# NOW AND THEN

CANDLES

By Nancy Byrd Turner

Times and customs alter,
The years grow strange
With new manners, new ways,
And many a change.

But here and there a candle
Blossoms in a room
Like a golden flower
Coming back to bloom.

Here and there a candle
On a window sill
Stands up like a beacon,
Shining pure and still.

No light so clear and steadfast,
No flame so true and fair;
A candle in an old house
Is like an angel there.

Candle light for corners,
Candle light for halls
Let's have a candle burning
When the last star falls!

Electric lights are fine and the colors make cities and towns brilliant We have only to remember how radiant our little town looked last Christmas, with its electric trimming. But a candle light is a lovely thing. It arouses a real sentiment in one's heart and seems to say: "This is the time to rest and dream." Romance an dthoughtfulness seem to go hand and hand. So while no one would care to go back to the time when candles were the only light, yet sometimes it is well to meditate in its flickering glow. It was by the light of a candle, that Paradise Lost, was written, it was the candle light that Shakespeare used in writing his plays and many of the classcis of old by the flame of the little Candle.

CHANGES

"Sweet are the uses of adversity" the poet sings. Perhaps the little princesses, Elizabeth and Marie Rose, remember now that they are no longer the poor little rich girls surrounded by governesses and nurses not being able to mingle with the crowd who always remember their superior position, but we read of them in Scotland going to the ten cent stores, going to children's entertainments and otherwise mingling with the common herd. It is well for them. In all the changes and chances of these times may be there will be no queen of England, but the country may become a Democracy.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

There is much talk these days of the under privileged children. Some of the East side certainly had a treat two weeks ago when Lakme was sung at the Metropolitan. Some musicians were teaching the children lessons in music appreciation. Then a test was given, and the best seven boys and seven girls were taken to the Opera and put in a box there right where they could look down and see all the beautiful dresses and sparkling jewels, of the performers. What a wonderful time they had! And after the Opera Lillian Pons sent for them and showed them many interesting things about the lighting and stage effects. This is a privilege which many grown ups and privileged people would rarely have.

A RETENTIVE MEMORY

A retentive memory is something that every one longs to possess. Dickens wrote in his story of the Haunted man, how he prayed at last.

"Lord keep my memory green," Most of us have heard and many have seen Blind Tom. He came here in the latter part of the last century. Although he could not learn at all, he could imitate anything he had ever heard, and always remembered it. He was present at the Battle of Manasas, and composed a piece, which he played, beautifully. One could hear as he played the sound of the cannon, the music of the band, and the marching of the troops.

He had a remarkably retentive memory and was, in fact, a sort of human phonograph.

One of his surprising accomplishments was to stand with his back to the piano and play, with one hand, "The Fisher's Hornpipe," with the other, "Yankee Doodle," and at the same time to sing "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching"—all in such a way that the three tunes were harmoniously intertwined.

In the 1860's Blind Tom visited Washington, and heard some of the statesmen of that day speak. Ever afterward he was able to repeat their speeches with the exact language, intonation, and peculiarities of speech of the originals.

THE EXHIBITON AT PRATTS LIBRARY

Such a marvelous collection of rar books they have, loans from many parts of the country. Among them The Guttenberg Bible, and the first Bible printed in English by Wm. Coxton.

# STATE HEALTH RECORDS SHOW BIRTH INCREASE

Use of approved statistical "yard sticks" on the health record of Maryland for 1939 shows that gains and losses were fairly well balanced and that health conditions throughout the State were generally favorable.

Provisional figures for births and deaths during the year announced by Dr. R. H. Riley, Director of the State Department of Health, show that though there were fewer births than in 1938 there was an important increase in the number of babies in each thousand born alive who survived the perils of infancy; that there were slightly fewer deaths from all causes in all age groups, and a marked decrease in the deaths from certain diseases—notably, typhoid fever and pneumonia.

There were nearly 7,500 more births than deaths. There were 28,311 births and 20,825 deaths reported in Maryland in 1939 in comparison with 28,959 births and 20,857 deaths in 1938. Infant deaths dropped from 1,618 in 1938 to 1,416 in 1939—897 white and 519 colored. The births reported in 1939 were divided as follows: 12,517 in Baltimore City; and 15,794 in the counties. There were 10,548 deaths in Baltimore City and 10,277 in the counties.

Considering the births and deaths in relation to population, the report shows that there were approximately 16 births and 12 deaths in each thousand of the total population. There were 15 births and 11 deaths in each thousand of the white population and 20 births and 15 deaths in each thousand of the colored.

The most significant improvement indicated in the report was in the number o fsurvivors in the youngest number of survivors in the youngest babies born alive in the State during the year there were 50 deaths and 950 youngsters who survived the health hazards of infancy, and started in on another year. In 1938, in each thousand births there were 56 infant deaths and 944 survivors.

Two thirds of the deaths reported in Maryland last year occured among two age groups—the youngest and the oldest. The total infant deaths—1,416—constituted over 6 percent of the total at all ages and from all causes. The deaths at the other end of the scale due to the degenerative diseases of the middle and older age groups accounted for 12,462 deaths, or 60 percent of the total from all causes. Included in this group were the following: Heart disease, 5,667 deaths; cancer, 2,381; nephritis, 2,147; cerebral hemorrhage, 1,740 and diabetes, 527 deaths. There were increases in all of these causes of death except nephritis, which dropped to 2,147 deaths from 2,326 in 1938.

Outstanding decreases in deaths from communicable diseases were shown in those from typhoid fever which droped from 31 deaths in 1938 to 18 in 1939, a new low record for that disease, and in those from the pneumonias which dropepd from 1,351 in 1938 to 1,218 deaths in 1939.

# NEWS GATHERED ON THE PENINSULA

A delegation headed by former Senator William R. Wilson and representing every district in Queen Anne's county waited upon County Commissioner Joseph M. George Monday evening and devoted three hours in trying to persuade Mr. George to toss his hat into the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress.

The session was stalemated when Mr. George pleaded pressure of business interest sand the need of a vacation to recoup his health. The matter is still open with the likelihood that Mr. George will file and will open his campaign upon his return from California.

He and Mrs. George left for the West Coast by motor this week for a six weeks' trip. The Commissioner is taking a leaf from the book of Mayor Jackson who is set for a month's vacation in Florida prior to the real opening of the Spring campaign.

Expenditure of $1,102,000 could profitably be made on Maryland waterways, Army engineers reported today to Congress. Included in the projects were:

Baltimore Harbor—$350,000 for maintenance dredging by U. S. hopper dredges where needed in various sections of the main channel and in the York spit section.

Crisfield Harbor—$75,000 for completion of the project from Annemessex river via Cedar and Daugherty creeks to Big Annemessex river.

Ocean City Inlet and Sinepuxent Bay—$32,000 for maintenance of channel and jetties.

Wishing Creek—$95,000 for completion of a project by contract dredging.

The engineers also said $50,000 could be expended profitably in examinations, surveys and general contingencies by the Baltimore District's Engineer's Office, and $500,000 for preparing construction plans and construction of levees and drainage conduits for flood control at Cumberland.

Included in the list submitted for Delaware was $2,400,000 to replace the bridge across the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at St. Georges, Del., which was destroyed last year in a steamer collision.

According to the Cecil County Commissioners the county-wide assessment has been held up for lack of funds. An appropriation of $15,000 was made in June to take care of the assessment. That amount has been expended and until added funds are allocated, the work of assessor will not continue.

# KENNEDYVILLE

Mrs. James Weer and family visited her brother, Mr. Harry Johnston near Glasgow on Sunday.

Mrs. Vernon Fowler and Mrs. John Spencer were entertained at the home of Mrs. John Boyd last Wednesday evening.

The evening was spent in games, refreshments of ice cream and cake were served and all had a pleasant evening.

Mr. and Mrs. James Robinson are visiting relatives in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bonwill were Sunday diner guests of Miss Sophie Miller.

Don't forget the Card Party Friday evening in the school building.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mitchell are spending sometime in Florida.

Mrs. Haugh, of Baltimore, is spending sometime with Miss Sophie Miller. Miss Miller has been very sick with a bad cold, but is very much improved.

Mrs. Lillie Archbiald left last week to spend sometime with her daughter, Mrs. Russell Fowler and Mr. Fowler in Wilmington.

Mrs. Harry Redmile entertained the Woman's Club at her home last Thursday.

The P. T. A. met in the school building last Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Anna Miller and friend, of Salisbury and Miss Marie Miller spent the week end with their parents.

Mr. Joseph H. Weer, of Washington, D. C., spent the week end at his home.

Dr. and Mrs. Urie left last week to spend sometime in Florida.

Mrs. William Anthony, Sr., has been quite sick the past week with a bad cold.

The Ladies Aid Society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Rasin last Friday evening after the business meeting was over a very interesting program was given as follows: reading, how a guest was entertained by Mrs. Dempsey; Recitation, A Fools Prayer, by Mr. Conrad Los Kamp; Reading, A Preachers Vacation by Mrs. Glenn.

Quartette, Whispering Hope, by Mrs. Glenn, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mr. Los Kamp and Mr. Hague.

Refreshments were served and all enjoyed a pleasant evening. Mrs Dempsey invited the Society to meet with her in February.

Dr. George S. Langford, specialist in insect control for the University of Maryland Extension Service, says that sedium fluoride, sprinkled along the back of shelves and drain boards and dusted into cracks, is one of the best ways to get rid of roaches. Fresh pyrethrum powder is another effective remedy. If sodium fluoride is used, be very careful to keep it out of the reach of children and pets, as it is a deadly poison.

In addition to the above precaution, Dr. Langford advises keeping staples in insect proof containers, covering garbage tightly until disposed of, examining packages of food or laundry when they came from the store, and being careful not to leave any crumbs of food around to encourage the pests.

For further details on roach control, Dr. Langford suggests sending to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a special leaflet on the subject — Number 144-L.


ANNOUNCEMENT

DR. F. A. HOLDEN will be at the Health Center, Chestertown.
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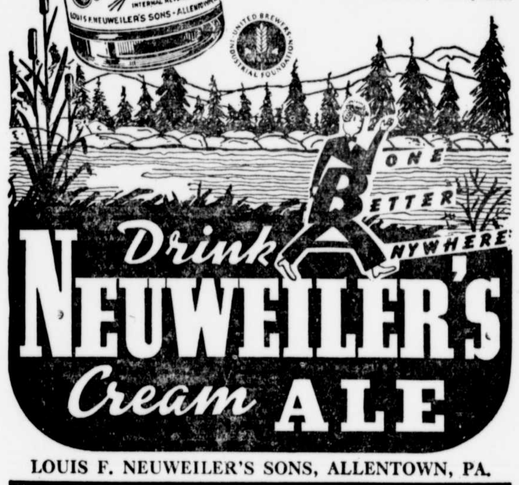


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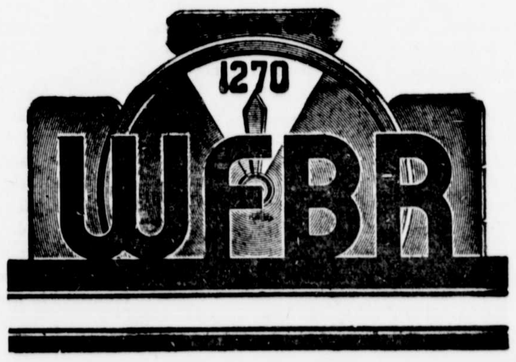


ANNOUNCEMENT !

As from July 1st the contracting and building business formerly known as Charles Page Comegys, Contractor and Builder, will be continued in the same location under the name of

Charles Page Comegys, Co., Inc.

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