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Encouraging News

EVERYBODY everywhere is feeling in greater or lesser degree this thing called "depression." As one's own woes are the most ever-present, it is natural for individuals and communities alike to fall into the error of thinking that they are suffering more than most other individuals or communities, as the case may be.

We in Macon county may feel we are hard hit, and there's no doubt that the business skies here are not as bright as they have been. But, judging by authoritative reports, our situation is much better than that of communities in other sections of the country. Think of the poor wheat farmer, the cotton planter and the tobacco grower!

A map of business conditions published recently by Forbes Magazine shows that conditions in Western North Carolina, including Macon, are "fair." Only a few other sections of the country were placed in this category. Conditions in all the rest of the country were represented as "bad."

The report of R. C. Birmingham, County Auditor, that Macon county is living within its budget and is in better financial condition than most other counties of the state is indeed encouraging.

Mr. Birmingham went even further in his comments, expressing the opinion that if the County's business had been handled in the past as it is now is there would be no county debt and, hence, the tax rate would be considerably lower. No higher commendation could be voiced for the Board of Commissioners.

With state and federal governments in woeful condition financially, and no signs apparent of early improvement, it is reassuring to know that at least the County's finances are on a sound basis, meaning that the next tax levy should be lower rather than higher.

Chief Chutahsotih's Grave

"SOME men achieve greatness, while some have greatness thrust upon them" is an old saying and may be applied to communities to some extent. Tradition, however, is something that cannot be achieved. We may, by our deeds, build up a tradition for the generations yet to come but such as we have is ours by virtue of the character and lives of men long dead. It is a heritage we can allow to die, and too often we do just this. If we let it die, it is gone forever. Nothing we can do will ever replace it. Unimportant as it may seem in the press of our daily lives, the tradition of noble lives and noble deeds of those who have lived in this land and walked these hills before us is a trust we must recognize. The strength of the ancient Roman Empire was founded on the tradition of hardihood of its founders. The life of modern nations is strengthened and enriched by the tales of the men and civilizations that have gone before.

We were not the first people to inhabit this land. Our forefathers came and took it away from the people who had held it for untold centuries. We believe they had a certain right to do so. Perhaps it is God's will for the strong to supplant the weak, for the new order to replace the old.

We do not subscribe to the sentiment that "All good Indians are dead." There are good Indians and bad Indians and a lot of good Indians are dead. It is our privilege to have the story of one of these—one who lived in Macon county and earned the respect and admiration of those whose lives touched his. And now Chief Chutahsotih and his wife are buried in Macon county in an unmarked grave. The memory of him and his character is held by only a few now surviving who knew him. A little while and this would be lost, but for the thoughtful action now being taken by some of those who know the story. It is a simple thing to contribute a small piece of silver that a memory will stand unforgotten. It is a very important thing in the life of a people that they shall remember and honor the good qualities of a defeated race.

Clippings

CONSIDER THE SPARROW

In the midst of a driving snow storm, with drifts piling high in the streets below, a dozen or more sparrows gathered in the shelter just outside my office window, singing lustily. The wind and cold were equally powerless to silence their song; for it came up from within, a part of their nature. And, singing, they forgot the storm. Their song silenced the wind and shut out the cold.

Nothing in existence is so important as attitudes! By them we fill life with happiness or wretchedness. They make all our friends and enemies for us. As a result of them life becomes a constant triumph or uninterrupted woe.

All the rewards and real disasters of life are by-products of our attitudes. If we extend the open hand to the world it will give us friendships. If we stick out our jaw and clench our fists, life becomes a succession of blows some of which are more than we can stand.

He who takes the attitude of suspicion toward all men peoples his world with enemies and threats. He who trusts the world finds it rewarding him with friendships and confidence. He who looks for faults in his fellow-man is never disappointed; neither is the man who looks for virtues.

The prophet of Galilee, the wisest student of life that mankind has ever known, once said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you," and He might have said with equal truth, "The Kingdom of Hell is also within you," for that which makes life heaven or hell is not outside, but inside each of us.

We cannot be happy by trying to be. It is only as we try to be something else that we discover happiness has come as a by-product. As we forget our own happiness and give ourselves to certain great attitudes we find that happiness has crept in on us unawares.

Nor are we failures because of forces outside of us which are beyond our control. We become failures only as we lose our mastery over our own attitudes.

"I have observed," said a salesman who had oversight over more than a thousand men, "that the man who comes home whipped at night, is the man who went out whipped in the morning." It was not his customers, his territory, nor his price list that defeated him, but his own attitude.

And the significant thing is that each man chooses his own attitudes.

No man can compel me to grow angry if I choose to keep good humored. No man can make another man bitter, or envious, or jealous. He becomes bitter, envious, or jealous as a result of his own personal choice.

Other people can determine the circumstances under which I must live, but no one on earth, except me, can decide how I am going to react toward those circumstances.

I cannot change my features but I can control my expression. I cannot run the town I live in but I can be absolute master over my own state of mind.

Even a sparrow can teach us something about life.—JAMES POHLMAN IN THE ROTARIAN MAGAZINE.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY

Governor Roosevelt's supporters will be heartened unquestionably by the outcome of the New Hampshire primary. It was, as has been pointed out repeatedly, the first test of strength between Roosevelt and Smith, and the victory of the former thus takes on a certain importance; perhaps a greater importance than it actually possesses.

New Hampshire is a small state with a small vote; casting normally a total of not much over 150,000 ballots. In 1928, when the vote everywhere was unusually heavy, Smith got about 80,000 votes to 115,000 for Hoover. As a rule the Republicans carry New Hampshire by a margin of about 30,000 to 40,000.

Woodrow Wilson won a plurality there in 1912, when the Republican party split and again in 1916 when he was a candidate for reelection. His plurality in the latter years was barely 56, x x x x x The New Hampshire primary is a disappointment to the Smith supporters and a blow to the Smith prestige. It gives Governor Roosevelt eight more votes in the convention. It encourages his backers. At the present stage of the pre-convention battle it would be an error to attempt to read into it any larger meaning.—THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for the beautiful floral offering and also for the kindness shown during the illness and death of our dear father and husband, Mrs. N. H. Ray and Family, Mid-10

Frankie Silvers' Hanging

A COPY of the poetic account of the famous Frankie Silvers murder case, said to have been written by Frankie herself on the day of her hanging, has been furnished The Press by Mrs. J. L. Conley, of Franklin Route 1. The story of Frankie's slaying of her husband and her subsequent hanging at Morganton is particularly interesting in Macon county, because Frankie's daughter lived in this county for some years and was buried at Sugar Fork on Ellijay creek. Mrs. Conley gives us the following account:

"Frankie Silvers slew her husband, Charlie Silvers, on the night of the 22nd of December, 1831. They resided at the mouth of South Toe river near the present site of the Black Mountain station on the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio railroad. (Now operated by the Southern Railway company.)

"Frankie Stewart Silvers was hung in Morganton, N. C., Burke county, on Friday the 12th day of July 1833.

"Frankie Silvers was buried on William Alexander's farm on the Catawba river nine miles from Morganton. This farm is now owned by two of William Alexander's grandsons, Frank and Ed DeVault.

"Frankie's father, Stewart, and William Alexander and his son dug her grave.

"Her little girl lived to be an old woman. She married a Parker. She was buried at Sugar Fork on Ellijay in Macon county, North Carolina."

Mrs. Conley, formerly Miss Bertie Scott, is a great-granddaughter of William Alexander, who helped dig Frankie's grave.

Following is the poem Frankie—so tradition has it—wrote shortly before she was to be hanged:

FRANKIE SILVERS DEATH SONG

This dreadful dark and dismal day
Has swept my glories all away,
My sun goes down; My days are past,
And I must leave this world at last.

Oh! Lord, what will become of me?
I am doomed, you all now see?
To Heaven or hell my soul must fly,
All in a moment when I die.

Judge Donnell has my sentence passed;
These prison walls I leave at last—
Nothing to cheer my drooping head
Until I'm numbered with the dead.

But Oh! that dreadful Judge I fear,
Shall I that awful sentence hear?
Depart ye cursed down to hell
And forever there to dwell!

I know that frightful ghosts I'll see,
Gnawing their flesh in misery,
And then and there attended by
For murder in the first degree.

There shall I meet that mournful face
Whose blood I spilled upon this place;
With flaming eyes to me he'll say:
"Why did you take my life away?"

His feeble hands fell gently down,
His chattering tongue soon lost its sound;
To see his soul and body part,
It strikes with terror to my heart.

I took his blooming days away,
Great God, how shall I be forgiven—
Not fit for earth, not fit for heaven
But little time to pray to God,
For now I try that awful road.

Left him no time to God to pray,
And if sins fall on his head
Must I not bear them in his stead?

The jealous thought that first gave strife,
To make me take my husband's life,
For months and days I spent my time
Thinking how to commit this crime.

And on a dark and doleful night
I put his body out of sight,
With flames I tried to consume
But time would not admit it done.

You all see me and on me gaze,
Be careful how you spend your days;
And never commit this awful crime
But try to serve your God in time.

My mind on solemn subjects roll
My little child God bless its soul!
All you that are of Adam's race
Let not my faults this child disgrace.

Farewell, good people, you all now see
What bad conduct's brought on me
To die of shame and disgrace
Before this world of human race.

Awful indeed to think of death,
In perfect health to lose my breath
Farewell, my friends, I bid adieu;
Vengeance on me must now pursue.

Great God, how shall I be forgiven—
Not fit for earth, not fit for heaven
But little time to pray to God,
For now I try that awful road.

FARM HINTS

GET GARDEN GOING

At least twelve popular vegetables may be started in the spring garden and these will aid in cutting down the food bill. The garden this year should be considered the most important acre on the farm because it is good health insurance as well as safe economy.

The urge to get the garden going can hardly be withstood now that signs of spring are apparent," says E. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at State college. "We have three valuable publications which may be used by those needing information on establishing a garden and will send these to any one making application as long as the present supply lasts. These three publications give suggestions about starting the early plants, a manual of garden planting and cultivation, and a vegetable seeding guide. Citizens of North Carolina may have them on request to the agricultural editor at State college."

However, in beginning the garden now, Mr. Morrow recommends the planting of asparagus, beets, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, garden peas, Irish potatoes, pepper, radish, sweet potato, tomato and turnips. Large one-year-old roots of the Mary Washington variety will give a start with asparagus. The Early Wonder and Detroit Dark Red are good varieties of beets for the early planting. If the first seeding is caught by a frost, another planting should be made immediately. Early March is not too late to make plantings of the second early cabbages such as the Copenhagen Market and the Charleston Wakefield varieties. The seedlings should have plenty of room and the young plants transferred to the garden as soon as possible.

Carrots are as yet not generally popular but more could be used for health. The best varieties, according to Mr. Morrow, are Chautenay and Danvers Half Long. The other plants mentioned are well known and are standbys in most gardens. Early plantings should be made at once.

CHANGING POULTRY FEED MAY DESTROY PROFITS

It is a wise plan to use home-grown feeds for poultry but it is a poor policy to substitute poorer feeds in an effort to keep down expenses. To do so may cut deeply into the profits to be expected from the flocks this season.

"Poultry has suffered along with other farm crops but due to the drop in feed prices in proportion to the prices being received for eggs and because of the mild winter permitting production to stay at level, poultrymen have been much encouraged to go ahead with their work," says Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State college. "However, some poultrymen have attempted to increase their margin of profit by decreasing the feeding or substituting certain feeds which do not give as good results. One of the main substitutions being practiced is to use vegetable protein feeds for animal protein feeds. Soybean meal and peanut meal are good if used in limited quantities but they should not entirely displace the animal protein especially at this season of the year when production is heavy and the eggs are being used for hatching."

Any radical change from the usual methods of feeding at this time is likely to be reflected in the hatchability of the eggs or the livability of the chicks, Mr. Dearstyne says. The breeding hens should be fed so that they will produce only the highest quality of eggs.

Mr. Dearstyne insists that green feed, plenty of sunlight, an adequate mineral supply and milk in some form should be fed the birds to get the best eggs for producing healthy chicks. If the breeding birds are to go through a long laying season and maintain bod weight, they must be fed a balanced ration. It is particularly unwise to depend on grain feeds alone without mash.

MODERN FENCES

There are as many different kinds of posts, just as there are

JUST HUMANS

By GENE CARR



"Who Didcha Say His Pop Was?"
"Th' Bearded Lady in th' Circus!"

many different kinds of fences, says the current issue of The Progressive Farmer-Ruralist, and points out that in the South, because we have much timber, we use more wooden posts than any other kind and are interested, therefore, in the way to handle these wooden posts in order to get the longest life:

The United States Department of Agriculture gives the average life of various wooden posts as follows:

Average Life of Untreated Wood Posts	
Years	Years
Osage orange16	Pine11
Locust24	Tamarack10
Red cedar20	White oak11
Mulberry17	Hemlock9
Catalpa16	Sassafras9
Bur oak15	Elm9
Chestnut15	Ash9
Cherry10	Red oak7
White cedar14	Willow6
Walnut12	

"We cannot always get the long life woods close at hand and at reasonable prices; so it is necessary for us to treat the shorter life woods in order to extend their life. The University of Missouri made quite an exhaustive study of methods of prolonging the life of wooden fence posts and came to the following conclusions:

- "1. Setting in gravel and charring did not pay.
- "2. Painting with hot carbolineum was perhaps better than painting with creosote."

BEEF CATTLE PROMISE BETTER PAY IN 1932

The beef cattle raiser has an excellent opportunity to profit from his efforts during 1932. But these efforts must be expended in the right directions, says The Progressive Farmer-Ruralist, but adds this caution:

"Lady Luck sometimes seems to play a major role in success, but consistent success usually results from hard work directed by sound judgment, and not through mere chance.

"It is now possible to secure registered beef sires from excellent blood lines and desirable in type for unusually moderate prices. This makes it easy for the owner of a beef cow herd to improve the quality of his calves through the

Laughing Around the World

With IRVIN S. COBB

Three Queens and a Joker

By IRVIN S. COBB

ACCORDING to a much-traveled friend of mine, there used to be an Irishman who functioned as chief Barker for a night-seeing coach in Chicago. One of the places included in the itinerary of the tours was a famous cemetery.



On a certain morning as the rubber-neck wagon, heavily laden with tourists turned in between the gates of the cemetery, the orator, facing the passengers, proceeded, through his megaphone, to chant his customary explanation:

"To the right you see a shaft erected in memory of our Heroic World War Dead. To the left is a beautiful shaft erected by the rich Mr. Casey in memory of his wife.

"This shaft is 100 feet high, and at the top 'tis ornamented with four female figures."

A woman visitor spoke up:

"What do the four figures represent?" she asked.

"This was the first time the Barker had been asked this question and he hesitated a minute before answering. Then inspiration came to him: "Them! Why them, Ma'am, are Faith, Hope and Charity—and—"

—Mrs. Casey!