

John McQueen "Most Useful Man In North Carolina," Says Saunders

Editor Tells How Homely Wisdom and Patience of Man Have Helped Community



JOHN R. McQUEEN

The January American Magazine might easily have carried a sub-title on the cover reading, "Sandhills Number." One of the leading articles is entitled, "The Most Useful Man in North Carolina," being a story of John R. McQueen of Lakeview by the well known North Carolina editor, W. O. Saunders of Elizabeth City. Then there is a story, "Sick Folks Have No Secrets," written by Mildred Harrington, daughter of Chief of Police John Harrington of Aberdeen, and still another story of local interest, "I've Owed Money All My Life," also from the pen—pardon—the typewriter of Editor Saunders.

Of John McQueen Mr. Saunders says that when there are import functions at Pinehurst, others may come in their dinner clothes or full dress, but not so the president of the Pinehurst bank. "Mr. McQueen, a plain, Will-Rogers-looking man, comes in his one dark, unpressed business suit, course negligee shirt, a loose little string tie and a floppy old black hat of the vintage of 1880."

He comes driving an old open flivver, the curtains of which have never been taken from under the seat. He carries an overcoat on the back seat of his car. Friends long insisted that he should have an overcoat; he bought one to satisfy them, but has never worn it. And he can leave that overcoat on the back seat of his old machine anywhere in Moore County and no one will steal it, for everybody knows John McQueen's old car, and nobody would steal from John McQueen.

"In his reverence for the memory of his mother and his zeal to answer her prayer, this man McQueen has made it a rule of his life, from early boyhood, not only to practice the Golden Rule, but to give one fourth of his time to helping others. In doing this religiously over a period of many years he has given away almost as fast as he has accumulated, and has neglected many opportunities to feather his own nest."

Other excerpts from The American Magazine article:

Has No Telephone

I visited John McQueen in his home overlooking a little lake in the pine

woods near Southern Pines. It is a modest little cottage of four or five rooms with no evidence of luxuries anywhere about. I wanted to use a telephone; there was no telephone.

"I want a telephone in the house the worst in the world," said Mrs. McQueen, "but I had to have our phone taken out to save Mr. McQueen. He allows himself only six hours' sleep a night and he has only an hour or two in the evening for a little social life and recreation before bedtime. And there is someone wanting him all the time. Although we live off the main highway and back here in the woods, there is not a night that there are not a number of people here to see him about their problems. When we had a telephone he was being called at all hours of the night. People do not spare him. I just had to have that phone taken out."

How John McQueen helps other folks is a long story. He has helped build better roads, better schools, and many churches. He has financed high school and college education for sixty Moore County boys and girls. His personal service record is interminable.

An old woman lay dying in a little cottage far back in the country. She expressed a desire for John McQueen to write her will. Dropping all other business, he made a long journey over bad roads to oblige a dying woman he did not know.

A negro family in Pinehurst was stricken with smallpox. A nurse could not be found for them. John McQueen

looked after them until they were restored to health.

He was invited to attend a banquet given in honor of distinguished guests at the fashionable Carolina Inn; a community of negroes back in the country wanted him to make a speech for them. "I can be of more use to those negroes than to the big folks at the Inn," said John McQueen. There is no end of such instances.

Life Too Easy Now

John McQueen is no reformer, no uplifter. It is his idea that no man can be reformed from the outside in or uplifted on the toe of a boot; he must reform or uplift himself. He has never tried to enforce his ideas or his will on anyone in his life; by homely wisdom and patience, coupled with a sense of humor and much shrewdness, he just bores into the hearts of those he tries to help and persuades them to help themselves.

"My greatest fear for folks today," he told me, "is that this modern life isn't hard enough. When I was a kid, as soon as we were out of school we had to hurry home and do chores. There was firewood to cut and wood bins to fill; water to draw and buckets to fill; cows to milk and horses and pigs to be fed. There was work before and after school.

"Today the boy and the girl out of school have nothing to do. A dairyman brings the milk in a bottle; the water comes from a spigot; there is no wood to split, houses are not heated that way any more. The poor little kids have nothing to do. Is it any wonder they get into mischief?"

VASS

Auxiliary Meets

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church held an interesting meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. D. C. McGill. Mrs. E. L. McNeill was the leader and the topic was ministerial relief. She was assisted in presenting the program by Mrs. J. M. Tyson, Miss Rosa B. Giles, Mrs. W. D. McCraney and Mrs. D. A. McLaughlin. Mrs. McGill conducted the Bible study. Delicious refreshments were served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Miss Nettie Gschwind, who has been teaching at Marietta, arrived Sunday night to spend the Christmas holidays at home.

Miss Jessie Brooks of Wilson and Miss Eloise Brooks of Meredith College came Friday to spend the holidays with their mother, Mrs. G. W. Brooks.

Misses Myrtle and Catharine McMillan of Vass, Pauline Blue of Lakeview, and N. A. McMillan were Sanford visitors Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Aiken Reece and Mr. and Mrs. Hitt of Hamlet visited Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Griffin Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Cox and children left Friday for Tavares, Florida, where they will spend the holidays with relatives.

Mrs. Seth W. Lassiter and children, Margaret and Doris, of near Smithfield are visiting Mrs. Lassiter's mother, Mrs. Mary E. Edwards.

Thomas Keith Atkinson of Southern Pines spent a part of last week with his grandmother, Mrs. A. J. Keith.

The Vass-Lakeview schools closed on Saturday for the holidays and will open on January 5 for the spring term.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Auman are with relatives in High Point for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Tyson and little daughter, Marie, Mrs. H. A. Borst and H. A., Jr., and Mrs. S. R. Smith were shopping in Raleigh on Monday.

Horton Keith is at home from State College for the Christmas season.

Miss Jewell Edwards, who teaches at Lucama, arrived last week for the holidays.

Alex McGill, a student at Presbyterian Junior College at Maxton, is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arch McGill on Route 2.

Mrs. Crisp returned the first of the week to her home in Falkland, after having spent several days with her daughter, Mrs. C. A. Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence, who has been quite sick, is much improved.

Alton Lawrence is at home from the University to spend the holidays with his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Lawrence. He had with him for the week-end a college friend, Mr. Williamson of South Carolina.

Neill M. Smith, farm demonstration agent of Onslow county, is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mayfield and Mrs. Copelan left Friday for points in Mississippi where they will visit relatives during the Christmas holidays.

Gerald Graham of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Miss Catharine Graham, a senior at Greensboro College, are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Graham.

Mrs. Mamie Dixon nad Mr. and Mrs.

J. T. McBryde of Raleigh visited Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Tson Sunday.

Miss Glennie Keith of Raleigh is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keith.

Edward Griffin of Sanford visited relatives here Sunday.

SOUTHERN PINES

Albert Ruggles, who has been in Rochester for the past few months, arrived Sunday to spend Christmas with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Moore have as their guests Mrs. Moore's mother, Mrs. E. S. Copeland of Boston, for the holidays.

Richard Wilson is spending the Christmas vacation with his mother, Mrs. Emile Wilson and has as his guest here a classmate at Georgetown University, Alfred J. Dailey, of Bucharest, Roumania.

Miss Elizabeth Rountree arrived Sunday from Columbia University to spend the holidays with her mother.

D. A. Blue returned Sunday from a business trip to Baltimore.

Mrs. R. L. Hayes and children left Tuesday to spend the Christmas holidays with relatives in Salisbury. They will be joined by Mrs. Hayes on Christmas Eve.

Max Hunter of Charlotte is spending this week in Southern Pines.

Miss Helen Thompson will leave for Florida early in January to be gone about three months.

Parke Fisher has arrived from Western North Carolina to spend Christmas with his family.

Among the names added to the constantly increasing list of boys and girls home from school for vacation are those of Miss Helen Blair who arrived Saturday from Smith College, Miss Dorothy Moore from Salem Academy, Miss Julia Burt from St. Timothy School at Catonsville, Md., Greer Stutz from Richmond Medical College, Alice Stutz from N. C. C. W. and Emily Richardson from N. C. C. W.

The annual meeting of the members of the Southern Pines Library Association was held at the library Tuesday evening for the purpose of electing a board of trustees for the ensuing year.

H. LeRoy Potter of Brooklyn has joined his family at the Highland Pines Inn for the holidays.

Mrs. Georgianna Lewis of Bethlehem, N. H., arrived Friday and is the guest of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harrington at the Southern Pines Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vetterlein are spending the Christmas season in Atlantic City.

PINEBLUFF

Arthur and Ray McMullen, students at Stuyvesant School for boys in Warren, Va., are spending the holidays with their mother, Mrs. R. W. McMullen.

Edwin Gregory, who is attending

prep school in Ferndale, N. Y., arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gregory.

Miss Florence Fowle has returned to her home here after spending the past nine months in Detroit and Washington.

Lacy Adcox, who is a student at Davidson College is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Adcox.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krugs of East Long Branch, N. Y., are here for the winter.

Douglas Allison, student at Mt. Hermon, Mass., is spending the holidays with his mother, Mrs. H. F. Allison.

Mrs. Ollie Adcox, Miss Madge Pickler and Mrs. E. F. Pickler were shoppers in Fayetteville last Tuesday.

Miss Isabel McMullen, who is a student at Smith College, arrived Sunday to spend the holidays with her mother, Mrs. R. W. McMullen.

Professor Eric Achorn of Columbia, S. C., is spending the holidays with Mrs. Achorn.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Pickler spent Monday in Troy.

Mrs. Patricia Achorn entertained thirty guests at a musicale last Sunday afternoon.

Howard Troutman of Wake Forest College is spending the holidays with his parents in Addor.



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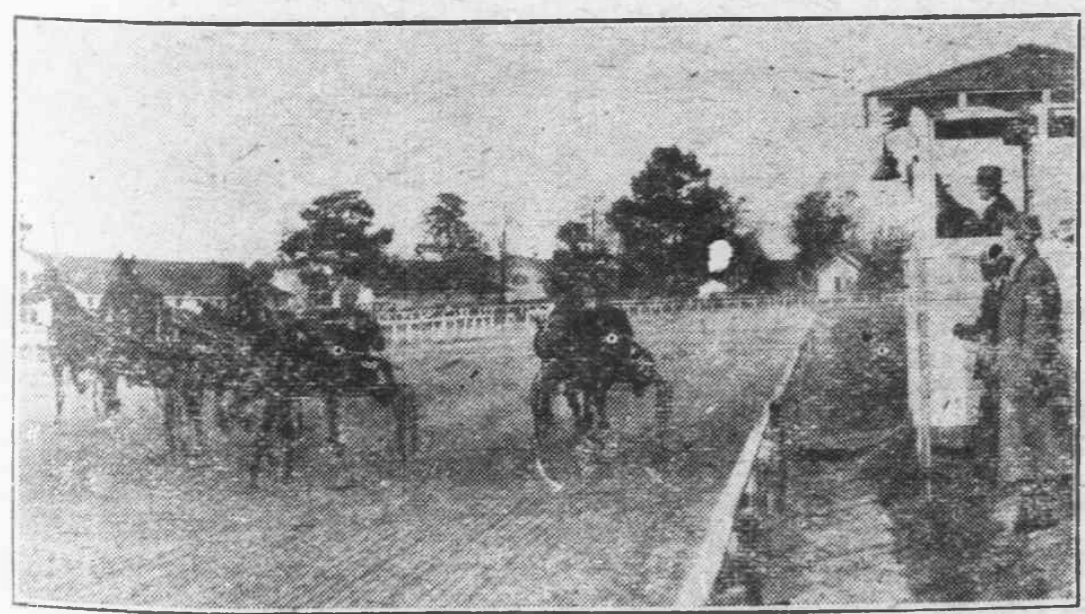
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