

Potatoes Used For Money

Eruption of a dormant volcano has forced the inhabitants of Tristan da Cunha to give up their bleak life on the "loneliest island in the world."

Tristan is a volcanic fragment 21 miles in circumference rising midway between South America and South Africa. The British island is crowned by a 6,760-foot crater, which was believed to be extinct.

The volcano had been silent for centuries, but it began spewing lava recently and two new cones opened. The entire population of some 260 fled to Nightingale Island, one of four near-by uninhabited islets in the Tristan da Cunha group.

A Dutch ship took the refugees to Cape Town, South Africa, the first time all but a handful of the islanders had ever left their home. During the past, they had repeatedly refused to move from their tiny island and settle in more hospitable surroundings.

News Travels Slowly
Tristan is so remote and lonely that when a small atomic bomb was exploded secretly and harmlessly only 60 miles away in August, 1958, two years passed before the islanders learned of it. The information came to them by chance in a letter from a newspaper reporter.

But the news was not tardy by Tristan da Cunha's standards. At the turn of the century, a letter mailed to Tristan arrived 12 years late. World War I was almost over before the islanders knew it had started.

The islanders were discovered by a Portuguese mariner, Tristão da Cunha, in 1506. Tristan was permanently settled in 1811 when Jonathan Lambert, a New England adventurer, arrived with three companions. Lambert proclaimed himself emperor and renamed the group the Islands of Refreshment. There he hoped to remain "far removed from the reach of chicanery and ordinary misfortune." But he drowned two

years later while fishing. Great Britain occupied Tristan in 1816 to prevent the French from using it as a base for a possible attempt to rescue Napoleon from St. Helena, 1,500 miles away. When the British garrison left, a Scottish corporal named William Glass was granted permission to remain with his wife and two children. The population was augmented by shipwrecked sailors and deserters from whaling vessels that touched at Tristan.

Most Males Killed
In 1885, Tristan abruptly became an island of widows. Fifteen men were drowned when their longboat capsized. Only four grown men survived on the island; two were over 60, and was insane. Tristan survived this earlier catastrophe, and the population gradually was restored.

Weather and radio stations were established on Tristan in World War II. A crayfish industry, which exports "rock lobster," was set up in 1948. Until then there was no money on the island and potatoes were the medium of exchange. The wartime *Tristan Times* sold for two potatoes an issue. The family with the most potatoes in storage was the wealthiest.

Modern innovations brought little change to Tristan. The inhabitants lived in stone cottages with thatched roofs. Potatoes, milk, and fish were the main fare. The women carded, spun, and knitted wool.

All the islanders are related by marriage and share seven surnames. They are healthy people, except for a certain amount of asthma passed down from Corporal Glass, who suffered from the complaint.

The islanders speak their own English dialect, which is peppered with idioms. The standard greeting is "How you is?" and the reply, "It's fine, thanks. How's you?"

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

MORGANTON — The federal debt according to a recent Treasury Department stands at \$293.5 billion. There are many conflicting attitudes toward federal spending, the national debt, the tax burden, economic stability, and individual freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's labor. Each year the executive branch of the federal government proposes measures for the accomplishment of programs and modifications of existing programs. Thereafter the Congress approves or disapproves of bills spelling out these proposals.

On January 10th when the 87th Congress convenes for the 2nd session it will renew its consideration and examination of bills, and subsequently will enact appropriation and revenue measures to carry out the great majority of the legislation enacted. As these measures are reported in the press the average citizen determines how he feels toward the legislation.

Sometimes the average citizen has a great deal of difficulty in weighing his attitude toward a particular piece of legislation because he weighs both the benefits and the cost of the legislation. All of these opinions form a public feeling toward government fiscal policies at any given time.

FISCAL TRENDS — The trend of federal public debt has been upward for many years with the exception of a three year post-war period of 1947, 1948 and 1949. At the last session of Congress the Administration asked and was granted a request to raise the national public debt limit to \$298 billion.

Over the period of 1954 to 1961, inclusive, in response to administration requests, the statutory limit on the Federal debt was raised eight times. Three of these increases were within one 16-month period. This year there will be a deficit of \$7.9 billion in federal expenditures over federal revenues.

There have been 25 federal deficits in the past 31 years. In the cold war strategy of Khrushchev our fiscal policy is one of his prime targets. Recent studies by a Senate Subcommittee concerned with our national financial solvency pointed out that our fiscal policies determine the strength of our military might, the effectiveness of our international relations, and our entire domestic stability.

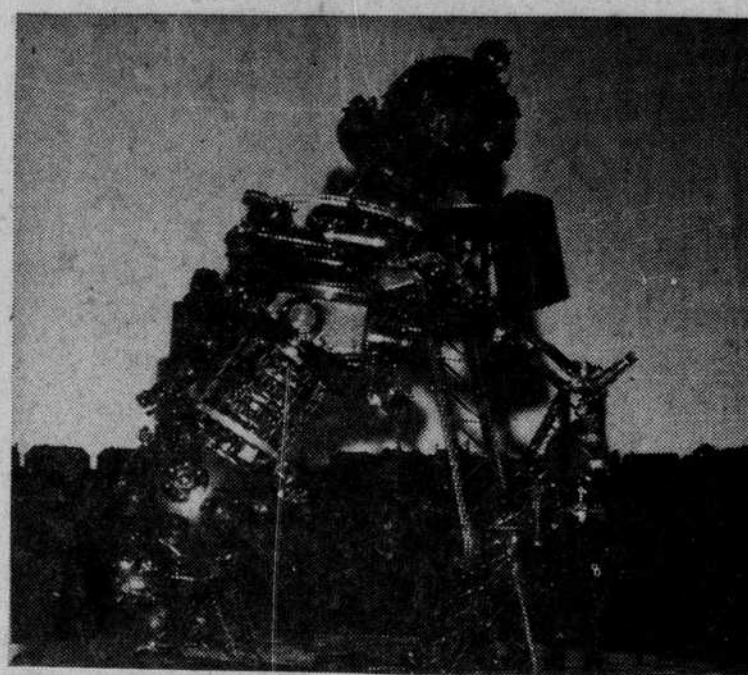
This study also has an interesting projection of future trends in federal expenditures unless our national attitude is changed. It points out that while our regular federal budget will be about \$88.4 billions with an additional \$26.7 billions for trust fund expenditures for the current year, these expenditures are slated to rise by 1965 under current conditions to a regular federal budget of \$106 billions and federal trust expenditures of \$31 billions annually.

BALANCING THE BUDGET — I believe it is an unsound fiscal policy to operate the federal budget five-sixths of the time on a deficit basis. In the precarious world in which we live it is even more urgent today than in the past for this nation to begin operating the federal treasury on a balanced budget.

National security and national solvency require our generation to pay our obligations as we go along.

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Special Equipment



THE GREAT ZEISS PROJECTOR in the Morehead Planetarium at Chapel Hill can reproduce the heavens at the time of the Birth of Christ and project what the Wise Men may have construed to be the "Star of Bethlehem."

Garden Time

By M. E. GARDNER
N. C. State College

A reader is distressed about her pecans which were "empty, black and worthless."

This is the story in many cases and is due, primarily, to two fungus diseases which attack the shucks—mildew and scab. These diseases, feeding on the shucks soon after the pecans are well formed, prevent development of the kernels and result in "black, empty" condition.

The only method of controlling diseases and insects which attack pecans is by following a spray schedule using approved insecticides and fungicides. This protection requires expensive spray machinery and is not practical under home garden conditions.

If you are one of the lucky ones who has escaped these fungus troubles and have well developed nuts to enjoy this winter keep paying the preacher and maybe your luck will continue.

We have frequent requests from new home owners about suggestions for plantings which will give "quick color effect". One answer is fancy-leaved caladiums.

The caladium is one of the really satisfactory shade plants. The leaves make striking displays against the deep green of evergreens. It is fine for massing in foundation beds.

I would recommend the purchase of tubers about two inches in diameter. The tubers may be planted out-of-doors after the temperature begins to level off in the spring and will not go below 65 degrees at night.

There are literally hundreds of varieties but the following list are the biggest sellers—Mrs. W. B. Haldeman, White Christmas, Spotlight, Thomas Tomlinson, Sunburst, Red Ensign, Red Flare, Exposition, Crimson Wave, Pink Cloud, Texas Beauty and Lord Daby.

The strap-leaved caladiums are a distinct class differing from the fancy-leaved class in leaf appearance. The leaves are heavier textured, somewhat leathery and are usually narrower than the fancy-leaved type.

Some varieties of the strap-leaved class are—Elizabeth Lou, Horatio Sid, King Lear, Pink Charmer, Red Chief, Ripple, and White Wings.

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"BLUE HAWAII"
ELVIS PRESLEY

Wed., Thur., Dec. 20-21
"THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE"
ARTHUR FRANTZ

Runaway Pony Meets His Match In Southport Matron

A frisky little Shetland pony who believed the grass to be greener on the other side of the fence—particularly in the garrison at Southport—helped create a mild excitement Monday morning for the benefit of a crowd gathering for the session of Superior court.

The little fellow was grazing on the garrison lawn, when he was herded into the "corral" at the rear of the officers' quarters and the gate closed behind him. There still remained the problem of getting him on the end of the rope, for the fenced in back yard is of considerable size.

Gentle persuasion was of no avail, and when one group set out behind him, another prepared to meet him in the narrow confines of the front

yard of the brick quarters opposite the courthouse. Obviously hemmed in, the little fellow paused to study the situation. That did it.

Mrs. Polly Cammack, resident of one of the buildings, had joined the posse, and when the toy horse hesitated, she didn't. She grabbed him by the mane with one hand, and the other she clutched him in the nosh. His first impulse to rear up was immediately stifled, and he stood docile as a kitten for the halter to be applied.

It turned out that this was not the first hand-to-hand combat for Mrs. Cammack with a pony. "I have a brother who raises them," she confided. "I've helped handle them before" and none who saw her has cause to doubt it.

Car On Loose Causes Big Damage---But Only To Self

The peace and quiet of the Basil Watts home was rudely interrupted during the early afternoon Sunday when a loud, crashing noise was heard in the front yard.

Members of the family rushed to the door to look out, and there they discovered Donald St. George's automobile standing a few feet back from a sturdy oak which had just sustained a mighty impact.

But their first concern was not for the car. Mrs. Watts and Mrs. St. George are sisters, and it was a matter of importance of who had been hurt in the accident. The answer was that nobody had.

Details of the strange accident unfolded. The St. Georges live about a block from the Watts home on West St., but at a little higher elevation. Someone had

left the St. George car in front of the house, out of gear. Some strange impulse, perhaps the wind, had set it in motion and nothing halted the progress until it had hit the tree.

Damage to the car was assessed at more than \$100, with grill and radiator bent, possibly ruined beyond repair.

And the St. George insurance does not cover this type of freak accident.

CARD OF THANKS

We are grateful for the expressions of sympathy and for the many acts of kindness from friends and neighbors following the recent death of our loved one.

THE FAMILY OF
RILEY D. CLEMMONS

EXEMPTION FOR

Continued From Page 1
1) a signed statement certifying that the boat is a commercial fishing boat, as defined in G. S. 75A-5, and 2) a receipt, signed by an authorized agent of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Commercial Fisheries, bearing the boat number originally awarded by the Wildlife Resources Commission and showing that the commercial fishing boat license tax imposed by G. S. 113-174.7 has been paid for the period during which the application for renewal is submitted.

State law defines commercial fishing boats as "motorboats which are used primarily for commercial fishing operations from which operations the owners and/or operators thereof derived more than one-half of their gross incomes during the preceding calendar year."

Owners of boats registering such boats for the first time must pay the \$3 fee, but will be exempted from payment of a renewal fee in subsequent years as long as the boat duly qualifies as a commercial fishing craft.

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