

Sea Thoughts

(By James R. Spence, RDM3-c USN)

My ship being in drydocks at present, I turn my observation from the sea to the seaport where we are located, namely Boston. Here, more than in Norfolk, Baltimore, or San Diego, I see ships from every port of the world. Although New Orleans and New York absorb most shipping from "south of the border," Boston still trades with South America. Europe provides the largest exchange, however. The waterways here extend all around the city and many ships go through the draw bridge far up inland. Thus the whole area is devoted to shipping.

Boston has a most colorful history. I think the first history that my skull ever absorbed was about the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Boston Massacre was sandwiched in there somewhere, too, but we've forgotten all that since Churchill came along. I guess Bostonians have forgotten, too, but they put up monuments and tried to remember.

This old seaport is also supposed to be a center of culture, with such institutions as Harvard, Radcliff, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I went over to visit Harvard a few days ago in hopes of absorbing some of their high breeding, but found that even at a place so full of knowledge, it is not radiated at you like sunlight. In fact, the place looked very dull and dreary to me as if everyone was bored with higher learning. It is built in typical city fashion with about a hundred buildings on two acres of land. It seems to me that knowledge would grow faster if it weren't planted so thickly.

A trio of us sailors got lost in the library at Harvard. I had never known that so many books existed. Every exit that we tried to escape from just led into another boulevard of books. Rows, alleys, streets of Chateaus for sale at The News office.

books crossing, winding and extending endlessly. We finally induced a "guide" to maneuver us out of this jungle of printed leaves. Being an American, you would like to write a book, also, but remember that you may lose your best friend in this maze of black and white.

Boston is full of good entertainment, or, as we sailors say, it's a good liberty town. There is always something new and different to do. Variety like baseball games, plays, concerts, ballets, ice shows, and ballrooms always furnish pleasure. The cold and rainy weather has kept me from the baseball grounds, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the music and dramatics. Two of the best were Maurice Evans in "Hamlet," and Victor Herbert's musical, "The Red Mill." A casual observation of the ballrooms gave me the key to the question of why northerners are fascinated by dancing while southern moralists denounce it. Both are right, for in the south dancing has come to be associated with beer, friends and juke joints. Our Yankee friends do not approve of that sort of practice either.

As demonstrated by Ronald Coleman in the forthcoming movie, "The Late George Apley," Bostonians are a strange clan. Their speech is different from other New Englanders and they claim to think differently. In comedy, a person from Worcester, forty miles away, is spoken of as a foreigner. The society of Beacon Street has held somewhat to the stiff formality of the English, and to the moral codes of the Puritan era. But through the formality emerges a hospitality second only to Dixie. I like the North better for having seen Boston!

Potato acreage goals for 1947 have been revised downward by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, resulting in a reduction of 152,800 acres.



PRINCESS WITHOUT SHOES . . . Perhaps never again in history of the British royal family will a photographer have a chance to snap Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth standing in her stocking feet. The Queen, left, damaged her own shoes. Princess Elizabeth loaned her shoes to her mother, then so that it wouldn't spoil her fun, promptly forgot the incident while enjoying the sights of South Africa with her mother and guest, unidentified.

HARNETT FARM BUREAU HEAD AT DIRECTORS' MEET IN RALEIGH

The North Carolina Farm Bureau Board of Directors met in Raleigh last week for the purpose of discussing current problems. Mr. Carson Gregory of Angier R-2, president of the Harnett County Bureau, attended and reports that the meeting was one of the most interesting and informative that he has ever attended.

The meeting was opened by President W. W. Eagles of Macleesfield, who presided over the session. Mr. Eagles presented R. Flake Shaw, executive vice-president and member of the National Board of Directors, who reported on the fight that is now in progress to maintain the 90 per cent of parity formula in price support programs. Mr. Shaw called for an organization of at least 100,000 members in North Carolina to give the necessary strength to demand more attention to the N. C. Farm Bureau's stands on national and state issues to maintain and improve the condition of agriculture.

County membership quotas were presented, along with the Edward A. O'Neal Club plan for obtaining memberships, a detailed plan of action for the membership drive to be conducted in districts 1 through 4 from September 15 through October 1, and a poll conducted of the members which resulted in the group's agreement to travel to the National Convention in Chicago on December 14-18 by train.

J. B. Hutson, director of the newly formed Tobacco Associates, Inc.,

discussed the export and domestic market situation with the group. Also appearing on the program were: A. C. Edwards of Greene county, who as chairman of the membership committee sketched the need for and the prospects of reaching the membership quota accepted by the directors, and Carl T. Hicks of Walsenburg, chairman of the Tobacco Committee, who reported on the meeting with the National Association of Tobacco Distributors in Chicago. Dean I. O. Schaub, director of the North Carolina Extension Service, called attention to the coming tobacco referendum and stated that the Farm Bureau leaders in the counties should be making their plans to see that it was run off in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Schaub called attention to several problems that are now confronting the National Farm Bureau Federation. Among these were: finding markets for surpluses that are sure to develop, the price support laws and parity formula referred to above, the national fertilizer bill, the Secretary of Agriculture's charity distribution plan for surplus farm products, and others.

The meeting was well attended, and a great deal of enthusiasm and interest was manifest in the coming membership drive.

State College Hints To Farm Homemakers

By Verna Stanton, N. C. State College

There is a simple trick to turning jellied cranberry sauce, or any other jelly, out of a can without spoiling the shape of the mold. Food specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture say punch a small hole in the bottom of the can first. Then remove the top with an opener that slices the tin evenly around the can. The hole in the bottom allows enough air to get in at this point so that the jelly will slide out easily without the help of a knife.

Food specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture report that a slice of apple may be used to loosen brown sugar which has become hard and lumpy. Brown sugar hardens when allowed to dry out. To restore the moisture, put the sugar in a tight container, a large glass jar with a screw top or a metal canister, and include a slice of apple on a bit of waxed paper so the apple does not touch the sugar. In a few days the sugar will absorb enough moisture to be loose again. To prevent brown sugar from hardening, put it into a glass jar when the package is opened and keep it tightly closed. Air soon dries out the sugar if left in a paper package.

Maybe you brush your blankets to bring up the nap after laundering them, but try extra brushing between launderings too. This keeps them soft and fluffy. Don't be afraid to wash fluffy bedroom slippers of pile fabrics. Wash them as you would fluffy toy animals or chenille robes. Don't wring at all, but squeeze gently in a towel to remove some of the moisture and brush up the soft nap.

Research Report Ready For Farmers

The latest report on progress in the research projects of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station is now ready for distribution.

Announcement of the publication of this report comes from the office of Dr. L. D. Bayer, director of the Experiment Station and Dean of the State College School of Agriculture, who points out that issues of this publication, "Research and Farming," are regularly supplied to those farmers whose names are already on the mailing list. Others may also receive the report upon request.

Contained in the latest issue of the report are articles from most of the departments of the Experiment Station, popularly written and well illustrated, on projects designed to be of interest to the farmers of the State.

Among the articles included in this issue are the following: "What Sweet Potatoes are Bought—And Why," "Recommendations for Cotton Seed Treatment," "The Poultry Disease Diagnostic Service at State College," "Stratification Will Increase Stand of Peach Seedlings," "How Experimental Statistics Fits into Agricultural Research," "The Tobacco Research Program Answers a Need of the State," "Planning for Rural Health Centers and Hospitals," and "Use the Freezer Locker to Provide a Year 'Round Meat Supply."

Free copies of this publication, Dr. Bayer says, may be obtained by writing to the Agricultural Editor

at State College, Raleigh. Requests should be made for "Research and Farming," Vol. V, Progress Report No. 2.

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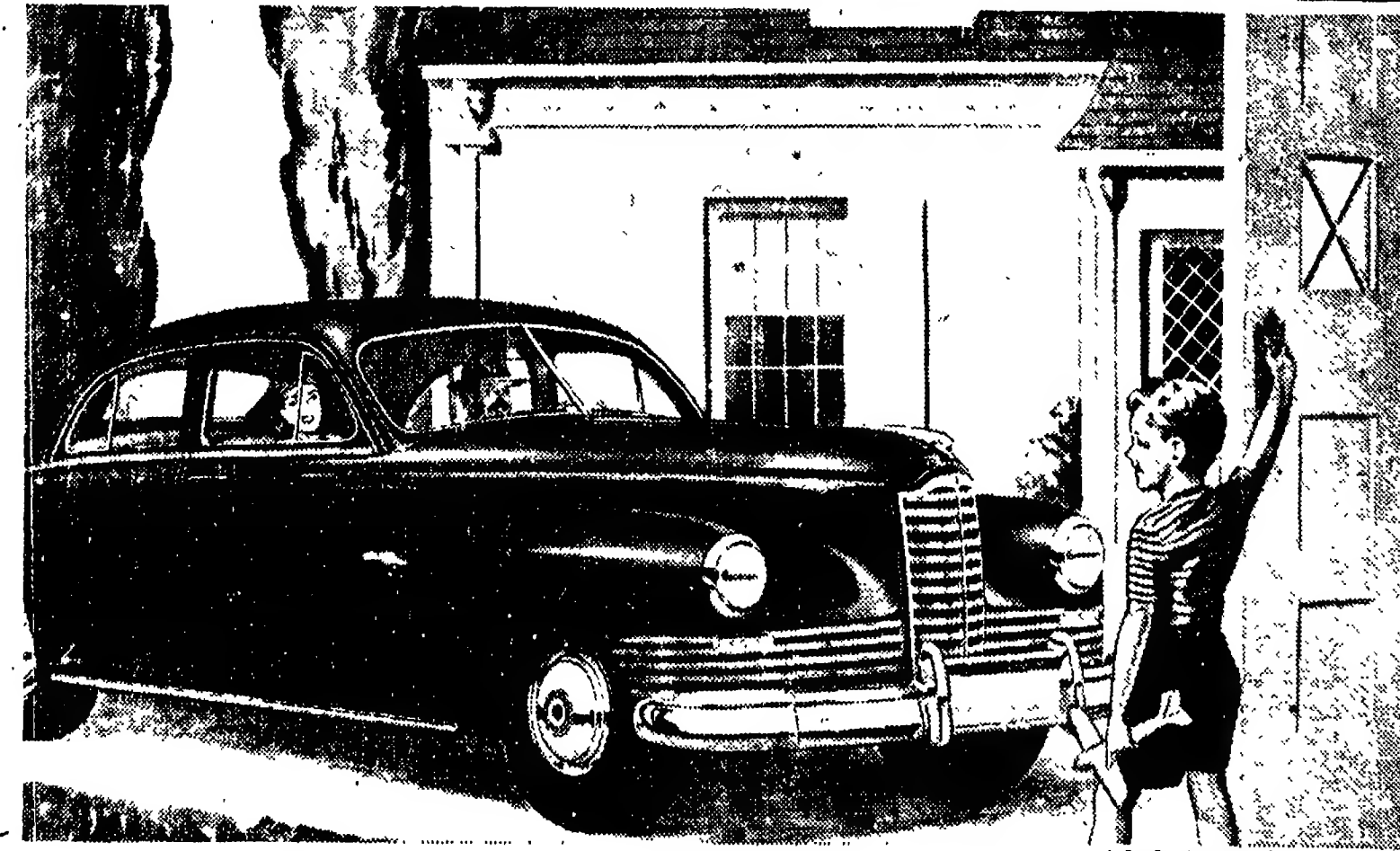
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