

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

THE PUBLIC WELFARE IS THE INTEREST OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, September 1, 1921

"If it Concerns Harnett, It's in THE NEWS"

ROSS MAKES REPLY TO EDGERTON'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Lillington, August 31, 1921.
Editor Harnett County News:

In last week's issue of your paper you announced that on the third Sunday in September the Reverend Sidney A. Edgerton would preach a special sermon in the Baptist church in Lillington upon some subject relating to county politics. The enclosed correspondence may be of public interest in this connection.

I am to be involved in the public prints with an involvement, and especially a minister of the Gospel; but when one's private and official action is made the subject of discussion from behind the pulpit, a mere layman is necessarily driven to the press for defense. When I mailed my reply to Mr. Edgerton last Saturday, I advised him that if I heard nothing to the contrary from him before today, I would presume that it was still his intention to pursue this matter through the pulpit, and that I would seek redress through the press. He has now had my letter for several days, but has indicated no desire to change his course. Being denied access to the forum which he has chosen, I therefore turn to the press, and abide with confidence the judgment of the public.

Sincerely yours,
CHAS. ROSS.

Chas. Ross, Aug. 23, 1921.
Mr. Chas. Ross, Lillington, N. C.

"Dear Sir: The writer is seeking some light looking toward a sermon for the Lillington people on 'Public Morals and Corrupt Politics' and will greatly appreciate it if you will answer and return enclosed sheet questions. I am fully aware that your reply will be a matter of simple accommodation and that you are not required as county attorney to answer either official or private matters for a private citizen when he asks, not as a taxpayer but as a listener of the Gospel."

I am trusting, however, that you are one of those who believes with me that a preacher should be interested in every social and political activity and should be bold to speak his convictions against sin whether it strikes friend or foe—when it is done for the public good and to the glory of God. Letters and replies will be considered, not as confidential, but for public publication unless there is some information you can give which you specifically ask to be held as confidential, in which case it will be sacredly held as such.

Thanking you cordially, I am,
Yours very truly,
SIDNEY A. EDGERTON.

1. Regarding the Sanford-Dunn State-painted road, please give your personal preference.

2. Your preference as to the public welfare and in either case (west side Cape Fear river contra via Bues Creek) why?

3. Your opinion as to why Commissioners reversed their recommendation?

4. Do you own property near or adjacent either route and how much?

5. Were your property taxes for 1919, 1920 and 1921 paid by July 1st, 1921?

6. Do you have knowledge or suspicions that intimidation or bribe of any kind were offered any Commissioner in regard highway under consideration?

7. In your opinion how would this route be located if left to vote of citizens of Harnett county?

Lillington, Aug. 26th, 1921.
Reverend Sidney A. Edgerton, Bues Creek, N. C.

Dear Sir: Your letter bearing date of the 23rd instant, but postmarked at Bues Creek at 3 p. m. today, has just been received, and I hasten to reply.

I quite agree with you that the fact that one is a minister of the Gospel in no way limits his rights or duties as a citizen; but I do not conceive that a minister speaks to the more authority upon political questions by reason of his cloth. In fact I have always thought that the Master's example, when his enemies sought to involve him in a political controversy, by simply admonishing them to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," and then went ahead with his spiritual instruction—I say, I have always thought that a pretty safe example for a minister to follow.

It is apparent, of course, to anyone from the nature of your questions, that you are seeking to make a personal attack upon me under the pretense of "serving the glory of God"; but in reality to try to gain some advantage for the political party to which you belong, and at the same time attempt in some way to influence the location of a public highway for the advantage of the community in which you happen to live and through your family and church connection have a very vital personal interest.

Now as to the questions: First as to the payment of my taxes, I beg to say that like a good many other citizens I did not have the money to pay my 1920 taxes as soon as I would like to have done, but I sought no special consideration for myself on this account. As to the 1919 and 1921 taxes, a considerable part of this was paid in cash, and the county and State received full benefit for the whole. The balance was assumed by Sheriff Edgerton, and involves some purely private and professional transactions between us. This question seemed so gratuitous that I thought best to dispose of it first, and then proceed with the road proposition, which is evidently the meat in the cocoon.

First as to my personal preference. Since I am absolutely without any authority in the matter, I cannot see that my personal prefer-

ence is a subject for public discussion; but I don't mind saying to you just as I have said repeatedly, that my hope and desire has been that the permanent State highway would be built via Bues Creek, but that until that road could be completed I should like to see the present established route maintained. In so far as I have any private interest in the proposition it is largely involved in the welfare of the town of Lillington. The value of the undeveloped property near Lillington in which I am interested is very much more dependent upon the progress and prosperity of this town than it is upon its location with reference to a State highway. I am convinced that the opening up of the country east of the Cape Fear river by the building of a State highway via of Bues Creek would bring a great deal more business to this town, than anything that could be added by the already very good road we have on the west side of the river.

Now as to the second question, the effect upon the "public welfare," I am glad to believe that my "personal preference" coincides with the public welfare. A State highway must be distinguished from a neighborhood road, and there are interests, not only to this town and community, but to the county as a whole that seem to be of the utmost importance that we should during the next two years have the best possible highway through the county, and particularly between the section of Dunn and Duke and the county seat. Forty per cent of the county's population are dependent upon that route for communication with the county seat, and the establishment of through lines of traffic are becoming rapidly established. If there is a spirit of cooperation between the people of your section and the county authorities, I am convinced that the construction of a State highway via of Bues Creek can be under way early in 1922. For about a year while this work is in progress, maintenance would be impracticable on that road, and the traffic would detour by the route on the west side of the river. The maintenance of the Duke bridge alone requires an average cost to the county of a thousand dollars a year. Harnett pays her share of the maintenance fund, and I would like to see her get her full share. Surely none of us should be dog-in-the-manger enough to deny the county benefits, just because our particular road can't get it. When the furor is raised by some of those who, Democrats like, are seeking to serve their political ends or satisfy their petty jealousies by an attempt to discredit me, I say when this false clamor has subsided, I dare say that the sober second thought of the people will make them realize that what they want is not a patched up and circuitous route, but the real State highway that will provide for and attract the great truck-trains that will be the future carriers of local freight, bringing the advantages of freight service to a section that has been denied adequate railroad facilities. When this time comes, if I can be of any service to them in the contest I want to assure them that my service that I can render is at their command without fee or emolument of any kind; my only compensation being the satisfaction that I will be serving the best interest of the county in which I live.

Answering your third question I beg to say that the County Commissioners have not reversed their recommendation. This statement has been repeatedly circulated, but it is utterly false. I understand that it has also been stated that after the meeting of the Board of Commissioners on July 11th at the time the resolution was passed asking the highway commission to change the route between Lillington and Dunn so as to run via of Bues Creek, that Mr. J. C. Byrd and myself went to the office of the Commission in Raleigh and sought to interfere with the adoption of that route. This is also utterly false. I challenge any man to secure from any member of the State Highway Commission, or any surveyor, employe, or agent thereof, a statement to the effect that any member of the board of commissioners or myself, or any representative of either of us, either by correspondence or in any manner, has sought to obstruct or prevent the adoption of the route via Bues Creek.

Now as to four, another of your personal questions. Yes, I am interested in several hundred acres of land lying on the west side of Cape Fear river and adjacent to the town of Lillington, but this land is at present well supplied with a good gravel road built by the township.

Passing to your sixth question of alleged intimidation or bribery, I know of it in the effort of a minister of a great denomination to threaten to prostitute his pulpit to arouse his congregations for the purpose of bringing political pressure to bear upon county officials, and thus influence their official conduct. As to the intimidation of bribery, most emphatically, no, I do not know whether by "commissioner" you mean State Highway Commissioner or County Commissioner; but whichever you mean, I want to say that there isn't a man on either board whose well known character ought not to be a sufficient defense against such a baseless insinuation. No man who is worthy of a honest and good name, will dare stand out in the open and bring such an accusation against either of these gentlemen.

As to setting the matter by a vote of the people of the county, we should not lose sight of the fact that it is a State highway and not a county highway that we are discussing. The right that the people of the county as a whole take in the splendid school and Bues Creek, and the good wishes that are entertained for this school by people of all denominations, parties and sections in the county, would make a great majority of our people earnestly hope that the State road engineers find a feasible route for the location of the highway via of that school; but I should think the survey would be necessary first before the matter could be intelligently decided by a vote.

I think I have answered your

questions more fully than the spirit they display justifies. When I read your letter I thought you were really seeking information, and I turned with interest to your questions; and I confess my very deep disappointment to find that it was not information you wanted, but material to support a personal attack from behind a pulpit bombproof to promote a purely secular political end. Shades of Roger Williams! Who would have thought that a minister of that great denomination founded upon the doctrine of human freedom, whose very cornerstone was bathed in the blood of martyrs to the cause of separation of church and state, should so far forsake the paths of his pulpit for such a purpose!

A simple inspection of the questions will show that their inspiration comes not from the cloister, but from a certain well-known, if somewhat discredited Republican politician, whose method of combining a discussion of public questions with personal invective is too well known in this county to need recognition. Your letter has the soft and silken touch of the clergy, but your questions disclose the discordant notes of political jargon. It may indeed be the hand of Esau, but it is the voice of Jacob.

Yours very truly,
CHAS. ROSS.

WHAT DOES A NEWSPAPER OWE TO ITS READERS?

The relation of a newspaper to its readers is one that at times is worth thinking about. Is it purely a business relation in which the subscriber pays so much per year for the paper and the publisher contracts to give in his news columns accounts of pink teas and lemonade socials, or that Mrs. Jones took dinner with Mrs. Brown, and Smith's baby has the mumps? Or does not the average publisher expect to give more than is included in a normal business relation? And doesn't the reader expect more? If it was a pure business relation, a matter of dollars and cents, the average publisher would charge more per annum for a subscription. Eliminating everything but news from any of the numerous publishers of the country could supply the paper at anything like the usual charge per year. We fancy that the average publisher likes to think of his readers as all comprising one big family having many things in common and who feel that when they receive the paper each issue that they are getting more than the two or three cents that it costs them. We are inclined to think that between the average paper and its average reader there is a relation that is beyond and above a pure business relation. The paper should give that which passes as current news, to be sure, but over and above this it must give a community service that cannot be measured in dollars. It must stand for the best that is in the community. It must have courage to condemn, as well as courage to commend. A paper to command respect cannot be spineless. It must have a code and abide by that code. If it is a real paper its readers will respect it if they do not always agree with it. A paper's great asset is a list of readers who respect it. A town's greatest asset is a paper that its readers respect. A paper must be honest, and as far as humanly possible it should be impartial. A paper that does not have the confidence of its readers is incapable as a community spokesman. A paper that is run for revenue alone cannot long maintain the respect of its readers. These are some of the things that a paper owes to its readers. Sometimes, stop and think what you, as a reader, owe to the paper, not in dollars, but in a way that is bigger than dollars.

PUPILS GIVEN CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD EXAMINATION

All pupils of Lillington High School who did not make their grade last year or who for any reason missed their examination, will be given a chance Tuesday afternoon, September 6th, to make good their examination so as to go in with their classes. This will apply also to some pupils out of town who want to enter certain grades in the Lillington schools.

The dormitories are filling up fast now, so it will be well for any who are thinking of entering here to speak for a room at once.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Miss Mame F. Camp, county director of school extension, has scheduled the following community meetings for next week:

Tuesday, Sept. 6—Coats.
Wednesday, Sept. 7—Bunnlevel.
Thursday, Sept. 8—Angier.
Friday, Sept. 9—Flat Branch.
Saturday, Sept. 10—Christian Light.

An interesting program has been arranged for each of these meetings and the director is very anxious for everyone to attend.

DOUBLE-HEADER BALL GAME MONDAY

At 2:30—Lillington vs. Angier.
At 4:30—Lillington vs. Chalybeate.
For County Championship.

STAGE IS SET AND EVERYTHING IS PRIMED FOR SING

Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock the representatives from the townships classes met in Lillington with Mr. Hoffmeister, and the executive committee and worked out the final plans for the County Sing on Labor Day. Dunn was represented by Dr. Butler and Casper Warren, Barbicue by Messrs. H. C. Cameron, Graham, D. P. McDonald; Hectors Creek by Messrs. Curtis Senter and Alex Johnson; Black River by Messrs. Irving Stephenson, Clem Flowers and Churchill and Gardner; Lillington by Mr. J. H. Frizelle; Neills Creek by Mr. Carlyle Campbell; Buckhorn by Messrs. John Brown and Blanchard; Upper Little River by Mr. H. McLeod.

Mr. Hoffmeister gave many helpful suggestions and cleared-up many matters connected with carrying on the Sing. The program as outlined is somewhat as follows:

Exercises will begin promptly at 10 o'clock with 15 minutes of congregational singing conducted by Mr. Hoffmeister, then the programs of the singing classes in the order named:

Duke; Barbecue; Buckhorn; Black River; Hectors Creek; Lillington; Dunn; Neills Creek; Upper Little River.

This order of singing was determined by lot.

Mr. Hoffmeister has chosen for a grand chorus two selections familiar to everyone—the old folk song, "Massa's in the Cold Cold Ground," and the hymn, "Day is Dying in the West." These will be sung by all the classes, under the direction of Mr. Hoffmeister, some time during the forenoon.

Lunch will be served from 1:30 to 2:30. Promptly at 2:30 the exercises will be resumed with 15 minutes of congregational singing, conducted by Mr. Hoffmeister, and following this the male quartet and fiddling contest will be held, in the same order as the township classes.

After the announcement of the judges, the Sing will be over and everyone can repair to the ball ground and watch Lillington and Chalybeate Springs struggle for the baseball championship of Harnett county.

At 3 o'clock a special moving picture program, starring Douglas Fairbanks, will be given in the warehouse. Admission will be 15 and 25 cents.

Prominent Musicians to Serve as Judges

The Department of Community Service congratulates itself on securing the following talented musicians for judges in the singing contest:

Mr. W. F. Blount of Fayetteville, whose ability as a violinist and music organizer is well known; Dr. W. C. Horton of Raleigh, whose dramatic and musical work has attracted attention throughout the State; Miss Beatrice Byrd of Greensboro, lately connected with G. C. W. of South Carolina, and Guilford College of North Carolina; Misses E. M. Hall of Benson, whose ability as organizer in musical clubs and as a soloist is well known, and J. H. Highsmith of Raleigh, promoter of the Music Club of that city.

Championship Ball Game

Those who come to the Sing on Monday will have an opportunity of witnessing the struggle between Chalybeate Springs and Lillington for the Harnett County Baseball Championship of 1921.

The game will be called at 4:30 sharp. From every indication one of the snappiest games of the season is expected. The winner of this game will play Duke, the only other logical contender for the pennant.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM THE VALLEY MOUND SECTION

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Johnson, Mrs. Zeb Harrington and son Curtis spent a few days last week at Parkton and Red Springs.

Mrs. J. A. Trulove of Cokesbury spent a few days last week with her son Mr. N. F. Trulove.

Mr. Rossie Davis went to Fayetteville Wednesday of business.

Little Miss Eva Stephens of Lillington R. 2 spent a while last week with her uncle, Mr. N. F. Trulove.

Mrs. Rossie-Davis and little daughter Irene spent a few days last week with friends in Fayetteville.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Trulove, Mrs. Zeb Harrington and son Curtis spent Sunday at Falcon.

Mrs. Jim Johnson and little sons Wade H. and Daniel left Saturday for Durham where they will spend a while with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Trulove and son T. R. spent Monday with relatives on Lillington R. 2.

Rub-My-Tism kills pain.

Agricultural Liens for sale at The News Office.

HIGH SCHOOL TO OPEN TUESDAY

The Lillington Schools will begin their year's session Tuesday of next week, September 6th, and judging from the number who have made application for rooms the attendance will be much larger than ever before at the beginning of the year. We are told that last year at this time but few had applied for rooms, while now more than thirty have applied, and what is rather remarkable, as many or more boys than girls have asked for rooms.

Not much school work will be done next Tuesday except to meet and make some assignment as to work. Though in the afternoon some who did not make their grades last year will be given a chance to make up what they missed. Also some from the rural schools wanting to enter certain grades will be given a chance to get entrance cards for the grades they wish to enter.

For the Tuesday morning opening exercises Judge E. H. Cramer of the Superior Court has been asked to postpone the opening of court and to make the schools and people a talk. His speech with the devotional exercises and talks from members of the board and others will constitute the work of the first day.

In view of the fact that the schools are beginning the work of a year it has occurred to the superintendent that some statement as to who shall be in charge of the various rooms and departments would be of interest to the patrons, for the progress of each child depends very much on who the teacher is.

In looking over the list of teachers it is gratifying to note that the whole corps, with one exception, are college graduates. That means much, we believe, for the broader and more thorough the education the broader-minded and more competent is that teacher.

The first grade work will be in charge of Miss Lucile Spears, who is a graduate of not only the high school here but also a graduate of Salem College, which is an "A" college, where she took a four years' course. She has also had four or five years' experience in the school room.

The second grade will be in charge of Miss Margaret Maddrey, a graduate of Meredith College. Miss Maddrey was a classmate of Miss Spence, who was the teacher of mathematics here last year. And in justice to Miss Spence it should be said that she leaves here to go where the work will be in line with her studies in preparing for her future work in foreign lands.

Miss Lillian Taylor is the teacher of the third and fourth grades, and is from Littleton Female College. To better prepare herself for her work and to come up to the standard set by the schools some years ago, Miss Taylor attended the summer school at Raleigh last summer.

Miss Gladys Pierce, who has been here some years, will again have a fourth and fifth grades. She is a graduate of Chowan College and her years of experience in the school-room makes her a most competent teacher for the work of those grades.

Mrs. Margaret Bowen is one of the early graduates of North Carolina College for Women, who with her years of experience in the school-room and attendance of summer schools is a most competent teacher for the grades she will have—the sixth and seventh.

The above are the teachers in the elementary and primary departments, and will do the work of those grades if the attendance is not so great as to make another teacher absolutely necessary.

The High School-Department will be presided over as principal by Miss Vivian Draper, who is also a graduate of the North Carolina College for Women. In her college work Miss Draper majored in mathematics, so she is well prepared to take charge of that department in the schools here, which she will do.

Miss Mabel Crumpler, a graduate of the well known and famous Trinity College, will teach the Latin and French this year, if indeed she is able to do that much work. Of course if the classes should be too many and large for one teacher, help will have to be provided.

Miss Lois Crank of Louisa, Va., will have charge of the English department of the high school work, and will also do the work in Expression. Miss Crank is a graduate of the Curry School of Expression, Boston, Mass., and has been a student of the Mary Baldwin Seminary, also the University of Virginia. Surely she comes well prepared to do good work.

The Science department will be in charge of Mr. George S. Langford of Hylthwood, S. C. He is a graduate of Clemson College, the A. & E. of South Carolina, the largest school of its kind in the South. His four years work there, together with the military training he had there, will make him a valuable addition to the teach-

HARDWARE CO. STOCK IS SOLD

The entire stock and fixtures, including warehouse, of the Harnett Hardware and Furniture Company, of Lillington, was sold Monday at 11 o'clock to Mr. S. A. Boney, secretary-treasurer of Lillington Oil Mill Co. The sale was held in the storerooms of the company. The price paid was \$7,500. The sale is subject to confirmation by the court which ordered the receiver, Mr. A. M. Shaw, to sell. The receiver is today reporting the sale to the court, and the price at which the stock sold will probably be confirmed inasmuch as it represents about 60 per cent of the invoice cost.

It was not stated whether Mr. Boney was setting for himself or other parties. The business, however, will be continued.

There were bidders from Raleigh, Fayetteville and Angier, and the bidding was a spirited contest from the start. Other hardware and furniture dealers were present at the sale, among them Mr. McD. Holliday of Dunn.

Attorney J. H. Haggitt, acting for Receiver A. M. Shaw, auctioned the property. Mr. Haggitt announced that no lease upon the storerooms went with the sale; that arrangement with the owner, Mrs. J. G. Layton, would be necessary, if the purchaser wished to continue business at the same stand.

THREE NEW LAWYERS FOR HARNETT COUNTY

Caynes Hector Brown of Lillington, Samuel David Johnson of Angier and John Oliver West of Dunn are three brand new young attorneys of Harnett county licensed by the Supreme Court last Friday. Of the 104 applicants only 78 passed the examination.

John Ernest Norris of Holly Springs, Colon Curtis Parker of Cardenas and John Allen Wilkins of Rameford were among the successful applicants.

One woman, Miss Marie Shank of Asheville, was granted license.

Mr. Brown recently graduated from Trinity Law School. He has announced his intention of locating for practicing in Lillington.

NEW POWER CONCERN GETS ITS CHARTER

The North State Power Co. of Raleigh, with quarter of a million dollars capital stock, was chartered by the secretary of state last week to take over the business of the Cumberland Railway & Power Co., recently thrown into the hands of a receiver and sold.

The new concern is chartered to furnish power to individuals and corporations in Cumberland, Bladen, Robeson, Hoke, Harnett, Sampson, Johnston, Wayne, Wilson, Lee, Moore and Wake and other counties.

It is capitalized at \$250,000, but may begin business when \$1,500 is paid in. The incorporators are L. H. Cronch, Raleigh; J. B. Johnson, Cardenas; A. J. Blalock, Willow Springs, J. W. Blalock, Willow Springs, T. J. White, Townsville, Long & Mansfield, W. H. Lockhart, Dr. L. L. Sawyer, George W. Eason, C. E. Hastings and P. N. Hall, all of Hickory, Va.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS. FOR HARNETT COUNTY OFFICES

The Civil Service Commission announces examinations on September 24 to fill the following positions in Harnett county:

Bues Creek, salary \$1,200.
Benson in Johnston county, salary \$2,100; Fuquay in Wake county, \$1,100.

Applicants may be examined either at Dunn or Raleigh.

LUART NEWS

Everything is going fine in this section now, considering the dry weather.

Messrs. Alonzo Allen and Harold Moss and a few others are out on a big camping expedition. They left home August 30 with frying pan, meal, a strip of fatback meat and other necessities of camp life such as shells, gun and bird dog. We all wish them a good trip and much success in catching fish and killing game—sure there is no need to wish the mosquitoes a glorious time for they will get theirs. We feel that the Cedar Rock is as far as they will get. Should anybody see them further from home than that, please notify their parents, Messrs. J. A. Allen and J. R. Moss.

HIG POWER PUMP BEING PUT IN OPERATION

The big pump that is to supply Lillington with water is being connected up this week and it is stated that by Friday the town will have an abundance of water at high pressure.

The pump is gauged to throw into the tank and mains 100 gallons of water per minute. This will keep the standpipe full at all times and will afford fire protection as well.

A. & W. SCHEDULE

Daily No. 1—Leave Sanford 8 a. m.; arrive Lillington 9:25.
Daily except Sunday No. 3—Leave Sanford 11:30 a. m.; arrive Lillington 1:30.
Daily No. 2—Leave Sanford 4 p. m.; arrive Lillington 5:25 p. m.
Daily No. 4—Leave Lillington 9:25 a. m.; arrive Sanford 10:59.
Daily except Sunday No. 6—Leave Lillington 2 p. m.; arrive Sanford 3:40.
Daily No. 5—Leave Lillington 5:20 p. m.; arrive Sanford 6:54.
No. 1 makes connection at Lillington with N. & S. No. 33 for Fayetteville, arriving there at 12:20 p. m.
No. 2 makes connection at Sanford with S. A. L. No. 4 for points north, arriving Raleigh 12:20 p. m.
No. 3 makes connection at Lillington with N. & S. No. 35 for Fayetteville, arriving there at 5:15 p. m. and with N. & S. No. 32 for Raleigh, arriving there at 6:40 p. m.
No. 5 leaves Sanford after arrival of trains from Greensboro and Hamlet.
No. 6 makes connection at Sanford with S. A. L. No. 3 for points south.