

# WHEEL TRACKS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF - HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST

Service Publication of the Yanceyville (N. C.) Rotary Club for Oct. 27, 1942

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## Diminutive Biographical Sketches

Rotarian: Thomas Jones Ham.

Club Classification: Druggist and Pharmacist.

Club Fellowship Appellation: Tom.

Distinguishing Attributes: A Virginia gentleman—an "F. F. V.", suh, with cultural attainments and devout backgrounds; hospitable, tender, faithful and truthful, with a face and a figure that the feminine gender love and adore.

Thomas Jones Ham was born in the city of Richmond, Va., on Aug. 22, 1896, a son of Thomas Jones Ham and Ida Virginia Cogbill Ham, of aristocratic English descent on both sides of the house. He grew up in the best part of the oldest residential section of the city on the James. His father was a railroad engineer and, for almost a lifetime, was associated with the Southern Railway Company. His mother and father were devoutly pious and loyal followers of the tenets and teachings of John Wesley. He graduated at the famous John Marshall High School, the University of Richmond, and then took his pharmaceutical course at the Medical College of Virginia. He was a bit impulsive and, maybe, a little hot-headed in his youth days, and fought many a fight for younger kids and other underdogs, but he was a bright student, warm-hearted, square-shooting and generous. In this connection, it may be told that his old daddy once took him behind the coal-shed, got a paddle, and said to him: "Son, I can understand your extravagancies, your sizzling bouyances of spirit and your impulsive tendencies to devilment, but, Son, don't you never tell me a lie."

Tom came to Yanceyville in August, 1922, and bought the name, goodwill and stock of the drugstore left by the deceased Nat Brandon. He quickly became acclimated to our clime and folks, his pleasing personality, civic-mindedness and flare for helpfulness to others winning for him a place in our hearts from the start. In 1926 he married Margaret Dawson, of Yellow Springs, Ohio, then living in Durham and rated the best feminine business executive in the Bull City. She is a charming lady, with all of her executive ability, and has made him an ideal wife and business partner, and Tom now says: "All that I am, I owe to my good, smart and forbearing wife." Working hand in hand, Tom and Margaret have builded, fixtured and stocked a brick drugstore on the public square that would do credit to a much larger town. They chose to build a home on the second floor of the drug building, equipping it with all modern conveniences and adorning it with Mrs. Ham's exquisite taste and artistry. They will later build a home on the triangle where the Milton road spurs off from the Hillsboro and Durham road. Tom and Margaret have no children, but they adopted a son, Robert Ham, who has just graduated at the University of North Carolina and passed, with honors, the State's pharmaceutical examination for license. Tom and Margaret have also builded a lovely "country estate home," between Milton and Semora, and given it the name of "Mar-Tom." Here they spend parts of the summers and entertain handsomely.

Tom is a Mason, of Solomonite stripe and pride. He is a live-wire member of our Rotary club, and never lags in "putting his shoulder to the wheel." He is a Methodist—of the sort who shouts for Methodism, backs her programs with his money and his labors, and roots for the Duke football team. Margaret spurs on his Methodism, and is their pastors' "chief de aide." Their labors and activities for the new Methodist church, aside from large cash contributions, were unstinted. They also take a lively and helpful interest in every good cause in the community and county. Tom occupies a high position in the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association. He was influential in getting water and sewerage in Yanceyville, and has served faithfully and usefully as a Sanitary District Commissioner. He is, withal, a sound friend and a dependable druggist, and, it may be said, he also serves his fellowman who with fidelity pharmaceutically understands the indecipherable Latin hieroglyphics of your doctor's diagnosing hands. Tom and Margaret both are honors to the drug business and valued acquisitions to our citizenship.