

Tar Heel Spotlight

19th Century New Year's

The new year has been celebrated in many ways — boisterous and gala parties are the earmark of modern observances of the march of time from the old to the new year.

But how was the new year marked a century ago?

It is of interest to go back in time and read newspaper accounts of the coming of another year.

The Raleigh Register for Jan. 2, 1856, carried an article entitled "A New Year." Though several words in the first paragraph are obliterated in the microfilm copy of this issue, which is located in the Search Room of the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh, the article begins by noting the passage of the year 1855.

It continues: "There is matter for joyous aspiration — these (sic) is cause for thankfulness. A kind hand, though unseen, has guided us all in security amid the trials and vicissitudes of the past. Our pathway, though it may have been beset with danger, and may have led even amid disaster and death, has been to us one of safety.

"The Ocean of Eternity has engulfed (sic) thousands of life's voyagers, but our bark still floats upon the stream of time. True, the joys — the sorrows — the duties — and the cares of life — are still our heritage; but the trials, the temptations, the sufferings and calamities of the past are no more to be encountered. Their remembrances alone remain as lights to encourage or beacons to warn us, while we enter upon a new period of existence, and fulfil (sic) its allotments, still cherishing the hope that when another year shall close, the sweet accounts of friendship and love may again, as now, softly whisper the heart-felt prayer — A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

On Jan. 1, 1878, the Observer, another paper published in Raleigh, noted:

"When the clock struck twelve this morning even our work was checked for a

moment to heed the warning that we had passed another of the landmarks which stand between us and the grave: that another year had come, another year had gone, making 'more figures in the lengthening sum of recollection that we work and work at to our torment, till Death idly jumbles all together and rubs all out.'

"But only for a moment: in this work-day world there is little time to give more than a smile of cheerful recollection, an ejaculation of heartfelt thankfulness, for the good the Dead Year brought us, and then turn with cheerful heart and willing hand and undying hope to the work which the New Year finds for us to do. That there have been occurrences in the past year for which all readers of THE OBSERVER have reason to be thankful, and which they can recollect with pleasure, we have no doubt. To all of them we wish a Happy New Year."

But not all was serious philosophizing at the beginning of 1878. The newspaper reported on the Jan. 1 dinner, prepared at the Yarborough House by the new steward, E.F. Powers, late of the Grand Central Hotel and the Astor House in New York. Raleigh's leading hotel had had, that day, its bill of fare printed in gold.

The paper predicted that there would be no more popular place than the Yarborough if the dinner was any sample of what was to come. And the service was good: "Grey Washington, so well known to the guests of the hotel, as head waiter, was as prompt as ever in attending to the wants of all."

The National, on the same day, opened with "One of the old time New Year dinners which so many have read of but so few have had the good fortune to enjoy." The pastry was particularly "well prepared and the viands were of the first quality. All who participated in demolishing the magnificently arranged tables of the National yesterday will long remember it as one of the most enjoyable

dinners of their life." It is unfortunate that the menus of the two meals were not recorded. But it is obvious that many of Raleigh's citizens began the year 1878 full of good food and fellowship — as will those living in the capital city in 1975.



A simple way to chart your financial progress from year to year is the annual computation of your net worth.

Your net worth is the total value of all your possessions minus the total amount of your liabilities.

There are a number of advantages to knowing what you are "worth." You will have a clear indication of where your finances stand. You can see exactly how your family would be provided for in the event of your death. And it shows you if you are really saving enough.

The calculations are surprisingly easy. Begin by listing all your assets. These include cash, savings, your home and car, your investments and the cash value of your insurance policies. Also include whatever pension or profit sharing holdings your employer may have set aside for you. Be sure to use the current market value of your assets, what you would get if you sold them today, not what it would cost to replace them.

Next, calculate your liabilities. These include your mortgage, car payments, bills and miscellaneous debts.

Subtract the total liabilities from the total assets. The result is your net worth.

According to many economists, each year your net worth should increase about 10%. This includes increases in equity in real estate, personal property, and savings.

Readers' questions are welcome and should be sent to P.O. Box 2210, Newport Beach, CA 92663.

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

The Old Timer



"Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors."

North Carolina grew about 398 million pounds of peanuts last year, or about 15 per cent less than in the previous year. The estimated yield is 2,400 pounds per acre — 410 pounds under the record set in 1973.

Sylvanite Mineral Club Plans Field Trip

BY CAROLYN SHUPE

A most enjoyable evening was spent by the Sylvanite Mineral Club December 14 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Ansley in celebration of the holidays. Club members exchanged minerals at the end of the evening and a short business meeting was held.

The time has come to make definite plans for a field trip to Lake Douglas, Tennessee. This is a long awaited trip that everyone has been talking

about and it is hoped that there will be a good showing of members.

Among other things, the Herkimer Diamond is the main attraction at Lake Douglas and reports are that there are generous amounts there.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 11 (in case of inclement weather the trip will be Jan. 18). Plan to meet no later than 9 a.m. at the I-40 rest stop on the Tennessee North

Carolina border. This is about a one and one-half hour drive from Brevard. After that point we will follow Herman Eaker to the hunting area.

The January regular meeting will be held at Silvermont at 8 p.m. with the program to be given by Herman Eaker. Now is a good time to join the Club for many interesting activities will be being planned for the coming year. An invitation is extended to all who are interested in rocks, minerals and gems to

visit with us at the new meeting.

As most of you know, the Lapidary Room is in full operation and some beautiful cabochons have been cut, and with this experience, a few valuable lessons have been learned.

Not enough can be said of the unselfish donation of time and self of Mr. George Baker who is teaching the course. Our most heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Baker.



Lowe's is going all out this winter to save you money! Not only are we slashing our prices, but we also have a whole truckload full of energy-saving items waiting for you. Our storm doors and windows will first save you money on purchase prices... then, they'll keep saving you money on heating bills for years to come. So, stop by your nearest Lowe's store and see for yourself our truckload of real money-savers!



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Installation Available

DID YOU KNOW?

Of all the teenagers in the world, the Americans (23 million of them) are the most powerful. Reason: they have a fantastic purchasing power of \$15 billion per year on their own and a direct influence in spending an additional \$35 billion of family funds.

- 1—Teenage boys—only 12 per cent of the male population, buy more than 40 per cent of all male sportswear.
- 2—Teenage girls—11 per cent of the female population, buy 20 per cent of all women's apparel.
- 3—Teenage girls account for 30 per cent of all cosmetic purchases, 25 per cent of all greeting cards, 50 per cent of all record albums.
- 4—About 13 million teenagers play at least one musical instrument, 16 million own at least one camera, 19 million read one to five books (not textbooks) a month.
- 5—Teenagers own 1 million TV sets, 100 million record players, 20 million radios, and one of every ten automobiles.

Who spends the rest — the adults — of course.

Mr. Merchant: If you want to reach the Teenagers in Transylvania, advertise each evening during WPNF's Record Party. That's from 7:05 until 10:00 o'clock each night over

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