

Rebel Revelations

In the region of eternal snow in the loftiest heights of the Himalayan mountains there is reputed to live a fantastic monster called the "abominable snowman." A recent expedition to Mt. Everest photographed his tracks. A Tibetan monk has claimed that a fellow lama encountered this eight foot creature while meditating among the Himalayan peaks. Now a group of westerners has set forth to prove or disprove his existence. If they do find him, I hope they rent him occasionally, bring him back in chains, and leave him to melt in the middle of the hottest place that can be found. It is a fate I often wish would overtake our machine weatherman who is called Weatherbee.

For ten days now we have been frozen fast in the bitter grasp of winter. Actually the thermometer has not reached ten degrees above zero for all that time. Outside it is painful to venture forth with the biting winds freezing your face, chilling your lungs, and inside if you move more than ten feet away from the fire you're apt to be frostbitten. It takes so much effort to keep alive that you are constantly tired. To relax your constant vigil against the cold can be fatal. Hence you don't relax. Added to all the discomfort has been snow, inches of snow, tons of snow - snow that has to be shoveled even in the country - and removed in the cities at costs of occasionally more than a million dollars. And as the weatherman who takes such pride in predicting the worst storm in years, or even on record, warns you - if you are not in good physical condition, put that shovel down.

We had such a storm the first of the week. Here in Maine it began on Saturday - and I got stuck in it, too - on the middle of an icy and very steep hill - stayed there in five above zero cold until I was rescued an hour later. We missed the snow that fell of southern New England Sun - exchanged if for sub-zero temperature that felt even colder because of high and piercing winds - and we did not get half as much as fall on Monday south of here. It was just too cold for that amount of moisture to accumulate except as time ice. Ice formed in distributors of cars, in water pumps, and I am quite confident in lungs as well. Only a sense of humor kept you alive, a warped sense of humor to be sure. I howled with laughter when I heard our Mr. Weatherbee, that invertebrate snow lover whom I call the abominable snowman, complain that he had been stuck in a six foot snow drift in front of his weather station on Boston's south shore, too. And today the bay is coated over with ice there. Serves him right for almost pleading with winter to come.

For hundreds of years writers have been concerned about the cold - even Plutarch who lived between 42 and 120 A.D. wrote that in a certain city the cold was so intense that words were congealed as soon as spoken, but that after some time they thawed and became audible; so that words spoken in winter were articulated next summer. Could that be why Englishers have the reputation of being so taciturn?

Nietzsche many centuries later in Thus Spake Zarathustra said what might well be my motto, "Winter, a bad guest, sit with me at home; blue are my hands from his friendly handshaking."

It has been so many years since I have had any use for my red flannel underwear that when I took it from mothballs, I was horrified to find the pants full of holes - quite like John Phillips in his Splendid Shilling written about 1701.

"My galligaskins, that have long withstood
The winter's fury, and encroaching frosts,
By time subdued (what will not time subdue)
A horrible chasm disclosed."

And when someone offers me a cup of scalding hot tea or coffee or a steaming hot buttered rum I feel that I should reply in Shakespeare's words, "For this relief much thanks; 'tis bitter cold, and I am sick at heart." And you get sick at heart too, discouraged, confused, unutterably weary just combating the cold. You understand too well how people lost in deep snow drifts can just give up the struggle and lie down in the snow to what will be almost certain death. Yes, it is no wonder that New Englanders are a hardy breed - the weak ones gave up long ago - and I suspect that the more intelligent ones left for Florida or California or even Texas. And how anyone with the IQ as well, let's say, a high grade moron, would willingly stay in one of these old, huge, drafty, high-ceilinged houses, impossible to heat, miserably uncomfortable at best, is a mystery I hope to solve if I survive it.

I read most understandingly the delightful book of Margaret Henriksen called Seven Steeples. And I learned why nightcaps ought to be in fashion again. She prepared for bed on these cold Maine nights with red flannel skiing tights under a pink outing-flannel nightgown. And over that, "a blue knitted bed jacket, some heavy hand knit white wool socks tucked into lavender hand-knit traveling slippers, a tan sleeveless sweater over the whole to add another layer and keep the underneath layers from shifting around too much. And on really cold nights a blue sweater, pulled over the head, its arms tied around the neck, was the most comforting touch of all." This last she learned from reading a sociological study of tramps. They take off their coats and wear them that way around the head and neck when they are cold. It seems that if the jugular veins and

the nerve centers at the base of the brain are kept warm, you're warm all over. Since I read that I have been very grateful to Margaret Henriksen, too. Only I have more trouble keeping warm in the day time.

Days in the house I wear my wool ski pants over by red pajamas, a sweater and a wool shirt and a heavy sweat shirt over that, two pairs of wool socks sheep-lined slippers inside insulated boots. If the wind is blowing frigid blasts thru the crevices and cracks into the room, I wear a ski hood and my Maine Guide jacket over all the layers underneath. When I go outside? Well, it is not much colder, the air is not still and moving rapidly increases the circulation.

Weather reports (the past week have referred to Maine as the ice box of the nation. No ice box was ever that cold - and no modern refrigerator goes to such temperatures as you can find now in any of the some twenty-eight unused rooms at Greencrest. The food would be spoiled - frozen solid. And that friend, that abominable snowman, Mr. Weatherbee, has just announced that we will probably have most interesting weather over the week-end. He doesn't mean good weather. He means weather only in superlatives, the coldest, the stormiest, the windiest, the most wretchedly uncomfortable weather that you can imagine - if you have a good imagination.

And my most unwelcome guest, winter, has made my fingers so blue with cold that my spelling is becoming too erratic for even the most patient typewriter. I shall make this shorter than usual, put on my snowshoes, and take some food to the birds - the woods will be warmer than this room at least.

Helen Caldwell Cushman

Scholarship For Essay Winner

RALEIGH, Jan. 13 — There's a \$600 college scholarship waiting for the Tar Heel High School student who writes the best essay on "Why the Private Practice of Medicine Furnishes This Country With the Finest Medical Care." It's the seventh annual essay contest conducted by the Medical Society of North Carolina's Committee on Public Relations. The contest opened January 26, 1954. Announcements were mailed to school principals and librarians last fall and additional contest information may be obtained from the Medical Society of North Carolina, 203 Capital Club Building, Raleigh.

In addition to the prize of a \$600 scholarship awarded the first place winner, the Public Relations Committee may choose to invite, at its expense, the winning contestant to be its guest and to present the winning essay at the annual meeting of the State Medical Society in Pinehurst, May 3-5 (1954). Prizes will also be awarded to winners of second and third place essays, and the top papers in the state contest will be forwarded to the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons for competition in the national contest. National prizes range from \$1,000 to \$250.

Essays may be submitted any time until February 26, 1954. Officials of the Medical Society have requested that High School Principals appoint a committee of three teachers in each school to select the two best papers. The local winning papers will be forwarded to the county or city Superintendent of Public Instruction who is being asked to select the two best papers in his school system, and forward them to the State Medical Society by March 10, 1954.

Additional small packaged libraries with bibliography, of the type furnished each high school, may be obtained from the Headquarters Office of the State Medical Society in Raleigh, for use in this contest. Contestants should write not more

Call On Cotton Farmer Produce Bale To Acre

RALEIGH, Jan. 13 — M. G. Mann, general manager of the N. C. Cotton Growers Association, has called on North Carolina farmers to shoot for a bale an acre in 1954.

If growers will attempt to average 600 pounds of lint to the acre, he said, this will cushion to some extent the rather drastic reduction in cotton acreage under the government's farm program.

Average yield during the past 10 years has been approximately 350 pounds, some 150 pounds short of the 500-pound goal Mann is urging for 1954.

Under the present law, North Carolina has been allotted 529,000 acres for the production of cotton in 1954. Last year growers planted 781,000 acres, yet because of poor growing weather, the 1953 harvest has been estimated at 453,000 bales, an average of only 280 pounds of lint to the acre.

The year 1952 was considered more normal, Mann said. Then growers harvested 560,000 bales from 748,000 acres and received from both lint and cottonseed an income of \$118,000,000. Income during the year just closed was only an estimated \$85,000,000.

"With the sharply cut acreage," Mann went on, "it is possible that our income from cotton this year can drop as low as \$60,000,000, or only about half of that of 1952."

"However," he continued, "if we could produce a bale an acre on every one of the 528,000 acres allotted, our cotton income would almost equal that of 1952 and would be well above last year's. Government subsidies will assure growers of prices near the 1952 and 1953 levels."

Thomas R. Bello of Reidsville High School was the 1953 winner of the state-wide award.

Usually the folks who worry about nothing are those who have nothing to worry about.

Bankers, Farm Experts To Study State's Livestock Production

RALEIGH, Jan. 11 — Bankers and farm experts will meet Feb. 9 in Raleigh to study the possibilities of expanding livestock production in North Carolina, according to an announcement today from the N.C. Bankers Association.

The State's banking leaders and farm experts will gather at the Hotel Sibley for the third livestock Symposium, sponsored by the bankers' association. From the meeting, bankers and farm leaders hope to emerge with policies which will stimulate livestock production on a sound, profitable basis for farmers of the State.

The existing unsettled farm situation, particularly in livestock production, promises a record attendance. Not since livestock prices began to tumble last year has there been a joint meeting of farm experts and bankers on this subject. Lending policies of banks will be discussed, as well as latest methods of livestock production. The chairman of the bankers' Livestock Committee, J. R. Austin of The Peoples Bank of Roxboro, said that "many bankers share the dilemma of farmers in these uncertain times. Farmers don't know whether to expand their livestock production, and many bankers are not certain that livestock loans are sound investments."

CROP Drive Exceeds Last Year

The 1953-54 Christian Rural Overseas Program in North Carolina already has exceeded the previous year's returns by more than \$7,000, the Rev. Carl R. Key of Durham, State CROP Director, said in Greensboro yesterday, December 29th.

In a report to a meeting of the CROP Executive Board and State Committee, the Rev. Mr. Key placed the value of commodities received & cash in lieu of grain at \$36,612.80. "We hope to reach \$40,000 by the end of January," he added. The CROP program officially ends the last of February.

"The ever-all program of Church World Service, which includes CROP, has reached a value in commodities, cash, clothing and animals of \$186,637.10. Key added, and that figure should exceed \$200,000 by the year's end.

Key submitted his report to eight members of the Board and Committee, including the committee's Chairman, Commissioner of Agriculture L. Y. Ballentine, who presided here at the American Friends Service Center, 336 Church St.

"A modern miracle has been wrought by CROP workers in spirit, attitude and adaptation to conditions," Key said, "especially in view of the drought last summer."

More than 100,000 refugees, orphans and old people have been aided by the program, Key declared. Three carloads of wheat, two from Catkabs and one from Lincoln County were shipped to India. Seven 50,000 pound cars of dried milk have been shipped to Korea, India and Germany from as many counties. Two more cars of dried milk await shipment. 29 head of purebred

Austin added that he was convinced that livestock "is a safe bet for both farmers and bankers, and this meeting is designed to urge both groups to promote livestock production in North Carolina."

Among those scheduled to participate in the forum are: Dr. D. W. Colvard, Dean of the School of Agriculture at State College; Dr. Joe Fou, head of the Department of Animal Industry at State College; and Dr. C. Brice Hatchford, head of the Farm Management and Marketing Extension at State College.

These bankers will participate in the program: Edward A. Wayne, vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond; Herman E. Vernon, farm representative of the Farmers National Bank and Trust Company of Rocky Mount; Wayne A. Corpening, farm representative for Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, Winston-Salem; and E. D. Gaskins, farm representative of American Bank & Trust Company, Monroe.

Bankers will be accompanied to Raleigh by their county farm agents so that a free exchange of ideas on a level can be accomplished. Total attendance is expected to be about 500.

goals will be sent to Puerto Rico this week for distribution to poor farmers. A carload of Peanut Butter is scheduled to go to Western Europe and the Near East by the end of the CROP year.

include J. Graham Morrison, who won national prominence during his many years as Lincoln County farm agent; Dr. Carey H. Boston, chancellor of N. C. State College; James D. Moore, Chicago, consultant on personnel and labor relations; Dr. R. C. Young of the University of Georgia; C. E. Henrich, Chicago advertising expert; and J. Frank Rushton, Jacksonville, Fla., businessman.

R. Flake Shaw Bureau Post

RALEIGH — R. Flake Shaw of Greensboro has been reappointed executive secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation and given a vote of confidence by the organization's directors.

The action was taken at a meeting here Tuesday of the directors, who also named an 11-man executive committee. The directors commended Shaw for his outstanding work at the American Farm Bureau convention in Chicago last month. Shaw was chiefly responsible for a compromise price support resolution sponsored by the South being approved at the Chicago meeting. He also led a successful campaign for the election of Walter L. Randolph of Alabama as national vice president. In addition, Shaw was named to the national federa-

Southern Church Outdoes Northern

RALEIGH — According to Dr. Harold J. Dudley, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina, a comparison of the two major Presbyterian bodies in the United States, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern) and the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (Northern), since 1940 reveals that the latter has led both in the Soul-winning Ratio and in Spiritual Birthrate every single year for the period compared. As regards the Soul-winning Ratio, which means the least number of members required to win a convert on profession of faith, the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. has a ratio of 22.91 persons in contrast to 22.22 for the

tion's 4-man executive board. Lauding Shaw's efforts, A. C. Edwards of Hookerton told the directors Shaw "has done more to sell the Southern viewpoint on agriculture to the nation as a whole than any other man in the South in the past 16 years."

Southern Church has a membership of 4,492,671, while the Northern Church has 4,285,842. The Southern Church has a growth rate of 2.64% to 1.93% for the Northern Church, it is evident that the Southern Church is adding more members who are active (members of other denominations) than the Northern Church. The two indices of Soul-winning Ratio and Spiritual Birthrate are the true measure of growth of a denomination's growth by expansion. Recently the Roman Catholic Church released a study revealing that the Presbyterian Church ranks second in the nation only to the Baptist denomination in evangelism. The average percent of growth on profession of faith alone for the two Presbyterian denominations for the period studied is 2.92%.

CLEVES PLANNING These are pleasant statistics for the man who bought his wife a TV and his son an electric train.

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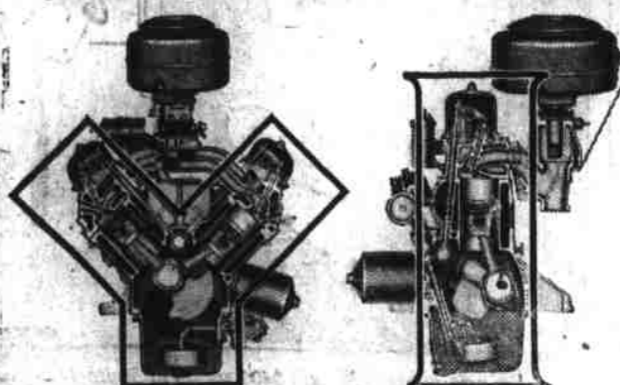


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