

Emmett H. Smith Has Made Record In Trading Real Estate

By Staff Writer

Emmett H. Smith, prominent Alleghany county citizen of the Ennice community, has had an unusual career in dealing in real estate and not only has made a financial success, but after many trades and exchanges, is again living at the scene of his birth.

Having made a success in his chosen profession, that of a "land trader," and returned to the scenes of his childhood, Mr. Smith is making a real contribution to the war effort by purchasing war bonds. He had a son in World War I and now the tradition is being carried on in the present struggle by two grandsons.

He was born April 15, 1874, near Ennice, in the eastern part of the county and grew up with no educational advantages. Since he has never been able to read and write until recent years, he deserves much credit in view of the fact that despite his educational handicap he has become a successful business man.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Asbury Smith, he worked on farms near his home during his early life for a sum of twenty to twenty-five cents per day. At the age of 20, he walked to Crockett's Depot, Va., caught a train and went to Coopers, W. Va., to work as a common laborer. Later he helped to build a section of the Norfolk and Western Railroad near Iron Ridge, Va., working there for two years, rolling a wheel barrow and using a pick and shovel at ten cents per hour. The next year he worked in the coal mines at Coaldale, W. Va., at \$1.20 per day.

Soon, however, Mr. Smith returned to North Carolina and purchased 75 acres of woodland near Hare, known now as the Henderson Cheek farm. He began work, clearing the land which he had purchased at \$1.50 per acre and for ten months he "batched" there, except for short intervals when his sister, now Mrs. Pinkie Phipps, of Galax, came to cook for him. At that time, rattlesnakes and "hoo" owls were plentiful in that semi-wilderness country, he declares.

In 1894, he sold his farm, and after marrying Miss Martha Richardson, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson, he moved to Peach Bottom, Va. During the following years, he bought and sold six farms. These included the Spicer Higgins farm,



EMMETT H. SMITH

the Sina Moxley farm and the Henry Richardson farm, near Ennice, where Mr. and Mrs. Haswell Rector now live. It was then that he purchased his present farm. He is now back within one mile of the place where he was born, living on a part of the farm of his grandfather, the late John Blevins.

Mr. Smith has been rather nomadic in his life and has moved and lived in several localities, but contrary to the old saying that a "rolling stone gathers no moss", he says he has made a success in every move. Moreover, he points out that neither he nor his wife inherited any money or property.

From 1922 to 1924 he operated an "Army" store in Sparta, selling over \$18,000.00 worth of used and re-claimed army goods placed on sale after World War I. In recent years he has invested a considerable sum of money in Galax, where he owns seven houses and lots. Some of these homes he has built himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have a family of six children. The oldest son, Estal, served in World War I, and as a result of being gassed, died several years ago in the veteran's hospital at Memphis, Tenn. Other children include: Roy Smith, of Bluefield, W. Va.; Earl Smith, of Bel Air, Md.; Mrs. O. H. Bedsaul, Mrs. A. R. Shaw and Mrs. Hobert Jones, all of Ennice.

Besides his present investments, Mr. Smith says that he has given his children more than \$1,200.00 worth of real estate and in the Fourth and Fifth War Loan drives he purchased \$5,000.00 worth of war bonds.

Two grandsons, Estal and Kenneth Bedsaul and one son-in-law, Hobert Jones, are now serving overseas in the U. S. Army.

Methodist Group Met Thursday

The Methodist W. S. C. S. met at the Sparta Methodist church last Thursday evening with Mrs. T. J. Carson as leader.

Interesting talks were made by Mrs. H. K. Boyer on "The Sacredness of Money" and Mrs. Dalton Warren on "Money in the Hands of Others."

Visitors were Mrs. Boyer, Mrs. A. F. Reeves and Miss Pearl Kastner. A picnic supper was served by the members.

Any farmer may slaughter and deliver the meat from any number of livestock owned by him without license or permit or making any report to the Federal Government, says the WFA.

Potatoes will last longer in winter storage, say Extension specialists, if not cut, skinned, or bruised in digging and handling.



In his poem, "The Task", Cowper writes these lines:
"..... from the toil
Of dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up"
Not so with Mr. W. B. Carpenter, of Ennice. Of course, Mr. Carpenter didn't use a bucket but he did have something in his well which was supposedly empty. Several months ago he started digging a well near his house and after they had gotten down about 18 feet, the pressure of farm duties caused him to stop work. A few days ago, Mr. Carpenter went back to his well to resume digging and what should he find in the 18-foot hole but a rattlesnake. He hooked a sharp wire on the end of a pole and snared the snake. It measured three and one-half feet in length and had nine rattles. According to Mr. Carpenter, the snake had not suffered from the lack of food, since he also found several frogs in the well. This made the third rattler that had been killed on the Carpenter farm this summer. One had three rattles and the other fourteen.

Mrs. Elbert Crouse, of Whitehead, was picking beans a few weeks ago, when she saw a rattler near her bean vines. She killed the snake and now she says that she carries a hoe with her when she goes to the field to pick beans as well as when she goes to hoe corn.

Pvt. and Mrs. Claude Evans, of Fort Bragg, recently visited Pvt. Evans' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Evans at Glade Valley. While at home, Pvt. Evans was digging some potatoes and happened to find one that measured 17 inches around. Pretty big potato, and a pretty good one too; it made enough potato salad to serve four people for three meals. If we could grow potatoes like that, the soldier on KP would have a prayer answered.

We don't know where this started, but we found it in a bulletin, "The Voice of Price" prepared by the OPA for all ration boards. As for the authenticity of the calculation, we make no comment, except to say that we hope the prophecy comes true.

Churchill was born in 1874, is 70 years of age, took office in 1940 and has been in office for 4 years, all of which added together gives 3888. Hitler was born in 1889, is 55 years old, took office in 1933 and has been in power for 11 years; all added gives 3888. Roosevelt was born in 1882, is 62 years old, took office in 1933 and has been in office for 11 years; total is again 3888. Duce was born in 1883, is 61 years old, took office in 1922 and has held that office 22 years, making a total of 3888. Stalin was born in 1879, is 65, took office in 1924 and has been in office 20 years, which adds up to 3888. Tojo was born in 1884, is 60 years old and took office in 1941, holding that office 3 years. This also adds to a total of 3888. Now one-half of 3888 is 1944, according to the calculation, and one-half of 1944 is 972, which means that the war will end the 9th month, the 7th day at two o'clock. The first letter of each name, all added together gives you C H R I S T, the Supreme Ruler.

Now, there it is... what we're still trying to figure out is how the person who figured it out ever thought of such a thing.

Speaking of the war ending soon, we heard that one soldier wrote his family not to bother with mailing any Christmas packages by October 15, as the postal authorities have requested. His reason: why he said he would be home by Christmas.



HOME CANNED PEACHES DELICIOUS WHETHER CLING OR FREE-STONE



Photo Courtesy Ball Bros. Co.

Clingstone peaches are excellent, but a great many persons prefer the flavor of freestone fruit and also find it somewhat less troublesome to prepare for canning. Whether cling or freestones, good raw peaches make good canned ones, provided they are canned right, but right canning can do nothing for greenish, bitterish, poorly flavored fruit.

Gladys Kimbrough, Home Service Director for Ball Brothers Company, advises those who can peaches for the first time, and those whose canned peaches are below par, to select tree-ripened fruit, when possible, and sort it for size, color, and condition before washing and peeling it.

Skins may be stripped from some well-ripened peaches after they have been scalded in boiling water about a minute and then dipped in cold water, but the general run of them require other methods of peeling. The lye method, while practical when a large quantity is to be canned, requires skill. To lye peel, put four tablespoons concentrated lye in an enamel or granite kettle. Add two gallons water and heat to boiling. Put peaches in a basket and hold in the boiling lye from thirty to sixty seconds; then wash immediately in cold water. Rinse through several waters to remove all skins and all traces of lye. The fruit will darken if left in lye too long or if not well rinsed.

Usually, paring with a knife is the most practical way of peeling. The peaches should be washed clean and drained before peeling. After peeling, the fruit should be cut in half, and the stones discarded. Freestone fruit has better flavor and nicer, cleaner appearance if the red fibers are cut or scraped from the cavities.

Dropping the peeled peaches into weak salt-vinegar water (one tablespoon each to one gallon of water) helps prevent discoloring. They should not be left in the water longer than thirty or forty minutes and must be well rinsed before canning.

Clingstone peaches are prepared for canning by removing the skins by one of the methods described above. Clings may be halved (before peeling) by cutting around the peach with a sharp knife, beginning at the stem end and following the crease. After cutting, hold the peach with both hands and twist in opposite directions. This pulls one side away from the stone. Use a regular peach pitting spoon, a teaspoon, or a knife to remove the stone from the other half of the

Farm Family Survey Made By FSA; Plans Are Formulated

Recently, a study of all farm families in Alleghany county has been made by the local FSA supervisors for the purpose of gathering general information concerning all farms in the county, to determine the needs and problems of these farm families, and to make a detailed plan of work for FSA families for 1945, in order that ways and means for solving their problems might be worked out. Working with the supervisors in formulating the new plan was the local FSA Committee composed of Carl Brown, Charlie Collins and Carl Hampton, R. E. Black, county agent, and W. O. Hooper, soil conservationist.

Upon consulting the 1940 census report, the supervisors found that there were 1,690 farms averaging 78.5 acres in Alleghany county. Of these, 1,442 are full or part land owners, leaving 248 tenant families in the county. The report further showed that in 1940, 1,469 of the total number of farm families had a gross income of less than \$1000.

The group felt that the problem to receive first consideration should be that of helping these small farmers to increase their income. This they felt might be done by:

1. Increasing number of sheep raised.
 2. Increasing dairy cows
 3. Increasing poultry flocks (including turkeys).
 4. Growing more feed crops—alfalfa and soybeans.
 5. Increasing yield through use of nitrate of soda on corn and small grain.
 6. Increasing average of cash crops, green beans, potatoes and tobacco.
- Although the establishment of a milk route in the county has brought about an increase in dairy cows, the group felt that the farmers might increase their profits through closer culling of dairy cows. The need for better dairy bulls was found to be especially acute in the following communities: Laurel Springs, Elk Creek, Ennice, Piney Creek and New River. It is hoped that one good sire may be placed in

each of these neighborhoods. It was agreed that improved housing for cows and better sanitation would also be profitable.

Because of the critical feed shortage, a special drive was made earlier among all FSA families urging that they use side-dressing on their corn to bring about an increase in the yields. Fifty per cent of the FSA families agreed to do this. This practice, as well as the use of side-dressing for all small grains, would be profitable for every family. Pasture improvement and the use of silos were other means whereby feed costs might be greatly reduced.

The committee felt that the 110 FSA families in the county had made substantial progress through the use of the loan funds made for farm and home operating expenses, and through the educational program carried out by the local supervisors. One of the committee men stated that "The FSA program has been worth an awful lot to the county." Another added that, "I didn't realize, until we reviewed the 40 borrowers who have been on the program for three years or more, that a number of them would have gone broke had it not been for FSA."

It was agreed that a special effort would be made this year to reach a greater number of farm families in the county who might profit by the help which Farm Security can give, to direct them in the use of improved farm and home practices, to increase their income, and to improve general health and housing conditions.

The 1945 wheat goal for the U. S., as announced by the WFA, is 1,900,000 acres larger than the crop of this year.

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Cover crops are protective crops that have assumed new importance during the war years, according to the War Food Administration.

While soil naturally is depleted of minerals, organic matter, and nitrogen by the crops it grows, a large measure of the fertility can be restored simply and quickly by the growing of cover and green-manure crops. They do not add lime, phosphorus, or potash, again consists point out, but they can increase production tremendously by the addition to the soil of organic matter, nitrogen, and other plant foods.

When land is not being used by the main crop, legumes, small grains, and grasses as a cover also prevent erosion, conserve moisture, and decrease run-off, hold plant food that might be leached out, and supply large quantities of nutritious livestock feed. When turned under, they add organic matter to the soil which makes it absorb water more readily and gives it new life.

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