

SOCIETY NEWS

MRS. RENN DRUM, Editor.

Telephone The Star, No. 4-J Each Morning 8 To 12 O'clock.
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Grim Weather Prophet.

The ground hog restless in his den begins to turn and twist, and then we sit and wonder whether when he appears this sunny day and sees himself and turns to say which way will turn the weather.

Will it be bright and springified, or six weeks snow and frost betide? This last we hope not, rather.

Old weather prophet turn away, go not into your den the day we wish the fields, the flowers gay. The young things all to run and play.

The spring time bounty gather. —Mrs. Irma Wallace.

Choral Practice With Mrs. Hoyle.

The members of the Cecilia Music club will meet again on Wednesday of this week for a choral practice, the meeting to be at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs. George Hoyle.

Mrs. Royster To Be Club Hostess.

On Friday afternoon at her home on South Washington street Mrs. S. S. Royster will entertain the members of the 20th Century club at 3 o'clock.

Miss Scruggs Dinner Hostess.

Miss Octa Scruggs of Mooresboro served a delicious three-course dinner Thursday evening. The invited guests were: Misses Lucy Lattimore, Louise Roberts, Robert A. Royster and Janet Falls. Miss Scruggs was assisted in serving and entertaining by her niece Miss Julia Renfro.

Jefferson P. T. A. Meets This Evening.

This evening at 7 o'clock in the Jefferson school auditorium the Parent-Teachers association of that school will hold its regular monthly meeting. An interesting program has been arranged; Mr. O. B. Lewis and Mrs. H. S. Plaster will furnish music and Mrs. Harry Camnitz will give several readings.

Social Meeting Of Afternoon Division.

The first afternoon division of the Woman's club will enjoy a social meeting at the club room on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 with Mrs. Charles Young, Mrs. H. E. Richbourg and Mrs. Graham Dellinger acting as hostesses. Mrs. John McClure and Mrs. Reid Young will head a committee on entertainment. All members are cordially invited and urged to be present for this meeting.

Small Bridge Party Friday.

On Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. F. Mitchell, Mrs. Burton Mitchell, of Mount Holly, entertained a few friends, delightfully and informally, at bridge. Three tables were arranged for play. Upon the arrival of the guests they found their places at the tables and a delicious ice course with coffee was served. After this bridge was played for an hour or so and at the close of the afternoon a dainty linen handkerchief was given to Mrs. Robert Woods as winner of the high score prize.

Club Meetings For Tuesday.

Mrs. R. W. Morris will entertain the members of the Tuesday Afternoon club at her home on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

On Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 Mrs. R. W. Hamrick will entertain the members of the Mothers' club at her home in Beaumont Terrace.

There will be a regular meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the club room on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 with Mrs. Lamar Gidney, Mrs. S. S. Royster and Mrs. Talmadge Gardner as hostesses.

Surprise Birthday Dinner Sunday.

On Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Honeycutt Mrs. Honeycutt and her brothers and sisters gave a surprise birthday dinner for their mother, Mrs. Ida Thompson. Table decorations consisted of primroses and the attractively decorated birthday cake. A delicious dinner was enjoyed.

Those present were: Mrs. J. W. Brackett and daughter, Miss Austine Brackett, of Belwood; Mrs. L. M. Petty and two children, Jack and Mary; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hines; Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Brooks, all of Oarlotte; Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Leonard, of Thomasville; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Callahan, and son, Fred, jr., Miss Mattie Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Honeycutt with their two daughters, Marjorie and Patsy.

Mrs. Abernethy Honored At Party.

On Friday afternoon at her home on W. Marion street Mrs. B. L. Smith was hostess at an informal party in compliment to her mother,

Mrs. Julia Abernethy, of Rutherford college, who is her guest. An interesting program had been arranged for the occasion, consisting of two humorous readings given by Miss Carobel Lever; a clever original poem of reminiscences of her early days, read by Mrs. Mary McBrayer; and a short talk on her early experiences at school by Mrs. Eliza Roberts. A Bible contest was a part of the entertainment, and Mrs. J. T. Gardner was the prize winner in this contest. Mrs. Smith was assisted by her son, Benjamin, jr., in serving a salad course with coffee.

Those enjoying this hospitality were: Miss Lever, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Mary McBrayer, Mrs. Esther McBrayer, Mrs. J. T. Gardner, Mrs. J. F. Whisnant, Mrs. W. R. Newton, Mrs. W. H. Thompson, Mrs. Clyde Hoey, Mrs. J. W. Ingle, Mrs. C. P. Sherrill, Mrs. A. P. Weathers, Mrs. Eliza Ward, Mrs. Flora Clark, Mrs. Henry Wiseman, of Danville, Va., Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Abernethy.

15 U. S. Cities Are Really In Million Class

New York—Literal Uncle Sam says there now are five cities in the United States with a population in excess of one million, against three in 1920; but a more poetic license reveals that actually there are 15 municipalities in the magic million class.

Whatever Uncle Sam's 1930 census takers may say, the citizens of those municipalities always talk in terms of "greater city" millions.

Whether the 1940 census count actually will show at least 12 cities with more than a million depends on how these cities and their suburbs solve the problems of union.

Already several municipalities are trying to do something about it through legislative action, annexation, rewording of charters.

Paradox At Boston.

The paradox of a metropolitan community listed by Uncle Sam at approximately a third of its actual strength is presented by Boston.

Boston proper has 781,188 citizens by the 1930 census, but 1,955,168 persons were counted in the closely packed network of 43 cities and towns separated as a rule by arbitrary and artificial boundaries.

Two bills have been introduced in the Massachusetts legislature, including one by Mayor Curley, for unification "in degree," establishing a municipal corporation in which the smaller towns would have local autonomy.

Where are these 15 potential million souled communities?

The government lists New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Los Angeles, the latter two having climbed in the band wagon since 1920.

But New York actually has four boroughs—Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, each with more than a million population. The Bronx and Queens likewise crossed the million mark since 1920.

Considering the boroughs separately, Brooklyn, which has outgrown Father Manhattan, is second city in the land with 2,560,401 population.

Another eastern metropolis on the horizon may some day see the combination of the network of New Jersey communities opposite New York City into a center of more than 2,000,000. Civic organizations have sponsored the idea and a tentative name—Essex—has been suggested by proponents.

Cleveland On Verge.

Cleveland trembles on the verge of its first million, but the metropolitan population is far over the mark; the same applies to St. Louis, Baltimore, Boston, Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

The metropolitan count of St. Louis is 1,293,049 against a strict census count of 821,960 for the city proper.

Efforts to extend the city's boundaries, the latest of which failed at an election last November, have been hampered by the unique status of St. Louis, which is a part of the state yet not a part of any county. A recently adopted constitutional amendment authorizes annexation of outlying urban districts without state election and this may solve the problem.

In 1929 a metropolitan plan movement which would have given Pittsburgh a population of nearly 1,500,000 was defeated in a listless election. The city proper had 669,817 in 1930.

Baltimore's latest population count is 800,574, but as the city's physical boundaries have remained unchanged, it cannot count its full 1,023,201.

Uncle Sam Ready For Eventualities

Should War Come There Are Plenty Men And Munitions In Country.

The general staff of the army, developed to a high degree of efficiency as a result of the world war experience, is prepared to carry on warfare at a moment's notice, says Rex Collier, special writer for the North American News Alliance.

Conditions today, under plans of the general staff, are in sharp contrast to those existing at the time of America's entry in the war, as detailed by Gen. Pershing in his war story now appearing in the Greensboro Daily News.

Gen. Pershing relates his astonishment at learning that "so little had been done (in making plans for war) when there were so many things that might have been done long before," and condemns the "lack of foresight on the part of the general staff" in failing to take advance action.

Today the war department has a staff organization that has been referred to by officials as "a model of efficiency, alert to its grace responsibilities and prepared to cope with any emergency."

The national defense act imposes on the general staff the important duty of preparing plans for the mobilization of men and material in time of war or other national emergency. If there should be another war, the formulation of definite plans for general staff will not have to await raising a combatant force and for equipping it.

Those plans already are in existence. They have been made so elastic that they can meet any exigency. The framework of any army composed of regulars, national guardsmen and reserves already is established.

It would be possible to send into the field almost overnight a force of nearly half a million men, fairly well equipped, officials declare. Plans for the organization of additional forces are comprehensive.

The corps area system, established since the world war, creates a mechanism for prompt mobilization of forces. General Summerall, in his final report to the war department, pointed out that "lack of territorial organization was one of the most serious deficiencies in our military administration during the world war."

"The then existing territorial departments," Gen. Summerall said, "had not been organized with a view to serving as the operating agencies for carrying out a general mobilization. Time was not available for creating an effective territorial organization, and the urgency of the situation made it necessary to centralize the administration of mobilization, training and supply in the war department."

The vast number of separate agencies depending directly on the war department produced an extremely complicated and clumsy system of administration. The resulting complex structure of the war department, with its many different agencies charged with various aspects of the military problem, was difficult to co-ordinate and conflicting instructions were frequently issued to subordinate authorities.

Far removed from contact with the local situation, the war department lacked an intimate knowledge of local conditions which is required for proper action on matters of detail.

The corps areas constitute the great operating agencies for the mobilization of the army of the United States and the peacetime administration and training of all components, and their equipment and supply.

The war department maintains a special war reserve of certain essential supplies peculiar to war needs, sufficient to equip troops until the manufacture of such materials can get under way.

The plans of the general staff include not only means for mobilizing and supplying the nation's armed forces, but detailed information as to possible facilities for transporting them to the scene of combat and for maintaining them in any given locality.

In short our government has laid careful plans for a war—any war—that does not exist and that does not even appear in prospect.

This does not mean that America has planned a militaristic policy of aggression, but it does mean that thorough-going steps have been taken to insure the defense of the nation from any possible invasion by others.

Water Shortage On In New York Area

New York—New York, which even in the winter uses 900,000,000 gallons of water a day, is facing a serious shortage, Mayor Walker was informed.

The present shortage is 121,400 million gallons, said Chief Engineer William D. Brush—enough to last 120 days. The situation has not been so serious before in the 35 years of his experience.

There has been very little snow this year in the district whence New York's water supply comes and the reservoirs, which should be nearly full at this season, are far from it.

The mayor asked the citizens not to waste water.

'Bad' John Wright, Said To Have Killed 36, Is Dead; A Character In Trail Of The Lonesome Pine

Death Ends Career of Mountain Fighter. Served Long As Sheriff.

Pound, Va.—"Bad" John Wright, 32, died January 30 at his home near Pound. For years he was a leading figure in mountain feuds in this section and it is definitely known that nine persons were killed by him. Reports credit him with killing 36. He is survived by a large number of relatives.

John W. Wright, better known as "Bad John" Wright, lived his active life in a day when only a tough man could survive if he went hunting for his fellow men. And "Bad John" was tough in those days.

As a deputy sheriff he is reputed to have killed 25 to 30 men who tried to take his life rather than surrender.

No more picturesque figure than Wright ever roamed the Cumberland mountains and followed its trails through towering forests and the purple bloom of the rhododendrons. It was from his life that John Fox, jr., took the character of "Devil Judd" Tolliver in "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine."

Wright whose enormous stature also had given him another nickname, "The Tall Sycamore of the Elkhorn," was a guard at the Wise county, Va., jail when Fox knew him. The novelist and the fearless mountaineer became fast friends and Wright's experiences as drawn out by Fox furnished much of the color for the novel. In addition to modeling "Devil Judd" after the officer, Fox is said to have named the book after a tall pine on a hillside of the Cumberland near Wright's home not far from Pound, Va.

As a young man Wright had participated in the famous Wright-Hall feud in which a large number of men were killed. Whether he actually slew any of the Halls in helping fight his own relatives' battles was always a matter of conjecture. When the feud was raging the participants were too busy to talk, and Wright in later years never discussed it publicly.

In fact, he would never say how many lives he took after he joined the forces of law and order. He regarded the slayings, however, as no black mark against his character. Officers of the law took their lives in their hands when they went into the mountains to get a man. The outcome usually depended upon which had the quicker eye and hand. Wright would sometimes tell of individual experiences but with his dry mountain humor, that never left him, he evaded a direct answer as to the number of notches on his gun.

"How many men have you killed,

Uncle John?" he was asked years after he had retired to his little cabin in Letcher county.

"Don't just remember."

"I've heard you killed thirty outlaws during your heyday," the visitor persisted. "Is that correct?"

The old man puffed his chin. "Now, I don't know," he returned. "Hardly think I killed thirty. Bad I took a lot of fellows to board in jail and starved 'em to death. The people might be countin' them."

Whatever the actual number he killed it was greatly exceeded by the number he rounded up and put in jail. He was a noted pistol shot and quick on the draw. His marksmanship was described by J. P. Harris, a former judge of Pikeville, Ky., who was prosecutor when "Bad John" was a Pike county law officer.

"He seldom, if ever missed," said the aged jurist. "Why, John could shoot a coon out of a tree and riddle it with bullets before its body hit the ground." Judge Marris avowed he had witnessed the feat.

That grim determination that made him feared by lawbreakers served him in good stead when time came to prosecute them.

"No attorney ever shook the testimony of that officer," Judge Marris said. "And after he had might as well dismiss him from the stand because he never rot John to change his testimony on cross-examination."

John Fox portrayed "Devil Judd" Tolliver as turning to religion in his later years, and put into his mouth the words, "Well, I've always laid out my enemies. The Lord's been on my side an' I gets a better Christian every year." It was a true prophecy for in the summer of 1929, long after the book was famous, "Bad John" was converted, and was baptized in Bole Camp Creek while hundreds of relatives and friends looked on.

Wright spent his declining years in a little cabin near Pound, a mecca for visitors who liked to sit in front of the door with him on sunny days and try to draw him out to tell of his early life. He was not certain of his exact age but believed he was born in 1843. Some of his friends insisted he was at least ten years older than that.

He had little more than the cabin and an enough to meet his simple wants, yet as a young man he sold for \$10 an acre property near Jenkins, Ky., that later was worth millions because coal was discovered under the hills. He was born in Letcher county, Ky., near the Virginia border, the son of Joel Wright, a pioneer.

Although the most active quarter of a century of his life was that in which he had served as a law officer, Wright had had early experience in fighting. Prior to his feudist days he had fought in the Civil

war. He entered the war in the Confederate army, he said, but was captured and after a term in military prison at old Fort Smith was released on his promise not to go below the Ohio river. Later he went into the Union army as a substitute for a youth who had been drafted and who under Union military regulations then prevailing was able to hire a man to take his place. In his later years Wright drew a pension as a Union veteran.

Wright's wanderings took him in to Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana and other states surrounding Kentucky, and one of the most vivid accounts of an encounter with a man he was seeking to arrest was told about an experience in Tennessee. He had trailed the man to a village in the eastern part of that state where the latter had established a shoe repair shop. Wright walked past the window, according to the story, and was recognized.

The fugitive, knowing the officer's lightning speed on the draw, fired quickly through the doorway striking Wright in the body. Then, anxious to finish him, rushed from the door to fire again. But Wright's pistol barked as he lay on the ground and the cobbler pitched forward dead. Wright never entirely recovered from the ball that lodged in him and in his old age said it had left him stiff.

Everybody believed that "Bad John" carried a pistol at all times, even sleeping with it. He may have when he was on duty, but Judge Marris said he knew Wright did not carry a weapon at all times.

"John came to my house during a court session," the judge said. "One of his enemies who wanted to kill him came into town, and John didn't know he was there, but I saw him heading for my house and I rushed back by a short cut to warn John."

"John asked me if I had a pistol," I gave him mine and just as he put it in his pocket with his right hand the door burst open and his enemy came in with his right hand in his pocket.

"That outlaw never spoke," the judge continued, "but he extended his left hand to shake with John. John was cool and calculating and they grasped left hands with their right hands in their pockets. Pretty soon the outlaw who had a pretty good record himself withdrew his left hand, turned and walked out. He was afraid to risk beating John to the draw."

Attend Live at Home Meet.

More than 500 farm folks attended the live-at-home and farm out-look meetings recently held in Perquimans county.

Bootleg Prices Suffering From Hard Times Now

Raleigh News and Observer.

Business depression generally has reduced the price and to a noticeable extent the consumption of liquor in the Carolinas and Virginia, according to a survey of the United Press.

The downward revision in prices is noted in all classes of liquor, the native distilled corn and rye beverages and bonded and imported liquors coming from the coast. There is a tendency toward increased sales in smaller quantities.

Sherwood Anderson, noted novelist and publisher of two weekly newspapers at Marion, Va., told the United Press that depression not only has reduced the cost of liquor to the purchaser but has lessened materially the demand for it.

Traffic Is Off.

A similar report comes from prohibition officers at Asheville who state the running of red liquor into that city from southern ports has practically ceased, because runners cannot obtain their price of about \$60 per case or \$5 per quart from retail sellers. Formerly this brand of liquor brought from \$8 to \$10 a quart from the consumer.

Northwestern North Carolina appears to be the haven for low-priced liquor. At Elizabeth City, white corn or "chained lightning" brings from 35 to 50 cents a pint, good corn \$1 per pint and rye \$2 or \$3 per gallon and \$9 or \$10 for a five-gallon jug. Prices before the depression were \$1 and \$1.50 a pint, \$5 a gallon and \$25 to \$30 the jug.

Imported Scotch liquors, formerly selling for \$6 per quart at Charleston, S. C., are down to \$4. Local "moonshine" also has dropped.

Find Decrease Here.

In Raleigh, half-gallon jars of corn liquor sold a year ago for \$4 at retail. Now the price has dropped to between \$2 and \$3. Pints sell from \$1 upward.

Norfolk, Va., reports a general price drop. Scotch, at retail, is down from \$12 to \$18 per quart to \$5 and \$8. A case of 12 quarts is now \$60 and \$75, whereas it sold for about \$120 18 months ago.

All liquor prices, including native Virginia "Mountain Dew" and imported North Carolina "hootch" are now lower in southwest Virginia. Bland county corn brings \$3 a gallon in five gallon lots. The North

Carolina product has dropped from \$8 to \$5 in similar quantities.

Charred keg corn liquor is down to \$4 per gallon delivered in Columbia, S. C. Champagne has dropped from \$100 to \$50 a case, Scotch rye and Bacardi rum from \$85 to \$40 per case and gin from \$80 to \$40.

Merchants Meet Tuesday Evening

There will be a meeting of the Cleveland Mutual Business Protective association Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in the Campbell department store. A full attendance of the membership is urged to be present.

Nash Leading in Eggs.

Nash county poultry flocks are leading the state in egg laying and tabulations by the poultry extension office at State college.

Lyric

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