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GROUNDHOG DAY

Of all the weather superstitions, perhaps none has been more widespread than that associated with Groundhog Day, February 2. According to a belief held by many, the groundhog emerges from his winter hibernation on that day, and if he sees his shadow he goes back into his hole for another six weeks, during which a continuance of winter weather may be expected.

If, on the other hand, February 2 is cloudy, the animal will remain outside, which is a sign of an early spring.

Just how the groundhog keeps track of the date, including the extra day in leap year, is not explained, but many actually believe he does it.

Other animals than the groundhog are supposed to behave similarly. In Germany it is the badger; in England the hedgehog; in France the marmot, and among the Scandinavians the bear.

February 2 is also known as Candlemas Day in the church calendar commemorating the presentation of Christ in the temple and among its observances is the blessing of candles for sacred use. It is also associated with weather signs identical with those attributed to the groundhog. There are several old rhymes similar to this:

"If Candlemas is bright and clear; We'll have two winters in the year."—Monroe Enquirer.

STREAMLINED TRAINS

"Aluminum cars that go like a bullet" is the way one writer described the new streamlined Union Pacific passenger trains. These trains are built of aluminum alloy and are designed to travel 100 miles per hour, and no doubt they will have an important bearing on the railway transportation of this and other countries.

This is an age of speed, so to speak, and there seems to be a spirit of friendly rivalry as to what means of transportation can be made the fastest. Seeing the gain in speed being made in the aviation and automobile realms, the railroads were not to be left out.

The editor of this newspaper recently received a "lucky piece" from the Union Pacific System made of the same material of which the new type of trains are constructed. On one side is the likeness of the train, with the inscription "Union Pacific Lucky Piece." The other side bears this inscription: "A sample of the aluminum in the new Union Pacific Train, Built by Pullman Car and Mfg. Corp., Aluminum Company of America." It required five tons—10,000 pounds—of the aluminum to coin the 1,000,000 lucky pieces to be distributed.

With airplanes, automobiles and trains all making more than 100 miles per hour, we should at least be able to get somewhere.

The above editorial was taken from The Sampson Independent, and there remains only one thought that we can add:

Yesterday we used wood.
 Today we use steel.
 Tomorrow we will use lighter metals, mostly aluminum.

THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Waynesville's new fire department headquarters is a credit to this town, and should be highly appreciated by the citizens. Among the entire municipal set-up there is nothing that the citizens depend entirely upon as much as they do the fire department for protection.

A fire department under the proper management is a distinct asset to a community, and according to records and reports, Waynesville's loss has been reduced to a minimum, which indicates that we are well protected by a properly managed and able department.

A visit to the present new quarters will prove that the firemen, together with the city officials, are ever awake to keep Waynesville abreast with the times and assuring the best protection, and all at a minimum cost.

COLLECTING SALES TAXES

The subject of sales taxes is one that is heard and discussed on every side—by the customer, by the merchant, and very soon the politician will begin saying a few things about it, for there is another person whom most of us have not connected with sales taxes—the man who collects for the state.

"Oh," we say, "he has a cinch of a job. All he has to do is to deposit the checks in the bank that the merchants send him."

"Is that so?" is the ringing question that comes from Raleigh, or at least from George Scott, formerly of Charlotte, and now director of the division of accounts and records in the revenue department.

Some few weeks ago we had a little talk with Mr. Scott, and during the course of the conversation he told of a few things that he has in deal with daily that prevents his job from being a "cinch."

During the conversation he told the following instances:

"Several weeks ago we received forty-four cents wrapped in paper with no name or address anywhere about it. We have no idea where it came from. Only today we received a postoffice money order for several dollars from Hayesville, but the sender's name was no where to be found. We wrote to the postmaster to find out who was paying their taxes."

"Not long ago we sent a store keeper in the eastern part of the state a blank on which to fill out his report. A day or two later we got the blank back and across the bottom he had scribbled: 'I am eighty-eight years old, and have been in business 48 years and I do not have time to fool with them taxes!'"

"All our business is not that of receiving money. We have to do a lot of checking and rechecking and find if the state is receiving its taxes. We found just a short time ago that a chain store operating in the state was due \$7,000 to the state for taxes that they had failed to report. Things like this, the carelessness on the part of many who send in their checks unsigned, or fail to state for whom they are remitting taxes, keeps us busy."

With that much of the inside on collecting sales taxes, it seems that there is no one who finds it to be a "cinch," not even the collector.

TWO COLLECTORS FOR EVERY TAX-PAYER

Door-to-door pressure, eagle-eyed inspection, and disbarment of attorneys and experts who help taxlodgers and defraud the government are some of the means by which Secretary Morgenthau hopes to reach his goal of two hundred million in back tax collections this year. The treasury head announced that if the collectors and field men deemed it necessary to make a house-to-house canvass he would ask the CWA for funds to cover the extra work.

It seems to us that such procedure will open up a great field for employment and ought to make a sizeable gap in the ranks of the idle. There are a few million people who have paid no taxes within the last three-four years for the simple reason that they have had nothing to tax, not even an income. More of them are in a class with the man in the Bible who had taken from his "even that which he seemed to have," and we can think of nothing that would give more pleasure to these men than to investigate, under government orders, the status of those who are still able to pay taxes and who may have reneged somewhat in their onerous duty.

The fact is that there are enough men available at the present time for at least two to be set to watch every one who has an income sufficient to be taxed, and these would probably need no other encouragement than their daily wage and the rivalry between districts which Mr. Morgenthau inaugurates with a system of publicity as to what each district is doing. He has also urged a weekly luncheon among collectors, a form of stimulation which all of them will no doubt welcome.

If the CWA funds are available for this cause, and if the plans of the treasury head are carried out, there will hardly be a tax-dodger left to tell the tale. Two to one ought to win.—Charlotte News.

THREE CHEERS FOR BREVARD

"Only three drunks locked up Saturday night and Sunday night. Perhaps the town is getting better, after all," says the Transylvania Times, in Brevard.

A monument ought to be erected to the man who said: "It's a good thing talk is cheap or otherwise the country would be bankrupt."

This little story might explain why some farmers are complaining:

Hiram: "Rufus ain't much of a farmer, I'm afraid."

Jerry: "Naw, he keeps foolin' 'round with his crops so much he dor't half tend to his filling station."

Random SIDE GLANCES

By W. CURTIS RUSS

C. L. Hill, of Cranford, is the present champion hog raiser in Haywood County. He recently killed his 20-month-old piglet and when butchered it weighed 225 pounds. From the fat he got 150 pounds of lard. Now here's what I want some of you wizards with figures to find out:

How much buttermilk will it take to wash down all the crizzling bread that is made in the crizzling that made the 150 pounds of lard? (No estimates considered.)

Another thing that is bothering me: will any hog that lives on fat for nine months weigh as much as the one Mr. Hill killed? If so, well, wouldn't he supposed to see a number of two-legged heavy weights develop soon?

So much for hogs—let's discuss something else, just one more thought: there is no animal that looks as dumb as a hog. I mean a real four-legged one.

Post office work must be interesting. I mean the one Uncle Sam runs, and not the kind we used to "play" at the parties when kids—that was thrilling as well as interesting.

Howell McCracken, one of Uncle Sam's associates here, is always in a hurry, and this week I found the cause. He has to make three deliveries daily and walks about eight miles and rides eight to perform his duties.

Uncle Sam grows to a lot of trouble to get us our mail. He will put up with anything from a customer—but everything must click with those who are working for him.

Howell was telling us how people continue to put money in the boxes when they do not have stamps, but seldom ever put more than the amount necessary for postage.

From each of the fourteen streets before some mail is received every day, and most of the time twice a day. The total distance to all these boxes is 4.4 miles.

The box on the corner of Main street and Depot street, in front of the court house, is the best box on the route. That's the one we mail post due bills in.

A story is now making the rounds that a certain aspirant for postmaster has had some nigger holes built and is practicing putting up the mail, hoping to be in condition when (?) formal notice is received from Washington.

Postmaster T. L. Green's term as postmaster expired last February, and he has been packed and ready for exit ever since, but so far he is still filling the job, and evidently to the satisfaction of those with a different political faith.

You probably didn't know it, but in the United States on January 24th, exactly 2,343,133 people had deposited in postal savings \$1,187,186,208. Gee!

Obituary

A TRIBUTE

We, the charter members of the Woman's Club, feel very keenly our loss in the passing of our beloved friend and co-worker Mrs. E. S. Harrold. She has left an impression on the club not only in her constructive contributions to its archives but in the warmth and glow of her lovable personality.

She was an outstanding member, always an impressive figure in any gathering, attracting attention because of her sincerity and because she always said something worth while.

No one could know her intimately without recognizing in her a high type of Christian character, with beautiful ideals, always fearless in her advocacy of what she believed to be right and true, with no doubt on which side of a question she stood.

She had much natural ability, successfully carrying out any club project or activity under her supervision as was typical of all her undertakings.

Mrs. Harrold was a lover of good music, flowers and of all the arts—a great reader who was able to discuss intelligent almost any subject, nearly always ending a paper or talk by quoting from some well-known author something appropriate as a fitting climax. She possessed a keen sense of humor, often making an otherwise drab or dull subject to glow and sparkle by her ready wit and repartee.

In summing up Mrs. Harrold's characteristics one of the most outstanding qualities was that of generosity—an appeal was never made to her in vain and she sympathized keenly with those in distress.

We are glad of the privilege of recording in the minutes of the club our high appreciation of the sterling qualities of our dear friend and our profound sorrow and sense of bereavement at her passing.

Mrs. C. H. McDOWELL
 Mrs. H. C. LINDSLEY,
 Mrs. J. N. SHOOLBRED,
 Mrs. D. M. KILLIAN,
 Jan. 18, 1934.

EDUCATION
By LEONARD A. BARRETT

Education is dynamic. It is the most dynamic element of civilization.



Education is dynamic. It is the most dynamic element of civilization. It is the force that makes the difference between a man and a brute, between a nation and a mob.

In our modern age, Germany includes an element of the faculty of trusting an educated culture to furnish all the power necessary for successful leadership. Before the war, an advanced degree from a German university was widely coveted in our academic centers. Today, Germany's most distinguished scientists, driven ruthlessly from their own borders, find refuge in a postscript in an American university.

What about our modern civilization? Much of our Twentieth century culture is attributable to our progress in science. Is education by itself sufficient to guarantee the security of our western civilization? The testimony of history argues, if the end of our education is to develop culture without character, we are headed for the same fate which befell Rome, which would mean the gradual disintegration of western civilization. Plus character, education becomes an asset rather than a liability. The fusion of the moral element in all our processes of education is the most serious task confronting us in our changing social order.

No nation can make permanent a civilization higher than its character inspires. Roger Babson reminds us in one of his books that those who settled in South America sought gold, while those who established the early life in North America came in search of God.

Four-H club members of Catawba County produced products to the value of \$8,493.76 and secured a lister income of about \$4,000 from those products in 1933.

22 Years Ago in HAYWOOD

The snow, the blizzard, fell last night to the depth of six inches. Mrs. C. S. de Nevers, York, is the guest of Mrs. S. H. Keller.

A group of musicals made the reception given by Mrs. James Atkins and Mrs. James Atkins to be desired; the weather, a beautiful snow falling and all the while the beautiful which brought to view a myriad of combinations of places. Branner's business never appeared to be in advance in the most of invitation.

Four North Carolinians, two this afternoon at the Tabernacle in Louisville, U. G. Foote performed the ceremony for Thomas G. H. of Biltmore and Mrs. L. Medford of Haysville. Meet me at the court house, the slogan these days.

CAN YOU IMAGINE!



the astonishment of the hospital physicians who, after telling a man in Woburn, Mass., he had gastric ulcers, took x-rays 3 weeks later and found not the slightest trace of the ailment, the patient having used BISMA-REX!

EXPLANATION

Bisma-Rex is a new antacid treatment that is bringing welcome relief to thousands everywhere who suffer the agonies of indigestion and other acid stomach ailments.

Bisma-Rex acts four ways to give lasting relief in three minutes. It neutralizes excess acid; relieves the stomach of gas; soothes the irritated membranes; and aids digestion of foods most likely to ferment. Bisma-Rex is sold only at Retail Drug Stores. Get a jar today at Smith's Cut Rate Drug Store.

Job Printing
 EXPERT WORK
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Penny-Wise And Pound-Foolish
 describes many people who are vaguely dissatisfied with their radio sets' performance.
 They paid good money for their Radio Sets. Now, merely for lack of a new Tung-Sol Tube and perhaps minor repairs, they must confine their listening to locals. Even then the sparkle is missing.
 Don't miss the marvelous programs now on the air. Just phone us. We'll do the work right.
MARTIN ELECTRIC CO.
 Radio Service Phone 31 Electric Service

Which Is Your Favorite Store?
 Among the places you patronize there is a certain establishment for which you have a particular preference. Maybe you have never stopped to analyze the reason, but we'll hazard the guess that it is the personnel of that store—the warm, friendly, atmosphere that makes you feel at home as soon as you enter the door. Anyway, we know that this is one of the most valuable assets a business can have, because so many people have told us it is one of the strongest ties that binds them to ALEXANDER'S.
 Eagerness to serve you is as outstanding a feature of this drug store as ability to serve you.
ASK YOUR DOCTOR
ALEXANDER'S DRUG STORE
 Phones 53 & 54 Opposite Post Office