SWEET APPLES COME HIGH

(By JOHN GOULD)

It's a good thing Great-Grandfather wasn't around today of I'd have given him a piece of my mind. In most matters I have considerable respect for the old skipper, but every time I pick the Sweet Graft apple tree I long to address him intimately and improve his knowledge of pomology.

The Sweet Graft is the tallest tree in our orchards. Great-Grandfather grafted it when he was a young man, and through the years he nurtured it into a tall and angry specimen with the general shape and reach of an elm. We have no idea how old it is. My father says it looked just the same when he was a boy. Grandfather picked it carefully every fall for something like 80 years. I intended to lavish every care on it and transmit it not only as productive, but higher and bigger. It is, despite our sentimental regard, a frightful chore to pick it.

"If any technical orchardists are listening, it is really a King Sweet. The variety went out of style long ago. It is an apple with Tolman characteristics, but far nicer than a Tolman. It is to a delicious what ripe apricots are to green potato ball—if you see what I mean. We don't sell them—we keep them and eat them all in the family. We call them reading apples. We read out the long winter evenings with Sweet Grafts in panfuls at our elbows. You can hear a Gould reading all over the house. As we munch, we think the Sweet Graft is the best apple in the world.

"Great-grandfather came up here with all his possessions on his back and carved out a home. He brought in his pocket a few apple seeds, and after he whacked down the forest he planted them. In a few years they were small trees, and their first fruit was 'native'. Then great-grandfather hiked back the long trail to civilization and cut some scions from apple trees in the orchards of friends. He grafted these, and in a few years he had trees visibly growing up his meadows. One of the scions was cut in the old [illegible] Orchards, named for the [illegible] that gave Maine her [illegible] nor. We were always sure [illegible] nor King's father originated the King Sweet—extant today (so far as I know) only on our place.

"That's all very well—this is a fine apple with a fine history and an appreciative clientele. But great-grandfather made one powerful mistake. He grew his tree tall and straight. This is not good orchard practice. The higher the apples, the harder they are to pick—the fruit nearest the ground is the cheapest to gather. Every time I pick the tree I wish I might have pointed that out in the beginning.

"The old Sweet Graft, however, is the tallest tree in our orchards. Great-Grandfather grafted it when he was a young man, and through the years he nurtured it into a tall and angry specimen with the general shape and reach of an elm. We have no idea how old it is. My father says it looked just the same when he was a boy. Grandfather picked it carefully every fall for something like 80 years. I intended to lavish every care on it and transmit it not only as productive, but higher and bigger. It is, despite our sentimental regard, a frightful chore to pick it.

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"The old Sweet Graft, however,

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NOTICE OF SALE

North Carolina, Wilkes County.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Superior court of Wilkes county, made in the special proceeding entitled Mrs. R. H. Green, Admrx. of R. H. Green, deceased, vs. Lucille G. Lowe, Elmer Lowe, Alene Green, Thomas Green, minor, and Edward Green, minor, heirs-at-law, the same being No. ——— upon the special proceeding docket of said court, the undersigned commissioner will, on the 18th day of December, 1943, at 12 o'clock, Noon, at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, N. C., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash these certain tracts of land lying and being in New Castle township, Wilkes county, N. C., and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

First Tract: Beginning on a red oak, Davis Byrd's corner, running with old road, T. M. Green's and J. C. Green's line to schoolhouse and Cole corner 21 rods to pine and white oak; then running with Cole's line to black gum on East side of public road, Cole's corner, 45 rods running with public road to stone on East side of public road, 28 rods running Eastward to white oak; 19 poles running Northward to white oak and hickory 12 poles; thence Eastward to a white pine bush 23 poles; thence Northward to pine bush on South side of branch 9 poles; then Eastward with the meander of the branch to a maple, Henric's corner; thence Northward with Byrd's line to the beginning, containing 18 acres, more or less.

Second Tract: Beginning on a rock, side of public road, running Eastward 14 rods; thence Southward 71 rods: thence Westward to the public road 14 rods; thence Northward 7 rods to the beginning, containing 6-10 of an acre, more or less.

This 11th day of November, 1943.

CLYDE HAYES,
Commissioner

12-6-4tM

[illegible] Is Claimed By Death

Funeral service for [illegible] Herbert Hamby, aged 43, well known citizen of Lewis Fork township, was held Sunday, two o'clock, at Mount Pleasant Baptist church.

Mr. Hamby died Thursday at his home.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Nellie Tredway Hamby, and nine children: W. B. Hamby, Taylorsville, Va.; Mrs. W. R. Gabbert, [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] Hamby, Mrs. [illegible] Hamby, Mrs. [illegible] Hamby,