

May Old Santa fill every stocking until it overflows.

To the youngsters it has seemed a long time, and to the older folks a strenuous time—on the pocket-book, but here it is. Merry Christmas!

Those who predicted a cotton crop for Cleveland county this year of more than 40,000 bales may now lean back, hook their thumbs under their suspenders and say "I told you so." The latest report places the ginning already over 40,000 bales with more to go.

North Carolina's ranking in the farm world is given by The Star today.

On January 4, Cleveland county farmers will make one of the biggest steps in the history of the county when they gather here for a meeting to discuss diversification and "putting the farm back on a profitable basis." Every Cleveland county farmer should be present. Don't forget the date.

Big-hearted little fellows, those of Cleveland county. In their letters to Kris Kringle they've been asking things for themselves and also for the orphans and poor. May their Christmas be the better for it.

Dan Cupid and Santa Claus, youth and old age, are running a race this week. Marriages galore is the word over to the county court house. Yesterday three couples were married there in three offices by three magistrates. Dan Cupid must be enjoying the Yuletide.

Here's one for the philosophers who know so much: Imagine a chorus girl buying a New Testament for Christmas? Then stretch the imagination and think of an elderly lady purchasing one of the modern sex magazines. It happened in the same building in Shelby yesterday, according to "Around Our Town."

D. Z. Newton was named president of the Cleveland County Carolina club at the big banquet held this week and attended by Carolina boys of the county.

Short items of nation-wide interest may be found in this issue.

The annual banquet of the "Dover mills" was held last night at Cleveland Springs. "The most enthusiastic yet," those in attendance say. J. R. Dover was toastmaster and C. R. Hoey the chief speaker.

The Star will not appear on Monday following the custom of suspending for one issue during the Christmas season.

Christmas trees and Christmas programs are announced at various points over the county.

Drive slowly, watch the corners and railroad crossings and you may have still a few more visits from Santa Claus.

And, all the good wishes of the season.

College Players Ineligible For Christmas Game

University Official Says Undergraduates Could Not Have Participated in Game.

Greensboro, Dec. 23.—A statement made here yesterday by Dr. A. W. Hobbs, chairman of the University of North Carolina athletic council and representative of the district in which North Carolina is in the Southern conference, seems to bar from playing in a Christmas day football game at Charlotte players who had been suggested for a game between Charlotte and Shelby.

Dr. Hobbs stated that Southern conference rules prohibit an undergraduate college athlete from playing on any team except that of the institution he attends.

A probable line-up for the Charlotte-Shelby game contained the names of University, State college, Davidson and Duke players. The members of the Southern conference.

The proposed Shelby line-up for the game, which is now called off, contained only one under-graduate college player. The remaining Shelby players completed their college careers this year or before.

Cotton Finally Up To Eleven And Half

Cotton was quoted this morning on the local market at 11 1/2 cents. On Wednesday the quotation was 11 cents, 20 points under the spot month of December on the New York exchange. The McMurry office says this wide difference is due to a slackening of the local demand for spots. Now and then local buyers find where they can place extra good cotton and for quantities as much as 12 cents has been paid this week.



COUNTY-WIDE PLAN OF FARM DIVERSIFICATION

County Cotton Crop Has Passed 40,000-Bale Mark, Report Shows

40,715 Bales Ginned Up To December 13. New Cotton Record For County Seems Likely New Reports Show.

A new cotton mark for Cleveland county in a year when cotton is selling for 12 cents, or less—that seems to be the production this year.

Up to December 13, 40,715 bales of cotton had been ginned in this county, according to the official report by Miles H. Ware, special ginning agent. This is a lead of 4,439 bales over the ginning—the same period last year, and with the ginning not complete is the second highest mark ever in this county.

North Carolina Ranking High In Farm Production By Report

First In America In Tobacco And Peanuts. Second Place In Two Crops And Third In One And 7th In Cotton.

Raleigh—North Carolina during the past year produced more tobacco and peanuts than any other state in the Union, ranked second in the production of soy beans and sorghum, and third in the production of sweet potatoes, according to figures made public Wednesday by the co-operative crop reporting service of State and Federal departments of Agriculture.

In 1925 North Carolina ranked first in the production of peanuts and sweet potatoes and second in the production of tobacco and soy beans. It held no third places that year.

North Carolina ranks with the other states in principal crops grown in this state, with this state's production, follows:

- States Farm Rank. 1st in tobacco; 393,190,000 lbs. 1st in peanuts; 190,120,000 lbs. 2nd in soy beans; 1,312,000 bushels. 2nd in sorghum; 4,004,000 gallons. 3rd in sweet potatoes; 7,560,000 bushels. 7th in cotton; 1,250,000 bales (estimate). 8th in rye; 1,352,000 bushels. 8th in grapes; 6,840 tons. 10th in peaches; 2,100,000 bushels. 11th in buckwheat; 220,000 bushels. 11th in cloverseed; 25,000 tons. 12th in apples; 5,986,000 bushels. 13th in potatoes; 7,400,000 bushels. 18th in corn; 52,272,000 bushels. 20th in winter wheat; 6,303,000 bushels. 22nd in oats; 6,820,000 bushels. 22nd in wild hay; 52,000 tons. 24th in pears; 270,000 bushels. 27th in barley; 390,000 bushels.

Eskridge To Go With Tobacco Co.

Mr. Holland Eskridge, better known to his Shelby friends as "Bush," will on the first of the year resign his position with the American Express company to go with Liggett & Myers Tobacco company as salesman for this territory with his headquarters here.

Christmas Tree Lattimore School

The friends and patrons of the Lattimore school are invited to attend the Christmas program given in the auditorium on Friday night December 24. Exercises to begin promptly at seven o'clock. The following program will be given before the gifts are taken from the tree and distributed. Christmas carols by High school. Santa Claus drill, Song of Christmas, by First grade. Playlet—"Christmas Candles" by Second grade. Playlet—"Aids to a Merry Christmas" by Third grade. Drill—"Christmas Holly" by Fourth grade. Pageant—"Story of Christmas." Pantomime—"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" by Forty girls.

THREE MILLS IN BIG BANQUET ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Eastside, Dover and Ora Mills Have Annual Get-together. Mr. J. R. Dover Presides.

What was termed the best banquet of the organization was held Thursday evening at Cleveland Springs hotel when department heads and officials of the three mills, Eastside, Dover and Ora, known as the "Dover mills" gathered for their annual banquet.

One hundred and thirty people were in attendance, including officials, owners, overseers, department heads and others of the three big textile plants.

Mr. John R. Dover, organizer and directing influence of the mills, was the toastmaster of the evening and skillfully handled the entertaining program, made up of short speeches, musical numbers, stunts and the regular banquet entertainment.

Hoey Main Speaker. Clyde R. Hoey was the main speaker of the evening and his topic was that of the real Christmas spirit, that of giving other than material presents, and methods of carrying the giving spirit to mankind through the entire year. It was a fitting address on the Yuletide and one very appropriate to the big industrial and working interests assembled at the banquet.

Mr. Dover talking briefly outlined the textile year as it touched the local plants. An encouraging remark, and one of high value to the plants, was that despite the general slack of the textile industry not one of the three mills curtailed, but ran full time and the wage of no employee was cut. Such, it might be added, is one of the outstanding reasons why the local plants are so well known.

Short talks were also made by Messrs. Clyde R. Hoey, O. B. Carpenter, of Kings Mountain, and D. Z. Newton.

The usual banquet program prevailed and the occasion was frequently pepped up with the well-known Carolina yells and college songs.

Dance Held Later. Following the banquet, the annual Carolina dance was held in the lobby of the hotel, glowing with Yuletide decorations, and this event was also considered a success by the promoters of the Carolina meeting.

BRIEF ITEMS OF NEWS PICKED UP OVER THE NATION

Thirty people were reported killed and many hurt Thursday night when two crack Southern trains crashed together near Rockmart, Georgia.

The N. C. State highway commission will lend counties more aid in taking over road mileage, according to Raleigh reports.

A Martin county, North Carolina farmer was shopping yesterday as a real Santa Claus. He was buying presents for 34 children and 97 grandchildren.

Ray Sossomon, of Albemarle, was killed yesterday in an automobile wreck near that place.

Charlie Bess, Gastonia mill employee, met death yesterday when his car was struck by a P. and N. passenger train in East Gastonia.

The man held at Mocksville, this state, thought to be Erdman Olson, sweetheart killer of Wisconsin, was found not to be the guilty party.

Baseball fans together with scores of baseball officials are denying that Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker, baseball idols, had anything to do with a "fixed" baseball game of 1919.

Reports are that Zeb V. Turlington, of Mooresville, is being groomed for the next governor's race. Turlington fathered the prohibition bill that bears his name in this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Webb, jr., will spend Christmas day here with Judge E. Y. Webb and family. They leave Christmas afternoon for Castalia to visit Mrs. Webb's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burrus are spending Christmas in Mocksville with Mrs. Burrus' parents. Mr. Burrus returns Monday and will visit his parents in Morganton. Mrs. Burrus will spend two weeks in Mocksville.

Big Meeting To Be Held Here On Tuesday, Jan 4.

Farmers With Leaders To Discuss Side Crops. No Plan To Cut Cotton Acreage, But To Diversify

A county-wide campaign among the farmers to diversify farming in Cleveland county, will be launched Tuesday, January 4th, according to announcements made by Alvin Hardin, farm demonstrator and J. C. Newton, secretary of the chamber of commerce. At that time, E. L. Millsaps, district farm extension agent, and Max Gardner, premier farmer and chairman of the Cleveland county board of agriculture, will deliver speeches. To this meeting every farmer in Cleveland county is invited and urged to attend.

Following the launching of this diversified farming program group meetings will be held at various places throughout the county to emphasize the importance of substituting other profitable crops in connection with cotton production. Leaders feel that the campaign is most urgent in order to re-establish farming in this county on a profitable basis.

Tots Of County Urge Old Santa To Give To Poor

The children of Cleveland county are a big-hearted, generous lot. Several hundred parents may be thankful for that.

The Star during the holiday season has published scores of "Santa Claus" letters and through them run the thread of charity and a feeling for the unfortunate. Children to be proud of, they are.

One youngster wound up her letter this way: "And, Santa, don't forget the poor little children—Another wrote: 'Visit all the little orphan children'—Still another argued: 'Don't forget the little children who have no papa and mamma to buy for them'—and another: 'Bring all the little boys and girls something.'"

The family Santa Claus will more than likely see that the request of every little correspondent is answered, and would it not be fine now if these Santa would also see that the "poor little children" remembered by the tots really do get something?

What about it? Is there more charity in the hearts of the youngsters?

It was impossible for The Star to carry all "Santa letters" Wednesday and many more have piled in since that time, so they are being published today with the hope that old Kris Kringle will take a peep at The Star before he starts on his rounds tonight.

And The Star hopes that every youngster writing a letter will have them answered and with the gifts all the merriment of the occasion. They're big-hearted enough to deserve it all.

Mrs. McKee Dies In South Shelby

It was the sole wish of Mrs. Cleo McKee that she would be spared to live through the Christmas holidays to see her children enjoy the Yuletide season, but that privilege was denied her when she died Monday of this week. Mrs. McKee, wife of Roy McKee, lived in South Shelby. She had been a sufferer with tuberculosis and was only 33 years of age when the end came. Mrs. McKee is survived by her husband and three children. The funeral was conducted Tuesday by Rev. Rush Padgett, pastor of the Second Baptist church and the interment was in Sunset cemetery. She has many friends and her passing in the prime of young womanhood is a source of great sorrow to all.

Falls To Manage Gaffney Printery

Gaffney, Dec. 23.—R. B. Falls, who took over the management of the Baker-Kirby Printing company in November, yesterday moved his family from Shelby, N. C., to Gaffney. They will have an apartment in the J. M. Bramlett home on Victoria avenue.

YOUTH FATALLY SHOT ON HUNT FOR YULE TREE

Howard Weathers, Son of Julius Weathers Brought Here From Fayetteville for Burial

The body of Julius Howards Weathers, fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Weathers, was brought to Shelby yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock for burial here this morning, the funeral taking place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd O. Bollinger on West Warren street at 10 o'clock. Revs. Zeno Wall and Hugh K. Boyer conducting the funeral services.

Hunting Christmas Tree Young Weathers, was the eldest son of Julius Weathers, former superintendent of the Shelby water and light plants, now superintendent of the plants at Fayetteville. For a number of years the family has lived at Fayetteville where the accident happened Wednesday afternoon. While returning from a hunting trip near Fayetteville with J. B. Bruton, jr., a boy of about his age, Bruton's gun was accidentally discharged. The two lads had been duck hunting on the pond near the city pump station and on their way home were looking for a Christmas tree. Young Bruton turned aside to inspect a small tree and as he did so, his breech-loading gun, struck a bough, pulling the trigger of the gun. The charge entered Howard's body through the small of the back. Death took place within a few minutes.

The two boys were close chums and the Bruton lad as well as his family are greatly grieved over the sad affair. Dr. R. A. Allgood, county coroner, was called to the scene and made an investigation of the facts surrounding the tragedy. He found it to be entirely accidental.

The Weathers family arrived in Shelby late Thursday afternoon with the body. J. B. Bruton, father of the boy whose gun fired the fatal shot, accompanied the family to Shelby.

Deceased's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Weathers lived here with her daughter, Mrs. L. O. Bollinger on West Warren street, and the remains were taken to the Bollinger home for the funeral services. Young Weathers, who also lives in Shelby together with a number of relatives and friends of the family who are deeply grieved over the sad affair.

Two other children survive in the Weathers family: Wyatt and Marguerite.

MR. HARRILL IS DEAD AT AGE 73

Father of Shelby Man Was Buried Tuesday. Dr. Wall Assists in Funeral Services.

Shelby friends of Mr. W. Y. Harrill, east Graham street, sympathize with him in the death of his father Hugh A. Harrill who passed away Sunday at his home at Rutherfordton at the age of 78. Mr. Harrill was one of Rutherford's most prominent and active citizens being superintendent of the Baptist Sunday school for 27 years. He was buried Tuesday, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. M. A. Adams and Dr. Zeno Wall, interment being at Cool Springs cemetery. Mr. Harrill is survived by his widow and the following children: Mr. W. Yates Harrill, Mr. Grayson Harrill, Mr. Kenneth Harrill, Mr. J. O. Williamson, of Charlotte, Mr. Edna Simmons, of Rutherfordton, and Mrs. Sybil Williamson, of Charlotte. Two brothers and two sisters: Mr. George Harrill, of Rock Hill and Mrs. John Bell Harrill, of Raleigh; Mrs. Maggie Mauney, Forest City, and Mrs. Katie Lorraine also survive.

Firemen Banquet At Central Hotel

The 25 members of the fire department enjoyed their first banquet since the re-organization of the department at the Central hotel Thursday night. An elaborate feast was served. Chief Herman Eskridge invited Gastonia's fire chief George McLaughlin and Fireman Stewart over for the gathering and all had a most enjoyable time. May or A. P. Weathers was presented with a handsome hat by the firemen in token of their appreciation of his interest in reviving the fire fighting organization and furnishing the splendid equipment the department now has.