

The Chapel Hill Weekly

LOUIS GRAVES Editor

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Trying to Stop Soil Erosion

At the present stage of the work of the United States Government's Soil Erosion Service the newspaper reader is hearing a great deal about the damage wrought by erosion and not much about what is being done to halt the damage. But this does not mean that the Service is chiefly engaged in calamity-howling. It has got to make the public realize the disastrous consequences of the washing-away of the soil on farms and in forests, and while it is telling this story it is proceeding vigorously with its remedial activities.

In North Carolina, as in other states of the Union, it has established what are called demonstration erosion-control areas. These areas are so scattered that they are accessible to millions of farmers and other citizens whose property is being damaged by the too rapid run-off of rainwater. The task of thwarting this monster, erosion, is no easy one—it cannot be completed overnight. But it is a task that can be performed successfully, as the experts have proved. One great essential—and this explains the preparatory "educational" work campaign by agents of the Government—is public interest and public cooperation.

In China the world has a horrible example of the tremendous damage done by erosion, and many regions of Europe present examples of triumphs over erosion. This country had better heed the warning and take the course to which expert knowledge points the way, else its wealth will continue to be washed away.

Breakfast

Breakfast was extolled by William Lyon Phelps in a radio talk one evening last week. Hymning the praises of fruit and bacon and eggs and toast and coffee—particularly coffee—he said: "If I could have only one meal a day, it would be breakfast." Never in bed, but at the table, "I hate crumbs in the sheets and the night clothes, and I have never mastered the art of eating or drinking while in a horizontal position."

We have expressed our affection for the morning meal frequently, in these columns and elsewhere, and as we listened to the illustrious teacher and writer we were aware of that glow of satisfaction that comes from hearing one's own judgment confirmed by a man of high position in the world. It tickled our vanity. Sitting back in an easy chair, puffing a pipe, we fairly gloated.

But a moment later we were in violent dissent, for Mr. Phelps was going on to say that, for a breakfast to be perfect, it should be eaten without the accompaniment of a newspaper. To us this notion is nothing less than horrible.

We gathered that Mr. Phelps considered it neglectful, even discourteous, for a man to read a newspaper instead of engaging in conversation with the family. The flaw in this, as we see it, lies in the assumption that a newspaper is interesting only to the head of the house, and that his wife would rather listen to him and talk to him than read about the trial of a kidnapper, the flight over an ocean, a threatened war in Africa, a shipwreck, an earthquake,

or a dispute between the President and Congress. This may have been so once upon a time, when every word from the lord and master was (or was supposed to be) a pearl of great price and when it was almost indecent for women to be concerned with the affairs of the world. But it is so no longer. We believe that, in most households of our acquaintance, the man who offered to inaugurate a newspaperless breakfast would have a rebellion on his hands. What he took for an act of self-denial on his part would be received as a cruel and inhuman punishment. Not only the full grown, but the adolescents, who must have their sports news and movie news, and the youngsters, who must have their comic strips would call upon high heaven to protect them from such persecution.

Owen Meredith wrote in *Lucile* three quarters of a century ago:

"We may live without friends, we may live without books, But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

Granting an exception in the case of Mr. Phelps, we say there is something else that civilized man cannot live without; and that is a newspaper at the breakfast table.

Add Bradshaw to the List

We suggested in last week's issue that people in the village wishing to subscribe to magazines take out their subscriptions through citizens of Chapel Hill instead of through roving solicitors whom nobody knows anything about and some of whom are frauds. We mentioned four agents who live here and said we would be glad to give the names of any other resident who would let us know he was in the business.

Richard Bradshaw, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bradshaw, appeared at our door Monday morning.

"I want to let you know," he said, "that I will take subscriptions, as an agent, to any magazine in the world." He uttered the word, "world," in a confident, possessive manner that left us in no doubt that he meant business.

So add Richard Bradshaw to your list.

Do not allow yourself to be persuaded or intimidated by the high-pressure salesmanship of strangers when there is a neighbor who is ready to serve you and is eager to earn the commission.

Skating on the Streets

A boy roller-skating on the street in an eastern North Carolina town was killed by a car last night. Recently we have seen boys on skates, weaving their way in and out among whizzing cars, on the main street of Chapel Hill. It is a dangerous practice. If there is not an ordinance against it, one should be enacted. Anyway, the police should stop it in the interest of safety. Parents of children who have skates will do well to keep them off the pavements.

More Revenue Is Needed

In the newspapers the McDonald-Lumpkin revenue measure has been spoken of as a substitute for the sales tax. Some of the levies proposed in this measure are impracticable. Such as are practicable should be made not in place of, but in addition to, the sales tax. Between 25 and 30 million dollars in taxes have been lifted from property since 1929, and the most important result of this has been the reduction in the appropriations for education. For the proper support of education the state needs the sales tax revenue and several million dollars more.

Tenant Farmers in Arkansas

This is from a United Press report of investigations made by Mrs. Mary Connery Myers, A.A. A. legal official and former agent of the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Mrs. Myers made an intensive study of social conditions in five northeastern Arkansas counties.

"She reported evicted tenant farmer families straggling along highways, wandering hopelessly in search of shelter and employment. She said hovels were crowded until there was 'standing room only', because families in slightly better economic circumstances had shared shelter with the evicted.

"Some landlord planters, Mrs. Myers charged, have turned out their tenants without warning and influenced local relief officials to refuse them aid.

"She exhibited snapshots of rough-boarded shacks in muck-mired fields, the gaps in their walls admitting bitter winds; evicted Negroes standing in the road, not knowing where to turn for succor; a truck piled high with bed springs, a stove, and ram-shackled ends of the household equipment of a poor family.

"Mrs. Myers characterized the scenes as 'like those of refugees fleeing war-time Belgium.'

"She blamed the situation on violation of an acreage control contract clause providing: 'The producer shall, insofar as possible, maintain on this farm the normal number of tenants and other employees.'

Vermin on Prince of Church

This incident is related in *Rats, Lice, and History*, by the bacteriologist, Hans Zinsser:

When St. Thomas à Becket was martyred, his body was prepared for burial in the clothes he wore when he was murdered. They were an extraordinary collection: a large brown mantle, a white surplice, underneath that a lamb's wool coat, another woolen coat, then another, a black cowled robe of the Benedictine Order, a shirt, and, next the body, a hair cloth. As the body grew cold, the vermin that were living in this multiple covering started to crawl out, and according to the chronicler, "the vermin boiled over like water in a simmering cauldron, and the onlookers burst into alternate weeping and laughter." . . . "If this was the state of a prince of the church," writes the reviewer, Logan Clendening, "it is not astonishing that lousiness was the general condition of the people of the Middle Ages."

Belated News of the "Portland"

(From the *Spectator*, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.)

A very interesting mystery of the sea is reported to have been solved by the discovery of the wreck of the steamer *Portland*. This was a coastwise liner of the sidewheel type which (if memory serves us) left Boston November 26, 1898, in a blinding snow storm for Portland, Maine, with passengers and crew to the number of one hundred and fifty-seven was never afterwards heard from. It was a matter of much speculation among maritime men at the time as to whether the steamer had been pounded to bits by the terrific seas and swamped, or perhaps was sunk in collision, but it has been discovered by Edward B. Snow, Historian of the Bostonian Society, that last summer a scallop dragger brought up a net in which were several pieces of silver and crockery bearing the name of the steamer. Further search showed a hulk in about thirty feet of water some twelve miles north east of Cape Cod,

which would indicate that the disaster happened either very soon after leaving Boston or perhaps when she was heading back to port in distress. The location of the wreck being now determined, however, it is to be expected that particulars will be ascertained by divers next summer.

Beginning after New Year's Russia will abandon bread rationing and will allow flour to be sold in shops generally. Next the Russians will be demanding cake.—*Boston Globe*.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power conferred upon me in a certain deed of trust executed to me by George Trice and wife, Ora Trice, dated November 19, 1926, and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Orange County in Book 79, at Page 297, to secure certain indebtedness therein described and default having been made in the payment of the said indebtedness and having been requested to do so by the holder of the note evidencing the said indebtedness, I will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the Post Office Door in Chapel Hill, N. C., at twelve o'clock M. on

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1935 the following described tract of land, to-wit:

Lying and being on the West side of McDade Avenue in the suburbs of

A Gift to a Friend
The Chapel Hill Weekly for one year, \$1.50.

the Town of Chapel Hill, N. C., and beginning at a point established by measuring Northward along said Avenue 162 feet from its intersection with Craig Street, and running thence S. 85 deg. W. 200 feet to Arthur Barbee's line; thence N. 11 deg. W. 54 feet to John Brooks' Southwest corner; thence N. 86 deg. E. 200 feet to the West side of McDade Avenue; thence with said Avenue S. 11 deg. E. 54 feet to

the beginning, being Lot No. 9 in the plat of the Craig land made by James O. Webb, County Surveyor, June 7 and 8, 1915, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Orange County. This sale will remain open for ten days to receive increased bids. This the 7th day of February, 1935. W. S. ROBERSON, Trustee L. J. PHIPPS, Attorney

COME IN AND SEE THE
New Ford Car

Let Us Give You A Demonstration Of
Its Power and Comfort

(See the Picture of the New Ford On Page 3)

Strowd Motor Co.

"Ford Products Since 1914"

TODAY: Chester Morris in "Society Doctor"; TOMORROW: "Man Who Reclaimed His Head"



Here It is! . . . The Star-Studded, Song-Packed Fun Riot That Will Set The Entertainment Standard for 1935—and 1936!

Radio's Reigning Favorite—in his first great musical—heading a grand galaxy of stars in a laugh-packed story by the authors of "20 Million Sweethearts"; 6 song hits that are already famous! Romance that will make your heart lighter! It's got everything!

And the cast sounds like a Who's Who of Hollywood! . . . Look!

HELEN MORGAN NED SPARKS
ALICE WHITE ROBERT ARMSTRONG
ALLEN JENKINS AL SHEAN
100 HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIES

MONDAY

with

RUDY VALLEE
in
"SWEET MUSIC"

with
ANN DVORAK

OTHER FEATURES
Mickey Mouse Cartoon, "Mickey Plays Papa"
Ina Ray Hutton's Band "Million Dollar Notes"
Paramount News

CLARK GABLE in **"AFTER OFFICE HOURS"**
CONSTANCE BENNETT Tuesday — Wednesday

RICARDO CORTEZ VIRGINIA BRUCE in "Shadow of Doubt" THURSDAY	BARBARA STANWYCK WARREN WILLIAM in "SECRET BRIDE" FRIDAY	MID-NITE SHOW FRIDAY JOE PENNER in "College Rhythm"	MYRNA LOY CARY GRANT in "Wings in the Dark" SATURDAY
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COMING
"Little Colonel"

CAROLINA

COMING
"Chu Chin Chow"
"Roberta"
"Vanessa"