

Around Our TOWN
OR
Shelby SIDELIGHTS
By RENN DRUM.

A TIP FOR SOME SHELBY MERCHANT

Some Shelby merchant has an excellent opportunity to win new friends and patrons. Anyway, that's what the following contributor says: "What about using your column to do a favor for scores of Shelby people? Since the new regulation at the post office closing the stamp window at 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoons I have seen scores of people looking for stamps late in the evening and on Sunday. Of course the business houses will soon get adjusted to the Saturday closing and will get their stamps before 1 in the afternoon, but plenty of private citizens will not and some of the business people will forget it. There is no profit, I know, in selling stamps, but if all the people who were looking for stamps last Saturday afternoon could have been directed to one place of business, that place would have picked up many new customers just because of the accommodation. How will it be tomorrow afternoon?" Now it's up to the merchants whether or not they will sell stamps as a Saturday afternoon "leader." We've done our bit.

SETS THE PRICE FOR THE NEW CAR

"I see," says a Cleveland farmer who frequently chats it over with this corner, "that Henry Ford says he will soon put out a car at a price cheap enough for all to buy. Mebbe he will, but if Henry's telling the truth, and if he realizes the fix some of us folks are in, I'm expecting his new eight to go on the market two for a nickel, or one for a gallon of homemade molasses, or for a pound of cotton with a peck of corn thrown in."

CALLED WRONG MAN AS WAS EXPECTED

This same farmer relishes an Irish joke more than he does the Scotch ones and offers the following until another can be picked up: An Irishman, who worked in the monasite industry in the old days (maybe in Shelby and maybe not), made a trip to New York with several of his pals following a payday and several weeks of saving up. They stopped at a hotel and the Irishman, anxious to get going early and see some friends, left word at the desk to be called at an early hour. At a late hour in the night he and his friends turned in, a bit soured as Irishmen will get when strongly tempted. Soon the Irishman was snoring and his joking friends slipped out, snatched a shoeshine's outfit, returned to the room and blacked Pat's face. Early next morning came the call from the bellhop. Pat, only half awake, hopped out of bed. While dressing and rubbing his head he happened to look in a mirror and saw the black face shining back at him. He stared at it a minute and then started back to his bed, grumbling, "Jest as Ol expected, begorra! they wint and called the wrong man."

MEMORIES:

It was eight years ago, in July, that McBride Poston, now chief of the Shelby police department, resigned as a member of the Shelby fire department to become speed cop at Kings Mountain. How many years ago and what was the name of the Superior court judge who called a Shelby lawyer up to the bench and asked, "How come so many Cleveland county men attend court in their bare feet?" Wonder how many old-timers recall that back in 1895 the Darlington (S. C.) Guards did their training at Cleveland Springs hotel, operated then by J. B. Wilkinson? The younger generation should be able to recall the Dokey initiation and celebration in Shelby in 1924 when the merry-makers stormed the city hall, took out the fire truck, ran it full speed through the business section with the bell ringing and the truck siren shrieking. The headache in some instances lasted for days.

SHELBY SHORTS:

E. S. Whitaker, the state sanitary inspector now working in Shelby and Cleveland county, has a voice almost identical with that of Corn Cracker . . . Answering our own query of Wednesday: Bob Reynolds ran 534 votes behind Senator Overman in Cleveland county in 1928. Overman's vote was 2,725 and Reynolds' 2,191 . . . The star of the next production of the Shelby Playmakers will be a brunette, but the feminine leads in two previous performances were blondes . . . Hugh McRae, head of a power firm in Eastern Carolina, admitted at a hearing this week that despite his long connection with the firm he did not know the meaning of a kilowatt hour. And, now that the S. P. U. argument is ended, we'll break down and confess that we wouldn't know one of the things if we bumped into it on the court square . . . A card from John Hudson, at Tampa, say that on a recent fishing trip there his catch ran to 16, the largest, a bass, weighing 14 3-4 pounds . . . A small day's churning at Charlie Washburn's Shelby Milk plant means 100 pounds of butter . . . Collards, unpopular in Cleveland county for years, is now becoming a popular dish, according to Mrs. Irma Wallace, demonstration agent . . . What if some mischievous school boy takes his little hatchet and cuts down the George Washington tree, planted yesterday eve on the high school campus?

LOST WINTER

ISN'T ALL
One wise-cracking reader suggests that the young folks remember as much about the present year as possible because she believes it will go down in history as the year of the Lost Winter. It'll be no struggle to remember, ma'am, because it will be remembered by a good many people as the year in which more than winter was lost.

PROVING THAT THERE ARE READERS

They are not made for that reason, but a few bobbies in this department quickly bring proof that some people read it. One item, published recently, was a 100 percent mistake, several people have informed. The Reuben Campbell who left Shelby for the Spanish-American war was not Ed Campbell, the merchant, although the latter was in the service; and the Lawrence Hoffman was not L. O. Hoffman; and no "James Jenkins" went with the Shelby company—"Cap'n J. Frank" Jenkins went with an Eastern Carolina outfit. And G. S. and a half dozen others called attention to the bridge "between Tampa, and San Francisco where the fishes jump." Just an error of a few thousand miles there, as it should have been St. Petersburg instead of "Frisco.

Fish Fights Latest Fad Along Beaches

Miami, Fla.—Fish fights between gilled battlers worth \$1,000 a pound and as pugnacious as panthers or an 18-day diet are new wrinkles in the sports menu of this resort. Siamese fighting fish which weigh scarcely an ounce each but fight like gamecocks or bulldogs are responsible for the fad. Fish fanciers started breeding the species as an experiment and the little fellows' popularity is increasing rapidly. Their name is Betta Camboides and their colors range from blue to

plant orange through the reds to bright blues and purple. They fight by instinct and a meeting of two males always is an occasion for a duel. They catch as catch can and hang on until one dies. The best fighters bring from \$25 to \$50 each. Daily fights were an attraction at a recent fish exhibit. The fish have powerful jaws and sharp teeth and will attack anything that moves. Five Grange units have been organized recently in Granville county. It is planned to organize eight such units when a county Grange will be built from these

Victims of Fatal Hoax



Police of Boston are seeking the author of the fake cablegram which is believed to have indirectly caused the death of Miss Elizabeth Cook (left), of Brookline, Mass. The cable, announcing the "death" of George Tucker Arnold (right), Miss Cook's fiance, was received by the girl in Naples, Italy. She at once started for home, but died at sea between Naples and Gibraltar. Arnold, a member of an old Virginia family, now employed in Boston, has applied to Senator Glass of Virginia for cooperation of the State Department in the investigation of the fatal hoax.

Estate Is Valued At \$135,164,110

Thomas Fortune Ryan Left Second Largest Fortune in History Of N. Y. Bureau.

New York, Feb. 18.—Thomas Fortune Ryan, the capitalist who 20 years before his death retired as an officer or director in more than 30 corporations, left an estate valued at \$135,164,110.54, the second largest in the history of the transfer tax bureau here. The valuation, as of the date of his death, November 22, 1928, was given in a transfer tax appraisal today at the time of Mr. Ryan's death. The valuations ranged from \$100,000,000 to \$500,000,000 and he was rated one of the nation's great-

est half dozen financiers. Valuable Studs Included in the huge total were Mr. Ryan's white shirt studs, valued at \$14,150. They were the only part of the fortune left to Mr. Ryan's son, Allen A. Ryan, from whom he was estranged for many years. The disagreement between them was reported to have been due, in part at least to Allan's activities in the corner of Stutz motor stock in 1920. Mr. Ryan's personal effects were valued at \$2,122,268.75, including \$728,738 worth of jewelry. A pearl necklace and clasp were valued at \$546,339. The bulk of the estate was left to Mr. Ryan's widow Mrs. Mary T. Ryan, of "Oak Ridge," the Ryan estate of Shipman, Va., and two other sons, Clendennin J. Ryan another of New York. In all, 41 beneficiaries shared in

he estate, the gross valuation of which was \$141,824,494.43 of which securities valued at \$136,343,750.08 made up the largest total.

How A Dollar Bill Wanders All About

Kinston.—A dollar can get into a lot of places in a week, the Rotary club here has discovered. It placed a \$1 bill in circulation last Monday and kept up with its journeyings around town. A note was attached to it, asking persons who received it to spend it immediately and notify a member of the club of its whereabouts. Scores possessed the bill

during the six days the note was attached. The Salvation army had the bill twice during the week. A single bank had it at least twice. Drug-gists, hardware dealers, clothiers and others reported having received it. For 24 hours in the middle of the week the dollar was out of circulation. A cobbler ignored the note and kept it in his pocket until almost the last hour for paying his monthly light bill, when he turned it over to the water and light department. An official deposited it immediately in order for it to go back in circulation.

No Legal Reduction In Cotton, But Voluntary Cut Is Assured

Atlanta, Ga. Feb. 15.—There will be no reduction of cotton acreage by law this year, but if history repeats itself there still may be a substantial decrease in acreage and production and an attractive advance in price. Record of the department of agricultural and the New Orleans of cotton exchange for the last 40 years show that 13 "bumper" crops of cotton have been produced; two just before or at the beginning of a depression, and only two in normal times. The records also show that every large crop produced during a period of depression was followed by a sharp reduction in acreage, a comparatively small crop and a large advance in price. Some of the big crops were followed by a series of small ones and very high prices. Biggest Drop in 1921. The greatest drop in production after a bumper crop was 40.8 per cent in 1921, following the 13,000,000 bale crop of 1920. In 1920 the average price received by producers was 13.9 cents, and a high of 22.75 cents was reached in 1921, although the average for the year was 16.2 cents. But the average price paid producers gradually soared to 23.8 cents in 1922 and reached 31 cents in 1923, the highest figure recorded by the department of agriculture except the 35.6 reached in 1919 following the war. Try Star Want Ads.

Just A Few Of Our Bargains

8 Pounds LARD	64c
Tub LARD, Pound	7 1/2c
SUGAR, Pound	5c
SOAP AND POWDER, 2 for	5c
GARDEN SEED, Package	5c

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