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NUMBER SEVEN

## JOHN T. THORNE, PROMINENT CITIZEN, FARM LEADER, PASSES

### Hundreds of Sorrowing Friends Attend Final Rites Held In Meth- odist Church

A vast throng of sorrowing friends, from the community, and cities and towns throughout the State, and from every walk of life, assembled at the Methodist Church here, Sunday, filling the edifice and overflowing to the grounds, to pay tribute to John T. Thorne, 72, a veteran educator, prominent churchman, successful farmer, pecan grower, dairyman, business man, and above all, a personal friend and counsellor of practically every person present.



JOHN T. THORNE

Mr. Thorne succumbed to heart complications in a Rocky Mount hospital, Friday evening, at 10:00 o'clock, following a critical illness of five days duration. He had been in failing health for several years, but was active and mentally alert until stricken early Sunday morning, prior to his death on Friday.

The body remained at the Farmville Funeral Home until 1:00 o'clock, Sunday, when it was carried to the Methodist Church to be in state for three hours prior to the final rites, which were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. E. R. Clegg, assisted by the Rev. T. M. Grant, Superintendent of the Rocky Mount Methodist District, and the Rev. E. S. Coates, Presbyterian minister.

The services, characterized by a triumphant note carried the theme of victorious living and a victorious passing, and the confident assurance that the benediction of his Christlike life will continue to bless those who knew him and that the quickening influence of his fervency, his kindly and magnanimous spirit and the example of service to God and fellowman set by him, will live in their hearts and bear fruit in the generations to come.

Viewing Mr. Thorne's life from the spiritual angle the preacher emphasized the fact that he was a Spiritual Builder. He quoted Henry Drummond—"Great truths come so silently down the steps of time that frequently we are unaware of their presence," in illustration of the simple but dignified way in which this servant of God moved in translating the message of his Father to his fellowman, as one of love and service. "He proved to us," said the Rev. Mr. Grant, "that human personality can fully respond to God and lend itself as a reflector of His compassionate love."

He depicted his friend as a Spiritual Builder, who "dreamed for his home, his church, his community, his state and his nation," and one whose life was dignified and glorified by his unselfish labor in the fulfillment of these dreams.

In closing, he paid tribute to Mr. Thorne's qualities of triumphant leadership, his unswerving fidelity to every trust and particularly to his service as a pioneer, Spiritual Builder in helping to provide "this house of worship for future generations, who will rise up and call him blessed."

"We are profoundly glad," he concluded with visible emotion, "that a Spiritual Builder came and dwelt among us."

### At The Rotary Club

The Rotary Club had as special guests, Tuesday evening, the Rev. E. W. Holmes, Baptist pastor, his wife, and his daughter, Miss Rosemary, who were presented by Rotarian Manly Liles.

The Rev. Mr. Holmes, as guest speaker, addressed the club on "The Value of Youth," pointing out to them their responsibility as individuals and the opportunity provided by the youth of this community for the application of the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." He brought his splendid talk to a close with a proposed philosophy of life for every boy and girl.

The program was concluded with the rendition of vocal selections, "My Hero" and "Kiss Me Again," by Miss Holmes, with piano accompaniment by her mother. A third selection, "He's A Lily of the Valley," was dedicated to the memory of the late John T. Thorne, a charter member, whose recent passing brought profound sorrow to the hearts of his fellow Rotarians.

### 4-H Club Honors Miss Bizzell

The Farmville 4-H Club honored Miss Ella Ruth Bizzell, County Assistant Home Demonstration Agent and a bride-to-be, at a kitchen shower at the Farmville Home Demonstration Club House on Saturday night.

The Club House was never more beautifully decorated than at this time. Large arrangements of dahlias, lilies and feverfew were used throughout. Mesdames W. R. Hinson and Robert Fields, 4-H Leaders, led the group in many entertaining games. The honoree was then presented a large shower of useful gifts for her kitchen as a winner of a contest. Each 4-H member watched Miss Bizzell eagerly unwrap each package for it was their first shower.

From a tea table centered with a bridal bouquet and white burning tapers, punch, cookies, fancy sandwiches and nuts were served by Mesdames W. R. Hinson, Robert Fields, C. G. Morgan and Jimmie Nanney.

Mr. Thorne was born in Greene county, June 22, 1873, a son of Joseph and Henrietta Moore Thorne. He attended public schools until 1890, when he entered the Farmville Institute, later attending both Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina. In 1898, he opened a school here, in which he served as principal and teacher for several years. His continued ardor in the development of education was expressed in his trusteeship of the Farmville schools for a long period in their early history, and in his membership of the Pitt County Board of Education for 28 years.

He was a member of the town board of aldermen for many years, and was Mayor of Farmville in 1908 and 1910, resigning to become a successful candidate for Pitt County to the House of Representatives. He was reelected for several terms.

He also served as Democratic chairman of the precinct for many years and as a member of the executive committee.

Mr. Thorne was known throughout Southern Methodism as a pioneer Methodist of Eastern North Carolina. He and his first wife, Mrs. Ada Fields Thorne, were among the eight charter members of the Farmville Methodist Church, which was organized in 1901, and he gave himself without stint, spending and being spent in its establishment and promotion throughout the years. As a good and faithful servant, he had served as steward since organization of the church, as Sunday School Superintendent for more than thirty years, and in almost every other official capacity, save that of pastor, though in fulfilling his churchy duties he preached many sermons.

Aside from substantial gifts, bestowed in unselfish generosity, from the time of its organization, as one understanding the stewardship of wealth, the Church was benefited by his kindness of spirit, his candor and insight, his deep knowledge of the things of God and his personal life, which radiated "goodwill to men." These will doubtless have far greater consequence in the future of the Church as it presses forward.

Though his career in Farmville and Pitt county was launched on educational endeavor and has been among his chief interests since, Mr. Thorne had large farm holdings and was widely known as one of the most progressive farmers in Eastern Carolina, having "preached and practiced" diversified farming for years. The entire cultivation of his farms, comprising hundreds of acres, was under his direct personal supervision until his day he was stricken, and he was vitally interested in everything pertaining to improvement of the soil, of agriculture and agricultural conditions.

Mr. Thorne grew cotton, tobacco and corn on his Greene county farm, and pecans and feed for his prize dairy herd on the Pecan Grove Farm, just west of Farmville, which is one of the show places of this section.

As a pioneer pecan grower of Eastern North Carolina, his chief pride lay in his beautiful pecan grove of some 2,000 trees and in his modern dairy, which provides this community with what he liked to term "peanut milk."

## Number of Groups Suspend Activities During Summer

Following the general custom of women's organizations here, which calls for suspension of activities during the mid and late summer months, the D. A. R., Woman's Literary and Home Demonstration Clubs, held their final meetings this week.

The Major Benjamin May Chapter held its annual Flag Day meeting at the Chapter House, Saturday afternoon, with Mrs. C. R. Townsend, Mrs. W. C. Holston and Mrs. Preston Murray as hostesses. Magnolias were used in the effective decoration of the mantels, and gladioli, roses, daisies and feverfew were arranged in mixed bouquets for the tables.

The following program committee was appointed at this time: Mrs. Eric Copeland, chairman, Mrs. Ellen Carroll, vice chairman, Mrs. Herbert E. Hart and Miss Christine Smith.

Historical volume and memorial plaque committees were appointed. These names will be published later. The regent extended a cordial welcome to Mrs. Earle Forbes, Mrs. Kenneth Brown, and Mrs. J. Knott Proctor, of Greenville, and Mrs. Jack Lewis as new members.

The following program committee was appointed at this time: Mrs. Eric Copeland, chairman, Mrs. Ellen Carroll, vice chairman, Mrs. Herbert E. Hart and Miss Christine Smith.

Miss Tabitha M. DeVoscenti, a member of the North Carolina D. A. R. Committee of Living Memorials, was requested to confer with the civic and patriotic groups of Farmville, relative to honoring the veterans of World War II. It is the unanimous wish of the Chapter that this service be accomplished in a constructive and fitting manner, with a view to its perpetuation into a memorial in the future.

Ensign Rountree was graduated from Farmville High; Darlington School For Boys, Rome, Ga., and from the University of North Carolina, class of '45. He was receiving training as a pilot in the naval air corps, but following V-J Day, transferred to the Navy and was commissioned at Columbia University. He went overseas in January of this year and was stationed for several months at Pearl Harbor before going to Hiro.

Ensign and Mrs. Rountree expect to return to the States next month and following Ensign Rountree's release from service, and a visit to their parents in Ohio and North Carolina, they will be at home in Chapel Hill, where the groom is planning to enter the University's law school.

Literary Club. Mrs. Henrietta M. Williamson graciously entertained the Literary Club at her home on Wednesday afternoon, June 19, bringing to an end the Club year. Flower arrangements were effectively used throughout the home.

Mrs. W. M. Willis, retiring president, opened the meeting and turned the gavel over to Miss Elizabeth Davis, new president. After roll call and reading of minutes Miss Tabitha M. DeVoscenti traced the books and reports from officers and committees were given. At this time the Program Committee presented suggestions for the 1946-47 study and a varied program covering the five phases of the fine arts was chosen by the Club.

Mrs. W. M. Willis, program chairman for the afternoon, then introduced as her guest speaker Rev. E. R. Clegg, who brought a stirring message on America's Responsibility. In outline he stated America's Responsibility was to cooperate with governments of the world in bringing about a just and lasting peace, to feed the world, to clothe the world and to save the world. He spoke of the need for social and economic adjustments throughout the world; the necessity of educating Americans for world citizenship; and, the advisability of having an unchangeable foreign policy which would have as its goal the just treatment and betterment of all peoples of the world.

After adjournment the hostess, assisted by Mrs. C. E. Joyner, Mrs. J. W. Joyner and Mrs. J. H. Moore served delicious home made cake and ice cream. Special guests were: Mrs. F. M. Davis, Mrs. E. S. Coates, Mrs. J. H. Moore, Mrs. E. H. T. Cox and Rev. E. R. Clegg.

Home Demonstration Club. The Farmville Home Demonstration Club held its final meeting of the summer, on Thursday afternoon, with Mrs. Herman Baker and Mrs. Earl Bagley as hostesses.

The president, Mrs. Claude Joyner, presided and opened the meeting with the singing in union of "America, the Beautiful." This was followed by the report.

Miss Verona Lee Joyner, Home Agent, gave a practical demonstration in illustration of the subject "What To Eat and How To Serve It." Mrs. B. P. Weaver gave an inspiring talk on "Family Life" and presented

## J. T. Keel Succumbs To Brief Illness

A message, received by relatives here, Tuesday evening, stated that J. Thomas Keel, 60, of Harrington Park, N. J., vice president of P. Lorillard Company, succumbed Tuesday evening at 9:30 o'clock, to an illness of a few hours duration, at his home. Interment was made in the Harrington Park cemetery following funeral services conducted from the home at 2:30 o'clock, Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Keel, was well known here and highly esteemed, being a son of the late Thomas E. and Pemie May Keel, pioneer and prominent citizens of this community. He left the State many years ago, but made visits at intervals to relatives here and was accorded a warm welcome by old friends who were glad of the opportunity to renew their friendship. He was widely known in the tobacco industry as an efficient and successful executive.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Helen Curtis, a daughter, Miss Alice, and a son Richard Keel, of Harrington Park; five sisters, Mrs. W. G. Holston, Mrs. F. O. Lang and Mrs. Mark E. Dixon, of Farmville; Mrs. Benita Keel Whitmore, of Wilson; and Mrs. Nell Keel Rogers, of Lake Alfred, Fla.; a brother, Dr. Harry L. Keel, of Winston-Salem, several nieces and nephews and four great nephews.

Dr. Keel, of Winston-Salem, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Monk, Jr., and Jack Horton, of Greenville, left Wednesday to attend the funeral.

### METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Youth week in the Methodist Church will open Sunday. At the worship period of the Church school the intermediates of the Youth Fellowship will give their reports of church camp, which they attended recently.

At 11:00 o'clock Rev. Tommie Rutledge, of Duke University, will preach and Rev. Mack Meredith will sing "The Holy City."

Monday night at 7:00 o'clock the young people of the church and invited guests will meet in the church basement for supper, followed with study and recreation. Each night through Friday they will meet at 7:00 o'clock. All young people of the church, from 12 years through 23 are invited to attend. Please do not miss a single meeting.

Rev. Tommie Rutledge, Rev. Milton Robinson, and Rev. Mack Meredith, of Duke University, will have charge of the Youth meetings.

Lang's Bible School. A very successful Bible School was held last week at Lang's, under the leadership and supervision of Rev. E. R. Clegg and Mrs. A. Q. Roebuck.

The enrollment was 75, with a perfect attendance of 56. The school closed with commencement exercises Sunday afternoon. Workers in the school were: Rev. Tommie Rutledge, Intermediates; Rev. Walter McDonald, Juniors; Mrs. Ed. Nash Warren, Mrs. Perry Vandiford and Mrs. Edw. Watkins, Primaries; Mrs. Mark Wesley Joyner and Mrs. John Tugwell, Beginners. Mr. William Fulford is Superintendent of Lang's Church School and Rev. E. R. Clegg, pastor.

Wesley Bible School. Wesley Community Bible School, under the leadership of Rev. Tommie Rutledge and Aaron Tyson had a very successful week. The enrollment was 48, with a perfect attendance of 21. The school closed with an outdoor commencement Friday afternoon, followed by a barbecue supper. Teachers and workers in this school were: Rev. Tommie Rutledge, Rev. Walter McDonald, of Duke University, Mrs. Fats Nethercutt, Mrs. Moses Turner, Mrs. Sallie Tyson, and Mrs. A. Q. Roebuck. Mr. Bob Fulford is superintendent of the Church School and Rev. Key W. Taylor, pastor.

Ball Artists. Mesdames Ida White, Lawrence White, J. Henry Tyson, John I. Wilkerson, David Fulford, Fats Nethercutt, Fats Hobgood and B. Bahaman, of the Women's Society of Christian Service, spent Tuesday in Mt. Olive with Mrs. M. Y. Sell, Mrs. Sell and Mrs. Cox, district secretary of W. S. C. S., gave the study of the book, "Cross Over Africa." A buffet lunch was served at 1:30 o'clock.

### RAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Earl W. Holmes announced the following sermon topics for Sunday, June 23: morning, "Eredeeming the Time"; evening, "A Rainbow in the Sky."

Special music at the morning hour will be a duet by Mrs. Roland O. Lang, Jr., and Miss Rosemary Holmes, who will sing, "In His Holy Temple," by B. McKimney. At the evening service Miss Holmes will sing, "There's A Rainbow in the Sky," by A. H. Akeley.

## Farmers to Vote On Tobacco Issue

### July 12 Set as Referen- dum Date to Determine Life of Quota Program

Washington.—Secretary Anderson has announced the Agriculture department will hold a referendum July 12 to determine whether growers favor continuance of government controls on production and marketing of flue-cured tobacco.

The referendum will be held in the flue-cured tobacco producing states of North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Growers will vote on whether they favor continuance of the controls for the 1947, 1948 and 1949 crops, or the 1947 crop only, or whether they are opposed to the controls. Approval of at least two-thirds of the growers voting is necessary to continue the controls.

Penalties for tobacco quota violations were recently increased 50 per cent by act of Congress.

The last referendum on flue-cured tobacco quotas was held in 1943. At that time, 87.6 per cent of the growers voting chose to continue quotas for a three-year period.

Quotas must be approved by two-thirds of the votes before they can go into effect.

## At The Kiwanis Club

Zeb Whitehurst, in charge of the Kiwanis program, Monday evening, had as his guest, Miss Rosemary Holmes, talented daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Holmes, who entertained with vocal selections, which received thunderous applause. It was evident that Miss Holmes will be a welcome guest at any time.

Mrs. J. W. Joyner was accompanist. The remainder of the program time was given over to echoes of the International Convention, held the past week at Atlantic City, brought by those who attended; President Charles Hotchkiss' painted a verbal picture of the Convention as a whole, emphasizing the talk made by president Hamilton Holt, and highlighting the other speakers, among whom were, Wm. K. Jackson, General Bradley, Harold Stassen, Clinton Anderson, Drew Pearson and others.

Charlie presented Mrs. Dorothy Allen, who spoke in behalf of the week, who attended, telling in a pleasing way of the ladies' activities, which included—a morning on the great steamer, an entertaining musical by Helen Jensen, Metropolitan Opera Star, a fashion show sponsored by a New York firm, and the reception, where Mrs. Holt and others were introduced. The ladies also enjoyed the district dinners and dances not to mention the many other attractions on the famous board walk.

Dorothy presented Seth Barrow, who spoke on the secretaries and their meetings, bringing out the proven requisites for a successful club, one of the foremost being a good secretary. Seth was the only man at the convention who tried to go the ladies' fashion show, according to him.

Seth presented Rod Williams, who talked on the district dinner with Montana, hitting the first main point of a good meal, and secondly, singing, talks, jokes and fellowship which followed. He missed several meetings and when someone found him he was buying fishing tackle.

Rod introduced Frank Allen, who gave an account of the president's ball. He said there was a good floor, grand band, plenty of gorgeous women, a mellow moon and when all was taken into consideration, it would have made any ball a success.

Frank introduced his brother, Lewis, who described the election and the interest shown. Dr. Charlie Armstrong, of Salisbury, was elected vice president. Lewis turned his expense money as a delegate back into the treasury as a nest egg for the next convention.

Lewis then introduced the last, but by no means the least, speaker, Sam Bundy, who as chairman of Achievement Reports, expressed gratification at the cooperation displayed, and stated that it was the first time in the history of the organization that the achievements had come in 100 per cent. Sam was given a big hand for a job well done. He explained how the awards for achievement were won and given to outstanding clubs of the 2300 in the United States and Canada. Sam also brought reports of the convention to a close, and remarked that Farmville's representation among the 9500 present, was above the average.