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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1946

### TOP O' THE MORNING

Hope is the best part of our riches. What sufficeth it that we have the wealth of the Indies in our pockets, if we have not the hope of heaven in our souls? —BOVEE

### Onion Contests

The scarcity of onions disclosed in an article in the Star recalls the years the Star-News sponsored garden clubs among Wilmington's school children. It was customary to hold annual contests in the schools with prizes for the youngsters who produced the best bunches of onions. In one case a local firm gave a hundred chicks and the ten gardeners who led the field were given ten each in special recognition of their effort.

The Star-News clubs were merged in the national movement for war gardens, when the conflict drew the United States in, and so the special projects in the schools were stopped.

Now it is suggested that an onion contest might be started with all the city's children eligible and the seed firms offering prizes, either of day-old chicks or seed for next year's planting.

By uniting for the project and naming from their own stores a committee to sponsor and promote the plan, Wilmington would have no shortage of onions, come spring, and a lot of school children would be the better off, whether they were winners or not, by the experience they would gain.

### A Difficult Case

Dr. Wilhelm Furtwaengler, the German symphony conductor, is not to be permitted to return to Berlin.

The controversy over Doctor Furtwaengler has gone on for some time, his friends contending he was not identified with the Nazi party, the United States Military government's investigations showing that he was, and declaring that in conformity with the four-power agreement for the denazification of Germany he is not entitled to return to the podium of the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra.

Gen. Robert A. McClure, director of the United States information-control division in Germany, announcing the decision, says:

"It is indisputable that Dr. Furtwaengler was prominently identified with Nazi Germany. By allowing himself to become the tool of the party, he lent an aura of respectability to the circle of men now on trial at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity.

"It is inconceivable he should be allowed to occupy a leading position in Germany at the time when we are attempting to wipe out every trace of nazism."

In support of his position General McClure notes that Furtwaengler was appointed a state councilor in 1933 by Herman Goering, and never relinquished the title, and was vice president of the Reich Music Chamber, a blacklisted organization, until he quarreled with the party in 1934.

Meanwhile, the Doctor is under investigation by an Austrian commission

in Vienna to determine if he collaborated with the Nazis. If he is cleared a music post will be found for him, provided consent is forthcoming from the Allied Control Council.

His case is particularly difficult to deal with in view of the fact that he has great talent.

### France's Hand Out

Leon Blum is about to visit the United States. His departure is set for Wednesday of this week. Before he comes the French government is reported intending to publish what is called a "yellow book" which will contain documents dealing with money negotiations between Paris and Washington both before the Bretton Woods agreement was concluded and afterwards.

This obviously indicates that M. Blum is headed for our shores to seek additional loans, or gifts, which appears the settled policy of all nations in any way associated with the United States in World War II. The situation is clearly handled in an article in the New York Times written by Harold Callender and wirelessly from Paris. Says he:

"... the facts and the record speak so eloquently that a factual summary cannot avoid carrying the implication not only that France will be unable to meet her financial obligations under the Bretton Woods agreement without American aid but that she may be unable for a long time to revive her internal economy. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of many experts.

There was no reticence on this point when the assembly ratified the Bretton Woods agreement after a debate in which Rene Pleven, then Minister of Finance, said that France's ability to follow the charter of Bretton Woods depends on foreign assistance still greater than that which she may get from the monetary fund or the Reconstruction Bank (two institutions established by the Bretton Woods agreement). M. Pleven added at that time that he had negotiated with the British and American Treasuries on the subject before devaluing the French currency to an exchange rate that the agreement provided, must be accepted by the authorities of the monetary fund created by the agreement. Documents covering these negotiations are expected to be included in the yellow book."

Mr. Callender further explains the French do not expect another large American loan quickly. What they want now is an Export-Import Bank loan to tide them over a few months in paying for imports. They are well persuaded that the United States will want to see what kind of regime is to be set up in the forthcoming elections before discussing larger American aid.

Having contributed to France's release from the German yoke, it is an American duty to help the nation get back on its feet. There is no reason to doubt that Washington is willing to do so. But the war allies must recognize that the coffers of this country are not inexhaustible.

### Wallace Festival

Wilmingtonians welcome the announcement that Wallace is to resume its pre-war custom of holding annual strawberry festivals. They will be happy to drive to Wallace again and share the good time they always had before the war brought a stop to the events.

This year's festival is scheduled for May 1 to 11, the time the community's strawberries will be at their best. A great variety of entertainment is to be provided for every day. Of special interest will be the selection of a festival queen, to be chosen by photograph by Kay Kyser, from girls in Duplin, Sampson, Pender and Onslow counties.

The occasion offers additional evidence that whatever goes on in the rest of the world, southeastern North Carolina is determined to take advantage of every opportunity to advance its production, regional friendliness and economic improvement.

Wallace may count on large attendance from Wilmington at its strawberry festival.

## Fair Enough

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

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I thought this discussion of a site for the United Nations plant was to be conducted on a high, gentlemanly plane but some of those bums on the other side of the debate had to get nasty about it so let's everybody grab a chair and play their way.

In the first place that bunch of cosmic moochers had plenty of nerve to pick the prettiest countryside in the New York area and, moreover, a zone which in the next 20 years or so would provide home sites for many more thousands of Americans who work in New York but like the sight and sound of a bird, and to look on trees and flowers and hills and would not willingly condemn their children to the dirty associations and influences that are encountered in the public schools of New York. And don't anyone give me that old Democracy line either about the spiritual benefit of association with other social and racial "groups" or I will bust you right back with the fact that none of the five children of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has been sounding that prattle for years and years, nor she nor their old man, either, ever spent an hour in a public school but were carefully segregated from the lower classes in fastidious pay-joints.

To hear some of the abuse of those who live in and beyond the Westchester - Greenwich area, you might think they were nothing but a lot of bridge-playing, high-suburban blubberheads who would wreck the peace of the world and sacrifice not only the rising generation but the little that remains of civilization to protect their mean little investments. Well, for those who like it, bridge is no less legitimate than forms, conferences, councils and congresses which are the pleasure of so many of those shallow-minded fakers who would like to make us address the chair and go through some committee every time someone wants to kick the cat. The service records of those combatants in the wars of their respective generations will stand comparison with those of any other group of equal numbers, not excluding Franklin D. Henry Wallace and Sidney Hillman. The same proposition of their sons went to this war, too, and will just help myself to the arbitrary assumption that, if peace and civilization did depend on the cession of this particular site and no other site on earth for the realm of the U. N. O., every one of these Americans would gladly yield and shove on down the road with the bedding and the birdcage in the wheelbarrow.

But no reason has been given why the U. N. O. must have this patch and no other and so the suggestion that the citizens who don't want to move are jeopardizing anything but some ulterior purposes is abusive nonsense. More over there is no excuse for gouging out of the living body of the United States, and alienating it, any section that may finally be selected. Under reciprocity we give the embassies of other countries a mild type of autonomy but the ground they stand on is still part of the District of Columbia and there were no complaints but, on the contrary, suppressed cheers when one of them indulged in a humane abuse of our hospitality to peddle a few hams of liquor under prohibition.

The correct place where this organization should have its plant distinctly is nowhere near New York or Washington, which are infested with a formidable quantity and variety of organizations devoted to interference in our politics and the confusion of our opinions. There are hundreds of these ill-mannered and arrogant things all devoted to some religious, racial or national interest abroad and to the proposition that every American boy owes "Democracy a duty to go to a series of wars in their behalf. They are so influential that even the Republicans are afraid to tell them where to go with their demands lest they alienate the segregated "Foreign" vote in the metropolis. They print propaganda by the ton, the telephone directory is crawling with them and the U. N. O. in the Westchester-Greenwich site would be a marvelous convenience for them and a menace of equal magnitude to the American boys who will be of fighting age in the next 10 years.

Lincoln, Neb., wanted this plant and, although Lincoln never had a chance for obvious reasons, she would be a good selection. Travel is an absurd objection considering that persons coming from the ends of the earth would have only a few hours more to go and if it is the lack of plays and movies presented by our communist producers, and saloons and rich trash for night-life that makes a site undesirable, then why not be honest and reopen Paris as the political plague spot and brothel of the world?

We have thousands of miles of government reservations in the West which could accommodate the U. N. O. for all its legitimate purposes and let anyone who objects on the ground of cold or heat consider whether a Russian or a Finn could reasonably complain of the cold in, say, Wyoming, or an Arab of the heat in Arizona.

Well, there I go again, raising my voice and hollering like a barker at a Coney Island kooch but I know Westchester-Greenwich people and the ones who have been denouncing them are mainly a lot of old fools who are ready to die anyway and don't care what happens to whom and a lot of suitcase trade who never would take the care and responsibility of decent homes but feel free to abuse good citizens for unwillingness to abandon theirs.

## QUOTATIONS

BEES, according to Factographs, are smarter than any other insects. And what is more—they have the weapon with which to back any argument.

The old saying that "there's always room at the top" doesn't hold these days if you are looking for a penthouse to rent.

His little nephews and nieces are so noisy Zedok Dumkopf refers to them as his dinkfolk.

A survey shows there are at least 80 glaciers in Glacier National park in Montana. That's just the spot for those hosts who are always running out of ice cubes.

The weather in 1945, according to the United States Weather Bureau, was rather freakish. Now they tell us!

Now that he has quit as sun god that well known poet, Hirohito, should have lots of time to devote to the divine muse.

Grandpappy Jenkins says that he isn't so interested this year in the debut of the first robin in of spring as he is in the farewell appearance of the last penguin of winter.

## OLD SHADOW



## Water-Front Is Comparatively Safe With Atlantic Keeping Vigilance

By JOHN SIKES

Those of you who live, or own property, on Wilmington's waterfront may go ahead and rest easily at night. That is, if the spectre of fire haunts your dreams.

You may do this because Wilmington has—and has had for a good many years passed—an efficient waterfront fire department that never sleeps. Never sleeps, that is, in the sense that the men of the department are on call 24 hours per day. And, more important, that can churn their way to a fire from their dock at the foot of Grace street and begin fighting a blaze in something under five minutes.

Just so you'll know who we're discussing, the captain of the waterfront department is Charles H. Register, who's been on that job for 27 years. In his crew are Lieut. Alonzo Russ and Privates E. A. Jones and H. F. Watters.

This crew mans the fireboat, Atlantic. Maybe you'd like to know something about the Atlantic. She's been in continuous service since 1912. She was built by Capt. Jimmy Arnold down at Southport.

Now, this is pretty old for a fireboat, and Fire Chief Luddie Croom, along with the City Fathers, are trying to do something about getting a new one. They have their eyes on one that is down in Bucksport, S. C.

The Atlantic is 50 feet long, with a beam of 14-1/2 feet and draws

five feet.

Captain Register, incidentally, has been on the water for 35 years and has U. S. licenses for that period just to prove it, in case anybody needs proof.

The Atlantic covers the waterfront from the shipyard to Josey's Fertilizer place.

But these water-firemen don't stop at the mere business of fighting fires on the waterfront. From the powerful pumps on their boat they can shoot a stream of water as far up the hill, as they call it, as Fifth street.

Once, when the boat was tied up at the foot of Chestnut, they played a stream of water over the top of the Murchison building.

Furthermore, these men don't stop at the mere business of putting out the fires.

During the war a tanker—it was the Olney, Captain Register recalls—came in port with a jagged hole in her bottom. It was a secret, then, but crewmen of the Olney told Captain Register the tanker had rammed a German submarine not so far off shore before she put it at the mouth of the Cape Fear.

One of the compartments of the Olney was flooded and the Atlantic pumped water out of the hold for 10-12 hours before ship-fitters, etc., could go down and repair the damage.

But this isn't all the extra-curricular activity the Atlantic's crew engages in.

In the past several years the crew has recovered 11 bodies of drowned persons from the Cape Fear.

True, there haven't been many spectacular water-front fires here to dramatize the work of the Atlantic.

Atlantic's crew, but there was a near holocaust the day after Pearl Harbor, Dec. 8, 1941.

A tanker put in here with thousands of barrels of oil aboard. The tanker caught fire, but before the flames could reach the oil the Atlantic's crew had the blaze extinguished. They had the fire out in 45 minutes.

Anyway, it doesn't make any difference how large or small your fire is. The Atlantic has the means of combating everything in the way of blazes. Besides 1,000 feet of hose through which the Atlantic pumps water from the Cape Fear to a fire, the boat also is equipped with the latest types of fire extinguishers, including the CO2 stuff that proved so valuable during the war in smothering fires.

Health authorities recommend that only a natural salt containing 0.01 per cent potassium iodide or its equivalent should be sold and all other salts should be withdrawn from public sale. This would result in the practically complete elimination of common goiter in children and fewer goiter operations in older persons.

## LETTER BOX

McKoy CASE HEARING

The Board of Education, in view of the reception accorded by the Eligibility Committee of the North Carolina High School athletic association to the representatives of the New Hanover high school in the recent hearing as to the eligibility of Johnny McKoy, can fully appreciate and wholly sympathize with the reluctance of Mr. Hamilton and Coach Brogden in pursuing further a matter which has proved so unpleasant.

Nevertheless, the board feels, and this is concurred in by Mr. Hamilton and Coach Brogden, that it owes to the high school, the player involved, Coach Brogden, Mr. Hamilton and the public, the duty of exhausting all available means of correcting what it believes to be a grave injustice, not only to the parties involved, but to the school youth of North Carolina.

The board has, therefore, requested the chairman of the North Carolina High School athletic association to call, as we had agreed to, a meeting of the full executive committee, so that the matter can be presented to it.

Dr. John T. Hoggard, Chairman Board of Education Wilmington, N. C. February 23, 1946.

GRATEFUL FOR HELP

The board of directors of the Tuberculosis and Health association, at our meeting last Wednesday, asked me to write and express to you and every member of your organization our deep appreciation of your assistance to us in our recent Christmas seal sale.

With your cooperation, we have passed our goal and secured the funds necessary to carry on the work we are trying to do in this county (and, through our participation in the state and national organizations, in the nation as a whole) for the prevention of tuberculosis.

It is a great work we are doing and if we can all continue to work together as we have in the past, I know the day will come when tuberculosis is a negligible factor in our community life instead of the problem it is today.

With many thanks again to you and every member of your organization for their splendid help, I am,

LUCY L. NASH, Executive Secretary Wilmington, Feb. 23, 1946

## STAR Dust

Where Interest Starts

Ralph Waldo Emerson, in an account of a meeting of the famous Atlantic club, a group of distinguished New England authors who used to gather together from time to time in Boston, has amusingly revealed the deeply absorbing interest with which writers are prone to regard their own works.

On the occasion copies of the new number of the Atlantic Monthly were brought into the club, whereupon each member seized upon a copy with great eagerness.

"Then," said Emerson, "each sat down and read his own article."

—Christian Science Monitor.

Upholding Her Dignity

"Mother, that horrid Jones boy called me a tomboy," cried nine-year-old Penny with righteous wrath.

"And what did you do?" I asked noting her torn dress and tear-streaked face, and remembering the Jones boy take her size.

"I made him twice her size," she said. "I kicked him in the shins and tripped him and sat on his chest and pounded his head in the dirt until he yelled 'You're a perfect lady!'" —Cronin.

Nobody Can Hate Long

Nobody can hate very hard very long. It's too much work. Something like trying to sing on High C perpetually. —Washington Evening Star.

## Doctor Says— GOITER CHECKED BY IODIZED SALT

By WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, M. D.

Many plans have been proposed for elimination of common goiter, but none has been more successful than the universal use of a salt with a proper iodine content. At one time physicians recommended giving iodine tablets to young persons, and some communities put iodides in the water supply but neither of these methods was practical.

Goiter in adolescent children is prevented by using natural salt containing 0.01 per cent of potassium iodide or its equivalent, cooking and seasoning. This can be used by both children and adults, as it is not harmful to patients with thyroid disease.

In common goiter the gland is enlarged and firm and may contain knobs of extra thyroid tissue or cysts. In excessive enlargement the gland presses on the trachea or extends down into the chest and causes shortness of breath.

Following the educational campaigns between 1920 and 1930 on the use of iodized table salt to prevent goiter, goiters in children decreased rapidly. A recent survey by O. B. T'Amal, M. D., of Cleveland, indicates they are on the increase again as the consumption of iodized salt has gradually declined during the past four or five years.

Michigan health authorities made a study of 50,000 school children between 1924 and 1928 who had used iodized table salt as a goiter preventive. In 1924, from 30 to 35 per cent of the group had goiter, but in 1928, only 7 to 9 per cent showed enlargement of the gland. At that time there was a fear that iodized table salt might be harmful to persons with toxic goiter, but the study showed that no one suffered the slightest ill effect.

Many patients with goiters formerly underwent surgical operations for relief of symptoms. Between 1930 and 1940 the number of such operations declined one-half from the previous high because of the decrease in common goiter in young people.

Simple enlargement of the thyroid gland is found chiefly in inland regions where the soil lacks iodine. As a result of the low iodine content of the soil, iodine in the water, plants and animal tissue is also low. Children reared near the sea usually obtain plenty of iodine from the soil, water and animal tissue as it is blown inward in the sea spray and then brought down by the rains.

Health authorities recommend that only a natural salt containing 0.01 per cent potassium iodide or its equivalent should be sold and all other salts should be withdrawn from public sale. This would result in the practically complete elimination of common goiter in children and fewer goiter operations in older persons.

## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

DAVID THE KING, By Gladys Schmitt

A scant 100 pages from the Old Testament are expanded into more than 600 pages in this field of fiction dealing with faith or Biblical subject. "The Song of Bernadette" is a feeble attempt and "The Robe" a commonplace one beside Miss Schmitt's elaborate retelling of a familiar story.

The long tale opens with David tending his father Jesse's sheep and ends with the death of the venerable king, too aged and cold to be kindled by the lovely Samnamite maid.

We follow the lusty David into Saul's camp.

We see his love for Jonathan; his marriage to Michal; his fall into disfavor and 10 years' wandering; his return with the conquering Philistines, accompanied by two wives; his disagreement with Joab; his love for Bathsheba and the fatal mission on which he dispatched Uriah; the death of Absalom; the crowning of Solomon.

From Dan to Beersheba, from Samuel to Nathan, from the hunted rebel in the southland to the Star of Bethlehem bearing his crown in the golden city of Jerusalem, there are names of places fondly remembered from childhood. We read, or I do, and the same awe, the same wonder, as fascinated eyes with which the boys and girls we looked at in colored pictures given at a Sunday school. Miss Schmitt's selection... Literary Guild and Religious Book Club both picked it for March.

But as you recall from Miss Schmitt's earlier novel, "The Gates of Aulis," she is a stylist. She does not build a story, she embroiders one. Despite the often extraordinary precision of her language, it remains fanciful rather than evocative. The characters, as remote in this story as they are in time, excite you but rarely stir you to tears. David, for example, in the novel grieves for Absalom in words which leave me cold, though the same words with Biblical context are among the most heart-rending in literature.