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STAGE BIG RALLY FOR FARM FOLKS

More Than 500 Farmers Are Present At Live At Home Dinner At Weldon

FOOD GROWN IN COUNTY

By Mrs. E. L. HAYWARD

One of the most delightful banquets ever held in Weldon was the "Live At Home Dinner" Friday evening at the Coca Cola plant under the auspices of the Federated Home Demonstration Clubs of Halifax County. Under the efficient leadership of Mr. W. O. Davis, County Farm Agent for the upper half of Halifax County, and Mrs. Hazel Irvin Wheeler, County Home Demonstration Agent, who had been tireless in working out each detail, the affair was a huge success. The three course dinner was prepared by the Home Demonstration Clubs of the County and the food was grown in Halifax County. The dinner was served by the members of the Halifax Junior Club.

Five hundred and six farmers, their families and guests were present. The long tables were most attractive in their color scheme of red and white in keeping with the Valentine season.

Mrs. N. L. Stedman of Halifax, president of the County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, acted as Toastmistress and presided with much ease and grace.

The invocation was delivered by Rev. J. H. Shore, pastor of the Weldon Methodist church. Mr. Chas. R. Daniel, acting Mayor, delivered the address of welcome, which was responded to by Mr. M. W. Perry of Dawson's, who said he was a farmer by choice.

The members of the Board of County Commissioners and County Board of Education were asked to stand, by and be introduced, as were each President of representative of the different clubs in the county.

Delightful music, both the old and modern variety, was furnished by the Saunders-Mohorn Orchestra of Heathsville. The young people played with zest and vim and their music was enjoyed.

Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon of Raleigh, State director of Home Demonstration work, was present and won the hearts of all by her gracious manner and fine talk. She stressed the importance of the garden the year round, plenty of milk, lean meats and fruit in order to build and keep healthy bodies. Her suggestions were most helpful.

W. O. Davis then thanked the banks, merchants, supply men and other stores who had aided in any way and expressed the appreciation of those present to Mr. D. W. Seifert, manager of the Weldon Coca Cola plant, who had graciously let them use the building and helped in every way to make the affair a success. While giving the farmers their just dues, he said they were buying far too much of the things that could be raised at home. Under his wise leadership and co-operation the farmers of the county this year should plan and organize their work so as to bring in the very best results. He then in a few well chosen words presented J. M. Gray, formerly assistant director of extension work of State College, now with Chilean Nitrate agencies.

Mr. Gray's address was very instructive. He said the farmer should feed the soil, feed his family and feed his livestock. The proper feeding will develop the family physically and they will be in better condition to develop mentally. The thing of first importance is to raise plenty of foods for his family and his livestock and bring him in the best return. He then to raise such crops as will stressed the interdependence of farm and town and urged a closer co-operation for the best interests of all.

Mrs. Wheeler stated that last year there were 265 present at the dinner and the attendance had increased this year to 506. It was voted last year to make this an annual affair.

A feature that received much favorable comment from the visitors was the parking of cars, handled by the Boy Scouts of Weldon. The boys scouted the parking situation like veteran traffic cops.

Oakes Would Put Unemployed Men And Land to Work

Calling attention to unemployed men and boys lying around the mill village and acres of land that might be made into good gardens, Albert W. Oakes Jr., superintendent of the Weldon public schools, writes a letter to The Roanoke News and suggests that both the unemployed men and the untilled land be put to work. His letter follows:

"Will you be so kind as to give me a little space in your columns before we get away from the subject of 'live-at-home week' that we have just observed throughout the state? Every time I go over in the Audrey Mill Village on some mission in connection with my school work, I am impressed with two facts: (1) a dozen or more men and large boys lying around doing absolutely nothing; and (2) dozens of acres of land near these mill houses that are not being utilized at all.

"I do not think that any one who knows anything about the amount of vegetables that can be grown on a small space will doubt that 25 per cent of the grocery bill of these people could be easily grown on land about the premises that at present is not being utilized. I am wondering if those in charge of the mill property could not take the initiative in seeing that these people plant and look after a garden. I cannot conceive of anything that would be more beneficial to the inhabitants of the mill houses, and I believe that with proper encouragement some of them would grow a garden.

"I am informed that the management of the mills at Roanoke Rapids employs an overseer to supervise the gardens of the mill people. They are required to plant a garden and to look after it after it is planted. The overseer visits every family; and advises the people how, when, and what to plant. This serves more purposes than one: it takes care of a considerable portion of the grocery bill of the mill village; it gives them a wholesome and profitable diversion from the mill work; and finally it gives them an interest in something about their premises.

Largely because of their gardens, as I understand from some of their social workers, they have a much smaller percent of abject poverty than we do, and a much less transient mill population.

"Our people have been very gracious about contributing to the relief of families in distress, but I think many of them are tired of the same families always coming to them as a bunch of mendicants begging food for themselves and their families. If we could seize upon this as an opportune time to help them to help themselves, to encourage them to assume their own responsibility, I think it would be the finest thing we have done yet. This would be welfare work the effects of which would be far reaching. I do not think some local club or organization could do a finer thing than to lend its united support in this direction. I would be glad to co-operate to the fullest extent possible with such a movement."

Weldon Quint Enters Winning Column

Weldon high school boys' basketball team broke into the winning column on Friday night by defeating the strong Woodland quint by a score of 26 to 21. This was the first win for the local lads.

Captain Johnny Partin with 14 points and his running mate, Johnson, with 12 points, led the Weldon attack. Dixon, Hux and Draper put up a strong defense, with Dixon playing an especially good floor game. Griffith and Morris were visitors' stars.

NEGRO SENT TO JAIL

Robert Jones, young negro of Weldon was arrested here Tuesday afternoon by Police Officer J. P. Thorne, charged with stealing a pistol and pair of trousers from Gus Thomas, a negro also from Weldon. Jones plead guilty and waived a preliminary hearing. He was unable to give \$150 bond and was placed in the Halifax jail to await trial at the next term of criminal court.

T. & T. CO. PLANS TO BUILD AT ONCE

4th and Elm Street Is Proposed Location; To Install Dial System

CONTRACT IS AWARDED

The Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co. has purchased the Moseley lot on the corner of 4th and Elm streets and plan to erect either a brick or stucco building at once. The building which will house equipment of the local exchange, will be approximately 50x60 feet and will be of a one story nature. Work will be commenced within two weeks and the building should be ready to be occupied by August 1st, E. H. Dixon, group manager, stated. The Telephone Co. will also build a smaller building at Roanoke Rapids. Dial systems are to be installed at Weldon, Roanoke Rapids, Garysburg and Halifax at an early date, and although operators will not be required at the other stations, Weldon will have nine or more here to take care of the toll and repeater work that will come through this exchange, it was announced.

The equipment for this exchange will be new throughout, and will enable the Telephone company to give the best of service, commented Mr. Dixon. The contract for the buildings was given Rose & Son, contractors, of Rocky Mount.

Suggests Methods Of Garden Work For The Present Season

"Tender garden plants started in the hotbed must have constant care during their early life. The bed must be ventilated on warm, sunny days and protected on cold nights. Hardier plants growing in cold frames will allow the covers to be removed in the day and on warm nights. These plants should be gradually hardened as the time approaches to set them in the open field or garden," says E. B. Morrow, extension horticulturist at State college.

If early garden plants are forced too quickly, they will have spindling tops, poor root systems and will not survive so well as those that have been gradually hardened off.

Mr. Morrow suggests planting of asparagus, beets, carrots, kale, mustard, lettuce, onions, peas, Irish potatoes, spinach and tomatoes for this season. One-year roots of the Mary Washington variety of asparagus are recommended for planting in February and early March. The first plantings of beets and carrots are advised at once and run the risk of the plants being killed by cold weather. Kale and mustard can be planted now to keep up the supply of Spring greens. The new mustard-spinach recently developed is good and is sometimes known on the market as tendergreen.

Lettuce may be planted in the partially spent hotbed or the cold frame and set in the open as soon as the plants are of sufficient size. Seeds of onions may be planted for a crop of bulbs and plantings of English peas may be made at once and again about March 1. Thomas Laxton and Telephone are good varieties for the early garden.

The early crop of Irish potatoes may be planted with safety by the middle of February in the coastal and eastern sections of the State. Use plenty of seed and fertilize heavily. The Norfolk Savoy variety of spinach is best for the early garden. Plant tomato seed in the window box or hotbed before March 1, says Mr. Morrow.

W. C. Willey Dies At Rosemary Home

William C. Willey, well known citizen of Halifax county, died at his home near Rosemary on Saturday, February 15, following an attack of influenza. Mr. Willey was 49 years old and spent the greater part of his life as a farmer. Funeral services were held in the Methodist church here Sunday afternoon at 4:30 with Rev. Thrift of Rosemary conducting the services, assisted by Rev. John A. Shore. Interment was in Cedarwood cemetery.

Mr. Willey is survived by his wife who before her marriage was Miss Annie Smallwood of Weldon, five sons and two daughters and the following brothers and sisters: A. C. Willey of Enfield, J. E. Willey of Rosemary and J. J. Willey of Weldon; Mrs. J. L. Parker and Mrs. Willey Barnhill of Enfield and Mrs. Gardner of Baltimore.

Forester Condemns Wood Burning To Control Weevils

One of the most used arguments in favor of the annual burning over of our forests or woods lands has been that to do so would materially aid in the control of the boll weevil. The Division of Forestry of the Department of Conservation and Development has always said that this argument was basically wrong in that the vast majority of boll weevils that live through the Winter do not hibernate in the woods.

In order to settle this argument an inquiry was sent to a number of County Farm Agents and to the man who heads the United States Department of Agriculture's investigation of cotton insects by District Forester L. A. Carter of Windsor, N. C.

The following replies have been received by Mr. Carter and speak for themselves in condemning this practice.

Mr. B. R. Coad, Entomologist in Charge of Cotton Insect Investigations for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, makes this statement: "This Department has never recommended the widespread burning over of woodland as a weevil control measure, since we are sure that this would generally do more harm than good. Most weevil hibernation is confined to the margins adjoining cotton fields and the population in the general woodland is so light that it would be absurd to attempt burning as a control measure. The only places where burning is worth while, are those immediately adjoining cotton fields, that is, within 50 to 100 feet or so, and here the greatest benefit can be derived from burning out ditch banks, hedge rows and similar places of dense growth."

Mr. Zeno Moore, County Agent at Large of Edgecombe County, "If all the evidence could be presented to an impartial jury, I think that the damage the boll weevil has wrought in the Northeastern part of North Carolina has been greater as effecting our woodlands than has that done to the cotton crop, would be the verdict.

"Some have claimed to think that burning the woods would destroy the weevil. Does it break the seed of other insects? Of course to burn a barn would inconvenience a few rats. But, first can you afford it? Second, would you still be likely to have rats on your farm? This much is sure, when a fire goes through a wooded tract it is destructive to natural insect enemies including young birds, terrapins and others. No need to say more."

J. B. Britt, County Farm Agent of Halifax County: "I am glad indeed to make a statement as to the burning of woods to destroy the weevil. Only wish I could make it strong enough that the idea would be forever obliterated from the minds of landowners that burning woods destroy the boll weevils. It is true that there are a few destroyed, yet there are sufficient left in other places to do serious damage to cotton, and what few are destroyed will not make any difference to cotton production. What if there were quite a few destroyed by fire? There is no economy in saving a few cents worth of cotton and destroying several dollars worth of timber. A fire retards the growth of timber from two to eight years, depending upon the amount of covering that is on the ground and age of trees at time of the fire. This is true to say nothing of young trees that are killed outright. Burning the woods to destroy the weevil reminds me of the old saying, 'penny wise and pound foolish.' If this is the only way that we are able to grow cotton, eastern North Carolina will have more money in it at the end of twenty years if the farmers will let their cotton fields grow up in pines and keep fires out, than to burn the woods and grow one-half bale of cotton per acre. I know that this idea has been advocated by some of our department men in the past, but I hope that they too have seen the error and are willing to let trees grow into dollars, forgetting a few cents that might be made on cotton by burning our forests."

E. D. Purnell, 63, Dies On Saturday

E. D. Purnell, 63 year old citizen of Weldon, died at his home here Saturday afternoon following a lingering illness of several years. Mr. Purnell was well known in Weldon and this community, having lived here for a number of years where he followed his trade of printing with the Harrell Printing Co.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church here on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with the Rev. John A. Shore in charge, assisted by Rev. R. S. Fountain of the Baptist church and Rev. D. G. Moore of the Episcopal church. Interment was in Cedarwood cemetery. Active pallbearers were H. Smith, C. S. Vincent, Camm Thighman, W. F. Dyer, W. B. Joyner and Frank Williams.

Mr. Purnell is survived by his wife, one daughter, two sisters and two brothers.

THREE MILLIONS SPENT FOR FOOD

Shortage of Food and Feed In Halifax County Runs Into Tremendous Amount

SURVEY REVEALS FACTS

By F. H. JETER.

State Department Agriculture
Farmers of Halifax county did not produce a single item of food and feed in quantity sufficient to care for the requirements of the population of Halifax county in 1928, according to a survey made by the agricultural extension service of North Carolina State College in connection with the "Live At Home" program of Governor O. Max Gardner.

The total value of the countywide deficiency in food and feed production in Halifax county in 1928 was \$3,058,973, and the total value of the farm food and feed deficiency was \$1,834,695.

These figures represent the value of staple food and feed items which people of Halifax county either purchased outside the county or else did without and in doing without lived below the standard of the average American citizen.

It is the belief of Governor Gardner and the leading agricultural authorities of the State that the surest way to restore the basic agricultural prosperity of North Carolina is for the farmers to be persuaded first to raise enough food and feed to take care of themselves and their families and their livestock and the populations of their communities and then to put their surplus land into the "money crops" of cotton, peanuts and tobacco.

This system, not only would enable the farmer to "live at home" absolutely independent of the price of cotton, peanuts or tobacco, but it would increase the value of these products on account of the acreage reduction that would be effected and the farmer would probably get almost as much for his small crop as he has been getting for his big ones.

The Halifax farmer who wants to start increasing his production of food and feed can start almost anywhere along the line for not one item is produced in quantities that meet the demands of the Halifax home market.

A list of the deficiencies in some of the leading food and feed crops in Halifax county follows:

Corn, 315,000 bushels short; oats, 277,000 bushels short; hay, 24,855 tons short; Irish potatoes, 36,000 bushels short; sweet potatoes, 47,000 bushels short; beef and veal, 2,920,000 pounds short; mutton, 217,000 pounds short; pork, 102,000 pounds short; milk, 4,271,000 gallons short; poultry, 554,000 pounds short; eggs, 616,000 dozen short.

These deficiencies do not mean that the farmers of Halifax county have not made progress during the period between 1920 and 1928 in the production of food and feeds.

The production of milk in that period was increased from about 350,000 gallons in 1920 to 1,360,000 gallons in 1928; the production of pork was doubled from 1,204,000 pounds to 2,413,000 pounds, the production of corn was increased from 518,000 bushels to 761,000 bushels; production of oats was increased from less than 3,000 bushels to more than 13,000 bushels; production of cotton was increased from 3 to 37.

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Mr. Purnell is survived by his wife, one daughter, two sisters and two brothers.

Duke Shearin Is Caught By Officers At Elizabeth City

Duke Shearin, reputed bootlegger, would be bad man of Weldon and foiler of the officers of Halifax, was caught by Elizabeth City officers Saturday night following a telephone call from Chief Crewe of Weldon and is now in Halifax county jail under a \$1250.00 bond awaiting a preliminary hearing.

Duke and Earnest Shearin, brothers, who seem to delight in speeding through Weldon quite frequently and who thus far have been able to evade all attempts of the officers to catch them, had their car parked near the Weldon Motor Co. here on Friday afternoon with the motor running. They were in the car ready to start any minute when Chief Crewe drove up in front of them. They put the car in reverse and backed a block or so and made a get-away. The officer was unable to catch them and notified officers at Elizabeth City to be on the look out for them.

Chief Crewe was notified over the phone Saturday by Elizabeth City officers that they had captured one whom they thought to be one of the two men wanted, and stated that the other got away. Shearin told the officer who caught him that his name was Carlisle but the Weldon officer asked to speak to the captured man, who tried to disguise his voice over the phone and said "This is J. J. Chief, you haven't anything on me, so tell the man here to let me go."

The Weldon officer wasn't sure and had the officer hold him. When he arrived in Elizabeth City, Chief Crewe found "Carlisle" to be none other than Duke Shearin, one of the men he had chased the day before. Shearin was carried to Halifax and placed under a \$500 additional bond, a \$750 bond having been placed upon him by Judge Devin in the past court when he was recognized at a still, but who had evaded all efforts of officers of Halifax to capture him. Shearin will be given a hearing the latter part of the week, it is said.

Negro Placed Under \$3500 Bond As A Result Man's Death

ROSEMARY, Feb. 20.—Under bond of \$3,500, set by Coroner W. C. Williams after a preliminary hearing here last night, Clarence Bush, negro truck driver for the Carolina Service Corporation, awaits trial under a charge of manslaughter. B. B. Higgins, a white man of Rosemary, was run over while riding a bicycle last Saturday night on the main street of Roanoke Rapids at the corner of Patterson's Store, and Bush, accused of the crime, failed to stop.

Just before dusk Mr. Higgins was peddling toward his destination. He was on the right side of the road and away from the ribbon of concrete when the truck ended his journey. D. M. Chestnut, L. H. Hansley, Frank Thomas and Charlie Fade, who saw the smash, said that the driver kept moving on. Mr. Higgins was carried to the hospital by P. C. Luter after Coroner Williams and P. L. Harden had arrived. Examination there disclosed that his right shoulder blade, collar bone and several ribs were broken.

Reaching the scene of the accident, Mr. Harden followed the truck to Weldon where he and Deputy Sheriff W. C. Mitchell described the truck to an employe of the Carolina Service Corporation. He told them where they could find the truck and its driver. Hair and flesh were upon the radiator of the machine but the negro, arrested soon after, denied striking anyone.

With Bush at the time of the fatal crash rode Charlie Clements, another negro. He told the officers that when he first saw the man (Mr. Higgins) that he was about ten feet from him and was riding off of the concrete, he judged, about four and a half feet.

"I'm gone from here," he said Bush told him after the ride took fatal consequences as a fellow passenger, and he cautioned, "Don't you say a damn word about this."

The deed spoke, the officers became active, and a jury will look further into the facts.

F. R. Stimson of the Smithtown community in Yadkin county will grow 15 acres of tobacco according to extension recommendations this season.

LETS CONTRACT TO BUILD BRIDGE

State Highway Commission Accepts Bid of T. A. Loving & Co. of Goldsboro

\$204,438.13 AMOUNT BID

The contract for a bridge over the Roanoke at Weldon was yesterday awarded to T. A. Loving & Co. of Goldsboro. The award calls for an expenditure of \$204,438.13.

While no definite information has been secured, it is expected that work will begin on the project at an early date and citizens here are jubilant that at last months of effort on their part to have the bridge constructed has terminated in success. It is felt here that the Chamber of Commerce was largely instrumental in securing this structure at Weldon at this date, although the fact that high flood waters of recent years clearly demonstrated that the old bridge was unsatisfactory and the natural advantages for a bridge here was no doubt the chief factor with the highway commission in awarding the contract.

A local business leader yesterday expressed his gratitude that the award had at last been made, and pointed out that this work in conjunction with the telephone building to be erected here and the giant power company dam on the Roanoke near here would do much to provide employment and bring better times in upper Halifax.

BOY SCOUTS HOLD REGULAR MEETING AT HUT FRIDAY

The Weldon Troupe of Boy Scouts held its regular meeting at their hut on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. After the roll call and minutes, a Tenderfoot badge was presented Ben Block. The scout master appointed the following scouts to assist in parking the cars at the Coca Cola plant during the live-at-home banquet here last week, and it is understood they made a good job of it: Sam Dixon, John Ben Trueblood, Fred Rabill, George Harrison, Travers Daniel and Robert Dixon.

Under the direction of Alex Hardison, as chief engineer, the boys are building a new bridge to their camp, while Scout Master Moore is busy looking after the building of a kitchen.

METHODIST CLASS MEETS

The Young Women's Wesley Class of the Methodist church held a business and social meeting at the home of Mrs. W. B. Joyner on Elm St. Friday evening, February 14th, with Misses Blanche Johnson and Clyde Hux acting as hostesses. The business session was presided over by Miss Mary Anderson, class president, after which Mrs. W. G. Sulter, chairman of the Social committee, took charge. The Valentine idea was carried throughout the entire program beginning with "Cupid's mail bag" in which fortunes were found for all. This was followed by a heart questionnaire and later the game of hearts was played. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses at the close of the program.

MRS. TURNER HOSTESS

Mrs. J. S. Turner was hostess to the Elizabeth Montfort Ashe chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy at her home here on Thursday afternoon, with Mrs. Ferguson, regent, presiding.

After the roll call and the minutes of the last meeting several reports were read telling of the many activities of the organization, which were enjoyed by those present, as well as being very instructive and helpful. The chapter contributes very generously to these activities.

Following the regular business of the chapter of which 12 members and several visitors were present, a delightful program was rendered by Miss Kate Garrett at the piano, with Mrs. R. T. Daniel giving two voice selections and a very appropriate reading by Miss Virginia Vinson. After delightful refreshments the meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Moorehead in March.

Two cars of fat hogs shipped from Craven county brought the top price of over ten cents a pound on the Richmond market.

More than 1,000 hens have been blood-tested in Forsyth County this winter preparatory to their use as breeders.