

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN

From ALMAR FARM In Transylvania

BY CAL CARPENTER



How many of you readers remember the pulp magazines of the thirties? "Doc Savage," "Weird Tales," "The Shadow," "Wings," "G-8 and his Battle Aces," "Ranch Romances," "Amazing Stories," "Astounding Science Fiction," "Famous Fantastic Novels," and many others, a very few of which, like "Argosy" and "Analog" (used to be Astounding Science Fiction), are still published?

I remember them quite well, for, despite much urging by parents and teachers to read "good" literature, I spent many an hour of my boyhood reading them in addition to the "good" literature.

I couldn't afford to buy all these magazines, of course, so I had a swap and collection arrangement that was surprisingly productive. I bought what few I could afford — mostly the "Wings" and "Doc Savage" issues. (The "Wings" were 20 cents and the "Doc Savage" a dime, money hard to come by in those days.) The rest I got by swapping and scavenging. I knew people who bought "Ranch Romances," "Weird Tales," "The shadow," "G-8" and so on. I swapped magazines all over the community — issue for issue.

And I wasn't above checking the trash cans behind the drug stores and news stands; for unsold issues of many of these pulp gems were sometimes disposed of there. They were mutilated so they couldn't be re-sold — the dealers would rip off the covers and sometimes tear them crosswise — but this didn't bother me. They could still be read.

Then there were the infrequent but happy occasions when one or two adult shut-ins I knew would let me

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S, adv.

clean out their attics and keep all the books and magazines I found. These were treasure hunts I shall never forget and I found jewels untold. I collected magazines by the boxes full and carried them home on my back, treasurers more valuable than jewels to me

It was the height of any day for me to stretch out on the little Army - style half - bed in my room and live all those glorious adventures of yesterday's yesteryear.

My greatest interest then, as in later life, was in science and aviation. In the "Doc Savage" magazines I lived adventure after adventure with the "Man of Bronze, Scientific Wizard, Giant of Physical Strength," and his erudite but eccentric crew of fellow adventurers. They were always saving the world from evil scientific geniuses; their adventures always started out with impossible things, happening which were pseudo - scientifically explained later.

As a matter of fact, many of these adventures have been republished recently — I've bought several of them. Now they're called "camp," meaning in today's rather loose mod terminology, something so bad it's good. I guess that's a pretty apt definition, for I've found these old reprints to be interesting although naive and extremely far fetched.

In the World War I aviation thrillers like "Wings" and "G-8," I found a lifetime time interest in aviation — particularly military flying. Indeed, it was probably reading these stories that shaped my inflexible course toward Army pilot training at the beginning of World War II.

Sale Of US Savings Bonds During April Reported Up

Series E United States Savings Bond sales in North Carolina during April amounted to \$6,310,392, an increase of more than 25 percent over sales in April of last year. H Bond sales were up 53.7 percent. Combined sales of both Series E and H Bonds for April were \$6,460,392, a 20.4 percent increase over last year's E, H, and Freedom Share sales.

January - April cumulative sales amounted to \$25,077,960, the largest volume sold for any comparable period since 1946, and an 11.9 percent increase over 1970 sales for the same period. This represents 39.4 percent of the state's 1971 dollar goal of \$63,600,000.

Jerry Jerome, Transylvania County Chairman reminds residents that all outstanding Series E and H Savings Bonds and all Freedom Shares continue to draw interest, as a result of action recently taken by the Treasury.

The Treasury has granted additional 10-year maturity extensions to Series E Savings Bonds purchased from May 1941 through January 1957. Also, Freedom Shares, sold May 1967 through June 1970, have been given a 10-year extension beyond their original 4½ year maturity.

"This means Savings Bond owners can continue to count on their older Bonds as part of their long - range financial planning for retirement security, children's educations, and new homes," Jerry Jerome said.

Sales in Transylvania County during April were \$26,710.00. January - April sales totaled

used during that war. I learned their engines and armament; something of their performance and weaknesses.

Fortunately, the writers of those epics were pretty well informed. Oh sure, there was a certain amount of exaggeration, but when I made a research project of World War I aircraft, more than 30 years later, I found much of my pulp fiction - gained information was pretty good.

I now have a later, serious work by one of the principal writers of those stories: "The Years of the Sky Kings," by Arch Whitehouse. He is one of the few living survivors of several years of aerial combat both as gunner and pilot in World War I. No wonder his stories were authentic, he was simply fictionizing on his own experiences!

It was in the pages of such publications as "Famous Fantastic Novels" that I read many of the fantasy classics: Merrit's "Ship of Ishtar," "Seven Footprints to Satan," "Moon Pool," "Burn, Witch, Burn," "The Face in the Abyss," "The Mechanical Monsters"; Milne's Radio Man series, the Polaris series, whose author I've forgotten; and many, many others.

I suppose purists will say that these pulp literary outpourings of the thirties were junk, but I could never agree. I'm of the opinion that any read is good. Reading good literature is better, but a person, especially a youngster, should be allowed to read what interests him. Otherwise, forced to read something he doesn't enjoy, the youngster is likely never to develop the great enjoyment of reading for pleasure. This will impoverish his whole life.

Better he read cheap fiction for pleasure than not to read at all. And it won't likely come to that, either. For it's a pretty safe bet that once the reading habit has been established, the "good" literature will come in for its share of attention.

If anybody happens to have a bunch of the old magazines I've mentioned in their attic, I'll still clean it out for them.

TRY TIMES WANT ADS

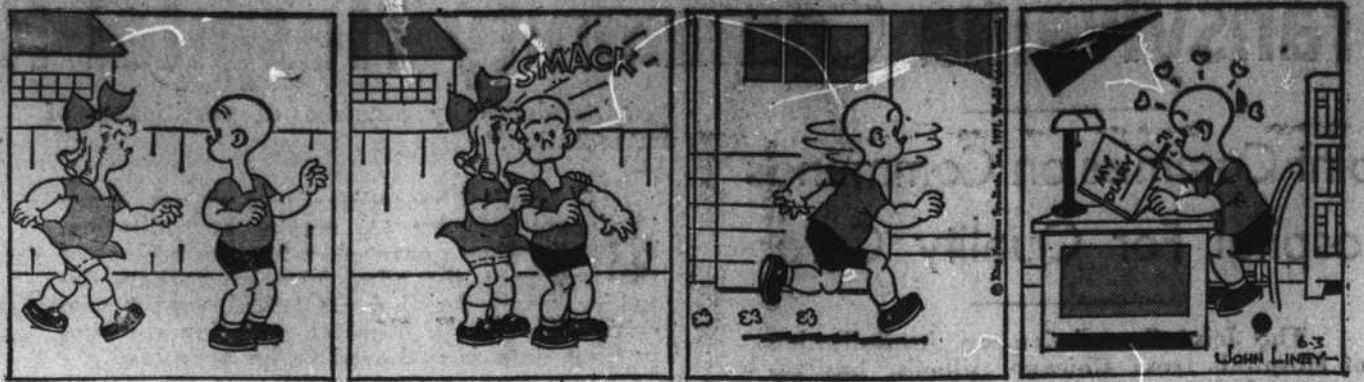
\$104,500.00. This represents 37.1 percent of the county's goal of \$281,478.00, according to Jerry Jerome.

NOTICE
State of North Carolina,
County of Transylvania.)

The undersigned, Mary Elizabeth Rothwell, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Clarence B. Rothwell, late of Transylvania County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of November, 1971, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 21st day of May, 1971.
Mary Elizabeth Rothwell
Executrix, Estate of Clarence B. Rothwell
c/o Ramsey, Hill, Smart & Ramsey, Attys.
The Legal Building
Brevard, North Carolina
5/27/4tc

HENRY



By JOHN LINEY

DONALD DUCK



By WALT DISNEY

BLONDIE



By CHIC YOUNG

A PROMISE TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO CARE ABOUT TOMORROW.



A promise to do more than talk; too many people are already doing just that.

A promise to take part in making tomorrow all it should be.

To help keep North Carolina what it's always been. One of the garden spots of the South. Of the Country.

There is pollution here.

Not nearly as much as you'll find elsewhere. But enough to arouse some worry.

So. We're looking for opportunities. Opportunities to help business clean things up.

Wherever possible, we're making every effort to extend additional credit to concerned companies.

There is nothing that says these companies have to increase their financial obligation. But they're doing it. Because they feel a strong obligation to North Carolina.

And to you. It may take a little more effort to protect the good life.

But it's worth it. It's worth it to make tomorrow everything we want it to be. Everything we know it can be.

Let's make tomorrow together.

First Union National

Science for You

BY BOB BROWN



PROBLEM: A chemical trick.

NEEDED: Cornstarch, tincture of iodine, a glass of water, pan for boiling.

DO THIS: Put three drops of the household iodine into the water in the glass. It should turn very slightly brown. Have a friend stir it with a finger, and nothing happens. Now stir it with your finger, and the color changes to blue.

HERE'S WHY: Prior to the demonstration, boil half a teaspoonful of cornstarch in enough water to fill a glass half full. Let it cool. Before the demonstration, dip a finger into the starch water. Then when that finger is used to stir the iodine water the familiar test for starch takes place, the blue color appears.

Iodine and starch combine to form a mysterious temporary combination called "starch iodide" which is blue.

This special "Science For You" feature is sponsored by Olin Corporation at Pisgah Forest in co-operation with The Transylvania Times.