## Queen Anne's Record-Observer

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To tell the news accurately, interestingly and promptly. To espouse the best interest of the Nation, Queen Anne's County and the Eastern Shore fearlessly, wholeheartedly.

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### WE SAY IT, TOO

There is really but one subject of interest to Christendom this week: Christmas.

Christmas is in the air. We think of Christmas, and realize that it is right there. And so we, of the RECORD-OBSERVER confine our editorial this week to this one subject. Everybody is saying it, too. And we do say it.

To our readers all over the county, to our advertisers, subscribers, printing friends—and to all of the good people of Queen Anne's county we say with hearty joy:

*MERRY CHRISTMAS*

## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable From Local Welfare.**

* * *

It would be difficult to exaggerate the grave importance of Russia's attack on Finland. It came as a fearful shock to the European neutrals which have been attempting to move heaven and earth to keep the war from spreading. The repercussions were felt strongly in the United States. Paul Mallon, speaking of the reaction of our own officials, said of the Finnish invasion, that "'there is not a mind on high which does not privately believe this is Sarajevo"—in other words, that the fuse has been lit which may blast a localized war into a general European war.

One thing is apparent, in the view of most reporters—and that is that Russia's action was an example of totalitarian power politics at their worst and most brutal. Russia's argument that the Finns started the trouble and threatened her territory is discounted exactly 100 percent in most quarters—it isn't reasonable for a nation of 3,000,000 people to threaten one of 150,000,000. The logical explanation, say the observers, is that Russit saw an opportunity to gain at a minimum cost a long-desired territory. It is virtually impossible for England and France to give aid to the Finns. Germany, whether she ikes it or not, claims to be solidly behind the Soviet desire to dominate the Scandinavian nations. And the other Scandinavian countries are in no position to give military aid to their neighbor.

Prime fear now is the invasion of Finland was simply the first step in a grim plan which Stalin has long had in mind—and which has been held in abeyance until other major powers were so engrossed with other matters that they couldn't effectively oppose his ambitions. Experts foresee the possibility of Russia slowly and steadily moving forward until all the small Balkan and Baltic nations are either absorbed or made puppets of the Kremlin—a technique which the Nazis pursued with great success in Central Europe when they placed the Swastika over Chechoslovakia, Austria and much of Poland. And then they envision a combination of Russia and Germany (whose ideologies are obviously coming nearer to jibing all the time) to dominate the entire hemisphere.

So much for prophecy. When it comes to facts, it does seem that Russia's latest adventure has served to clarify the European situation. Germany and Russia apparently really are allies and are working close together in questions of policy, even though their troops have not fought side by side. The small nations are definitely lined up now on the side of the democracies. And Italy has just about severed the Rome-Berlin axis. The Italian press denounced Russia's Finnish invasion, and uniformed Fascist held public meetings, which were not disturbed by the police, in protest. Best guess is that Mussolini hates Stalin more than he loves Hitler, and that if he is at last unsuccessful in his desperate attempt to keep out of the war, he will throw in his lot with the democracies.

Interesting phase of Russian-German cooperation is what has happened to the Communist party in the U. S. To put it midly, it has been split wide open—well known sympathizers have resigned from its councils, unable to stomach what they regard as Stalin's cynical discardance of Lenin's principles. And the public generally seems to view Russia with almost the same profound distaste with which it regards Nazi Germany. Gone is the day when the world at large looked toward the Soviet as a potential ally of the democratic powers.

* * *

There is much activity on the domestic political front. The hopefuls are busy as bird dogs as time marches on and the convention dates come nearer.

On the Republican side of the fence, the Dewey-for-President movement is getting underway; is well organized and being aggressively pushed. But the political experts don't give the young prosecutor much of a chance It is thought that men high in the party, such as potent Herbert Hoover, feel that he hasn't yet had enough experience, and that his views on big policies aren't well enough known. He has a far better chance for the Vice-Presidential nomination. At the moment, the odds seem to favor the nomination of some man long experienced in public office A considerable group backs minority leader McNary, regardless of the fact that he comes from such a politically insignificant state as Oregon—a tough obstacle to overcome.

On the Democratic side, handsome Paul McNutt, ex-governor of Indiana, ex-High Commissioner of the Philippines, is well out for the nomination His frends claim he has the support of everyone from the President down. But again, the political experts generally consider the McNutt drive as much ado about very little. Many of his backers claims of high political endorsement have been vehemently denied by the supposed endorsers. And it is said that Jim Farley's opinion of McNutt is below zero. Farley, a man who makes and keeps legions of friends, commands the Democratic machine. It is difficult to see how any man he opposed could possibly get the necessary nominating votes.

## BOOKS You May Enjoy

By Graham Watson

It is said that Mr Steinbeck's opus, which still leads the list of the Best Renters, is now to be seen under the arm of every other young person in the New York subways along with the latest tabloid as was the case wth "Gone With The Wind." This is one minor indication that interest in the book has filtered down to the army of one-or-two-booksa-year-readers. It may hold the spotlight as long as GWTW.

"Escape", best renter Number 2 this month, is doing amazingly well and has come closer to "Grapes Of Wrath" in popularity than any other book in recent months. As anticipated "Christmas Holiday" received immediate attention and finished the month in fifth position. There are three new books coming in December that will be in immediate demand, and will undoubtedly become best renters These are: Lin Yutang's first novel "Moment in Peking", which Pearl Buck calls "the great novel of Modern China". The third is Mari Sandoz's "Capital City".

The fifteen best renters based on Nation-Wide reports for November are:

1. "Grapes of Wrath," by Steinbeck.
2. "Escape," by Ethel Vance.
3. "Black Narcissus," by Rumer Golden.
4. "Christ in Concrete", by Pietro di Donato.
5. Christmas Holiday," by Somerset Maugham.
6. Children of God, by Vardis Fisher.
7. "Days of Our Years", by Pierre van Paassen.
8. Country Lawyer," by Bellamy Partridge.
9. "Watch For the Dawn," by Stuart Clothe.
10. "The Brandons, by Angela Thirkell.
11. "Lost Sunrise," by Kathleen Norris.
12. "All This and Heaven, Too," by Rachel Field.
13. "Not Peace, But A Sword," by Vincent Sheehan.
14. "Next To Valour," by John Jennings.
15. "The Sea Tower," by Hugh Walpole.

The best sellers are led by "Christmas Holiday," "Kitty Foyle," "The Nazarene", and juveniles are The Walt Disney "Pinnochio", "A Pint of Judgment" by Elizabeth Morrow, the photo-pay edition of "The Wizard of Oz" and "Sue Barton, Rural Nurse" by Helen D. Boylton.

### WHAT IS YOUR GOAL IN GARDENING?

By the Master Gardener

Do you have a garden—

Because you are interested in making your home as attractive as possible?

Because you are interested in gardening as a hobby?

Because you want the outdoor exercise that gardening gives you?

Because you love the fellowship and companionship with other gardeners?

Because you get great joy just in seeing things grow?

Because you want to win some awards in flower shows?

Some of the above motives are very commendable, others not so providing that particular motive is the sole objective What set me to thinking along this line was the plaint in a recent issue of a garden magazine that at too many flower shows not enough good soprtsmanship was shown in competitive classes—that too many were in competitive classes not for the joy of it, but for the glory of winning. I know gardeners well enough to be certain that this is not a widespread condition. I am sure that it is a rare occurrence indeed.

But regardless of your motive for gardening, you do want your gardening to be a credit to you and I think of Longfellow's words:

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well; and doing well whatever you do, without a thought of fame."

There is much food for thought in this quotation; it applies not only to the fame seekers, but to the whole gardening fraternity.

Are you doing well whatever you do? Are you acquainting yourself with the latest developments in gardening with new tools, new methods of feeding, new varieties of plants being introduced—in other words, are you progressing as the world of gardening progresses? Do you subscribe to some good gardening periodicals? Do you take an active interest in your local gardening club and its projects?

If you are a happy gardener, you are a successful gardener, and doubtless one who is "doing well whatever you do."

## Benefit Payments Up Over October

A seasonable drop in certain industries continues to increase the number of benefit claims received by the Maryland Unemployment Compensation Board but this is not to be interpreted as an indication of a business slump.

Outdoor activities have slowed down and some indoor enterprises are usually dull at this time of the year.

Unemployment benefit payments in November aggregated $325,254, an increase of $13,230 over October, but the figure for November, 1938, was $568,664, or $241,310 above the outlay for the corresponding period of this year.

The amount remaining in the Maryland reserve fund, dedicated to unemployment benefit payments, was, at the close of November, $16,153,055.

Claims in the week ending December 2 amounted to 14,101, of which 558 were new, compared with 519 in the week immediately preceding.

In the four weeks ending December 2 the unemployment claims totalled 52,200 while in the preceding four-week period they aggregated 46,866.

## France Still Supplies American Farm Potash

Despite war in Europe, the American fertilizer industry will continue to receive large shipments of potash from France at the same pre-war low prices, according to Mr. Jean LeCornec, former Director General of the selling organization of the French Potash Mines, who recently arrived in New York from Paris by way of Lisbon, Portugal, and the Atlantic Clipper of the Pan-American Airways.

Mr LeCornec said: "French potash producers are continuing to furnish potash to the American market at the same low prices despite greatly increased transportation costs within France, shortage of labor due to the war, higher ocean freight rates and war insurance."

Heavy shipments of French potash salts have been purchased by French Potash Company, Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York and will arrive at Atlantic and Gulf ports in the early future for delivery to American fertilizer manufacturers. A number of cargoes are now enroute.

"Ships, which carry large supplies of American agricultural and industrial products to France, bring back cargoes of French potash, essential in the manufacture f fertilizer for American farmers," continued Mr. LeCornec. "The French potash deposits are some of the richest in the world, containing enough to supply the needs of the world for hundred of years."

On his visit to New York, Mr. LeCornec is accompanied by his 10-year-old daughter Yannick, one of the youngest airplane passengers to cross the Atlantic.

"Maryland Safety Committee"

## RADIANT LIVING

### CONFIDENCE IN GUIDANCE

By Rev. C. M. Griffeth
Pastor Ridgely M .E. Church
Ridgely, Md.

If anybody ever needed Divine Guidance it was Shackleton and his starving party who were lost in the South Polar region. Their only hope for life lay in finding their way over frozen glaciers to their little hut of supplies seventy miles away. With useless compass, the sun blotted out by a continuous falling snow, their only guide was the wind which they supposed and hoped, was coming from the south.

With only one chance in a thousand, they tortured wearily along when one evening the sun came out and they found themselves on the shores of Commonwealth Bay. After recognizing their position they altered their course and later found the little hut of supplies.

"It is a curious thing," says Hurley, who was one of the party, "It is a curious thing that during the whole of that journey I felt there was some mysterious power guiding us."

The radiant man is always confident of Divine Guidance. He opens his Scriptures and raads: "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord; and he delighteth in his way."

This Divine Promise brings him into closer touch with God. It assures him a Divine control over his life. It promises him that in every momentous decision, in every critical position, in every advanced undertaking ,he has the backing, the foresight ,the wisdom, and the purpose of the Divine Guide.

Morecver, he knows that God is taking a delight in making his life delightful!

—o—

### MIDNIGHT PRAISES

Who has not been impressed with the victorious attitude of Paul and Silas, who, after being scourged, were thrown into the ill smelling Philippian jail.

It was at the midnight hour. Their backs were still smarting and bleeding. Besides, they were facing possible death in the morning.

How did these Apostles face this most disastrous situation? Was it with utmost dejection and with the abandonment of hope?

Not Paul and Silas! They met defeat with prayer and song. The more desperate the situation became the more loudly they prayed. The more their backs smarted, the more courageously they sang.

Is there not something of great value for us in their strategy? Why not face our own distressing circumstances with courageous prayer and praise to God?

It takes courage and it takes faith to praise God when facing defeat. But that very praise will turn defeat into victory. In the case of Paul and Silas an unexpected earthquake delivered them from the prison before sunrise.

Yet with John Bunyan it was different However much he filled Bedford jail with prayer and praise, he found no deliverance for twelve long years. But during those twelve years he wrote a book of immortal fame "The Pilgrim's Progress". Through that book John Bunyan found a release into all the centuries to come.

Should this be some midnight hour in your experience, keep praying and praising God! Satan can never defeat a praising man? Keep praising God and He will deliver you, if He has to shake the prison down to do it.

## THE POET'S CORNER

### MINISTERING TO HUMAN NEEDS

By E. O. Willis

Look each day for some small service,
Some kind act that you can do,
Make some ones load a little lighter,
As you journey this life through.

Give a smile or speak some kind word,
Be it night or through the day,
Do this from the goodness in you,
Not for favor nor for pay.

There are many feeble old folks,
Some are weak and lame we meet,
That would welcome some young person,
To assist them down the street.

Do a good task do it daily,
Always keep this in your mind,
You may some time need assistance,
Or some one to treat you kind.

There is joy in helping others,
Many will not ask a thing,
Yet they need so much the service,
And the comfort you can bring.

### FEMININE'S ETERNAL TONGUE

By Casper L. Newcomb

The other day I was standing
A' front Jim Adam's store
When I spied a lot of women,
Gabbling almost a schore.

Each one was a-talking
While standing on the street
With not an inch of vacant space
Anywhere 'tween their feet.

They made my head giddy
And I felt real ungay,
For every babbling one of them
At once, there, had her say.

A honking, gang of wildest geese
If flying over head,
Could a'bin understood,
Better than what those women said.

## Refuge Of Fleeing Finns Is Kirkenes In Norway

The population of Kirkenes, Norway, has taken a sudden jump. Refugees from the Petsamo district of Finland, where the Finnish and Russian armies are engaged in battle over Finland's northland, are fleeing to the neighboring country.

Kirkenes sprawls along the shore of the Varangerfjord, broad indentation of the Arctic Ocean just arcund the eastern end of the northernmost capes of Norway," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

While the Varangerfjords depth from the open sea—about 60 miles—offers protection for the settlements on its shores, the builders of Kirkenes sought for its inhabitants even greater safety and settled on a deep bay of the fjord which is generously flecked with islands and peninsulas that form natural breakwaters.

In spite of its isolation, without railroads or good roads linking it with larger cities of Norway, Kirkenes is lighted by electricity, and has telegraph and telephone connections with the outside world.

Kirkenes means "church cape" and like nearly all villages in the deeply indented Norwegian coast it is dominated by the lofty spire of a church Higher than that, however, are two tall chimneys of an iron ore crushing plant. About 4,000 people houses near the shore, lending a normally live in the cluster of frame human touch to a region that is somewhat cold and bleak for at least half of the year.

It is in mid-April that Kirk slowly comes to life. Sprin and southerly winds break ice in the harbor A little late tourist tradet begins. It is the "en of the line" of an eight-day sail from Bergen.

Many villages of the northern Norwegian coast largely depend upon fisheries for their existence. Kirkenes has its fishermen, but the earth and forests are the sources of most of the villagesr' incomes. Near the village iron ore is dug from the surface deposits, loaded on a short, industrial railroad and sent to the village for crushing and shipment. Most of the ore has gone to Germany. The lumber industry of the village is fed by the streams into which logs are thown to be carried downstream with the current to the Kirkenes sawmills.

## "Think It Over"

by F. R. STEVENS

### "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

Probably no clause in our fundamental law has created more discussion than this and none is more important.

Physically, mentally, spiritually of course the statement is dead wrong. No two men are equal and we can even go further and state that of the billions of humans who have lived since Adam no two are equal. There is equality of sight only among the blind and equality of strength only among the dead Life means individuality.

The Declaration of Independence was written from the standpoint of law, and from that standpoint "All Men Are Created Equal".

Our country stands practically alone among the nations of the world in giving no official titles, recognition or legal advantage because of birth or wealth.

No person may make or execute our laws unless that power be given them by the people.

We have no King ruling by Divine Right.

No Barons, Dukes or Counts who claim prior rights because of birth.

No dictator may assume control.

When the race of life starts in our country there is a fair field ahead for each of us. There is no governmental handicap. In fact it is the duty of the government to keep the field clear and the race fair The race "is not always to the swift" but the reward at the end is measured only by the way we have run the race.

This basic principle is expressed in all of our public institutions. Our public schools, not only grade and high schools but those which furnish technical education in the Arts and Science are open to every student who can show his ability. In many states complete college courses are available to all who may qualify.

Our country gladly furnishes all this that the path may be open equally to all. This truly is a land of opportunity for every individual. No test as to wealth or social class is applied. No question is raised as to whether the individual is a Catholic, Jew or Protestant This is no charity or concession offered by one religion to another. Their constituents were all here and did their part in founding this country and as the result f that long struggle in '76 those of us here today can claim this Freedom as a Right.

No other country in the world gives such opportunity for self development, yet many of our shallow thinkers who succumb to propaganda are serving as the first line of an invading army in an effort to overthrow our Freedom and substitute the goose-step of Germany or the firing squad of Russia.

—o—

At this season we turn from serious political problems to do honor to the Prince of Peace.

All God-fearing people now look to the Christ of the Christian World, the gentle Jewish Teacher whose words give strength and freedom.

Standing before the Temple in Jerusalem He gave the world one message that was first understood in all its purity by the Founders of our Country.

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

This message was ignored when the Romans burned the Christians at the stake and when Spain banished the Mohammedans. It was ignored again when the Spanish Inquisition brought terror and suffering and when Catholics were persecuted in England. Even nearer home it was ignored when Colonial Massachusetts executed the Quakers and when Hitler drove the Jews from their homes to be scattered over the face of the earth. These black s disgrace the history of humar velopment as surely as they retard our approach to Freedom.

The Founders of our Country clearly heard that message from Jerusalem over 1700 years of wars and persecutions. It came to Patrick Henry in the House of Burgesses; to Jefferson at Monticello; to Washington at Valley Forge; to the mass of patriotic soldiers of the Continental Army. With that message came the strength to found a new nation on the principle that a man's religion is his Personal Right—beyond the reach of the law. Into this nation's foundation stone is written "Congress shall make no law respecting an estabishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Let us lay aside as far as possible our cares for the day and in happiness do honor to Him whose message laid the foundation for our Freedom and to the God from whom will come strength to maintain it.

## QUEEN ANNE

The community was shocked on Sunday morning to learn that Mr. Calvin Anderson, on the border of the town, had committed suicide by shooting himself in the head at his farm home, after first shooting and seriously wounding his son, Ches Anderson, who, with his wife had recently taken over the managem of his father's farm. It is said t Mr. Anderson had been in poor health for some time. Some years ago he was under treatment for a mental ailment, and it is supposed that the trouble suddenly asserted itself in this violent form Three sons and five daughters survive, with the widow ,Mrs. Lulu Anderson. The family have the sympathy of a large circle of friends.

Two plays will be presented at Tri-County high school on Friday afternoon of this week. They are: "Christmas for the O'Tooles" in which the cast will be Pauline Baker, Charlanne Eaton, Marie Hutchison, Mabe Jean Ivins, Peggy Covington, Marjorie Baker, Marie Clopper and Jane McDonnell. And "Ousting Sam Grouch," featuring Rawley Sparks, Billy Potts, Marie Usilton, William Skinner, Beatrice Anderson and Anne Jones. The program will include in addition a monologue, "Christmas Good Will at the Picture Show," by Dorothy Blades. Carols will be sung by the Eighth Grade Music Club The parents and friends of the pupils ae cordially invited to attend the show. Beginning about attend the shows which will commence at 1:30 p. m., Friday afernoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Holden, of Queenstown, were callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goodhand on Thursday and Friday evenings.

## 'Uncle Jim' Says:

Thanks to the AAA program the nation's woodlot is getting the respect deserved. Its annual yield is of greater value than the combined yields of barley, rice and rye.