

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

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Wednesday, December 20, 1939

Some men believe in embracing every opportunity, most especially if they're blonde.

A pretty piece of music is like a hypodermic needle—it gets under your skin.

Running round in circles is inclined to make one dizzy, if they're political circles.

A pretty girl is like a melody, and an ugly one like some of the more popular modern tunes.

Politicians are really artists. Don't they sometimes get a job out of a little campaign mud?

A man in politics generally gets wrapped up in his work—there are so many strings tied to it.

Some people we know just couldn't be snakes in the grass—in the Arabian desert.

Christmas Gift

There is one very excellent reason why this should be the merriest Christmas ever for many of the rural residents of this county, for electric power was made available this week to several hundred farm homes.

The natural first thought is that folks in the country can have mighty pretty Christmas trees this year, now that they have electricity and can use tree lights. But we meant something deeper than this.

Man's ability to harness and use for his own good electric energy is what makes the greatest apparent difference between this and the last century. Those of us who have become used to electric lights and other conveniences that result from power have grown blasé about these blessings. But not your country folks who switched on their lights for the first time this week. To them electricity is still a wonderful thing, and their's is the right attitude.

Nothing has ever happened to them before that had as great influence upon their home and its conveniences. The induction of electric power into their dwellings has placed residents of our farm districts on par, so far as modern conveniences go, with anyone anywhere. And these blessings are added to those which cause many people to believe that the farm is the finest place in the world to live anyway.

Safety Patrol

We are glad to see the Southport high school students taking their work with the Safety Patrol so seriously, and one result of their interest has been to secure the full co-operation and support of the city officials.

Mayor John D. Eriksen was talking to us last week about the safety work being done by the high school students. "I want the public to know that the city is 100-percent behind the Safety Patrol," he said, and he sounded like he meant it. "I believe that it is a fine thing for these older students to be willing to do their part in seeing that smaller children are able to get across some of our busier streets in safety.

"The Safety Patrolmen have been asked to report to the city policeman any person who deliberately refuses to abide by the rules of safety which they are attempting to enforce."

Regular Sam Brown belts and caps have been ordered for use by patrol members, but in the meantime, the Safety Patrol has become one of the finest extracurricular activities of Southport high school and each student may well be proud of his co-operation in it.

Postal Problem

It is too late to preach about doing your Christmas shopping and mailing early, but it isn't too late to call atten-

tion of our readers to the importance of co-operating with their respective postmasters during the rush season.

Remember that your postmaster must handle every single piece of mail and must see to it that it is routed to its proper destination. Your impatience and indifference not only makes his job unpleasant, it makes it impossible for him to serve you with the friendly efficiency to which you are accustomed.

Here in Southport a special Christmas schedule is in practice. This means extra work for Postmaster L. T. Yaskell and his helpers. The W. B. & S. mail bus, is making extra trips, and that, of course, is special Christmas service.

The least we can do is to show these folks who serve us so faithfully all year that we are willing to help make their task of handling the holiday mail as easy as possible.

Score One For Britain

(From The Durham Herald)

If reports are to be believed, German newspapers advertised the naval battle off the Uruguan coast as a German victory and British newspapers assured Britons their three cruisers carried off the honors. Berlin, radio and newspaper reports say, holds that the Admiral Spee was hot on the heels of two merchant ships when British men-of-war loomed in to view and put up a fight that makes Germans proud before running to shelter. London, on the other hand, assures Britons of the sea service that they can walk a bit prouder and lift their chins higher because smaller British craft put the heavier pocket battleship to rout, thereby perpetuating British supremacy on the seas.

Neutral observers, if observers on this side can be so labeled, seem to think the British carried the fight to the enemy and were ready for more when the crippled Admiral Graf Spee steamed to the safety of Montevideo harbor. And in the eyes of the ordinary onlooker, that adds up to victory for the British.

The admirals, of course, will be arguing some months, perhaps years, over what the battle proved about the relative merits of cruisers, pocket battleships and heavier craft. And it is probable that so long as present battle lines remain intact, Germans will go on saying they won Wednesday's engagement and the British will go on saying that they showed the Germans Britain still rules the waves.

How Germans and Britons react is important, of course, and what they believe about naval battles has something to do with how they react.

But for practical purposes and immediate effect, the advantage came to the British in the navel scrap. For the clearing of the smoke left the German ship badly damaged, and virtually out of circulation so far as preying on British shipping is concerned. And since the Germans do not have many ships of the Admiral Graf Spee type to use or to lose, the loss of the Spee must be entered as a major blow. The British, on the other hand, have many more cruisers to use and to lose.

Lumberton's Daily

The first issue of The Lumberton Daily News which commenced publication in the Robeson capital last Tuesday, was well gotten up and clearly showed signs of a tremendous expenditure of effort and forethought.

In giving Lumberton a daily newspaper, the publishers are answering a long-felt need in this entire section of the state. This paper will serve a fertile field, and everything points to its continued growth and success.

Lumberton and Robeson county should be proud of this outstanding addition to the North Carolina publishing field.

Football And Furriners

(The News & Observer)

David Clark has made an interesting proposal in his suggestion for a football game between the Northern boys playing on North Carolina's Big Five football teams and the native boys on the same teams. Perhaps the result would not prove anything. It would probably not settle the "well-known argument" over native and foreign football players in North Carolina colleges to which Mr. Clark refers. But it would be an amusing enterprise. Maybe even also a first-class football game.

Maybe the reason they call them political circles is because there's a lot of running around, not getting anywhere.

When some men begin trying to hoist a tune, we conclude they should have used a block and tackle in the first place.

Just Among The Fishermen

BY W. B. KEZIAH

Monkey Puzzle Tree

To be perfectly frank about it, we had never heard that there was such a thing as a Monkey Puzzle Tree until quite recently. Hearing that there was such a thing, the logical and natural deduction was that it was to be found somewhere in Brunswick county. Our guess was right, the flora and fauna of Brunswick county includes monkey puzzle trees.

The way the matter was called to our attention was thus: A Mr. Bray, of Newbern, recently wrote to the J. B. Clark Nursery Company in San Jose, California, and advised them to be wished to purchase some monkey puzzle trees, which he understood were only grown on the warm west coast. The Clark Company promptly wrote and advised Mr. Bray that they did not have the monkey puzzle trees, but they were being grown and were for sale by Churchill Bragaw, of the Orton Plantation Nursery, at Southport, North Carolina.

In this period of dry weather that Brunswick county is passing through ample proof is being shown that there is alertness and a determination to prevent or subdue forest fires throughout the county. There has been carelessness on all sides. Some few fires have broken out. None of them have done serious damage, so far as we have learned. In all cases where a fire has started a swarm of volunteer citizens and wardens have descended on it and made short shift of putting an end to it.

A small fire broke out in some woods about a mile north of town one day recently and in a short while it was attracting as much attention in Southport as if it was a house in town. In a comparatively short time there were more firefighters than fire. In fact, the fire was out and no damage. Another instance occurred last week and was reported to us. Someone had probably thrown a lighted cigarette from a car at Bell Swamp. In a short while a lively little blaze had started; and in an equally short time car after car had drawn up beside the road and men, and even some women were engaged in whaling the life out of that fire.

We note that the Wilmington Star, while happy over the coast guard air base at Elizabeth City, is clinging steadfastly to its heretofore expressed opinion that the coast of North Carolina is undefended. While the base at Elizabeth City is all right, as far as it goes. The Star seems to think there should be an army or navy base on the coast of Carolina.

We agree, most heartily. From letters we have received we are given to understand that the government is depending on mobilized army units that can quickly reach any threatened portions of the coast. One trouble with this, so far as we see it, is that there are little or no roads along vulnerable points of the North Carolina coast. A heavily mobilized army would have more difficulty in reaching some points of the North Carolina coast than an enemy from abroad would in landing upon it. This is especially true with regards to the Cape Fear river area, and the Cape Fear is the most logical area on the North Carolina coast for an enemy to land.

Southport Home Demonstration Club

Members of Southport Home Demonstration Club met Thursday at the home of Mrs. H. T. St. George for a Christmas party. A program of contests and games was directed by Mrs. Harold St. George, recreational leader. Gifts from the Christmas tree were exchanged by club members.

Refreshments of hot chocolate and cake were served by the hostess to the following club members: Mrs. Marion Doshier, Mrs. R. S. Harrison, Mrs. John Caisson, Mrs. Harry Weeks, Mrs. R. L. Thompson, Mrs. Elsket St. George, Misses Annie M. Newton, Lottie Mae Newton, Mary Weeks, Lullie Mae Newton, Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert and Mrs. H. T. St. George.

Where they mopped their cotton with molasses and calcium arsenate to control boll weevils, Ernest, Otis, and F. C. Best, of the Snow Hill 4-H Club, harvested one-third more cotton.

An elderly lady, afraid of passing her destination, poked the street car conductor with her umbrella. "Is that the First National Bank?" she asked. "No, mum," replied the conductor, "them's my ribs."

Your Home Agent Says!

CARE OF POINSETTIAS

It wouldn't be Christmas without our cheerful poinsettias! But don't you often wish you could keep your beautiful gift plants in good condition for a longer time?

And would you like to know what to do to carry your poinsettias over for growth another year?

First of all, it is well to know the poinsettia is native to the semi-tropics, having been discovered in Mexico by an American minister to that country, Joel R. Poinsett, for whom it was named. Being of a semi-tropical nature, it consequently requires warmth and humidity if we are to prevent the dropping of leaves caused by the transfer from the humid air of the greenhouse to the dry air of the average dwelling.

The poinsettia needs sun; it needs a warm moist atmosphere, as stated above; and plenty of water when blooming. It thrives best in a temperature ranging from 70 to 80 degrees. It is sensitive to sudden changes in temperature and must never be placed in a direct draft. If the temperature drops much below 60 at night, the leaves will begin to turn yellow and drop prematurely.

When you receive your plant, place it in a sunny window promptly. To maintain the necessary humidity in the atmosphere surrounding the plant, place the pot in a saucer of damp sphagnum moss. Water regularly, twice a day if necessary. If the air is dry sprinkle the top daily.

Remember that the leaves will fall if the plant gets too dry or too cold; also it will lose its foliage if drainage is not good and the soil becomes waterlogged.

Apply a pinch of complete balanced food every two weeks, and water it well.

If cared for promptly, the plant should remain presentable all through January. By that time the leaves will begin to fall, and the plant is entering its dormant state. Allow the soil to dry off gradually, then place the plant, pot and all, on its side on the basement floor, and just forget about it for the following three months. The plant will dry up and to all appearance seem to be without life.

In late April or early May, repot, using a good potting soil, enriched with teaspoon of a complete balanced plant food per quart of soil; thoroughly mix the plant food with the soil. Also place a piece of charcoal in the bottom of the pot, to keep the soil sweet. Before repotting, wash all the old dirt off of the roots of the plant, and cut the stems back to a height of 4 to 8 inches—one or two joints above the soil. Place the newly potted plant in a sunny window and give water gradually. When new growth starts, water regularly, also feed every six weeks with a complete balanced plant food, using about a level teaspoonful for a 6 to 10-inch pot.

When all danger of frost is over, sink pot and all in a semi-shady situation in the garden where plenty of light and good circulation of air, but not too strong sunlight, is available. Keep well watered during the summer, but keep the plant stocky by pruning.

Bring in the house about September 1, as the Poinsettia is very sensitive to cool nights. By bringing indoors early, the plant also has a chance to acclimate itself to the indoors atmosphere gradually. Keep in a sunny window out of drafts, and water well, spray the leaves with clear water every 4 or 5 days. If the pot is sunk in a larger pot filled with peat moss, and this peat moss is kept moist, it will provide the moist atmosphere needed. Late in November, the "flowers" or colored bracts should begin to show, and by Christmas the plant should be in bloom.

Funeral Services For Mrs. Milligan

Funeral services for Mrs. Lillie Milligan, 79, who died at her home in Shallotte Thursday morning after a short illness, were held at the graveside in Brooks cemetery Friday at 3 p. m. by the Rev. C. N. Phillips.

She is survived by two sons and two daughters, A. V. Milligan, of Akron, Ohio; and Mazon Milligan, of Marion, S. C.; Mrs. E. Holden, Jr., and Mrs. W. H. Redwine, of Shallotte. Pallbearers were grandsons of the deceased.

HOME BURNS Fire destroyed the home and most of the belongings of Uncle Jim Lewis, respected Southport colored resident, last Thursday morning.

NEW PROGRAM A new cotton crop loan program for 1939, which established for the first time a policy of location differentials, has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Ray Roper, noted band leader, is a native of Rocky Mount.

The Story of the Nativity St. Luke Version . . . Chapter II



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own country.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David);

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

A duck hunt Saturday morn by a number, a large number, of townspeople turned out to be more of a crusade than hunt with almost every field of business represented. . . The usual influx of college students has been in order this last week with prodigals from all corners. . . The usual Christmas Eve dance will be held on the 23rd, Saturday of this week. An orchestra made up of local talent will furnish the music. Only a small gathering of six or eight boys as yet, they hope to increase their ranks. A small charge will be levied to help buy music. Credit for the organizing goes to J. B. "Hoagy" Finch and John Shannon. . . You can't go wrong on either of the five Paramount pix from which the Amuzu will select their Friday showing. Frederic March and Janet Gaynor do some bright shining in "A Star is Born," tonite. Their Christmas gift to the public will be M-G-M's female riot, "The Women." Some say its 1939's best picture. . . The Comstock is scheduled to "come out" around the first of the year and it seems she will be thickly populated with Southport citizens. . . The January issue of Your Life, small magazine with a big mes-

sage, mentioned last week, surpasses all previous efforts. It has terrific appeal for all classes. . . prominent people from every field contribute. . . looks like the Russians have taken a "Moose Finn." . . Aerials: New York City Plaza a municipal broadcast, regularly, that will be Nation-wide interest over a big network. . . will speak to a large gathering at a suburban dinner, with possibly a hint as to that. . . guests. Or maybe another joke on the press. . . Gulf Screen Guild show has the honor of presenting Shirley Temple in her first broadcast. . . Christmas eve. . . In one of his last week's columns, Ter Winchell devoted half his space to an escaped convict. His praise of the criminals voice, who he met over a telephone, was so convincing that two studios have offers ready when the convict serves his term, after, of course, he has been caught! . . . Don't forget to renew your Red Cross subscription, and give a real Yuletide Gift. . . What a pleasure to know that the noise on the roof Sunday night will be Saint Nick and his air raid. . . So long and a very Merry Christmas to everyone.



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