

IN OLD DUPLIN

BY DALLAS HERRING

Some time ago a very interesting letter was received from Mr. M. L. Carr, postmaster of the Rose Hill Post Office, giving a short account of the history of the institution which he heads. The letter is of such historical interest that it is, for the most part, included in the rest of this column. It might be appropriate to add that letters similar to this, telling of anything of historical import in the county, are solicited.

According to the records of this office," writes Mr. Carr, "Alsa Southerland was the first postmaster ever to serve at Rosehill and he continued in office longer than any of the nine who have served. This office was established at Rose Hill, Duplin County, N. C., on November 8, 1872. Mr. Southerland served until May 2, 1894, nearly 22 years.

The next postmaster was William B. Southerland, a son of the former postmaster. Mr. Southerland did not like the spelling of the name of the town and post office and after continued correspondence with the Post Office Department he was successful in getting the name of the office changed to Rosehill, and Rosehill it has been since 1894. W. B. Southerland served one four-year term and turned the office over to Charles M. Steinmetz on May 28, 1898.

Other postmasters are as follows: Henry Fussell, Jr. Nov. 9, 1901; Wm. G. Fussell (July 10, 1913); S. L. Bradshaw (acting, Dec. 31, 1918); Henry G. Early (Jan. 1, 1920); W. Heman Hall

(Oct. 12, 1923), and M. L. Carr 1928, to the present location on Main Street.

"Mr. Henry Fussell was the fourth postmaster and is still living, and by no means an old man now, the first office having been established about the time he was born.

"On July 1, 1913, the office was made Third Class and the postmaster placed on salary. Up until that time, i. e., for the first forty years, the office was a Fourth Class unit and the postmasters thereof were paid commissions based on their stamp cancellations and money order sales. The first office was housed in the store of Alsa Southerland, the quarters being furnished by the postmaster. This store was in the old building now known as the Henderson building and now owned by the Rose Hill Hardware Company.

"After that time the office was moved into the building belonging to Harvey Boney and formerly occupied by J. T. Drew. Then Henry Fussell, Jr., provided his quarters near where the present office is occupied and facing the Bay Company, a mercantile business operated by J. C. Mallard.

"It was through the untiring efforts of Mr. Fussell that the office was raised from Fourth to Third Class, although he himself did not receive any of the benefits from the change. W. G. Fussell was the first Third Class postmaster and the first to receive a salary. The government furnished the office with quarters in the building now occupied by Ward's Department Store. There it remained until moved on Nov. 4,

"The first salary paid the Third Class Postmaster here was fixed at \$1000 per annum, and now it has doubled due to great increases in stamp sales and other postal collections. Clerk hire was at that time \$168 per year, and now has increased until it is approximately half of the salary of the postmaster. The allowances for fuel and lights and building rent has increased from \$12 per year to nearly \$800 per year.

"A letter from the First Assistant Postmaster General dated November 13, 1901, gives authority for the establishing of the first Rural Free Delivery from this office and Mr. S. L. Bradshaw made the first trip as a carrier from this office on December 2, 1901. He left the office at 8:30 a. m. and with a horse and buggy delivered the mail returning at 4:50 p. m. Effective April 8, 1915, he was permitted to use an automobile "provided the carrier is experienced and competent to handle the machine without injury to himself." The first carrier received \$500 per year. Now there are three routes serving over 500 boxes, with sometimes two or three families receiving mail in one box. Each trip can be made now in less than five hours and the carriers receive four times as much as the first carrier received.

"On January 14, 1915, The Duplin Enterprise, published by Dr. R. L. Carr, made its appearance as the first and only second class matter to be mailed from this of-

fice. The publication of this paper was continued until the name was changed to The Wallace Enterprise and eventually moved to Wallace.

"The office all the while had been permitted to write Domestic Money Orders and last year (1935) the office wrote 9101 such orders aggregating over \$80,000, and paid 1536 of these orders. There were 985 postal savings deposits and 586 withdrawals. Postage stamp sales aggregated above \$5,200. Business has so increased during the past few months that next year the salary is expected to be raised from \$2000 per year to \$2100.

"During the recent official count of the mail posted here over a ten day period it was learned that on one day 2095 letters and postal cards were posted here. This does not count any circulars or other matter of that class, but first class matter only.

"Kully cognizant of this increase in business the Department has recently repainted the building, put in new lights of the most approved modern type, provided additional guards for the windows, erected a new flagstaff on the building and granted a canceling machine ordinarily furnished only to Second Class offices.

"On Thursday, January 2, 1913, the office was made an International Money Order Office and permitted to issue money orders payable in foreign countries and to cash foreign orders. Only two such orders were issued last year, however."

Davidson, N. C.
February 1, 1937.

Madison County farmers keeping records of their operations last year report an income of 8 percent on their investments.

When shopping say you saw it in The Duplin Times.



"CAMELS MEAN A WORLD OF COMFORT,"

says this spunky girl reporter who recently flew around the world

"I snatched meals anywhere, are anything," says Dorothy Kilgallen. "For digestion's sake... smoke Camels' meant a world of comfort to me."

STORE MANAGER, H. J. Herbers, says:
"Smoking Camels at mealtime and after I've eaten promotes good digestion." Camels are tasty and mild.

FOR DIGESTION'S SAKE — SMOKE CAMELS

NEW MULES

AND PLENTY OF THEM — COME TO OUR STABLES AND LOOK THEM OVER

We Also Have In Several Large Shipments of

FARMING IMPLEMENTS

IF YOU ARE IN THE MARKET FOR —

- DISC HARROWS —
- SECTION HARROWS —
- STALK CUTTERS —
- VULCAN PLOWS — All Sizes —
- DIXIE PLOWS —
- UPRIGHT PLOWS —
- HACKNEY WAGONS & CARTS all sizes.

V. C. Armour's Roysters N.A.Co

Fertilizers

BE SURE AND SEE US SO YOU CAN BUY AT THE OLD PRICE — WE ALSO HAVE GOOD PRICES ON TOBACCO WEBBING, AND POULTRY WIRE.

or ANY ARTICLE FOR THE FARM

MURRY and JEROME, Rose Hill N. C.