

CURIOS & ANTIQUES

BY FERDIE DEERING

IS THERE an older one? — A complete reproduction of the first edition of the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser is brought to light by Frank Shipley, who asserts that it has been in the possession of his grandfather since before the turn of the century. The date of publication was Friday, August 20, 1773. The editor, W. Goddard, recounts in a front page editorial the difficulties he experienced in getting his newspaper started. Among his problems was that of establishing a private post between Baltimore and Philadelphia "for the purpose of bringing down, in due season, the latest papers." News items included "a letter from the Bishop of C. to the Earl of Belmont on his late duel with Lord Townsend"; an obituary of "Mrs. Eleanor Spicer, aged 128 years, who retained her senses and memory to the last and worked at her spinning wheel with great dexterity and never drank any kind of spirituous liquors"; a report of a man being killed by a son playing with a pistol they thought was not loaded; and—"a few weeks ago a large Rattle-Snake was killed on a Gentleman's plantation in the neighborhood of this Town, in the belly of which was found three middle sized Rabbits." An advertiser "has now for sale a pocket of good hops, a 10-inch new cable and wants to buy a negro girl, about 12 years old." Runaway slaves, clockmakers, silversmiths, "tailors from Philadelphia" and warehouses are listed in other advertisements. A notice written at Mount Vernon in Virginia on July 15, 1773, and signed by George Washington announced that 20,000 acres of land had been obtained and that he wished to lease it for development.

Christmas gift story: It is reported that a certain young fellow was in a jewelry store when a shipment of valuable but badly smashed cut glass was received. "What," asked the thrifty young man, "will you take for that?" The proprietor said, "Oh, about two-bits. What do you want with it?" The shopper laid a quarter on the counter and explained: "Why, I'm going to ship it to my girl for a Christmas gift. It's genuine cut glass and can I help it if it gets broken in transit?"

THE MORNING MAIL brings this from a friend: "I'm still making my two-six-bits a day—you know, six-bits in the morning and six-bits in the afternoon."

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Pontotoc county at least is consistent with the remainder of the state. In last Tuesday's special election 63.2 per cent of the votes cast in Pontotoc county favored the appropriation; of the state total, 63.7 per cent favored the petition.

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CHARLEY STOUT and Jack Frost, the White Swan boys, know how to get in right with editors — they bring along an armful of beans when they want some publicity. But the joke was on them when they called on us. For one thing we were out. Fortunately they left the beans anyhow. The Waples-Platter company dedicated a program to East Central S. T. C. and they wanted an announcement of it in The News. They hadn't reckoned with the enterprise of The News nor read their copies of the paper very closely, for the previous edition had carried the exact story they wanted printed.

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Ada policemen are accommodating. Marguerite (Western Union) Caudle forgot about Ada having a traffic light system and raced across. After she was safely across she noted a cop standing on the corner and coyly inquired if he had seen her violate the law. "Sorry, lady. I was looking the other way," the policeman replied.

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FISTICUFFS DE LUXE — A truck driver's wit may have saved him from a beating at the hands of an Ada oil scout last week. The oil scout was bound for Seminole but couldn't get past a big truck which insisted on occupying practically all of the road, as trucks are wont to do. Finally the exasperated A. o. s. pulled his machine over on the highway shoulder, went around the truck and stopped squarely in front of the latter, forcing the truck driver to stop. The A. o. s. got out of his car and in a very angry tone of voice ordered the t. d. to "Get out. I'm going to beat you up, you big road hog, you!" adding other adjectives from an oil scout's vocabulary to further clarify his opinion of a road hog. The t. d., unperturbed, leaned on his steering wheel, slowly took the cigarette from his mouth, blew a puff of smoke into the air and replied: "Why, I had a better offer than that down the road a piece. The last fellow who stopped me said he was going to come up into the cab and beat me up." The A. o. s. decided to postpone the bout.

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MORE THAN 600 real estate transactions have been recorded since February, 1934, involving land in section 25-2-6, the hot spot of the Fitts oil field.