

**ABOVE and BEYOND!**

By ROGER P. MEEKINS

"Why haven't you written a book?," a friend asked a few days ago when he learned that I am a graduate of the school of journalism at the University of North Carolina. Evidently, I must have looked blank for a few seconds while searching my mind, only to tell him that I had hardly written any letters in the past six years, much less a book.

When I left school in 1954, Dean "Skipper" Coffin told me then: "Roger, I realize that you're going into service for a while, but you shouldn't let that interfere with your writing. It's something you should keep up with, because you'll get out of touch if you don't practice it." The man I admired so much was quite right. I haven't practiced it, and I'm out of touch. The most I've written in several years are some stilted, gobbledegooked reports of a military nature which, when reduced to common language, could have been said in one-third the space and words, and with greater understanding.

This column, "Above and Beyond," is my attempt to get in touch again. In my travels over the United States and other parts of the world, occasionally I see something which would be of interest to the homefolks, and in the future I will attempt to tell you my impressions of some of them. "Above and Beyond," a title appropriate for something beginning in this dawn of an age in history, will bring enlightenment which is beyond the ordinary grasp of daily activities. But I promise no regularity, or great revelations; rather, information of interest to the average man.

"The sky's the limit," is the axiom which appeared popular during the time that I was growing up. But this is no more, for we know that soon we'll be able to travel above that, and beyond. Within a year or so the United States will probably put a man into space; at least in orbit around the earth for a few hours. And in this same decade other men will view the earth as we now view the moon.

In the generations yet to come there will be no end to explorations, for astronomers estimate that there are more bodies in the heavens than there are grains of sand on all the seashores of this world. The next immediate decades will offer opportunities unimaginable to those who are not now yet in grade school. There will be stronger demands for development of the mind—of thinking and reasoning—as these youngsters mature and take their places under the sun—our sun, the sun that gives us heat and life and love.

The inventions which will come about as a result of space research will be numerous. We will be able to heat our homes by the sun, watch television on many channels from all over the world, see new colors, control the weather; literally thousands of new things will evolve as a result of present research.

Doubtless there will be some transcendentalisms affecting many of the religions of the world, as

**BELHAVEN PERSONALS**

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Williams of Swan Quarter visited here on Thursday.

Mrs. W. H. Dodd and Mrs. Lonnie Hodges visited friends in New Bern and Morehead on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. J. Willis Hodges motored to Raleigh on Wednesday.

Hugh Fortescue of Washington was a visitor here on Thursday.

Mrs. H. E. Boyd, Jr., was among the persons from the W.R.R.F. radio station listening area invited to celebrate their birthdays at the St. Patrick's Day Birthday party held at the Steak House in Washington on March 17th. Each one was interviewed on the air and given a number of gifts by the sponsors of the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Vann Latham motored to Greenville Monday.

Mrs. Thurman Spencer, Mrs. Ben Spencer, Mrs. John Lupton and Mrs. W. H. Dodd were in Washington Monday shopping.

Mrs. M. L. Windley, Mrs. H. G. Brumsey and Mrs. R. B. Edwards visited Mrs. Ethyl Gibbs at Sladesville on Tuesday.

Dr. and Mrs. William Miller of Hadden Heights, N. J., are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Phelps.

Orville Clark has returned from a business trip to California.

Mrs. Joshua McKinney was the guest of Mrs. M. L. Windley on Tuesday.

Mrs. D. A. Rouse was a visitor in Washington Wednesday.

Rev. John Broom was in Greenville on Wednesday night.

Mrs. L. C. Bissett and children are visiting relatives in Bailey.

John Thomas and Harold White were in Sladesville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hoverin visited Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Edward Sawyer Sunday.

H. S. Windley was in Raleigh on Saturday.

Rev. L. C. Bissett motored to Bailey Tuesday to visit friends and relatives.

Miss Martha Wilkinson of At-

lantic Christian College, Wilson was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Heber Wilkinson Sunday.

Mrs. Paul Dawson visited her daughter and son-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. Robert McKinzie, over the week end. Gene Johnston, employed in Alexandria, Va., spent the week end here with his family. Aubrey Sample of Elizabeth City was a visitor here Thursday.

**Shrubbery Sale**  
The Matcha Pungo Garden Club is selling shrubbery on the Fannie Mebane Ralph Memorial Library lot. Azaleas, camellias, hollies and pittisporum. Pick out your plants now.

**Meeting Changed**  
The Matcha Pungo Garden Club will not meet on March 28th as scheduled but will meet on April 4th at the community building for an all day meeting. Mrs. J. B. A. Daughtridge, State Garden Club president will lecture and give a demonstration on flower arranging. The public is invited to attend. There will be a small charge of \$1.00, please let Mrs. Vann Latham know if you plan to attend.

**TYPING CONTEST**  
Mrs. John R. Brinson of Belhaven announces that the Eastern District Typing Contest was held on March 22nd at East Carolina College in Greenville. Members of the first and second year typing classes of the John A. Wilkinson High School took part. First year members are, Marie Tetterton, Faye Warren, Eleanor Cahoon and Bobby Noble. Second year Carolyn Jordan, La Rue Forman, Geraldine Baum and James Ray Adams. They were accompanied to Greenville by Mrs. Brinson.

**TREE PLANTING NOW MAJOR FARM ACTIVITY**

"Business is booming." That's what John Gray says about North Carolina's forest tree planting. Gray is head of forestry work for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.

"The 1950's brought a tremendous increase on the number of tree seedlings farmers set each year. Before 1950, tree planting was a minor land use practice," says Gray. He points out that only 12,000 acres were set in the winter of 1949-50. But by 1957 the plantings had jumped to 100,000 acres.

Why this terrific increase there are several reasons. "The Soil Bank program has had a lot to do with it," Gray declares. "The Conservation Reserve phase of the Soil Bank has encouraged many farmers to take all or part of their farms out of row crops and put them in trees."

What about the future? "It looks like the boom may be slowing down some," the forester says. "Plantings seem to be shifting from open land to cutover woodland. However, I'm sure that tree planting will continue to be a major land use practice in North Carolina for many years to come."

**1960 EASTER SEAL CHILD VISITS WITH GOVERNOR**



The 1960 Easter Seal Appeal was formally presented to North Carolinians when the first sheet of 1960 Easter Seals was sold to Governor Hodges last Saturday by the 1960 Easter Seal Child.

Five-year-old Deborah Lu Ferguson who made the trip from

Winston-Salem to the Governor's Mansion has been looking forward to seeing Governor Hodges, and to posing for pictures with the chief executive. Debbie Lu, as she is called, insisted that she keep her braces off as she "wanted to look pretty for the Governor."

Taking part in the ceremony with Hodges, who served one year as State Easter Seal Chairman before he entered politics, was the 1960 Easter Seal Chairman, Judge Susie Sharp of Reidsville and Dr. Edgar T. Thompson, president of the North Carolina Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the sponsoring agency of the Easter Seal Appeal.

Debbie Lu, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ferguson, was disabled from birth, and is compelled to wear back and leg braces and use a wheel chair. She has been treated at Duke Hospital and at the Bowman Gray Hospital, and presently is attending the Children's Center in Winston-Salem. The diagnosis of her condition is a marked muscular weakness with the medical term of amyotonia congenita.

A precocious child, Debbie is a complete extrovert. She is beginning to stand when in her braces, and hopes soon to "graduate" to crutches. Reading is her favorite pastime, but she has time to watch her favorite programs on television and receive some of her neighbor friends.

**MRS. KATIE GIBBS HONORED BY FRIENDS NEAR PONZER**

Mrs. Rufus Smithwick and daughter, Sybble, gave a surprise birthday party at their home, Route 1, Belhaven, N. C., on March 11, honoring Mrs. Katie Gibbs.

Refreshments were served in the dining room, with all seated at the table. Spring flowers and candles decorated the table, where the cake, nuts and mints were arranged. Coffee was served as the beverage.

After the refreshments were served, Mrs. Gibbs' opened her many nice gifts.

Others attending were: Mrs. Guy Stowe, Mrs. Mary Radcliffe, Mrs. Blanche Satterthwaite, Mrs. Preston Simmons, Miss Ola Simmons, Mrs. Lillian Clayton, Mrs. Otis Clayton and Mrs. Naomi Satterthwaite.

**SLADESVILLE PERSONALS**

Mrs. Ludie Midyette and Lora Lee Midyette of Greenville were week end visitors of Mrs. Travis Flowers and Mrs. Henry Lee Swindell.

Mrs. Leamon Sawyer is visiting relatives at Swan Quarter.

Miss Louise Cushill visited in Roanoke Rapids.

Mrs. Harold Spencer visited in and around Swan Quarter Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Flowers were Wednesday visitors in Belhaven.

H. P. Fortescue of Washington visited here this week.

**SALES INCREASE**

ATLANTA, Ga., Mar. 18.—Colonial Stores reported sales for the four-week period ending February 27, 1960 amounted to \$33,820,075 compared with \$33,017,918 for the corresponding period last year—an increase of 2.4 per cent. Sales for the year to date were reported as \$67,661,563—an increase of 2.6 per cent over sales of \$65,933,548 at the same time last year. The above sales reflect Company operations in ten states and indicate there were 462 stores in operation February 27, 1960 compared to 476 a year ago.

**ASC OFFICE MEASURING WHEAT ACREAGE IN HYDE**

Farms on which wheat is produced in Hyde County are being surveyed by an ASC representative. Wheat is a crop under allotment and marketing quotas. Acreages must be pre-determined before a marketing card may be issued. A penalty is provided for wheat marketed otherwise.

There are some farms believed to have not been reported. While someone is in the area working, is the time to make this report and get the quota established. It is important to get in touch with the ASC office at once, if farmers wish

**MISS MARTIN ENTERTAINS**

Miss Pattie Lou Martin entertained her bridge club at her home on West Main St. Thursday night. Members playing were: Mesdames Vann Latham, Delma Tolan, Jimmie Kinion, Bob Roberson, Bill Clagon, Lonnie Moore, William Moore and Miss Mary Costulis. During play the hostess served candies and salad nuts and at conclusion a salad plate and coffee. High score was won by Mrs. Jimmie Kinion and low by Miss Mary Costulis.

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