County Federation which met in Tillery with Tillery Club acting as hostess. Tillery Club was awarded the cup.

This step aroused much interest the clubs were grouped and as many practices as possible were held during the following months.

In 1937 I was asked to get music to be used at our annual Short Course which is held in Raleigh, Tillery, Spring Hill, Dawson, Hobbgood, and Roseneath were the clubs taking part. We gave two selections in the auditorium at State College, and also over the radio station WPTF.

At the January meeting of this year the clubs were grouped and asked to have music ready to give at each Federation meeting. (Three meetings a year.)

We hope to get every club mem-

ber into our choral work. Every home needs music in it, because no matter how tastefully a home is decorated nor how beautifully the grounds are arranged around it, it isn't complete without music.

## Columbian Peanut Plant Convenient To The Growers

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The local branch is managed by H. C. Briggs who has been with the company for 31 years and has been in charge of this branch for 27 years. Miss Dorothy Bennett is the assistant manager.

## ELECTRICITY IN THE HOME

(Continued from Preceding Page)  
—¼ HP, 1 kwh-1000 gal.; Radio—60 watts, 10 kwh-month; Range—7000 watts, 1 kwh-person-day; Refrigeration (household)—¼ HP, 35 kwh-month; Sewing Machine—40 watts, 1 kwh-20 hrs. operation; Toaster—500 watts, 4 kwh-month; Vacuum Cleaner—60 watts, 2 kwh-month; Water Heating—1500 watts, 30 kwh-person-month.

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