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-- Overlook On Life --
 By WARREN S. REEVE
 Note: The idea of "Overlook" is taken from the Overlooks provided for viewing panoramas along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Benjamin Franklin was a neat man, neat not only in outward manner and appearance, but neat in his inner mind and attitude. This quality was undoubtedly one of the secrets of his greatness. If you read the Overlook for last week, you will recall that Franklin said that when he borrowed a book, he made it a rule to "return it soon and clean". This practice, I believe, was just one form in which a neatness that stretched over the whole range of his life and activity was manifested.

Let us ask what we mean by the words, "neat" and "neatly". Do they not signify deftness in the way we handle a thing, the opposite of fumbling and clumsiness? A ball player may be said to make a very neat catch. "Right on the nose" is a present-day expression that also describes a neat achievement.

Neatness also implies cleanliness. "Cleanliness is next to god-

ness" has often been quoted, and there are people who have mistakenly supposed that the words came from the Bible. The idea contained in them is undoubtedly Biblical, but the phraseology was that of John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Church. Wesley, when he coined the statement, was indebted to Francis Bacon, who years earlier had clothed the thought in the following words: "Cleanliness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence of God". A good Christian faith indeed spurs people on, I believe, to be more neat and clean.

The famed school teacher of Buladean, Sam Brinkley, who boasted the longest beard in the world — it reached all the way to the ground — left a deep imprint in the memories and affections of many. One who knew him well is reported to have said, "He was the neatest man I have ever

known. I remember his shoes especially. It was always a source of amusement to me — that he could keep his shoes so clean — He carried a cloth to clean them if they got dirty". Another recollected that he once said, "Lad, walk carefully". The little boy replied, "So I can keep my shoes clean, Uncle Sam?" "Yes, but mostly so you can keep your life clean, my boy", was Sam Brinkley's reply. (These anecdotes about Sam Brinkley were taken from an article by Arthelia (Tillie) Brooks in the Toe Valley View, issue of September 20, 1956).

Sam Brinkley knew that real neatness was more than outward cleanliness and deeper than just a deft skill in manipulating things. He, like Ben Franklin, had trained his mind to be neat. These men learned to be neat in their thinking. Thoughts therefore came to them luminous and unconfused.

When the mind is clear, then acts and movements are more likely to be smooth and deft, without needless waste of energy. Even speech is affected, for men of the kind we are thinking of have learned the economy of words. Their utterances are pointed and meaningful.

Benjamin Franklin was frugal in his eating — a habit which might also be interpreted as the application of methodical neatness of mind showing itself in a severe disciplining of his natural appetites.

Neatness and accuracy go together, as also, conversely slovenliness results in confusion, error and loss of direction. The school boy whose arithmetic is not neatly done is more liable to make mistakes than the one who is careful to keep his paper neat. The reason for this is that on a messy paper, the eye is apt to mistake the column, for example,

SPECIAL STAMP HONORS POLIO VOLUNTEERS



This is the new commemorative stamp, inspired by the coming victory over polio. "Those who helped" are the millions of volunteers of the March of Dimes, scientists, doctors and technicians.

March of Dimes volunteers here and throughout the country have been honored for the fight against polio in the issuance of a special three-cent stamp. The Post Office placed the stamp on sale throughout the country Wednesday, Jan. 16.

The stamp is a "long vertical" and shows a woman with a protective arm around a boy and girl. She also holds a shield with a medical emblem symbolizing the partnership between civilian volunteers and the medical and science professions in the battle against polio. The legend reads, "Honoring those who helped

in which a figure belongs, and fail to include it in the addition, or perhaps to add it in a column where it does not belong. Thus, we understand how neatness of appearance is a great aid to proper focus. It enables us to see the right thing in the right place. Whereas, on the other hand, messiness, which is the opposite of neatness, has a confusing effect. Unnecessary or unimportant markings draw the attention away from what is essential and make the one liable to serious misjudgment. When the outlines of the picture are not clear, we are likely to let a distorted view be framed in our minds. Neatness, we may then conclude, is a habit of keeping the main thing central and of rejecting everything that is irrelevant. Thus it is more than merely a manual dexterity. It is a habit of mind, closely related to orderliness and organization. It is the opposite of the haphazard.

Benjamin Franklin's genius lay in his meticulous care for accuracy and for honesty. He observed the essential, he shunned the irrelevant.

No wonder then that he made outstanding contributions in many departments of life and knowledge. An article in the latest Sunday New York Times (Page 46 in issue of January 20, 1957) informs us that he made a pioneer study of the Aurora Borealis, and that his map of the Gulf Stream was a valuable aid to all explorers of the Arctic area.

In whatever field he chose to be active, this quality of neatness, bringing with it a power of acute analysis, enabled him to make an invaluable contribution to human life and thought.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

40,000 Volunteers
 This recognition by the U. S. Government points up the work of some 4,000,000 March of Dimes volunteers for the last 19 years in supplying financial aid to polio research and patient care. The crowning achievement of the program was the development of Salk vaccine.

However, as March of Dimes spokesmen warned, much remains to be done despite the protective power of the vaccine. There are 80,000 Americans disabled by polio who may still need treatment and rehabilitation. Thousands of trained personnel to administer care are needed.

In addition, research must be continued to improve the vaccine and develop new treatment techniques for the disabled. These are needs to be met out of proceeds of the 1957 March of Dimes.

Officials of the current drive urge residents to use the new commemorative stamps to send in March of Dimes Mailers—the little cards that hold coins and bills—to help finish the polio job.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

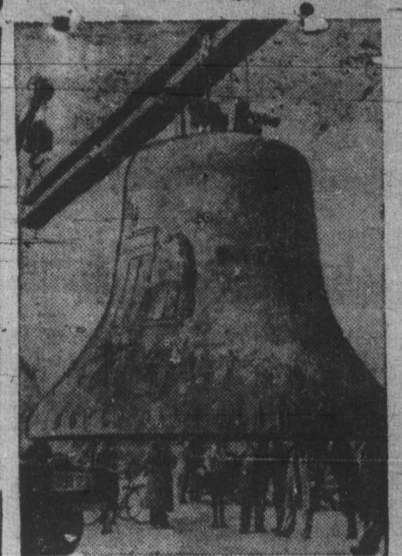
Refreshments for the January 16 orthopedic clinic held in the Spruce Pine health office were furnished by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Central Baptist Church and by Robinson's Dairy.

William A. Broadway, district sanitarian from the Western District Office, State Board of Health, worked in this district last week with Jake F. Buckner, local sanitarian.

M. B. Caldwell Jr., district state milk sanitarian, was in this district recently working with Jake F. Buckner, district sanitarian, in dairy inspections.

North Carolina's cash farm income increased 366 per cent from 1940 to 1955, compared to a 249 per cent increase in the nation.

North Carolina boasts more than six million acres of water and wetlands.



LOST BELL . . . 1936 Olympic games bell, buried by Nazis during World War II, is being raised and repaired for restoration in Berlin stadium.

The number of farm acres irrigated in North Carolina increased from 2,083 in 1949 to 25,423 in 1954.

Approximately 34,000 gallons of water are needed to irrigate one acre of farm land one inch deep.

WHAT'S A HARDWARE STORE?

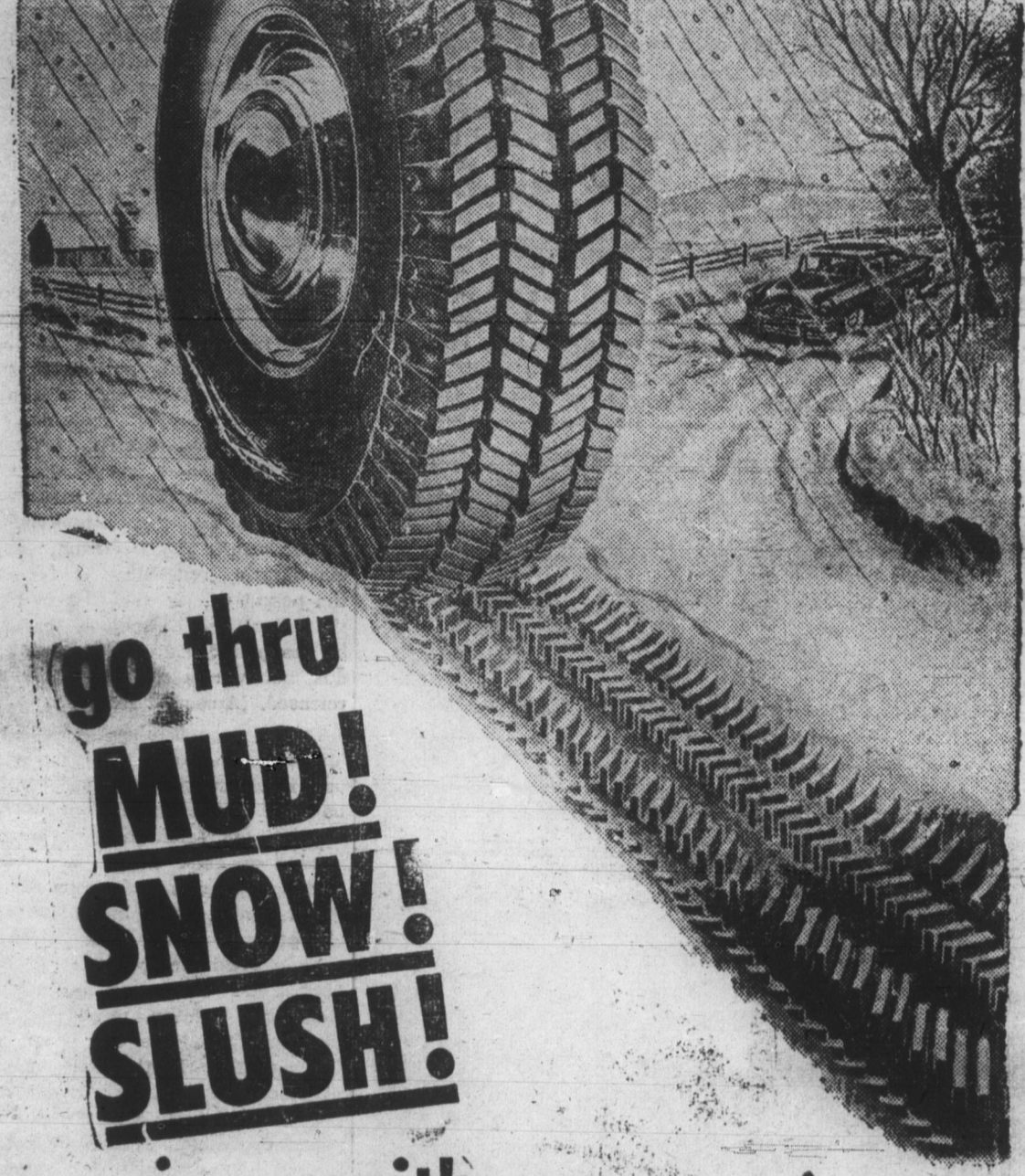
A successful old-timer once said, "A hardware store is a place to have all of your problems solved."

If you'd like honest-to-goodness old-fashioned service together with the latest and best merchandise, why not make up your mind to start shopping at **BLUE RIDGE HARDWARE**, Burnsville's outstanding hardware store.

We have on hand complete stocks of: **PAINTS, GLASS, FENCING, PIPE, PLUMBING SUPPLIES, BROOMS, MOPS, GARDEN TOOLS, SPORTING GOODS, FURNITURE, FRIGIDAIRE APPLIANCES, DISHES, KITCHEN WARE.** We don't have space to list them all.

GOOD VALUES IN HARDWARE NEEDS

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 PHONE 217 BURNSVILLE, N. C.



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Western Auto
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