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**WEST END NEWS**

**By MRS. T. C. AUMAN**

**PTA Meets**  
At the P.T.A. meeting Monday evening, Miss Hollis Haney, new county librarian, spoke in behalf of National Book Week. Mrs. W. M. Thompson, school librarian, served as program chairman, and presented the speaker. Devotions were led by the Rev. J. C. Halliburton.

Miss Blanche Monroe's first grade won the attendance prize of two dollars, which will go toward an electric clock for their new classroom. The association voted to furnish a first aid room at the school.

Following adjournment the large group present enjoyed a social hour in the lobby of the school. The next meeting will be held in January.

**New Minister**  
The community joins with the Baptists in welcoming the Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Halliburton, who are now residing in the parsonage with their son Jerry, five and a half years old, and little daughter, Ellen, 18 months. The Rev. Mr. Halliburton is a native of Dillon County, S. C., and comes to West End from the North Lumberton Baptist Church. He will serve the West End and Taylor Memorial Baptist Churches.

**Community Service**  
The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held Thursday morning at 9:30 at the Methodist Church with the Rev. Mr. Halliburton bringing the message.

**Brief Mention**  
The Rev. George Houck entered Moore Memorial Hospital for a few days observation on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cranford have returned from a two weeks' vacation to Washington, D. C., to visit the Julian Serles and to Arlington, Va., where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cranford. Guests this week of the Cranfords are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cranford and Mary Ann of Tampa.

Saturday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson were Mrs. Janie Wilhoit and Rebecca McPherson of Carthage.

Gaston Simmons is home after being hospitalized at Moore Memorial Hospital with pneumonia.

Having surgery Monday at Moore Memorial Hospital was Mrs. E. P. Hinson.

Douglas Clark is hospitalized in Lumberton.

Enjoying hunting last week at Lake Mattamuskeet were North

Lewis, E. L. and Jimmie Sutphin, J. H. McCaskill, J. B. Barnette, Reece Graham, Woodrow Conrad, and Marvin Poole. Mrs. Poole accompanied her husband as far as Washington, N. C., and visited Mr. and Mrs. Claude Smith. The party had the good luck to bring back 27 geese.

Miss Treva Auman and Mrs. G. A. Munn attended the meeting of the Women of the Church at Vass Wednesday evening. Miss Auman presented the program showing the film "Together With God."

At the school recently Jimmy Harris was elected president of the Freshman Class; Nancy Auman, vice-president; and Wayne Carter, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Woodrow McInnis serves as freshman advisor. The class is now busy soliciting magazine subscriptions.

Attending the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McCall of Jackson Springs from West End were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pusser and family, the Alton Munns, the Allan McDonalds, Mrs. M. C. McDonald, Sr., and Mrs. M. C. McDonald, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Poley are spending a two-week vacation in Florida.

Attending the Cape Fear District Ruritan Convention in Willard last week were Fred, Elrie, and Ted Thomas, Harris Blake, and W. M. Thompson of the Jackson Springs Club.

The Rev. T. A. Gupton of Parkton conducted evangelistic services at the Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church last week.

The Allan McDonalds have their new home under construction in a beautiful, wooded location off the Jackson Springs Road.

Mrs. E. R. Outland spent the weekend with Mrs. J. E. Currie at Jackson Springs.

**Basketball**  
The High School Basketball teams are off to a good start as both of them have won three of their five games.

Scoring leaders for the girls are Sherrie Upole, 137 points in 5 games; Lois Godfrey, 63 points in 4 games; and Dot Furr, 52 points in 5 games. Outstanding guards have been Sarah Joyce, Patsy McDonald, Nance Green, and Joyce Martin. Patsy McDonald is captain of the girls' team, with Sherrie Upole serving as co-captain.

Scoring leaders for the boys are Clement Richardson, 52 points in 5 games; Clifton Munn, 50 points in 5 games; Eugene Blake, 49 points in 5 games; Hanford Thomas, 30 points in 5 games; Wayne Carther, 23 points in 4 games; and Broadus Combs, 28 points in 3 games. Broadus Combs is captain and Eugene Blake is co-captain.

The scores of the games are as follows:

**Highfalls Man Is Acquitted Of Sex Charges Friday**

A young Army veteran and Highfalls filling station proprietor, Raeford B. Jessup, 24, was acquitted by a jury last week of crime against nature, in one of the frankest, most sensational trials ever held in a Moore County court.

Starting late Thursday and completed Friday at noon before Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, the trial was the last of the special term and played out its sordid drama to an almost empty courtroom.

The defendant was accused of having committed unnatural sex acts "40 or 50 times" over a two-year period against a 13-year-old boy, Charles Franklin Hill.

Jessup denied the accusations, saying that the boy had "hung around" his filling station too much, had made a nuisance of himself and he had had to send him home "about 100 times." Jessup's wife sat beside him throughout the trial, and took the stand in his defense.

The crime is a serious one under North Carolina statutes. If convicted Jessup would have been sent to State Prison for from five up to 60 years.

A native of Chatham County, and married six years, he moved to Moore County and built a combination home and filling station on Highway 22, about a half-mile north of Highfalls, something over two years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill, parents of Charles Franklin, live within a stone's throw of Jessup's place.

Frank Hill testified that he took out the warrant against Jessup last August after a friend had come to him and told him the goings-on involving his son had

follows:

Girls: West End 38, Westmore 34; West End 62, Biscoe 48; West 53, Prospect 41; Cameron 57, West End 51; Biscoe 59-West End 58.

West End, 262, 52.4; opponents, 239, 47.8.

Boys: West End 51, Westmore 37; Biscoe 70, West End 50; West End 60, Prospect 48; West End 63, Cameron 30; Biscoe 60, West End 49.

West End, 273, 54.6; opponents, 245, 49.0.

Girls' coach is Principal J. F. Sinclair and boys' coach is V. L. Wilson. Serving as cheerleaders are chief, Dot Von Canon, Pat Brewer, Sarah Pusser, Earah Bost, Jean Hill, Carolyn Williams and Karen Farmer.

been "common talk" for the past year. Hill said he had heard no such talk, but on this information he and his wife had drawn admissions from the boy.

Mrs. Hill gave similar testimony, and Deputy Sheriff D. B. Cranford, whom they had then summoned to their home, said he had questioned the lad in detail and heard the same story from him.

The boy himself on the stand was readily responsive to questioning, and was specific in describing the acts, which he said had taken place in the rest room, the front room and bedroom of

Jessup's place, for payment of a quarter, a pack of cigarettes or a soft drink.

The parents described their son as "slow to learn," saying he had not been able to grasp his school work since the third grade, though he had been passed on up to the seventh grade at Highfalls school in order to remain with others of his age. He did not return to school this fall "because the other children had been teasing and guying him about Jessup."

Mrs. W. B. Cole, county welfare superintendent, said the boy had been psychologically examined

and the report had showed "no real problems" other than below-average ability to learn.

The State had no direct evidence of the alleged unnatural acts other than that of the young boy.

The defendant presented a substantial group of character witnesses in his behalf, including Graham Purvis, J. W. Lambert, Rev. James A. Price, Gurney Wilson and School Principal Edison Powers, of the Highfalls community, and Monroe Way of Carthage. The jury deliberated only about 30 minutes before returning the "not guilty" verdict.

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