

Special Religious Program Comes to Close Here Today

Dr. Walter Johnson Speaks To Ministers in the Baptist Church

Last night closed the series of evening services conducted by Rev. Henry B. Anderson and today at noon closes the fellowship services of the mornings and afternoons of the week. The busy ministers have come and gone but the conferences have been attended by an average of about fifteen each day. A note of vital interest in making God real has been sounded in the Baptists throughout the Southland and the State leaders and pastors in North Carolina are anxious to cooperate in emphasizing first of all, the Lordship of Jesus in the churches. The pastors are ready, or they are trying to get ready, for the Lord to have control of them. The interesting feature of this retreat in Williamston was this: Men of God, confused with the problems of the time and wondering if there is a way out, have been questing for the best that they might share it with their people.

Dr. Walter N. Johnson, the great stewardship teacher of our state, has pointed the way out to us as follows: God real to us again, God real in our immediate situation, the teaming of His disciples together in the Spirit of Jesus to do what He wants done.

He says a heavenly cowardice has got into our churches and that we need to call people to struggle rather than to refuge. We are in an unfinished universe and God wants us to go on an adventure with him in perfecting it. . . . that is, our privilege is that of helping His children to develop and bringing His kingdom on earth. We need power to take hold of wheels, hammers, saws and instruments in the hands of our church people and we ought to be more concerned about the lost inside our churches than about those on the outside if we are to have a spiritual awakening, where it ought to begin.

The ministers have been cordially received and entertained among us and they express their gratitude to the good people here. We hope there might be a similar assembly here a year hence.—Reported.

Judge Scores Hit In Handling Case Against Repeater

Court Handles Eight Cases And Adjourns Until April 3

Few weeks pass in the county recorder's court but what there isn't an unusual case to break the monotony of the proceedings that generally are of like nature week after week and month after month. Last Monday it was the case charging Clyde Silverthorne, Williamston man, with assaulting his wife and getting drunk.

Silverthorne, a World War veteran, was jailed last week for choking his wife, the mother of a six-day-old child, and dragging her out of the bed. He is alleged to have attempted to land a blow with a wrench on an officer's head. A source of worry to the members of law profession, Defendant Silverthorne attempted his own defense. Fellow prisoners in the jail coached him the best they could, and when the showdown came before Judge Peel, Monday, Silverthorne did as much in his own behalf as any lawyer could do under the circumstances. He entered a plea of nolo contendere, and quizzed the prosecuting witnesses after a professional pattern.

The sad feature of the case was the appearance of the defendant's two small children. For many months they are known to have witnessed frequent attacks upon their mother by the man, but directed possibly by love for their daddy or possibly through fear, they offered testimony advantageous to him.

A climax was reached in the case when Judge Peel made ready to pronounce judgment which was delayed through the trial of several other cases. Silverthorne, with tears in his eyes, directed an able plea to the judge, calling attention to the testimony offered by the two small girls, and pointing out that the arresting officer was not at the scene of the alleged crime. Judge Peel listened to the defendant with patience, but the facts surrounding the crime urged him to action and he bore down on Silverthorne, or-

Plans To Transfer State Test Farms Fail in Committee

Action Is Likely To Draw Farm Element Into Politics

By a vote of 22 to 11, the House Agriculture Committee in Raleigh this week refused to favor a bill introduced last week by Representative Fernando Whit, of Chowan, ordering the transfer of State test farms from the Department of Agriculture to the State College Extension Division. The minority group, favoring the transfer and working to get the bill from committee to the floor of the house, said a report would be filed by the eleven members.

The test farm squabble has bothered the joint agriculture committee of the legislature all session. Representative Mull, of Cleveland, speaking against the bill and for an amendment to prevent transfer of agriculture funds if the farms were transferred, said the measure would result in "farmers putting up money for the operation of State College. We have no more control over the operation of the college under the Greater University than we have over the moon."

Worthington, of Pitt, charged that the measure was "brought here by one organization which found itself unable to control and regulate the Department of Agriculture." He did not identify the organization but earlier in the session legislators heard charges that the transfer of the test farms was being agitated by the Farm Bureau Federation.

In an address before the Martin County Farm Bureau here a week ago today, E. F. Arnold, secretary of the State Farm organization, left the impression that if the committee failed to give the White bill a favorable report some "talking would be done," before the next elections. It is apparent then that farmers will push the organization of their ranks and make ready for what appears to be their entry into the political field. At least the future action will be interesting.

The statement of Pitt County's representative, S. O. Worthington, is not "setting" well with a number of Martin farmers who are not so much interested in who heads the agricultural activities of the State so long as they get results. "We are getting tired of paying taxes on fertilizer, seed and nearly every other article under the sun, and having the politicians to handle the money without the consent or even the advice of the farmers," a county landowner said this morning. Another added that it was his belief that the farmers should run the department rather than a bunch of irresponsible politicians, the farmer referring to such men as O. M. Mull, one-time champion of democracy as head of the Democratic party in this the great State of North Carolina, and other members of the Agriculture Committee opposing the transfer of the test farms.

Supervisor Grimes Names List-Takers For Nine Districts

List-Takers Will Not Meet Until Wednesday, April 5

The work of the 1938 county tax list-takers was formally approved this week when County Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes reappointed the same group to handle the work this year. One appointment, that of Mr. Gordon G. Bailey, of Cross Roads, is pending his recovery from a long illness. If Mr. Bailey's health does not permit him to accept the appointment, the list-taker's post will be assigned either to W. F. Crawford or George Taylor, Jr., who have their applications before the tax supervisor.

In eight of the ten townships, the old list-takers were the only ones to ask reappointment. In Williams Township where three filled for the job, Tax Supervisor Grimes announced today that the old list-taker had been reappointed with the approval of representatives of the board of county commissioners.

The list of list-takers for nine of the ten districts is as follows:

O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville; L. J. Hardison, Williams; George C. Griffin, Griffins; A. B. Ayers, Bear Grass; H. M. Burras, Williamston; H. S. Everett, Robersonville; L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point; L. R. Everett, Hamilton; J. A. Rawls, Goose Nest.

A joint meeting of the tax supervisor, list-takers and representatives of the board of commissioners scheduled to be held next Monday has been postponed until Wednesday, April 5, Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes explaining that the grand jury and superior court would be in session next week, leaving the jail as about the only place for the tax authorities to meet.

Instructions for handling the listing work will be given and a definite schedule of values determined at the meeting to be held on April 5. No material change in the old schedule is predicted, and no sizeable increase in property values is expected since no new valuation is being considered in the county this year.

Spring

Next Tuesday marks the beginning of spring, by the calendar, of course. There'll be a few more days bordering on the chilly side, but when the calendar makers say spring is here, one can look out for warm days ahead.

Sap is rising in the trees and the buds are budding, the bright blossoms on pear and peach trees adding to the landscape of the spring artist already.

Renewed Activity Reported On Sweet Potato Mart Here

After a several weeks' period of little activity, the sweet potato market here showed renewed life this week when strong competition developed and a stronger demand was noticed. Quotations, ranging as high as 95 cents, were quoted a number of farmers, reports stating that the crop is now moving to the market from this county in a comparatively large way.

An unofficial report on marketing activities gained here today shows that approximately 21,000 bushels of potatoes have been moved by rain from this point to date, and that approximately 50,000 bushels have been moved from the county by truck. Reliable reports indicate that not more than 75 per cent of the crop in this county has been sold and placed on the market.

The Corbett Package Company, after going off the market here several weeks ago, returned this week and its buyers are planning to ship several carloads during the next few days. Individual truckers have scoured the county, but reliable reports maintain that farmers make more money by selling to established markets. The margin of profit depends to some extent upon the quality of the potatoes, of course.

"I sold a quantity of potatoes to truckers for 57 1-2 cents a bushel without the basket. I have been offered 95 cents a bushel with the basket for the remainder of the crop. Figure the difference, allowing about 13 cents for each basket," Farmer Frank Weaver said yesterday.

Makes Able Talk To Kiwanis Club Here Last Night

Dr. O. H. Benson Offers Kiwanians Valuable Suggestions

Thursday evening in the regular meeting of the Williamston Kiwanis Club Dr. O. H. Benson, a national leader in Boy Scout activities and an authority on rural scouting, was the principal speaker.

Dr. Benson, who has been for more than thirty years connected with some national set-up that involved youth, pointed out some very valuable suggestions on the use of boy's free time. He related his experience as a county superintendent of schools in Wright County, Iowa, wherein he attempted to solve this problem insofar as he was able. In order to utilize this free time there was organized Four-H clubs in each of the 328 schools in the county. The youths were induced to enter some project and carry it out, much as is done in 4-H club work in your county. Dr. Benson was so successful that his work attracted the attention of Dr. Knapp of the federal government who was endeavoring to do something to relieve the areas in the 12 southern states suffering from the effects of boll weevil. Dr. Benson went to Washington and thence to Texas and other states in the South. The boys accepted the challenge and much of their free time was spent in combating this sweeping menace.

The most dangerous years of a growing boy are those between ten and eighteen. The use they make of their free time during this important period will leave permanent character traits. There are about 628,000 boys and girls between the ages of 10-18 in our prisons. Many of this number would not be there, according to the speaker, if they had known some fine, upstanding and noble men in their community. Not having the opportunity of knowing them they had met up with the low-brows and the bums around the congregating places in their communities and had learned the vicious things that lead to crime and prison. During his thirty years of service, Dr. Benson has visited more than three hundred men who have been condemned to death in prisons in every state. "I have asked these men three very definite questions," said Dr. Benson, "and their replies have been almost the same. 'When was your first crime?' usually to 10 to 12 years of age. 'From whom did you learn about crime?' always, some man. 'What do you attribute your becoming a criminal?' usually, because I never knew decent and respectable men."

The speaker said scouting offered the means through its procedures to bring boys into vital contact with the best men of their communities and area, during this most important period of their lives, and that the real importance of earning merit badges was not in getting some insignias, but that of bringing the boys into touch with the vital men who were their instructors and examiners in merit badge projects.

Dr. Benson made a strong apology for scouting and its worthwhile use of the free time of boys during their most impressionable years.

Many visitors were in attendance. Some from the Baptist ministers group and several Lions. Charles Bowers, manager of Belk-Tyler, was presented his Kiwanis pin and made a member of the club. The local club will visit the Rocky Mount club next month in a district meeting.

Accident Victim Rapidly Recovering In Hospital

After running a temperature of 105 degrees and lying at the point of death all last Tuesday night, young Jimmy Mitchell, victim of a main street accident here early last week, is now recovering rapidly in a Washington hospital. He regained consciousness last Wednesday evening, and is expected home within a week or ten days.

Former Teacher Dies In Arkansas

Mrs. W. T. Person, a former teacher in the local schools and a sister of Mrs. Jesse T. Whitley, of this place, died in a Lake Village, Arkansas, hospital last night of pneumonia. Taken ill a few days ago with influenza, Mrs. Person was removed to the hospital early Wednesday, pneumonia developing. Funeral services will be held in the Arkansas town tomorrow afternoon and interment will follow in the city cemetery there.

Escapes Camp, Martin Colored Man Rearrested

Jasper Wiggins, Martin County colored man who was serving a two-to-three year road sentence in a Bladen County camp was re-arrested early last night following his escape with two other prisoners from the camp early yesterday morning. Wiggins, still in stripes after a year in the service, sawed his way to freedom, but was captured in Fayetteville just a few hours later.

County Officers Wreck Two Liquor Distilleries

Branching out into a wide territory this week, Special Officer J. H. Roebuck and assistant, Julian Roebuck, captured two liquor stills and arrested two men.

Twenty-Two Cases Slated For Trial In Superior Court

Judge Thompson to Preside Over Term Beginning Next Monday

A medium-sized docket and one of very little public interest faces Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City, when he opens a two-weeks' term of Martin County Superior Court next Monday. While the docket is slightly larger than the average for the past two or three terms of the court, the cases scheduled for trial are not likely to command very much public attention.

Members of the Martin County bar association apparently expecting a quick disposition of the criminal docket have scheduled civil cases for trial next Tuesday, the second day of the term. The addition of quite a number of cases during the past few weeks and since the civil calendar was prepared is likely to carry the criminal docket into a second-day trial and delay civil case proceedings.

Judge Thompson, just a short time on the superior court bench, comes to hold his first term of court in this county next week.

Quite a few of the cases were appealed from the county court, and a large percentage of the defendants stand charged with larceny.

The docket:

Willie June Williams and James Hunter, breaking and entering. The defendants were bound over to the superior court by a justice of the peace.

S. E. Parker, drunken driving, appeal from the county court.

H. W. Spruill appealed to the higher court when he was adjudged guilty of drunken driving and fined.

Fishing Delayed By High Waters In Roanoke River

Fleming Plans To Start Seine Operations Next Week

Seine fishing, ordinarily underway at this time in the Roanoke River, is being delayed by high waters in the stream, Mr. C. C. Fleming stating yesterday that the battery at Jamesville was still under water and that it would possibly be the latter part of next week before he could start operations there.

His huge net, costing several thousand dollars, has been tarred and made ready for use, the fishery operator stating that he could not tell definitely when he would be able to start operations until he could examine the battery after the high waters recede and determine the extent of repairs that will be necessary to the plant. It is possible that the net will be dipped into the water for the first time on next Thursday.

Reports from the Hampton fisheries in the lower part of the county, near Plymouth, state that the nets have not been made ready for use and that fishing operations there are not likely to get underway before week after next.

Preparing for his 41st season at the fishery, Mr. S. J. D. Ange would not offer a prediction when asked what were the prospects for a favorable season at the Jamesville fishery this year. "One can never tell what to expect," the fisherman who is now well in his seventies, said.

The law of averages is in Mr. Fleming's favor, however, and a very successful season is due. Last year, the fishery netted around a half million herrings, or about one-fourth of a normal catch for a season. About seven seasons ago, the fishery operator's luck came in on an ill wind. Fish were taken in fairly large numbers, but they were so small that the plant workers called them Hoover herrings. High waters have interrupted the fishing operations for weeks during the main fishing periods in several seasons since that time. In other years, the fish did not come up the stream in very big numbers. Mr. Fleming explaining that it had been some time since he dipped up a normal catch of about two million herrings in a single season.

Member Of School Board Addresses Group Wednesday

Need for Added Month Is Pointed Out By R. L. Coburn

An added month to the regular school term in this district was given unanimous support by a goodly number of local parents and teachers in a regular meeting of their organization in the grammar school building last Wednesday afternoon. The meeting, presided over by Mrs. A. J. Osteen, president, was devoted largely to a discussion of the plan for adding an extra month to the regular eight months term now supported by the State.

Mr. R. L. Coburn, chairman of the local school committee, spoke in support of the plan. In explaining the bill recently introduced in the legislature with the sanction of the board of commissioners, Mr. Coburn stated that it merely provided for the expression of the mind of the people at the polls. "Should sufficient interest be evidenced," said Mr. Coburn, "a request for an election will be made."

The need for additional schooling was stressed by pointing out the difficulties confronting not only graduates who enroll in college but those who have insufficient preparation to cope with life's situations. "When one considers the fact that about seventy-five per cent of our graduates receive all of their formal training within our schools, it becomes evident that we are not preparing them adequately for life."

"The addition of an extra month will through the course of the child's school life add eleven months of schooling, making possible a total of 99 months as compared to the present 88. Considered on this basis the addition of the extra month will add a year and three months to the present offering. This with the addition of more vocational training, should prepare our young people to take their places in the world," Mr. Coburn concluded.

Mrs. J. F. Thigpen in speaking of the proposal, pointed out the fact that it would mean much to children beginning school, particularly those in the primary grades. In referring to inadequate preparation for college, she cited the large number of local students now enrolled in preparatory schools.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Osteen asked for an expression of opinion from the association, and by a large majority, those present expressed themselves as favoring the plan.

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Believed to Have Started Operations Early This Year, the Group Is Charged with the Theft of about 140 Bags of Peanuts from a Local Storage House, Officers Believing the Group is Also Implicated in the Theft of a Few Bags of Goobers from Farmers in the Upper Part of the County.

Arresting Brown and Whitehurst here yesterday afternoon, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks are still working on the case in an effort to uncover information that will clear up a series of robberies. Whitehurst denies the robbery charges, but Brown, realizing the law is fastened tightly to his tracks, told friends that "they have got the old sly fox this time."

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