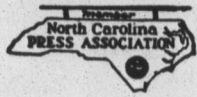


PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

J. S. MERRITT, EDITOR — M. C. CLAYTON, MANAGER THOMAS J. SHAW, JR., City Editor.

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News from our correspondents should reach this office not later than Tuesday to insure publication for Thursday edition and Thursday P. M. for Sunday edition.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1940

The Flood That Swells

North Carolinians within the past week have experienced the worst flood since the memorable deluge of 1916 and are only now beginning the slow business of rehabilitation, while the climax of the rage of the Roanoke is being felt at Williamston. People in such areas as Person, where the absence of large rivers minimized flood hazards should be grateful to have escaped, but we would appreciate it much more if people here and all over the nation could be as much concerned with that other flood—militarization which is sweeping all in America before it.

Week after week we have watched militarization grow and the end is not yet, despite Congressional wranglements over conscription. In the name of National Defense many changes are being wrought in this country. Some of them, like the recent agreement with Canada should have been instituted long ago. Others, such as unofficial baitings for "Fifth Columnists" ought not to be tolerated by a free people.

Floods, as we have been re-taught by experience, sweep all before them and engulf alike the cabins of the poor and the plantation houses of the well-to-do, and now more than ever do we need to be on guard against war hysteria. We must be prepared against such floods, we must increase our army and our navy, we must re-evaluate patriotism and we must give what aid we can to Great Britain, but there is no sense in losing our heads because the water level rises.

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From Wallace To Wickard

Announcement has been made of the appointment of Undersecretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, native of Indiana, as successor to his chief, Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace. Subject to Senate confirmation, Wickard has announced that he will continue the Wallace policies, while Wallace, as Democratic nominee for vice president, has announced that after September 4 he will start a campaign described by Roosevelt as "devoted exclusively to an interpretation of the agricultural program".

Nobody has heard much about Wickard, but he is one of those Democrats who came in with the New Deal, he is from a section of the nation where Democratic votes will count and if he is to continue the Wallace policies we suppose he will be satisfactory to the administration and to the better part of the farmers of the nation. Nothing more can be said of the new Secretary of Agriculture now. We hope, however, that he will in some way demonstrate more evidence of personality leadership than Mr. Wallace has been able to muster.

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The Habit of Slamming Windows

Some two-three weeks ago John Clarence Cudahy, United States ambassador to Belgium, seated in a chair in the London house of Joseph P. Kennedy, who holds the same position at the Court of St. James, gave an interview in which he expressed frank opinions regarding comparatively decent treatment of Belgians by German troopers. While Cudahy was warming to his subject, the nervous Kennedy walked over to an open window. Kennedy stood the ordeal as long as he could.

When the Cudahy interview reached a still more embarrassing point, Kennedy would hear no more of it, slamming the window. The jar shook the house, just as it was intended to shake Mr. Cudahy's unorthodox interview.

This week in Washington we have just been treated to another case of window-slamming, this time by irate Senators who have objected to yet another ambassadorial message. The culprit in this instance is William C. Bullitt, ambassador to France, who on Sunday night delivered a speech in Philadelphia in which he asserted that the United States was in danger of invasion by Germany, advocated conscription and urged that destroyers be made immediately available to Great Britain.

The senatorial comments on Bullitt, made during debate on peace-time draft, went so far as to accuse Bullitt of pro-war and dictatorial leanings and sought to cast aspersions on his previous diplomatic service in Soviet Russia.

From the two examples furnished by the Cudahy and Bullitt incidents, as well as from the not forgotten Lindbergh-at-Chicago speech, we are forced to conclude that there is entirely too much irresponsible window-slamming being done at home and abroad by Americans who are forgetting basic principles of freedom of speech supposed to be in the American tradition. In defending the American right to freedom of opinion on any and all subjects we are not saying that we agree in toto with all that has been said by the ambassadors or by Lindbergh, but when Senators and others supposed to be of intelligence bandy such words as "treason" and "fifth columnist" it is time to call a halt on loose tongues wagged by looser thinking.

It may be true that Mr. Cudahy, Mr. Bullitt and Col. Lindbergh should be more careful to weigh the words they employ in public, but their fellow citizens gain nothing by accusing them of lack of patriotism.



British Abandon Somaliland

Durham Morning Herald

The British have abandoned British Somaliland to Mussolini's forces. They say according to plan. The Italians say because repeated defeats made abandonment the only British out.

Accepting the explanation most favorable to the British, which of course is the one London stresses, it adds up to an important gain for Mussolini and a costly defeat for Britain.

True, the barren land involved is of no value to anyone. It was, as a matter of fact, largely hemmed in by Italian Somaliland to begin with, and the British are not a whole lot worse off now that Italy controls the whole area.

But even if the prize amounts to little, Mussolini has scored a victory he can exploit before his people and Britain has suffered a defeat that won't help the morale of Britons. Moreover, in that part of the world prestige counts and each setback suffered lowers the prestige of the sustaining country, in this instance Britain.

Of still greater importance, is the victory the Italians have gained in pursuit of their campaign to wrest control of the Suez Canal from Britain. Everybody will therefore interpret the success as a step toward the seizure of Suez and in point of fact it is just that.

Italy, because of her victory, is in a better position to move on the Suez and the British, by reason of their defeat, are less able to defend Suez.

Scanners of all scenes for unadmitted evidence that the British are indeed hard pressed and are grabbing at all straws will see in the abandonment of Somaliland indications that the British put up weak resistance there before they felt compelled to concentrate efforts elsewhere. And they'll read the same meaning into reports that the British are quite willing to lease bases to the United States in exchange for immediate material aid, say destroyers, and are taking new precautions daily to reckon with Nazi air onslaughts.

Of course, Italy's capture of Somaliland amounts to little either way unless to it can be added the really valuable areas in that section, including Egyptian-Sudan. If the British are able to surrender Somaliland and stop Italy there, nobody has gained much or lost much. And that, of course, is what the British hope to do. They say they didn't try to hold Somaliland but they'll certainly try to hold approaches to Suez. We hope they succeed.

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Walter P. Chrysler

The death of Walter P. Chrysler calls attention to a man who as completely as any American in this century demonstrated that the idea that the doors of opportunity are closed in this land in first-class nonsense. Walter Chrysler was not one of the lucky ones who grew up from the beginning with the automobile industry. He grew up instead with Walter Chrysler from an apprenticeship in a railroad shop to eminence in the business world. He did not get into the automobile business until after he had become at 33 in the old railroad industry superintendent of motive power for the Chicago and Great Western Railroad. He took a 50 per cent. salary cut when he was 37 years old to go into the automobile business in 1912. He was 50 years old when he put the first car bearing his name on the American market.

There are no such opportunities for everybody in this world. There never have been. But opportunity is still as much the matter of the inside of a man as the outside around him. It always will be.

Tobacco Festival Plans Completed And Announced

Great Celebration To Be Held At South Boston on September 5 and 6.

By Bolling Lambeth

South Boston, Va., Aug. 21 — In a little over two weeks thousands of people from all parts of the United States will crowd this little Southside Virginia town for tobacco's official celebration to be held September 5 and 6.

With its inception in 1934 as a local club sponsored golden jubilee show, South Boston has seen the rise to international prominence of the National Tobacco Festival, now generally recognized as "tobacco's official annual celebration" and one of the most widely publicized events in the United States.

Its success has been due mainly to the untiring efforts of community leaders, and to the innumerable citizen committeemen and women, who have coordinated community effort into a festival system almost incomparable in the annals of organization experiences. As the 1940 festival approaches, 30 committees with over 300 members, backed by South Boston's dynamic planning director, W. B. Barbour, have made ready for over 150,000 people who will witness what will perhaps be the biggest and best festival show ever presented.

A \$6,000 outdoor historic pageant will be the outstanding feature at South Boston on Septem-

ber 5 and 6. National Tobacco Festival officials secured the services of T. Beverly Campbell, nationally known playwright, and his partner, Howard Southgate of the School of Drama of New York University, to write and produce the show. Early in the summer they came to South Boston and made ready the beautiful natural outdoor theatre where for two nights they will produce a sensationally spectacular historic pageant using special properties valued at \$50,000 in costumes, \$5,000 in scenery, and \$25,000 in lighting equipment. The outdoor dramatic production will be produced around a Jamestown, Va., setting depicting the rise of the great tobacco industry from its colonial origin. Prominent Broadway personalities will come to South Boston to play more important parts of Powhatan, Pocohontas, and Tocomocomo, the Indian medicine man. The show presented by Campbell and Southgate will contain considerable dramatic continuity, and resemble a legitimate stage production more than the usual pageant-masque.

Work was begun here about two weeks ago for the festival's four mile parade which doubtless attracts more attention than any other event on the South Boston two day schedule. A large warehouse production plant was opened and a staff of men are engaged in preparing magnificent floats. From over 120,000 pounds of pro-

perties assembled, over fifty elaborate decorated floats will be made. Bedecked with lovely princesses these floats will cover a four mile course in a colorful parade interspersed by some thirty bands and drum and bugle corps. The floats, sponsored by various enterprises will all enter a competition climaxed by awards given by expert judges.

Lovely Martha Scott, prominent star of stage and screen, and leading lady in the new Frank Lloyd colonial Williamsburg filmed picture, "The Howards of Virginia", will reign over the two days Tobaccoland fiesta as Queen Tobacco VI. Miss Scott will come to South Boston the day after the Richmond premiere of her new Virginia picture, and be the center of attention throughout the festival celebration. From the time of her entourage along the age old oak lined streets where she will be acclaimed by thousands of admirers, until the last sweet tune of the world's largest dance given in her honor in a tobacco auction house accommodating 10,000 couples, Queen Tobacco VI will be the idol of the festival thousands.

James A. Farley, retiring chairman of the Democratic National Committee will preside at the coronation of Miss Scott as Regina Tobacco VI. The ceremony will be held in a beautiful outdoor theatre.

On Thursday night the largest square dance ever held will bring many an old timer to his feet to the calls of "swing your partner" as a nationally famous string band turns the festival community back to the days when the fiddle held the spotlight.

Old tobacco plantation tours, specially featuring Charlotte county Virginia's historic homes and attractions, will be presented on Thursday. John Randolph's Roanoke river plantation, Patrick Henry's old home, and his original will be on display at the old Charlotte court house, will be interesting scenes arranged for the tours by the Charlotte county woman's club. Distinguished guests will be treated to a genuine Virginia dinner when they make the tour of Charlotte county's historic sights.

Climaxing the two day tobacco-land festivity will be the Tobacco Ball featuring Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians and given in honor of Queen Martha Scott and her court of over 100 princesses from almost every Virginia community and as many as a dozen other states. The dance will follow the second night's presentation of the historic pageant at which time the queen will be crowned and together with princesses will be given a spotlight introduction.

Southern hospitality and fun will be the theme when this little Southern Virginia city proudly swings open her gates ready to entertain 40 times her population at another big National Tobacco Festival on September 5 and 6.

British Levy Huge Tax on Cigarettes

20 Cents A Package Paid As Contrasted With 6.5 Cents Paid In U. S.

British smokers are now paying a tax of about 20 cents per pack on cigarettes, E. Y. Floyd Extension tobacco specialist and AAA executive officer of N. C. State College, reported today up on receipt of the latest Federal report of foreign crops and markets. This contrasts with a tax of 6.5 cents per package in the United States, he said.

The United Kingdom recently increased import duties on tobacco products for the fourth time since April, 1939. The latest increase brings the duty on United States leaf to about \$3.93 a pound at the official rate of exchange. Floyd also pointed to another report in the release from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in Washington which says that the consumption of United States leaf and cigarettes in Peru in 1939 is nearly double that of 1937. "The Peruvian market is comparatively small, but it

shows possibilities for increasing sales to Latin American countries," Floyd stated.

Leaf tobacco from Cuba and the United States, and cigarettes from the United States, Cuba and the United Kingdom account for the most of Peru's tobacco imports. Cigarettes imported totaled 115,000 pounds in 1939 as compared with 55,000 in 1937. Use of United States leaf in Peru, largely flue-cured, increased from 33,000 pounds in 1937 to 55,000 pounds in 1939.

Floyd said that the Federal report also revealed that high production and consumption of tobacco in Mexico is continuing. On the other hand, Greece has its second smallest crop since 1922.

Lost: One Bazooka- Which Is Probably A Pretty Good Idea

Bob Burns has lost his original bazooka, the famous instrument on which he blew his way to fame and fortune.

The instrument, fashioned from two pieces of gas pipe, but as important to Burns as a Stradivarius to Kreisler, fell from a truck or boat as it was being shipped to the "Comin' Round the Mountain" location at Lake Arrowhead from Hollywood. The picture opens today at the Palace Theatre.

Deeply concerned over the loss, Burns immediately offered a reward of \$500 for the return of the bazooka.

"That old pipe means more to me than just a musical instrument," Burns said, when a search of properties failed to disclose the bazooka. "I put it together in 1905, and it's been like my right arm ever since.

Meanwhile, a rush order was sent to Burns' home for the one spare bazooka, newly made and held in readiness for just such an emergency for use in "Comin' Round the Mountain," in which Bob plays a feudin' hillbilly. ..

"Lil says she gets to bed at ten every night."

"Yes, I have a picture of her doing it."

"Great! I'd like to see it."

END OF "BLACK EMPEROR'S" DREAM OF AFRICAN THRONE

Remarkable story telling of spectacular rise and fall of "The Great Liberator" who collected millions, made Earls and Dukes of his contributors and complained that Mussolini and Hitler had stolen his ideas.

One of many features in the September 1st issue of The American Weekly, the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American, on sale at all newsstands.

CORN

Rains have helped the Wake County corn crop, but drouth had already damaged the crop by at least 30 percent, reports John C. Anderson, farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

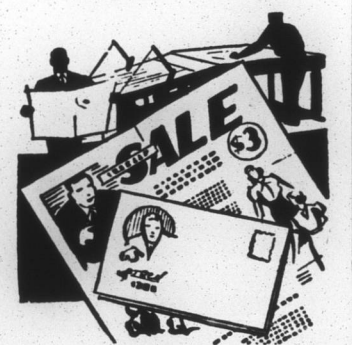
PLANNING

Warren County farmers are now making plans for seeding crimson clover and vetch as winter cover crops, reports R. H. Bright, farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

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Carl Winstead