OLD UNCLE HORACE, WEATHER SEER, DIES

Famous for More Than Half a Century in New England for Predictions.

WELL ON IN 93D YEAR

Was Forecaster of Great Blizzard of 1888, When Snow Fell in Shovelfuls.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Uncle Horace, the amateur weather prophet of the nation, is dead. That's the way they always speak of him up in Middle Haddam, Conn., where he lived in a dainty white cottage by the Connecticut river. For any one to need to be told that Uncle Horace was Horace Johnson was to display great ignorance in any part of New England.

Uncle Horace, who for more than a half century had always won respectful attention when he prophesied the weather a day or a year ahead, passed away at his home on Friday, well on in his ninety-third year. He had confidently expected that he would reach the century mark.

The sage of Connecticut, a kindly voiced, broad-gauged man, who found enjoyment both in philosophizing and in predicting the weather, had innumerable proofs of his ability to rival Uncle Sam's weather forecasters. He predicted the famous blizzard in the spring of 1888, and the snow came down in shovelfuls on schedule time. He warned President-elect Taft that his inauguration would be attended by the worst snowfall in years, and he was right.

Warned Woodrow Wilson.

He told Woodrow Wilson to look for gloomy weather on March 4, 1913, and he was partly correct. He warned the people of Connecticut to be on the alert for an earthquake, and the earth quaked according to prophecy. In September, 1911, he sent out an announcement that the winter would be the bitterest in years, and the editorial writers months afterward commented on his forecast as correct. A year ago he predicted a wet, gloomy summer.

Uncle Horace maintained he figured everything out in advance by scientific means. He seemed, however, to have had a bent for weather prognostication. He was fond of relating an incident of his first weather prediction. When a boy on a small schooner unloading stone on the south side of Long Island, he predicted a heavy storm and was laughed at. He had suffered a stifling feeling on the approach of stormy weather, and on that occasion his prophecy came true and the schooner was slammed up on the shore.

Reason For Feeling.

"When I came to make a scientific study of astronomy, meteorology and mathematics," he said, "I found that there was a good reason for that stifling feeling. It was caused by the pressure of the air. When two currents of air, one dense, and one rarified, come together, the heavy, cold air forces down the rarefied air below, making it rush out from under as water rushes out from under a brick thrown into a pail of water."

Uncle Horace gave astronomical reasons for weather disturbances and insisted that any one by his method could foretell storms. He offered to do all alone the work the United States Weather Bureau does at a tremendous cost every year. And Uncle Horace was not looking for a job as a means of making money, for he long since had retired with a good sized fortune of his own. He loved weather predicting, and he would spend much time every day studying the air currents. He never went to bed at night without going out to look at the stars and make his prognostication for the morning. He scorned goose bones and similar signs as a means of forcasting the weather.

Had Business Ability.

Uncle Horace had an interesting life. He was born in Middle Haddam of a family that for generations had lived on the Connecticut river and had made money in the shipping business. He went to work in a store for 9 cents a day, and, having saved $1.79, he invested in needles, which he sold to women coming into the store. The youngster, perceiving that his employer would not handle such goods, had gone into the business himself. He invested his profits in real estate. He made a profit there and then he branched out on an extensive scale in that business.

During the civil war he ran barges carrying quartermaster's supplies between New York and Boston. After the war he carried mail by ship between New York and Savannah. He also was master of a seagoing ship and became the owner of several vessels. He amassed a fortune and lost a good part of it in railroads and foundries. He was a member of the New York Produce Exchange at one time.

Owned Real Estate.

He owned a large amount of real estate in Connecticut and planned to give to the State of Connecticut a large tract of land on Blizzard mountain near Middletown. He planned to erect an observation tower on it for studying the weather and the stars. Aside from predicting the weather, Uncle Horace had another hobby, and that was gems.

"When I see a jewel with a quaint setting or an unusual mounting," he used to say, I buy it for the pleasure it gives me to look at it. That has been my only bit of personal extravagance."

He was often asked how to live to be 100 years old and his invariable answer was: "That's simple enough. Live decently. Don't eat or drink or sleep too much. I don't eat meat, use tobacco or indulge in alcoholic beverages."

COST OF LIVING PROBERS FIND HOUSEWIVES PHILOSOPHICAL

Capital's Homemakers Are Intelligent, Courteous, and Willing to Co-operate They Find After Brief Experience as Investigators.

Washington housewives are intelligent, courteous, and philosophical.

These are only a few of the important deductions which have been gather by eight young women employed by the Department of Labor, in investigations which the Bureau of Statistics is making under direction of Dr. Meeker, in regard to the cost of living.

The other deductions, however, are not to be told, no matter how funny they are, or how many "human" little stories center about them and their gathering. The information as to the cost of butter, lard, imitation eggs, mock steak, and other intimate details of family life are being withheld in accordance with a law of secrecy which binds the mouths of the young investigators.

Details Must Wait.

Until after the investigation is over, therefore, at the request of the department, the spicy, racy story of how five people live on a shoe string, or, to be exact, $1,800 a year and less, especially the less, will have to wait.

At the first conference which the eight investigators had held this morning at the Department of Labor, all eight agreed upon and were willing to divulge one secret, to wit. That the housewives in Washington, whether they be black or white, neat or sriftless, are intelligent, courteous, and philosophical.

Only One Refusal.

Out of twenty houses canvassed for information concerning expenditure of money, only an average of one to that number has refused to co-operate with the investigators.

Whether this is due to the fact that everyone knows about the investigation, or whether the young women are themselves pleasant to talk to and look upon, has not yet been determined by officials in charge of the investigation.

At the close of the experiment, which will perhaps last two months, it may be found that both factors have contributed to the success of the undertaking.

Three more candidates will be initiated as soon as their personal affairs enables them to start. Of the eight young women in the field now, only three have been busy for a week, the others having started in at periods varying from two to three days.

If they have not approached your house yet, therefore, do not feel hurt, they may get there yet. It would be a wise plan to get the family exchequer in some sort of concrete form against the possibility of the visit.

This point alone is the one complaint which the investigators make.

Are Not Bookkeepers.

Women do not keep books. The average household is run much after the manner of old-time business, with a "general" amount coming in, and "about so much going out here and so much there." Definite information on the smaller details of household manipulation is difficult to obtain.

This is due largely, one of the investigators admitted, to the diverse character of the business in a home. Almost all of the trades and industries contribute in some way to its existence, and the ability to "bookkeep" every single item in the process of housekeeping is a task which would not be willingly entered into even by a business concern actively engaged in the commercial world.

Ask for Preparedness.

It is hoped, however, that the housewives will at least shine up their memories and gather together and systematize what information they may have.

In order that the public may know the young women, their names have been given out by the department. They are all armed with printed schedules, on which the information is to be written. Each schedule carries the Bureau of Labor letterhead. The eight women now actively employed in this work are:

Mrs. Minnie E. Patterson, Miss Dorothea Davis, Mrs. Sophia N. Harris, Miss Mabel E. Winslow, Mrs. Andrena Stratton, Miss Dorothy Pope, Miss Helen M. Dart and Miss Ida M. Peck.

BATTERY B TO BE HOME IN 3 WEEKS

D. C. Trops Expected to Muster Out at Armory Here Within That Time.

MARYLANDERS ARE COMING

Fifth Regiment Among Organizations Included in Recent Orders to Funston.

The 142 officers and men of Battery B, District Field Artillery, ordered home from the border yesterday, will be at their armory here for muster out within three weeks, War Department officials promised today.

The District troops were among 25,243 national guard troops which will be sent home by General Funston as soon as transportation facilities can be provided. The Fifth Maryland also is among the troops from more than twenty States ordered home.

This is the fourth unit of the District national guard ordered home. The field hospital, signal corps and First Separate Battalion, which went to the border on July 4, were the first to return. The artillerymen, covered by the present orders to return, went to the border August 7.

There yet remain on the border Troop A, Cavalry, and Battery A, Field Artillery, which left Washington October 3, and the Third Regiment, which left October 4, and has seen but little over three months' border service, as against five months for the Battery B organization.

Capt. George G. Wilson is the commanding officer of Battery B. The other officers are First Lieut. Elwood S. Moorhead, Second Lieuts. Charles L. Ladson and Gerald G. McGrath, Lieut. L. C. White, medical officer, and Joseph E. Hodge, veterinarian.

In addition to being longest on the border of the remaining District troops, Battery B was camped at a strategic point which will be occupied by General Pershing's regulars when they are brought out of Mexico.

The immediate concern of General Funston is to vacate enough cantonments and camps along the border in the vicinity of the border base at Columbus to provide quarters for the 12,000 regulars brought out of Mexico. The Battery B camp at Douglas will be one of the camps so occupied.

The Third Regiment and Troop A, Cavalry, are at San Antonio, 150 miles from the border. The other battery of field artillery is at El Paso.

It is believed at the War Department that, now since the present orders for the return of the 25,243 troops provides amply for immediate needs, a gradual movement of militia back from the border will be carried out.

HENRY FORD WANTS "JITNEY" U-BOAT

Says Dreadnaught Will Be Superseded by Pigmy Submarines.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 22.—Pigmy submarines carried by the German South Atlantic raider, as described in United Press cable dispatches from Buenos Aires, may go far toward bringing an early ending to the war, in the opinion of Henry Ford.

Big warships, the Detroit pacifist believes, are doomed to the junk pile, if it develops that the Germans have started the manufacture of the pigmy U-boats in large numbers.

More than a year and a half ago Ford outlined plans on which he was working for the building of "jitney" submarines, which he believed would constitute adequate defense for the United States coast line. Ford believes that the German twenty-foot submarines are an adaption of his idea.

"Manufacture of the pigmy submarines is a step toward general disarmament," Ford declared today, "for there will be no profit in the building of huge warships in the future. It may mean an earlier ending of the war than has been hoped for."

4,000 WOULD LOSE WORK

Bartenders' Union Head Urges Referendum on D. C. Prohibition.

That nearly 4,000 wage-earners of the District will be thrown out of employment paying them $75,000 weekly, was the statement made by Theodore Sproessie, retiring president of the Washington Bartenders' Union.

Mr. Sproessie, in urging that a referendum clause be attached to the Sheppard prohibition bill, said that the District will lose about $500,000 per year in license revenues should the bill be passed. According to Mr. Sproessie, there are about 700 bartenders in the District earning $14,000 per week. Waiters, porters, brewery employes, teamsters, salesmen, and others number more than 2,500, with an average weekly pay roll of more than $50,000.

Mr. Sproessie said: "Our union has indorsed the Underwood referendum amendment to the Sheppard bill, and feels that if the prohibition legislation is to be saddled onto the District it should not be done until we have had the right to decide by majority vote whether we want it."

UNIVERSITY CLUB BANQUET.

William S. Parks, chairman of the dinner committee of the University Club, has announced that several new features will be added to the program at the annual dinner of the club which will take place Wednesday evening, February 14, at the Willard.

ALL BUT WEALTHY MAY GO BAREFOOT

This Is Prospect Held Out by Cobblers If Leather Continues to Soar.

Washington cobblers today said leather conditions seem to be rapidly nearing the point where only the rich will be able to afford shoes and the rest of the population will have to go barefooted.

Shoemakers here say they have been compelled to increase their prices for hand made shoes until this kind of foot gear is beyond the reach of all but the wealthy. The cost of repairing also has been boosted because of the raise in prices of leather and the other things necessary to make wearable shoes out of bad ones.

Sole leather which formerly cost shoemakers 53 cents a pound is now selling for $1.05 for the same quantity. Soft, pliable leather used for uppers has jumped from $1 to $2.50 a pound. Packages of nails for which shoemakers formerly paid 4 cents are now quoted at 13 cents. Flax, with which soles are sewed on shoes, has increased in price from 85 cents a ball to $2.50. Even the wax cobblers use costs a little more than formerly.

As a result of the increases in prices of materials, shoemakers are now charging $1.50 instead of $1.25 for half soles sewed on and rubber heels; $1.25 instead of $1 for sewed soles and leather heels; and $1 instead of 75 cents for nailed soles. Further increases are predicted if leather prices go up.

MASS MEETING FOR SUFFRAGE PLANNED

Commerce Chamber Committee to Ask All Civic Bodies to Participate.

All civic organizations in the District favoring suffrage for Washington are to be invited by the special committee of ten on suffrage of the Chamber of Commerce to partcipate soon in a suffrage mass meeting.

The committee meets at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce to arrange for the public meeting.

The board of directors of the Chamber last Thursday, unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by P. T. Moran, authorizing the activities of the committee of ten on suffrage. The resolution follows:

"Resolved by the board of directors of the Washington Chamber of Commerce, That its special committee of ten on suffrage be, and they are hereby directed, to invite co-operation from other organizations in Washington for the financing and assembling of a mass meeting of all business men of the city and others interested to appeal to Congress for suffrage in the District of Columbia, along the lines recommended by the trade bodies in resolutions heretofore passed, calling for representation in the House, Senate, and electoral college."

The members of the committee who will meet this afternoon are Albert Schulteis, chairman; Capt. James F. Oyster, Theodore W. Noyes, Joseph I. Weller, Chapin Brown, George G. Seibold, E. C. Graham, A. Leftwich Sinclair, R. N. Harper, and R. P. Andrews.

TAX PAYERS WARNED

Delinquent List Goes to Press on February 1.

To avoid having their names included in the delinquent tax list which goes to press February 1, realty owners whose taxes for the year 1916 are unpaid are advised by the office of the collector of taxes to meet their obligations at as early a date as possible.

The annual tax sale, which will be held in the collector's office, will begin March 13 and end March 20. It is expected the list property to be sold will include more than 14,000 pieces. The balance due on unpaid taxes for 1916 on January 1, was $466,477.98. More than $100,000, it is estimated, will be paid this month.

Taxes on real estate are due and payable in May. After June 1 a penalty of 1 per cent a month is added. To the taxes due on property included in the delinquent tax list is added a fee of 50 cents for advertising.

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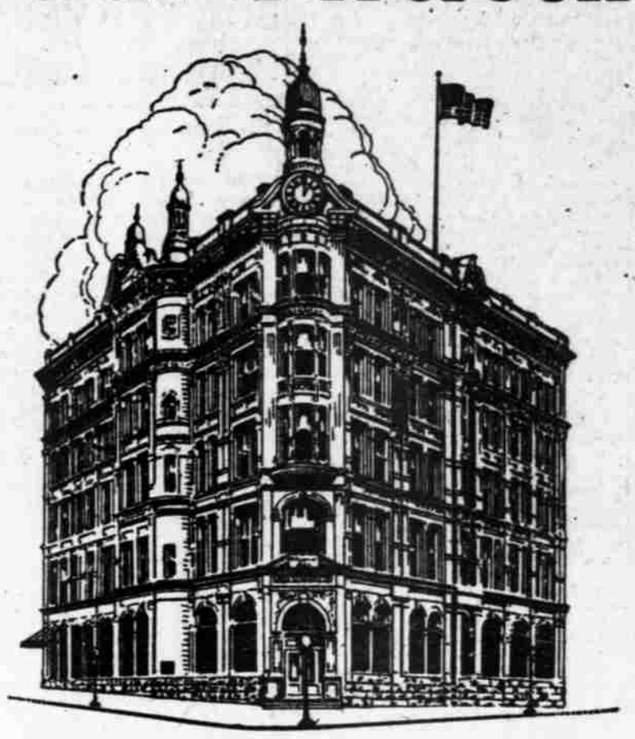
Our Fiftieth Anniversary



—Today this institution completes a full half century of faithful service to its customers and the citizens of the District of Columbia.

During which time it has successfully weathered many financial storms, has safeguarded the money of its many thousands of depositors, and has witnessed Washington grow from a comparatively small and insignificant town to a beautiful cosmopolitan city, ranking among the financial centers and leading capitals of the world.

¶ This institution was incorporated by Special Act of Congress on January 22, 1867, as "The National Safe Deposit of Washington, in the District of Columbia." The incorporators were: Alexander R. Shepherd, William S. Huntington, Samuel P. Brown, George W. Riggs, Nathaniel Wilson and George H. Plant.

¶ On May 24, 1870, the corporation, by Special Act of Congress, was empowered to accept money on deposit, and the name was changed to "The National Savings Bank of the District of Columbia." On April 10, 1891, it was decided by a vote of the stockholders to reincorporate under a Special Act of Congress, which had been passed October 1, 1890, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation of trust, loan, mortgage and certain other corporations within the District of Columbia." On February 18, 1892, the name of the corporation was changed by Special Act of Congress to "The National Safe Deposit, Savings and Trust Company of the District of Columbia," and by Special Act of Congress passed January 31, 1907, the name of the company was again changed to "National Savings and Trust Company," under which name the company has continued to do business.

Interest Payments to Our Depositors Total the Large Sum of $2,412,228.96

¶ With the recently completed addition to the Company's Building, we now have the most spacious Banking Room and Safe Deposit Department in the city, and among the largest in the entire country. Therefore, with greatly increased facilities and equipment, we are in better position than ever before to serve our customers in ALL DEPARTMENTS.

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¶ Our SAFE DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT is large and well lighted by natural light, with spacious Coupon Rooms and every other convenience. SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES of all sizes for the safekeeping of valuable papers, jewels, etc., are rented at Very Moderate Rates.

¶ The TRUST DEPARTMENT of this company is well equipped to handle all kinds of business intrusted to its care—Drafts wills and other legal instruments, advising, when necessary, with the maker or beneficiary of such documents; acts as Executor, Administrator, Trustee, Guardian, Receiver, Agent, Manages Estates and serves in all other fiduciary capacities. The charges for its expert services are always VERY REASONABLE.

¶ Our REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT is adequately equipped to Transact a General Real Estate Business—Make Loans, Manage Estates, Collect Rents, Pay Insurance and Taxes, Improve and Sell property and generally manage Real Estate efficiently and economically.

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