

THE TAR HEEL SPOTLIGHT

Every student in the nation learns at one time or another the state capitals by name and location and everyone knows North Carolina's capital was named for Sir Walter Raleigh; but very few Tar Heels know our state's seat of government was almost named Bloomsbury.

That was the original name for the area when Joel Lane, known as the Father of Raleigh, claimed the land and built a new home at the small crossroads of Bloomsbury. Many things have changed since then too. Back in 1760 when Lane built his home in what is now Raleigh, the area was also part of Johnston County.

Later Lane chose to name his new home "Wakefield" in honor of Margaret Wake, wife of Gov. William Tryon (1765-1771).

Ten years later, the General Assembly reduced the size of

Johnston, Orange and Cumberland counties, saying the citizens had to travel too far to court, and ordered Lane and others to lay out the boundaries for a new county of Wake.

Lane, a well-known landowner, statesman and politician also served in the Revolutionary War as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served under his father-in-law in the Wake County regiment.

Following the war his plantation and its central location became so popular with travelers he had to build a public inn near his home to accommodate those other than his closest friends. The inn was the scene of many early General Assembly meetings and many government decisions were likely worked out there over a tankard of refreshment.

Lane served as the Wake County representative to the State Senate from 1782 to 1795 and

was one of five representatives to the Constitutional Convention in Hillsborough in 1788 for the purpose of choosing a site for the permanent State capital.

He and other landowners offered tracts of their plantations near Bloomsbury for the establishment of Raleigh. Lane offered 1,000 acres which were purchased by the Assembly for two dollars per acre to become the new capital.

Lane died in 1795 leaving Wakefield to his 10-year-old son Thomas who later sold the estate to his sister's husband. In later years the house changed hands several times.

In 1927 the Wake County Committee of the Colonial Dames of America purchased the home and moved it 100 yards to its present location on Hargett Street, where it has since been maintained as an historic site by the Dames.

Presently the State's archaeology section, under the Division of Archives and History, working with a special class from Raleigh's Meredith College, has been searching for the old foundations from the Lane home or the location of the plantation's outbuildings, such as blacksmith's shop and ice house.

The department's chief archaeologist, Dr. S. Buckman, says old foundations and sketches of the site indicate there may have been a basement and the recovery of any old items or artifacts from the Lane property could be used for display in the restored home.

Minor excavations will continue for several weeks at the site of Raleigh's oldest home, a place that served as the scene of many important incidents in the early history of North Carolina and its capital city.

Average union wage rates for building trade workers in cities of 100,000 persons or more increased 1.7 per cent in the third quarter of 1973 and 4.9 per cent over the year ending Oct. 1, 1973, the Labor Department reports.

Growing Plants Add Cheer

Add a little cheer to your home this winter by growing flowering or foliage plants. Such is possible even if you don't have a sunny window.

Henry J. Smith, North Carolina State University extension landscape horticulturist, says that it isn't always necessary that the window receive a lot of sunlight. Some plants do very well with no direct sunlight at all. They can get along on reflected lights.

Smith suggested that a photographer's light meter be used to check the light intensity near the window where your local plants will be located.

An intensity of 50 foot candles for 12 hours a day is sufficient to develop flowers of bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, Paper White Narcissus, lily of the valley and amaryllis.

To measure the lights that falls on the place where the plants can be kept, lay two sheets of white paper flat, one above the other. Hold a light meter six inches above the paper. Be careful not to cast a shadow.

Multiply the meter reading by four and you will have approximately the foot candles of light that will be available to the plants.

Bulbs take less light than most other flowering plants. Most pot plants need about 500 foot candles each 12 hours and shouldn't be attempted, which will receive direct sunlight, or a large east, west or north window, which receives the full reflected light of the sky.

Smith suggested that if you need more light, use a table or floor lamp. Fluorescent tubes are especially good. Some special light fixtures are available with ultraviolet holders attached. These are "tuned in" to the necessary foot candles needed by the plants.

In addition to the proper

Child Usually Is Spoiled By Parents

RALEIGH. — Is it wise to let children believe in Santa Claus? Some parents wonder if talking about an imaginary gift-giver will foster unrealistic ideas in children. They fear that when a youngster learns the truth he will be disillusioned and distrustful.

Or they believe that children who think gifts come from Santa will be spoiled into demanding a lot of toys, note extension family relations specialists, North Carolina State University.

Are these people right? Should parents get rid of the Santa myth when the child is still very young?

It probably isn't necessary, the specialists observe. Children's play is full of unrealistic ideas—cowboys and Indians, dress-up, imaginary friends.

As he grows older, these realistic ideas gradually disappear and the child makes a normal adjustment to the realities of life.

For most children, this adjustment is a smooth one. There

is no need to shock a child with reality before he is ready to handle it.

In the case of Santa, a child who is left to his own imagination will gradually and smoothly adjust to the truth without suffering any scars of disillusionment.

Also keep in mind that it isn't Santa that spoils children into expecting too much. Spoiling is done by adult who give multitudes of presents on birthdays as well as at Christmas.

SNOW JOB

Whip up some artificial snow for tree boughts or mantle arrangements. Combine two tablespoons of soap flakes with 1-2 cup cool water in a large bowl. Beat with rotary beater until suds stand in stiff peaks. Slow-

ly beat in 1-3 cup instant laundry starch. Apply "snow" to evergreens, artificial greens or bare branches with fingers or a paint brush. Before mixture dries completely, press in ornaments for added attractiveness.

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HOME FASHIONS

As the interest in Americana, ethnic designs, casuals and the natural look continues, greater emphasis is being placed on detailing of home fashions. Denims, dots, gingham and patchworks are receiving attention via ruffles, border designs and delicate embroidering, says Mrs. Edith McGlamery, extension house furnishings specialist, North Carolina State University.

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