

# The Cherokee Scout

Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

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Murphy, North Carolina, Thursday, March 25, 1937

### FARM TENANCY

No problem associated with American agriculture and rural life is creating more widespread interest than the problem of farm tenancy. Editorials in newspapers throughout the United States are urging that something be done to reverse the present trend toward increasing farm tenancy and decreasing home ownership; forums and discussion groups are arguing the pros and cons of different methods proposed to accomplish this task. Recently the American Institute of Public Opinion announced that in its sample poll, eighty-three percent of the people favored a public program to help tenant farmers become farm owners.

The tremendous interest in this vital problem is not hard to understand. The promotion of home ownership on individual farms has been a great tradition in American history. Individual ownership was always recognized as the cornerstone of a free democratic society.

Today that traditional national ideal is being seriously challenged. Less than half of our farm families own all the lands they operate. Of the six million farm families in the United States, two million, eight hundred thousand, or forty-two percent, are tenants, owning no land at all. Every ten years since 1880, when the first count of tenant farmers was made, the number of landless tenants has steadily increased.

The problem of tenancy is national in scope. No important agricultural region of the United States is without its tenancy problem. In the cornbelt, for instance, where much of the rich prairie soil was given out in homesteads, the percentage of farmers who are tenants is well above the national average. Iowa has about fifty percent of its farms operated by tenants. In Nebraska the percentage is forty-nine. In the cotton belt of the South the percentage are the highest; seventy percent tenancy in Mississippi; more than sixty percent of the farms of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma and South Carolina are operated by tenants.

Even in the far west, where the land has been most recently settled, tenancy is growing. In Colorado thirty-four percent of the farms are operated by tenants. In the Pacific Coast States wherever specialized cash-crop production has been developed, tenancy has become widespread.

Recognizing the grave threat to American rural life which this growing farm tenancy implies, President Roosevelt last November appointed a Committee of forty-one farmers, editors, and agricultural and social leaders to study the problem of farm tenancy and report to him by February first on a plan whereby the undesirable elements of our farm tenant system could be corrected.

The national determination to stop the increase in farm tenancy and replace it with better forms of land tenure, is grounded upon important economic and social considerations. There is a definite national interest involved in the different problems of landlord-tenant relations.

What is the chief complaint of land lords against the tenants? It is that the tenants allow the farms to go to pieces, fail to prevent soil erosion, have no interest in keeping up the land and buildings. What is the chief complaint of tenants against the landlords? It is that the tenants are expected to carry out soil conservation practices, and make other improvements, and yet are not compensated for this extra labor and expense. Tenants complain that they can never know, year after year, whether they will be permitted to remain on the farm which they are expected to improve.

Both these points of view . . . which were expressed time and time again at the recent public hearings . . . point to one major fact . . . that farm tenancy, as it is now practiced in the United States is bad for both landlord and tenant, in that it encourages the waste of soil and discourages the necessary care to keep a farm in good condition. Furthermore, it points out why the nation as a whole is rightly concerned over the tenant situation. For if the wasteful practices of tenancy are allowed to continue, the destruction of our basic natural resource, the soil, will become a reality, undermining the whole structure of our national economic life.—Henry A. Wallace.

### PASSING O THE MARRYING JUSTICE

Anybody that ever lived anything of a romantic life in this section sooner or later became acquainted with Bob Lance—if he wasn't already their close friend.

Standing before his fireplace in his stocking feet in the middle of a cold night, or on the front porch of his house on a warm afternoon while the breezes played with the apple and cherry blossoms in his front yard, he smiled at more than one couple while the groom was so nervous he could hardly hold his-bride-to-be's hand.

Bob's marriages were usually the spur of the moment kind and needed more tenderness than planned marriages. Bob handled those kind best. That's the reason he was so popular.

Many more hearts than the individual would imagine, felt a little pain last week with the announcement of his death.

### SAFETY IN THE AIRWAYS

Startling the other night was the revelation by one of the country's best aviators, that only one person was killed in commercial airline transports out of every 24 million miles traveled by the planes.

In face of the many recent air catastrophes, the airways still seem to have an enviable record of safety when the facts are presented.

Also experiments are going forward every day to make airplane traveling the acme of safety. And there is every reason to believe that before long, casualties in the air will be practically unheard of—that is until there are as many planes in the air as there are cars on the road, and as many fools left to drive them.

### TRAGEDY BRINGS A NOBLE GESTURE

In the face of all apologies the American and German governments seem to be extending each other, these days the fact that one German official should break down and admit his country extends sympathy over the school blast situation in Texas seems to have strayed from purpose as if German element might be trying to make amends for something or other.

In the first place, horrible as it was, the Texas catastrophe is not the worst that has occurred in the past 50 years, and during floods, air crashes, land and sea tragedies, we don't remember any of the Continental countries going out of their way to extend their official sympathies even though they might have felt conscientiously bad about the tragedy as we would about theirs.

For awhile it looked as if the United States ambassador and German officials were playing some kind of a game called "Apology", which might be a forerunner or aftermath of some of our milder and less dangerous games such as "Monopoly".

Anyway Mayor LaGuardia of New York would burn Hitler with some speech about Nazism, and before the U. S. Ambassador could get over to German official's house, the German press, like all collective presses, is looking for something to "burn" so they pick out the American attack and write some hot articles.

By this time a German official finds it his duty to make an apology and he starts for the American Ambassador's house. Frequently, we imagine, they meet each other on the way to each other's house.

In any event the German gesture of offering sympathy in the case of the Texas school house was a noble one, accepted as such and duly appreciated. But we wonder if this isn't going to put at least a temporary end to the game of "Apology".

### SALE OF SEALS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Few appeals for the public attention and support come with more reason and urgency than the one made annually in behalf of crippled children.

In a modern word which moves swiftly and sometimes ruthlessly, it is warming and satisfying to know there are agencies devoted to the welfare of these deserving youngsters.

Starting in life, many of them, with less than a full chance, most of the boys and girls crippled by disease or accident have acquired through modern science an opportunity to live a complete and happy life.

Problems arise in finding the children early enough in life for satisfactory treatment and education which are available.

To these tasks the International Society for Crippled Children and its locally affiliated groups, the Murphy Lions club and the Andrews Rotary club, are dedicating much of their time and energy.

In Murphy the seals have been distributed to leading merchants, business houses and professional men. In Andrews the appeal is being made to the individual.

In any instance too much can not be done for these unfortunate children and any purchase of seals will help them a lot.

Either H. Bueck, in Murphy, or Bill Whitaker, in Andrews, can supply all the seals needed.

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

### Lesson for March 28

#### JOHN'S RECOLLECTION OF THE RISEN LORD.

LESSON TEXT—John 20:19-29; 21:20-24. GOLDEN TEXT—And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Rev. 1:17,18. PRIMARY TOPIC—Our Living Lord. JUNIOR TOPIC—Eating Breakfast With Jesus. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Who Saw Jesus After His Resurrection? YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ's Resurrection a Glorious Fact.

"The best authenticated fact in all history"—that is what competent historians have called the resurrection of Christ. One of America's greatest legal authorities used it as an illustration of how properly to prove a fact in court. If anyone comes to this lesson with doubts about the bodily resurrection of our Lord, let him give himself to a study of the evidence. He will find it overwhelmingly satisfying and complete.

That is as it should be, for the resurrection is vital to the completeness of man's redemption. Had Jesus died and remained in the grave, his claims would have been nullified; we should indeed have been "of all men most miserable" (I Cor. 15:19). But Paul goes on in triumphant faith, "Now is Christ risen from the dead." We have a resurrection faith, a living Saviour.

Our lesson brings before us our Lord in his post-resurrection appearance to his disciples, and a subsequent conversation with Peter. These verses fittingly tie up the resurrection of Christ with the life and service of his followers. Those who serve the risen Christ have an inward peace and an outward authority and power. Their convictions are based on the best of evidence and carry them forward to a life of personal responsibility and service.

**I. Peace (20:19-21).** Peace of Soul is absolutely essential to useful and satisfied living. Only as we are "steadfast, immovable," can we be "abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58). Steady at the center, active at the circumference.

**II. Authority (vv. 21-23)** Commissioned and sent by the Son of God, clothed with Holy Spirit power, the Church of God has his authority. While some have read too much into verse 23, others have read out of it the real authority that God has given.

**III. Conviction (vv. 24-29)** Thomas made the serious error of being absent from the gathering of the disciples when the Lord Jesus stood in their midst. Let those who commonly absent themselves from the place and hour of worship take heed lest they miss a blessing, and coming later add nothing to the spiritual life of the church, but rather become troublemakers and doubters.

But God graciously turns the doubt of Thomas into a means of blessing to all of us who since then have read of his experience. Thomas was an honest doubter. God is always ready to meet such with satisfactory proof. The trouble is that there are so many in the world who use professed doubts to cover a life of sin.

Doubt may come to any man. In itself it is no sin. But to cherish it and hold to it in unbelief—that is a different matter. One wise spiritual leader rightly counseled his people, "Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Never make the mistake of doubting your beliefs or believing your doubts."

When Thomas saw the Lord, doubt rapidly changed to strong personal conviction and abandonment of himself to his Lord and Saviour.

#### IV. Responsibility (21:20-24)

This incident took place at a later appearance of Jesus to a smaller group of the disciples. The irrepressible Peter has, as usual, a question to ask, "What shall this man do?" It is a right thing to be concerned about the welfare of others, to see to it that they live right and do right. But there is in our relationship to God a primary personal responsibility, our own lives. The writer of the Song of Solomon (1:6) spoke a profound and deep-cutting word when he said, "They made me keeper of the vineyards; but my own vineyard have I not kept." Perhaps Jesus is saying to me, or to you, the solemn words that he spoke to Peter, "What is that to thee? follow thou me."

Personal responsibility should be the most resultful factors in the making of manhood, as in the finding of salvation.

## TURNING BACK HISTORY'S PAGES

From Files Of The Cherokee Scout

### 10 YEARS AGO

Friday, March 25, 1927  
Mr. Tom Mauney returned Sunday from a visit with his father, Mr. L. E. Mauney, who is a patient at the General Hospital, Knoxville.

Miss Loucine Wells, of the Canton High School faculty, accompanied by Miss Hawkins, Miss Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill motored to town and were spend-the-day guest of Mrs. R. V. Wells, last Sunday.

Miss Alene Richardson, who is a student at U. T., at Knoxville spent the week-end at home.

Mrs. J. H. Hall motored to Asheville last week on business.

Conley Harrelson and Wayne Stroud, of Blairsville and Garnett Butt who is a cadet at Dablonaga Military Academy were callers in town Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fain and children of Clinton, Tenn., were guests last week of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Fain.

Miss Hattie Axley was in Robbinsville the first of the week, in the capacity of court stenographer.

Mrs. Henry Akin and son, Jack Barton will leave Sunday to join Mr. Akin in Greensboro where they will reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Elliott, of Peachtree were spend-the day guests of relatives in town, Sunday.

Mr. Noah Abernathy of Marble was in town Wednesday.

Col. M. W. Bell attended court in Robbinsville, first of the week.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Friday, March 23, 1917  
Attorney J. N. Moody is attending court at Robbinsville.

Attorney J. H. McCall made a business trip to Copperhill yesterday.

Mrs. W. D. Townsend returned to Copperhill Wednesday, accompanied by Miss Alice Sneed of Tomotla.

Roderick Melver has returned home from the Mexican Border where he has been serving with the United States troops.

A. B. Dickey and A. J. Martin are expected home next week from Douglas, Ga., where they have been for several months.

Mrs. Edna Patton Ford returned Wednesday from Bryson City, where she has been with her niece, little Edna Patton who has been sick with pneumonia, but is now improving.

Mrs. W. H. Woodbury and sister, Mrs. Grace Ramsey, are stopping at the Dickey House.

T. C. Dickey has returned from an extended visit to Douglas, Ga.

Col. and Mrs. D. E. Hutchins of Marion, are spending a few days here as the guests of the former's sister, Mrs. L. L. Witherspoon.

### 35 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, March 25, 1902  
Clas. A. Brown arrived Thursday night from Asheville.

Miss Ethel Conley, of Andrews, who has been visiting Miss Norma Sherrill, returned Saturday to her home.

T. J. Cooper spent last Wednesday here with friends, returning the next day to Chalker, Ga., where he is in the lumber business.

W. H. Griffiths and wife returned Thursday night from Hot Springs, Ark., where Mr. Griffiths received treatment.

Conductor Garwood and wife left Friday for Atlanta.

J. M. Leatherwood who is working at McCays, Tenn., spent Sunday here with his family.

### 40 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, March 23, 1897  
James Reid, of Blairsville, Ga., paid Murphy a visit last week.

Attorney E. B. Norvell made a business trip to Asheville Friday.

Willard Axley special express messenger on Southern is at home for a few days.

Miss Fannie Turnbill recently returned from Hayesville to spend a few days at home, but will return soon.

Mr. J. H. Dillard and wife, who removed to Greensboro several years ago, have returned to Murphy to spend the remainder of their days. Mr. Dillard is one of the finest lawyers in the State.

M. L. Mauney, our postmaster, and W. M. West, chairman of the county commissioners, returned last night from Asheville, where they had been to stand the civil service examination.

Thomas A. Stone, retired Canadian diplomat has harnessed the ocean tides to supply light and power for his home and farm buildings on a plantation near Charleston, S. C.