

### Poplar Tree On Neisler Farm Thought Largest In Existence

ROCK HILL, S. C.—A large poplar tree which measures 20 feet around located on the P. M. Neisler farm, in the Bethany section is believed to be the largest tree in York County and maybe the largest popular tree in existence today.

The tree is standing majestically in the center of a small clump of trees which is surrounded by a large winter pasture. There is a spring nearby, which was probably the reason the trees were left when the land was cleared for farming purposes.

Legend has it that a group of women washed at this spring and hung out their clothes to dry on this tree during the Revolutionary War along about the time the battle was fought at Kings Mountain in 1780. It is said to have been a small tree at that time and one of the women broke out the top so that she could hang more clothes. The tree looks today like it might have been topped sometime during its lifetime. Several years ago romance blossomed on this particular spot. It was a favorite place for picnics, where young people could spend the day in the open with old Mother Nature adding her charm. And there are many initials and dates carved on the bark of the ancient tree.

S. C. Pursley, a 70-year-old lifelong resident of that vicinity said the tree hasn't changed much since the first time he saw it when he was a small boy. He said he used to hunt squirrels in the forest surrounding this tree and had shot the small animals from the branches of this particular tree.



**KOREAN VETERAN**—Sgt. Lawrence E. Wilkins, son of Mrs. Bortie Bennett has recently completed a year's service in Korea. He is serving as a clerk-typist with 8th Army headquarters. Sgt. Bennett is a graduate of Kings Mountain high school and was formerly overhauler with Burlington Mills' Phenix Plant before entering service. His address is Hq. EUSAK, Sig. Sec. APO 301 c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif.

David Pursley also remembers killing squirrels out of this tree. He said it had not been many years since the land surrounding this tree was covered with forest. The tree itself is now hollow inside.

Mrs. Maggie Belle Quinn who spent a part of her life in this neighborhood, said it had been told that Miss Mary Fowler, a schoolteacher, and 16 seventh grade pupils had been inside the tree at once. D. D. McCarter, York County treasurer, said he

### Duplin Man Likes To Try New Ideas

"I don't run a test farm, but I do like to try out new farming practices on a small scale before I adopt them," says Lawton Smith, Negro farmer of Route 2, Warsaw.

New chemicals may give fantastic results for other people, but Smith likes to find out for himself what they will do. So when he hears of some new material or a new practice that sounds good, he tries it out on a limited scale on his own farm.

Riddick E. Wilkins, Negro farm agent in Duplin for the State College Extension Service, reports that last year Smith used a small plot to test the use of ferbam for blue mold control. The results were so outstanding that this year he feels the "ice" is "safe to walk on." He plans to use ferbam on all his beds this year.

Smith's son, Lawrence, 10-year-old 4-H Club member, made 84 bushels of corn on one acre of N. C. 27 hybrid. The average for the neighborhood was about 36 bushels to the acre.

"It looks like father and son will move forward together," commends Agent Wilkins.

and four or five companions had been in the tree to seek shelter from a rain while they were possum hunting in the woods near there.

Even though the surrounding pastures prevents most people from going near the tree, still some drive by the road some 400 yards away just to see the big tree stretching its mighty branches upward.

The best route to drive by is to go up the Kings Mountain road from York, or down the Kings Mountain road from Bethany to Grady Adams' home, where you turn westward. The tree is about a mile and half off the Kings Mountain road.

If all the people who work in the oil industry held hands, they would form a line reaching from San Francisco to Detroit.

## FORTUNE TELLER ORIENT

YOU can have fun figuring out your message from the Orient by use of this pleasant little letter puzzle. If the number of letters in your first name is 5 or less, subtract from 7. If more than 5 letters in your first name, subtract from 11. Now take the result and find your key letter in the word ORIENT at the top of this puzzle. Then, starting at the upper left corner, check each one of your large key letters as it appears from left to right. Below the key letters is a code message for you.

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### Signs Of Spring Appear In N. C.

RALEIGH—A succession of floral tours and shows starting in March will mark the progress of spring across North Carolina from the subtropical southeastern coast to the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains.

Early signals of spring are already apparent in early blooming camellias in the southeast, especially at Orton Plantation and Airlie Gardens near Wilmington and Southport.

In a few weeks huge fields in the Dutch community of Castle Hayne, just north of Wilmington, will glow with daffodils, narcissi, tulips, gladioli, and other flowers grown for market.

The last weekend of March brings the first formal welcoming of spring—Wilmington's fifth annual Azalea Festival, featured

by a "million azaleas." For four days—March 27-30—thousands of visitors will tour such show places as Orton, Airlie, and Greenfield Park in Wilmington. Last year more than 125,000 attended the Festival and the associated \$10,000 PGA Azalea Open Golf Tournament.

The Goldsboro Garden Club will have a tour on April 3-4. A major point of interest for visitors is nearby Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, where a natural meeting of coars on sand bluffs overlooking the Neuse River.

The Southern Pines Garden Club plans a tour in early April. Flower shows are being held by garden clubs of Greensboro, April 17-18; Raleigh, May 1-2; Rocky Mount, mid-May; and Asheville, May 22-23.

Early April normally brings the peak of the spring blooming season to two early capitals of North Carolina which offer assistance to visitors who come to see

historic buildings along their shaded streets. At New Bern, which has more than a hundred buildings over a century old, the Chamber of Commerce furnishes free guide books. At Edenton, guided tours of the town and countryside may be arranged with the Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the D. A. R. The two towns offer these services the year-round.

Another early April spectacle is the blooming of the large tulip fields of the Terra Cella community of Hollanders near Washington, N. C.

In April the color parade is advancing also into the Sandhills resort area of Pinehurst and Southern Pines, where there is a noteworthy display of the State flower, dogwood, against a backdrop of longleaf pines. In late March and early April, peach trees put forth their blossoms in orchards along the Sandhills highways.

At Durham, the Sarah P. Duke Memorial Gardens of Duke University begin a three-month flowering show. Planting in the 20-acre amphitheatre are arranged so that an overlapping succession of fresh bloomings continues from April to July. The gardens are open the year-round.

A dozen miles away at Chapel Hill, site of the nation's oldest State university, dogwood appears in profusion. The Coker Arboretum, containing almost every tree or shrub that grows in the temperate zone, is a year-round attraction.

Spring comes along in April, too, at the thermal belt resort of Tryon on the southeastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. An outstanding attraction is the flower sanctuary of Pearson's Falls, between Tryon and Saluda, which is maintained by the Tryon Garden Club.

In March and April comes a prelude to the main mountain flowering show—the blossoming of smaller ground flowers, such as hepaticas, cinquefoil, violets, trillium, wild iris, phacelia, and mountain blueets. In late April and May, dogwood blooms on the mountainsides.

In mid-May the pink azalea appears, and early in June the flame azalea, ranging in color from clear lemon yellow through brilliant orange to deep red, begins blooming at lower elevations.

The flame azalea climbs toward the top of the higher hardwood slopes in June. Spectacular natural gardens are on Gregory Bald in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and on Wayah Bald, where the John Byrne Memorial Tower offers a 360-degree view into the Nantahala National Forest near Franklin.

A famed concentration of mountain laurel is the Pink Beds of Pisgah in the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, usually at their best in June.

Purple rhododendron overlaps the azalea and laurel seasons with a June appearance of the purple-pink Catawbiense on the

higher peaks along the Blue Ridge Parkway at Grandfather Mountain and at Craggy Gardens, north of Asheville. A new link of the Parkway passes through Craggy Gardens.

One of the largest natural purple rhododendron gardens is on the meadow-like crest of Roan Mountain, soaring above 6,000 feet near Bakersville in Mitchell County. The display usually is at its height in late June. New roads make it easier to reach the gardens of the Yoan.

In the eastern half of the United States there are approximately 230,000,000 acres of grassland.

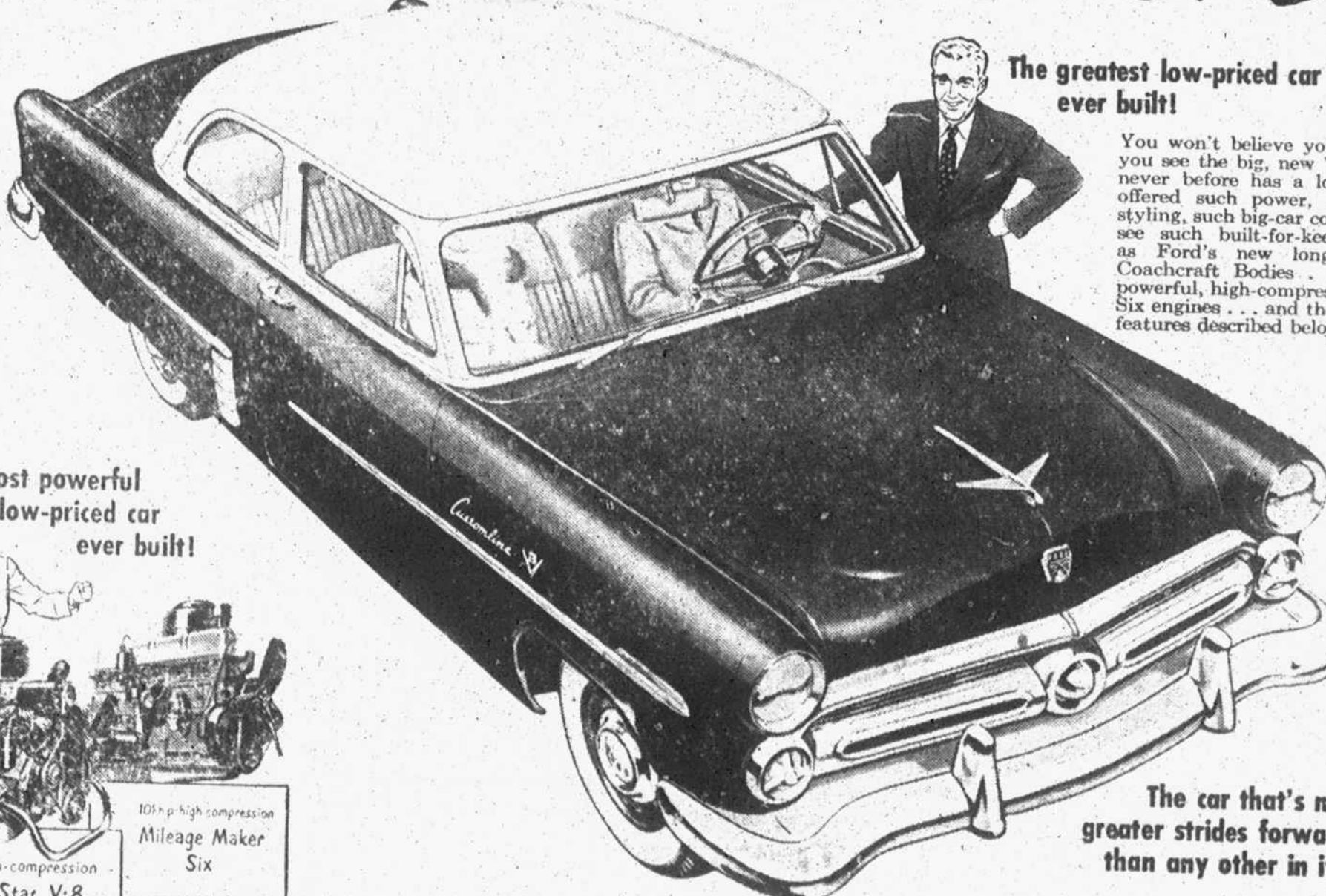
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