

EIGHTH ANNUAL VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE EDITION

R  
MISS NANCY QUENSON  
11 SOUTH SECOND ST.  
RICHMOND 19, VA.

*Virginia*  
**RECORD**

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APRIL 1961 • 35 CENTS

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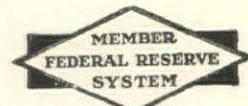
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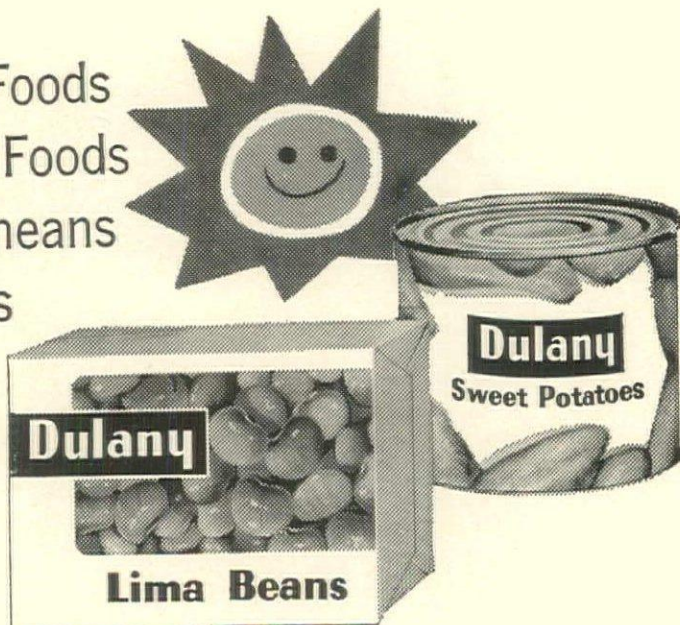


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**"Controversial Statement"**

Editor,  
Virginia Record,  
Dear Mr. Dowdey:

Page 533 Vol. III of Douglas Southall Freeman's "R. E. Lee" states, "At length, as a sort of desperate compromise with Congress, the President consented to the appointment of a general-in-chief."

Page 534, states, ". . . on February 6, (1865) Davis named Lee to the newly created office" (Reference is made here to O.R., 46, part 2, p. 1205.)

Page 66, of "Recollections and Letters of Robert E. Lee" by his son Captain Robert E. Lee, states, ". . . my father was recalled to Richmond, and was assigned on the 13 of March (1862), under the direction of the President, to conduct the military operations of all the Armies of the Confederate States." (Reference is made here to, "Four Years with General Lee").

Page 144 of Captain Lee's book, states, "He (Lee) had been made Commander-in-Chief of all the military forces of the Confederate States on February 6th (1865). In his order issued on accepting command he says: ". . . deeply impressed with the difficulties and responsibilities of the position and humbly invoking the guidance of Almighty God, I rely for success upon the courage and fortitude of the Army, sustained by the patriotism and firmness of the people, confident that their united efforts under the blessing of Heaven will secure peace and independence."

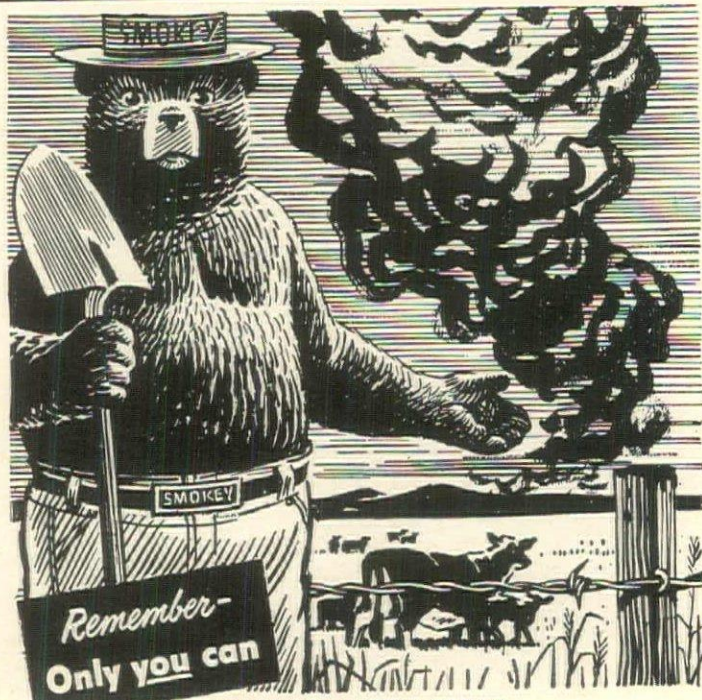
Page 415 of Henry Alexander White's "Robert E. Lee and the Southern Confederacy," states, "In February (1865), Lee was appointed generalissimo of all the Confederate forces in the field."

Page 40 of the Confederate Centennial Edition of the "Virginia Record" states, ". . . R. E. Lee was never in command of any forces except the Army of Northern Virginia . . ."

It would be appreciated if you would explain how you reconcile the statement made in your magazine with the quoted statements preceding it in this letter. You can be sure your reply will be publicized.

The Centennial Edition is an outstanding publication and an intensely

(Continued on page 29)



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NUMBER FOUR

# "Free Tom Mooney"

RECENTLY in a syndicated newspaper column I was surprised to see a reference to the old rallying-cry of "Free Tom Mooney." I have never been precisely sure who Tom Mooney was, but I believe he was some sort of "labor agitator"—as they used to be called—imprisoned in California. Back in the politically innocent days of the Twenties in New York, "Free Tom Mooney" was the password for the liberals, and I recall hearing it spoken in Village living rooms and speakeasies and seeing the words on placards in May Day parades.

That was long before any one conceived of battle lines being drawn between "Conservatives" and a national Party in which "Liberals" joined with labor and racial minorities. Democrat and Republican had traditional meanings ("Out" and "In"), and liberals were vaguely associated with the *New Masses*, the Communist soap-box orator, Emma Gouldman, the Socialist presidential candidate, Norman Thomas, and greasy-looking young persons (precursors of today's beatniks and sickniks) who congregated in Union Square and infested low dives around Fourteenth Street. Occasionally some well-dressed, presentable person would attract attention at gatherings by an unseemly intensity in talking about "new freedoms" and quoting Bertrand Russell as he harangued a startled audience about the new pathways of socialism. These outbursts were received with a mixture of tolerance and boredom, and I remember one such lecture being ended when some irreverent listener called derisively, "Free Tom Mooney."

Whatever became of the California prisoner I've not the slightest idea, as his cause was evidently dropped with the descent of the depression, though I suspect his fate was forgotten when the shadow of bread lines fell across our hours. Today it is said that in each generation the young men and women feel a need to embrace causes. As the times grow more out of joint and uncertainties become the permanent climate, apparently the proportion of causists increases among the young; but if the causes embraced across the past 30 years can reasonably serve as examples, youth would seem to divert its enthusiasm into side issues and waste its energies by shouting protests under noble sounding slogans.

In the Twenties, most of the ills were present that were to develop the economic breakdown of the Thirties and give rise to the power of labor unions, with their Becks and Hoffas. As an obscure pimple of this vast, complex malady, Tom Mooney's imprisonment might well have served as a personalized issue of one aspect of the total problem. That Tom Mooney's actions also may well have violated the state laws of California was beside the point to the causists—if, indeed, most of them knew anything about the law of his case. To free this prisoner constituted the single blow that must be struck, regardless of the merits of his case in relation to the laws of the state.

When the rise of the labor unions in the Thirties negated the appeal of some lonely prisoner, the causists next turned to Soviet Russia, and—with the Depression marking a definite cleavage with the carefree hedonism of the Twenties—it was observed that the Thirties' causists had vastly increased in numbers and respectability. From being a harmless fringe on the gatherings of the "good old days" (and they *were* good), the new causists rose to dominate the literary and intellectual worlds of the East Coast to the point that in the plusher houses of the Connecticut countryside the non-Conformist (Continued on page 33)

to tell the Virginia Story

APRIL 1961


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by G. Watson James, Jr.	

For this, the Eighth Annual presentation of Virginia's agricultural story which tells of agriculture's continuing ascendancy in our Commonwealth's economy — also experiencing rising industrialization and growth of urban areas — we are again grateful to Parke C. Brinkley, Commissioner; John Wessells, Director of Information, and staff members of the Virginia Department of Agriculture for the preparation of the authoritative data we are privileged to present. AND ABOUT THE COVER: Not only are Virginia's agricultural products booming but so also are the beves of feminine beauties in the Old Dominion of which our cover shows one 'midst the apple blossoms.

Best Wishes

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# MORE FOOD FROM FEWER FARMS

## Census Report on Agriculture

Now that the new census of agriculture has been published, there is a new rash of statements about the decline of agriculture but the people who make them haven't looked any further than one set of figures, a decline in Virginia farms from about 136,000 in 1950 to 97,000 plus in 1959.

A few more lines on the same census would have demonstrated very clearly that agriculture is in no decline whatever but actually is in the midst of the most tremendous expansion and increase in efficiency that any industrial segment has ever achieved.

Back in the early nineteen hundreds and nineteen twenties there were many more automobile manufacturers than there are now, but nobody in his right mind would hold that America's automobile industry is in a historic decline.

The parallel is almost exact with agriculture, fewer farmers but much more production and much more efficient production from each farm unit.

The balance of the census figures tell a story. Size of each farm up from 108 acres to 135 acres in just a four year period, 1954 to 1959. In the same period the investment in land and buildings per farm up from \$10,800 to \$18,200.

There are fewer acres in farms as farming gravitated to the best land, but half again as many acres were irrigated in 1959 as in 1954.

Another significant indication of economic advance is the proportion of tenancy on farms, which declined from 17 per cent in 1954 to 14 per cent in 1959.

With the rest of the sign posts in the census, it is the same picture: more fertilizer used, more lime used, more commercial feed used, more machinery, more money spent with all of the industries associated directly with agriculture.

And on the output side, production up for livestock and yields up for crops.

Across Virginia, specialty stores to keep the farmers supplied with his production needs are cropping up everywhere. The country store was branching out into fertilizer, feed, farm machinery and other farm supplies to meet the farmer's demands and also to replace the lost business in foods. Today the farmer's wife gets in her car and goes to

the super-market just like Mrs. Urban Housewife.

Life is better on the farm. Even with fewer farms there are more tractors, even more garden tractors. There are almost as many trucks, 60 per cent more field forage harvesters, over half again as many pick-up balers, 40 per cent more corn pickers and more grain combines, power-operated elevators and conveyors compared to five years ago.

In the farm home there were more telephones, more television sets, more washing machines and more of the conveniences that every city home knows.

Nowhere in all this is there a signpost of a declining industry. Farm prices are lower and costs are up. By producing more units, farmers have been able to stay in business and even live and work under better conditions.

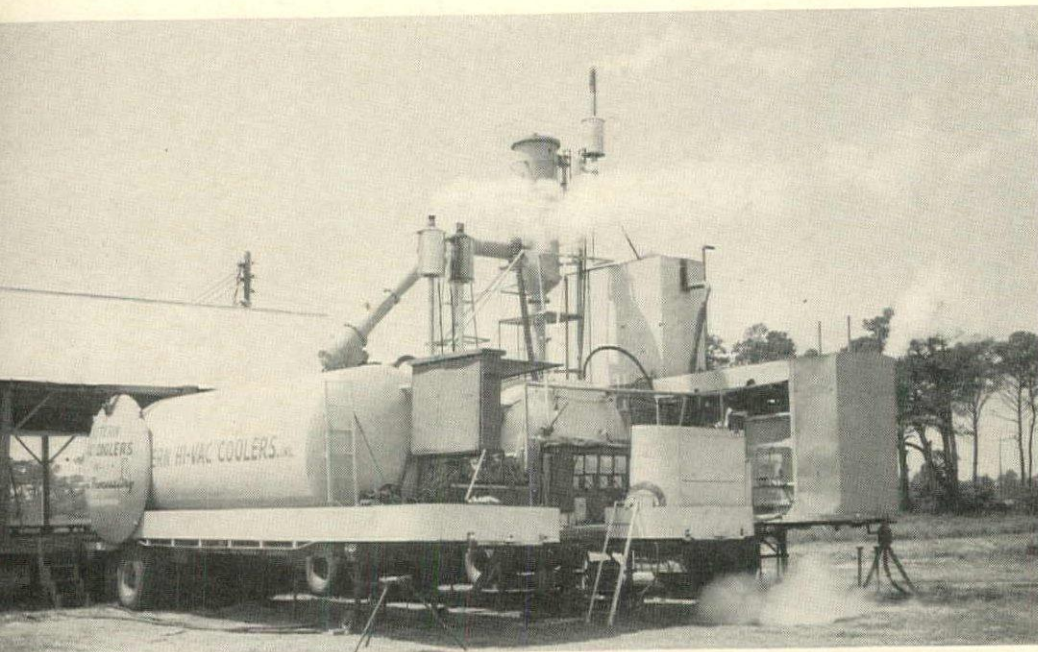
There are exceptions, of course; there always are. And in the rapid change that has been going on in agriculture many farmers have been unwilling or unable to change with the times. Lacking the capital and the land to make a decent living, some of these older farm people have been stranded on the farm with no place to go and not much future staying where they are. But this has been a vital and human problem of progress, and not a sign of a declining industry.

In fact, agriculture still remains Virginia's largest industry, her largest employer, her best customer, her strongest political counter-weight.

This has been so since early Colonial times. Ever since John Rolfe, in 1612 crossed seed from Venezuela and Trinidad to develop what today is known the world over as "Virginia Bright Tobacco," agriculture has been the mainstay that made Virginia the largest and wealthiest of the early colonies and provided the leaders of not only the largest state but a new nation.

Men like Jefferson, George Mason, Washington, came from the plantation with a tremendous sense of responsibility towards people under their charge and a dedication to the new country in which they had invested their lives and fortunes. The heart-pine beams and clapboards of some of these early plantation homes attest to another tremendous economic segment springing from the soil, Vir-

by JOHN H. WESSELLS, JR., Director of Information, Virginia Department of Agriculture



*Vacuum cooling helps produce carry to distant markets*

ginia's timber and pulp industry. From Virginia's virgin forests the colonists hewed beams for their homes, their ships, their bridges and early construction works.

Hardwood provided their furniture and specialty woods like the native cypress provided material for their fishing boats. Today, the timber industry is still one of Virginia's major ones and nearly 60 per cent of Virginia's forest land is owned by farmers. Last year, nearly 35 million dollars worth of pulp wood alone was cut in Virginia, an increase of 19 per cent over the year before.

From John Rolfe's tobacco plantings, Virginia's tobacco industry has grown

to be the major cash crop in the Commonwealth and a source of livelihood for thousands of Virginians.

Tobacco has had a long trek to its present home. It was grown in the earlier plantations until the land would grow no more because these early colonists had little fertilizer and plant foods with which to refurbish the soil. They simply moved to new.

And so tobacco moved westward and southward until it settled on the red hills of southside Virginia and the central Piedmont. Tobacco is one of the few crops that is grown very much as it was in Colonial times with mule and man power.

But today, new varieties and heavy

fertilization produce a much better leaf and much more of it to the acre than ever was possible, in the days of John Rolfe.

Corn, gift of the Indians, is now almost altogether hybridized with each variety made to order. Long stalks for silage and short stalks and fuller ears for grain, each capable of unheard of yields in Colonial terms, many fields producing more than a hundred bushels and some more than two hundred, compared to the acre.

The colonists early found that the sandy soils of eastern Virginia would produce vegetable crops and this they still do. But in a changing world much of this eastern Virginia land is now in soybeans or peanuts.

Peanuts are an old crop, brought to Virginia along with the slaves as easily stored shipboard food. Today, peanuts are under acreage allotments and acreage is declining, but today's farmer produces many more peanuts to the acre.

Soybeans, the miracle crop, have outstripped any crop in the nation in increases in the past few years. From the versatile bean, soybean oil finds ever increasing industrial and food uses and its meal, left over after the oil is removed, is a high quality feed for poultry or livestock.

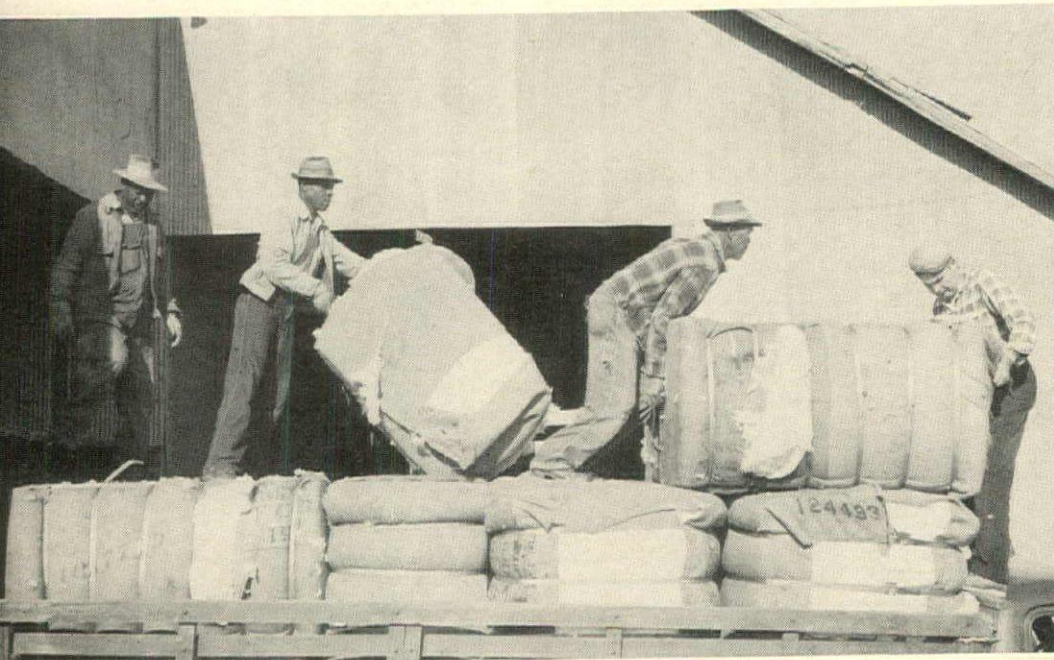
Today, America is the chief soybean producer of the world, outranking communist China which is in second place. The American crop keeps growing, but our demand both at home and abroad keeps growing even faster.

Soybean production in Virginia has grown from 195,000 bushels in 1924 to 5,966,000 bushels in 1959 and no end to the increase is in sight.

Perhaps the most spectacular gains in Virginia agriculture in recent years have been in livestock and in poultry. With pastures that stay green ten months of the year, Virginia and the South are ideal locations for livestock breeding. Our cattle numbers have increased in proportion.

The combination of pastures and high quality hay and silage has made an ideal combination for dairy cattle. Here the number of cows has not increased substantially, in fact it has decreased over the past several years, but milk production has continued to increase. Sales of fluid milk in Virginia have doubled in the last ten years. The State has gone from one producing about two-thirds of the milk that she consumes to one producing 120 per cent of the milk she needs.

After a series of fantastic gains, Virginia's poultry industry is now settling down to a more stable situation.



*'Tote That Bale,' but the riverboat has become a truck*



During the last few years, increases were much less spectacular and in several recent years broiler production and turkey production too has been decreasing as the industry shook down. The foundation is firm and the industry is far sounder and far stronger than it was just a few years ago.

Perhaps the poultry industry gives the best example of what has happened to agriculture in recent years. Just a few years ago, the farmer used to produce his own grain for feed, shuck it himself, throw the kernels out to the chickens in the back yard or perhaps mix a little feed himself if he happened to be progressive enough to keep his birds confined. He raised his own chicks, put his replacements out on range, sold his own eggs or his own chickens direct to the consumer or to the retailer who in turn sold to Mrs. Housewife.

Today, the business of producing a broiler is broken down into a number of segments.

First comes the breeding flock, specially selected strains on both the male

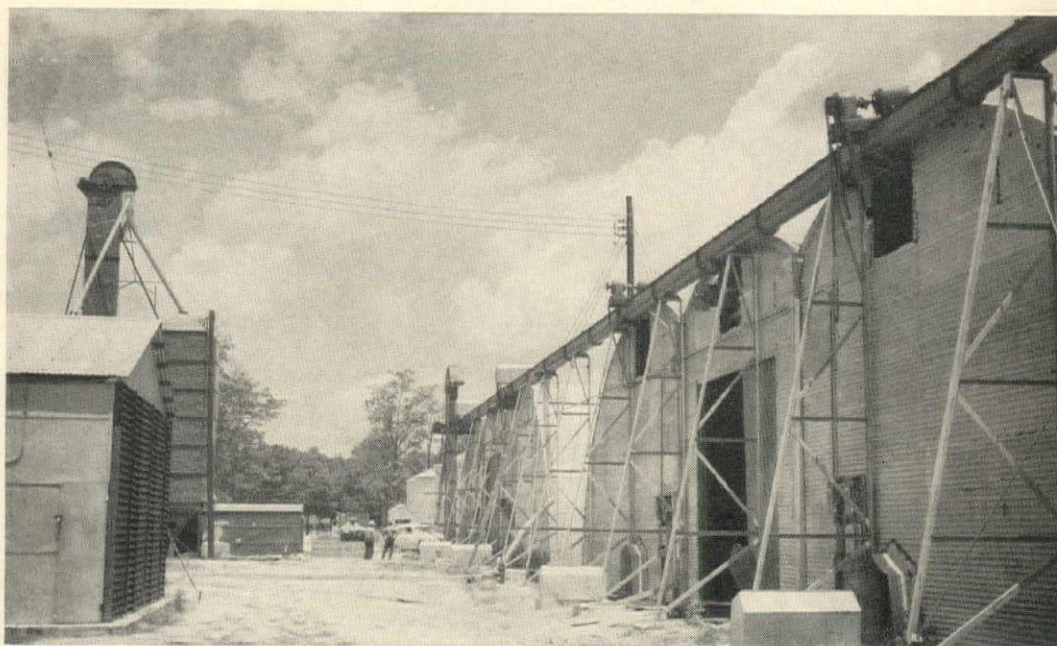
### Unmatched Record

Former Secretary of Agriculture, Benson reports that despite the drop of one-third in farm population, farm output has increased 70 per cent in the past twenty years.

Mr. Benson goes on to say there's no reason why it cannot be more than doubled in the next fifty years.

and female side to produce a bird that will grow to maturity with a lower intake of feed, put good firm meat on breast and leg and do all of this in eight or nine weeks.

One farmer owns and operates this breeding farm, producing nothing but eggs. These eggs are picked up by a commercial hatchery where the eggs are put into huge electric ovens on racks that rock back and forth to simulate the turning of the eggs by mother hen. The chicks are hatched literally hundreds at a time, picked over and graded, and those that pass muster are shipped to the farmer who puts them into huge, automatically operated houses that may hold as many as five and sometimes ten thousand birds at a time. The feed is automatically augered out to them, the water automatically measured. The birds' diet is watched much more carefully than any human's and includes 20 or sometimes 30 different drugs to maintain health and



*Feed grain storage keeps growing*

prevent diseases and to stimulate growth.

When they reach market weight, the birds are picked up in a specially designed truck and hauled to a processing plant where they travel along overhead stainless steel production lines to specially designed equipment and wind up ready for the oven, either as iced birds or frozen cut-up packages for the home freezer.

In this process, the farmer, who by the old methods was hard put to care for two or three thousand birds, can now handle a hundred thousand or more a year.

But this is only part of the story. This same progress in agriculture has created a new industry on the farm

in the breeding flock and three new industries in town—the feed-mill, the hatchery, and the processing plant. This is the real story of progress in agriculture.

With this system, the farmers who are actually left on the farm can produce much more, so that fewer are needed. But these same few today can produce enough food to feed themselves and 23 other persons, where in 1940 each farmer could produce only enough for himself and 11 others.

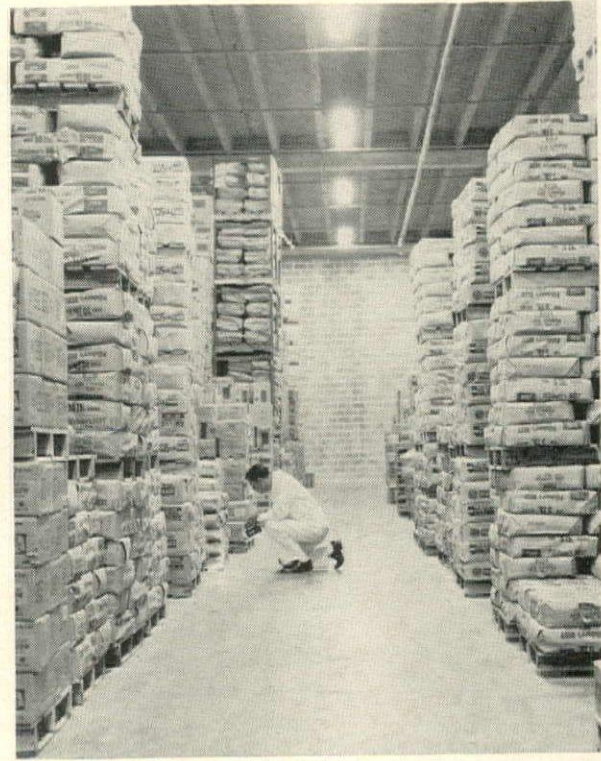
Today, this combination of farmers, farm suppliers and farm marketers are by far Virginia's largest economic segment. Approximately half of our people are employed in agriculture or one  
(Continued on page 19)



*Newest corn harvester, a picker-sheller*



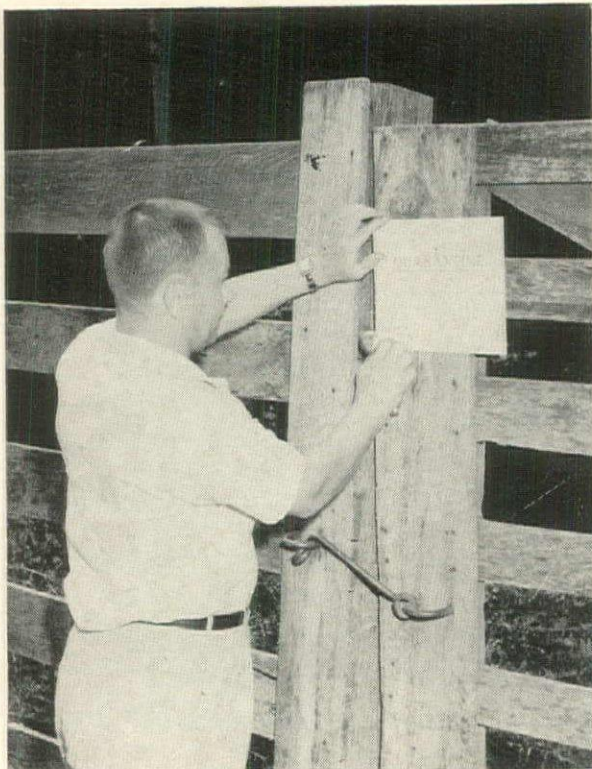
*Left: Gas pumps are checked for accuracy and tagged.*



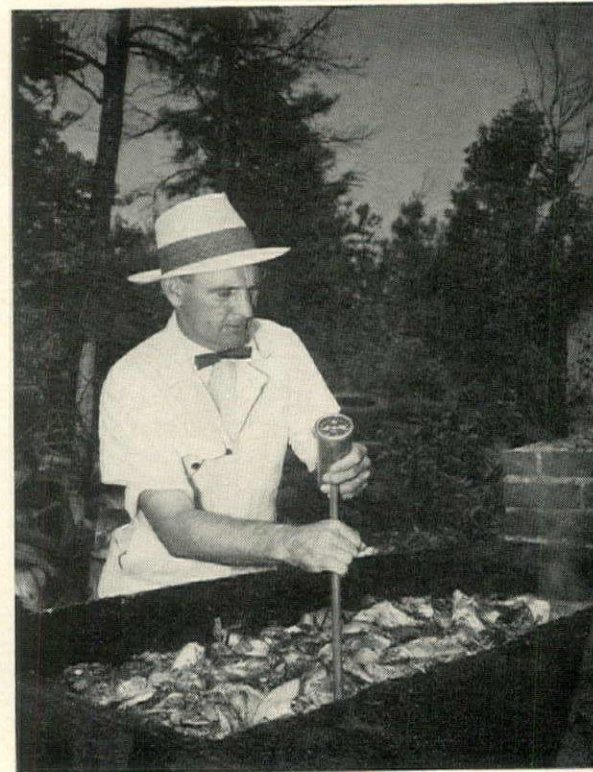
*Right: Food in storage gets inspected too.*

# WHAT IS A STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE?

*by PARKE C. BRINKLEY, Commissioner of Agriculture*



*Left: Diseases are locked in until they are stamped out.*



*Right: Even garbage gets inspected—if it's fed to hogs.*

**W**HEN YOU SAY State Department of Agriculture to most people, they logically think of an official agency concerning itself with the welfare of farmers.

This is certainly true of any Department of Agriculture worthy of the name, but it is also true that the Virginia Department of Agriculture must be almost as much concerned with the problems of the industries associated with agriculture and with Mr. and Mrs. Consumer.

Today, the Virginia Department of Agriculture is charged with the enforcement of more than 49 laws, most of them concerned with seeing that consumers, be they farmers or suburban homemakers, are protected where they cannot protect themselves, and that the products they buy are not harmful and are honestly labeled.

Some of these laws ended up in the Department of Agriculture in a series of consolidations which brought in the old Plant Board that regulated agricultural seeds, the Livestock Sanitary Board that controlled livestock diseases, and the Commission of Dairy and Foods, which enforced Virginia's Pure Food Laws and Dairy Sanitation Laws.

In addition to these, the Department acquired through the years a number of individual laws, including weights and measures for the state and regulating the supply of commercial feeds, paints, gasoline and diesel fuel, insects and crop pests, pesticides of all kinds, a law requiring the cooking of garbage fed to swine, and another law authorizing the voluntary inspection of meats processed in this state and sold for human consumption.

Sometimes protecting consumers where they cannot protect themselves involves both farmers and urban consumers at the same time. This is true of the protection system built up by Federal and State Departments of Agriculture against the importation or spread of contagious and infectious diseases of livestock.

Because of today's jet age, Virginia is less than 24 hours away from any insect or any disease in the world, but it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain that status, so far as agriculture is concerned. We have found that the bugs can ride the jets too.

Not many years ago, the Department had the distasteful task of killing and burying or specially processing about 14,000 Virginia hogs, because they were infected with a disease called vesicular exanthema which had broken loose from California and infested 44 states in a matter of months. But even VE was child's play compared to rinderpest, hoof and mouth disease, African swine fever, or any number of other diseases

which would put most of our farmers and their associated businesses out of business.

For plants, insects and diseases are an equal threat. For more than a year, the Department of Agriculture had to keep 35 men and three spray trucks on duty in a small part of one Virginia county because of an infestation of the soybean cyst nematode, a microscopic bug, which in heavy infestation can cut all the profit out of the yield of soybeans.

Some of the Department's laws charge us with the responsibility of protecting farmers and consumers against these nonhuman threats. The rest of our laws generally require fair play among human beings. These are the laws which say that the gray dust of a fertilizer must contain minimum plant food ingredients, must carry a statement on the label of the principal plant food included in its formula, and must live up to that statement.

The same sort of law requires that full weight and full measure be given in any business transaction where the sale is made by weight or measure.

To cite a more recent and more complicated problem, our laws also provide that farm chemicals shall be marked with specific instructions as to use. Other laws provide that finished foods or even livestock feeds may not include as much as one part per million of some farm chemical residues.

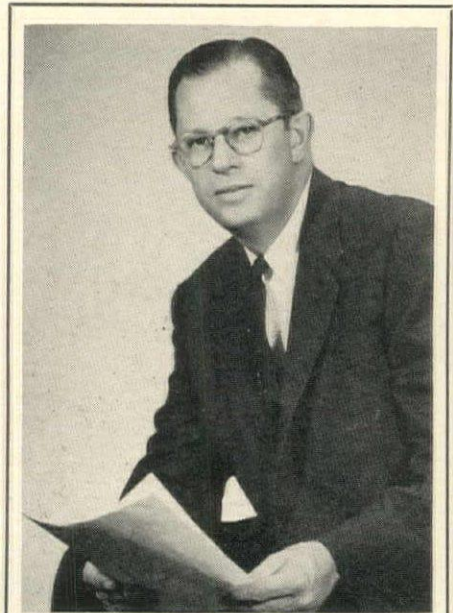
Thus the Department must at the same time protect consumers and maintain a clean bill of health for Virginia food products so that they may move unchallenged in trade channels.

The Department of Agriculture in Virginia and Washington maintains a staff of specially trained men and specially equipped laboratories which together through the years have made Virginia and the nation the safest, cleanest food supply the world has ever known.

In its law enforcement work in consumer protection the Department has another responsibility along with consumer protection, and that is to see that it creates for the industries it regulates an atmosphere in which they can thrive and prosper.

This responsibility is really inseparable from consumer protection, because an industry with its back to the wall has more incentive to cut corners than it has to comply voluntarily with the law. This voluntary compliance is the key to effective law enforcement in agriculture or anywhere. There will never be enough policemen in or out of agriculture to enforce honesty on every citizen.

For this reason it is incumbent upon every law enforcement agency to foster



COMMISSIONER BRINKLEY

Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture is a past president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and a member of the Agricultural Research Policy Committee of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Advisory Committee on the Agricultural Census, the Advisory Committee on Weights and Measures to the National Bureau of Standards, and the Advisory Council on the Virginia Economy.

He has been awarded the Virginia 4-H Alumni Recognition Award, the Honorary State Farmer degree of the Future Farmers of America, honorary membership in the Young Farmers of Virginia Association, and the Richmond Agricultural Grange Agribusiness Award.

He serves as secretary-treasurer of the Virginia Amateur Field Trial Association, as a member of the Board of Deacons of River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, and is a past District Deputy Grand Master of his Masonic District.

conditions of voluntary compliance. But the Department of Agriculture also has another major responsibility in addition to protecting the consumer where he cannot protect himself and creating an atmosphere in which industry can thrive and prosper through effective law enforcement.

It also has the responsibility of keeping market channels open and flowing for every producer and processor of Virginia farm products.

Some of the efforts of the Department's Division of Markets in marketing Virginia's farm products are very

*(Continued on page 24)*

*Best Wishes to the Farmers of Virginia*

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**T**HERE'S an old saying that one of the most valuable investments a man can make in Virginia is a milk cow or a pine tree. But you would have to add a chicken, a beef cow, and a hog or two to stretch that saying into the truth.

For the past several years, livestock and poultry have brought in better than half of Virginia's farm income and in some years as much as 60 percent. This compares to about one third of total cash receipts from farming coming from livestock and its products, including poultry and eggs, in 1924.

With the moderate climate to keep down oil bills and housing costs, poultry is a natural for the South, and Virginia and her neighbors are rapidly becoming the egg producing center and have already become the center for broiler production in the United States.

For years now, Virginia has had the reputation of the best pastures in the East and South. Once again a long grazing season, sometimes stretching to ten months, makes her a natural.

Dairying has always been a solid foundation of agriculture. You can ride the roads and tell the presence of dairy farms by the clean fence rows, painted houses, the solid substantial looking communities headed by dairymen.

From the time the colonists used to round up wild razorbacks from the eastern Virginia woodlands, hogs have been a part of eastern Virginia's agriculture, cleaning up the peanuts and the corn after the picking operations, and finally, in today's scientific swine raising, dividing itself into feeder pig and market hog operations, both conducted on concrete.

It was back in the 1930's when C. W. Wampler, elder statesman of Virginia agriculture, first advanced a poultryman another lot of chicks and feed after a disastrous lot of broilers, and thus launched a contracting system of poultry raising which has revolutionized the industry. Today most of the top broiler states are in the South, and today Virginia grows many times as many broilers as she did back in those 1930 days.

Broilers have given Virginia the world's largest poultry processing plant, Rockingham Poultry Cooperative at Broadway, and built feed mills as a new and separate market for Virginia corn and feed grains. Chickens, turkeys and eggs are also providing a new source of income and a new agriculture face for the Shenandoah Valley, which was first a grain area, then a producer of draft horses and finally today, poultry capital of Virginia.

But today's poultry industry, whether it be chickens, turkeys or eggs, is a far cry from the days when the farmer threw the cracked corn out into the barn yard and the chickens scratched for it. Today, chickens are scientifically bred, the eggs are scientifically hatched in huge incubating ovens, the young broilers carefully housed, five to ten thousand to a house and automatically fed and watered, and finally run through a stainless steel, automatic, spotlessly clean processing plant and given to Mrs. Consumer entirely ready for the oven.

It is the same story with today's specially bred egg-producing chickens or Virginia turkeys.

It has been said that every farmer's dream is to be a cattleman, and more and more in Virginia, farmers have been realizing that dream.

*(Continued on next page)*

to tell the Virginia Story



*The ultimate in confinement feeding, caged laying hens*



*Truck motors purr where milk cans used to rattle*



*Chow time for top notch Virginia feeder pigs*

In northern Virginia, where Angus cattle are predominant, are some of the finest examples of businessmen-farmers who have covered their hills with green grass and black cattle. Some of these are registered herds of wealthy men who live for the show ring but whose calves that don't quite make the grade have vastly and rapidly improved the quality of the state's commercial herds.

Southwest Virginia, where once heavy 1,400 to 1,500 pound cattle were shipped live to England to provide the gigantic roasts for the festive board, now is a producer of feeder calves, along with other sections of the state. Southwest is mostly Hereford country, and more recently in eastern Virginia where commercial corn rivals the mid-west, some of Virginia's feeder calves are being fed out to slaughter weights.

For the most part, Virginia cattle still come to market straight from grass and the reputation of Virginia's feeder calves extends across the nation. But in recent years, dairying has become Virginia's number one source of farm income, partially because Grade A fluid

milk sales have doubled in the past ten years for this segment of Virginia's agriculture. In that period, the dairy industry has brought Virginia up from a state producing about two-thirds of the milk it consumed to a state producing 20 per cent more milk than it needs, and supplying at least half the milk for the city of Washington.

Virginia's traditional dairy industry is the northern Piedmont, in Culpeper and the surrounding counties, but you find dairy farms almost anywhere except in the suburban areas, where the price of the land for real estate development is more and more making dairying virtually impossible.

Out in the southwest, small family farms are finding they can up-grade a manufactured milk operation to Grade A and compete with the larger dairies on more costly land to the east.

Overall, as Virginia's cities grow, a demand for milk grows and the dairy industry responds.

The dairy industry too, is feeling the effects of scientific agriculture. Today, more than 80 percent of Virginia's milk

is taken from the cow by spotless milking machines, pumped through overhead glass pipe lines into a refrigerated bulk tank. From there it is pumped into a thermos bottle on a truck, which is a milk tanker, and hauled to the distribution plant, untouched by human hands from cow to bottle.

Just as the production of a chicken has been broken down into half a dozen different operations, the beef industry divided into feeder calves and finished cattle, and the dairy industry becomes mechanized, Virginia hogs, traditional mortgage raisers, are now beginning to move in the direction of scientific agriculture.

Hogs and peanuts have gone together in eastern Virginia for generations, and produced the incomparable Smithfield hams. But today's smaller families are looking to leaner cuts of meat and Virginia's industry is in the midst of change. The fat hog which looks like a barrel of lard is gone. In its place is a long, lean hog that will cut out a higher percentage of chops and roasts.

Traditionally, farms have had a hog pen down in the woods, where the hogs were left pretty much to fend for themselves, but today Mama Sow is getting an assist from science in order to raise a larger family.

Both in eastern Virginia hog country and around its fringes, particularly in tobacco country, carefully designed farrowing pens are beginning to crop up on various farms where comfortable surrounding and meticulous care are launching an attack on pig mortality, which traditionally had killed off almost half the pigs born to the average Virginia sow.

So fast has the feeder pig business grown that a series of special state graded sales has been organized in the past three years at seven locations and including some 26 sales, to provide the volume of uniform pigs needed for today's pig parlor hog feeding operations.

Just as a number of Virginia's feeder calves move into midwestern markets to be fed into meat, so do a good many of Virginia's feeder pigs go out of state, some as far as New Jersey to be fed into market hogs.

But an increasing number are staying here in Virginia, moving into southern pig parlors to eat Virginia corn and meet the increasing demand from Virginia packing plants for locally grown hogs.

No inventory of Virginia livestock will be complete without sheep. More and more are appearing on flat land farms instead of being confined to the mountain slopes which are traditional sheep country. ●

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SMITHFIELD 4, VIRGINIA

## "Gone Are The Days" — But Only For A Few Crops

● A good many years ago, James Bland drew his famous musical picture of Virginia as the place "where the cotton and the corn and 'taters grow."

Well corn, both solid and liquid, sure enough is Virginia's most widespread crop today, but the 'taters are confined largely to a few Eastern Shore acres and cotton to a few Southeast Virginia counties.

In fact, production of crops for sale has been declining in relative importance in Virginia since the early 1920's. In terms of stable prices, farm income originating from the sale of crops was slightly less in 1958 than in 1924.

Acreage of nearly all crops except phenomenal soybeans has been turning downward in recent years. Many crops have held production relatively steady because of increasing yields from today's scientific agriculture.

In terms of declining acreage, cash crops have dropped off most drastically. They have declined steadily and consistently since 1918, and by 1958, total acreage of cash crops in Virginia was 52 per cent less than the World War I peak.

Feed crops have declined in acreage only half as much, reflecting the trend in the state away from crops and toward livestock.

James Bland gave us a hint of one of the big reasons for this switch in recalling the labor "day after day in the fields of yellow corn." Labor costs have

pushed many of Virginia farmers away from the row crops and into some form of animal agriculture. Early in the trend he raised only his feed grains. Today, he may buy most if not all of his livestock feed.

Acreage has declined but yields have increased for many of Virginia's harvested crops. In spite of several drought years, the total volume of crop production averaged 38 per cent higher from 1950 to 1958 than from 1900 to 1909.

In relation to each other, most crops have held their own since the early 1900's, but there have been two major exceptions. Food grains have dropped from about nine per cent of total production to about five per cent, and oil crops led by soybeans increased from a little less than four per cent to more than eight per cent. Relative percentages of feed crops, cotton, tobacco, vegetable, and fruits have held amazingly close to their proportions of total crop production in the first decade of this century.

Principal reason for increased production, of course, was tremendous and often phenomenal increases in crop yields. From the 1930's to the late 1950's per acre yield of all crops in Virginia increased almost a hundred per cent.

Most important of Virginia's cash crops, ever since Colonial times—in fact the chief reason for being of the



*In Virginia's small fields, cotton is picked by hand*

Commonwealth in the early days—has been tobacco. Across southside and the central Piedmont and into southwest Virginia, tobacco has exerted a dominant economic influence in rural areas for as long as two centuries.

Throughout its sometimes tumultuous history, tobacco acres and yields have varied widely, due in large measure to almost continuous control of acreage, beginning in the early 1600's when Virginia planters were subject to legislation far more strict than any modern day government price control programs.

Among the four principal classes of tobacco grown in Virginia, flue-cured, used in cigarettes, has dominated the  
(Continued on next page)

*Below: A drill field of peanut shocks awaits threshing*



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scene since the 1920's and before. As snuff and chewing tobacco moved out and cigarette smoking moved in, burley tobacco also has increased from only a small percentage of the Virginia total tobacco crop to around 14 per cent and sometimes higher.

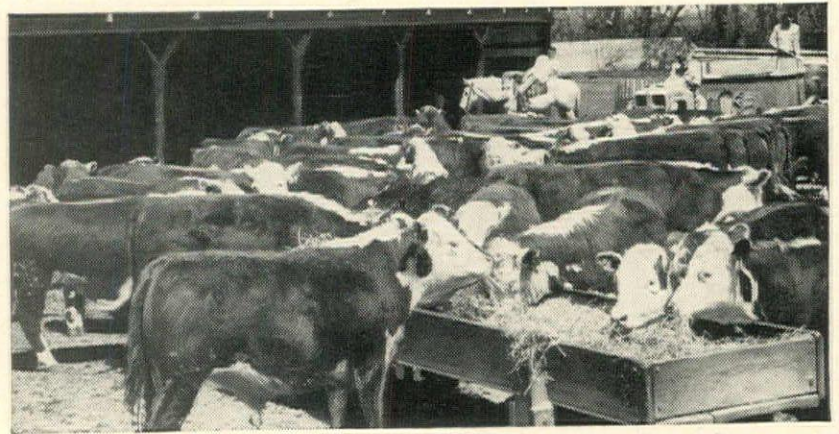
For all tobaccos, yields per acre have increased phenomenally, often spurred by acreage restrictions which prompted the farmer to apply more fertilizer, plant closer together, and produce more on less land.

In terms of crops grown strictly for cash, peanuts are Virginia's second most important cash crop, the sales roughly equal to 14 per cent of the value of all crop sales.

Virginia's peanuts, known as the Virginia type in the trade, are large and of superior flavor and are the principal eating type peanut. The jumbo and fancy grades of peanuts sometimes known as "ball-park" peanuts are sold in the shell. The extra-large and medium size kernel grades, specifically grown in Virginia-Carolina, bring a price on the salted nut market.

Virginia's miracle crop of recent years has been the soybean, grown east of U. S. 1, and often planted in that country to replace lost peanut or vegetable acreage. One of the most versatile

(Continued on page 25)



**"My cattle gained 15% faster  
when I paved my feedlot  
with concrete!"**

Tests prove it, time after time! Beef cattle finished on a concrete feedlot are heavier, healthier, have better appearance, go to market earlier.



Animals lose weight wallowing around in mud. And when the mud dries up, you've got a dust problem.

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# VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

**T**HE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT has issued its official road map for 1961, in color and completely revised. It shows portions of Virginia's new interstate system for the first time.

W. N. Chisholm, who supervised the drafting of the new map, said that 400,000 copies will be made available for free distribution in Virginia and across the country.

One side of the new issue features a pictorial and historic map of the state; the other side contains the official highway map with index of towns and cities.

Another "first" is the listing of highway speed limits, rules for safe driving and procedure for the reporting of accidents.

\* \* \*

The First National Bank of Quantico formally dedicated its new Potomac Avenue Office in Quantico on February 11, with a cornerstone laying and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Edward W. Snedeker, Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools, and Quantico Mayor Robert Park laid the cornerstone and H. Ewing Wall, president of the bank, cut the ribbon formally opening the Colonial style building to the public.

The new structure doubles the space of the old building in which the bank has done business for 37 years.

Its centralized accounting system to serve the other three offices of the bank was planned to meet the growing needs of the community.

\* \* \*

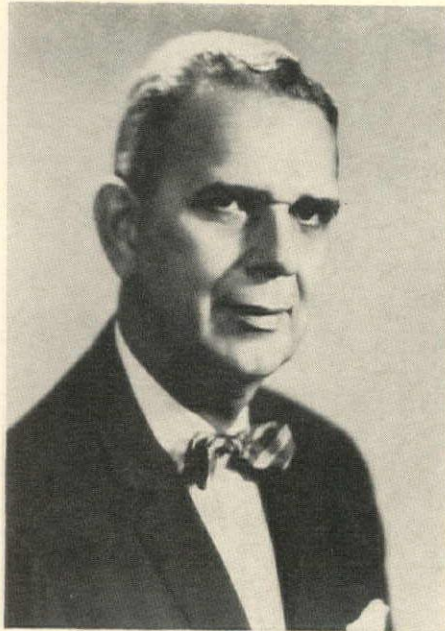
A remodeled and streamlined Rose's 5-10 and 25 Cent Store has been formally opened in Chase City. Manager J. D. Tart said the remodeling was to convert the store into self-service. Also, a new lighting system and air conditioning were installed, plus about 40 per cent more display space.

\* \* \*

Kenneth J. Brethauer, division general manager of Colonial Stores, Inc. with headquarters in Norfolk, has accepted the position of merchandising manager of The Smithfield Ham and Products Company, Inc., of Smithfield.

This announcement came from James C. Sprigg, Jr., president of the Smithfield Company, who said that Brethauer

to tell the Virginia Story



*Kenneth J. Brethauer, formerly with Colonial Stores, is the new merchandising manager of The Smithfield Ham and Products Co., Inc., of Smithfield.*

will direct merchandising of the "rapidly expanding line of Amber Brand and James River Brand products, which include world-famous Amber Brand Smithfield Hams and Bacon and more than 40 outstanding quality convenience items made from centuries old Smithfield, Virginia, recipes."

During his 30 years with Colonial Stores, Mr. Brethauer worked his way up from store clerk through store manager, supervisor, superintendent and manager of stores operations to the position of division general manager.

He is a native of Norfolk and a former president of the Tidewater Food Dealers Association and of the Virginia Chain Store Council.

\* \* \*

Kenlea Crafts, Inc., the new furniture factory located between Kenbridge and Victoria, was to be formally dedicated April 18. Officers and directors of the David M. Lea & Co., Inc., of Richmond, have issued invitations to the dedication ceremonies, at which Governor J. Lindsay Almond, Jr. and Stuart T. Saunders, president of the Norfolk & Western Railway, were to be guest speakers.

\* \* \*

Louisa's first motel, "The Rebel", owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Poore, Jr., has been opened for business. This modern, eight-unit structure is located about a mile east of the Town of Louisa on Rt. 33.

\* \* \*

A nationwide observance of the 350th anniversary of the beginning of the tobacco industry in America will center in Jamestown in 1962.

This announcement came from Parke Rouse, Jr., executive director of the Jamestown Foundation, an agency of the State of Virginia, which will stage the celebration in cooperation with the Tobacco Institute, Incorporated, of Washington, D. C.

\* \* \*

Plans to build a large steam electric power station in West Virginia have been announced by A. H. McDowell, Jr., president of the Virginia Electric & Power Co. As presently planned, this station will ultimately cost at least \$150,000,000 and have a total capacity of more than a million kilowatts. It is hoped to install the first unit of at least 250,000 kilowatts capacity on Stony River, in Grant County, about 20 miles northwest of Petersburg, W. Va., by 1965.

\* \* \*

The Clover Creamery Co., Inc., has been merged with Beatrice Foods Co., of Chicago. It will retain its identity completely and no changes are planned for its products, brand names, manufacturing processes, politics, plants or distribution, according to a joint announcement by H. M. Bush, Clover Creamery Co. president, and William G. Karnes, president of Beatrice Foods.

Clover's central headquarters and sales office will remain at 502 First Street, S.E., in Roanoke.

\* \* \*

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**E. M. Simpson**, secretary and assistant treasurer of South Carolina Electric and Gas Co., has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of Carolinas Virginia Nuclear Power Associates. He fills the vacancy left by the death of the late **J. M. Costello**, who was also with SCE&G. . . . **E. Walker Turner**, veteran employee of the State Highway Department, has been promoted to assistant landscape engineer. . . .

The Board of Directors of Ivy Construction Corporation, of Charlottesville, has announced the following changes in the corporation's officers: **M. Jack Rinehart**, chairman of the board and treasurer; **Raymond V. Long, Jr.**, vice president; **John B. Rogan**, vice president; **Joseph G. Howe, Jr.**, vice president; **William C. Thacker, Jr.**, secretary. . . .

**J. W. Wood**, of Norfolk, vice president in charge of Eastern Region of Colonial Stores, Inc., has retired after more than 40 years with the super-market chain. . . . **K. E. Ellison** has been appointed as State Materials Engineer, Virginia Department of Highways, to succeed **A. B. Cornthwaite**, who leaves to assume the position of manufacturing engineer for the Asphalt Institute. . . .

*Felicitations to the Virginia Department of Agriculture*

## FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK OF BLACKSBURG

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*The Farmers of Virginia*

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## CLEM'S GARAGE

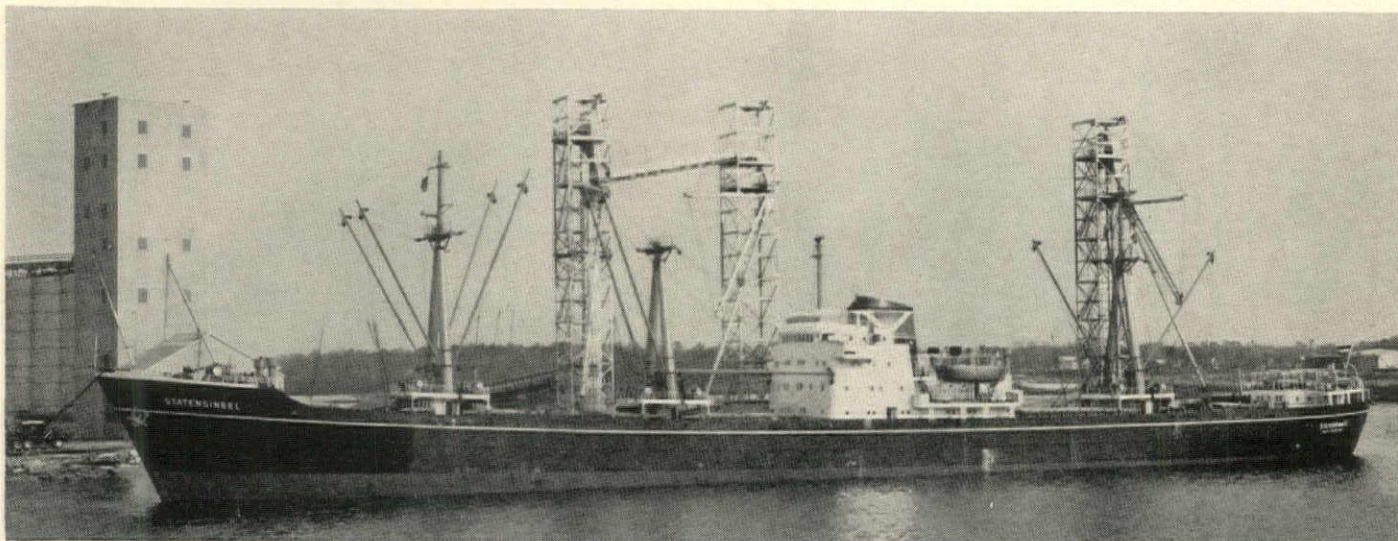
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STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA



*Foreign ships come seeking Virginia grain*

of the directly associated businesses. Actual value of farm products produced plus the new wealth, generated by the industries that are directly dependent on the farmer for their existence, comprise the largest economic contribution made by any group.

Certainly by any logic, organizations like Virginia fertilizer companies are a part of agriculture and so are the feed mills.

On the other end of the agricultural assembly line, Virginia's twelve thousand retail food establishments and the warehouses and processing facilities that stand behind them are also a vital and integral part of Virginia agriculture. In this field, too, progress is being felt. A corner grocery and the country store are rapidly being replaced by the super-market. The food store which use to carry between five and eight hundred food items now carries between five and eight thousand items, many of them only remotely associated with food.

While it is true that agriculture has

created businesses, business men have not swallowed agriculture. Percentage of farms owned and operated by one family remains the same as 25 years ago. Fertilizer can most efficiently be produced in the large central plant but the industry has also created hundreds of local farm suppliers, small businesses owned and operated in small towns usually by a country boy who may have just recently left the farm.

Even in the retail end of the food production and marketing process, the independent business man has found his place. Banded together into large buying cooperatives, he has found that he can successfully compete with the corporate chain and many in Virginia are doing so. In Richmond alone, one of these buying cooperatives serves over 550 independent stores and enables them to stay in business and compete.

Another phenomenon indicating that corporate farming is still a long way from taking over agriculture is the growth of the part-time farmer. With today's modern machinery and methods cutting down tremendously on

labor costs and effort, a man can hold down a nine-to-five job and still farm in the evenings and on Saturdays. In fact, in Virginia over 40 per cent of the farmers told census takers that other income earned off the farm exceeded the value of farm products sold.

And with modern methods and machinery, a man can operate a part-time farm almost as efficiently as a full-time farmer, according to USDA studies.

Thus, modern day progressive agriculture can team up with rural industry to provide a stable, soil based labor supply plus an agricultural enterprise plus sound rural orientated industry. There could hardly be a better all around economic addition to the Commonwealth.

In this tremendous push of progress the farmer too has become one of industry's best customers. Across the United States more than 50 thousand chemicals have been registered to help the farmer battle bugs and diseases

*(Continued on next page)*

### AGRICULTURE'S TOP TEN

(1959 Figures)

1. Dairy Products (Farm value of milk produced).....	\$101,008,000
2. Tobacco, All.....	77,241,000
3. Poultry (Including turkeys).....	74,220,000
4. Cattle and Calves.....	65,174,000
5. Hay, All.....	50,110,000
6. Corn.....	45,943,000
7. Hogs.....	33,361,000
8. Peanuts.....	20,057,000
9. Apples (Commercial).....	16,568,000
10. Soybeans (For beans).....	12,350,000

### VIRGINIA FARMERS UNION

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Stuart, Virginia

and get better yields from his crops or his livestock, a whole industry paid for by farm customers.

Farmers, of course, have created feed and fertilizer industries. As Virginia and the rest of the south have become a new and expanding agriculture area, southern agribusiness has become a 34 billion dollar industry, employing half of all the workers in the South.

From the farms of the South flow more than eight billion dollars in products each year which are the basis for more than 21 billion dollars in annual business including a billion dollars worth of feed, half a billion dollars worth of fertilizer and lime, 135 million worth of seed, 300 million worth of building materials, 170 million worth of tractors, 178 million worth of trucks, 143 million dollars worth of automobiles, 215 millions in farm equipment, and machinery, 386 million in petroleum and fuels, 148 in repair parts of motor vehicles, 38 million for repair parts for other farm machinery, 114 million for building repair materials, and 235 million in miscellaneous operating supplies. All of these items, added up together, mean that between 25 and 30 per cent of all U. S. sales of these items are made in the South.

In addition, southern farmers spend about a billion dollars a year for labor and purchase more than three and one-half billion dollars worth of consumer goods.

Today, in agriculture in Virginia, over 98 per cent of all farms are electrified. In fact, without electricity, the farmer could hardly farm at all. On dairy farms, about 85 per cent have milking machines, and refrigerated bulk tanks. Electricity clips the cow's hind quarters and heats the water to clean her udders. It runs the milking machine, pumps the milk into the bulk tank, heats the water to clean utensils, provides music and light to milk by and runs the electric clock that gets the farmer up to milk.

That's just the milking. Electricity also loads the silo in the hay barn and unloads them both. It shells the corn and grinds the feed. An electric gadget dehorn the cow, and an electric prod moves her here and there.

In the farm homes, electricity has been the emancipator of the farmer's wife whose kitchen is just as full of electric gadgets as that of her urban cousin. Nearly every farm home in Virginia has a radio and more than three-fourths of them have television sets.

The progress in agriculture has

taken its toll as progress anywhere always does. The tidal wave of scientific agriculture has left high and dry those farmers who could not or would not compete. The pressure of efficiency has cut drastically into the number of farmers.

But many of those who have left have come to town to take jobs in the business side of agriculture or to add their labor and their purchasing power to the continued expansion of the rest of the economy.

It has been truly said that only when a nation has fed its people can it turn its energies to improving their standard of living. Here in America one of the greatest contributions to our standard of living and to our continued and unprecedented prosperity has been the steady subsidy of people and talents from the farm to the city.

### Farmers Are Faster

The productivity of the American farm worker is now growing twice as fast as the productivity of workers and industry.

Since 1950, output per man hour in non-agricultural industry has risen two percent a year. In agriculture the increase has averaged five percent per year.

Back in the farm and in the rural areas, this has brought about a real tragedy of the future. Because the next generation of farmers in many areas simply are not there. All of the young people have gone to town. In just the last five years, the average age of Virginia farmers has crept up from 51 years to 53 years and across many of our less fortunate agricultural counties, this sparsity of young people is obvious to all.

This revolution on the farm is also whittling away at the roots of Virginia's social and political system by changing our face from a rural countenance to more of a urban one. And yet, the census shows that still half of our people either live on and work on a farm or live in small towns near the farm and are completely dependent on agriculture for a living.

Not all the farmers will leave the farm and come to the city. Rural non-farm people in Virginia have increased from 25 per cent of the population in 1920 to 31 per cent in 1950. Projections are there will be 37 per cent by 1980.

The proportion of all rural people has been steadily declining, from about 82 per cent of Virginia's population in 1900 to 53 per cent in 1950, and at very close to 50 per cent for 1959.

*(Continued on next page)*

*to tell the Virginia Story*

*A Salute to Virginia's Department of Agriculture*

## American Bank and Trust Company

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and Our Farmer Friends*

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*Shenandoah's Pride*

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## **BLAIR TOBACCO STORAGE**

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## **BLAIR TRANSIT CO.**

*Pioneer Tobacco Truckers*

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But farm folks have been declining in numbers much faster—from 46 per cent of the population in 1920 to 22 per cent in 1950 and even less in 1959.

As we enter the 60's, Virginia's people are roughly divided in half, with one side on the farm or depending on agriculture directly, and the other half urban people living in cities or suburban areas.

But even the suburbanites are, in many cases, directly depending upon agriculture for their jobs because more and more the production tools of agriculture are being produced in our cities and the products of agriculture are being marketed within metropolitan areas.

And the people who are left on the farm and in rural areas have given a big boost in recent years to the sale

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Virginia apples illustrate the revolution in food packaging that has created a whole new industry within the confines of agriculture.

In 1951, Virginia's apple industry sold 750 bushels of apples in a new crush-proof tray pack in which apples are placed like eggs to keep them from bruising.

In 1959, eight years later, the industry had packed 1,732,000 tray packs of apples, a complete change of dress in nine years.

of things like appliances, home building materials and furnishings, as they made great strides in catching up with their suburban neighbors in the favorite American social game of keeping up with the Jones'.

But most obvious of the unfortunate results of the revolution on the farm has been the talk about the farm surplus. Once in gear, a revolution is very difficult to stop or to slow down and this has been the case with agriculture in Virginia and the nation. As farmers are able to increase efficiency and produce more and more from an acre of

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land, they inevitably produced a little too much—a little, because our surpluses at the national level have only been running about six to eight per cent of total food production. But as every farmer knows, this is enough to drop the price, anywhere from ten to 50 per cent, depending on the particular commodity.

But if there be surpluses, the farmer

can point to them with pardonable pride. When two-thirds of the world goes to bed hungry at night and much of the rest wonders how to produce food cheaply enough to give its people a reasonable standard of living, America's agricultural problem is that we are able to produce more food than we need.



### PLENTY OF PONDS

The Soil Conservation Service reports that between 1,500 and 2,000 farm ponds have been constructed each year for the past few years in Virginia.

In the 12 years, 1945 to 1957, a total of 16,346 ponds were constructed under Government Conservation programs.

If all of these ponds were put together in one big lake it would have a surface area of about 22,900 acres or 35 square miles.

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ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C. — NORFOLK, VA.

### Department (from page 11)

obvious—the Grade A on a carton of Grade A eggs, the word "choice" on the fat on a steak or roast. Last year, this Division graded twice the amount of farm products graded by the five adjoining states.

But increasing markets for Virginia products cannot be done by grading alone so the Division of Markets also opens bottlenecks in trade channels, helps to form organizations to equalize farm bargaining power, and increases the efficiency of marketing processing plants and facilities, and other effective devices for increasing the sale of Virginia farm products.

With the exception of its Weights and Measures and Egg Law enforcement, the Division of Markets, of course, spends full time on the job of selling, but actually the entire Department of Agriculture is engaged in the business of selling Virginia farm products and

Americans spend more than one billion dollars a month on food in the nation's restaurants with the average family spending \$10.97 per meal.

providing a greater variety and quality of these products.

The first principle of selling is that your product must be acceptable to its consumer, and seeing that farm products are acceptable is the job of law enforcement.

But that product made must not only be acceptable to the consumer, it must be sold to the consumer in a way that will compete with the ever increasing pressure of expanded farm production across the nation. We must never be content to provide good, wholesome, high quality foods and fibers for Mrs. Consumer to buy. We must go further and assist in selling them to her.

In fact this field of selling or marketing is one of the greatest needs in agriculture today. Farmers have done a tremendous job on the production side of agriculture, increasing their efficiency at a rate of 2½ times that of industry. But farmers have lagged far behind industry in selling its additional production.

In its overall job of selling, by seeing that Virginia farm products are completely acceptable to consumers, by creating an atmosphere in which farmers and industry can thrive and prosper, and in directly expanding markets for Virginia farm products, I hope and trust that the Virginia Department of Agriculture may make a real contribution to a prosperous and expanding Virginia economy, and help to preserve the traditional way of life of the Virginia farm. ●



## "GONE ARE THE DAYS"

(Continued from page 16)



Apples have changed color and increased sales.

of plants, with wide uses in industry and food for its oils and its livestock feed for its meal, soybeans have constantly increased in production and use since World War II. The experts figure that production will increase another 50 per cent by 1975.

Wheat, oats, barley, and the small grains have been steadily declining in Virginia for a good many years. Wheat is still grown and shocked in the field in the Shenandoah Valley, but with the advent of modern harvesting machinery, more and more wheat and small grain acreage is moving from the rolling hills of the Bread Basket of the Confederacy to the flat lands of the Northern Neck.

In the early 1600's, the royal governor decreed that every land owner must keep an orchard. But today, apples are largely confined to parts of the upper Valley, the Southwest, the Amherst-Nelson area, and some few orchards in the eastern half of the state. Yet these commercial plantings produce more and better apples than Colonial trees.

(Continued on next page)

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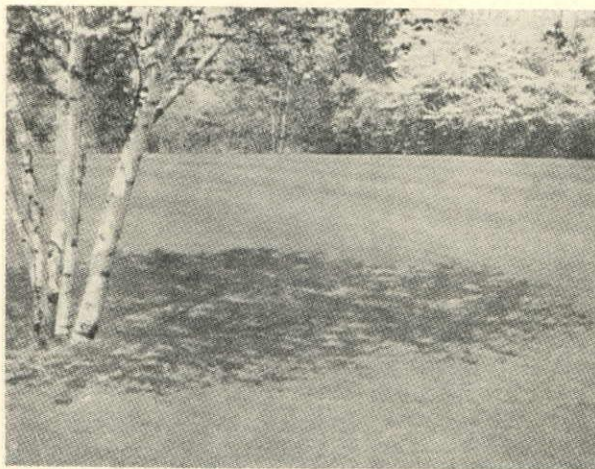
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It is composed of grasses that flourish during different months of the year for a year-'round lawn for Virginia, Southern mountain sections and Northern States. 1 lb., 85¢; 5 lbs., \$4.15; 25 lbs., \$19.50.

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Virginia's production of vegetables has steadily and rapidly declined since 1930. Pushed out of the Norfolk area by bursting suburbs, vegetables have moved to a large extent to the Eastern Shore.

Bland's potatoes, if today's newer varieties will do, account for a large percentage of all vegetable plants, followed in order by sweet potatoes.

Corn is probably Virginia's most universal crop, being grown for grain in a number of southeastern Virginia counties, and for feed in almost every county of the state, including patches in the valleys of the mountainous southwest. Hay is almost as universal as corn, most farmers growing at least a portion of their own supply. Commercial hay for sale is largely concentrated in the Shenandoah Valley with some growing supplies in the southwest. Alfalfa has come forward until it is now Virginia's number one crop.

Despite reduced acreages and in some cases reduced production, Virginia maintains an enviable diversity of crops, making for the same sort of balance and proof against whims of weather and markets that marked the old, self-sufficient plantation that inspired James Bland.



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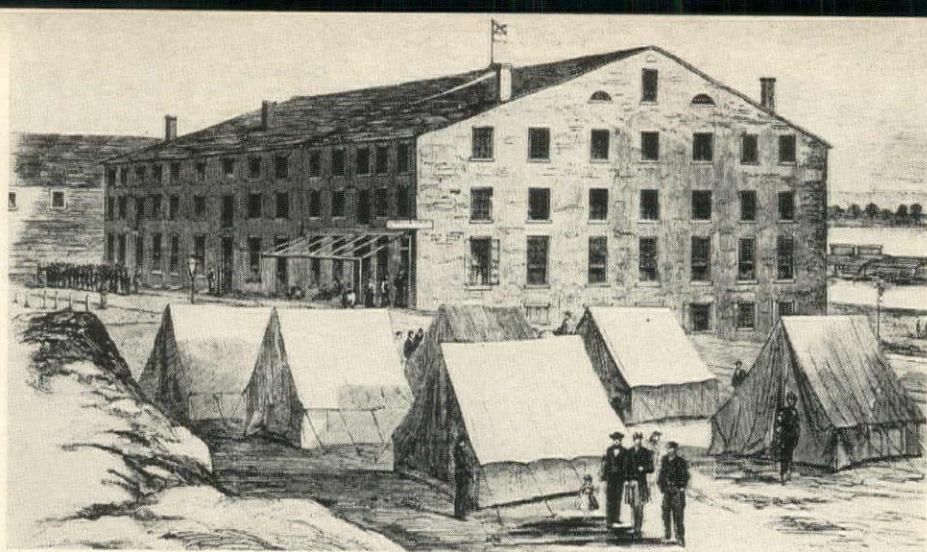
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# At Last A Kind Word For Libby Prison After Nearly 100 Years

by G. WATSON JAMES, JR.



Apparently Lieutenant Stearns didn't think old Libby was the "hell hole" it was cracked up to be. (Photo, courtesy Virginia State Library)

• "Without any crime I have been an inmate of the foulest of Southern prisons, and a companion of the brave men whose condition and treatment has called forth the sympathy of the nation, and which will call forth the condemnation of the civilized world." So wrote Captain I. N. Johnson, of the Sixth Kentucky Volunteers in his volume *Four Months in Libby and the Campaign Against Atlanta*.

"The Libby rations nominally consisted of about ten ounces of corn bread—of meal just as it came from the mill—beef and rice; but really less often than this for it took two rations of beef to make a tolerable meal."

Captain Johnson's indictment of Libby Prison is typical of those by other Yankee soldiers who were incarcerated in perhaps the South's most famous war prison. In fact, the Captain's opinion is mild when compared with the vituperations of other critics from above the Mason-Dixon Line.

But at long last, after nearly a century, is revealed a "pat on the back," figuratively speaking, for old Libby through a recent gift to the Valentine Museum of five letters, written by First Lieutenant S. S. Stearns, Fourth Regiment, Maine Volunteers, to his lady love, Miss May M. Barker, of Lovell, Maine.

The Lieutenant's first letter, written in pencil and dated "Libby Prison, Richmond, July 29, 1863," reveals he was captured on July 2, and arrived at the prison on July 18. The letter was short and written to reassure his sweetheart and friends at home that he was well, and would get home soon, and to caution Miss Barker not to write until she heard from him again.

Then on August 10, 1863, he wrote as follows:

"Dear May,

I wrote you about ten days ago. I am yet in 'Libby' and likely to stay some time, I expect. *My health is good, live*

*well, and am allowed to send out and purchase all I wish for. Suffer somewhat in body and mind as I am compelled to do all my cooking and washing which is new work for me. I think I will have to make the most of it, 'till Uncle Sam calls for me. Our prison is clean and well aired.* (Our underscoring in the above—G. W. J. Jr.)

"Did you get frightened by any reports in the papers after the battle? I hope you have heard of my safety ere this time. I wish you to write me. Write me on this size paper, one page only, and nothing contraband as the letters will have to be read before I see them.

"My address—full rank and Reg. 'Federal Prison, Rich., Va., via Fortress Monroe.' Tell my mother, brothers and sisters that I am well and have all I will for. Tell me how you are getting along this hot weather. Do you go to Eff this fall? Is EV at home? My love to all. Much love and a kiss from Libby. S. S. Stearns, 1st Lieut. 4th Reg. Maine Vols."

The last three letters of the group, five in all accessioned by the museum, will certainly impress one that Libby Prison was not the "hell-hole" as so often described, and that the Yankee officer was sincerely impressed with the fair treatment he received, his living conditions and the lack of restraint as to the purchase of food. Also, while naturally wishing to relieve his sweetheart and friends of too much anxiety as to his welfare, he had no desire to camouflage the truth of his lot in prison.

His letter of Nov. 9, 1863, for example:

"My dear May:

Your letter of Oct. 8 is at hand. I was much pleased to hear from you and home. Many long weary months have passed since my last visit home. Four months I have been a prisoner, and fear four more may pass ere I see home

again. My health is very good. I pass my time reading, playing whist and chess, smoking, pacing my prison house, eating some, and sleeping a great deal. Quite often I think of home and its comforts but am cheered by 'it is all in one's life time.' Tell my friends that I am well and send love to all".

On the following day, Nov. 10, 1863, he wrote this letter, intriguing to the reader of today. Who was his gentleman benefactor?—a Yankee sympathizer? If so, how did he get into the prison? It's anybody's guess. But here is the text of the Nov. 10 letter:

"My Dear May:

Your letter of Oct. 25th is rec'd and yet I am in Libby. I was pleased to hear of your good health. My health is also good. I am enjoying myself as well as is possible. I have been teaching grammar to some of my fellow officers for almost two months. This week a wealthy gentleman of Richmond called on me and gave me \$50, fifty dollars, so I have money enough at present. I hope soon to be exchanged. I shall visit you when once more at liberty. You can do as you like about your visit to Penn. Give my love to all my friends. Write soon. Much love".

Then on Feb. 1, 1864, he wrote:

"My dear May:

Just received your note of Jan 17th. Only six lines to write. Am well, weather pleasant. No hope of exchange. Will write again next sabbath. Rec'd Aunte's letter. Write her for me. Give my love to all my friends. Write soon. Don't hear often".

According to the data accompanying these letters, prepared by Mrs. Ralph Catterall, Curator of Manuscripts of the Valentine Museum, the donor was Mrs. Lewis Boshier Lawrence, of Washington, D. C., whose husband was the son of Dr. Joseph H. Lawrence of Nansemond County, Va. Dr. Lawrence was a graduate of the Medical College

(Continued on page 32)

*Felicitations to  
The Virginia Department  
of Agriculture*

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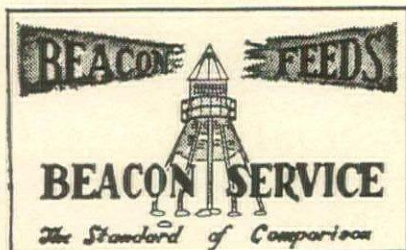
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60 years!

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**MAIL BAG** (from page 4)

interesting one to all history-loving persons. It is unfortunate that it should contain such a controversial statement concerning the most beloved of Southern chieftains.

Sincerely,  
s/s Barbour N. Thornton

Mr. Barbour N. Thornton  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Thank you for your letter and your good words about the Centennial issue. About the "controversial statement," the sketch on Lee belongs in the context of the whole issue of the CENTENNIAL EDITION, and additional information on Lee is scattered throughout the magazine, including, in the Chronology Section (page 130) the factual statement: "February 6: Congress gave Lee the meaningless title of commander-in-chief." As Lee never actually assumed any command functions of other forces, I regarded the technicality of his appointment as irrelevant to the point I was making in the brief sketch—that Lee, though generally regarded as commander of the Confederate armies, won his fame and exerted his powerful influence on the course of the war as commanding general of one army.

As to the official appointment, Congress had been trying to create the post of general-in-chief since February, 1862, when Davis threw them the sop of appointing Lee as "Military Adviser to the President." By February, 1865, when Congress forced through the appointment, it was a slap at Davis and militarily meaningless. When Lee received the empty appointment he wrote Davis (February 9, 1865) that he would continue to refer to him "at all times for counsel and advice," which was a diplomatic way of saying he would continue to work through the long established channels, and stated: "I must rely upon the several commanders for the conduct of the military operations with which they are charged . . ." There is no record that Lee ever communicated with these army commanders, except Joe Johnston, with whom he briefly worked as an equal collaborator in striving for a junction of their armies. When Lee surrendered his own army, his transactions with Grant were restricted entirely to the Army of Northern Virginia. When he wrote his April 12th report to Davis, he made no mention of other Confederate forces nor referred to any capacity of his own be-

yond that of commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia. In his last wartime communication to Davis, April 20, again restricting his specific references to the ANV, he made a very general recommendation "for suspension of hostilities and restoration of peace." He signed this "R. E. Lee, Gen'l." Manifestly, then, Lee never in fact commanded any force except the ANV, and never regarded himself as general-in-chief.

That Davis continued to regard himself as commander-in-chief is attested to by his attempt to supervise the negotiations of Joe Johnston and Sherman, and his outrage at Dick Taylor for surrendering his force without clearing with the President. It never occurred to anyone to clear with Lee, nor to Lee that anyone should: when he surrendered his own army, for him the war was over, though his was the first in the field to surrender. Since neither Davis, as commander-in-chief, nor Lee, the person affected, nor any commanding generals in the field paid any attention to the titular appointment made by Congress in the dying days of the resistance, I do not feel that the deliberate omission of this technicality constitutes any serious point of controversy. It might have been well to make the parenthetical statement that he was given a nominal appointment, which he never exercised, though it is a perfectly accurate statement to say that Lee was never in command of any other forces—as, regardless of the Act of Congress, he never did command any force except his own army.

Thank you again for your thoughtful letter.

Cordially,  
s/s Clifford Dowdey

(Continued on page 30)

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and the

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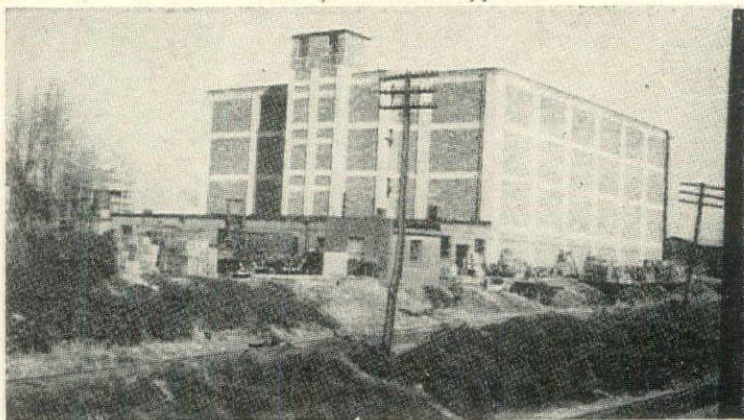
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Editor, Virginia Record  
Dear Mr. Dowdey:

For so very long a time I have meant to write to you and express my humble gratitude for the superlatively articulate presentation of the Virginia point of view that your editorials afford readers of the Virginia Record. I have wanted to urge that you consider collecting these editorials into a single volume with—perhaps—the terse press release of the particular incident preceding each editorial which served as its direct stimulus. These could either be presented on a yearly basis or a larger volume: say—a five year collection. I feel that these (either the annual or the larger volume) would constitute a great service not only to your subscribers but to the general public as well. The volume (or volumes) could bear the Magazine's title: Such as—"VIRGINIA RECORD 1960" (as an illustration). It certainly would afford a great opportunity of enlarging the sphere of influence that these editorials now enjoy.

Might I suggest that this proposal might be put to your subscribers (to test the public sentiment) as a note—a line or two—following the final paragraphs of one of your editorials in the Virginia Record?

Very respectfully,  
s/s Charles G. Massie, Jr.,  
Program Manager  
WRVC-FM  
Norfolk, Virginia

## The Virginia Dairy Co.

congratulates  
the farmers of  
Virginia for a job  
well done

*and is happy to have  
handled many millions  
of dollars worth of their  
milk over 41 years!*

# VIRGINIA DAIRY

FOR 41 YEARS

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1810-16 W. Main, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation this morning I am enclosing herewith my copy of General Order No. 9.

The only differences I can see is that in your copy third paragraph fourth line the word "useless" has been interlined and the last paragraph last line the word "all" is in your copy and not in mine, also your copy is signed by Brig. Genl. W. H. Stevens and mine is signed by Major Gen'l W. H. F. Lee. Can you explain or give me any information relative to these copies?

My copy was published by Parker-Brawner Co., Washington, D. C. and was placed in the Clerk's Office of Warwick County by Henry F. Jones, a Confederate Soldier and later a Justice of the Peace around 1900-1909.

I have the plate for this copy and can furnish you with additional copies at any time.

While I have not had time to read the Confederate Centennial Edition I am sure it will be very interesting. Also I always enjoy articles by Mr. Dowdey.

Very respectfully yours,  
s/s Geo. S. DeShazor, Jr.  
Clerk's Office  
Corporation Court Part Two  
City of Newport News

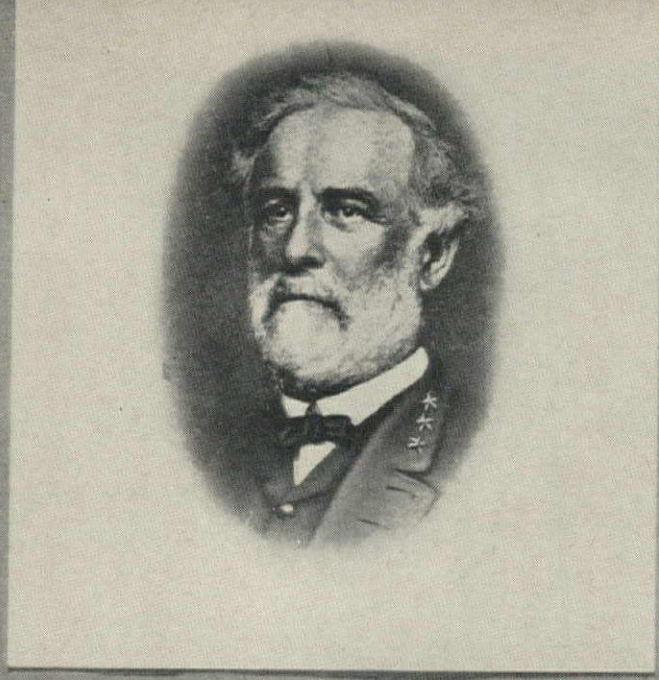
Dear Mr. DeShazor:  
The copies of General Order #9 were written by headquarters' clerks on a draft made by Colonel Marshall and signed by General Lee. More than twenty copies are known to have been made and perhaps there are more. The number of the copies would account for the variants in words as, of course, the difference in the handwriting.

The name of the general at the bottom left hand of the letter is the person who received that specific copy. Because of this, each copy would have the name of a different general.

A draft of the order from which the clerk's copies were made is in the General Order Book at the Virginia (Continued on page 32)

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*General Order } my Lee Dear Army of N.V.  
No. 9 } 10<sup>th</sup> April 1863*

*After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to her overwhelming numbers and resources.*

*I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.*

*But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their Countrymen.*

*By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.*

*With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectional farewell.*

*Major Genl W. H. F. Lee  
Commander*

*R. E. Lee  
Genl*

*Place & use by Henry F. Jones*

**MAIL BAG** (from page 31)

Historical Society here in Richmond.

Any copy signed by "R. E. Lee" is an authentic document.

It should be pointed out that countless copies were made by numerous parties, months and years after the war, which were signed by General Lee. The one copy generally considered to be the "original" was that written by Colonel Marshall; its whereabouts at the present time seems uncertain.

I hope this will suffice to clear up somewhat the apparent mystery in the discrepancies between your copy and the one we reproduced in the January issue of VIRGINIA RECORD. Thank you so much for your interest.

Sincerely,  
Clifford Dowdey

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**LIBBY** (from page 27)

of Virginia, and served his internship at the Richmond City Home. He later practiced in his native county, and subsequently moved to South Carolina and died there.

Mrs. Joseph H. Lawrence, his wife, was a first cousin of Drs. W. T. and St. Julian Oppenheimer, of Richmond, and a native of Louisa County, Va.

But what became of Lieutenant Stearns and Miss May Barker? They were married after the close of the war. He studied medicine, practiced in Washington, D. C., and died there in 1911.

And now for the O. Henry twist to this story. Mrs. Stearns was a foster grandmother of Mrs. Lewis Boshier Lawrence (nee Alice Blanchard), donor of the Libby Prison letters that during nearly 100 years had made a circuit from the war prison by the James River to Lovell, Maine, and back to where they rightfully belong—in the archives of a museum dedicated to Richmond's history, past and future—not so many blocks away from where they were written by a Yankee soldier lover to his beloved in far off Maine.

NOTE: Mrs. Lawrence's gift included three envelopes which sped letters to Miss Barker. They were postmarked Old Point Comfort Aug. 24, and Nov. 27, 1863, Feb. 23, 1864, respectively. Two of them were marked "via Flag of Truce", and two of them "Due 3 Cents." There were also "Cartes de Visites" views 1861—"Chain Bridge from Virginia Shore;" Fairfax Courthouse," and "Battery at Chain Bridge, Maryland Shore."

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## "FREE TOM MOONEY"

(Continued from page 5)

sympathizers became the outsiders, though we were never treated with the tolerance that had been shown the Tom Mooney-ites.

The Spanish Civil War became the test of an individual's intellectual respectability. Those who did not embrace the Stalinists were themselves regarded as "Fascists," Franco-ites, deserving of public defamation. I remember a poll in the *Author's League Bulletin* in which one must choose Franco or Stalin, and when the result was published Walter Edmonds (author of "Drums Along the Mohawk") was singled out and excoriated in print for saying that he thought there was nothing to choose between the two, that they were both totalitarians and Stalin perhaps the more broadly ambitious of the two. All the others—contributors to public opinion, critics of new books and assayers of writers' substance—accepted the Stalinist slogan, without knowing any more about the true issues involved in Spain, or the workings of the Soviet government, than did the more naive criers of "Free Tom Mooney."

When Russia became unmistakably the enemy, the post-World War II generation had nothing left to settle on except the Negro, and the Supreme Court gave them the slogan of "Integrate the Schools." Now, it can not be supposed that the current causers, protesting under their bravely carried placards, know any more about the racial problems in the South than their intellectual ancestors of the Twenties and Thirties knew about Tom Mooney or Joe Stalin.

However, two elements can be observed. The first is that the slogan carriers are physically remote from the scene on which they demand action and in which they have no personal stake; needless to say, information on the subject is unnecessary. The second is that the line of protest leads to the present coalition of racial minority groups, organized labor and those liberals whose former Soviet support has become diffused into the socialized welfare state under a strong central power. In this central power, as has been pointed out,

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the Federal government ceases to be the creation of the states and the states become the provinces of the government.

It is most unlikely that the petitioners for the freedom of Tom Mooney foresaw a time when labor czars would wield a frightening power, which they would use to cripple American industry at will, threaten American economy and price American products out of the market. It is certainly unlikely that the Soviet fashion-followers looked to a time when their heroes would hold the threat of destruction over the world's nations and cause national policy and economy to be directed to preserving the free nations of the world from annihilation. On the same line, it is scarcely probable that the marchers under the banners of "Integrate the Schools" (or lunch counters or amusement parks or whatever is the next objective) foresee the consequences of the forces working underneath the misplaced, misguided, ignorant idealism.

Another columnist recently remarked, quite offhandedly, that Soapy Williams had behaved as irresponsibly in the Congo as if he were appealing for Negro votes in Detroit. It would be helpful if this columnist and many others would make such casual references to an equal irresponsibility in politicians and columnists in behaving toward the South as if appealing for the Negro votes in Harlem. But that is not the fashion. The columnist who does that stands out among his peers as Walter Edmonds stood out in the Thirties for daring to say that Stalin was no better than Franco. This of course violates the herd instinct as well as the instinct for self-preservation.

When Southerners read some of the garbled "reports" from the Northern press, and read of the antics of the placard-wavers protesting against the way life is in the South, our own outrage might be softened and our sanity preserved by remembering that the contemporary causers follow an old line of behavior which concerns them and not the South. If the consequences that have come outside and beyond the intentions of the earlier causers are not to be duplicated in the South, the Southerner must look beneath the roiled surface and not be duped into answering the chanters of the new words to the old tune of "Free Tom Mooney."

*Clifford Dowley*

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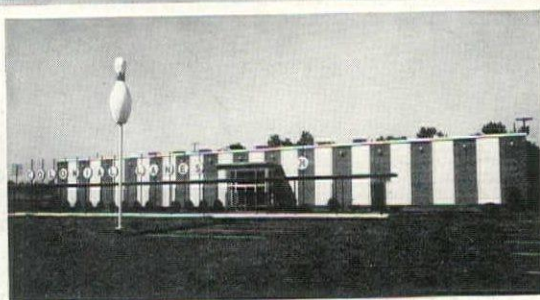
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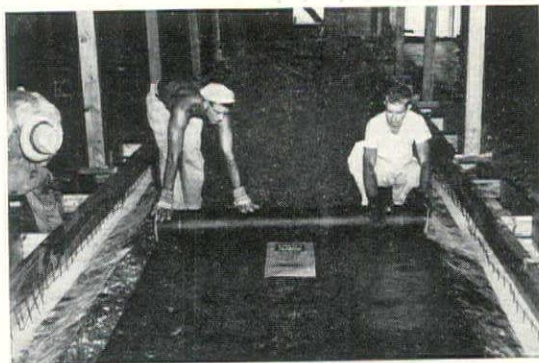
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