

Take My Word

For It!

By FRANK COLBY

HANDBOOK OF PRACTICAL ENGLISH

Q.—In our office we have almost come to blows over the word "whereabouts." Is it singular or plural?

A.—Whereabouts is a peculiar word. It is plural in form, but since it means "the place where a person or thing is," it must be treated as a singular, for obviously a thing cannot be in more than one place at a time. Correct: His whereabouts is known.

On the other hand, headquarters is customarily used as a plural noun, as: His headquarters are in New York.

Q.—There has been much discussion among us concerning the use of "any more" in such sentences as "John isn't nice to me any more." Please discuss.

A.—Use of "any more" to mean "still; now; nowadays" is dialectal, and it appears to have originated in the North Central States. It is frequently heard in parts of Indiana. "Any more" is correctly used in negative sentences as: John is not nice to me any more; I do not need any more help.

Q.—Our English class asks that you give the rule for forming the plurals of such compound words as "attorney at law, mother-in-law," etc.

A.—A safe rule to follow is to pluralize the noun part of the words. In such compounds as attorney at law, mother-in-law, right of way, commander in chief, the noun parts are: "attorney, mother, right, commander." The phrases "at law, in-law, of way, in-chief," act as adjectives in that they describe the noun parts. Therefore, the correct plurals are: attorneys at law, mothers-in-law, rights of way, commanders in chief.

Form the possessives thus: attorneys at law's, mothers-in-law's, commanders in chief's, etc.

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SCOTT OPERATES COTTON PICKER

In a broad field out from Red Springs last week, Agriculture Commissioner Kerr Scott operated the first cotton picker ever to be used in North Carolina.

After he had observed the machine pick as much cotton in one hour as a good field hand can harvest in a week -- from early

Monday morning until Saturday night, 10 hours a day -- Commissioner Scott expressed the opinion that the mechanical cotton picker will mean a new day for cotton in North Carolina and in the South.

"This cotton picker is going to put King Cotton back on the throne in Dixie," declared Scott as he climbed down from a trial run of the machine.

"I've picked a lot of cotton here, but my back feels just as good as when I started," said the Commissioner to a farmer who had just commented that the cotton picker would "save many a poor cotton farmer's back."

The cotton picker, purchased by the Liberty Manufacturing Co., of Red Springs for \$5,000, will be used for custom picking throughout that area, according to G. T. Ashford, general manager of the firm who was in charge of the exhibition.

Ashford said that he and Erwin Pate of Laurinburg, president of the company, decided to bring one into North Carolina -- since it began to look as if nobody else was going to do it.

While farm laborers in Hoke and Robeson counties, and also throughout the State for that matter, are charging from \$2.25 to \$3.00 per hundred pounds

to pick cotton, Ashford and Pate are doing the work for \$1.25 per hundred and "don't know -- and don't care much -- whether we are making any money at this business right now or not."

Mrs. W. G. Sutton

Funeral services for Mrs. W. G. Sutton, 69, who died Saturday at noon in the Goldsboro Hospital, were conducted Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the home. Interment was in the Piney Grove Cemetery. The Rev. Mr. Grant and the Rev. John Lambert officiated.

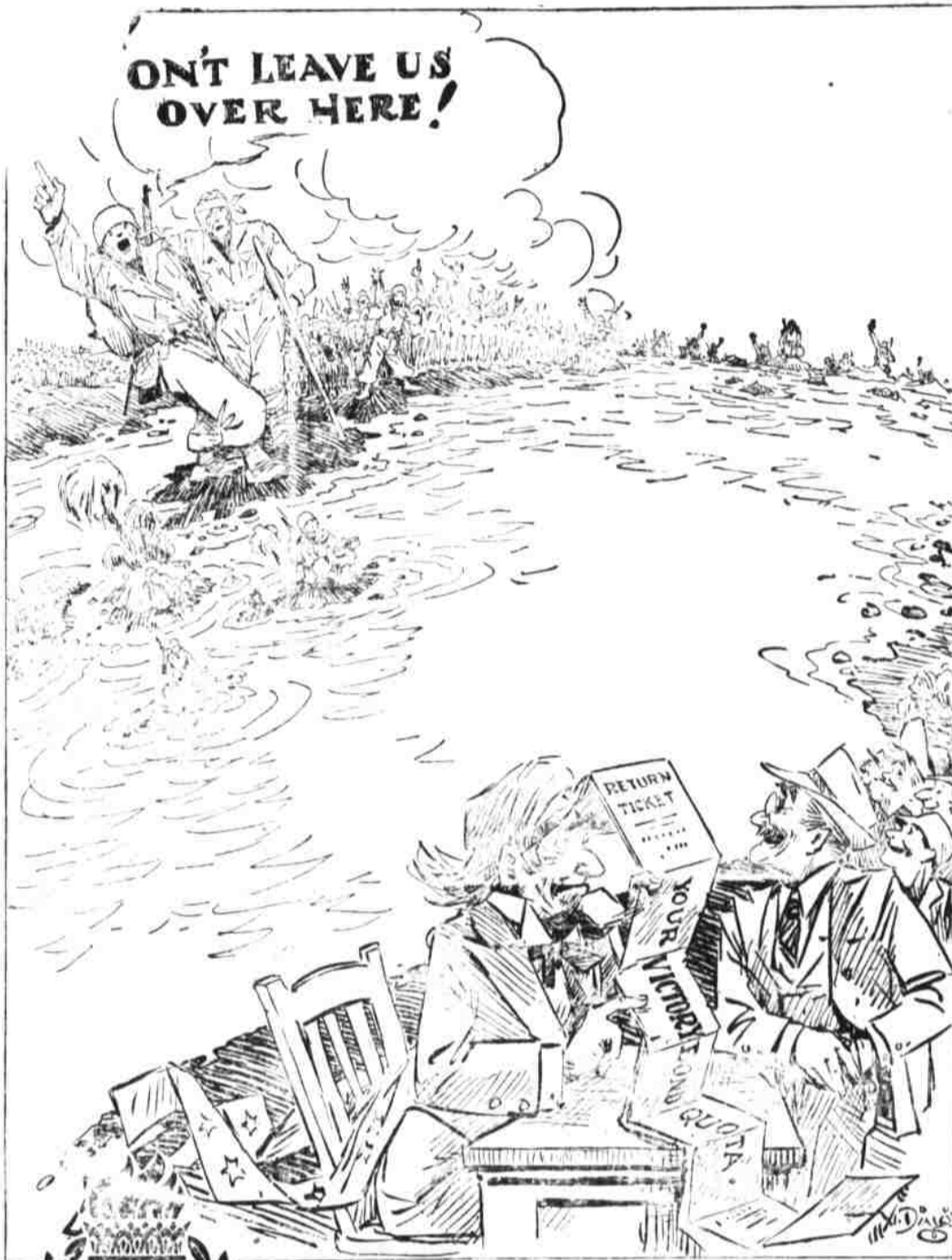
Surviving are six sons, Gordon,

Damon, Kenneth, and Wayne Sutton, all of Seven Springs, and Milla'd and Hilbert Sutton, both in the armed forces; one sister, Mrs. Ina Swinson of Mt. Olive; and nine grandchildren. Mrs. Sutton was the wife of the late Dr. W. G. Sutton. She was a member of the Seven Springs Baptist Church.

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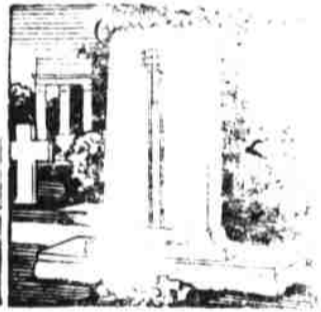


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