

1953 Was Good to Us

The year 1953 was good to Carteret County. As the old fellow with his white beard departs, he rightfully walks with his head high — no slinking out like an unloved, unwanted critter.

The Morehead City Chamber of Commerce New Year's greeting which reached members through the mail this week enumerated the many good things that 1953 brought to the town and the entire county. To the list we have added a few items which we believe too make 1953 worth remembering:

- 1. Completion of the Morehead City Golf and Country Club
2. Opening of the new bridge to Atlantic Beach
3. Beginning of tobacco export through the Morehead City port and provision of chemical storage there for the Ethyl Dow Corp.
4. Increase in pasture acreage in the county and larger cattle production
5. Opening of the Aviation Fuel Terminal between Beaufort and Morehead City
6. Increased fish catches
7. Opening of the Sea Level Hospital
8. New athletic field for Morehead City made possible by the Jaycees who also brought to Morehead City the Miss North Carolina pageant

- 9. New school construction at Newport and Camp Glenn
10. Organization of an All Seashore Highway Association
11. Expansion of the town of Morehead City through extension of the town limits
12. Expansion of established businesses and opening of new ones in Beaufort and Morehead City
13. Building of new churches throughout the county
14. Increase in real estate values and construction of new homes
15. Radio-equipped police car at Newport and organization of a Newport Businessmen's Association
16. Municipal improvements — start on opening the west part of Arendell street in Morehead City; a painted town hall and tackling of the Ann street drainage problem in Beaufort
17. Organization of a Beaufort Rural Fire Association and installation of a new fire alarm system in Beaufort
18. Consistent reduction of town and county government debt

This list could be added to by each and everyone of us. But these few accomplishments — if they constituted ALL the good things 1953 brought us — would be sufficient to make us quite pleased with the year just past.

An Authority Comments on Weeds

In a recent Beaufort town board meeting the commissioners scratched their heads over the problem of the town crew cleaning off lots that had grown up in bushes and weeds.

Two lots had been cleared that — to hear the description by the workmen — had young stands of timber on them. The discussion centered around "How much should we charge the property owners for clearing the lots?" and secondly, "Does the town have a right to remove anything from a lot except noxious weeds?"

The second question was raised by the town attorney after he read the ordinance regarding large stands of weeds in vacant lots, the town's authority to cut them and then charge the property owner.

"Noxious" weeds are those that are injurious to health (they provide living quarters for mosquitoes, gnats and other flying disease carriers). The town attorney said he doubted if the town had the right to clear off myrtle or fig bushes and charge the owner of the lot

for the use of machinery and the time consumed in hacking out such growth.

In the December issue of Popular Government, published by the Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, the attorney general agrees with Beaufort's legal counsel, Gene Smith. The attorney general, in answering a question regarding weed and "trash removal" from lots says, "In the absence of a clear showing that the trash or offensive matter is detrimental to the health, morals, comfort and safety of the public I do not think that General Statute 160-200 (8) or General Statute 160-55 (state laws which tell towns what they can and can't do) authorizes a levy and collection of assessments for anything but noxious weeds."

Of course, the town board pulled their irons out of the fire by deciding that the town crews shall no more clear off any lots. The procedure now is to be that the property owner shall be asked to clean up his property and if he doesn't, he'll be asked to appear in court and answer to violating the law the same as if he were caught speeding.

Holidays Aren't for Everyone

One holiday weekend has passed and another is just around the corner. For three days the community in which you live will be almost at a standstill with parties and celebrations going on all around.

Yes, it will be a holiday for everyone — that is most everyone. There are some members of the community who still have to stay on the job.

A community has to be protected from fires, criminal acts, and encroachments of personal and public rights. Persons are born on holidays, as well as other times, and they become ill and die too.

The policemen, firemen, doctors and hospital staff in the community never

have a real holiday vacation. Others too, whom we take for granted, have little or no vacation.

The truck drivers who bring in perishable foodstuffs and other necessities of life must be on the job to keep the community running smoothly — even on a holiday.

So, take time during this holiday to stop and give a thought to those who are making your holiday celebration possible by not having one of their own.

A friendly hello to the cop, the fireman, the doctor, and others who can't be out celebrating — or a pat on the back to show appreciation for doing a job that has to be done would be quite in order during the New Year weekend.

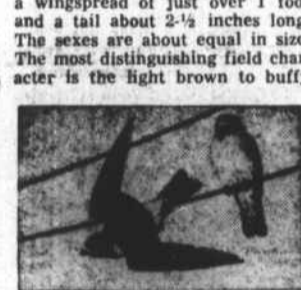
NOT NECESSARILY THE BEST YARDSTICK



Cliff Swallows Build Mud Nests; Eat Many Insects

In some areas this relatively common swallow is known as the Fives Swallow. The names suggest that the birds may nest under the eaves of buildings or on cliffs. The nests are often more obvious than the birds. They are usually gourd-shaped structures of mud with a lining of grass, leaves, feather and wool. Of course, they differ from the burrows of the Bank Swallows and the mud nests of the Barn Swallows.

The National Wildlife Federation is interested in all kinds of wildlife whether this refers to game species or not and would welcome observations made on these birds. The Cliff Swallow, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota, is about 6 inches long with a wingspread of just over 1 foot and a tail about 2-1/2 inches long. The sexes are about equal in size. The most distinguishing field character is the light brown to buff



Cliff Swallow

rump and the square-tipped tail. The upper parts are steel blue, much like those of the Barn Swallow. While the Bank Swallow has a whitish throat patch, the throat of the Cliff Swallow is dark.

There are three subspecies of the Cliff Swallow recognized: the Northern, the Mexican and the Lesser. Of these, the Northern has as its breeding ground the region from central Alaska to Cape Breton Island south through the United States except for Florida and the Rio Grande Valley. In winter, the birds migrate south through Florida and Central America to Brazil and the Argentine returning to the North in time for the spring breeding season.

In the nest the female Cliff Swallow lays four or five white or creamy and pinkish eggs that are marked dark brown or reddish brown. The eggs are about 4/5 inch by 2/3 inch at their maximum and it would take 16 of them to reach a weight of one ounce. There is but one annual brood and the incubation and the care of the young

is shared by both parents. Incubation takes from 12 to 14 days.

The fact that Cliff Swallows nest in colonies is often to their disadvantage. Such colonies are bound to attract attention and survival in any species is more likely if attention of potential enemies is avoided.

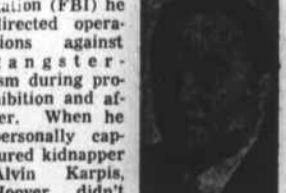
In the nest-making, muddy materials may be dropped to the porch floors beneath the eaves and this creates a condition that it not appreciated by tidy folk. The result of course is that the cause is removed. This is unfortunate both for the swallows and for the men involved. The food of these swallows is almost exclusively insects.

Among the insects found in some 375 stomachs of these birds were the following whose names are likely to raise the ire of farmers and those whose living depends on the raising of plant crops: Alfalfa weevils, chinch bugs, rice weevils, and cotton boll weevils. With them were spiders and now and then a few wild berries.

One should not evaluate all of nature solely on an economic basis and anyone who has taken the opportunity of studying Cliff Swallows or other swallows for that matter need not be enlightened by lists of noxious creatures that enter the diet of the birds to become their champions. The birds are just good, ordinary, beautiful neighbors and as such they deserve our friendship and cooperation. —E. Laurence Palmer

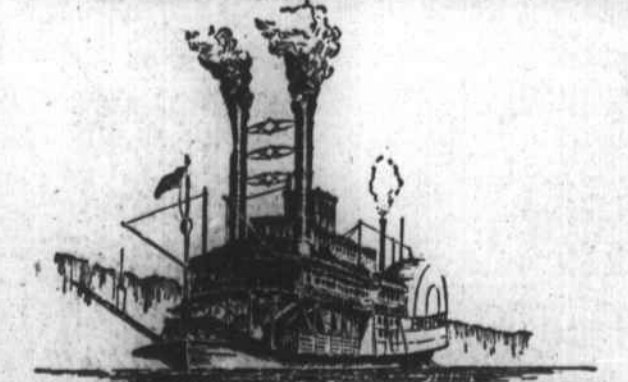
Today's Birthday

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, born Jan. 1, 1895, in Washington, D. C. As head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) he directed operations against gangsterism during prohibition and after.



When he personally captured kidnapper Alvin Karpis, Hoover didn't pull his gun because children were playing in the streets. Since 1924 he has served under six presidents, and more than a dozen attorneys general.

A Famous American Ship



The Memphis, one of the glamorous Mississippi River packets of old. With light draft and high pressure she was able to make 24 miles an hour, according to the American Merchant Marine Institute. Plush, elegance and sumptuous interiors staggered the foreign visitors to America who happened to travel on ships of this type common in Mark Twain's day. Owned by the Anchor Line, the Memphis served between St. Louis and Memphis. Today only a few excursion boats remain that even faintly resemble this gaudy craft. Vast diesel-powered lows move up and down our great rivers taking cargo to the seaports where ships of the American Merchant Marine carry it abroad.

Kidd Brewer

Raleigh Roundup

DESERTING . . . Rumors persist that here in Wake County some outstanding folks in Gov. William B. Umstead's campaign last year are deserting the camp. Main causes for leaving are listed as: counsel and advice have been ignored; those wanting appointments have been left waiting at the church.

The feel they have not been given recognition commensurate with the work they did in 1952—and they are deeply hurt about it.

These disgruntled ones are being wooed energetically by the "other side"—the Scott and Olive crowd.

The situation in Wake may be finding echoes throughout the State where Umstead followers have been neglected.

Take Kerr Scott's power amassed over a four-year period; add Hubert Olive's strength of 1952; throw in a dash of disappointees; and you come up with a formidable potion.

It could definitely work to the disadvantage of one Alton A. Lennon in 1954. Of course, we all recognize that there are more people to "take care of" than there are jobs. Nevertheless, it is good to let them down gently, to listen to them patiently, and to send them off with a smile.

FREE MEMBERS . . . You recall our complaint here two weeks ago about Carolina Motor Club's strong connections with the State on sale of license plates. We expressed the opinion that selling these things should be placed on a competitive bid basis.

My information is that literally hundreds of State officials are being provided free memberships in Carolina Motor Club. No wonder Coleman Roberts, head of the organization, stands in so well with the boys.

They receive an insurance program without charge—and all the other items coming with membership. It seems to me the whole thing would bear a little looking into . . .

NEXT DOOR . . . It isn't often that the Governor of North Carolina can lean out of one of his side windows at the Executive Mansion and literally yell up an appointee.

But last week he might have done this very thing if he had so wished. In naming Mrs. J. Wilbur Bunn, wife of a prominent Raleigh attorney, to the Prisons Advisory Council, Gov. Umstead went next door, the Bunn's living within holier distance of, and right across the street from, the Mansion.

Mrs. Bunn succeeds Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson. She is a native of Yadkin County. She was formerly Miss Maud Davis, and is a sister of Egbert Davis, president of Security Life and Trust Co., and one of the powers behind the throne in getting the new Wake Forest established in Winston-Salem.

Since the rather awkward handling of the Ronie Sheffield affair here, the Umstead administration has reportedly not stood as high as it would like with various women's groups.

Raleigh consensus is that naming of Mrs. Bunn, popular president last year of the N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs, will enhance the administration with the women. Mrs. Bunn and husband are leading Baptist lay leaders.

GRANGE . . . By reappointing Wiley W. Andrews of Goldsboro to the Prisons Advisory Council, the Governor kept firm his alliance

with the State Grange. Andrews for many years has been Grange Master Harry B. Caldwell's chief assistant in Eastern North Carolina.

SAFETY MAN . . . One of the South's better law enforcement officers is coming in as the new Director of Safety for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. He is Capt. Charlie A. Speed of Asheville.

Speed for years has been head of the Western Division of the department. He is one of the State's most impressive after-dinner speakers.

Look for it. Capt. Charlie Speed will bring new ideas and fresh approaches to the State's safety program.

To us, he seems to be the ideal man for a big job.

UP TO ANYTHING? . . . It is sometimes easy for a job—good though it may be—to pall on you. It becomes a thing of rote; the same old saw day after day. This may be the reason that William Y. Bickett, solicitor of the Seventh Judicial District for 20 years now and son of the late Gov. T. W. Bickett, is considering stepping out of the good-paying position and devoting his full time to practice of law. There are reports that he was severely disappointed that Gov. William B. Umstead did not toss one of the special judgeships in his direction. Others say he might be giving some thought to running for Congress against Harold D. Cooley. That would be a big order for anybody, but Bickett has been one of the most potent vote-getters in this section of the State for two decades now.

NECESSITIES . . . An official of the Wake County Alcoholic Beverage Control set up predicted privately last week that December sales of liquor in Raleigh would run \$100,000 less than for December a year ago.

Well, sales of legal liquor were down this past November about nine per cent as compared with November of 1952. The trend has started.

However, retail sales of regular merchandise like clothing, food, furniture, etc., continue to climb. For instance, in October—according to sales tax collections—retail sales were up more than three per cent over October of last year.

This seems to indicate that people still have plenty of money for the necessities of life.

Our prediction is that sales of liquor throughout the State will run far behind December of 1952. Figures will be coming out in about two weeks now. Keep an eye out for them.

In November of this year, more new cars and trucks were sold than in November of last year. Postal receipts were way down. Beer sales were way down. More mailing than ailing. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing employment were down nearly five per cent as against the figures for November of last year.

Business in general seems still to be excellent. But there are several indications of a slight leveling off.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! . . . As we move out of 1953, we want to thank all of you for your interest in the column this year . . . for your letters, your kind words, your advice, and your patience.

We are now in the business of remaking New Year's resolutions. In which practice we hope you will join us. May 1954 bring health, happiness, and prosperity to each of you.

What Your Home Needs For Emergency Sanitation

(No. 2 in a Series)

A simple emergency sanitation program may keep your family from serious illness in disaster. The Federal Civil Defense Administration, in cooperation with the Public Health Service, has compiled a 12-point checklist of materials which homemakers can have ready in case of an enemy attack or natural disasters such as fire, flood, tornado or hurricane which would disrupt normal food and water services.

Many homes already contain most of the materials, FCDA points out. The list:

- 1. Stored drinking water or other liquids to quench thirst (1 gallon for each member of your family, plus an extra gallon for each child under 3 years of age.)
2. A three-day supply of proper foods for your family, including milk. (This can include food already in your refrigerator, plus canned or packaged foods on your cupboard shelves.) Also store paper plates and napkins.
3. Towels for emergency table use, plus cooking and eating utensils, measuring cup, can and bottle openers, pocket knife, and matches.
4. Canned milk for baby, and emergency canned foods for diabetics or others requiring special diets.
5. Large covered garbage can (20-gallon size, if you are a householder) to keep garbage until its disposition can be arranged.
6. Smaller garbage can with tight fitting lid (10-gallon size) as a container for human wastes.
7. A covered pail or other receptacle that can be used for bathroom purposes if water is not available to flush household toilets.
8. A supply of soap, toilet tissue, sanitary napkins and disposable diapers (if there is a baby in the house).
9. If there is illness in the family, spare rubber sheeting, extra medicines and a reserve supply of any special equipment needed by the patient.
10. A supply of grocery bags (large) and a week's accumulation of daily papers, for soil bags, garbage wrappers and other sanitary purposes.
11. Household Chlorine solution (2 pints) for purifying drinking water, and 1 quart of 5 per cent DDT solution for use against insects.
12. Screwdriver, wrench (for turning off valve on house water service line) and shovel (for burying garbage and other wastes).
The booklet, FCDA Publication H-11-1, "What To Do Now About Emergency Sanitation at Home," is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. for 15 cents.

Next: "You Must Have Safe Drinking Water."

Vic Vet says

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