

At Home On The Farm with The City Cousin

Searching for the elementary difference between country boys and big city kids, one of America's ace observers for the press has written: "The product of modern civilization I feel most sorry for is the metropolitan child—the kid who grows up in a big city—whose boyhood is spent—in crowded places where asphalt has smothered the grass—and stone canyons condense the broad sky."

I clipped the column by this man, who, like Ernie Pyle used to do, gets right smack on the inside of whatever he's writing about. I had it in my shirt pocket the other day when I ran across Jesse James out at State College. He wasn't bent on robbing any trains or banks, and instead of the bandana mask usually connected up with the name, the 260-pound young fellow was wearing a natty-green and white checked shirt and an Irish green tie.

Those are the trade-marks of this new Jesse James, and he wears them

proudly. For like the columnist who went on to say that "a boy raised in the hinterlands has time to have fun in the free ways a boy needs," Jesse James has a world of faith in the bright, young sons and daughters of our Country Cousins. He does not look upon his position as Assistant State 4-H Club Leader for the Agricultural Extension Service as a "job."

But it is hard work, and achievements by North Carolina's 96,000 4-H club members is good enough proof for me.

Jesse and I got to talkin' and I showed him the clipping I'd been carrying around for weeks. He read it over, reciting out loud the very well put lines that said: "The country boy can do more things he wants in the way he wants to, and he learns by his own trial-and error method, which is the best way. You don't really grow wise enough to learn from other people's mistakes until you are older—if you ever do."

Big, jovial Jesse liked this expression as the writer had phrased it, and he said:

"Let me tell you, cousin, about a boy who fits right into this picture!"

So he told me about D. G. Harwood, Jr., an extremely capable Stan-

ly County 4-H Club boy who has done a lot of trying and erring in his 18 busy years. He must have learned a lot this way, because, as Jesse related, "D. G. recently purchased a thirty-six acre farm, USING ONLY PART OF THE PROFITS OF HIS 61 CLUB PROJECTS!"

"Jesse," I says, "there is more here than meets the eye!" And I wasn't talking about his loud shirts which serve to announce his presence at sixty paces.

"But it's a fact," says Jesse, with a grin all the way across his expansive face. "Let me get his record for you."

Digging through a stack of records of the twenty-four Club boys and girls who will represent North Carolina at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago late in November, he tossed one over to me. "Take a look at that," he said in a way that led me to believe I was holding a document that might have been snaffled from the Freedom Train.

"D. G. Harwood, Jr., Millingsport 4-H Club, Stanly County," the report form said. Inside, the facts mounted up to a terrific peak of performance. Two capping achievements stood out:

He was named to head the State 4-H Club Council for 1947-48; and he has been in FULL partnership with his father since 1941 in a 193-acre dairy and general farm. His record was an amazing piece.

Then I thought again of the writer's words in that ragged-edged clipping—

"The country boy never falls victim to the chief crime of modern city life, which is—to become a stranger to the land. He may grow up somewhat shy and reserved, but he has an interior self-reliance that makes up for it."

West Favored To Take East In All-Star Tilt

GASTONIA.—Many football fans hereabouts feel that the balance of power in the All-Star High School game at Gastonia High School Stadium Friday night, Nov. 28, may swing to the West because of the representatives on that team from Cherryville and Cramerton, two of the most powerful smaller high schools in the state.

Although the East will draw much good talent from Belmont, Mt. Holly Belmont Abbey, and Lowell, Coach Jack Huss' West team will also be well fortified with players from Cherryville, Cramerton, Bessemer City, and Dallas. Each team will have three men from Gastonia high.

There will be a total of 53 players on the field for the game, 26 for the West and 27 for the East. Coach of the East squad is Dick Thompson of Mt. Holly, and the West mentor is Jack Huss, whose Cramerton Eagles have enjoyed an unbeaten season. 5,000 fans are expected for the game which is sponsored by the Gastonia Kiwanis club. Proceeds will be used to purchase more hearing test devices for the Gaston county schols. Game time is 7:30 o'clock.

A total travel distance equalling 12 trips around the world in 14 months is the flight record of Seaman R. L. Wickham, enlisted flight orderly of the Naval Air Transport Service. In flying 269,000 miles in that time, Wickham served NATS passengers 4,320 inflight meals.

Strangely enough, Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., joined the Fleet in 1904 as a passed midshipman aboard the old battleship Missouri and aboard that vessel witnessed the climax of his career, the signing of the Japanese surrender.

The original American Navy consisted of four warships and four escort vessels. Their names were: Alfred, Columbus, Andrew Doria, Cabot, Providence, Hornet, Wasp and Fly.

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