

The Manassas Journal

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MANASSAS, VIRGINIA, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1923

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

AN INCIDENT OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

Interesting Clipping Sent By a Former Resident Tells of Novel Occurrence.

(By R. W. Merchant)
Richmond, Va., April 30, 1923.
Editor of The Journal:

I have in my possession a newspaper clipping, yellow with age, that relates to an incident that occurred in Manassas very nearly fifty years ago, and no doubt would prove of interest to many of your readers, especially of the older set who will remember the novel occurrence.

To quote the clipping referred to would give a more comprehensive detail of the occurrence, especially as I was at the time the bone of contention, than to do so otherwise.

The clipping was a special to a Richmond paper and makes the following statement:

"I note from recent press stories that a certain Alabama Congressman had brought about an election in his district to determine the choice of the patrons of a certain postoffice of two or more applicants for postmaster, and claiming such referendum to be the first of the kind within the history of the national government.

"The claim doubtless was made unadvisably, as the records of the postoffice department will show. In the fall of 1873, Hon. Lewis McKenzie, then Representative in Congress from the Eighth Congressional District, ordered an election to determine the choice of the patrons of the Manassas postoffice of two applicants for the office, namely, Mrs. Andrew J. Pine and Jacob DePue, resulting in the choice, by a large majority, of Mrs. Pine, who served with marked acceptability for at least two terms. I dare say that this election was the first of its kind within the history of Virginia, if not, indeed, within the history of the Postoffice Department.

"As the Postmaster General's order for the election provided that all patrons of the office without regard to sex, color or previous conditions of servitude should be included in the electorate, it was the first case in Virginia where women were accorded the elective franchise.

"This extraordinary occurrence was brought about in the following manner: When Col. H. W. Cunningham, the first postmaster of Manassas after the war among the states, resigned the office of postmaster, he did so in favor of his deputy, R. W. Merchant, who also was clerk in the mercantile establishment of Merchant & Son, in whose establishment the postoffice was kept.

"It was known by the Representative in Congress and also by the Postmaster General that Mr. Merchant was a democrat, the appointment being made solely upon the strong recommendation of Col. Cunningham as to the popularity and fitness of Mr. Merchant for the office of postmaster.

"Though there were murmurings from the county republican committee against a democratic postmaster under a republican administration, Mr. Merchant, through the favor of Representative McKenzie, was permitted to hold the office until the advent of the presidential election of 1873.

"It was then that the county republican committee determined to force the issue and accordingly sent a delegation to Mr. Merchant with the demand that he go to the polls and vote the republican ticket or resign as postmaster. Mr. Merchant had recently taken unto himself a wife and with the aid of the meagre salary of the postoffice and a small stock of groceries, was eking out a scanty living when this alternative was ruthlessly thrust upon him. He met the demand in the following language: 'Gentlemen, it was known to your representative in Congress, when he recommended my appointment, that I was a democrat, though never having cast a vote, having just reached my majority. I have endeavored to discharge the duties of this office faithfully and efficiently, and if you will submit the question of my remaining in this office to the patrons thereof I will abide their decision if it should mean my resignation, but it shall never be said that I deserted my party or did violence to my political faith for the emoluments of a petty country postoffice.'

Based upon the foregoing statement, political pressure was so strongly brought upon Representative McKenzie that he was forced to recommend Mr. Merchant's removal from the office of postmaster, and so notified him, at the same time offering him a government position of vastly

PLANS FOR CANNERY FAIL TO MATERIALIZE

Scarcity of Acreage the Reason Given for Not Locating in This Community.

(W. L. Browning, County Agent)
I very much regret having to advise those farmers who had promised to furnish tomatoes for the proposed canning plant, that I have been informed by the manager that he will be unable to locate here with the small amount of acreage we have promised.

I want to assure these farmers that I have done everything in my power to get this company to come here, and after they positively refused to do so, I tried to organize a local company, but owing to the lateness of the season it was not deemed wise.

Considering all things, we will not be able to get a cannery located here this season, but hope that a local company will be arranged during the coming fall and will be in shape to do a good business in a year from now.

I would like to advise those farmers who are having their corn tested this time, that the reading will take place this coming Saturday, and we will be glad to have all farmers having corn in the germinator to come and see the results of the test.

A number of farmers have taken advantage of having their corn tested for root rot and there have been some unexpected surprises.

Some of the apparently best corn has proved to be the poorest for seed on account of its infection with rot disease.

ARBOR DAY OBSERVED

Interesting Program Rendered—Trees Planted on High School Campus.

Last Friday was observed as Arbor Day by Bennett School Patrons' League.

An interesting program appropriate to the day was rendered by the pupils of the seventh grade, under the capable direction of Miss Ruth Smith, assisted by Mrs. Compton, one of our most obliging patrons and a talented musician.

The program consisted of several readings and recitations with the tree as the theme, interspersed by several class choruses, a piano solo, and a violin and piano selection.

A short business session followed. A report on the Tom Thumb Wedding disclosed the fact that owing to the inability of the director to fix a date before the last of May, the entertainment would have to be given up on account of several other school entertainments being scheduled for that time.

The league president suggested the advisability of the league's undertaking to have the ceiling and side walls of the primary room retinted, since all the public meetings of the school are held in that room, and the surface of the walls is flaking off in places. But owing to a depleted treasury, no action was taken on the matter at this meeting.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, the league members, accompanied by the division superintendent, adjourned to the campus, where all assisted in the planting of a dog wood tree. The principal expects to follow the planting of two dog woods with some attractive shrubbery at this point, thus adding beauty to the south west corner of the campus.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Jamison, of Brentsville, were in town shopping on Tuesday.

more importance than the Manassas postoffice, but such offer was declined.

Mr. George C. Round succeeded Mr. Merchant, but remained in office only a short time, and when it became known that he intended to resign as postmaster, the rivalry for his successor took place between Mrs. Pine and Mr. DePue, with result as stated. Thus it will be seen that Manassas has the distinction of inaugurating two innovations: the selection of a postmaster by popular vote and furnishing the cradle in which the principles involved in the nineteenth amendment to the federal constitution was ultimately rocked.

It is due Mrs. Pine to say that Manassas never enjoyed a more popular and efficient postmaster than she, and when, under the Mahone regime, she was removed, and Samuel Martine appointed to the position, although he resided at the time a distance of fifteen miles from Manassas and had never received a letter through the Manassas postoffice, there was a strong petition sent to the postmaster general, signed largely by prominent democratic patrons of the office praying her retention in office.

RAG-DOLL TESTER PRIMARY FACTOR

A Review of Recent Investigations on the Control of Corn Disease.

(Contributed by James Godkin, V. P. I. Department of Plant Pathology, Blacksburg, Va.)

For the past few weeks we have been emphasizing the corn improvement work for Prince William county by the control of root rot diseases. If you will bear with us a little while longer we would like to present a few additional and final facts on this problem before we finish the corn testing work.

Recent investigations by several agricultural experiment stations on the control of root, stalk and ear rot diseases of corn, have shown that recommended control practices such as field selection and use of the modified rag-doll germinator will both decrease the amount of disease and increase the yields.

In Delaware a demonstration was carried on, by planting in the field, seed corn which had been selected by germination tests. The corn which showed up as weak and diseased on the germinator averaged from 5 to 10 per cent more missing plants than the corn which showed up as strong on the germinator.

Pennsylvania reports that continued work on the root and ear rot diseases of corn has added considerably to the evidence that they are an important factor in Pennsylvania corn growing. Their results carried on during 1919, 1920 and 1921 have led to the conclusion that "The use of the germinator test for farmers growing a well bred variety of corn for seed purposes seems advisable."

Ohio reports progress after three years of careful investigation on the prevention of corn root rots. Their results may be briefly summarized as follows: Both diseased and disease-free corn were planted on drained and undrained land. On drained land the disease-free seed showed an increase of 60 per cent over the diseased seed. On the undrained land the disease-free seed showed an increase of 28 per cent over the diseased seed.

Experiments carried on in Illinois over a period of three years have shown that it is possible to increase the yields from 10 to 15 bushels per acre by following recommended practices.

Recommended practices are so well thought of in Indiana, that corn germinators have been established in 50 counties in this State. Virginia has three germinators, one of which is located at Manassas, but recent intensive work in Virginia on the control of these diseases shows that where recommended control practices are followed, the percentage of disease is decreased in the field, and the yields increased.

Control practices consist of field selection, discarding rough and over-starchy ears after curing, and germinator selection. It should be borne in mind that the carrying out of these practices calls for an all-year round program. If this program is adhered to for a period of years, the standard and quality of Prince William county's corn will be greatly increased. The hope of improvement of the corn here and elsewhere in the State rests with the farmer himself.

In conclusion, we might say that all of the corn used for planting on the college farm at Blacksburg (about 900 ears) has been tested by the rag-doll germinator method, and we plan to follow up this germination work later with field selections.

BIRTHDAY DINNER

Mrs. D. C. Cline, of Dumfries, entertained Saturday evening, April 28, in honor of Dr. D. C. Cline's birthday. Covers were laid for the twelve guests present:

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Ratcliffe, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Speake, Mr. Lovell and Mr. Guy Cline, of Quantico, Mr. H. F. Cline, Mr. Carlton Garrison.

After dinner was served, music and "Rook" was enjoyed by all.

OCOQUAN SCHOOL EXERCISES

Commencement exercises will be held at Ocoquan school May 4th, beginning promptly at 8 o'clock p. m. Admission free. Refreshments will be sold. You will be glad you came and regret it if you do not come. Bring your pocketbook and sweet-heart.

COMMITTEE

Mr. E. M. Boteler was a recent guest of Mr. R. E. Boteler at Remington.

BEAUTIFY YOUR SURROUNDINGS

G. S. Ralston, State Horticulturist Will Assist in Making Homes Attractive.

(Miss Lillian V. Gilbert, County Home Demonstration Agent)

Friday, April 13th, Mr. G. S. Ralston, state horticulturist, was in the county and made plans to do some special work in home beautification during this and the coming years. It is the plan of Mr. Ralston to visit the county again during the month of July and visit the homes of those who desire to undertake some work in making more beautiful and attractive the home surroundings. It is desired that at least 15 or 20 people be urged to take up this work. Any desiring information before giving name for the work may write to or call on the county home demonstration agent, who will be glad to give the desired information.

On April 20th and 21st Miss Lula Walker, state specialist in foods, was in the county for conference and held one meeting, this with the Bethlehem Good Housekeepers' Club. Miss Walker has planned a most interesting course in foods, consisting of four demonstrations in each of three separate communities. This is not only for the clubs, but for any group of women who wish to get the benefit of the work. A most attractive booklet of recipes and food charts have been prepared by Miss Walker, in which she gives a very valuable study in the value of milk and green vegetables in the diet. The county agent will be glad to talk with any group of women who wish to have the advantage of this work. Miss Walker's demonstration with the uses of vegetables in salads was well worth while. This group of women will have three more demonstrations, at the same time it is hoped that two other groups will get ready for the work. At least one demonstration a month.

The time for the better kitchen work is near at hand; it is hoped that it will begin May 14th; plans are being made for that date. Already 18 women have given names for this work. Remember, it is the policy of the women, with the least expenditure, to do the greatest amount of improvement possible. If any one wishes to know whether it pays or not, ask some of the women who have already done the work. Let's get busy; at least ten counties are putting on this work, and there would be more if there were workers in the field to take care of it. We want seven more women for this county. Who will be the seven to get names in first. Several prizes have been offered and several more are wanted. A number of letters were sent to business men asking that they contribute to this work. Some are not inclined to do so, others immediately contributed; some possibly failed to get the letter sent out; anyhow, it is hoped that those will help with the work. Every enterprise that is in progress helps the merchant get trade. It is possible that nothing will be lost by those who encourage things that are for the benefit of those who make up the citizens of our great county and commonwealth.

We hope all those who take the Ladies' Home Journal have read the article on page 160 of the April number "Every Day in Every Way Our Kitchens Are Getting Better and Better." Mothers, don't fail to get in line for the work. Enroll before May 14th. Next week we hope to have an article telling something about what the boys and girls are doing. Father and mother, if your boy or girl has not joined some of the organized clubs, see that they do so; they are missing something that other boys and girls are getting.

CHESS AND CHECKERS POPULAR

The chess and checker parlor of Mr. J. B. Lynn, located in the Reid Building on Main street, is still a popular gathering place for the lovers of these two games.

Last Saturday evening a most interesting chess contest was engaged in by Mr. G. Raymond Ratcliffe, of Manassas and Mr. Leps, of Signal Hill Farm, near Manassas. Mr. Leps was victorious, having won three out of four games. A number of interested spectators were present.

The parlor is open each evening in the week and Mr. Leps has kindly agreed to assist any one present on a Saturday evening, who is interested in the game, in mastering the intricacies of chess.

Mr. C. H. Adams visited at Rosemont on Sunday.

COUNTY TRACK MEET TO BE HELD HERE MAY 26

Interesting Athletic Program Arranged Under Auspices of Patrons' League.

The following is a list of the track and field events to be included in the county field day program, to be held at Manassas on May 26, under the auspices of Manassas High School Community League:

Class 1—50-yard dash, broad jump, high jump; for boys under 70 pounds.

Class 2—50-yard dash, broad jump, high jump; for boys over 70 pounds and under 85 pounds.

Class 3—60-yard dash, broad jump, high jump; for boys over 85 pounds and under 95 pounds.

Class 4—80-yard dash, broad jump, high jump; for boys over 95 and under 115 pounds.

Class 5—100-yard dash, broad jump, high jump; unlimited, all boys over 115 pounds.

Eight-pound shot put and half mile.

Class 6—50-yard dash for girls, any weight.

Class 7—Basketball throw for girls, any weight.

Ribbons for winners of first four places in each event. First place counts 5 points; second place, 3; third place, 2; fourth place, 1.

ALL-DAY PICNIC JULY 21

Old-Fashioned Virginia Dinner to Be Given for Benefit of Park.

At a meeting of Manassas Chapter, U. D. C., held at the home of the president, Mrs. W. A. Newman, on Wednesday afternoon, it was decided to hold an all-day picnic on the battlefield, in the grove near the Henry House, on July 21, the anniversary of the first battle of Manassas. The chief feature of the day will be a regular old-fashion Virginia dinner, with plenty of fried chicken and ham.

Prominent speakers will be present who will make brief addresses, and it is hoped that it will be possible to get the Marine band from Quantico to furnish music during the day.

A fuller notice will be given at a later date when all the plans have been perfected. This is to be a community affair, and it is hoped and expected that every public-spirited citizen will assist in every possible way in making the occasion a big success. The proceeds will go to the Battlefield Park Association.

COW TEST RECORD FOR APRIL

High Herd for Month Owned by M. J. Shepherd, of Nokesville.

During the month of April the association tested 555 cows and of this number 55 made over 40 pounds of butterfat during the month and 16 attained the honor roll. The high herd for the month is owned by M. J. Shepherd, of Nokesville. A herd of 14 grade Holsteins averaging 33.8 pounds of butterfat. The high cow in the association is owned by F. A. Lewis, of Manassas. She produced 2174 pounds of milk containing 71.14 pounds of fat.

Following is a list of the cows making the honor roll:

F. A. Lewis, Manassas—Segis Queen, H., 2174 lbs milk; 71.14 lbs fat.

Clover Hill Farm, Manassas—Ladena, Gr. J., 1223 lbs milk; 70.93 lbs fat.

Ben Lomond Farm, Manassas—Mercedes Pietertze Aggie De Kol, H., 1598 lbs milk; 70.31 lbs fat.

J. B. Manuel, Nokesville—Brownie, Gr. H., 1552 lbs milk; 68.29 lbs fat.

Ben Lomond Farm, Manassas—No. 55, Gr. J., 881 lbs milk; 60.79 lbs fat.

Clover Hill Farm, Manassas—Serzame of Manassas, J., 1009 lbs milk; 59.53 lbs fat.

J. M. Kline, Manassas—Queen, Gr. H., 1512 lbs milk; 58.96 lbs fat.

Clover Hill Farm, Manassas—Sue of Clover Hill, J., 1265 lbs milk 58.19 lbs fat.

M. J. Shepherd, Nokesville—Rose, Gr. H., 1482 lbs milk; 57.79 lbs fat.

J. N. House, Nokesville—Agnes, Gr. H., 1491 lbs milk; 55.16 lbs fat.

A. J. McMichael and Son, Nokesville—No. 12, Gr. H., 1500 lbs milk; 54.00 lbs fat.

Ben Lomond Farm, Manassas—Belle Clifden Pietertze, H., 1617 lbs milk; 53.47 lbs fat.

Clover Hill Farm, Manassas—Lola of Clover Hill, J., 793 lbs milk; 53.13 lbs fat.

Clover Hill Farm, Manassas—Ayredale St. Mawis Rosaire, J., 783 lbs milk; 52.46 lbs fat.

J. B. Manuel, Nokesville—Nig, Gr. H., 1409 lbs milk; 52.13 lbs fat.

J. N. House, Nokesville—Jewel, Gr. H., 1576 lbs milk; 50.43 lbs fat.

A PLEA FOR THE MEMORIAL PARK

Captain Hamilton Makes Appeal to People of Southland to Preserve Battlefield.

(Capt. T. M. Hamilton)
An Appeal to the People of the Southland to Preserve the Battlefield of Manassas.

Many years have passed since those two great armies that wore the gray and the blue met in mortal combat upon that now sacred ground known as the battlefield of Manassas. Stories have been written, and songs have been sung telling of the wonderful valor and courage displayed by those brave sons of our Southland.

Great leaders have sung the praise of this great army, and have told what they meant to the South. They have told how much they have regretted that they were not able to do more for these brave men, who had made an indelible mark upon this great South by the shedding of their blood.

These brave soldiers after fighting one of the most bloody wars of all history, returned to civil life to build up a new and greater empire. They were undaunted and unconquered although their bodies were emaciated from hunger and rent with shot and shell.

They have built through their wonderful efforts a great new Southland. It is no longer poor from the result of the war but abounds with untold wealth. Its fertile soil, its wonderful cities, the whistles from its thousands of factories tell of its activities. The great South can no longer plead poverty, as an excuse for its neglect of those brave men that suffered, fought and died, so that the right of self-determination might not perish from the earth.

At Fairfax Courthouse on April 28, I attended a gathering of the Confederate Veterans of Marr Camp. Only four or five were there to represent that great army, and their steps were slow and feeble. They had wended their way there to listen to what the Manassas Battlefield Park Association had done toward raising money necessary for the purchase of the battlefield of Manassas, where that great army of gray under the leadership of Jackson and Lee won such decided victories, in what is known in history as the first and second battles of Bull Run. When it was announced that only a small amount had been raised, after more than two years of effort, a look of sadness spread over the faces of those who were present, and they raised to their feet as one man; with bowed heads and measured tread, they left the old Courthouse like men to whom hope was lost, like men who had suffered so much and felt that empty words were their only reward for their great sacrifice to humanity.

No doubt thoughts came to them something like this: "Did all of Southern chivalry perish with the passing of this great army, or did the great sacrifices made by us mean nothing? There are only a few of us left and we have been praying and still pray that we would be able to carry the news to our comrades on the other side, that the battlefield upon which we were victorious is as fittingly adorned as the battlefield of Gettysburg, where our Northern brothers were victorious."

Sons and daughters of these brave men, sound your clarion trumpets, and call the chivalrous and patriotic South to the rescue of these brave veterans; let us see that their prayers are answered. Taps will soon be sounded for them, that will announce the last one has passed to that mysterious realm from whence no man has ever returned to tell us of a reviville. Then let us do our duty, lest we forget.

It is necessary to raise \$10,000 before July 1st or the entire project will fall through. Captain Hamilton has started the subscription with \$25.00. What will you give?

Send all subscriptions to John W. Rust, Committeeman, Fairfax, Va.

HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTION

The Memorial Hospital Association with jubilant spirit takes down its harp from the willows to chant its grateful praise of the first contribution to its building fund.

Miss Annette C. Smith, of Manassas, is the generous winner of this honorable distinction and amount of her contribution is \$50.00. May her gracious example inspire community emulation according to individual ability.