

Moore Red Cross Helps Marine With Crisis In Family

Typical cases of aid to needy or distressed families by the American Red Cross were described at a recent quarterly meeting of the board of directors of the Moore County chapter.

A Moore County case cited was that of a Marine in Korea who was helped to obtain a "compassionate transfer" to a base near home after the Red Cross was asked by his sister to inform him of the serious illness of his father. It was found that his father could never work again and that the son would have to support his parents, two brothers in school and two little sisters. At the new base near home, he could see his family often and could aid them better.

Such service, it was pointed out, is one of the many functions of the Red Cross, in its aid to service men.

Junior Project

Junior members of the Red Cross in Moore County schools made many original crayon drawings in color which were distributed to ill veterans as a Thanksgiving remembrance, the directors were told. Junior members are now busy making such greetings for Christmas, it was stated.

Butter purchases in the U. S. from April through September of this year were seven per cent higher than during the same period in 1953.

'FORBIDDEN CITY' PUBLISHED

Mrs. Jernigan, Former Local Resident, Author Of New Book

"The Empress Dowager killed your brother!"

That may not seem the most promising of introductions, but it is Muriel Molland Jernigan's first recollection of the heroine of her novel, "Forbidden City," which is the story of Tsu Hsi, the incredible woman who rose from concubine to ruler of China in the days of the Boxer uprising.

In those days Mrs. Jernigan was the small daughter of an English missionary family in China, and her young brother was one of the children whose life was endangered by the Boxer attacks. Many "foreign devil" children not actually killed were subjected to the perils of starvation or improper diet, and dangerous travel; this was the case with the baby brother whose death could in this sense be laid at the door of the despotic ruler whose policies encouraged the Boxers.

Double Local Interest

"Forbidden City," published this week by Crown Publishing Co., is of double local interest. Mrs. Jernigan is a former Southern Pines resident, and the book was edited for the publishers by Miss Wanda Whitman of Southern Pines, a regular editor for the New York firm, who does most of her work here.

Mrs. Jernigan and her husband, the late Paul Jernigan who died in Florida in 1947, lived here for several years in the early 1940's occupying the Hart house at the corner of Massachusetts Ave. and

Ridge St. While here, Mr. Jernigan was associated with the Occidental Life Insurance Co. and was active in civic affairs; and Mrs. Jernigan who now lives in Raleigh and has kept in touch with a number of Southern Pines friends, was writing. They attended Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

In China, Mr. and Mrs. Jernigan had known Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pethick, who live here now. Both men were with the Standard Oil Co. in the Orient.

A son of the Jernigans, Paul J. Jernigan, now lives on Long Island. He also is with Standard Oil and has represented the company in Argentina and Peru. Born in China, he attended the University of North Carolina and served in the Navy in World War II.

Favorite Subject

Naturally little Muriel Molland grew up with an interest in the wicked Empress, and when she married an American and lived for years in Peking, she made the fabulous life of Tsu Hsi her favorite subject of investigation. It was not easy, even after the death of the Empress, to learn about her. There is much that is not yet known, or is subject to widely varying interpretation. No other ruler except England's first queen Elizabeth—whose career was in some respects similar—has had as wide a range of regard, from the most fulsome praise to the bitterest denunciation.

But Mrs. Jernigan was in a position to learn what could be known. She was one of the first Americans to explore the Imperial palaces, and came to know well not only the beauties of the Summer Palace but the grim interior of the Forbidden City, which had its own treasures and its own secrets. Her friend the American portrait painter, Katherine Carl, painted the official portrait of the Empress and contributed her own stories of the famous sitter.

Could Be Charming

"She charmed Miss Carl," Mrs. Jernigan recalls, "as she did the Legation wives. They all agreed that she could be utterly charming when she wanted to be—she was one of those magnetic people. If I had been old enough to know her I might have liked her too, in spite of what my mother used to say."

Readers of "Forbidden City," will suspect that the Imperial charm did work to some extent, for it is by no means a wholly unsympathetic picture of the Empress that the book presents. Although the basic political facts are clear, and are adhered to in the story, there is wide latitude for dealing with the private life of Tsu Hsi because the legends, as in the case of Queen Elizabeth, outweigh what is known. No story of her was too scandalous to be told, and believed, in Peking. But no charges could be made without a risk of sudden and unpleasant death.

In dealing with the Empress as a girl, before her grasp of power Mrs. Jernigan's fictional approach is especially sympathetic but even here she is able to claim the support of facts. As should be the case with so dominant a character, the Empress even in girlhood is presented as wilful, daring, resourceful—a girl eager to "eat life," as the Chinese say.

In Boy's Clothes

In the early chapters of Forbidden City she explores Peking in boy's clothes, gaining a sense of freedom and some knowledge of the world she was to rule. Although there is no record of this Mrs. Jernigan cites a precedent in the case of a young girl of high family position in Peking who did undertake similar adventures. Here the author's sympathy is very evident for, after the character of the Empress and the high drama of her story, the great concern of the book is with the vanished Peking scene, the color and movement of its streets, the very dust from the Gobi that blows through them.

Mrs. Jernigan mourns a little for the books and other possessions left behind—"The Reds have it now I suppose," she says of some of the source material for Forbidden City fortunately duplicated in her memory. But one thing she has—a replica of the Empress' gold ring, a wide band decorated with symbolic figures and of course bringing good fortune to its wearer. The ring is described in the book, in which it plays a part, and its counterpart is with the author in the beautiful old house, in Raleigh, where she now lives. A small bit of old Peking in the United States, as the book Forbidden City will seem to its readers a generous slice of the life of that time and place.



MR. SCOTT

Insurance Man Likes Living In Southern Pines

Joseph I. Scott Associated With Stevens Agency

It was a fortunate day for him, says Joseph I. Scott, when a mutual friend of his and of Eugene C. Stevens, local insurance agency head, mentioned to Mr. Stevens that Mr. Scott might be the person he was looking for to become associated with the agency in Southern Pines.

Now established here as an associate in the agency, Mr. Scott recalls that he had heard of Southern Pines before the friend brought him and Mr. Stevens together and had felt it was the kind of community in which he'd like to live. After a few weeks here, he feels he was right in this impression.

With a long career in the insurance field behind him, broken by service in the Navy, Mr. Scott is now doing general insurance work with the Stevens agency. He and his wife, the former Margaret V. Clark of Petersburg Va., are living at 247 Crestview Road, in the Knollwood Apartments.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Mr. Scott was in Nashville as manager for the Shenandoah Life Insurance Co. for two years before coming to Southern Pines last month. He previously had his own insurance agency in Richmond, Va., for three years and before that had been secretary of the Bulifant Insurance Center, an agency at Petersburg, Va.

In all communities where he has lived, Mr. Scott has been active in civic and fraternal work. He is a past president of the Richmond Exchange Club and headed a Crime Prevention Week Program of the club that received national honors. In Petersburg, he was on the Junior Chamber of Commerce board of directors and was chosen to take a special course at the University of Virginia on the European Recovery Program, acquiring information that was broadcast on radio networks of the state. Also at Petersburg he was on a Jaycee committee on subversive activities and spoke at several public meetings in Virginia cities.

In 1939, Mr. Scott became a member of the third oldest Masonic Lodge in Virginia, Blanford No. 3 at Petersburg. He is also a member of Petersburg Union Royal Arch Chapter No. 7, Commandery No. 3 and Acca Shrine Temple, Richmond, having served as president of the Petersburg Shrine Club of Acca Temple.

While in Richmond in 1951 he served as commander of the Legion of Honor of Acca Temple and he is an honorary member of the Almas Legion of Honor of Washington, D. C.

Before entering Navy service in 1943, Mr. Scott was chief of the Civil Defense Auxiliary Police at Petersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott have joined the First Baptist Church here. He is former superintendent of the Sunday School at the First Baptist Church, Petersburg.

Since he has entered insurance work, Mr. Scott has taken two special courses—one at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and another at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., where he gave the valedictory address at the graduation exercises of his class in the Life Insurance Marketing Institute.

Mr. Scott, whose friends call him "Joe," likes sports and plays golf. That, he admits, is another reason he is happy to be living in Southern Pines.

Many new commodities such as Egyptian cotton, fine jute from Europe, plate glass, cocoa and a variety of others have been added to our imports at the Wilmington State Port. Export tonnages have increased with the shipment of tobacco and woodpulp.

McSwain's Variety Store At Robbins Destroyed By Fire Early Thursday

McSwain's Variety Store at Robbins, with all its stock, was completely destroyed in an early-morning blaze Thursday.

Also destroyed was the J. N. Thomas Barber Shop which was in the same building.

The Robbins volunteer fire department, assisted by that of Carthage, which responded quickly to their SOS, worked for three and a half hours to subdue the fire after the alarm was turned in about 2:15 a. m. The fire was well advanced when the alarm was given by the night-watchman at the nearby Robbins Mills, who saw the front windows of the store blow out and the flames leap forth.

By a valiant struggle firemen were able to keep the flames from damaging nearby buildings. Threatened for a time were the Cut-Rate Furniture Store, Williams Grocery and Upchurch

Cafe.

The large one-story brick building which housed the variety store and barber shop was owned by the E. C. McSwain Estate. No official estimate of the damage could be secured at the time but Ralph G. Steed, Robbins fire chief, said unofficially that it would be a "minimum of \$50,000, probably more." Origin of the blaze has not been determined, he said.

Despite the early-morning hour and cold weather the fire drew a large turnout of spectators from Robbins and nearby communities.

Mrs. McCarr, 78, Succumbs; Rites Conducted Monday

Mrs. Amelia Weisner McCarr 78, died early Saturday morning in St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital. Requiem mass was sung at 9 o'clock Monday morning from St. Anthony's Catholic Church by Father Peter Denges. Interment followed in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Mrs. McCarr was born in Sherrwood, Wis., the daughter of the late George and Sophia Seif Weisner. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. James E. Monroe, Southern Pines; two sons, Kenneth McCarr, Columbus, Ohio, and Adrian McCarr, Levittown, Pa., one sister, Mrs. Clara Winkles Neilsville, Wis.; and three grand-

children. With her husband, Charles McCarr, Mrs. McCarr came to Southern Pines in 1930. Mr. McCarr, who had been prominent in harness racing before his retirement, died here several years ago.

The Port of Morehead City has continued its operation in the importation of oil and petroleum products, including asphalt, with increasing volume. A considerable quantity of tobacco has been exported from this port during the period.

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