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TO ASK COMMISSIONERS TO KEEP THEIR PLEDGE

County Commissioners Violated Solemn Contract By Refusal To Finish Work of Tick Eradication In This County

Tick eradication is still a live issue in Pasquotank, spite of the death blow aimed at it by the County Commissioners last month in refusing to make an appropriation to finish the work in this county. The Commissioners will be besieged by representatives of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants Association, the Rotary Club and progressive farmers and business men generally, at the next meeting of the commissioners in this city, Monday, April 3. Again the Commissioners will be asked to finish the work of tick eradication in this county or admit that they have ruthlessly thrown away over \$8,000 of the taxpayers' money in a fool experiment.

The County Commissioners will be reminded that they have violated a solemn agreement and broken faith with State and Federal authorities as well as with the progressive stock growers of this county, in their refusal to carry on the work.

On Oct. 4, 1920, the Commissioners signed a contract with the Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, agreeing to maintain inspection and quarantine of all cattle in this county conditional upon the State and Federal authorities releasing this county from quarantine. The exact obligation was "To maintain inspection of the quarantined cattle and premises in Pasquotank County, to be released from quarantine, until all cattle and all premises have been found to be free of the cattle fever tick."

The contract was signed by N. Burroughs, Chairman; W. J. F. Spence, J. R. White, J. E. Corbett, P. G. Pritchard, W. B. Menden and R. S. Pritchard. But after entering into this agreement and getting Pasquotank released from quarantine; after spending over \$8,000 on tick eradication and having cleaned up 850 of the 1,000 herds in this county, the Commissioners refuse to make an appropriation to clean up the remaining 150 infested herds, with the result that the county is in worse condition than it was before a dollar was spent on eradication. The county is in worse condition because 850 herds of cattle freed from ticks are no longer tick immune and are in imminent danger of infection from the remaining infested herds.

The Commissioners say they are opposed to carrying on the work because they don't know when it will end; that they have already spent more money than they were told the work would cost; that they would never have entered into the work at all had they known that it would drag on year after year. They say they thought the county would be rid of all ticks in a year. They have already put up for three years and are not sure that another year will see the end of the expense.

The State and Federal agents admit that the work has lagged in Pasquotank and has cost excessively, at times the blame upon the Commissioners and their friends who have failed to give the co-operation required and merited. There remains 150 infested herds in Pasquotank after three years of tick eradication because the owners of these herds have not cooperated and have been encouraged in their non-cooperation by the Commissioners, and defended in law by E. F. Ayldett. Mr. Ayldett has, for the tick work he got out of it, fought tick eradication work in Pasquotank and blocked its progress continually until forced into defeat by court decisions that came too late to enable the State and Federal agents to clean up the county last year. Pasquotank has resisted tick eradication for three years and has 150 infested herds still to be treated before the county is tick free. Chowan County, just 30 miles away began its tick eradication work only a year ago and has only 45 infested herds at this time. Chowan has made a better record because Chowan has co-operated. When the free rangers of Chowan tried to employ counsel to fight tick eradication, not a lawyer in Edenton would take their case. They came to Elizabeth City and retained Mr. Ayldett.

And now the Commissioners are going to be asked to reconsider their recent retrogression, get back into favor with the State and Federal authorities and take Pasquotank again out of the cattle quarantine column. All progressive farmers and business men are urged to take an hour off early Monday morning and go before the County Commissioners to convince them of the error of undoing the work that has been done.

That's Higgs—Hat on, Ready to Go



T. L. HIGGS

IF you can't do a man's work, get off the job; and if you want to know what a man's work is, follow me and see how I do it! That's Thomas L. Higgs, Engineer to the Pasquotank Highway Commission. Higgs is the toughest, liveliest, hardest working son-of-a-gun ever brought to Pasquotank County. He is not content to boss a job of road building, but when the work doesn't go to suit him he pitches in and does a day laborer's work day in and day out if necessary till he has shown every man on the job what he wants done and how fast he wants it done. And men work like beavers for Higgs because they know that Higgs knows what a man can do. He got over 3,000 feet of brick road laid on the Newland project last week. And now Tom Higgs is taking on a little work on the side. His job with the Pasquotank Highway Commission may go with the finish of certain construction work this summer. He expects to stay right on Elizabeth City just the same, anticipating enough sewerage, drainage, paving, mapping, land surveying, etc. to keep him busy. Photo by Bayard Wooten.

ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVICT CRANKS

Powerful Influences in This City Believed To Secretly Back Them in Crime

Lloyd Crank, sentenced to two years on the roads in a case of prostitution in the Recorder's Court here on Wednesday March 8, went scot free when a jury in the Superior Court here last week acquitted him of the charge. His brother Charlie Crank who drew two years in the Recorder's Court for prostitution and the theft of an automobile was convicted only on the charge of theft in the Superior Court and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary.

On the night of Sunday, March 5, an automobile was stolen from in front of the McAdams revival tent on Parsonage St. Three days later Charlie and Lloyd Crank, Otis Bland, Lee Overman and two 15-year-old girls by the name of Harris were found in a Negro cabin near Elizabeth City. The car was found ditched near Weaverville, nine miles from town. Charlie Crank confessed to the theft of the car. The two Cranks were sentenced to two years on the roads each and the girls held for Samaritan Manor, the state reform institution for wayward girls. But, as is usually the case, the Cranks appealed to the higher court and with able counsel laughed defiance in the face of the State. E. F. Ayldett and Martin Simpson represented the Harris girls; W. L. Cohoon and P. W. McMullan represented the Cranks.

Solicitor Ehringhaus boiled when the jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Lloyd Crank. Among other things, Mr. Ehringhaus said: "I know that the most lecherous, venal influences in this community cluster about that man and others."

"I am willing to make affidavit," declared Solicitor Ehringhaus in Superior Court Saturday morning "that Lloyd Crank came into my office during the Winder trial, and talked with me about his efforts to get testimony to impugn the character and good name of the prosecuting witness in that trial; and that he admitted that he knew nothing against the character of that witness. I have evidence that he has been receiving money from Winder."

The difficulty in convicting the Cranks is believed to lie in the fact that they are the servitors in immorality of influential and wealthy men in the community; and that when they get in trouble they threaten to tell what they know about their respectable patrons, compelling them to employ the best lawyers for them and use their influence with venal jurors.

The jurors in the Crank case were: E. R. Norris, O. M. Wynn, J. L. Pendleton, U. D. Dozier, H. F. Thornton, W. C. Godfrey, M. M. Hurdle, A. L. Phelps, C. A. Bright, L. I. Berry, Ernest White and A. O. Smith.

Last week's term of the Superior Court in this city was called "The Crank Special." The Cranks crowd the docket of every term of the Superior Court in this county. It would be interesting to know just who pays their bills.

Everything considered, Dress-Up Week will not only mean a big thing to the buying public but also will prove of an unquestionable value to the merchants not from the standpoint of sales alone, but it will demonstrate to them the value of concerted action and co-operation.

Pender's butter will be 41 cents instead of 43 which price is in their ad on another page. This butter is the best obtainable and by buying it you save the price of fancy cartons.

THE INDEPENDENT does the better class of job printing.

THE MIRACLE OF MARY'S BUCKET

Thousands Profess To Find Sign From God in Bottom of a Rusty Pail

By W. O. SAUNDERS.

Chloride of sodium, alum or some other chemical commonly found in the water of shallow pumps and wells in this city, acting upon the bottom of a rusted zinc pail upon which a sediment of sand or clay was encrusted, wrought an exquisite fern like pattern in the bottom of the pail one night last week and half of Elizabeth City has gone wild over that old zinc bucket.

Thousands of people who never saw God in a blade of grass, a dog fennel, a thistle, an oak or a thunderstorm, have professed to find God in the bottom of that old zinc bucket, owned by a religious old colored washer woman over on Juniper St.

Mary Perry, 50 years old, an ignorant but industrious and pious negroess, left an old zinc bucket by her pump one night last week. She is sure she left enough water in the bucket to "catch" the pump next morning; but next morning the water was missing from the bucket and on the dry bottom of the pail, on which a thin film of clay had deposited and become fixed, there were the most beautiful tracings of what appeared to be exquisite fern leaves. The patterns are there and they are beautiful. Unacquainted with the mysteries of chemistry, the colored people, most of whom are sure they are as close to God-to-day as Moses was when he talked to Jehovah in a burning bush, believe that God has put a sign in the bottom of that bucket; and now they are waiting for somebody to interpret the sign. But no interpretation that does not satisfy the superstitious mind will be accepted. Mrs. Lizzie McAdams, the woman evangelist, has taken a look at the bucket and encourages the belief of the colored people that God hath wrought in Mary Perry's bucket.

Hundreds of people have flocked daily to the little shanty on Juniper St. and Mary has had to lay aside her washing while she exhibits the bucket, charging curiosity seekers five cents a head for taking up her time. She says she has no right to charge any one for looking at something God put in her bucket, because that belongs to God; but she does charge for her time lost in showing the bucket.

Since Mary discovered the unique crystallization in the bottom of her bucket, the story of the mystery has grown until hundreds of people both white and colored have magnified the thing and stretched their own imaginations until they will tell you with all seriousness that there are perfect pictures of a man and a woman in the bucket. Many have seen the man and woman in a tree. Still others say they can see soldiers marching and are sure it is a portend of another war. I have looked into the bucket and examined it closely. I have seen similar patterns made by frost on a window pane and by the crystallization of different minerals in minute particles. That is all the mystery there is to the now famous bucket; my explanation will not convince Mary Perry on Juniper St. who has been so thrilled and intoxicated by the notoriety she has gotten, that she now believes that she is an inspired and divinely appointed custodian of a modern miracle wrought by the Most High for the mystification of latter day seers and skeptics.

GRAND JURY WOULD END AUTO SPOONING

Want Motorcycle Cops To Look Into All Parked Cars In Country After Dark

Spooning after nightfall in automobiles parked on the highways and in the shady lanes of Pasquotank after nightfall is going to be a dangerous pastime this summer, if a recommendation of the Grand Jury in the Superior Court of this county last week is carried out by the county commissioners.

The Grand Jury took cognizance of the fact that the position of motorcycle policeman has been ordered abolished after April 1 and asked the county commissioners to restore the motorcycle police and enlarge his powers. The grand jury would have the motorcycle police especially instructed to investigate every darkened automobile found parked in any suspicious place after nightfall, with a view to locating couples engaged in spooning. The idea is to put an end so far as possible to the use of the automobile in immoral traffic, it being a notorious fact that scores of boys, girls and older people take to the church grounds, river shores and other unfrequented places for illicit spooning in the good old summer time.

Some wag has suggested that the Grand Jury had a grudge against motorcycle policeman and was fixing for some cop to get his head shot off while nosing around and prying into automobiles after dark.

EDITOR OFF FOR THE WEEK

It is seldom that the editor of THE INDEPENDENT leaves his work for more than a day at a time, but this week he is out of touch and away from the smell of printers' ink for the whole week, having left here Monday morning to join Governor Morrison and party on a trip over the Sounds.

FIGURES ON THE UPKEEP OF ROADS

Evidence Is That Pasquotank Made No Mistake In Building With Brick

Cement roads are pretty things and fine to ride on, but they are an expensive luxury and the evidence is that brick, with all its objectionable features, is the best type of road for taxpayers to build. The American Lumberman, Chicago, which may be regarded as an unbiased authority, has been publishing some facts and figures on road upkeep recently that should be of interest to Pasquotank County taxpayers. The figures go a long way to vindicate the Pasquotank Highway Commission's partiality to brick roads.

Back in 1913 engineers laid part of the main thoroughfare between Philadelphia and New York in 26 sections as follows: seven of vitrified brick; five of cement concrete; six of bituminous concrete and eight of bituminous macadam. The Bureau of Highways of the city of Philadelphia has just made public its findings as to the wearing qualities of the various types of pavement of which the highway was constructed.

According to the report the sections paved with vitrified brick have cost the least in annual repair and maintenance, and the sections covered with different varieties of cement concrete have cost the most. The actual figures on upkeep cost per square yard per year are: for vitrified brick, eight-tenths of a cent and, for cement concrete, 17 cents. Bituminous concrete types have cost 12 cents a square yard each year for maintenance and bituminous macadam, seven cents.

These figures, if stated on the basis of a mile of 16-foot roadway, would result in the following yearly upkeep costs: cement concrete, \$1,652.12, bituminous concrete, \$1,124.58, bituminous macadam, \$603.70 and vitrified brick, \$76.08.

A number of states, as for example, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York are keeping accurate maintenance records, separating the cost of the surface proper from the cost on ditching, shoulders, bridges, etc.

In Illinois, for instance, brick and concrete types are listed as follows in the last report of the state highway commission, the figures showing the average cost for one year of repairing the surface of a mile of 18-foot roadway:

- Concrete, cement, \$42.24.
- Brick, all types, \$6.33.
- In Ohio, the records are even more complete, revealing the following maintenance costs for one year and per mile of all widths:
- Brick, rigid types, \$23.
- Concrete, cement, \$98.
- Gravel, rolled, \$313.
- Concrete, bituminous, \$345.
- Macadam, waterbound, \$381.
- Macadam, bituminous, \$385.

THE MOTORCYCLE "COP" AND HIS SPEEDOMETER

Speedometer May Tell How Fast the Policeman is Going, But Not the Other Fellow

A motorcycle policeman's speedometer may accurately tell how fast the motorcycle is going in pursuit of an automobile, but it does not necessarily register the speed of the automobile that is being pursued. Such was the contention of W. O. Saunders in a case on appeal in the Superior Court here the other day, in which Saunders was charged with driving his car at a speed in excess of thirty miles an hour.

The County's Motorcycle Officer Smith swore that his speedometer showed Saunders to have taken a speed of 36 miles an hour on the Weeksville Road on the evening of Jan. 30, 1922. Smith says he took the speed between two points admittedly hardly more than half a mile apart. Saunders proved that he was going slowly on the approach to this point and was going not faster than 12 to 15 miles an hour a half mile beyond the point in question. Saunders was arrested at the end of the brick road and contended that Officer Smith had to speed his own machine up to 36 miles an hour to overtake him. It was proved that Smith was 75 to 100 feet in the rear of Saunders' car when the two passed the home of Matthew Reed, just a few hundred feet from the end of the road.

Saunders conducted his own case and told the jury to use their own common sense and he would cheerfully accept their verdict, whether guilty or not guilty. The jury by its verdict expressed a popular belief in the infallibility of motorcycle policemen and their speedometers.

THIS LAW SHOULD BE ENFORCED

There is a law in this state that reads that all vehicles must have a light after nightfall, but bicycle riders and horse drivers seem to ignore it to a great extent in the city and vicinity. Most of the accidents that have happened lately can be traced to the lack of lights and the enforcement of this law would help a lot to eliminate the danger of night riding.

A DESERVING PRIZE WINNER.

Rev. and Mrs. Charles Baine, of this city, won the prize of a bible offered at the McAdams tent meeting Sunday afternoon to the couple bringing the largest number of their own children. The Baine family was eleven strong and Mr. Baine stated that there was one more somewhere that he was unable to round up at the time. But with one shy he won in a walk away.

GOVERNOR GETS AN INSPIRATION

"Cam" Morrison Says North Carolina Must and Shall Have More Fish

By W. O. SAUNDERS. With Governor Morrison and Party on Board N. C. F. C. S. S. Atlantic Governor Morrison is learning something about the fishing industry in North Carolina and constructive fish legislation is going to have a powerful and resourceful ally in the Governor when he gets back from his cruise over the North Carolina Sounds with members of the North Carolina Fisheries Commission this week.

Beginning at Edenton Tuesday morning Governor Morrison began to learn about the decadence of what was once one of the state's greatest industries and he is fired with a determination to back any legislation or any practical demand for a state appropriation to put more fish and shell fish in North Carolina waters. Governor Morrison is ambitious to enlarge the scope and powers of the State Fisheries Commission, to establish state fish hatcheries for the propagation of native varieties of fish, to stock every stream and pond and lake in North Carolina with edible fish.

Some important rules and regulations may emanate from the State Fisheries Commission following a meeting of the Board at Edenton Monday. The Commissioners made an investigation of the artificial propagation of shad at the U. S. Govt. Fish Hatchery at Edenton and the Commissioners are convinced that this fish hatchery is a serious menace instead of a help to the industry. It is believed that the government's methods are destroying millions of fish for every thousand successfully propagated by their laboratory methods. I am going to tell about this next week.

With the closing of the inlets North of Hatteras; with altogether too many pound nets in the inland sounds and with the natural spawning of shad on the spawning grounds of Albemarle Sound obstructed by government experiments that are in effect hardly better than vandalism, the shad hasn't much more than a ghost of a show in North Carolina inland waters to-day. Something drastic must be done to save the industry or in a few years there will be nothing left to save and thousands of families on the fishing banks of North Carolina will have to seek another means of livelihood.

SAUNDERS INVITED TO ADDRESS GIRLS' SCHOOL

Elizabeth City Editor Invited To Deliver Commencement Address

W. O. Saunders, editor of THE INDEPENDENT has been invited to deliver the Commencement address for the Pineland School for Girls at Salemburg, N. C., Friday, May 19, 1922. Mr. Saunders has accepted the invitation, the commencement addresses are somewhat out of his line. Perhaps he can string enough selected editorials together to make it.

The Pineland School For Girls is one of the most remarkable educational institutions in the South. It is the achievement and triumph of a remarkable woman struggling against great odds in a backward community remote from a railroad. In the midst of poverty and illiteracy Mrs. W. J. Jones has built up a pretentious school with a plant and equipment that would do credit to many endowed institutions. Governors, U. S. Senators, Judges and distinguished educators have delivered the commencement addresses in the past.

EASTER TUESDAY WILL BE A BIG DAY HERE

A Bridge tournament and Mardi Gras will be put on in this city the Tuesday following Easter for the benefit of the Community Hospital ambulance fund. The afternoon will be exclusively for the ladies but the night tournament will be for everybody. There will be exhibition dancing and refreshments will be sold. The committee intends to have this a big time. Tickets are to be sold at a dollar a couple.

The last day of Dress-Up Week, April 8, will be Ambulance Tag Day. All the money raised from these two days will go toward the hospital ambulance.

START ERECTING WAREHOUSE

The new community bonded warehouse was started this week and will be ready for business by the early fall. S. B. Parsons, a local broker, is financing it. J. P. Kramer is the architect. By the way the work has progressed during the week it would seem that it will be finished on schedule time, but the drawback seems to be that the shipments of bricks are not coming in fast enough. The warehouse is located on the corner of Burgess and Water Sts. and is a very convenient part of the city. It is being built in such a way that it can be made larger easily and by the way things look now that is likely. Besides the storage of cotton, corn, soy beans and other farm crops this warehouse will be used by jobbers and wholesalers for the storage of any kind of merchandise that is shipped here in carload lots to be broken up into smaller quantities. All patrons of the warehouse will be provided with full fire protection.

VISITING FROM OHIO.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Moore have for their guests Mr. Moore's mother, Mrs. W. E. Moore, of Mt. Vernon, O., and his sister, Mrs. C. W. Hodell, of Deville, Ohio.

MISTAKE IN PENDER'S AD.

Pender's butter will be 41 cents instead of 43 which price is in their ad on another page. This butter is the best obtainable and by buying it you save the price of fancy cartons.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
Optometrist
Bradford Bldg. - Elizabeth City, N. C.