

Local Merchants Are Making Preparations For Big Holiday Business



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READ THE ADS
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Johnston County Superior Court News

H. M. Webb, Jr., Gets Five Years On Manslaughter Charge—Henry Hall Found Guilty of the Murder of Junius McLamb—Burning of Pack House Brings Some Interesting Testimony Into Court.

The December term of the Johnston County Superior Court convened last week for the trial of criminal cases, with Hon. Frank A. Daniels, Judge presiding, and Hon. Clawson Williams as the prosecutor for the State.

Judge Daniels' charge to the court was an able appeal to the law enforcement officers of the State and county relative to their responsibilities in regard to prohibition law enforcement, etc.

Some of the cases claiming the attention of the court are:

State against H. M. Webb, Jr., a young white man of Harnett, who was found guilty on a charge of manslaughter and given a five-year sentence in the State prison. The charge grew out of an automobile wreck which caused the death of J. Q. Ivey, Simpson Ivey and Pease Mears, all of Robeson county.

Henry Hall was before the court under a charge of the murder of Junius McLamb of Meadow township. He was tried on second degree murder and found guilty.

Quite an unusual case came before the court on Monday of this week when Howard Atkinson, young white man of Duplin county, was on the witness stand for about two hours giving testimony growing out of the burning of a pack house, the property of L. E. Johnson, of Bentonville township, in which he (Atkinson) stated that he had been hired by Johnson to burn said barn pack house.

Defendant Atkinson stated that he burned the house on November 30, 1930, and that for its loss, and the loss of the tobacco contained therein at the time, Johnson collected upwards of \$1,000.00 as insurance; and that Johnson promised to pay him \$20.00 for doing the job but that he had failed to make this promise good.

But it was brought out that sometime in May, 1931, following the burning of the barn in November, 1930, Atkinson testified that he got religion and made peace with God; and thus having repented for his wrong doings, he was then impelled to confess his sin. He told Johnson he intended confessing the crime and Johnson told him not to divulge the secret, for it meant nothing less than death or life imprisonment. Not daunted by Johnson's warning he next confessed it to his pastor, Rev. K. D. Brown of Goldsboro; and also to an insurance agent in Goldsboro, and this led to an investigation by the State Insurance Department and the arrest of both Atkinson and Johnson.

Johnson denied his guilt and put an able defense, being represented by the law firm of Parker & Lee of Smithfield. A letter was produced which was purported to have been written by Johnson to Atkinson in which Johnson tried to absolve Atkinson of the burning by admitting that he and not Atkinson applied the torch to the house.

Atkinson testified that after Johnson had gotten his promise to do the burning for him, he was told by Johnson that he (Johnson) would be away from home on the night of November 30, 1930. Atkinson was staying with Johnson at the time, so that night during the wee hours, he got out of bed, lighted a splinter and went to the pack house and left it to spread. He stated that he then returned to the house and to bed and waited for the fire to get a good start, which was accomplished in short order. He then ran out of the house and gave an alarm, but when neighbors arrived the fire had gotten such headway that the loss was complete.

Johnson contended on the witness stand that he was impelled by his religious dictates to tell the truth about the burning, but while under a fire of questions being put to him by lawyer James D. Parker relative to certain statements he had made about the matter, the witness, in a religious fervor, shouted out: "Praise God, Hallelujah, they are trying to frame me now." His outbursts were arrested by the trial judge who admonished him to praise God in secret but to continue with his testimony. He resumed a quiet mein and continued with his story.

Atkinson's story was fully corroborated by his pastor, the Rev. K. D. Brown, and by a signed state-

Merry Christmas!

SUCH is the old, old greeting that is ever new which will soon be heard on every side in this community. It is the greeting between individuals, between friends and business associates; it is the greeting which we will hear frequently in our clubs and societies and civic organizations, in our churches and our schools.

All these institutions have a definite place in our community life and as such we give them our loyalty and our support. But not everyone can belong to all of them. So there may be some of us who will not have the feeling of sharing in the Christmas greeting which comes from them.

But there is one institution whose interests are the interests of the whole community, of every man and woman and child in it, an institution which is devoted to serving the interests of all. That is the Home Town Newspaper.

A welcome visitor into the homes of this community; a messenger bearing news of community interest; a chronicler of the joys and sorrows and of the trials and triumphs of its people; a mirror held up to reflect the daily life of the community; the loom in which is woven into one harmonious pattern the varied threads of community activity... all these are the Home Town Newspaper.

So, through what more appropriate medium than the Home Town Newspaper should there come a greeting to all the people of our community at this time of the year? We believe there is none more appropriate and we are happy to have the privilege of saying to you all: "A Merry Christmas."

The Publishers

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Mill Man Honored

Mr. Stanley Armitage, who has been connected with the Selma Cotton Mill for the past ten years and who has recently been promoted to the superintendency of a large cotton mill in McComb, Miss., was tendered a stag dinner at the Catch-Me-My-Eye Inn Friday night from 8 till 10 o'clock. This dinner was given as a token of the high esteem in which he is held in this community. C. P. Harper acted as toastmaster and called on a number of those present for short talks. All present expressed keen regret at Mr. Armitage's departure but felt that he was to be congratulated for his well deserved promotion.

Those enjoying the occasion were: Dr. V. A. Davidson, of Smithfield; A. L. Graves, of Scranton, Pa.; Dr. E. N. Booker, Dr. George D. Vick, C. P. Harper, R. D. Blackburn, Raleigh Griffin, B. W. Booker, Gordon Whitaker, Clyde Jones, William I. Godwin, J. D. Massey, Mose Godwin, Carl Worley, Ed Creech and H. H. Lowry.

Christmas Service At Mill Chapel

Next Saturday evening at 7 o'clock in the Village Chapel at Selma Mill the Nineteenth annual Christmas service will be held, the younger children of the village will render their part of recitation and songs, this will be followed by a most interesting Pagen representing the Shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem, this promises to be one of the best the school has ever given, and the public is cordially invited.

Martin County sweet potato growers have 65,000 bushels of cured sweets in storage for sale this winter and next spring.

ment which he gave their investigator for the Insurance Department.

The conclusion of the case will be published at a later date.

May Help You Get Back to the Farm

Maj. A. L. Fletcher, Commissioner of Labor, announces that North Carolina farmers are to have a new service through the Federal and State Departments of Labor as a part of President Roosevelt's Recovery Program.

This service proposes to make of each employment office a clearing house through which farmers, farm tenants, and farm labor may go when in need of any kind of help.

Families of farm origin now living in town or mill villages will also find this office of help should they be interested in returning to the farm. Some provision is being made to aid such families with provisions and clothing where needed, under certain conditions.

It is hoped that this service may, in these unsettled times, be of help in placing families of farm experience who have drifted to town and find it difficult to fit themselves into urban or mill village life, back to their rightful environment.

This work, Commissioner Fletcher says, will be supervised by Homer H. B. Mask, who has had wide experience in North Carolina Agriculture, having served as county farm agent, assistant State agent, Field Director of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association and state manager in the promotional work of a larger fertilizer concern.

Bad Hair Tonic.

Selma Teacher To Class—Give me a sentence, using the word "annoy".

Small Boy in Class—My Daddy annoyed his head with oil.

Ambrose Cline, of Lincoln County, reports harvesting 900 pounds of common lespedeza seed an acre from one field this fall.

Sixteen Caswell county farmers are competing in a farm forest contest this winter for cash prizes offered by business organizations.

Defunct Clayton Bank Pays Depositors \$15,000

The closed Clayton bank came to life by mailing checks to all its depositors last week, marked in the upper left hand corner "10 per cent dividend to Claim No. ???" (each check bearing a number).

This money coming at this season and so unexpectedly will make many believe in Mr. Hewitt's Santa Claus who lives at the North Pole.

The Clayton bank closed its doors December 1930 after thirty years of successful banking service. They opened again January 1931 after a majority of the depositors had signed a paper agreeing not to draw out the money they had on deposit in order to give Clayton banking service and give officials an opportunity to collect the money that had been loaned. The bank remained open under this condition until November 1931, at which time they closed the doors definitely. In the fall of 1932 the bank paid its depositors twenty per cent and last week ten per cent. It is expected that another pay-off will be made in February.—Clayton News.

WHO PAYS PROCESSING TAX?

Secretary Wallace took occasion to discuss a subject that just now is agitating the farm districts of the Middle West. That question is: Who is paying the processing tax on hogs?

The tax started at 50 cents a hundred pounds on November 1, and was raised to \$1.00 on December 1. It will go to \$1.50, January 1st, and to \$2.00 on February 1st. Since the tax was added hog prices have declined approximately \$1.00. This has led many farmers to conclude that they are paying the tax through a lower price for their hogs.

Secretary Wallace contended, however, that a 10-year average of prices shows that hog values decline in the Fall, reaching the low point in December. The decline this year, he said, has been about normal.

Selma-Wilson Mills Road Being Improved

READ THE CHRISTMAS ADS.

In this issue of the Johnstonian-Sun will be found numerous advertisements, most of which are from business men and concerns who have purchased this space in the Sun to express their wishes to their friends and customers for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The cuts in these advertisements were specially prepared for this very purpose. The readers will please note the Yule Tide trend throughout these ads. Special mention might be made of the whole page advertisement of Hudson-Bell Co., of Smithfield with its holiday border and the advent of Santa Clause beautifully portrayed in verse accompanying old Santa himself.

Shipment Of Whisky Across State Legal

Brummitt Rules Carolina Officers Cannot Interfere With Interstate Transportation.

Raleigh, Dec. 18.—Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt today ruled that state law enforcement officers could not interfere with the interstate shipment of legal whisky across dry North Carolina.

Because North Carolina is a dry state in a wet nation, Brummitt said the situation called for "the exercise of sound judgment on the part of officers whose duty it is to enforce the law and who are under the necessity at all times of acting with due prudence."

Evasions of the state law—which prohibits the transportation of whisky within the state "contrary to law"—may be expected constantly to occur through claims of persons found to be transporting in toxicating liquors that their cargoes are interstate shipments, he declared.

Experience, the attorney general added, probably will demonstrate the necessity of additional legislation to aid officers in performance of their duties.

Brummitt held shipment across the state of legal liquor from a beginning point without this state to a delivery point beyond its borders was not a violation of the state law.

He pointed out that the state prohibition law only prohibited transportation of liquor in this state "contrary to law," reaching the conclusion that shipment of liquor legal in one state across North Carolina to another wet state was not in violation of the state dry law.

Kentucky Moves To Reduce Burley Crop

Virginia Joins Sister States In Declaring Holiday On Tobacco Sales

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 18.—A drive to sign up burley tobacco growers for acreage reduction began today as Virginia joined Kentucky and Tennessee in closing its burley markets in protest against prices paid since the season opened a week ago.

The Ripley and Gallipolis markets in Ohio, and the Madison, Ind., market, both were closed today in line with those across the Kentucky border, but at Weston, Mo., sales continued. Burley at Weston, where 500,000 pounds were ready for sale, averaged \$14 a 100 pounds.

Belief that signed agreements for reduction next year would boost this season's prices was expressed by growers generally and at a meeting Saturday afternoon in Frankfort growers told Governor Laffoon that unless he took steps to close the market "night riding" and other disorders of years past might break out.

Prices this season at Lexington, the world's largest burley market, averaged \$12.46 for the 6,479,210 pounds sold the first week, and at other Kentucky markets upwards of 3,000,000 pounds had been sold at average ranging from \$9.82 to \$12.20. Last year 239,938,067 pounds of burley were sold in Kentucky for \$28,945,271, and average of \$12.06. The Lexington market average where 75,000,000 pounds were sold was \$13.38.

Large Force of Men Now At Work Between Selma and Neuse River—To Be Hard Surface Road and Will Shorten Distance to Raleigh Over Four Miles.

For several days a large force of men have been employed by the State Highway Commission in grading and widening the road leading from Selma to Powhatan by way of Wilson Mills.

For several months some of Selma's enterprising business men have kept constantly in touch with the State Department in an effort to make this one of the State's hard surface roads, with the result that the work has actually been started, and we understand that it is to be a hard surface highway similar to Highway 23 leading out from Selma to Zebulon.

Work is in progress on the Selma end and the grading and widening process is going on in a hurry. Neuse River already having been reached. Narrow places in the road are being widened and crooked places are being straightened, as is the general policy of the Highway Commission in these modern times of road building.

A survey of the route has been made and it has been demonstrated that when this road is completed that distance between Selma and Raleigh will have been shortened by more than four miles.

Among others who have been sponsors of the much needed road, especial credit is due to Mr. C. P. Harper, Selma's enterprising druggist, and to Lawyer E. G. Hobbs, both of whom have made repeated visits to Raleigh in behalf of this project.

50,000 Persons Get Civil Works Money

North Carolinians Getting Approximately \$1,000,000 Weekly, Mrs. O'Berry Says.

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—More than 50,000 persons, drawing approximately \$1,000,000 weekly, will receive salaries from civil works jobs in time for use at Christmas, Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, state administrator, said today.

Mrs. O'Berry has kept her organization working at full speed for the last few days seeking to give work to as many persons as possible before Christmas.

The CWA work week ends Thursday and for that reason the drive to place jobless persons in jobs has been intensive the first part of this week.

Approval of 127 projects creating 2,908 jobs was announced today, bringing to 84,853 the number of jobs created since the program was instituted in North Carolina.

Among the projects approved were the construction of swimming pools at Caswell Training school and the town of Newton. Construction of 3,200 sanitary privies in Beaufort county also was approved.

Left Sum of Money To Enforce Prohibition

Gaston, Dec. 18.—Ed. G. McLurd, building and loan executive, who recently died, left \$1,000 to be used in securing better dry law enforcement in Gaston county.

The will of McLurd, who died November 24, has just been recorded here and the provision was made in a codicil a few days before his death.

He was a leader in the campaign against repeal prior to the November 7 election when the State and Gaston voted dry.

TAX BURDEN MAY GROW.

The American taxpayer probably can look forward to having a heavier tax imposed on his unearned income derived from interest and dividends, and corporations probably will be subjected once more to the war-time excess profits tax.

These two tax changes, both of which were tentatively suggested to the House Ways and Means Committee on December 15th by Acting Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., are now being worked on at the Treasury Department.—United States News.