

# Hertford County Herald

THIRD NEWSIEST WEEKLY PAPER IN THE STATE

A PAPER WORTH WHILE

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN EASTERN CAROLINA

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## GREAT CHRISTMAS TIME AT AHOSKIE

### Business Houses Have Best Trade In Two Years; Shoppers On The Run

## COMMUNITY TREE WAS THE ONE BIG FEATURE

Not for two years has there been such a fine holiday business as there was in Ahoskie Christmas, 1922. Every indication of the business barometer pointed unmistakably to a return of general prosperity among the people of this town and vicinity.

"Shop Early" admonitions have but little weight with those who do their trading here, but when they did break loose, the trading was so brisk that business houses were taxed to the limit on filling the demand. For three days prior to Christmas Eve the streets were swarmed with the shoppers, and the sidewalks were overflowing with the stores, and jamming the muddy streets in every section of a business district. There was no rest up until late Saturday night; in fact, as the hours for shopping drew to a close, the crowds increased, and was a merry struggle to get the clerks to wait upon them.

Even though two blocks in the heart of the business district went dark early Saturday night, it did not deter the Santa Claus shoppers. Ford lights, candles, lamps and every other means of illumination were brought into play and the business of barter trade moved on.

It was a great selling season for Ahoskie merchants. "How was business?" brings the stereotyped answer: "fine." They all agree it was perhaps the best Christmas season Ahoskie has ever had. All day Tuesday of this week, the banks of Ahoskie were kept busy receiving the cash taken in during the last days of the Christmas shopping period.

Approximately \$42,000 was deposited in the two banks here Tuesday, and practically the entire amount represented sales made by local merchants. Inquiries made of the banks bring the information that the Christmas deposits by local merchants were greater than for two years.

Clear skies, and a June temperature made Christmas Day a wonderful day for old and young. The morning hours of the One Big Day were spent at home by Ahoskie folks, with the youngsters making the welkin ring with their Santa Claus horns, whistles, and other devices whose sole claim to glory was their ability to make a noise.

At half past two in the afternoon the young folks forgot their Santa Claus long enough to gather at the tobacco warehouse for the big community Christmas tree which was given under the auspices of the chamber of commerce. A huge tree reaching up into the rafters of the building was gaily decorated, and heavily laden with toys, and eats. As the young folks walked on each other's toes in their joy at the jubilee business, Old Santa Claus handed out the gifts. Many of the townspeople went down and witnessed the performance.

The climax of a well spent Christmas day came at night. "The Gathering of the Nuts" in the center of the basketball court in the tobacco warehouse featured the evening program which also included two basketball games.

Soon after the large crowd gathered at the warehouse, Secretary Harris and Mrs. Aris announced the staging of a wedding. The crowd was asked to name the characters, and they lined up as follows: bride, Miss Nannie Newsome; groom, Otis Modlin; mother-in-law, Mrs. Jeff Jenkins; minister, Rev. J. J. Barker; villian, Billy Rogers; bride's peoble, lawyer Walter Johnson; chariots, Goldie Laniter and Walter Curtis, Lois Gerock and Tom Condon; curtain, Dr. C. G. Powell; curtain puller, Mrs. W. W. Lawrence.

As the names were called out, each adjacent to the big wedding took its place in the center of the floor, and when they all lined up, Secretary Harris asked for suggestions as to names of the little act about to be pulled. Failing to secure satisfactory names from any of the spectators, Mrs. Harris suggested that it be called while those on the sidelines found it difficult to breathe between the spasms of hilarious mirth occasioned

## TIME TO PLAN NEW CROP SAYS THE COUNTY AGENT

### New Condition Facing Hertford County Farmer In Boll Weevil

(By H. L. MILLER, County Agent)

It is none too early to begin planning for next year's crop. With the coming of the boll weevil, the right thinking farmer will want to produce food and feed enough at home, to at least supply all of his own needs, and with a small surplus of pork, poultry and eggs for sale.

If you will look around you a little bit you will find that the farmers in your community who are most independent of high or low-priced cotton or peanuts are the farmers who produce their own living at home. Then, what they sell in cotton or peanuts doesn't have to go north or west to pay for high priced food and feed, but stays at home to gradually swell their bank accounts. Because the production of cash crops and the buying of food and feed may figure out best on paper of an occasional year, don't be fooled into thinking it a safe principle to follow. It won't work out in practice.

If the Hertford county farmers take seriously the production of an abundance of food and feed at home, then the boll weevil problem, will be largely solved for us, for we can gradually work into other cash crops as the occasion offers.

A suggested cropping system for the one-horse farmer in Hertford County that provides for food for the family, and should furnish 400 to 500 dozen eggs and 1000 to 2000 pounds of pork for sale yearly with very little cost for food or feed:

4 acres cotton—rye or crimson clover sown in cotton middles in October.

4 acres peanuts or tobacco followed by rye.

8 acres corn with beans in corn middles.

1 acre garden and orchard.

1 acre sweet potatoes.

2 acres Abbruzzi rye for seed or grazing followed by soy beans for seed or grazing.

2 acres oats and vetch for hay followed by soy beans and black peas, also farm hay.

8 acres permanent pasture regular grass and clover mixtures.

Total 25 acres. Larger farms in proportion.

Such an outline as I have named should also include 50 pure bred hens per farm, 1 to 2 pure bred brood sows, 1 to 2 good cow cows. Sows bred twice per year.

## AHOSKIE MAN FAILS TO GET HIS HOOCH

Some white fellow in Ahoskie is shy two dollars. It represents the amount he slipped to an ebony hued gentleman (?) "ebony" to go and fetch quart of hooch. The white fellow waited long enough for his supposed benefactor to have distilled the stuff himself, and then decided he was just one of those plain "victims" — more akin to the other character in the old ditty "a nigger and a mule are two big fools, etc."

The reporter did not get the white fellow's name, nor did the latter know with whom he was dealing; but the transaction took place in one of Ahoskie's habitues for those who seek quiet and darkness to gulp down their moonshine.

Velvet beans helped one Onslow County farmer to fatten 4000 pounds of meat (and then make about \$500 per acre from tobacco planted on the land the following year.

"The Gathering of the Nuts." The suggestion finished the business, the actors in the drama walked slowly back to their places in the crowd by the flat failure of the "Nuts" to perform.

Basketball games kept the crowd there until ten o'clock, and then the folks went home to sum up the day's business of pleasure and observance of the greatest Christmas Ahoskie ever had.

## Taxable Property About Ten Millions In County

### Herald Will Publish Facts Taken From Tax Lists On Record In Office Of Register Of Deeds; Approximately Ninety Thousand Dollars Will Be Paid Into Treasury

The HERALD is going to begin the publication of some facts and figures about the valuation of property in the County, and the amount of taxes derived from the valuation. The figures quoted are transcribed from the records in the Register of Deeds office at Winton, and cover the valuation of property, real and personal for the year 1922.

Publishing these facts in connection with the monthly publication of expenditures by commissioners, and the financial statement published by the County Treasurer, all taxpayers who have access to the HERALD may keep in close touch with county administration, from the very source of revenue until it is expended.

Figures already available to the newspaper office are too weighty and bulky to attempt to handle all in one issue. Therefore, each week for some time, these articles will cover only one aspect of the valuation of property and resulting taxes therefrom. This week, the general county tax rate, and the aggregate value of real and personal property, divided between whites and colored, will take up the discussion.

Total valuation of both real and personal property in Hertford County amounts to a little less than ten million dollars. Exact figures are \$9,800,549. Of this amount \$8,227,804 is listed by white residents of the County, and \$1,572,745 is listed by negroes. Hertford County's tax rate, excepting special tax districts, is 92 cents on the \$100 valuation, divided as follows: schools, 52 cents; roads, 25 cents; county expenses, 15 cents. Computing taxes on the total listed property gives a total of \$90,165.05. That is the amount of taxes paid into the county treasury for 1922.

Hertford County is paying more for its public schools than the combined totals of roads and all other expenses, including home and farm demonstration. From the 1922 taxes—totaling a little more than \$90,000—\$50,962.86 will be appropriated to schools; \$24,501.37 to road funds; and \$14,700.82 to county expenses.

There is a significant fact uncovered in publishing these figures included in the paragraph above. It is in regard to the howl about excessive taxation for home and farm demonstration work, and the added burden a whole-time health officer would entail upon the county's taxpayers. The real fact of the business is that the average taxpayer would never know the difference when he went to pay his taxes.

All real estate listed in Hertford County is valued at \$7,380,409, divided among whites and colored as follows: white, \$6,115,242; negroes, \$1,265,167. Total valuation of personal property is divided in this proportion: whites, \$2,112,562; colored, \$307,578; total \$2,420,140.

Taxes on real estate owned by white persons are distributed as follows: schools, \$31,799.26; road fund, \$15,288.11; \$9,172.86 for county expenses; owned by colored persons—for schools, \$6,578.87; for road fund, \$3,162.92; for county expenses, \$1,897.75. This gives a total of \$67,899.77 taxes derived from taxable real estate within the county.

From personal property of all description in Hertford County \$22,265.28 in taxes will be paid into the county treasury. It is distributed as follows: owned by whites—for schools, \$10,985.32; for road fund, \$5,281.40; for county expenses, \$3,168.84; owned by negroes—for schools, \$1,599.41; for road fund, \$768.95; for county expenses, \$461.38.

Figuring valuations and tax rates is such a staggering piece of business that the ordinary fellow can stand but so much at a sitting, and that has been taken into consideration in the preparation of this article, and all future articles.

## AHOSKIE ROAD BOARD MEMBER HIRING LABOR

### Supposed To Be Working On Authority Given By Old Road Law Of Hertford County

According to information that has reached this office from more than one source, J. R. Garrett, Ahoskie member of the road board of Hertford County, has already begun hiring persons to work on the roads of his township. Some of those employed are slated to fill the places now held by men employed by the road superintendent.

Whether this practice has been started by any of the other commissioners in their respective townships has not yet been disclosed. It is a secret around Ahoskie that Mr. Garrett intends having a direct hand in employing labor for the roads of Ahoskie Township. It is presumed he is using the old road law as authority in entering this field, although the contract with the road superintendent says he shall be vested with all power to hire and discharge men. Official records of the board fall to reveal any modification of the contract or any other understanding than that written on the

## DR. POWELL CANNOT VOTE A LA MITCHELL

It doesn't matter so much about who gets the chairmanship, but every Hertford County road commissioner has agreed that his parliamentary rights should be so defined as to allow him only one vote on any question at issue. Upon that agreement Dr. J. A. Powell, Harrellsville member, was unanimously elected chairman of the road board at its second meeting last Thursday.

Besides voting not to employ any more convict labor until further action, the board did nothing but approve the pay rolls and current bills at last week's session.

Legumes pay their board, and pay for the privilege.

document that secured the services of the county road superintendent. It is about ten days before the board meets in regular session, and it is probable that identical question may arise in the meeting, and some action be taken then.

## Chamber Of Commerce News

The hotel committee will make a report Thursday evening and a special meeting of the citizens will be called immediately after New Year's day to consider buying property and selling sufficient stock to put up a real hotel. Mr. H. S. Basnight has offered a lot on Main street at a very attractive price and agrees to take a substantial block of stock besides. Messrs. Garrett and Hoggard will submit their proposition on their property facing Railroad Avenue and Main Street, a fine location too.

A new brick plant is under consideration here by the Chamber and a brick maker was in town Tuesday interviewing business men and property owners in regard to a suitable location. The brick company will employ about thirty men and their pay roll will be around \$12,000 per year.

The secretary is in communication with two candy manufacturers and hopes to have a candy factory here in the near future.

Another manufacturing plant of great importance is being investigated and a representative will arrive here in a few days with a proposition that will, if accepted, but Ahoskie in the front rank of textile manufacturing town of this section.

It is possible that Ahoskie will have an independent Western Union office in the near future if plans under way mature as expected.

A piano house will help Ahoskie and two firms are considering opening a place here, they have houses in Norfolk and other places and sell a number of leading makes, they will also carry a full line of sheet music and musical instruments.

The mud of the past week shows conclusively that a few more sidewalks should be paved and Main street too.

It is a shame that the most prominent corner in town is without a sidewalk and one walk in front of a business house will make you seasick if you use it twice within an hour. The alley from the railroad has been cleaned and its up to the fellows below the railroad to do likewise, if they will pro rate it the same as the others did it will be very inexpensive and will certainly add to the view of all passengers going through the city. It's absolutely unsanitary as it is and unnecessary too.

If the tax appraisers will tax the shacks in the main part of the city at what the ground is said to be worth or at least offered for sale, somebody will either fix 'em or sell them. It isn't fair to tax the man who has improved his property and let others who won't, escape thereby making their neighbor increase the value of their property for them. "Either improve your property or sell it to some one who will" is a good motto for the City Council to adopt this coming year.

The childrens' Christmas tree was a great success and the following merchants and firms are to be congratulated for helping Santa Claus out: Ahoskie Department Store, Barnes-Sawyer Grocery Co., Bellamy Ice Cream Co., Mitchell Drug Co., Ahoskie Supply Co., L. T. Sumner, Odum & Farmer, Feldman's Department Store, J. Tittleman, J. J. Barker, Garrett & Jernigan.

## LIGHTS FLUNK OUT

In the midst of the waning shopping hours last Saturday night all of the electric lights on the two Main street blocks east of the railroad flickered and went out. Examination showed a blown out fuse in the transformer at Z. V. Bellamy's stand. Another fuse was inserted but lasted about two seconds. It was discovered on Sunday that the transformer had been blown out. Further examination of the wires failed to show any cross circuit. On Monday pennies were found inserted back of fuses in three business houses in that district. They had caused the destruction.

## SCHOOL OPENS JANUARY 2

Resumption of work at the Ahoskie High School will begin next Tuesday, January 2. There will be four months and a half of school during the spring semester. All of the teachers are now at home for the holidays. T. R. Bain, assistant high school teacher, returned here Wednesday morning and will be here until school re-opens.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IS A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

### Training School Is Working For Colored Race Under Difficulties

(By JAS. E. WALKER)

We are standing on the threshold of the great Christmas tide. Behold! we are knocking at the very door of its joys and festivities. While thus situated, our hearts and minds become temporarily atavic reverting reverting back, back to the plains of Bethlehem. We think of the shepherds watching their sheep; we think of the wise men of the East, following the star that guided them to the stable in Bethlehem where the child Jesus was born. Coming down through twenty centuries to the year nineteen hundred and twenty-two, we find ourselves, like the wise men of the East, hovering around the manger of Bethlehem with hearts bubbling over with joy, peace and good will, because the Savior of the world was born. As has been truthfully said, this birth was and is God's greatest gift to humanity.

Inoculated with the spirit of Christmas, America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, turns her eyes toward the suffering continents of the old world. She would have them rejoice not only in the birth of Christ but in the birth of America herself as a part of God's plan to bring peace, joy and good will into all the world. Thus our ships shall plunge the mighty deep, carrying our cargoes of gifts to the suffering millions of Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. For her noble generosity, America might well be called blessed.

Lest we forget, lest we forget, charity begins at home. Thus to the citizenry of Hertford County, white and colored, to every church, home and fraternal organization in Hertford County, we do humbly ask that in your efforts to help the suffering Russian in Europe, you will not pass by the needy Russian at your door. Here at the Training school, we suffer for many things but suffer most for a new building. Toward this end, we solicit the support of all the friends of education. Any amount however, large or small will be accepted and highly appreciated.

This message would be incomplete without a word relative to the great educational movement in our state. North Carolina no longer pleads poverty as an excuse for not educating. To her eternal glory, she has said poverty or no poverty, ways and means must be found to educate every boy and girl, white and colored, within her bounds. May this message reach the ears of the county board of education and so animate it that ways and means will be found to build us a twelve room brick school house. Such a building would be the greatest possible Christmas gift to the colored citizens of Hertford county. May this message fall not on deaf ears but sink into the hearts of all. A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

## DIES FROM BURNS

Mrs. T. C. Peed, wife of a prosperous farmer of the Union section, died as a result of burns last Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock. She was alone in her home Tuesday when the fatal accident occurred. When her husband found her she was badly burned and was unconscious. She suffered terribly from the burns which are thought to have been caused by an open fireplace in the room. She was unable to give any details of the accident before she died.

## NEW BRICK GARAGE

Dr. L. E. Walker and R. R. Jernigan have awarded contract for the construction of a modern brick garage building on West Main street. The new building will be built on the lot where Sessoms' & Forbes garage is now located, and will be up-to-date in every respect. D. L. Thomas, local contractor, will do the construction work.

## QUARTERLY MEETING

The regular quarterly meeting of the membership of the Ahoskie Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday night, January 4. Every member of the organization is requested to be at the meeting.