

THIS BUSINESS OF Living
BY SUSAN THAYER



MRS. SMITH DISCOVERS SMITHVILLE

Mrs. Smith's children were grown and her comfortable house was so well equipped with modern devices it was easy to take care of. But Mrs. Smith was busy. Ever since the war started she had been up to her ears in work.

She spent every spare minute knitting and had six sweaters and ten pairs of socks to her credit. She had organized a defense committee in her club six months ago and a study course in Democracy in her church. She was one of the original members of the "Bundles for Britain" group in her town and was active in the Red Cross. It was wonderful to be "in things," Mrs. Smith felt and to have a part in the big affairs of the world and so, although she went to bed exhausted night after night, she didn't mind.

Then, one day, she learned how the tax payers' money was being wasted by a corrupt city government. "But why is it allowed?" she demanded of her husband, her eyes blazing in righteous indignation. "Why doesn't somebody do something about it?"

"You might take a hand in it," her husband suggested. "You and a half dozen other public spirited women could save this town thousands of dollars. You could do something about those houses over there on the other side of the tracks, too, and see if those stories we hear about the grade school are true."

"But I'm busy," Mrs. Smith protested. "There's all this war work I'm doing and there's my knitting and . . ."

"And while you're thinking about the war, which isn't your business anyhow, you neglect the things that you might do to make Smithville a better town. You don't know whether your neighbor's children are being taught to respect the American way or not. You haven't taken the trouble to find out if home relief in Smithville is being administered fair-

ly and efficiently. You didn't try to put the right men in local offices at the last election."

"But I want to do something for the world . . . something for America," she protested.

"And do you know that the biggest thing you and about a million other women like you could do for your country and for Democracy? You could help to make it work so well—so efficiently in your own home town that no one living there would ever dream of wanting to substitute something else for it . . . and if every one in a hundred thousand towns like Smithville believed with all their heart and soul and mind in our American representative Democracy, it could never even be threatened!"

Industry To Continue Clean-up Campaign

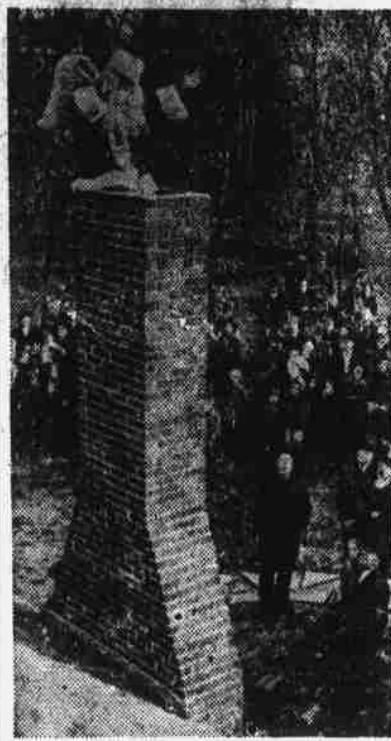
Investigators for the beer industry will visit every North Carolina county during 1941 to make certain that retail beer dealers conduct reputable places of business.

Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, State Director of the Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors committee, announced today that the industry's "clean up or close up" campaign has resulted in the elimination of 136 undesirable beer outlets in 41 counties—109 by revocation, three by surrender of license, and 24 by refusal to re-license.

"A great majority of beer dealers conduct reputable places of business," Colonel Bain said, "but there is a minority which disregards the law and public decency. Our campaign is directed at these scattered outlets. During 1941, our field representatives will check on these outlets and when necessary, we will request the local authorities to revoke their licenses."

During the past year, Bain said, more than 1,000 retail outlets in 84 counties were inspected. He emphasized that the "clean up" campaign will be carried to all counties in 1941.

Caught in the Act!



At Santa Claus, Ind., where they run a school for Santa Clauses, the instructor shows his students how to handle one of Kris Kringle's most important duties. A measuring stick, to make sure there is enough clearance, is one of the requisites.

Follow the Rules When Addressing Christmas Cards

How do you address a Christmas card to a widow? A divorcee? A business acquaintance? Here are some tips on cards:

Generally speaking, greetings fall into two classes, formal and informal. If you use printed or engraved cards for formal use, the title Miss, Mr., or Mrs. and Mrs. should preferably appear above the greeting. For instance: "Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stanyon wish you a Merry Christmas," rather than "A Merry Christmas from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stanyon."

On informal cards, signed in ink, the husband's or wife's name should come first, although ordinarily the person signing would put his own name last. In general, the husband's name comes first. These can be signed "Bob and Betty," or "Bob and Betty Bentley," depending on how well the acquaintance knows you.

No card should ever be sent without a Mr., Mrs. or Miss prefix. An unmarried woman is always addressed as "Miss." A married woman, whether her husband is alive or not, is addressed with "Mrs." prefixed to her husband's full name. Since a woman's maiden name is used only on legal papers or when she uses it professionally, a divorcee's maiden name may be used if it's been established by legal procedure after the divorce was granted.

Cards to a married couple should be addressed Mr. and Mrs., even though you may know only one of them. If it's a business acquaintance and you haven't met the recipient's wife, it's permissible to send the card in his name only. Business addresses are quite all right, though there's a bit more courtesy and more personal touch to find out the home address and send the card there.

A family in mourning may send and receive Christmas cards as usual unless the bereavement is very recent—within the last two or three weeks.

Kiss the Maiden Under Mistletoe—But Follow Rules!

IT'S still a nice custom this Christmas to kiss the young lady under the mistletoe, but your efforts are in vain unless it's done properly.

Every time someone kisses under the mistletoe a berry should be plucked from the branch, for only so many blessings are bestowed as there are berries. And don't let the mistletoe fall to the ground. Otherwise its properties of good luck and healing will be destroyed.

Many a romantic story surrounds this plant. The berries represent tears from this legend:

A Scandinavian god, Balder, dreamed he would die. When he told his mother, the goddess Friga, she made earth fire, air, water and all animals and plants promise they wouldn't harm her son.

But she overlooked the mistletoe, for its roots were neither in the earth nor 'tis. So one of Balder's enemies fashioned an arrow from the plant and that was the end of Balder. The tears of the heartbroken goddess fell thick and fast, and froze into the berries.

Having such a heathen origin, mistletoe is seldom included in church schemes of decoration. But despite this ban few maids care to risk making the legend come true that "she who is not kissed under the mistletoe at Christmas will not be married in the year which follows."

If you want to be lucky, remember the rules.

Watch Your Weather During Christmas Day!

Remember these old superstitions about Christmas weather: If the sun shines through the apple tree on Christmas day, there will be a good crop the following year.

If ice will bear a man before Christmas, it will not bear a mouse afterward.

Thunder and lightning Christmas week means much snow the rest of the winter.

Wet causes more damage than frost before than after Christmas.

If it snows Christmas night, the hop crop will be good next year.

At Christmas meadows green, at Easter covered with frost.

If windy Christmas day, trees will bear much fruit.

Christmas wet gives empty granary and barrel.

A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard.

A warm Christmas, a cold Easter.

Salvation Lassies Retain Yule Spirit Of Founder Booth

Christmas will be happier for thousands of homeless people this year because Catherine and William Booth carried the torch of evangelism from their New Connexion church in England in 1861 and started the Salvation Army. Today that torch is being carried by the second Booth to succeed the founder, Gen. Evangeline Booth, who in turn succeeded Bramwell Booth in 1934.



Evangeline Booth

So familiar at Christmas time, the Salvation Army's group singing on street corners and "boiling kettles" for which contributions are solicited, had their beginning in the youthful reformer of 19 who was almost stoned to death preaching in slums and denouncing "rum." Penniless and with four children, the Booths worked tirelessly in London amid taunts of critics, yet old General Booth lived to banter with jovial King Edward and be consulted by heads of European governments.

"Hallo, old man! How you've changed? What's making you look so old?"

"Trying to keep young," was the gloomy response.

Final Rites Held For Lloyd Mathews

Funeral services for Lloyd George Mathews, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Mathews, who died Sunday evening in a Norfolk hospital, were held at the Bethel Baptist Church Tuesday afternoon with the Rev. J. T. Byrum officiating. Interment was made in the Bethel Cemetery.

Surviving the young man are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, and five brothers, Matt Mathews, F. T. Mathews and Glenn Mathews, all of Hertford, A. D. Mathews and W. H. Mathews of Woodville.

Mr. Mathews was taken to the hospital for treatment of a self-inflicted rifle shot about noon Sunday, but did not respond to treatment and passed away at 5:50 Sunday evening.

Indians Lose Two Games To Central

The Perquimans basket ball teams journeyed to Central last Friday night for two games with the teams representing the Pasquotank school and came home on the short end of the score in both games.

The Indian Squaws lost the preliminary game by a score of 35 to 11, while the Indians lost 26 to 11.

It was the fourth game of the current season for the Pasquotank teams which probably gave them the edge over the Indians, but according to Coach Dave Fuller, the local teams played well and he expects the local teams to jump back into the winning column when they meet the Weeksville teams here this week.

GREAT NEW SERIAL OF THE STAGE

"The Poison Crystal." New serial in which love and hate play dramatic roles begins in the December 22 issue of

The American Weekly the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore American On Sale at All Newsstands

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- Bath Salts **50c**
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- Cigar Holders

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