

# Old Fort News

## Conservation News

By L. E. HAIRR

O. I. Berry of Marion, Route 2, C. A. McCall of Marion, Route 3, D. T. Elliott of Old Fort, Route 1, Elmer Buchanan of Nebo, Route 1, and other McDowell farmers are making plans to seed field borders on their farms next spring.

T. E. Price of Marion, Route 1, and A. C. Walker of Nebo, Route 1, who have well established field borders on their farms, state that shrub lespedeza (such as bicolor) provide excellent food and good cover for quail and song birds, when grown thick enough to shade out other plants.

Mr. Price and Walker recommend that in preparing the seed bed the area be disced or harrowed, not more than two inches, and worked down to a firm bed in the fall or early winter. The narrow again before seeding, which should be done in the spring after the danger of frost is over.

"Leave the fence rows and the fence corners for the quail. The bobwhite eats its weight in bugs every few days. He eats insect eggs and larva and all kinds of insects that damage plants.

C. L. Patton of Pinnacle church community has seeded strips of small grain in the field west of his home this fall.

## Instruction For Trainees Is Optional

Related instruction for veterans in on-the-job training under the G. I. Bill is required only for those veterans who may be in need of and will profit by the instruction, according to H. A. Ficken, Acting Manager, Veterans Administration Sub-Regional Office, City Hall, Asheville, N. C.

Quoting information from E. C. Hemingway, Training Chief for the VA Regional office in Winston-Salem, Mr. Ficken said that apparently many veterans in job training have the misunderstanding that related instruction is required of all veterans in such training.

He explained that the Veterans Administration, the training establishment, and the veteran determine whether the veteran trainee is in need of related instruction and that such training is not required unless there is considered to be a need. The period of time for which related instruction is given, he added, will only be that which is necessary to facilitate on-the-job training and give the veteran a well-rounded training.

"On-the-job training applies principally to semi-skilled trades," he said, "and for many of these trades it is not necessary to supplement the job training with related instruction."

Whether related instruction is required and for what period of time is determined entirely by the occupation for which the veteran is training, the training facilities of the establishment, and the amount of previous training or experience the veteran may have had, the VA training chief emphasized.

Veterans in on-the-job training, he continued, also are not per-



On this most glorious occasion we want to express our heartiest wishes to one and all for a Christmas brimming over with joy and happiness.

**Crawford & Early**  
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## Commissioners Request End To Duplication

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 22—A proposal designed to obtain the curtailment of appropriations for any Federal agencies duplicating services already being rendered by the individual states has been given the approval of the national association of commissioners of agriculture, it is announced by W. Kerr Scott, president of this group and agriculture commissioner.

He said that members of the association are of the opinion that various agencies operating under the federal government are "duplicating or carrying on programs conflicting with activities of the various state departments of agriculture."

The association has asked that its officers attempt to secure from the appropriations committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives an agreement that no funds will be allocated to any federal agency for expenditure in any state where there is duplication or conflict.

The agriculture commissioners are also asking that "all work that is necessary for the federal government to conduct in the various states along inspecting, reporting, and marketing lines shall be done through and in cooperation with the various state departments of Agriculture by cooperative agreements or through such other methods as are mutually agreeable."

Scott said that he has been requested by the association to appoint a committee of five to study the matter of crop statistics and to make recommendations on future developments in the cooperative program with the U. S. department of Agriculture.

mitted to take courses of instruction that have no relation to their training.

Related instruction, when required, may be taken by the veteran in any institution or through any correspondence course approved by the State Department of Education or the Veterans Administration.

## INFORMATION FOR THE VETS

Q. I want to buy a home with a G. I. loan but the price the owner is asking for it is more than the appraised value. Can I make a side payment to the owner to cover the difference between what he is asking and the appraised value?

A. No. The law does not permit a veteran to make a "side" payment. A G. I. loan will not be granted for more than the value of the property as fixed by an appraiser approved by VA. This provision is intended to protect the veteran against inflated values.

Q. My wife and I both are veterans. I am enrolled in college under the G. I. Bill and she is planning to enroll. Would we both be entitled to subsistence payments?

A. Yes. If husband and wife are both enrolled under the G. I. Bill, then he may receive \$90 monthly subsistence and she may receive \$65.

Q. How would I go about filing a claim for a pension on the death of a veteran who was my sole support?

A. You should get in touch with your nearest Veterans Administration office. They will provide the necessary forms and assist you in filling them out.

Q. Do I have to pay the appraisal fee on property I wish to buy through a G. I. loan even though the loan does not go through?

A. Yes. The fee of the appraiser is paid by the veteran, and it is not returnable in the event the application for a loan is declined.

—Miss Carolyn McIntosh arrived Sunday from Washington, D. C., to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. McIntosh at Old Fort.

—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Rockett and daughter Diane left Old Fort on December 25th for a week's trip to Florida.

—Mrs. Jaime F. Reid is spending several weeks at the home of Mrs. W. P. Artz in Old Fort.

TRY YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS FIRST!

## Woman's World

### Start on Pinafores and Aprons Now for Attractive Xmas Gifts

By Erita Haley

DURING a year's time, we always meet congenial people whom we like to remember at holiday time. Yet, because we don't see them often, we're still not exactly in a position to exchange Christmas presents, and we'd like to do something so they'd remember us.

If the people you meet have children, the problem is simplified, for presents casually given to youngsters are always well received and oftentimes helpful if their mother is busy. She'll really appreciate aprons or pinafores for her little girls, mittens or caps for her little boys, or a baby dress for the new arrival.

If you do any amount of sewing, you know that scraps of material have a way of accumulating, and unless you make a scrap quilt, you'll never really find a good use for the scraps. Why not, then, gather the scraps and see what you can make from them for little tots—your own or someone else's? Start now, and you'll have them ready for the Christmas wrappings in time.

Whether the girl is a toddler or a teen, she will appreciate an attractive apron or pinafore so she can help mother, or wear it entertaining her own little guests. Clothing of this type requires a minimum of material, and bits of lace, ruffling, organdie or ric rac are all that are needed to complete the dainty little apron.

#### Daintiness Is Key To Making Aprons

Worn dresses, old formals made of organdie, batiste or other sheer fabrics such as curtain material form the basis for many an attractive pinafore or apron. Be sure to choose an attractive pattern, either making it or buying it, and do have lots of ruffling to make these garments the essence of femininity, so dear to the heart of a young girl.



Use your remnants wisely...

Cuttings can be used for sashes that tie in perky bows, and they also make nice ruffling material when pieced together. If you're reclaiming fabric from old window curtains, formals or such, dye it to the color of a confection like lemon ice, heaven blue or cream pink. Add a bit of lace or ruffling to this if you think it will look nicer, starch the pinafore or apron to perky crispness and you'll have a gift that every little girl will adore.

Another idea which is very popular now is to use inexpensive paisley print handkerchiefs in an apron. These are usually made of cotton and offer the dainty material so desirable in a pinafore or better still, an apron. Of course, they can also be used for pockets or sashes if your other material does not reach that far.

Handkerchief aprons should be starched to within an inch of their life, as they are usually very soft. Sew them with dainty hand stitches.

#### Turn Rayon Dresses into Sunsets and Shirts

Every one of us has at one time or another bought a dress that we simply do not like. There's lots of good material in such dresses which would be lovely in a sunsuit or shirt for a little boy. The skirt of such a dress will frequently provide enough material for two and even three sunsuits for a one or two-year-old.

Make sure, however, when reclaiming goods of this type that the colors are right for the youngster.



By making aprons from them.

## Fashion Flashes

Two colors are being seen in coats as well as dresses. The dark and lighter shades of green are very attractive.

You'll like the velvet pillbox hats with pastel feathers swirling so as to frame your face most attractively. Also look for brightly colored bands of satin on hats to add style and distinction to them.

### Year-Around Cotton



The thrifty way to achieve numerous costume changes for small fry is to get your hands on a sewing machine and turn odds and ends of material into sturdy cotton outfits.

True, they do wear some dark shades in clothing, but their youthful pink-and-whiteness is at its best in some gay, light-hearted pastel shade, such as turquoise, pink, blue, light green and yellow.

And another point in favor of these pastels is that if you do make them into tots' wear, you can always use them with a good white broadcloth, poplin or muslin if you find yourself running short of material. Dainty fagotting, feather stitch, bias binding and even dainty tailored lace can be used on little boys' shirts or sunsuits. Make it look tailored, however.

It's a good idea to get measurements or used clothing from the mother before you actually start sewing, for nothing could be worse than sewing these little garments with loving care, and then find that they do not fit.

Use matching thread always and make sure buttons and buttonholes or snaps are neatly put together. Children's garments will have to stand many tubbings and should be sturdy even though dainty.

### Washing Tips

Do your mending before washing, not after it. A tiny hole is bound to become larger during washing when it receives some rather rough treatment.

It's easier on the garment and on you, too, if you wash fabrics before they become too soiled.

If you want to avoid heart-ache, remove colored trimming, buttons and decoration, unless you're certain they're absolutely washable.

Soft water saves soap and washes garments cleaner. If the water in your community is hard, use a good, reliable water softener. Add the softener before making suds and adding the clothing.

Never soak clothes too long. After an hour or two, the soil tends to seep back into the garment. It also weakens fabric.

Never take chances on colored clothes. Unless the label tells you the material is washable, wash the garment separately and keep it separate while drying.

Intense heat in the water is harmful to all fabrics in the long run. Don't dry clothes on top of radiators either, or "bake" your clothes in a dryer.

Too much sunlight will bleach clothing. Colored clothing should be removed from the line when dry. If you don't think a garment will stand the sun, play safe and hang it in the shade.

Clean, brush and air woolens frequently to keep them looking nice and fresh. Perspiration weakens woolen fibers, so take care by using good dress shields for protection.

Fringe is seen a lot these days especially for evening wear. There have been a number of moulded gowns made entirely of fringe. A champagne color is really beautiful.

## CHRISTMAS

"Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight"

All the world knows that it is Christmas time. Christmas air will be filled with music by poets and musicians, bearing the sea son's divine message in poetry and song—all in commemoration of a little child's birthday, the Child born 2,000 years ago in a humble manger because "there was no room for Him in the Inn." Artists poets, musicians, craftsmen have caught this Christmas spirit and have fashioned it into something tangible.

Repeatedly, the accurate date of the birth of Christ has been questioned. As Palestine is having its rainy season at that time, many contend that it was hardly probable that the shepherds would have been in the fields "keeping watch over their flocks by night," instead of having them "sheltered in the fold."

As early as the first century of our era, the feast of the Nativity was observed, even in the days of cruel persecution. Drawings in the catacombs where Christians hid, reveal many interesting customs. Twenty thousand Christians who had assembled to commemorate the Nativity, were massacred by the order of Diocletian, 303 A. D. Some emperors befriended Christians and took part in their festivities. As there was no uniformity of date, some celebrated in April or May, some, as in the East, on January 6. Clement of Alexandria refers to this Christian festival as early as the beginning of the 3rd century. Chrysostom, in the latter part of the 4th century, mentions it as a celebration of long standing. Pope Julius, in the 4th century investigated the dates exhaustively. He decided that Christ was born on or about Dec. 25th and so proclaimed it. It spread from the west to the east, and was soon accepted by Christians.

According to historical records, this Christian festival, incongruous as it may seem, is linked with a pagan past-far, far back in human consciousness. The Aryans observed Yuletide as early as 2,000 B. C.—a festival in honor of the sun. This was held near the winter solstice Dec. 21, the shortest day in the year, when the sun, the giver of light and life began to climb higher into the heavens, a promise of the not too far distant spring. As they had seen his power and light diminish day by day, now that he was growing stronger and brighter, they were thrilled, and they believed that he had been born again. There was great rejoicing at his re-birth. They called this date Hweoler-tide, "turning time." The original word was Iol or Iul, so 'tis thought that the word "Yule tide" thus had its origin.

The Christians adopted as many of the established customs of the pagans as possible, giving them a finer and higher significance. The historian, Schaffler, remarks that "it was the habit of Him whose birthday we celebrate to take what was good in men and remold it to higher use. And so it is peculiarly fitting that the anniversary of Christmas should have taken from heathen mythology and customs the more beautiful parts for its own use." And Dawson, who studied the history of Christmas said "that in the festivities of Christmastide, there is a mingling of the divine with the human elements of society—the establishment and development of a Christian festival on pagan soil and in the midst of superstitious surroundings." "Christmas brings before us the relations of the Christian religion to the religions which went before, for the birth at Bethlehem was itself a link with the past. The coming of Jesus Christ was not unheralded or unforeseen. Even in the heathen world there had been anticipations of an event of a character not unlike this," Dean Stanley wrote.

Of all the various dates celebrated, the re-birth of the sun was the most extensive. As the pagan feast to the sun was observed at the time of the winter solstice, the Christian festival of Christmas Day was symbolic. Christ enthroned as "The Light of the World" just when light begins to triumph over darkness. Our inheritance from the sun-worshippers, their love of light, and warmth, surrounds the Christmas tree. In Egypt, long before the Christian era, the pagan feast to the sun at the winter solstice, was marked by planting a palm tree on the banks of the Nile. This palm had to be one that had put forth a branch for every month of the year—symbolic of a completed year. The people of Burma had their trees, also, believing that the original one grew in the heaven of their mythological fairies—the

Nats. On the branches of this wonderful tree grew whatever heart could desire. In Norse mythology, the Ygrasil tells of the world-tree from which all tribes and all nature received nourishment. Its roots and branches bound together heaven, earth, and hell. The ancient Teutons thought that as the sun rose higher and higher, it was as the expanding and budding of a great tree and so they decked their fir trees with golden apples, nuts, and balls, symbolic of the sun, moon, and stars. They even put images of little animals in the branches, also symbolic—sacrifices made to the sun god! Some think that this universal use of the tree had as the prototype the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. Others have suggested that it was significant of the "Tree" of Calvary—the whole symbolic of Christ's death and resurrection according to prophecy.

The Roman Saturnalia was marked by license as well as by merriment. The houses were hung with evergreens and there was an exchange of gifts. Our gift-giving has been traced back to the Saturnalia. The use of holly and mistletoe, and drinking of the wassail bowl all go back to pagan days. There is a Christian legend in connection with the holly. The small white flowers typify the purity of Christ; the red berries, the drops of blood that fell from His thorn-pierced brow; the thorn-pointed leaves, the crown-of-thorns; the bitter bark, Christ's bitter suffering upon the cross. The mistletoe was, to Christians emblematic of the incarnation. The Mistletoe, laden with its natural "pearls," springs from, and lives upon, the mighty monarch of the forests—the oak. So the Scriptures prophesied that Christ would spring forth from the branch of Jesse. The Druid priests, only were allowed to cut mistletoe from the sacred oaks. The evergreens used at this season, typified the constancy of the love of the Christ Child. In the north of Europe in honor of the gods Odin and Thor, great blocks of wood were burned progenitors of the Yule-log.

After the Romans invasion of England, the Christian celebration of Christmas was not long delayed. It was mingled with the winter solstice observance of the ancient Britons and the Roman invaders. When the Anglo-Saxons arrived, as they were "heathens," they affected the festival. When Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons, he was directed to Christianize or spiritualize the pagan ceremonies. He allowed the killing and eating of oxen "to the glory of God, as they formerly had done to their old gods. Thus feasting and merry-making were instituted in England. The boar's head is closely identified with Christmas in England, in this way, as in Norse mythology, one was offered as a gift to Frey, Norse god of sunshine, rain, and the fruits of the earth. He was symbolical of the sun, his golden bristles typifying the sunrays. The elaborate ceremony at his presentation at the table, was in recognition of the fierce battle he waged for his life. The mixture of rich spices in mince pie were commemorative of the offerings of the Wise Men of the East.

There are many other legends and superstitions in connection with Christmas—among them, from Europe, that on Christmas Eve the cattle kneel in homage. The custom of placing lighted candles in the windows on Christmas Eve, recalls the lovely legend that on that night, the Christ-Child, bearing on His shoulder a bundle of evergreens, wanders all over the world, to the greatest and to the lowliest—to be welcomed or rejected at the doors at which He pleads for succor. A lighted candle to guide Him is put in the windows of those who watch for His coming.

Dramatizing the life of the Christ-Child the singing of "manger songs" and carols were begun to replace with Christian festivities, any heathenish suggestions. As far back as the 17th century the English presented Christmas pantomimes in Drury Lane and Covent Garden theaters clowns and harlequins showing the traces of early pagan influences. Carol singing is said to date back to the Middle Ages.

We are familiar with Dinah Craik's "God rest ye merrie gentlemen. let nothing you dismay." Do our children know the last verse? "God rest ye, little children, let nothing you affright; For Jesus Christ, your Saviour, was born this happy night; Along the hills of Galilee the white flocks sleeping lay, When Christ, the child of Nazareth, was born on Christmas Day."

## G. I.s Eligible To Train As Transport Pilots

The rating of airline pilot has been added to the list of Civil Aeronautics Administration ratings for which veterans may take flight courses under the G. I. Bill, the Veterans Administration Sub-Regional Office, City Hall Building, Asheville, N. C., has been informed.

Flight courses under this law previously were limited by VA to those leading to private pilot, commercial pilot, flight instructor, instrument rating and multi-engine rating. Addition of the airline transport pilot rating will open up some advanced instrument and radio courses not offered before under the G. I. Bill.

Most of the other requirements for this new rating already have been included in other flight courses available to veterans. Veterans will be permitted to enroll in the new course only if they have had enough flight training so they will actually qualify for the airline transport pilot rating will open up have successfully completed the course.

VA does not pay for flight training unless it leads directly to a CAA rating. Like all flight training, under the G. I. Bill the airline transport pilot course must be handled by contract between VA and flight training schools. Because this is less than a 30-week course, VA can pay only up to \$500 of the tuition and supply cost and the veteran must pay the rest. VA pays a subsistence allowance if the veteran is eligible. For purposes of the allowance an hour of flying time is counted as two hours.

The carols and Christmas hymns sung as this sacred but joyous, season approaches, help to induce the proper spiritual "spirit" for this Great Event. The first carol was that recorded by St. Luke when the Celestial Choir burst into joy on the plains of Bethlehem—"Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King."

God's own Son, the Saviour of the world, was our first Christmas Gift, that first Christmas—a Christmas Gift for all mankind. "It came upon the midnight clear That glorious song of old. The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing." "Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy."

## Letters To The Editor

Dec. 21, 1946.  
Editor, Black Mountain News.  
Black Mountain, N. C.  
Dear Editor:

It has been my privilege as a citizen of Black Mountain for many years to participate in various community activities. Whenever there was a project which was for the benefit of the entire community, I have found that the citizens responded and will respond, whole heartedly the community play-ground and the play-ground nursery school, and recreational grounds for our colored citizens and friends being recent outstanding "verifications."

People have to be convinced that a project is really needed and worth while, that it is going to be administered properly, and that it is not going to be a constant financial drain on a few individuals. The citizens have a right to know what provisions will be made for the permanent maintenance of any project proposed, and how it is going to be financed. When a committee representing all the interests in the community is organized, it can then be determined whether our citizens feel that a memorial building is desired, necessary, or feasible. Once convinced of the need for such a building I feel assured that we can depend upon the united support of the community.

Mrs. Thomas S. Sharp.

## FRAULEINS HELP

O. R. Gilpatrick, American Red Cross worker from Jacksonville, Fla., overturned his jeep near Bayreuth, Germany, when he swerved to avoid hitting a German youngster.

Pinned under the vehicle Gilpatrick heard voices, and the next minute the jeep was being lifted from him by two hefty German women.

"They picked up that jeep like it was so much sugar," Gilpatrick tells. "I wasn't even bruised."