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The Johnstonian-Sun

The Johnstonian-Sun is dedicated to the best interest of Johnston county and its sixty thousand people. Read the news and advertisements in its columns each week.

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ATTRACTIVE "WALTZ COURT" TO OPEN MONDAY



Attractive is just the word for this new station just completed by Walt Godwin, located on Route 301 between Selma and Smithfield. "Waltz Court" will have its grand opening next Monday, beginning at 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

Johnston County Tax Department Begins Operation

New Tax Collecting Department Provided For By The General Assembly of 1941 Is Headed By G. Ira Ford, Former Office Deputy For Sheriff Rose.

(Smithfield Herald)

Johnston county's new tax collection department, authorized by the 1941 General Assembly, began operating Tuesday morning of this week with G. Ira Ford in charge.

Ford, who was appointed tax collector by the county commissioners soon after the legislative act was passed in early spring, leaves his job as office deputy for Sheriff Rose to assume the new post. He recently resigned as chairman of the county Democratic executive committee preparatory to taking the tax collection job.

The new department, which takes over the function of current collections from the sheriff's office and delinquent collections from the auditor's office, will occupy the main section of the courthouse quarters heretofore used by the auditor.

The auditor and his staff will occupy the remainder of the quarters, with entrance from the corridor near the east doors of the courthouse.

Staff of Five Persons

The tax collection agency will have a staff of five persons including Ford, C. C. Gulley and Miss Rhett Martin, who have been employed in the auditor's office, will serve as office deputies in the new department. Clarence Rowe of Princeton and Lloyd Stephenson of Pleasant Grove township will be field deputies.

Creation of the new department reduces the personnel of Sheriff Kirby Rose's staff by two men. With tax collection duties removed from the office, there will be no need to employ an office deputy to replace Ford. The number of field deputies is being cut from six to five, with Jesse Creech leaving the staff.

Sheriff's Personnel

Effective July 1, Sheriff Rose will run his office with an office stenographer, Miss Julia Lee, and five field deputies, as follows: D. S. Strickland, M. J. Whitley, J. M. Parker, N. M. Naron, and C. C. Liles.

Auditor Jerry George's office will operate with three less employees. Gulley and Miss Martin are going over to the new tax office and Miss Juanita Hunsucker will not continue as a member of the staff.

The auditor's office will have two employees besides Auditor George. John A. Wallace will continue as deputy auditor and Mrs. Braxton Wilson will remain as office assistant.

While the new agency takes over the job of collecting delinquent taxes, the auditor will retain the functions of directing tax listing and compiling budget estimates in addition to other duties.

Budget Reduced

The three departments—tax collection, sheriff and auditor—will operate with the same number of workers as have been employed heretofore in operation of the sheriff's and auditor's (Continued on page eight)

SELMA TO HAVE NEW DRUG STORE

A sign on the door of the building in which Woodard's Drug Store was formerly located in the Person building, here, reads as follows: "This building rented to Bill Creech. Opening date to be announced later." When we asked Bill what this meant, he replied that it meant that Selma was going to have another drug store. Bill said that he had arranged for his fixtures but did not know just when he would be able to get everything in place and his stock on the shelves but that it would not be very long, he hoped.

Bill Creech is no stranger to the people of Selma and Johnston county, therefore he needs no introduction by us. He is a registered druggist and was formerly connected with the Selma Drug Co. until he sold his interest in the institution before investing in the Creech Drug Co. where he operated a very successful business for two years. He sold his interest in the Creech Drug Co., a few months ago, and since that time he says he has had the privilege of advising with some of the leading druggists of the state in regard to the most modern methods of operating a successful drug business, which he believes will prove very helpful to him in his new business.

Mrs. Thurston Leaves Welfare Office Duties

Smithfield, July 1.—Mrs. D. J. Thurston, county welfare officer for sixteen years, left her office at noon Monday, turning over the job to her successor, W. T. Woodard, Jr., of Selma. As a farewell to her department staff, Mrs. Thurston gave them a two-course luncheon at the Rose Glenn Dining Room at 12:30. The staff members presented her two pieces of silver in her pattern.

Present at the luncheon were Mrs. Thurston, Mr. Woodard and his recent bride; Miss Pauline George, statistician and secretary in one of the offices; Mrs. A. C. Wirth, Mrs. M. Y. Holland, and Mrs. Roberta Roberson, case workers; and Mrs. Pauline Swain, secretary to the welfare officer.

Mrs. Rowe Henry Dies At Morven Early Today

News of the death of Mrs. Rowe Henry which reached Selma this (Thursday) morning, came as a distinct shock to her many friends, although she had been ill for the past six months. Her death occurred at their home in Morven, where Prof. Henry is head of the Morven schools. Before going to Morven, Prof. and Mrs. Henry were members of the Selma school faculty and during their stay here made many friends, who will be grieved to learn of Mrs. Henry's death.

Funeral services will be held in Parkton Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

FARMER COMMITS SUICIDE AT HIS HOME NEAR KENLY

The third violent death in this section in as many Sundays occurred at 8 o'clock Sunday morning when John Elmer Atkinson, 35-year-old farmer blew the top of his head off, using a .16-gauge shotgun.

The suicide occurred at his home, Kenly, Route 2, eight miles north of Selma. No motive has been assigned for the act. He appeared to be in the best of health.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Demetrius Atkinson; his wife, and two sons, Demetrius and Eugene; and one daughter, Bertha; three brothers, Raymond Atkinson of Kenly, Route 2, Lemond Atkinson, of Staunton, Va., and Wilbert Atkinson of Kenly, Route 2; three sisters, Mrs. L. K. Stancil of Warsaw, Mrs. Frank Naron of Wilson, and Miss Elva Mae Atkinson, a student at King's Business College, Raleigh.

Funeral services were held from the home of his mother, Mrs. Demetrius Atkinson of Kenly, Route 2, Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Burial took place in the family cemetery near the home.

Johnston Federation Of Churches Meets

Kenly — Several hundred people heard Dr. William Howard Carter, minister of the First Full Gospel Tabernacle Church of Goldsboro at Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church near Kenly Sunday night, where he spoke to the congregation of the Federation of Churches of Johnston County.

The Rev. E. G. Holland, Free Will Baptist minister and President of the Federation, presided over the meeting and presented Dr. Carter, a native of Selma.

Using for his subject, "Listening To God," Dr. Carter stated that Christians were not alarmed as they faced the peril of a perilous future as God has endeavored to tell man through His word for many centuries.

The minister outlined the conditions leading to the tribulation, the mark of the beast, the ministry of the two witnesses, the binding of satan, the millennium, the second resurrection, judgment and the coming down from God out of heaven of the New Jerusalem.

Many of the congregation recalled hearing Dr. Carter preach nearly 19 years ago when only a lad of 12 years, and they frequently mentioned to him after service, of hearing his radio sermons each Sunday through Station WGBR in Goldsboro.

Special music for the service was furnished by a quartet from Holly Springs Church, and a group of boys from the Free Will Baptist orphanage at Middlesex.

The invitation to meet with the Branch Chapel Church the fifth Sunday night in August was accepted and the Branch Chapel group invited Dr. Carter to be the principal speaker on that occasion.

North Carolina's cash income from livestock products sold in 1940 was only \$38,591,000 which ranked in the State as 30th in cash income from livestock and livestock products, reports the State Department of Agriculture.

Bright Belt Tobacco Mart Opens Aug. 26--Border Belt Aug. 12th

Harmon Given Six To Ten Years In Prison

Selma Man Who Was Charged With Rape On His 3-Year-Old Step-Daughter Is Only Found Guilty of Assault With Intent To Commit Rape.

N. C. Harmon of Selma, who was tried in Johnston County criminal court last week on a charge of raping his 3-year-old step-daughter, will have to serve from six to ten years in the state prison because a Johnston county jury found him guilty of assault with intent to commit rape. The sentence was passed on Harmon Saturday morning after the jury had brought in their verdict. The trial was scheduled to come up at the April term of court but was deferred in order that a more thorough investigation might be made into the sanity of Harmon.

Solicitor Claude C. Canaday asked for a verdict of first degree rape, which would have meant death in the gas chamber had he been found guilty of that charge.

Defense counsel appearing in the case were W. O. Rosser, J. R. Pool of Smithfield, and Carl E. Gaddy, of Selma.

The prosecution rested its case Thursday afternoon, but put on a number of new witnesses Friday in rebuttal of defense testimony.

Dr. R. D. Oliver of Selma, who helped examine the child the morning after the assault, and Dr. W. G. Wilson of Smithfield, who was present at the examination, testified that she was bruised and lacerated, corroborating the earlier testimony of Dr. V. A. Davidson and Dr. E. N. Booker.

Dr. Robert Ruark, specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, was placed on the stand by the defense in an effort to prove that the crime of rape could not have been committed.

Throughout the trial witnesses were summoned to give testimony as to Harmon's mental condition. It is felt that the doubt which was thrown on the prisoner's sanity played an important part in the outcome of the case.

In sentencing Harmon, Judge Ervin directed that he be examined by state authorities and that if the prisoner be found insane he should be transferred to the state asylum.

Iredell Batten Dies Following Long Illness

Iredell Batten, 74, died at his home, Selma, Route 1, Tuesday morning at 1:40, following a long illness. He was a highly respected farmer of his community.

Surviving are three sons, A. J. Batten, Selma, Route 2; Stephen Batten, and Arthur Batten, both of Selma Route 1; two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Brown, Selma, Route 1; Mrs. Luby Foster, Selma, Route 1; three brothers, Ira Batten, Portsmouth, Va.; Troy Batten, Pembroke, N. C.; Walter Batten, Smithfield; one sister, Mrs. Ennis Batten, Selma, Route 2.

Funeral services were held at the home Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. C. E. Clarke, pastor of the Selma Presbyterian church, of which the deceased was a member. Burial took place in the family burying ground near the home. Assisting with the funeral rites was the Rev. C. H. Coats, Free Will Baptist minister of Benson.

Dr. Harper Removed To Duke Hospital

Dr. C. P. Harper, who has been undergoing treatment at Carolina-General Hospital in Wilson for the past fourteen weeks, was removed to Duke Hospital on last Sunday for further study and treatment. His many friends in Selma and elsewhere will regret to learn that his condition does not seem to improve.

COURT HOUSE TO BE CLOSED 2 DAYS

The Johnston county courthouse will be closed Friday and Saturday, July 4th and 5th, in observance of the July 4th holiday.

The Tobacco Association of the United States Announced At Their Official Meeting Held At Virginia Beach Last Week That Border Belt Markets Will Open August 12—Eastern North Carolina Markets To Open August 26.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., June 27.—The Tobacco Association of the United States announced today opening dates for auction centers, recommended legislation to relieve the tobacco shipping problem and re-elected present officers, headed by J. W. Dunnington, of Farmville, Va.

Auto-Truck Collision Last Saturday Near Princeton Kills Man

William N. Fuller, Jr., of Louisville, automobile dealer, was killed about two miles west of Princeton Saturday morning about 8 o'clock when the new Chrysler coupe he was driving crashed into a truck on highway 70, when the car, apparently going at a high rate of speed, collided with a produce truck, driven by S. L. Wiggins of Mount Olive. The truck was loaded with potatoes. Riding with Wiggins in the truck was Roy Odum, but neither of them was seriously injured. The truck was badly damaged and the automobile was almost completely demolished.

Highway patrolman H. C. Bobbitt, who investigated the wreck, attributed the accident to the fact that Fuller apparently lost control of his car and veered too far to the left and even crossed the center line.

Dr. E. N. Booker, county coroner, who also investigated the wreck, was of the opinion that the driver of the Fuller car was responsible for the crash.

SELMA MERCHANTS TO OBSERVE FOURTH

Following their usual custom, the merchants of Selma will observe the Fourth of July holiday Friday by keeping their stores closed. But Selma is not by itself in this respect, as most all towns and cities will take the holiday Friday, and except for some of the filling stations and drug stores there will be but little business carried on.

The officials of town, state and the county will observe July 4th by keeping the public offices closed, and Raleigh Griffin states that the Bank here will be closed Friday and Saturday.

Red Cross Sewing Room To Open Here

A Red Cross sewing room will be open at the Woman's Club building in Selma on Tuesday, July 8, and on Friday, July 11th, at 9:00 a. m.

Every one is urged to come and see what they can do. We have garments already cut. The sewing is very simple and does not require an expert seamstress, however the garments must be well made.

The Red Cross furnishes the material, but no buttons or snaps. Ladies are urged to bring all loose buttons they have to be used.

If you will lend your machine to be used in the sewing room it will be of untold service. We believe there are people in this community who have a good machine they would lend to the sewing room, and if there are, don't hesitate to make it known.

Johnston's Surviving Civil War Veteran Is 94

"Uncle" Jack Ellis, of Clayton, only surviving Civil War veteran in Johnston county, celebrated his 94th birthday Wednesday. A dinner was given in his honor in the evening at the Rose-Glenn Tea Room in Smithfield.

This old veteran sat at the head of the table and occupying the seat at the other end was his 86-year-old brother, Charles P. Ellis, of Clayton. Other guests included close friends and relatives of the honored guest. A beautifully decorated birthday cake, bearing the message, "Happy Birthday," was placed in the center of the table.

Unanimously adopting the report of its sales committee, the association fixed market opening dates as follows:

Georgia, August 5.
South Carolina and border markets, August 12th.

Eastern North Carolina, August 26th.

Middle belt, September 9th.
Old belt (Virginia), September 16, and Virginia dark markets, December 8th.

A resolution proposed by tobacco experts and unanimously approved by the convention called upon congressmen from the tobacco states to seek legislation for relief of ocean freight conditions, and a second resolution, also unanimously adopted, pledged the association's support of the national defense program.

Storage Shortage

Dunnington told the convention that there was a possibility of a "serious shortage" in storage space for 1941 crop and reported that a survey was being made of available facilities in North Carolina and Virginia.

Good storage in space available or in buildings which could be converted to such use was listed for about 240,635 hogsheads with other space shown by the survey thus far for 159,365 hogsheads, he said. Further details will be made available to tobacco companies co-operating with the commodity credit corporation in the current year's program.

In addition to Dunnington, the official (Continued on Last Page)

Seen and Heard Along THE MAINDRAG

By H. H. L.

WALT GODWIN invites all his friends to his grand opening of WALTZ COURT on next Monday between the hours of 10 a. m. and 10 p. m.—cold drinks will be served free—better have a big supply on hand, WALT—read all those congratulatory ads on the opening of this handsome station in this issue—BILL CREECH has rented the building vacated some time ago by the WOODARD DRUG CO. and will open a drug store in same about August 1—the building will be remodeled and new equipment installed—we welcome BILL back to the Maindrag—TOM RAY was seen wearing overalls at the ball game Monday—another for RIPLEY — EARL FUNDERBURK's proteges landed on top in the Northern Division of American Legion baseball—EARL and ED CREECH, business manager and assistant coach, are to be congratulated for the fine team they turned out—here's hoping the boys will beat Raleigh — HOWARD GASKILL, veteran umpire, did a good job, too — a better umpire would be hard to find—glad to have JUDGE BROOKS, of Smithfield, on the Maindrag yesterday — CARL GADY, Selma's newest and youngest lawyer, made a splendid plea for his client in Superior Court on last Saturday — we've heard considerable comment on it and all of it was favorable—BILL GODWIN had his tonsils removed on last Thursday and is now back on the job—"what bothered me most," said BILL, "was the fact that I couldn't talk for a couple of days"—like all lawyers, BILL likes to talk — ROBERT GEORGE, who makes a round trip from here to Camp Jackson each day, carrying around 35 men on a large bus, suffered a nervous breakdown on his return trip Saturday—you can't down a good man, for he is back on the job — glad to have SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE SAM ERWIN, of Morganton, in town a few days ago—JUDGE ERVIN was a guest of this writer at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club Thursday night.