

THE EXAMINATION OF THE EYE

We Render You Expert Service

The examination of the eye, to be complete, must take into consideration points far deeper than a mere test for vision. Not only do we correct any defect found in the sight, but we also test the strength of the rotary muscles and correct any weakness found there, so that the eyes may work in unison and perform their functions without fatigue.

Fitting Frames and Mountings

We pay particular attention to fitting frames and mountings so that the glasses will do the utmost good and not detract from the looks of the wearer. Unless the lenses are properly placed before the pupils of the eyes the result will not be satisfactory.

Toric and Invisible Bifocals

We prescribe Toric or curved lenses in many cases because they allow a wider range of vision, fit closer to the eye and are more becoming to most people. For persons needing glasses for both near and distant vision we supply invisible bifocals which we have fitted with excellent success.

DR. D. M. MORRISON, Optometrist
Office E. G. Morrison Jewelry Store, Shelby, N. C.

A Community Tree

By MARTHA B. THOMAS

OLD Solomon Way lived in a shack at the foot of the mountain. He was a queer, solitary man who seldom appeared in the village. Now and then he drove in for supplies; these he bought with as little conversation as possible. No one knew his history, and it is to be feared that few gave a thought to him, beyond idle curiosity which stirred mildly upon these occasional visits to his, and then died before satisfied.



Two days before Christmas there was a meeting at the minister's to discuss arrangements for a community tree. Most of the village was present, particularly the young people. This

contrived to get a great deal of fun out of planning and talking about the tree. Just as the meeting was called to order, the front doorbell jangled and the minister excused himself to answer it. In a few moments he reappeared, and walking at his side was Old Solomon Way. He was a giant of a fellow, a trifle stooped about the shoulders, but carrying a certain dignity that hushed the clatter of the lively young people. "The minister made no comment, but, seating Old Solomon in a comfortable chair, opened the meeting.

The usual discussion followed. Who would go for the tree? Who would set it up in the village green? Who would trim it? Who would arrange the electric bulbs and see about the battery?

Old Solomon listened intently. Perhaps the rest of the people forgot he was there. In any case, there was a little gasp of surprise when the tall, white-haired man arose, and, looking about shyly, said he would like to say a few words. The minister spoke a few courteous sentences to make Old Solomon feel at ease, and then sat down.

"I ain't never been down to one of your meetin's before," began the woodsman, "but I reckoned I couldn't miss this one. I've seen your pretty Christmas trees now for two or three year, and it kinder seemed as though I wanted to say somethin'."

His voice was deep and gentle, with a slow patience that gave it, and the words he said, a sort of weight and richness. The young people listened in puzzled silence, but it was to be

noted that not a whisper disturbed the assembly.

"Mebbe you won't like what I got to say," continued Old Solomon, "but I feel like I must speak. I see and know a lot of things, up there in my cabin, that the rest of you don't have time to notice. And I'd feel pretty mean if I did not put in an ear for some friends of mine who can't say a word for themselves."

He paused, looked around the room, and then continued.

"We human bein's are pretty apt to think we're mighty important: we go about takin' for granted that this hull universe was made purpose for us, and everything in it. But when you're alone as much as I be, 'specially cold, windy, winter nights, you can't help thinkin' about all the little critters outdoors. And in the mornin' there are their tracks all about the house. They don't ask nothin' of us. All they want is a chance to hunt for food and some sheltered hole to sleep in. An the birds! Even the pesky sparrows! No matter what the weather is, they're flutterin' around chipper as anything! No complaints, no discouragement, no fuss; and if there's a warm corner or a bit of sunshine, they manage to try a few notes of singin'. They're an everlastin' example to us grumblers. And I was thinkin'—Solomon looked keenly into the faces of his listeners—"if this year we couldn't have a community tree, as you call it, not for ourselves but for the birds, and any small critters that would venture near it."

Not a person answered this appeal; they were too surprised. The minister arose and said the meeting was open to discussion.

Finally a girl in the back of the room popped up and asked how the thing could be managed. Old Solomon was ready with his plans.

"If you'd be willin' to have your tree just a little outside the village not too far to get to, I think we could fix it. I'll cut and haul down a good Christmas tree, and you young folks come out day before Christmas to trim it. Make it as fancy and pretty as you please. We'll tie on scraps of meat and suet for the birds. And we'll clear a good space around it, and put down boards for crumbs and grain. And a little ways off, we'll have a heap of hay for the deer, and odd bits for rabbits and squirrels and such. This has been a powerful hard winter, with the heavy storms and ice and snow



It'll be the first to promise to keep the community tree supplied for one day

a week, and I reckon there's young folks enough who'd be willing to take a day until the winter breaks. Seems to me—here his big, rumbling voice lowered to a beautiful depth, "that the Bab' who came this day, nearly two thousand year ago, meant for folks to remember their brothers in the woods. I sort of believe He'd like to see us givin' thought to 'em. Who knows? Maybe they're as important in the scheme of things as we are! And Christmas will last beyond one year. I thank you for listenin' to me."

Old Solomon sat down. Immediately there was a quick, light clapping of appreciation.

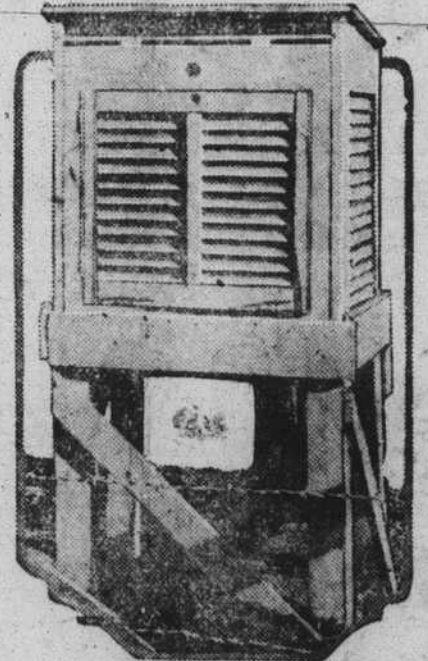
Christmas day saw the community tree set up in a farmer's pasture. It was gayly trimmed with bright ribbons, popcorn and bits of food. Five boys shoveled away the snow around the base. Hay was brought; boards were laid on the ground for grain and other scraps. Never had the village such fun. When things were all in place, they formed a circle around the tree and sang a carol. Old Solomon sang the loudest. His face beamed with happiness. And if you'll believe it, no less than ten people invited him to dinner that day!

It was a glorious Christmas. And not only did the spirit of love and good cheer fly about that day, but continued for weeks. Every day someone went to the community tree and trimmed it with fresh bits of meat and suet. It grew famous; bird lovers came from miles around to watch the pretty sight; the birds hovered about in flocks. At evening and morning three young deer ventured down for the hay. Rabbits and squirrels appreciated their good fortune. Best of

all, the village folk learned the happiness of thought for wild things. And they also learned a deep affection and respect for Old Solomon, who had prompted them to this unselfish service.

YULETIDE NUT LOAF

Put one and one-half cupsful molasses and three-quarters of a cupful of brown sugar into a saucepan and boil until the mixture forms a hard ball when tried in cold water, or when it registers 200 degrees by the thermometer. Add a quarter of a cupful of butter and continue to boil to 250 degrees or until brittle when tested in cold water. Next add a pinch of baking soda, two cupsful of stoned and chopped dates, one tablespoonful of lemon extract and one cupful each of blanched almonds, walnut meats, hickory nut meats, one cupful of Brazil nut meats and pecan nut meats broken in small pieces. Pour into a buttered loaf pan and leave in a cool place for 12 hours. Turn out and cut in slices. Wrap the slices in waxed paper. The candy should be stirred all the time it is cooking.



The highest natural air temperature known on earth was recorded by this meteorological instrument kept by the United States government on the floor of the famous Death valley in southern California—the hottest spot on earth. The almost unbelievable temperature of 134 degrees Fahrenheit was registered by the mercury there this year. Only one white man lives there. He replaced five others who died insane.



Our naval vessels condemned to destruction are fast being dismantled. This workman is spiking one of the big guns of the Georgia with the torch.

Or Their Watches Large?
Robert lived in the country and had never seen a sailor.
"Papa," he said one day, "sailors must be very small men."
"Why do you think so?" asked his father.
"Because," answered Robert, "I read in the paper about one who went to sleep on his watch."

The Place to Begin.
Everybody respects the reformer who reforms himself.

Don't forget to attend the big bargain jubilee at Evans E. McBrayer's clothing emporium. Service and value go hand in hand. 5 good salesmen who know their business are here to serve you and serve you well. Come—a welcome awaits you.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

This is to give notice that E. L. Webb has sold his entire interest in the Piedmont Grocery Co., to W. C. Lutz and J. T. Webb and that the said E. L. Webb is no longer responsible for any bills contracted in the name of the said firm W. C. Lutz, J. T. Webb and Ray Lutz are now the owners of the Piedmont Grocery and will collect all bills and pay all accounts. The business will continue under the name of Piedmont Grocery Co. This November 19, 1923. E. L. Webb, W. C. Lutz, J. T. Webb and Ray Lutz.

SALE OF VALUABLE FARM.

The heirs of the late J. C. Warlick, deceased, will offer for sale, at public auction, to the highest bidder at the court house door, Lincolnton, N. C., at noon, on Saturday, January 5th, 1924, a tract of land containing 80 3/4 acres lying about six miles north of Lincolnton, N. C., adjoining the lands of Adam Hoover, settee, Lee Hoover, A. F. Lutz home place, Summey Warlick and others, said land fronts on the public road; one mile from Salem and Marvin churches, and two miles from Oak Grove school house. There is a five room dwelling house, a barn, three branches, a well and a spring on said land, about 40 acres under cultivation; 12 acres in oak and hickory timber; 25 or 30 acres in pine timber; and 6 acres under wire.

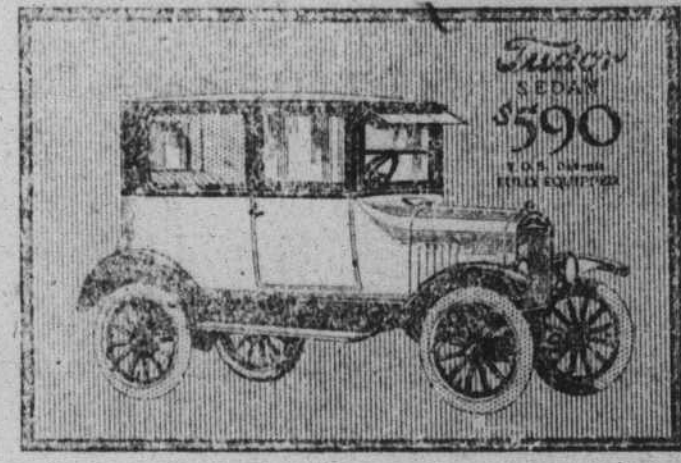
Terms of sale: One-third cash, one-third in one year and balance one-third in two years time, deferred payments to bear interest at six per cent, title reserved until payment of purchase money in full. For further information apply to Miss Lena Warlick, agent J. C. Warlick, heirs, Kemp B. Nixon, Atty. Lincolnton, N. C.

ORANGES, GRAPE FRUIT AND APPLES

Car load of bulk oranges and grape fruit priced \$2 per bushel or 50c per peck. Car load of bulk apples at 40c and 50c per peck

CEPH BLANTON

At My Store—On Sale Now



Give One For Christmas

The Tudor Sedan is a gift every member of the family will share. It adds to daily happiness. It will extend the joyous spirit of Christmas to every day of the year.

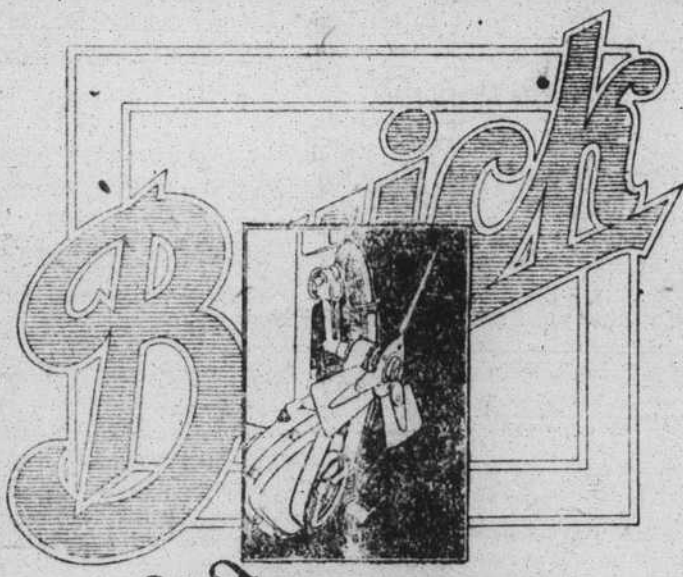
This new Ford type is of an exceptionally pleasing design. Wide doors opening forward, folding right front seat, and a roomy interior make it a convenient car to use; its high radiator, broad cow, sun visor, and large windows make it stylish in appearance. Yet it is sold at the lowest price ever asked for a Sedan—only \$590 f.o.b. Detroit.

The rich, permanent luster of its finish, the quiet good taste of its upholstery, and the ornamental treatment of its full-nickel hardware, all help to make it a car you are proud to drive.

CHAS. L. ESKRIDGE



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Seven Passenger Touring 1565	Four Passenger Coupe . . . 1995
Seven Passenger Sedan . . . 2285	
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We have the largest stock and nicest packages of Candy we have ever had. **PRICED 50c PER BOX TO \$10 PER BOX Buy Candy from me and put the difference in the bank.**

Mavis, Houbegants and Azurea Combination Sets \$2.50 to \$6.00.

Houbegants, Coty's and Hudnuts, Extracts, Toilet Water and Powders.

Cigars, Combs and Brushes.

Our Christmas boxes of Stationary and Correspondence Cards will surprise you. **25c to \$5.00 per box.**

Toilet Sets \$3.50 to \$10.00.

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