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FIRST IN  
NEWS AND  
ADVERTISING

## CHEAP SCHOOLS A WASTE OF MONEY, SAYS LEE THOMAS

Pupils Repeating Grades Thru  
Failure Cost \$119,000 a  
Year in County

### LONG TERM SCHOOLS BEST

H. Lee Thomas,  
County Superintendent of Schools

The Moore County Board of Education expended \$413,000.00, outside the charter districts of Aberdeen, Carthage, Southern Pines and Vass-Lakeview, during the last five years, reteaching children who had failed to gain promotion. In 1925-26, the enrollment in the rural schools of the county was 4,738, with 2,894 or 62 per cent, coming over as repeaters from the previous year. The total rural school cost for that year, including all expenditures, except money derived from long term loans, was \$147,000.00. Of this sum \$91,000.00, or 62 per cent, was spent in instructing the 2,894 children failing of promotion, in exactly the same subject matter which they had attempted to take the year before.

In the scholastic year 1926-27, the enrollment in the rural schools was 4,633, including all grades and races. Of this number 2,488, or 52 per cent, were repeaters brought over from the year before. The total expenditure for schools that year was \$175,000.00, \$84,000.00 of which was made necessary by the reteaching of the 2,488, or 52 per cent, who had failed in their studies the previous year.

The number of un-promoted children in 1927-28 was reduced to 2,112, or 46 per cent, of the total enrollment. That year it was necessary to expend \$81,000.00 of the \$177,000.00 total school fund to meet the cost incurred by teaching the repeaters. There were 4,821 children enrolled that year, with a promotion total of 2,885. The records for the year 1928-29 show an enrollment of 4,846, with 1,926 or 41 per cent repeating. The county spent \$178,000.00 for schools that year and \$73,000.00 reteaching the failures. In 1929-30 the county paid out \$177,000.00 on the rural schools. The enrollment that year was 4,725 children. Of this number 1,889 or 42 per cent were receiving instruction in the same subjects as the year before. This entailed an outlay of \$74,000.00 for reteaching.

### 33 Per Cent Repeaters

During the scholastic year 1929-30 the charter schools of the county, including Aberdeen, Carthage, Southern Pines and Vass-Lakeview, enrolled 3,138 children. One thousand and seventy nine, or 35 per cent, were repeating their grades. These schools expended that year, not including money derived from long term loans, \$153,000.00, of which \$57,000.00 went into the instruction of the 1,079 children retained in their grades. Considering the rural and charter schools as a unit, the total enrollment in all the schools of Moore county in 1929-30 was 7,863, of which number 2,825 or 36 per cent, were repeating their grades. Those repeating required an extra expenditure of \$119,000.00 for their instruction for that year alone. Thus it is apparent that much money has been expended on the schools of the county in reteaching children who for some reason have failed to be honored by regular promotion. Whether this was a needless waste of funds, all will not agree. Every citizen should give the matter sufficient study to form an opinion, and be able to render assistance in solving the problem.

Experience has shown that it has not been possible in any public school system to reach one hundred per cent promotion, and at the same time maintain a high standard of achievement. The \$413,000.00 cost of reteaching the failures over a five-year period in Moore county was entirely too much, but seems to have been the only thing to do under the circumstances. The average percentage of the total enrollment repeating the grade in that period was slightly less than 49. Approximately ten percent of this estimate may be accounted for as unavoidable. In the first

## Car Confiscated by Aberdeen Police Stolen in Night From Station House

Liquor-Laden Vehicle Captured  
After Chase, Mysteriously  
Disappears

When the Aberdeen police confiscated an automobile full of liquor after a merry chase through the village streets, they like to have it stay confiscated until they determine what to do with it. But the best plans of mice and men sometimes go awry.

Day before yesterday a car suspected of containing beaucoup liquor tore through the town and the police gave chase. They cornered it when it attempted to leave the municipality via Saunders' tobacco warehouse little knowing that the street leading to said warehouse comes to a blind end. When the driver had gone down as far as he could, he deserted his craft and took to his heels. And his heels were fleetest than those of the officer. He got away.

The police seized the car. It was well stocked with material outlawed in this state for many long years and in these United States since one Andrew Volstead served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives some dozen years ago. He took the car over to headquarters and put it safely away in front of the fire truck. That is, he thought he put it safely away.

But it didn't stay put. Sometime Tuesday night someone entered the firehouse, pushed the apparatus out in the street, stepped on the start of the confiscated car and drove it away. Stole the darn thing right away from the police.

Beat that.

### Cameron Pleads For Fair Tax Appraisal

County Supervisor Has Worked  
Out Basis of Equality For  
Revaluation

We are planning to get personal property and intangibles of all kinds on the list this year, and we hope that the people in general, out of a spirit of fairness, will cooperate with the appraisers in giving full information on all these points," said A. B. Cameron, recently elected tax supervisor for Moore county, in speaking of the work of revaluation which got under way on Tuesday.

Mr. Cameron, since his election, has been busy formulating plans for the work with a view to equalizing values, getting a corresponding valuation on corresponding property in the different townships. The tendency, he says, is for a reduction in the valuation of farm lands as in many instances it has been too high. Buildings will be valued at the replacement cost minus depreciation, and ten dollars per acre has been set as the minimum price for land with more added according to the location, proximity to churches and schools, and state of fertility. A basis for all kinds of property has been worked out and Mr. Cameron hopes that a more satisfactory valuation than the existing one may be made. He feels that he has a group of good men in each township as appraisers who will be fair to both the individual and to the county.

### List Takers

The correct list of list takers and appraisers is as follows, the first named in each group being the list taker:

Carthage township, W. A. Stuart, W. E. Kelly, John A. Fry. Bensalem township, B. Deaton, E. L. Kelley, J. D. McInnis. Sheffields township, W. J. Dunlap, R. Brown, Curtis Hunsucker. Ritters township, N. I. Finnison, Lendon Reynolds, Frank Brady. Deep River township, George Wilcox, J. E. Shields, W. A. Tyson. Greenwood, P. Bullock, E. B. Harrington, D. McDonald.

McNeills township, F. W. Van Camp, Will McC. Blue, N. L. Gibbon. Sandhills township: A. A. McKeithen, Jim O'Quinn, J. W. Pickler. Mineral Springs township, L. A. Pender, W. A. Clark, D. A. Patterson.

### BANKS CLOSED MONDAY

Banks in the Sandhills will be closed on Monday, the anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee.

### Paving For U. S. No. 1

Highway Board To Improve  
Stretch Between Sandhills  
and Sanford, is Rumor

Rumor has it that work is to begin shortly on U. S. Highway No. 1 between Cameron and Sanford, that five miles of the unpaved portion of the road is to be completed this summer. The State Highway Commission has made a call for its share of Federal aid and is setting about arranging contracts that will absorb the entire \$4,000,000 available in order to keep construction work at the peak during the year, and provide employment where it is sorely needed. This stretch is one of the few unpaved between Maine and Florida, the only piece of unimproved road on U. S. 1 north of the Sandhills.

## TAX APPRAISERS ASK REAL ESTATE TAX REDUCTIONS

Board Passes Resolution Calling  
for Drastic Action by County  
Legislators

### FAVOR A LUXURY TAX

The widespread grievance against high taxes on real estate in North Carolina found definite shape in Moore county on Monday of this week when the following resolutions were passed by members of the Board of Tax Appraisers of the county at a meeting held in Carthage:

"We, the Board of Tax Appraisers of Moore County in session at Carthage, N. C., this the 12th day of January, 1931, do hereby adopt the following resolution:

"Resolved, that we respectfully petition our Representatives in the State Legislature to use every effort to redress the common grievance of high taxes on real estate in North Carolina and especially in Moore County, and to this end be it further

"Resolved, that we favor a sales tax on luxuries, to relieve the situation.

"Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the Moore County Senator and Representative, and they are hereby requested to use every effort to secure the reduction in cost of operation of the State and County government, so as to assist and relieve taxpayers."

The document is signed by the following: N. L. Gibbons, L. R. Reynolds, John A. Fry, Frank Brady, E. L. Kelly, N. I. Finison, W. A. Clark, W. J. Dunlap, W. McC. Blue, P. Bullock, G. W. Wilcox, D. A. Patterson, W. A. Tyson, E. R. Brown, J. B. O'Quinn, G. C. Hunsucker, F. W. VanCamp, W. A. Stuart, D. McDonald, A. A. McKeithen, E. B. Harrington, W. E. Kelly, E. B. Keith, J. W. Pickler, B. Deaton and A. B. Cameron.

### MRS. MARR ELECTED HEAD OF HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Pinehurst Chapter of the Moore County Hospital Auxiliary held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, January 14th, at the Community Church, elected officers for the coming year and adopted the Constitution and by-laws. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. M. W. Marr; First Vice-Chairman, Mrs. E. B. Chapin, Rev. T. A. Cheatham and Rev. W. M. MacLeod. Secretary, Mrs. E. B. Keith; Treasurer, Mrs. Paul Dana.

With the arrival back in Pinehurst of Harry V. Maxwell of Spring Lake, N. J., yesterday, the Sandhills polo club is arranging for an important game Saturday in which two crack army players from Fort Bragg, Capt. P. C. Fleming and Capt. D. L. Crane, will take part. Verner Z. Reed, of Pinehurst, W. Vivian Slocum of Darien, Conn., Aldo R. Balsam of New York also will participate.

## BARNSDALL BUYS WINTER HOME IN KNOLLWOOD HGTS.

Leader in Oil Industry Acquires  
Newcomb-Johnson-Tufts  
House on Grove Drive

### IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

The Knollwood section has been the scene of remarkable activity in the past two or three weeks, the result being a pronounced stimulus of good feeling as to the prospect in that quarter, and a definite guarantee that the future of the Midland Road from Southern Pines is all that anyone cares to predict.

The latest transaction, coming close on the heels of the sale of the Donald Ross house, is that in which Shields Cameron has sold to T. N. Barnsdall, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, that fine Knollwood home built by the Newcomb-Tufts-Johnson group, on the east side of Grove Drive, facing the No. 1 Fairway of the Pine Needles golf course. This building was erected as an investment by the builders, and promptly rented as soon as completed. This year it was rented again through the Biddle agency at Pinehurst, but before the tenant could take possession Mr. Barnsdall dropped into Southern Pines and there through Mr. Cameron secured the Hutt house on Ridge street. This did not appear to Mr. Barnsdall large enough for his needs and he asked Mr. Cameron for something more roomy, and when Shields showed him the Knollwood cottage he did not argue but at once closed the deal, and with the privilege of immediate possession. This required an arrangement with the previous renter who was so well pleased with the demand for homes in Knollwood that he allowed his claim to be cancelled and took a house in Pinehurst. Mr. Barnsdall was given immediate possession.

T. N. Barnsdall is a name closely associated with the development of the American petroleum industry. Three quarters of a century ago Mr. Barnsdall's grandfather commenced operation up on Oil creek just outside of Titusville, in Pennsylvania, a mile or two perhaps from the Drake well which was the beginning of the oil industry. His ventures were quite successful from the first. When the Bradford field was opened the Barnsdales were pioneers up in that section.

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During the life time of the elder Theodore N. Barnsdall, he was said to have been the largest individual oil operator on the globe. The Barnsdall interests spread all over the

(Please turn to page 5)

### Health Dept. Salaries Submitted to Knife

Major Operations Performed on  
County Physician, Nurse  
and Board Clerk

W. H. Currie, chairman of the board of county commissioners, H. Lee Thomas, county superintendent of schools, and J. E. Muse, mayor of Carthage, met on Monday afternoon and reorganized the Moore County Board of Health by reelecting Dr. J. F. Davis of Highfalls and electing Dr. J. S. Millikan of Southern Pines to membership.

A quorum being present, the board proceeded to seize the shears used last week by the commissioners and to prune the salaries of those coming under their jurisdiction. The salary of the health officer, Dr. Symington, was cut from \$3,600 to \$3,300 and his traveling expense allowance from \$600 to \$300 per annum. He was reelected, his term having expired this month. The traveling expense of the county health nurse, Miss Ollie Seagroves, was reduced from \$600 to \$300 per year, and her salary was allowed to remain at \$1,500 on condition that she do all urgent cases of welfare work. The salary of Miss Ariel Shaw, clerk in the office of the Board of Health, was cut from \$780 to \$600 per year.

Honored



## SANDHILLS ONE RESORT IN LESS THAN 25 YEARS

Richard Tufts Sees Pinehurst  
and Southern Pines Grow  
Together

### 126 AT C. OF C. BANQUET

"Twenty-five years ago there were two struggling resorts wholly and completely separated the one from the other. Less than 25 years from now there will be only one great resort; we shall be wholly and completely united, the one with the other," Richard Tufts in speaking of Southern Pines and Pinehurst told members and guests of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet last night. One hundred and twenty-six persons gathered around the festive board at the Southern Pines Country Club to hear the annual reports of the commerce body, to elect directors for this year and to listen to an array of talent seldom gathered together on one occasion in the Sandhills.

Dr. L. B. McBrayer, retiring president of the Chamber of Commerce presided. Shields Cameron, secretary, read the treasurer's report showing a balance of more than \$500 after the year's work. Dr. McBrayer reviewed the accomplishments of the year in his annual report, Dr. George Herr conducted an open forum for discussion of problems confronting the community, during which Dr. James W. Dickie, S. B. Richardson and Frank Buchan spoke briefly; George W. Case spoke for the city administration, thanking the chamber for its whole-hearted cooperation with the town authorities, after which the meeting was turned over to the toastmaster, James Boyd.

James Boyd Toastmaster  
Mr. Boyd introduced Mrs. Charles R. Whitaker, who expressed the appreciation of the women of Southern Pines for the work of the Chamber of Commerce and told something of the accomplishments of the women themselves, through the Civic Club, in starting planting and other civic betterment projects in the town. Ralph W. Page of Aberdeen talked a bit about banking problems and offered a constructive suggestion for advancing the cause of credits in the Sandhills, and Struthers Burt sounded a note of optimism in his remarks. Dr. Arthur Fleming, Louisburg, entertained the crowd with amusing stories. The Club Skyline orchestra

(Please turn to page 4)

### Moore County Farmer Dies of Knife Wounds

Ira Little of White Hill Killed  
by John Nicholson, Says  
Coroner's Jury

Ira Little, 40, substantial farmer of the White Hill section, died Sunday in a Sanford hospital from knife wounds alleged to have been inflicted by John Nicholson, 28, on January 9th.

Mr. Little had gone to the home of one of the tenants on his farm, presumably having been called there by Nicholson. It is said that when Little found Nicholson there he ordered him off the place because of some trouble they had had the year before.

Mr. Little and Nicholson went outside and the conversation there was not heard by witnesses in the house, it is said. It is thought that the dispute arose over things alleged to have been said by Nicholson about Little's wife.

A coroner's jury held an inquest yesterday morning after the death of Little and found that he had come to his death as the result of knife wounds inflicted by a knife in the hands of John Nicholson.

At last reports Nicholson could not be located and no one seemed to know of his whereabouts.

Information received from one who viewed the body is to the effect that Mr. Little was very badly cut up, the wielder of the weapon seemingly being bent of finishing the job.