

Turpentine Drippings

Compiled By Bill Sharpe

TOO MANY DRAMAS

(Waynesville Mountaineer) Last spring we expressed ourselves in this column that there were too many outdoor dramas being started in the area. We are still of the same opinion, and are somewhat concerned about the prospects for two outdoor dramas in the area, one at Gatlinburg.

We felt last year that the continued success of the Cherokee drama "Unto These Hills" has been a stimulation for other communities to start dramas. Some have met with success, and others have gone steadily in the red.

Last summer there were three dramas in Western North Carolina—Cherokee, Asheville and Boone. Later in the season another opened at Kings Mountain, as well as the Lost Colony at Manteo.

Right now plans are under way for a drama "Old Smoky" to be staged at Gatlinburg, and another at Roanoke, Virginia.

The field is getting too crowded, and the ultimate result is that eventually all will fold and become past history.

WE LIVE LONGER

(Rocky Mount Telegram) The average length of life among American wage-earners and their families reached an all-time high of 68 1-2 years in 1951, a gain of five years in the past decade, life insurance statisticians report on the basis of the experience among industrial policyholders.

The statisticians forecast that, barring a major catastrophe, the average length of life for the American people will reach the Biblical three score and ten before the end of the current decade.

GIVE ME MY POKE

(Zebulon Record) The wares for sale at roadside stands reminded me of a trip made through the mountains to Bristol, Va., some four years ago. Time after time, I passed kids along the road trying to sell some type of nut, and finally I stopped. A long, gangling teen-age mountaineer ambled up to the car.

"Do you wanna buy any chinquapins?" he asked. Never having tried chinquapins, I fished a quarter out of my coat pocket and took the bag of nuts from the boy.

"Oh," he drawled. "You can't have my poke." "Huh?" I questioned. "Yuh can't have my poke," he repeated.

I had to reach back in my memories 15 years to remember what a poke is, and then I poured out the nuts and gave him the bag. How long has it been since you heard "poke" used in conversation?

THE MAILBOX

(Mrs. Rena Lassiter, Smithfield Herald)

I know now how my grandmother, who lived in the country two miles from the Smithfield postoffice, felt about someone going to town every day or so to bring home the mail. When the children walked in to school five days a week in winter time there was no trouble about getting mail, but at other seasons I suspect that sometimes she invented reasons for coming to town like the sugar giving out or the flour barrel getting low or the kerosene oil can being empty.

With her big family there was always darning or knitting or buttonholes to do after supper, but there were other things to do, like reading the Atlanta Constitution, or all of Grace Richmond's stories.

A PRESENT WITH A FUTURE



"Miss America of 1953" is trimming her tree this year with U. S. Defense Bonds—"the present with a future." Pretty Neva Jane Langley knows that Defense Bond gifts are practical gifts, which will help protect the security of her country.

in The Ladies Home Journal, or the Christian Advocate. And there would be disappointment if for any reason the getting of the mail had been delayed.

They were days before the turn of the century when no free rural delivery served the country people. Our first four weeks in our new home at Chapel Hill were like that. The post office was a mile and a half away, and no city postman brought the mail to our door. And much of our mail was going, and still is, to our Herald post office box in Smithfield.

But last week the Chapel Hill postmaster told us that he had just received word from Washington that "mounted mail service"

would be extended to Whitehead Circle. All we had to do was to purchase a mail box like those on the rural routes and set it by the roadside according to Uncle Sam's regulations.

From then on I began to notice all the mail boxes between Chapel Hill and Smithfield. I recall that from time to time the Herald, the Progressive Farmer and other publications have written articles about beautifying the rural mail boxes, and I was looking for ideas. I observed that most of the box owners have paid little heed to this urging and for the most part the boxes rest upon an unpainted post with an arm as support. Some few are painted white with a neat

board hanging from the arm bearing the owner's name. Once in a while, I found a wooden figure of Uncle Sam painted in patriotic red, white, and blue supporting the box. And I saw one box with a graceful vine trained around the supporting post.

ORATORIO

(Roy Thompson, Winston-Salem Journal) I covered Winston-Salem Oratorio Society's recent presentation of "The Creation." Some people like the oratorio as a musical form, but personally, I prefer Doris Day.

It opened with what the program said was "Representation of Chaos." I thought that was pretty strong. Understand that they'd already put it on in Mount Airy and asked the folks up there to make comments. You've got to hand it to these Oratorio people. They've got a sense of humor. They printed one of the comments in

their little newspaper, "The Oracle." A 12-year-old Mount Airy boy said he liked the last song best "because it was the end."

And while I'm on the subject, I might observe that while music hath charms to sooth the savage beast, it has none to soften the solid seats of Salem College's Memorial Hall.

The acreage of strawberries available for harvest in North Carolina in 1953 will be 3 per cent less than this year's harvested acreage.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of a judgment signed at the November Term of Superior Court of Martin County in an action entitled "J. W. Rhodes and wife v. Sophie Rhodes et al", the undersigned Commissioners will, on Monday, December 29, 1952 at 12 o'clock, Noon, in front of the Courthouse door in Williamston, N. C., offer for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described land: Lying and being in Jamesville

Township, Martin County, and State of North Carolina, containing 22 acres, more or less, bounded on the North by the lands of Mrs. Lizzie Smithwick and Cooper Swamp, bounded on the East by the land of Robert Mobley, bounded on the South by the land of Bob Mobley, bounded on the West by the land of Church Mobley, containing 22 acres, more or less, and commonly known and designated as the W. E. Rhodes land.

The last and highest bidder will be required to make a deposit at the sale of 10% of the bid. This 28th day of November, 1952.

B. A. Criccher, E. S. Peel, Commissioners.

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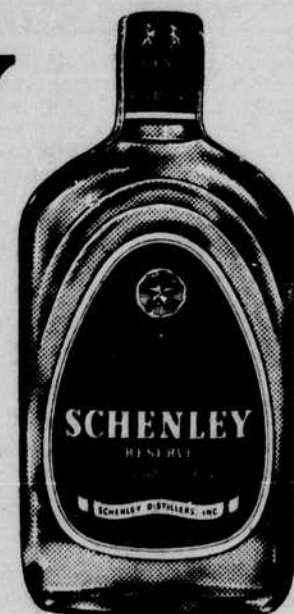
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