

N. C. State Fair Will Held October 19-23

New Catalog and Premium List Ready For Those Interested

Chowan County citizens are reminded that it's almost State Fair time again. This year the fair is set for October 19 through 23.

C. W. Overman, county farm agent, urges all citizens to help make the 1954 fair the biggest in history by participating in every way possible. "It would be nice to have several state winners from Chowan County this year," said the county agent.

"This year the State Fair enters its second century of service to the people of the state," said Overman. "It continues to be the state's biggest annual event."

The new 1954 State Fair catalog and premium list is just off the press and anyone interested in entering any of the 28 different competitive departments (everything from sewing to livestock) is urged to write for a free copy immediately. Each catalog contains an official entry form. Requests for catalogs should be addressed to: N. C. State Fair, P. O. Box 1388, Raleigh, N. C.

Closing dates for entries this year are:

Livestock Division, all departments, Friday, October 1, at 6 P. M.

Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbits Division (live poultry and pigeons), Monday, October 11, at 6 P. M.; all other departments in this division, Wednesday, October 13, at 6 P. M.

Cut flowers (Horticulture Department), Tuesday, October 19, at 11 A. M.

Arts and Crafts, Wednesday, October 13, at 6 P. M.

All other divisions and departments, Saturday, October 16, at 6 P. M.

PREACHES SUNDAY

The Rev. Alphonso Jordan of Raleigh will preach next Sunday, September 5, at the Middle Swamp Church. Mrs. Jordan will also take part in special singing.

GRADUATES AT E. C. C.

Walter M. Harrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Harrell of Sunbury received his B.A. degree at East Carolina College, Greenville, last week. He also received a commission as second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve which he earned through the A.F.R.O.T.C. program attached to the college. He plans to enter flying training in the Air Force in March.

Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MACKENZIE

It was Friday, and John Smith, minister of Lochalsh, Scotland, was writing his sermon. Things had not gone well that week. He had just about persuaded his deacons that a bath in the parsonage was not a luxury but a necessity, when Peter MacRobert dashed his hopes by declaring that as for him, he had never "had such a thing in his life; and as for the minister, their former pastor, auld Maister Drouthy, had dune without yin for thirty-three years to the satisfaction of the parish."

A plain man was John Smith—as plain and hoddan gray as his name. His sermons were not brilliant, but they were staves and crutches to many. But now, as he sat in his study that gray November morning and watched the rain spatter against his window, he felt grimly in unison with the elements. He had chosen for his text: "Wisdom is justified of her children," and he began his sermon with the intention of dressing down those who had offended him.

"That'll put them in their place," he thought as he finished. With Peter MacRobert in mind, he rose and walked to his study, rehearsing his sermon with appropriate gestures. As he passed the window he glanced out just in time to see someone stumble and fall, discharging on the muddy road an avalanche of shavings, small branches and squares of wood. In a moment the minister was out helping old Nance Kisson to her feet, and then assisting her to collect again her bagful of chips and kindlings.

"I hope you are none the worse, Nance."

"Thank ye, Maister Smith. I'm weary wi' the wind, but I'll be at kirk on Sabbath. It's guid to think all the week about what ye tell us. Why it makes me forget the verra rheumatics!"

The minister returned to his study, and to his sermon. But somehow, he

felt dissatisfied with it. If Nance fed all week on the spiritual food she received at kirk on Sabbath, he could not conceal from himself that next week she stood a good chance of going hungry. Yet he resumed his task. "Wisdom is justified of her children," he repeated doggedly; but his text now awakened no fervor. He decided to go out and let the wind drive the rain into his face for a tonic. Once outside, his feet carried him to a humble attic where an aged woman, blind and infirm, awaited the summons of God.

Mary Carment knew his step far down the stair, and deep within her she gave thanks. "It's a great thing to hae the bread o' life broken to us so simply that we all understand it, Maister Smith," she said.

"But Mary, how long is it since you heard a sermon of mine?"

"It's a lang time since I heard ye preach, minister, but I hear o' your sermons every Sabbath. Yin and another tells me pairt o' it 'til I get as much as I can think on."

As the minister rose to go, Mary said, "Ye'll hae much on your mind this Lord's day as ye speak for your Maister; but dinna forget, I'll be praying for you all the while."

"Thank you, Mary; I'll not forget." Anr he went out much strengthened. Heading home he passed Peter MacRobert's little cobbler's den, and the sound of Peter's terrible cough caused him to stop and enter. "Are you not thinking of getting that cough attended to, Peter?" he asked.

"Who? Me? Na, no me; hoots, I'm only a wee bit hoarse."

But seeing the doctor pass by the minister summoned him. The doctor called the unwilling cobbler from his work, and after a brief examination, said, "It's just a trifling local inflammation. Less lapstone dust and less snuff, Peter, and warm water three times a day."

Peter smiled at his pastor. "Maister Smith," he said, "if water be sae needful for the inside o' a cobbler, maybe I was wrang in thinkin' it wasna as necessary for the outside o' a minister."

When the minister reached home he never stopped even to wipe his feet, and when his wife followed to remonstrate she found him putting his sermon in the fire.

The minister's text the following Sabbath was an old one, but it was no old sermon the Lochalsh folk got that day. The text was, "Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Nance Kisson was there, and did not go home hungry. Peter MacRobert didn't

cough once. And no less than eight different folk came in to tell blind Mary Carment about the sermon.

But none but the minister knew who

it was that had been praying for him. (Adapted from a short story by S. R. Crockitt).

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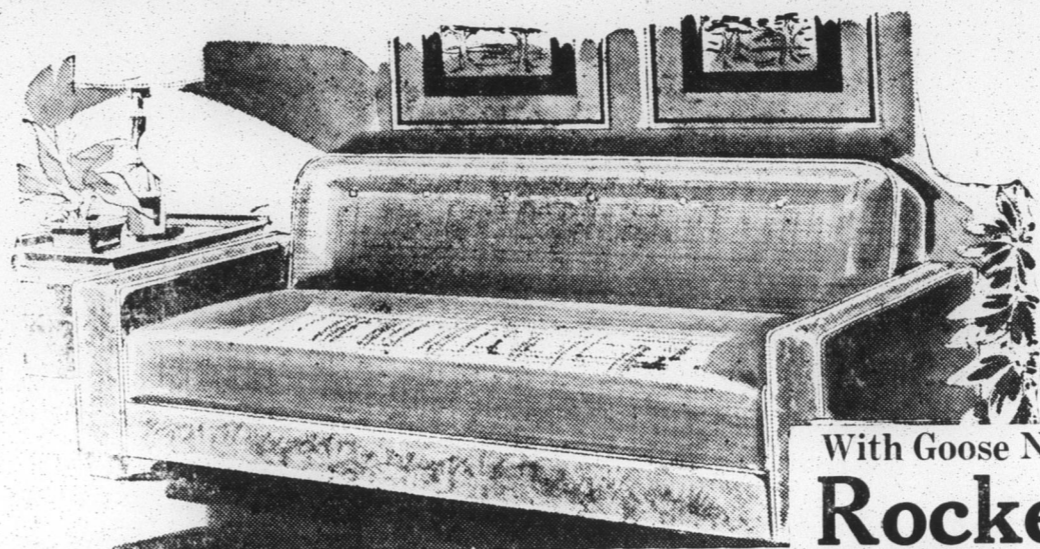


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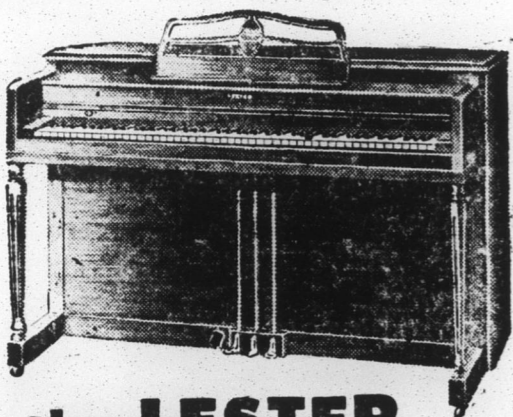
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