

The Old Plantation Finds New Cash Crop--Flowers

CAPE FEAR, N. C., April 9 (AP)—The new "young massa" is finding financial salvation for one of the south's most famous plantations—in its gardens.

Kenneth Sprunt hopes that the flowers which for decades have been the glory of old Orton plantation on Cape Fear will provide it with its first profitable cash crop since the Civil War.

The 215,000-acre plantation is more than 200 years old but hasn't paid its way since its vast rice paddies lost out to lower-cost producers in other states during the reconstruction period.

Sprunt, a 26-year-old coast guard veteran, thinks its millions of massed camellias, azaleas and daffodil blooms will make the old mansion again profitable to operate. He's gone into a full-scale nursery business.

Brand New

"We're just right brand new in this thing," he said with pleasant caution. "Eventually I think it's going to amount to something."

Orton is one of the old south's remaining showplaces. Situated on a bluff overlooking the Cape Fear river and a thousand acres of abandoned rice paddies, the big white house has a romantic history older than the United States.

Roger Moore, called "King Roger" for his regal manner, built it in 1725 after an Indian tribe burned down an earlier smaller home. Moore later saw the Indians whooping and bathing on "Sugar Loaf" sandbluff across the river, organized a band of plantation owners and slaves and ambushed the Indians, wiping out the tribe.

Imperious "King Roger" lies buried in an old brick crypt in the plantation graveyard sheltered by great moss-hung oaks. A later owner who went bankrupt was buried secretly in another cemetery so his creditors wouldn't seize the body to force payment of his debts from friends.

Some Cape Fear plantations were razed during the Civil War by federal troops.

"The Yankees didn't burn Orton because they were using it

Gun Shop Opens Today

Another shop catering to the sportsmen's taste has been opened in Klamath Falls with the announcement that Ralph's Gun Shop is now in new quarters at 4820 S. Sixth street.

The new sporting goods store was constructed recently by Ralph Phillips and his two sons, Benny and Walter. The three are affiliated with the firm formerly located at 1114 Main street.

The interior of the shop has been finished in natural knotty pine and has three units. Included in the layout is a sporting goods sales room, a complete machinery shop and a woodworking room. Both the brothers are veterans of World War II.

The real name of the French writer, Voltaire, was Francois Marie Arouet.

Hans Aronland Fire Insurance, 123 N. 6th St.

Indian Easter Services Held

EUGENE, April 10 (AP)—The Klamath Indian Easter service was a success and the church was surrounded with beautiful flowers. Fifteen Indian children were baptized in the faith.

Frank Smyth and Mrs. O. T. (Buck) Anderson were excellent hosts, assisted by the members of the church and prepared an excellent Easter feast. Rev. Harley Zeller and Mrs. Zeller had charge of the service.

Walter J. Kerrigan and Mrs. Kerrigan of Ashland were the guests at the Easter service at Beatty and returned home.

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SUSTAINED INTEREST
DECATUR, Ill., April 10 (AP)—Operas and concerts are the spice of life for Edward Powers, 85. He has attended performances of Aida and Carmen 35 times each, and has heard 35 concerts by Mary Garden. On one trip to New York he attended 49 operas, concerts and plays in 35 days, and another time attended 35 operas, concerts and plays in 21 days.

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