

STARTED IN VASS

A. G. Edwards Ends Railroading Career After 45 Years' Service

Allie G. Edwards, local ticket agent and telegraph operator of the Seaboard Airline Railway, has retired after 45 years of active service.

The retirement, which came just as 1956 was ending, brings to an end a career that has seen Southern Pines and the rest of the Sandhills grow from a small stopping off place to national prominence in the sports and business world.

Mr. Edwards, a native of Vass, got his first taste of railroading back in the summer of 1908 when he obtained a job as a day laborer during a vacation period from Buies Creek where Campbell College is located. Again, in the following summer, he worked on the tracks, but switched over that fall to the bridge construction force. He decided then and there that he was in the wonderful world of railroading for good.

He liked it so well, in fact, that he requested, and was granted, permission to study telegraph procedures without pay, a knowledge that has stood him in good stead for the 45 years he has been in the service.

Pay? Not much in those days. He received \$41 per month as the telegraph operator in Vass. And days weren't measured in eight hour shifts, either. But even that was better than the 75 cents per day he had received as a member of the section crew, and the work was a lot better, particularly in the cold winters.

It wasn't until 1925 that Mr. Edwards became ticket agent in Southern Pines. Since then he has seen many thousands of people go; he has seen the area boom and, for some, bust. And he has seen it change... change from a small town that was open mostly in the winter season for the visitors to a bustling year-round community.



MR. EDWARDS

It took him 15 years to get his first vacation. Since then he has seen some 32 states and classes traveling — by rail, naturally — as one of his main interests, accompanied by his wife, the former Ruby Bundy of Vass.

His others are woodworking and maintaining a thriving bee colony, housed in some 20 hives. His woodworking hobby hasn't been just fooling around with knick-knacks; he has constructed beautiful furniture, mostly of cedar, and furnished his home in Vass with it. He has also built many pieces for his sons.

His sons—one of them was killed in an accident years ago—have followed in his footsteps as believers in Vass and have done much to build the community. Mr. Edwards, a loyal Methodist, is also a Mason in the Southern Pines Lodge, and a Shriner. He has taken much interest in civic activities both here and in Vass. One of his sons, A. G. Edwards, Jr., is presently mayor of Vass.

Idle Comments

Geography: There are two creeks, less than a half mile apart, in the upper end of the county bearing the names "Dry Creek" and "Wet Creek." Anybody know why?

Spot Coverage: Nelson Hyde, Pinchurst Outlook editor, was roused from bed in the middle of the night last week by an unidentified caller who told him: "Your building's on fire." Hyde, pretty drowsy, jumped out of bed, rushed down to the office. Turned out there was a fire in the same building he occupied but a fire wall in the middle had saved everything on his end. He took a few notes, went back home and to bed.

Country Turkey: Here's a good way to prepare a turkey, passed our way by Rudy Womack, owner-manager of the Carthage Hotel. Take a good sized country ham, skin it (leaving the entire skin intact), and cover the turkey with the skin while it's roasting. Womack, who serves such victuals every day, (turkey this Sunday), says it leaves the bird nice and moist and gives it a delicious taste.

Mother-In-Law Joke: A nervous motorist was driving down the road, not too peacefully: his wife and mother-in-law were in the back seat, telling him how to drive. Finally getting enough of the chatter, he craned his head back and said: "Say, who's driving this car—you, or your mother?"

Character: This David Fanning, the fellow who caused all the trouble at the House in the Horseshoe back in the 1780's, wore a silk hat at all times, according to a bit of research done by Professor Blackwell P. Robinson, who compiled a history of Moore County recently. Fanning, described by Robinson as a "lecherous scoundrel," had been scalded as a youth and was not allowed even to eat at the table in his own home, his appearance was so disagreeable.

Christmas Cards: We've run onto two good ways to dispose of cards recently and pass them along. Over in Pinehurst, people are requested to put them in a bin provided for the purpose, and they're collected and forwarded on to a hospital for crippled children. Other people, we're told, save them until next year and cut out pretty pictures to paste on Christmas gifts.

Mrs. Virgil Lee Died Friday In Baltimore, Md.

Word was received here Sunday that Mrs. Virgil Lee, onetime resident of Southern Pines, died Friday in Baltimore. She had been in declining health some time.

Mrs. Lee and her late husband lived on Country Club Road here until Mr. Lee's death. Mrs. Lee moved to Baltimore where a son and daughter live at that time.

Funeral services and burial were held in Fayetteville, her birthplace.

Mr. and Mrs. Shields Cameron returned from their Howard Johnson prize trip to Florida Wednesday night, too late to be reached for a full account for this week's issue.



ALICE BENYMON... "a remarkable talent."

Young Addor Girl Will Appear On Nationally Televised Show Sunday

"The moment she started to sing, I felt the hair raising on the back of my neck."

That was the description given by Frederic Ramsey, Jr., noted jazz historian and collector of folk music, of the singing of Alice Benymon, 17-year old Negro girl of Addor, to editors of the New Yorker magazine in the current issue.

"It's astonishing—there are girls with beautiful voices singing in churches all over the South, but something always happens to them," he continued. "Either they get married or they move North. Anyhow, they never go on singing."

But Mr. Ramsey, a learned person indeed and probably one of the most thorough of all collectors in this age of prowling around the back country, might find himself wrong this time.

Miss Benymon, who learned spirituals from her mother, who in turn had learned them from her mother, has no intention of giving up what she has come to love, either for a husband or a new life in the North.

"I'd like to go North and study voice," she said Monday, "but I love to sing spirituals, and to me, they're something you have to learn from people who know them. They aren't in books."

The pert little girl, a senior at Berkeley High School, has been singing for as long as she can remember. She is in constant demand at most of the Negro churches in the Addor area, and many others nearby.

"I sing in four or five churches every month," she proudly said at the interview. "We don't have services each Sunday in my own church—Poplar Springs Baptist—so I go to other churches. Spirituals are just something that you either like or you don't. I think there's no music like them, and I'm proud that there are other people who like to hear me sing."

Ramsey, friend of Mr. and Mrs. Cadwallader Benedict, visited here last fall on his way South to collect more folk music. He was planning a television show and stopped here to pay a social call

and inquire if there was any thing nearby that might be good enough for the show. "It has to be honest," he insisted, "nothing jazzy or modern."

The Benedicts, living in Pinebluff at the time and on first-hand speaking acquaintance with many of the people in Addor, suggested Alice. Ramsey visited the church where she was singing—the Christian Free Liberty Church—and shot his film. A note to the Benedicts later informed them that the footage would be shown on a new television show, "Odyssey," on the entire CBS network at 4 p. m. this coming Sunday. Alice, he added, had demonstrated a remarkable talent, well worth showing.

The news that Alice would be seen on television has caused quite a stir in Addor. There probably isn't a person there that hasn't made arrangements to be near a television set Sunday.

H. L. Bryant, her principal in school, says she has a truly remarkable talent. "We seem to be getting away from the old Negro spirituals," he said, "and it's a shame. Spirituals have meant much to Negro culture and certainly are worth preserving. Once, several years ago, we had a teacher who taught spirituals to the children. There wasn't a one that didn't sing. Today, I'm afraid, we're losing them, except for people like Alice who has learned the words and feeling at home and sincerely loves to sing them."

Alice says she knows seven or eight. Others in the Addor area think the figure is much higher. She also has arranged several of the better known spirituals in her own way, but hastens to add that she hasn't tampered with the real meaning in them, nor has she destroyed the quality that has caused them to be handed down through the centuries. Usually she sings with her mother, Mrs. Nettie Benymon, an accompanist. She is also a member of the Glee Club at Berkeley and has appeared with several teen-age groups at numerous functions, generally pre-

Memorial Gifts Presented To New Methodist Church

Large crowds attended the official opening services at the new Southern Pines Methodist Church last Sunday.

At the service, at which Bishop W. W. Peele preached, a number of gifts, some of them memorials, were presented.

Mrs. Al Howlett gave the Paul Finch Memorial Library, which is equipped with a large number of books on religious subjects, in memory of her son; Dr. Malcolm Kemp equipped the kitchen in memory of his father and mother, the late Mr. and Mrs. William James Kemp of Elizabethtown; Dr. J. S. Hiatt, Jr., gave the Chancel furniture in honor of his father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Hiatt, Sr., of Elkin; the altar cross was given by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Graves; and the altar candlesticks were given by the Women's Society of Christian Service in honor of a former member, Mrs. R. S. Flowers.

CHARTER

(Continued from Page 1) in the method of selection of the school board.

William Thomasson, owner of a furniture store here, was of the feeling, he said, that there is considerably more interest in schools in towns where the school boards are elected.

Directly opposed to this thinking was the expression by several people who said that many who ordinarily would serve on a school board if appointed would not serve if they had to stand a public election.

But Mayor Gilmore said it was a part of the Democratic process to subject one's self to a public election, and backed his thinking with the statement that most of our high public officials are elected, rather than appointed. "If a person doesn't want to make a public accounting of himself and his job, there is something wrong somewhere," he said.

The charter presentation, Council felt, was far too important to make a hasty decision on its adoption. A unanimous vote was taken to put off any decision pending another public hearing in February.

POLIO

(Continued from page 1) times vaccinated, that in the meantime there will still be polio, also 80,000 crippled victims of the past to be aided and rehabilitated.

He said the great task now is to get everyone vaccinated—a project which is unaccountably lagging in North Carolina. Though polio incidence had a 45 per cent drop in the nation as a whole during 1956, as a result of the vaccinations, in North Carolina the drop was only 20 per cent. "For some reason, we don't know what, the eligible people just aren't coming to take their shots," he said. "We have to see that they do." Only persons up to 20 years old, and pregnant women, are now eligible for free shots of the vaccine but the prospect is this will be extended during modern music.

"Sure, I like Elvis Presley," she said, "who doesn't?"

Ramsey, who is presently in Jamaica getting footage and tape recordings of the voodoo music, has written the script for the show Sunday and entitled it "They Took A Blue Note." The show deals a great deal with music, particularly the original jazz, that is played in New Orleans.

But that few minutes that is given to Alice's spirituals? It's the greatest thing in the world for her.

ing 1957 to take care of a great many more people. "In the meantime, right here in Moore county we have 32 cases left over from previous

NIAGARA OVER TOP

Niagara was the first of the county communities to make its quota in the March of Dimes, campaign director J. Frank McCaskill of Pinehurst has proudly announced.

Mrs. Gurney Bowles, Niagara chairman, reported Tuesday that her drive had "popped over the top" with \$30. She said she plans to keep on working throughout the January campaign. Mrs. Lewis Willford is her assistant chairman.

Counted as "first" is the community which meets its quota through solicitation. Actually, West End, a Community Chest town, beat all the others to it as soon as the campaign opened by paying in its assigned \$300. This came from comprehensive funds, to cover all the year's campaigns, collected in the Community Chest drive last fall. J. F. Sinclair, chairman, said a number of people customarily give some for the March of Dimes, and he plans to collect these amounts and turn them in later.

years who will be needing aid for some time," Butler said. Six of these were 1956 cases, one or two of them particularly costly and severe.

Other chapter officers reelected with Butler were Ralph G. Steed, Robbins, vice-chairman; Mrs. Eldon S. Adams, Carthage, secretary; C. H. Bowman, Southern Pines, treasurer; Mrs. Valerie Nicholson, Southern Pines, publicity director.

A new officer elected this time was Mrs. Jack Phillips, Cameron, women's division chairman, an office this chapter has not had before. The directors felt that to have such an officer would expand the scope of the campaign and be of great aid to community chairmen in meeting their quotas. All elections were unanimous.

Treasurer Bowman in his annual report revealed that patient care cost the chapter \$3,007.64 for new cases, \$2,095.20 for old cases, during 1956. Cash on hand and unpaid bills nearly balanced each other, facing the chapter with an immediate need for cash.

Community chairmen, and their quotas—the same as in last year's successful campaign—were announced by Director McCaskill as follows:

Aberdeen, J. Curtis McInnis, \$1,000; Cameron, Mrs. Merla R. Gaines, \$200; Carthage, to be appointed, \$1,000; Eagle Springs, Mrs. Arthur Williams, \$100; Parkwood, Miss Marie Purvis, \$50; Highfalls, C. Edson Powers, \$200; Jackson Springs, Mrs. M. M. Poole, \$100; Lakeview, Mrs. Gurney Bowles, \$30; Pinebluff, Mrs. Phillip Mather, \$175. Pinehurst, Frank McCaskill, \$1,050; Robbins, Ralph G. Steed, \$1,000; Roseland, Mrs. Clayton Kirk, \$30; Southern Pines, Paul C. Butler, \$1,750; Vass, Monroe Chappell, \$300; West End, J. F. Sinclair, \$300; Westmore, J. C. Phillips, \$100; Farm Life, Mrs. Paul Green, \$50.

Mrs. Bowles, Niagara chairman, announced that Mrs. Lewis Willford will act as her assistant in that community, with Mrs. Jeanette Evans as co-chairman in charge of the Negro division.

Other chairmen are this week setting up their organizations and starting out on the drive which they expect to wind up by January 31. Weekly reports are to be made to Treasurer Bowman at the Citizens Bank and Trust Co. at Southern Pines, or, if the money cannot be brought in at that time, to Mrs. Valerie Nicholson, publicity director.

LITTLE RIVER

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to go too fast in the change.

"I am sure we will give a favorable report," Gordon M. Cameron, chairman, said, "but we must first have the entire situation reviewed by our county attorney. This is far too important not to be done right."

He said a meeting with M. G. Boyette, who is the county's attorney, would be arranged soon and the petitioners notified of the meeting.

Such matters as delinquent taxes, date of the starting of collection of taxes by Moore, extension of law enforcement and social services to the new area, and the fitting of a tenth township into the county's political structure must be studied. But most of the commissioners, and Blue, foresaw no insurmountable problems.

The change, if made as anticipated, would add about 150 people to the population of Moore County. The township is primarily agricultural and centers around the Lobelia community, which has a community house and several stores. A vast amount of the acreage in the township is forested with pine.

Hoke was one of the last counties in the state formed. It and Avery were formed in 1911 and, as far as can be determined, the addition of Little River to Moore County would constitute the first change to a county boundary line since that date.

Members of the committee that presented the petition were John William Smith, E. Barney Blue, brother of H. Clifton Blue, Charlie H. Marks, Murdock Cameron and John Alex Smith.

The petition they presented read as follows:

"To the County Commissioners of Hoke and Moore, Rep. Charles Hostetler, State Senator J. Benton Thomas, Rep. H. Clifton Blue and to Interested Citizens Everywhere:

"We the undersigned citizens and property owners of Little River Township, Hoke County, do hereby petition the above named officials to initiate proper action and pursue it to the end that said Little River Township, now a portion of Hoke County, be annexed to Moore County.

er Township, Hoke County, do hereby petition the above named officials to initiate proper action and pursue it to the end that said Little River Township, now a portion of Hoke County, be annexed to Moore County.

"For many years the Fort Bragg military reservation has separated Little River from the remainder of Hoke County and made it necessary to travel a great distance through Moore County to get to Raeford, the county seat of Hoke County. Due to the circumstances which are familiar to all who are familiar with Little River Township, the services in said Township have not been what a normal portion of the county might expect. The citizens of Little River are schooled in Moore County, the people are served by a mail route out of Vass in Moore County, and the social and economic ties of Little River Township are with Moore County. For these and other reasons we sincerely petition the above named officials to take necessary steps to have Little River Township annexed to Moore County during the 1957 session of the North Carolina General Assembly."

Addresses of the 327 persons signing the petition were all Vass Rt. 2 and Cameron Rt. 1, with two given as Lakeview.

FARM BUILDING

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agricultural building.

A new building would house the many agricultural agencies that are now scattered in several sections of Carthage. It would also be used for an exhibition hall and probably contain an auditorium and other facilities for farm group meetings.

It would house both farm and home agents of the North Carolina State Extension Service, contain a home demonstration kitchen and other facilities; be headquarters for the Soil Conservation Service, the FHA and the PMA, and have a laboratory for the Artificial Breeding Service.

GINSBURG'S Annual January Clearance SALE. BEGINS THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 10th. MANY ITEMS AT COST AND BELOW COST. Table with 6 columns of items and prices: Beautiful Assortment of LADIES' COATS, Springmade SHEETS, One Group of LADIES' SKIRTS, One Lot of BOYS' SUITS, One Group of MEN'S SHOES, One Group of LADIES' SHOES. Prices range from \$1.94 to \$119.98.