

### THE DUPLIN TIMES

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#### IN MEMORIAL

This little story is not strictly editorial material, but it is human and gave me a funny feeling when I read it.

I read it in a newspaper while scanning for material suitable for my News Notes. Other stories on the same page tell about the Indochina War, about the Geneva Conference, about a child killed in a traffic accident about a man being indicted for the slaying of his wife, and about the McCarthy squabble.

But this little story is different. It may not be of any importance at all to you. It may mean very little in this age of Wars, human meanness and dirty politics.

But it gave me a peculiar feeling at first and then after considering it for a few moments it gave me a tremendous lift.

It gave me that lift because it prove that there are still some people with love, with sentiment, with faith in this callous world.

And maybe, too, because the main character in the story is just an average person. There are many more like him, millions just as good, just as fine, just as decent as Walter Small of New York State.

Walter Small lived in a little town in up state New York, and worked in a little restaurant in the little town. It must have been a soft-lighted, romantic restaurant, with intimate booths and plenty of atmosphere, for Walter Small and Annie Fortune did their courting there.

The day they got married they had their wedding dinner in that same little restaurant.

But a few months later Annie died, a victim of cancer, and Walter joined the Navy.

Recently Walter wrote the little restaurant from New York City, enclosing a ten-dollar bill. He said his ship would put out to sea in the morning. But that Saturday was to be their wedding anniversary Annie's and his.

Would old Joe please reserve their old table for them for that night? He hoped the ten-dollar bill would cover the expense.

That Saturday night their table was reserved and the candles lighted.

Old Joe drank a silent toast to Annie and Walter wherever they might be that night.

The ten-dollar bill which Walter Small sent was given to the Cancer Crusade.

There isn't much to this story in these times of world upheaval - just a little human oddity.

Yet, I wonder whether it is not much more significant than an editorial about politics. I certainly like it better.

Here is another toast to Walter Small and to his Annie, wherever they may be!

### Rebel Revelations

Should you read of a strange monster swimming around in the waters of Lough Leane or even the River Shannon, you would probably put it down to a vivid Irish imagination or a drop too much of Jameson's potent brew. Even the famed monster of Loch Ness has its doubters, and the Scotch are notoriously more factual than the Irish. But if you were to hear of a sea serpent swimming in a Maine river, you might really pause and wonder. There are tall tales in Maine to be sure, but most of them are told by out-of-Staters, and are given little Ordeence by a matter-of-fact, down-to-earth Mainiac.

I can't think of a place more hostile to the whimsical or the fey than Maine. Even if a good Maine housewife were to see a leprechaun, she would first have her glasses changed. And if her husband came home of a May evening and told her he had seen a sea serpent in a Maine river she would be sure he had stopped by somewhere for a glass of that strong and unpalatable liquid called orchard tea. It's actually only hard cider, and it tastes far more like vinegar. Its acidity has undoubtedly soured many a good disposition and taken away what little sense of humor the people did possess. No, Maine people just don't have truck with such foolishness. Life is real and earnest, and the grave is but the goal, so there isn't much sense laughing or smiling for that matter.

Even so, there have been stories for several weeks of a sea serpent, and sometimes of two such audacious creatures who were swimming undaunted by Maine scepticism right up the Penobscot river. They had dared venture as far as that most reactionary of all American cities, Bangor. And they had been by far too many people to discredit the tale.

Many years ago before man in his greed had ruined the rivers of Maine the kennebec and the penobscot had some of the best salmon pools in the world. Come spring, the salmon came up the rivers to spawn. Those who were fortunate enough to eat one say they were unequalled. The pulp and paper and saw mills along the rivers soon made them poison oas to fish, and they sought cleaner waters in New Brunswick. Water was dumped into the Maine rivers without consideration of pollution, is still dumped into them. As rapacious timer interest have spoiled many of the navigable streams in Maine by careless disposal of slash and stumps, so the mills in Maine have cause desolation and destruction.

The Penobscot which Champlain visited in 1605 is being slowly reclaimed and its waters are again visited by Atlantic Salmon. Above Bangor lies one of the best pools left in the United States, a pool from which a salmon is sent yearly to the White House in Washington. But it was no salmon these responsible witnesses saw in the Penobscot. It was alleged to be at least eighteen feet long, and puffed water like a porpoise. Several Penobscot Indians from the Reservation at Old Town saw the creatures from their canoe. Now all Maine Indians are sober by law, and not given to exaggeration as a race. But maby the spring sun had affected their reason.

It's just would never do for such a story to come out of Maine. It wasn't in character. Something would have to be done once and for all to prove that the waters of the Penobscot held no such fantastic creatures. Maine people would lose their reputation for being hard-headed

### "Please Make It Work for Other Kids"



and practical, and who knew what that would lead to? The tourists might even try to take advantage of them if they thought the natives were so naive as all that.

There would just have to be scientific proof that no such things existed in Maine waters. And so scientists were called in, reputable biologists of the Fish and Game department. Thousands of Maine people came, too, and caused a traffic jam along the river. They didn't expect to see anything, of course, there weren't such things. But they most awfully wanted to be in on the unmasking of whatever hoax it was that was being perpetrated. The idea of a tale's being spread all over that

would make outsiders question traditional Maine Veracity.

And I am certain that the good Maine people lining the banks of the Penobscot were truly shocked when they did see something in the water. It must have been a terrific experience. For there were not one but two sea serpents. And these couldn't have come from the headwaters, from Chesuncook Lake or Ripogenus Dam or from in Pemadumcook Lake. They could only have come up the Penobscot, swimming in by Isle Au Haut, perhaps, by Islesboro and Castine and Belfast.

Shades of Moby Dick! These two fierce sea monsters turned out to be two white whales, playing and spouting around in the river no doubt making many a good meal from the delicious melts or even the sacred Penobscot salmon.

There were going to organize a harpooning party on the Penobscot over the week-end. We just can't allow such sportive creatures in Maine waters. It is too great a task for the imagination to believe they would dare venture up our streams. But you know they might prove quite a tourist attraction at that!

HELEN C. ALDWELL CUSHMAN

### News For Veterans

#### NEWS FOR VETERANS

Santa Claus has become potent "medicine" in helping to heal the sick and the maimed in Veterans Administration hospitals.

And, in the bargain, thousands of needy or orphaned children, who otherwise might be forgotten at Christmas time, are now on Santa's toy list.

This double dose, good medicine for sick veterans and good cheer for needy children, comes from a toy-making program in the manual arts and occupational therapy clinics of VA hospitals that started a few years ago on a small scale.

Most of the patients participating in the program are long term mental, tubercular or other chronic cases.

Today, the project is one of the most promising therapeutic aids in 26 VA hospitals, with more than 3,100 patients turning out some 30,000 toys for distribution at Christmas to more than 24,000 needy and orphaned children who otherwise would not be remembered.

More than that, hundre of local organizations are cooperating by providing discarded toys for repair or the materials for making new toys and then distributing the finished toys at Christmas time to the needy and orphaned children in their communities.

VA said the beneficial program is operated at no increased cost to the agency, yet its effect as a medical tool in the treatment of the seriously sick is of incalculable value. VA said this is particularly true of mental and tubercular patients.

A typical mental case, reported by a VA neuropsychiatric hospital, involved a World War One veteran who has been hospitalized for more than 10 years. The hospital said he has begun to feel he was a burden on society with little or nothing to offer in return. His condition worsened noticeably. Then, as a part of his medical rehabilitation treatment, he was induced to participate in the toy program. The change for the better was almost immediate, because, for the first time, he realized he would bring happiness to someone else and, therefore, was wanted after all. It was just the "medicine" he needed to snap out of his lethargy, the hospital said.

Among the tubercular patients, the project is equally rewarding, VA said.



"They act like they've never seen babies!"

### Photographers Shoot For \$300

CHEROKEE, N. C., May 10 — The nation's press photographers will be shooting for \$300 in cash awards at the annual Press Photographers' Preview of "Unto These Hills," the Cherokee Indian drama, at Mountainside Theatre here June 24th.

Drama officials, in making the announcement, pointed out that the photographers will get the first look at the 1954 production of the nationally-acclaimed drama which officially will begin its fifth season on Saturday, June 20, at 8:15 p. m. Awards will be given for the best published pictures. There will be two grand prizes of \$100 each, a second prize of \$50, and two others of \$25 each.

Winners in the 1953 competition will be announced at the time of this year's preview.

The competition is limited to news paper and magazine photographers. Officials also extended an invitation to the photographers to visit Oconaluftee Indian Village, the reproduction of a 200-year-old Cherokee community, while they are here.

ment to help promote new industry since 1926, he said. He also told of supporting community development through the "Finer Carolina" contest and his company's agricultural development department. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, electric service is available to 96.1 per cent of North Carolina's farmers, compared with 90.8 per cent across the nation. Private companies serve almost twice as many Tar Heel farmers as do rural cooperatives, he added.

Nationally, Sutton noted, no industry every has undertaken an expansion program comparable with that of investor-owned electricity utilities since VJ Day. That expansion, through 1953, has cost sixteen billion dollars.

Talking on "Partners in Progress," he said that to keep pace with state growth CP&L would invest \$200,000,000 in post-war expansion by the end of 1957. New construction from VJ Day through 1953 cost \$117,000,000, he said.

All taxes levied against Duke Power and CP&L last year totaled more than \$34,000,000, Sutton said; with more than \$11,000,000 going to state and local taxing bodies in North Carolina alone.

### Power Keeps Pace With N. C. Growth

Pine Bluff, May 10 — Industrial growth and new uses for electricity present a challenge to power companies which always has and will be met in North Carolina, Louis V. Sutton told the N. C. Bankers Association here today.

"A power company's expansion is in fact a forerunner of progress," said Sutton, president of Carolina Power & Light Co. "Electric power must be available to meet the ex-

padding needs of existing industry quantity desired by new industries rise whenever such needs arise coming into the area." and it must be ready in whatever CP&L has maintained a depart-

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### FORD'S OUT FRONT

National new car registration figures\* for a seven-month period show Ford in the lead by thousands!

\*SOURCE: R. L. Poll & Company. Registrations for period September through March, the latest month for which figures are available.

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