

### REPAIRS ARE MADE AT MOUNT VERNON

#### Result of Re-arranging Records.

Edenton, D. C. — Mount Vernon, George Washington's national capital, has a superintendent, the fourth since the Mount Vernon Ladies' association took over the care and upkeep of the famous shrine in 1858. Following the recent death of Colonel Harrison H. Dodge, the Ladies' association elected Charles Cecil Wall, former assistant superintendent, to take charge.

"Numerous changes and restorations have taken place at Mount Vernon in recent years," says the National Geographic society.

Many of the alterations, the new superintendent points out, were made as a result of extensive research work among records, letters and other documents found both in this country and abroad. As a result the Mansion House and its adjacent buildings and gardens are today more nearly as they were in Washington's time than when the Ladies' association took over the neglected estate. This organization, founded 79 years ago, by Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina, is chartered by the state of Virginia. Its officers serve without pay.

"Because the vast proportion of Mt. Vernon's thousands of annual visitors come by motor car, the federal government and the state of Virginia have each constructed trunk highways to take care of the heavy tourist traffic.

#### Wall Protects Estate.

"Facing the circular plaza, but outside the gates, are lunch rooms, and souvenir shops, housed in buildings whose colonial architecture harmonizes with the rest of the estate. There is also an outdoor cafe. Parking spaces for cars and busses are partially concealed by shrubbery and trees.

"A high brick wall, which was not a feature of the plantation in Washington's day, but was erected to protect it today, encircles almost the entire estate.

"Perhaps the most conspicuous change in the Mansion House itself is the removal of the white railing above the roof of the portico on the east, or Potomac, front. Study of several ancient drawings and paintings of the mansion, some of which have only recently come to light, revealed that the railing did not appear on any pictures prior to 1839, and therefore the railing must not have been a feature of the house during Washington's lifetime. Consequently it has been taken down.

"Another restoration, of particular interest to landscape architects, is the kitchen garden along the south side of the bowling green. This sloping plot of land was laid out by Washington in terrace style, an interesting example of Eighteenth century design. Growing in the garden now are old herbs, vegetables and fruits mentioned in Washington's farm accounts.

"The old brick barn has a new roof, a shingling job completed this spring.

#### Relics Returned.

"Visitors may now peek into the tiny building at the west end of the flower garden believed to have been used by the Curtis children and their tutor as a school house. This red-roofed octagonal structure was, until recently, used as a tool house.

"Some authentic relics recently returned to the estate for display in the mansion or in the small museum near the spinning house are: Mrs. Washington's French writing desk, knee-hole dressing table, a stool with Mrs. Washington's initials on it, the original bronze cannon used by George Washington to salute vessels sailing up the Potomac and a quaint lacquer mirror.

"Entirely concealed from visitors' eyes is one of the most remarkable bits of restoration work undertaken in connection with the preservation of the mansion. Some time ago it was discovered that the heavy wooden beams supporting the roof and ceiling above the banquet hall were showing signs of sagging. From a narrow third floor trapdoor, workmen were able to brace the ancient timbers with iron plates and heavy bolts, so that they now are as strong as new. So carefully did they do their work that the brittle plaster of the wide ceiling below was not damaged in the least.

"Mount Vernon now is open every day in the year, but only in recent years has it been open on Sundays."

#### Rats Protected at Mine;

#### Give Warning of Danger

Fortman, Mont.—Under strict orders from the management, the employees in the mines near this small north central Montana mining community protect the hundreds of rats that scurry from tunnel to tunnel and regard them as their friends.

"The rodents have saved many employees from injury and possible death because of their uncanny ability to detect caveins.

"To the sandy nature of the formations, caveins are common. The rats are able to detect the slipping earth long before the men are aware of the movement. They no time, the rodents run away, thus spreading the alarm. Dead or even crippled rats have been found after a cavein has occurred.

### WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

As another service to its readers, The Herald each week will give authoritative answers to questions on the Social Security Law. By special arrangement with Mr. George N. Adams in Rocky Mount, N. C., the Social Security Board has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on Social Security, which may be asked by employers, employees, and others, through The Herald. Address inquiries to the Editor. Answers will be given here in the order in which questions are received. This is an informational service and is not legal advice or service. In keeping with Social Security Board policy names will not be published.

Question: What are the requirements for obtaining unemployment compensation benefits under the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation law?

Answer: The first requirement is that the person who seeks to receive unemployment compensation benefits must have been employed in an occupation covered by that law. Second, upon losing his job he must register with the employment service office for another job. If, after waiting the required number of weeks, which in North Carolina is two weeks, he has not been able to find a suitable job, he will receive unemployment compensation benefits for a limited number of weeks.

Question: I was 65 years old on December 18, and had a Social Security card, but haven't received my check yet. How do I go about getting what is due me under the Social Security Act?

Answer: You should get in touch with your Social Security Board Field Office, give them all the information you can regarding your Social Security record, and make a formal claim for your old-age insurance. The amount you will receive will be 3 1/2 percent of your total wages in covered unemployment since December 31, 1936, and the time you attained 65 years of age, which in your case was December 17. After the Social Security Board has determined, from the wage record kept under your Social Security account number, the amount due you, certification of your claim will be made to the Treasury Department. Your check will then be mailed to you from the Treasury of the United States.

Question: If my employer doesn't report my Social Security taxes, will I be able to collect my old-age insurance upon reaching 65 years of age, or if I should die would my estate be able to collect it under these circumstances?

Answer: The amount which will be paid you under the old-age insurance provisions of the Social Security Act does not depend on the amount of taxes collected from you or paid by your employer under Title



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VIII of the Social Security Act. The amount you receive will depend on the total of your wages earned in covered employment after December 31, 1936, and before you become 65 years of age, or die. But the employer who does not obey the law and report the amount of wages paid each employee, put his employees at a disadvantage because the Social Security Board will not have a record of those wages when it comes time to compute the amount the Board should pay each worker under the old-age insurance provisions of the law.

### Extension Workers Attend Conference

Farm and home agents attending the annual Extension Service conference last week at State College received first-hand information on recent agricultural developments which will enable them to mold more fully their county programs.

The conference, which began January 11 and ended three days later, was constructed around the theme "Rebuilding North Carolina's Rural Life."

During the meeting, the agents and specialists of the Extension Service heard such prominent authorities as Dr. C. W. Warburton, national extension director; Dr. Will W. Alexander, national director of the Farm Security Administration; and Governor Clyde R. Hoey.

Farm Security supervisors met with the extension personnel during the four-day session. This marked the first time that another agricultural agency has been invited to take part in these annual conferences.

While most of the daily sessions were held jointly with both farm and home agents in attendance, separate meetings for the two groups were also arranged.

County agents dealt largely with the agricultural conservation program for 1938, tenant security, cooperative hog marketing, and terracing. On the other hand, the home agents took up such subjects as clothing, rural electrification, and financial planning for the farm family.

Among other speakers on the program were: Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; Dr. I. O. Schaub, director of the State College Extension Service; and Dr. Jane S. McKimmon, assistant director of the extension service.

### Queen Of Billiards In Edenton Friday

A pocket billiard match of more than ordinary interest will take place in Chappell's billiard parlor on Friday night at 10 o'clock, when Miss Ruth McGinnis, woman's world champion, will match her skill with the best player Edenton or surrounding territory can produce.

Considerable interest is being centered in this match as the "queen of billiards" has the proud record of winning 1,474 matches with only 29 defeats in the five years she has toured the country. She is the only female in the history of the sport who has mastered pocket billiards. She has met and defeated some of the leading players of the world. Chief among them is Ralph Greenleaf, world's champion, whom she defeated three straight games as recently as December 27 and 28, 1937, in New York City.

Miss McGinnis has a very pleasing personality and being left-handed makes her performance more colorful. Ladies are cordially invited to attend this match. An unusual assortment of trick shots will be shown by the "lady cue wizard" immediately after the game.

### Board of Education Proceedings

The County Board of Education met in regular session January 3rd, 1938, with the following members present: L. W. Belch, W. B. Shepard, Z. T. Evans, Isaac Byrum, T. L. Ward and S. E. Morris.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Superintendent reported the sale of the Green Hall School for \$30.00. He also reported no sale of the 10 acre plat, whereupon the Board advised that the land be rented, as in the past year, unless a satisfactory sale could be made.

The Superintendent called the Board's attention to the fact that the Elmo School house and site was to be sold at the Court House on Janu-

ary 8th.		
The Superintendent was authorized to purchase the necessary tools and supplies for any WPA work that might be needed in the work on the Chowan school site.		
Motion was made by W. B. Shepard and seconded by T. L. Ward that the Superintendent be authorized to make sale of school bus, old No. 7, for as much as possible.		
Motion was made and duly seconded that the following bills be paid:		
Standard Oil Company	\$ 22.47	
State Highway Commission	5.49	
Annie Taylor	15.00	
J. Norwood Holmes	342.85	
B. G. Willis, for bus storage	75.00	
W. J. Rumley		12.50
Virginia Electric and Power Company		12.86
Chowan Realty Company		20.00
F. E. Compton & Company		76.55
University of N. C. Press		22.74
Prominent Specialty Company		18.75
Brown Brothers		20.25
Milton Bradley Company		.60
T. W. Jones Hardware		1.65
George Holley		1.80
Grey & Creech, Inc.		.70
The Chowan Herald		11.00
Board of Education, per diems		24.70
There being no further business, the Board adjourned.		
S. E. MORRIS, Chairman		
W. J. TAYLOR, Secretary		



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