

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

## Democrats Sweep Harnett County

### Final Fall Session Of Harnett Superior Court Starts Monday Morning; Williams To Preside

#### VARIETY CASES SCHEDULED FOR CRIMINAL TERM

53 OFFENDERS, CHARGED WITH VIOLATING 27 SEPARATE LAWS, SLATED FOR HEARING BY JURIST OR GRAND JURY

An assortment of cases unequalled in Harnett's history are slated for disposition at the two-weeks' criminal term of Superior Court which convenes Monday morning and runs into the second week as far as is necessary to clear the docket. This is the final in the series of four sessions scheduled for Harnett county between July 1st and December 31st and winds up the court's activities for the half-year period. Civil court, composed of disagreements over property, completed its work for the period in mid-October when Judge Frank Hill presided over a drawn-out session.

Judge Clavson Williams, resident judge of the Fourth Judicial District, will wield the gavel at the term which not only winds up Superior Court activities for 1938 but also brings to an end his tenure in this county until three years hence, after he has been into the other districts and the time rolls around for him to again preside in the Fourth District.

Solicitor Claude Canaday of Benson, unopposed in Tuesday's election, will prosecute the docket.

Including the 13 cases which the Grand Jury will investigate, there are 53 instances of law violation on the calendar. Defendants involved in these cases are charged with violating 27 different laws, ranging in degrees of severity, from profanity and common nuisance to kidnapping, embezzlement, manslaughter and similar crimes.

Some of the defendants will be hailed before Judge Williams and Solicitor Canaday for charges that seldom appear on the calendar. Alton West, facing a Grand Jury investigation for the kidnapping of a fellow-Anderson Creek farmer and robbing him of \$11, is appealing from a suspended sentence given him in Recorder's Court for violating the prohibition laws. As most defendants in the lower court are satisfied with suspended sentences, this is a rare occurrence. West's alleged companion in the kidnapping is Alvin Vancannon, who is a co-defendant in the indictment which will be given the Grand Jury.

The case of a father committing an assault on his children is one seldom aired in courts. Mack Moore (Continued on page six)

#### WELFARE OFFICE NOT GIVING JOBS

Department Does Not Have Authority To Issue Cards For Work On WPA Projects, Says Miss Davis

Replying to numerous inquiries her office is receiving for cards assigning workers to WPA projects in Harnett county, Miss Lillie Davis states that the welfare department accepts applications and conducts the necessary investigation but that final authority to issue the cards is vested with the WPA district office in Smithfield.

On receipt of applications, the local welfare department investigates to determine whether or not the applicant needs work of the type and under regulations governing assignment of jobs on relief projects. Recommendations, based on these findings, are then forwarded to the Smithfield office, from which final instructions are given as to when and where the job-seeker will go to work.

Under this set-up, the welfare department is an intermediary between the district office, which has final power to assign the jobs, and workers seeking WPA work.

#### Wins Promotion



FRED THOMAS

Evidently agreeing that his service in the House of Representatives entitled him to a promotion, Harnett Democrat Tuesday gave Fred S. Thomas of Erwin an overwhelming majority as one of the district's two members of the State Senate.

#### INSURANCE FOR SCHOOLS WILL BE ARGUED FRIDAY

J. C. BYRD, WHO FAVORS MUTUAL COMPANY POLICIES, INVITES TAXPAYERS TO FRIDAY MORNING MEETING

The Board of Education will depart from its routine, oftentimes monotonous, meeting procedure tomorrow (Friday) morning when the three school authorities assemble here to discuss the renewal of insurance policies on nearly one-third of a million dollars' worth of school property.

J. C. Byrd, who openly favors contracts with mutual insurance companies in preference to all-line companies, has issued an invitation for taxpayers to meet with the group. The meeting, scheduled for 10 o'clock, will be transferred from the office in the Agricultural Building to the courthouse auditorium if the rooms are over-crowded. Mack M. Jernigan of Dunn is chairman of the board and J. C. Senter of Kipling is the third member.

The insurance plan advocated by Mr. Byrd was an outstanding issue in the June 4th primary—an election which resulted in ousting him from the board and putting D. B. Dean of (Continued on page six)

### Distribution Cotton Checks Hogs First Monday Spotlight

In Harnett's county seat, the first Monday of each month is always a red-letter day. The Commissioners convene on that day and county officials outline plans for the coming weeks. Importance of "first Monday" is also emphasized by the fact that practically every project or movement of county-wide interest is timed so that it is linked in some manner with the day which formally marks the beginning of another 28 or 35-day fiscal period.

November's first Monday, three days ago, was no exception and the county seat teemed like a beehive. It was election eve; politics soured back and forth, making last-minute contacts, determining the trend of opinion in various townships and doing everything they could to insure victory for their candidates. The Commis-

#### MINOR CHANGES ARE PLANNED IN WEST HIGHWAY

TWO CURVES IN JOHNSONVILLE ROAD TO BE ELIMINATED BEFORE LINK REACHING MASON'S STORE IS TOP-SURFACED

Two dangerous curves in the section of the Johnsonville Road between Lillington and Mason's Store will be eliminated before the State Highway and Public Works Commission carries out plans to put an all-weather surface on the stretch within the next few months.

The hazardous curve on the downgrade approaching Walker's Creek will be eliminated and the road will bridge the stream at another point. The second curve to be avoided is the turn which bears to the right a mile or so east of the crossroads at Mason's Store.

These changes were agreed upon after a survey by highway engineers revealed the two dangers could be eliminated at slight extra expenditure and the road would be made safer for the large volume of traffic which daily passes over it. The survey was made several weeks ago, shortly after the highway commission agreed to extend the all-weather surface on the road as far west as Mason's Store.

On the link of the road which runs out by the CCC camp and for a mile beyond the town limits an all-weather surface has already been applied. The construction crew will start at this point and extend the improved road to Mason's Store, a distance of seven miles, from Lillington, as soon as the road-bed is completed and changes in the route have been made.

The goal of leaders is an all-weather highway across Harnett county, from the Johnsonville-Harnett border on the east to "Pineview" or Olivia in the west. This dreamed-of road will be routed through Coats to Lillington either via Bule's Creek or the northern section of Nellie's Creek township and will be routed westward from Lillington, out the Johnsonville Road. It will serve many families who now have to use secondary roads whenever they go to their county seat or other sections of the county or State.

To secure approval of the entire project at one time involves too big an expenditure. Commissioner D. B. McCrory of Asheville has told Harnett (Continued on page six)

#### HEARING FOR PERMIT TO RUN BUS VIA ANGLER IS POSTPONED

The State Utilities Commission has postponed indefinitely the hearing on the Atlantic Greyhound Company's request for permission to operate a bus between Raleigh and Fayetteville via Angler.

#### Some Left

Tax Collector W. D. Harrington and his assistant, Miss Elizabeth Lasater, had a busy day Monday as many of the cotton farmers who received parity adjustment checks made a bee-line for the collector's office to settle for their 1938 taxes. By closing time a handful of these vouchers were in the cash box and many receipts had been removed from the tax books.

Of all those who paid with the blue-colored check, not one had to supplement the payment with other funds in order to get their receipt. Each voucher was more than enough to cover the cost and many payees received neat sums as change.

From Auditor Steadman McLean comes word there is no danger of these funds remaining idle. Into circulation they will go as partial payment on some of the county's over-due debts.

#### BOARD MEETING MONOPOLIZED BY TAX BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS, IN MONDAY MORNING SESSION, HEAR QUESTIONS FOR LOWER VALUATIONS; BEER LICENSE ISSUED

Meeting on the election day eve, members of Harnett's Board of Commissioners Monday morning devoted a four-hour session to matters connected with managing county affairs and then adjourned so that those up for re-election might conduct a last-minute check to make certain none of their political popularity had waned.

In order to insure early adjournment, the Commissioners convened much earlier than is their custom and by noon—the time their noses are usually so completely "to the grindstone"—they had cleared decks of matters demanding attention and were ready to quit for the day.

For two members of the Board, John S. Barker of Hector's Creek township and George T. Noel of Dunn, Monday's session was next to the last time they will sit as commissioners. These, who have served ably during their tenure of office, are retiring at the close of their present term, which will end the first Monday in December. They will be replaced by Reid Jackson of Bule's Creek and R. L. Pate of Erwin. Chairman J. B. Ennis, L. R. Byrd of Stewart's Creek and Angus Cameron of Barbours were re-elected.

Tax matters and requests for adjustments monopolized Monday's abbreviated meeting. Persons asking for reduction or exemptions were: G. T. Johnson of Buckhorn township was granted free peddlers' license for 1938-39. He is physically disabled.

Mrs. Chas. Highsmith asked for adjustments on her property in Dunn. Commissioners Byrd and Noel and Auditor Steadman McLean were appointed to investigate. The same committee was appointed to investigate valuations on the property of Mrs. Mattie Byrd in Aversboro, Mrs. J. W. Whithead in Dunn, Mrs. S. D. Sloan Estate in Dunn and Mrs. J. C. Goodwin in Lillington, Aversboro and Duke townships.

A. J. Barnhill was relieved of poll tax for 1938-39 on account of disability of his right arm. Paul Strickland property in Aversboro was reduced in valuation from \$10,000 to \$8,800.

Mrs. Effie Allen asked that the valuation of her property in Aversboro be lowered. Commissioner Ennis and Auditor McLean will investigate.

Auditor McLean was ordered to release all claims against the D. Colon West property in Anderson Creek township upon the payment of \$125 by the 15th of this month.

Howard Hobbs was awarded a permit to sell beer at the Little River Service Station, three miles south of Lillington.

#### PREACHING AT CAPE FEAR

C. I. Calgate of Vass will preach at Cape Fear Church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Regular services have not been held at this church and those who live in the community are asked to take notice of the date and time and to pass the word along to their neighbors so that a large congregation will be present.

### Poll 2500 Majority In Election Marked By Surprisingly Small Number Of Ballots; 7000 Cast

#### GIRL IS KILLED BY GUN IN HANDS OF LITTLE BOY

LOADED SHOOTING IRON, LEFT WITHIN REACH OF CHILDREN, RESPONSIBLE FOR 10-YEAR-OLD NEGRO'S DEATH

A loaded shot-gun, carelessly left within easy reach of small children, was directly responsible for the death early Tuesday afternoon of Rita McNeill, 10-year-old Negro girl who was killed by her three-year-old brother while they were playing in their father's home between Dunn and Erwin.

Coroner Melvin McLean and officers who investigated the shooting were unable to reconstruct, in detail, the girl's death. The child was killed as she and the little brother, so young he did not comprehend what had happened and was unable to throw any light on the shooting, were playing in the room where their father, Cleoro McNeill, had left them. He, a widower, had gone to a nearby farm to assist with feeding stock. The only other persons in the house at the time were one or two youngsters about the same age as the lad who was playing with the gun when it exploded.

The father, who hurried to the house when he heard the explosion and the children screaming, said he did not know the gun was loaded. The load entered the girl's forehead and bored through her head a hole big around as a silver dollar. Bits of the child's brain and skull were scattered about the room.

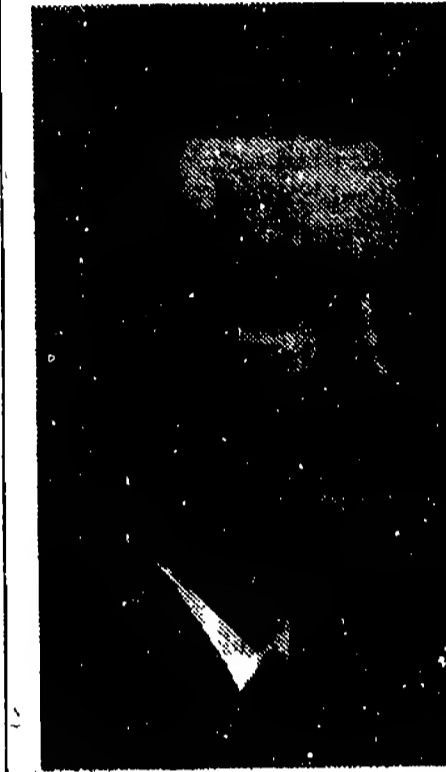
A gang of convicts, under armed guard, had been working recently in the vicinity of McNeill's home and officers theorized the youngsters may have gotten the idea of handling the gun from guards whom he had watched. Officers stated, too, that the gun might have exploded when the boy, barely large enough to carry it, dropped it.

McNeill with his children live in Aversboro, just east of Black River.

#### ROAD PCTITION APPROVED

The petition for improvements on the two-mile road in Johnsonville township which leads from the "old plank" road to the "old gulf road" in Lee county was approved Monday by the Board of Commissioners, who ordered that it be forwarded to D. B. McCrory, member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission. The link is used as school bus route for Benhaven school trucks.

#### Pace Setter



HOWARD GODWIN

One of the pace setters in Tuesday's general election was Howard Godwin, new-comer to Harnett's official family, who polled the second highest majority. He ranked next to Mrs. Inez Harrington, Register of Deeds. Godwin, the first Monday in December, will begin a four-year term as Clerk of Court.

#### NEGRO WOMAN IS KILLED SUNDAY NEAR SHAWTOWN

LIZZIE McLEAN MISTAKEN FOR INTRUDER AND SHOT BY WILLIAM BROWN, WHO IS BEING HELD FOR GRAND JURY

The first capital offense case for the next term of Harnett Superior Court was added to the calendar Monday morning when a coroner's jury ordered that William Brown, Shawtown Negro, be held for the Grand Jury to conduct an investigation of circumstances surrounding the death of Lizzie McLean, whom he killed Sunday night with a shot-gun.

The shooting occurred in the yard at Brown's home, which is on the Johnsonville road just outside the city limits of Lillington. Brown's story, related to the six-man jury empaneled by Coroner Melvin McLean to hold the inquest, was that about midnight, he heard someone pushing against his door as if an attempt was being made to break into the house. Several times he asked who it was. No reply was received and he seized his shot-gun, went to the door and shot at the (Continued on page six)

### Commissioners Believe Early Birds Get Worms and Votes

By-standers interested in the outcome of elections—it makes little difference whether they be party contests or major conflicts between Republicans and Democrats—derive a great deal of pleasure in watching the mad scramble for votes and wits in their attempts to win.

Experienced politicians and those particularly adept at securing votes know that in local elections the hours directly preceding the balloting day are probably the most important ones in the campaign. Many a well-directed drive has gone for naught because the apple cart was toppled over by more alert seekers-after-office as the campaign neared its end. Since this is so, candidates are always up-and-about on the day preceding election, keeping "ears to the ground."

The Board of Commissioners, three of whom were chosen by the Democrats for another term, were evidently handicapped by the fact

that Monday of this week was regular meeting day and failure not to do so would have been shirking duties. To get around this, the executives were called in to meet earlier than usual. The session was set for 8 o'clock—the time of day offices are being opened and preparations made for the day's work. By noon, the executives had completed their day's work and were on the look-out for any weak spots in their plans for re-election.

Although the two retiring members of the board, G. T. Noel of Dunn and J. S. Barker of Hector's Creek, had nothing personal at stake, they went to bat for their party's candidates—they're that class of men and Democrats—and used their influence to secure their re-election.

Whether or not Monday's early meeting had anything to do with the outcome no one knows, but a glance at the election returns shows a great deal of work, not only for the Commissioners but for the entire ticket.

### HARRINGTON AND GODWIN SET PACE FOR CANDIDATES

NOMINEES SELECTED IN PRIMARY ENDORSED BY VOTERS AT-LARGE; MAJORITIES RANG FROM 2877 TO 5888

Endorsed by 4500 of the 7000 voters participating, the Democratic regime in Harnett county was extended for another two years Tuesday when the party's candidates polled 2500 majorities over their Republican opponents in an election marked by the unusually small number of votes cast.

Unofficial returns—there will be no others until Chairman Neill McK. Salmon and his Board of Elections complete a canvass of the returns this afternoon—show that Mrs. Inez Harrington, Register of Deeds, set the pace in vote-getting. She received 4832 to the 1955 received by Mrs. Elsie Byrd Garton, her opponent, for a majority of 2877.

Close behind Mrs. Harrington was Howard Godwin of Dunn, candidate for Clerk of Court, who polled 4772 votes to the 2181 received by his opponent, J. E. Dupree of Angler. His majority was 2611.

Sheriff Bill Salmon, whose opponent was Bob Shaw of Erwin, was third in the list of unofficial totals. His vote was 4769; his opponent's, 2215; his majority, 2554.

Fred Thomas of Erwin, who will go back to the General Assembly in 1939 but as a member of the Senate instead of to his customary place in the House of Representatives, was also in the 2500-majority or more group. The 18th district, composed of Harnett, Hoke, Moore and Randolph, will also be represented in the upper chamber by Senator Boyette of Moore.

Solicitor Claude Canaday of Benson and Coroner Melvin McLean of Lillington, unopposed in the election, polled 4734 and 4751 votes, respectively.

Neill McK. Ross of Lillington, against Attorney Bernard McLeod of Bule's Creek, received a 2387 majority for Harnett's seat in the House of Representatives.

Judge Floyd Taylor, veteran jurist of the Recorder's Court, won a clear-cut victory over A. D. Wilson of Angler. The vote in this race was (Continued on page six)

### ROTARIANS SEE VISION FOOLERS

State College Professor L. O. Armstrong Lets Members "In On" Illusions That Twist Eyesight

Professor L. O. Armstrong of the Department of Education at State College, Raleigh, was guest speaker at Lillington Rotary Club's weekly supper meeting last Thursday night. He had with him some drawings on canvas to illustrate many of the optical illusions that cause estimates of distances and sizes to vary and fall far short of the correct figures. He also told some of the secrets of movie making that made Rotarians more "movie wise" than ever. Instead of seeking moving pictures, he told them, they were looking at thousands of poses that, passed before the camera in such rapid succession that it appeared they were moving. His talk was received with great interest. Prof. Armstrong was introduced by Cliff Ammons, who had charge of the program.

For the two preceding meetings local Rotarians had talked of Rotary. Secretary Lee Chaffin and President Steadman McLean had impressed members with the importance of digging deeper into the principles and aims of the organization, and their programs were very inspiring.

The meetings were held at Hotel Lillington, as will the meeting Thursday night of this week. Dr. Hunter has charge of the program.