

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF HARNETT COUNTY PRIMARILY, AND OF THE STATE GENERALLY.

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, July 16, 1925.

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

## DISCOVERS OVER \$50,000 VALUES NOT BEING TAXED

In Lillington School District For Special Support of Local School—Reported Monday to Board

At their meeting here Tuesday, the second day's session of their sitting as a Board of Equalization, the Board of Commissioners had placed before them the discovery that over \$50,000 worth of property was not being levied upon for the special tax to support Lillington School. Search of the tax books had revealed that this property had not paid any special school tax since 1920, and the supposition is that it has not paid any of this tax since the creation of the Lillington School District in 1913, though the search had not gone far, they back that to 1920. The presentation to the Board was made by J. R. Baggett, who has been a member of the school trustee board for a number of years.

The amount of taxes that would be due on the property in question since 1920 is over \$1,500. The list of property as reported to the Commissioners Tuesday is as follows:

J. A. Giles	\$ 2,420.00
Leander Lee	6,020.00
Mrs. C. C. McDonald	2,400.00
A. A. McDonald	10,300.00
C. A. McNeill	200.00
Mrs. Alice McNeill	1,800.00
Mrs. M. L. Northam	3,375.00
Mrs. E. B. Reid	1,400.00
David Reid	5,000.00
M. T. Spears and J. C. Thomson	1,095.00
T. B. Upchurch	10,000.00
J. G. Layton	7,009.00
B. B. McDonald	335.00
R. A. Bell	3,970.00
A. P. Allen	105.00
L. A. Avery	2,730.00
J. G. Layton	1,400.00
E. B. Reid	55.00

Total—\$9,095.00  
Chairman Granham, upon motion, appointed Attorney Spears and Commissioner Layton a committee to investigate the matter and report as early as possible to the Board. It is not known that this list includes all of the property that has been left off the special school tax list, and the committee is expected to find any other property not so listed, if there is any. It is generally supposed that this error came about by reason of the fact that the property mentioned has not been assessed for the special tax, and that the owners have been laboring under the impression that they were paying all the taxes which they were due the county.

Mr. Baggett stated to the Board that he considered it would be a wise move on the part of the Board to select a competent list taker and pay him to search out property throughout the county that might be escaping taxation. He was informed, he said, that there is quite a good deal of property that is escaping taxation altogether. A tax expert, he stated, had told him that if the county would hire him on a commission of 25 per cent, he would quit his job and guarantee the county sufficient return so that he might secure commissions of at least \$5,000 a year.

It is an established fact, according to numbers of citizens who profess to know, that there is considerable property in the county that is not on the tax books at all. Mr. Baggett made to the Board the astounding statement that he had been told by a former official of the county that there was property within a stone's throw of the courthouse which was not on the tax books.

The revelation is expected to bring about some sort of efficient tax listing in Harnett county, which, according to the testimony of those who have been very observant along this line, the county has never enjoyed. With the great effort of the commissioners to find some way out of the dilemma of high taxes and seeming necessity for raising them still higher, the prospect of placing enough "invisible" value on the books to bring about a reduction of taxes comes as refreshing news to the taxpayers.

Boundary description of Lillington School District, laid out by the act of Legislature of 1913, creating the district, is as follows:

Beginning at a point on Cape Fear River, Purefoy Ferry, and running thence with the old road in a southerly direction, which has therefore been the line between Lillington and Upper Little River townships, to a point where said road crosses Duncan's Creek, thence down the various courses of Duncan's Creek to Upper Little River, thence down the various courses of the Up-

H. H. Rice



H. H. Rice, of Detroit, who has been named chairman of the American delegation to the Pan-American roads congress, to be held at Buenos Aires in October. The congress hopes to spread the gospel of good roads over both the Americas.

## GEORGE JOHNSON AND TOM DAVIS TAKEN MONDAY

Operating Huge Steam Liquor Plant in Western Harnett When Nine Officers Called on Unpleasant Visit

Two white men—George Johnson of Anderson Creek township and Tom Davis, who gave his home as Surry county,—were captured Monday afternoon at a liquor still about three miles from Spout Springs in Anderson Creek township, by Federal Officers Rosser, Wilson, Adams and Batten and Harnett deputies Salmon, Davis, Nipples, Tarr and Pearce. A third man found at the still ran off when the officers appeared and he was not taken, neither could they make out his identity. Johnson and Davis, the two men captured, tried to get away, running as fast as their heels could carry them when they first spied the officers, but the minions of the law were too swift for them. Together with Johnson and Davis, the officers captured two stills, one a huge steam doubling outfit and the other an ancient affair of small capacity which had been discarded with the installation of the modern and up-to-date mill. About 15 gallons of liquor found at the plant was poured out, together with 2,000 gallons of beer.

The officers reported that Johnson, who seemed to be the business manager of the outfit, had a still located about a quarter mile from the home of his father, John S. Johnson. Tom Davis, as unknown in this county, Tom Davis gave his home as Surry county, though he told the officers he had a wife and four children in Danville, Va., but did not live with them. So far as can be ascertained at present, Davis has never appeared in court here before.

Jim Johnson, a brother of George Johnson, is now serving a sentence of three to five years in State Prison for killing Frank Stone a couple of years ago. This killing took place not very far from the scene of the still captured Monday afternoon.

A feature in connection with the raid is that no colored man seemed to be employed who could be used as a scapegoat.

The liquor manufactory was discovered by local deputies following tips given them that there was a still in operation in the neighborhood of Spout Springs. It required several hours search before they located it, however. It was finally found by Deputies Ernest Davis and Henry Salmon when they came upon a small branch that had been dammed. The stream is called the Enoch Johnson mill creek.

The men were taken to Dunn for preliminary hearing after being brought to Lillington where warrants were secured and read to them per Little River to the lower corner of E. B. Reid's farm on the bank of said river, thence in an easterly direction with the line of said E. B. Reid to the old McAllister road, thence with the old McAllister road to the Cape Fear River, thence up the various courses of the Cape Fear River to the beginning.

## SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

In 1923-24 \$29,747,075.84 was the total spent in the state. Of this sum \$19,078,656.87, or 64.1 per cent, was spent for current expenses, and \$10,668,418.97, or 35.9 per cent was spent for capital outlay.

## LAFATETTE ROAD MEET BEGINS IN SAVANNAH TODAY SEVERE DROUGHT

All Points Between Raleigh and Savannah Have Representation at Big Gathering in Georgia City

All roads lead to Savannah today for those who are interested in the ultimate success of the Lafayette Highway as the most convenient and shortest route north and south. At 11 o'clock this morning in the Georgia port city there will be called to order the mid-year meeting of the Lafayette Highway Association in what is expected to be not only the best attended session in the association's history, but one also to be known for its record-making. It is expected that steps will be taken at this session to put the road forward immediately as "The Shortest and Most Convenient Route North and South." While this has been the claim for the road all along, yet there has occurred to those in leadership of the association that it is the part of wisdom to defer the formal opening of the road till every little detail and detour has been attended to in its proper way.

Already the Lafayette Highway is coming in for much favorable comment. Much of its commendation is forthcoming by reason of the fact that the highway builders of South Carolina recognized in the beginning that this road was a highly practical route and have been constructing it across the Palmetto State with that view. The consequence is that the Lafayette Highway is one of the principal through routes in South Carolina, if in fact it is not the most highly developed road in that State. Entering the Palmetto State at McColl, the highway stretches like a wide heavy ribbon released from a roll and makes a beeline for the Georgia border. Through South Carolina the road is virtually straight as an arrow. Crossing the Savannah river a short distance beyond Hardeeville, the "Straight Road" swings into Savannah where it turns its burden of traffic into the broad, hard-surface highway that leads straight to the Florida coast.

The contour of the Lafayette Highway is one that compels admiration not only of the route but of the great feasibility of the entire road as one that leads from somewhere to somewhere and does it in a business-like way. Although there is much scenery along the right-of-way that is absorbing in interest, and a wealth of historic interest, yet the practicality of the highway in its adaptability through traffic is the main point that has actuated its promoters and is the feature which is expected to appeal with greatest force to those who travel north and south.

It is a distance of 300 miles from Lillington to Savannah by way of the Lafayette, and there are many motorists who will take delight in making the trip leisurely over the highway; but there are special trains for the busy business and professional men that will allow them to attend the meeting in Savannah and return in a minimum of time. A special car has been chartered in Raleigh and it will be filled with representatives from that city. Coming at a time when the peach orchards of the Lillington Fruit Growers are approaching shipping day, J. W. Halford, who was scheduled for one of the principal addresses of the session, found it impossible to attend the meeting and a local speaker will take his place on the program. Other towns along the way will swell the delegation by additions till there is a "swarm" of live road bees on the way to Savannah. That the meeting will be a real live one may be taken for granted when it is noted that Savannah has put forth special effort in the form of entertainment to rail who attend the road meeting. Savannah is strong for the Lafayette Highway, because she is awake to the great possibilities that it brings to her gates.

Lillington and Harnett county are especially fortunate in having this stretch of highway. The Lafayette Highway, in fact, originated in Harnett.

**PROGRAM**  
Thursday, July 16, 11 A. M.  
Assembly and Register at Savannah Hotel.  
11:30 A. M.  
Call to order by President R. L. Freeman.  
Song "My Country 'Tis of Thee."  
Invocation—Rev. W. A. Joddard of Savannah.  
Address of Welcome—Hon. R. M. Hull, Mayor of Savannah.  
Response to Welcome—R. L. Freeman, President Lafayette Highway Association.  
Report of President—What has

## Anti-Evolution Books Are Selling Fast At the Scopes Trial in Dayton



Religion, science and law mingle at the trial of John T. Scopes in Dayton, Tenn., for teaching theory of evolution. The affair is half circus and half revival. The streets are full of stands selling books, pamphlets, cartoons—all devoted to repelling or defending the argument that man developed from inferior forms. Picture shows booth of T. T. Martin, author of "Hell and the High School" and similar tracts leveled at the "monkey men."

## ROAD TO MAMERS FARMERS' PICNIC TURNED OVER TO COUNTY COMMISSION

Final Inspection and Acceptance Tuesday Morning—Engineer Cook To Be County Maintenance Supervisor

Final inspection of the Lillington-Mamers link of highway route No. 60 was made Tuesday morning by Engineer W. F. McKay and District Maintenance Supervisor P. F. Seward of the State Highway Commission. The road was accepted and pronounced as one of the best types of gravel highway in the State. A final smoothing process will be applied to the road before it has had time to harden into its permanent shape. Sand and oil treatment will be applied to the road. Already there is being given an oil surface to the road as it runs between Mamers and Jonesboro. With this treatment completed, all of the State highways in this county will be of the same texture, except the short links of hard surface in the lower part of the county.

Engineer R. W. Cook, who has had charge of the construction of the Lillington-Mamers link, has been given supervision of maintenance of the state roads in Harnett county. He will remain upon this assignment until there is another project contracted for.

During a recent three-months period, 75 per cent of the long distance telephone calls between New York and Chicago were completed in less than 5 minutes. Compare this record with that of European countries where a search of an hour of more is often necessary to even find a telephone from which to put in a call.

T. J. Efford of Stanly county made an average of 33 1/2 bushels of wheat per acre on six acres of land this spring by following a careful crop rotation in which legumes were included, reports County Agent O. H. Phillips.

## Torporcer Helps Hornsby



George Torporcer, infielder of the St. Louis Cardinals, has been of great help to Manager Rogers Hornsby this season in keeping that club prominent in the National league pennant race.

## SALMON REFUSES SOLICITOR'S JOB GIVING REASONS

Commissioners Elected Him to Succeed Solicitor Brown, But He Says He Can't Afford To Accept

Neill McKay Salmon, Lillington attorney, refuses to accept the job of solicitor for the court of the county recorder, to which position he was selected at the meeting of Board of County Commissioners here last Monday. In a letter to the Commissioners, who were in session here again Monday of this week, sitting as the Board of Equalization, Mr. Salmon tenders his resignation of the job to which they elected him, and gives his reasons for so doing. Mr. Salmon's letter of resignation reads:

July 13, 1925  
To Board of Commissioners of Harnett County,  
Gentlemen:

I herewith tender you my resignation as Solicitor of the Recorder's Court of Harnett County. I understand that under the new law which places this appointment with the Board of Commissioners, that you voted me this position at your regular meeting on last Monday, but under the circumstances surrounding this appointment, I do not think it wise for me to accept the place at this time.

First, I happen to be the author of the act that places this appointment with the Board of County Commissioners, and I do not like to be placed in the position of having been the author of an act of the General Assembly and then accepting the very first appointment under that act. It looks too much like I tried to create an office for myself.

Second, there has been some little confusion about this office before, at the time you passed the resolution requesting that I be appointed to fill this position, and in view of this I am afraid there would not be that harmony in the court that is necessary in the just and equitable administration of the criminal laws.

It is my desire to be ever ready to do whatever I can for the Democratic Party, but in this instance I feel that things are running along with such smoothness and satisfaction at this time that it would be unwise for me to do anything that would cause the slightest dissatisfaction.

I want to express to you my sincere appreciation of the confidence which the Board has placed in me, and I trust that I can be of substantial service to the Board, to the Democratic Party and to the Court out of office as well as in office.

Yours very truly,  
Neill McKay Salmon.

The law giving the Board of County Commissioners power and authority to appoint a solicitor for the recorder's court was passed by Representative Townsend at the last session of the Legislature. The passage of the act was said to be at the request of the County Commissioners following a squabble over the job. The former law gave the prerogative of appointment of solicitor to the judge of the court, with provision for approval by the commissioners. It developed upon Judge Caviness assuming the post, that he wished Caviness Brown to have the job, whereas the commissioners desired Mr. Salmon to have it. No agreement being reached, Mr. Brown has held the job by appointment from Judge Caviness. The act takes effect as of July 1st, and specifies the salary as \$75 per month. Heretofore the pay has been upon the fee basis, and the emoluments are said to have run as high as \$150 to \$200 per month.

Not very many people even knew that the act was passed by the Legislature affecting the job of solicitor, but it is the consensus of opinion among attorneys that the salary attached under the new act is calculated to take the pep out of the prosecution.

## PINELAND SCHOOL FOR GIRLS OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP HERE

The News has been requested to announce that Pineland School for Girls, at Salemburg, is offering a scholarship to some girl in Harnett County. The scholarship is worth \$100, and the only requirements are that the beneficiary be of good moral character and a graduate of an accredited high school. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones are in charge of the Pineland school and it will be of great benefit to some girl to take advantage of their generous offer. Supt. B. P. Gentry will be glad to give information relative to the offer.

Livestock men at State College say that the face of the horse collar should be kept clean. It should be brushed off every night and washed at least once each week. This will help to prevent sores.

The use of improved machinery makes the average agricultural worker in North Carolina able to care for three times as many acres of crops as he could handle 75 years ago.