

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

CONSTRUCTIVE . . . Harnett's Only Countyseat Newspaper . . . PROGRESSIVE

Vol. XX No. 50

\$1.50 PER YEAR—5c A COPY

Lillington, N. C., Thursday, December 15, 1938

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

## Farmers Vote to Continue Ban on Cotton But Lift Restrictions Limiting Tobacco Production

### HARNETT PREFERS TO DO AWAY WITH CONTROL OF BOTH

BARBECUE AND UPPER LITTLE RIVER ONLY TOWNSHIPS CASTING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO RETAIN SYSTEM

Much-talked opposition to compulsory crop control came to a head last Saturday when Harnett growers of cotton and tobacco joined hands with anti-control forces in other North Carolina counties and voted to discard the Administration's proposal to extend the production ban into 1939.

Although the control phase of the program as applied to both the major cash crops was rejected in this State, growers of other states polled huge majorities in the cotton referendum to offset this deficiency but the tobacco program fell through when control advocates of blue-ribbon sections other than North Carolina voted against it as overwhelmingly as did the Tar Heel growers.

As a result of Saturday's balloting, cotton acreage next year will be limited but weed growers will be allowed to plant and sell as much tobacco as they wish without having to pay a 50 per cent tax on the surplus poundage.

The two referenda did not effect the soil conservation program and payments next year will be made to growers of tobacco, as well as cotton, if they limit their plantings to acreage allotted by the county committee.

Except for the fact that they were more vehemently opposed to the control features, Harnett growers voted along lines similar to those followed in other North Carolina counties participating in the referendum. On cotton, North Carolina's total was 64.4 per cent in favor of control (2.3 per cent less than the required majority) and Harnett's total was only 51 per cent. 57.4 per cent of tobacco growers who voted last Saturday favored retention of compulsory control but only 48 per cent in this county favored its continuation.

Totals for the entire blue-ribbon tobacco and cotton belts were: 56.9 per cent in favor of continuing compulsory control of tobacco and 86.2 per cent of the cotton growers voting for the program. Since continuation of compulsory control hinged on the outcome of the voting in the entire belt rather than just one state or section, the recently-allotted cotton quotas for 1939 will be in effect (Continued on page eight)

### UNION SERVICE FOR NEW PASTOR

Lillington Congregations Will Welcome Methodist Minister Sunday in Presbyterian Church

Congregations of the three Lillington churches will worship together next Sunday morning in the Presbyterian Church as a welcome service to Rev. R. L. Crossno, who was assigned to the Lillington Circuit by the annual conference which met recently in Elizabeth City. Rev. Crossno comes to the local church from Carboro and he replaces Rev. N. M. Wright, who has temporarily retired because of illness.

The sermon next Sunday morning will be preached by Rev. Crossno and a large congregation is expected to attend the welcoming service.

The collection taken at this service will be distributed according to the wishes of the contributor. Envelopes will be placed in pews and the collection should be designated to which church the giver wishes it to go. Contributions not so designated will be divided equally between the churches.

### DR. BROWN WILL ADDRESS P.T.A. MONDAY AFTERNOON

Dr. T. E. Brown, director of vocational guidance at State College in Raleigh, will address the Lillington Parent-Teacher Association Monday afternoon at 3:30. Officials of the organization consider themselves fortunate in securing Dr. Brown for an address and everyone in the community is invited to attend the meeting and hear him.

### Fixed

The November Grand Jury became slightly peeved when its members discovered recommendations of the September report had not been given proper attention. The recommendations called for comparatively minor alterations—rubber mats for buses and repairs to the jail—but the Grand Jury believed they were essential and the jurors minced no words in reporting to Judge Williams the results of their investigation.

Prodded by this report, county officials last week swung into action and by week's end had complied with the requests. School authorities last Monday ordered mats for Harnett's fleet of buses and the county jail was dressed up with new steps, both at the front and rear entrances.

### LOCAL STORES ARE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS

SHOW WINDOWS WREATHED IN BRIGHT DECORATIONS AS MERCHANTS MAKE STRONG BID FOR TRADE IN THIS AREA

The 10-day trading period directly preceding Christmas Day is normally the most lucrative of the year and Lillington merchants have signified intentions of getting the bulk of the business from surrounding communities by stocking their shelves with articles suitable for gifts and attractively displaying them in stores and in show windows.

That store windows in Lillington are more attractive now than ever before is the opinion of many residents and at night they fairly beam with the gaily-colored Christmas lights and holiday wreaths. Interiors, too, are draped with decorations and present an attractive appearance. Although nothing has been done so far to dress up Lillington's streets in holiday array, Chief of Police Bradford Stewart was making arrangements early this week for the erection of a Christmas tree between the courthouse square and the Warwick hotel building. At that point the street is sufficiently wide to put up a tree without interfering with traffic. A decorated tree on that spot will also be seen by motorists passing through on highway 15-A and will cause the motorists to have a better opinion of the town.

Dressing up the town in Christmas decorations will serve as a drawing card in this territory for trade which has heretofore been going to other towns. That this has been practiced in years gone by is realized by merchants more than anyone else and the fact that the stores have been made attractive and filled with suitable articles indicates business men are not only after local patronage but are also desiring for more customers in outlying sections.

### SPENDS WEEK-END HERE

Miss Martha Layton spent the week-end at home.

### RESULT OF CROP VOTE IS STUDIED IN THIS COUNTY

NEW TOBACCO BARNS WILL SPRING UP; FERTILIZER SALES WILL BE BRISK; CLAMPS MAY TIGHTEN ON CREDIT

With compulsory control of tobacco definitely shelved until 1940, Harnett business men and agricultural leaders are attempting to determine what the coming 12 months have in store for this county by carefully analyzing the results of Saturday's referendum.

Elimination of restrictions limiting tobacco acreage means that growers who were dissatisfied with their allotments will increase their crops next year and that many cotton growers who were victims this year of a short crop and low prices will devote more acres to the golden weed in an attempt to discover a bonanza.

Not only will growers who planted tobacco in 1938 and previous years increase their poundage but farmers of other Southern States, who have heretofore depended mainly on cotton as their source of income will desert the ancient king and devote more and more of their time and talents to the new monarch.

As a result of this anticipated stampede to get into tobacco growing, prospects are that next year's crop will be the heaviest in history, if favorable weather prevails.

Already farmers are making plans to erect curing barns and soon the familiar square log structures will be springing up in all sections of the county.

The wholesale exodus from cotton and non-cash crops to tobacco will be reflected in fertilizer sales and manufacturers are anticipating substantial increases over their 1938 business which suffered because not so much fertilizer is required for soil-building crops as is required to grow tobacco.

Business leaders also predict that clamps will be tightened on credit and that growers who have been experiencing little difficulty in securing financial backing will next year have to post more collateral.

Soil conservation payments will still be made to tobacco growers who limit their crop to the acreage allotted by the county committee. Many producers are intending to comply with the program, rather than to gamble on high prices next year and forfeit their payments by overplanting. Since rejection of the compulsory control measure was rooted in complaints of growers who stated their allotments and quotas were not large enough for them to make a living, it is assumed that practically all those voting against the proposal will increase their plantings.

Although the outlook for next year is not so bright, insofar as high prices are concerned, two favorable angles exist. One is that the soil conservation payments will be continued and the other is that exports (Continued on page eight)

### Penny-Wise Averagesboro Man Finds Easy Way To Pay Taxes

Efficiency experts, employed in business enterprises to save expenses and save money, have become important links in the chain of big business and financial moguls have worked out elaborate schemes to make it easier for the consuming public to purchase articles which are needed and wanted.

Although the burden of supplying life's necessities and luxuries has been somewhat eased by these efforts, the one expenditure which most of us find as hard to make now as ever is the annual payment of taxes. Taxes are burdensome because it's impossible to pick up and carry off anything other than the receipt when the money is passed across the tax collector's counter. Persons find difficulty in realizing benefits from taxes continue from day to day, throughout the year.

While taxes, to many, constitute an expense item that is hard to

meet, an Averagesboro township taxpayer during the past 12 months has been discovering an easy way to meet his tax bill and last Saturday he paid Tax Collector Bill Harrington without straining his pocketbook in the least. A cigar box filled with 1849 pennies which had been saved throughout the year was given Harnett's collector by C. C. Butler of Averagesboro, who received in exchange his tax receipt for 1938.

Butler had been saving pennies all during the year. Whenever he reached home with one or more in his pocket he deposited them in the cigar box and over the 12-month period sufficient pennies had accumulated to pay his bill to the county, \$18.49.

There was no hesitancy on the part of Collector Harrington in accepting the box, although he might have refused payment on the grounds that the sum was too large to be paid in pennies.

### GIRL KILLED AND BOY CRITICALLY HURT IN MISHAP

LIZZIE RAMBEAU, ANGIER STUDENT, AND WAYNE STEWART OF WAKE COUNTY VICTIMS OF WRECK NEAR ANGIER

A 16-year-old Angier high school girl was killed and her companion, a youth who lives between Kennebec and Willow Springs, was critically injured on a dirt road near Angier Sunday night when the light roadster in which they were riding struck a telephone pole and overturned in the yard of J. E. Watkins.

Lizzie Rambeau, the girl, died about 10 o'clock in Dr. C. R. Young's office in Angier, before she could be transferred to a hospital. Wayne Stewart, the youth, was rushed to a Raleigh hospital where his condition was described as extremely critical. His injuries consisted of a badly crushed skull, chest wounds and other hurts. He was unconscious when he was picked up after the wreck and has not yet regained consciousness.

According to reports received here Tuesday afternoon, Stewart was at the point of death and he was given only an outside chance to recover.

Miss Rambeau, a popular member of the Angier senior class, was conscious only long enough to whisper her name to Dr. Young. Moments later, she died. The girl apparently bled to death. Above the knee, her right limb was almost completely severed from her body and internal ruptures and cuts made her condition all the more critical.

Funeral services for Miss Rambeau were held Monday afternoon in the family cemetery near Angier. Rev. W. E. Bunn, Baptist minister, officiated. The girl was the daughter of Mrs. Florence Rambeau. Her mother and one brother survive. They live near Angier.

A preliminary investigation of the wreck was conducted Sunday night but no request has been set, states Coroner Melvin McLean. If Stewart's injuries prove fatal, no inquest will be conducted.

Officers, who conducted the investigation Sunday night were unable to account for the accident. The car left the road on a straight stretch, struck the telephone pole with such force that the pole was broken and then turned over several times before it finally came to a standstill.

The two victims were picked up by Herman Wood and John Moncure, who rushed them to Dr. Young's office.

### HARNETT YOUTH ADJUDGED SANE

Archie Stephens Will Be Tried In Durham Superior Court For Murder Of Lee County Farmer

A Durham county Superior Court jury late Saturday night returned a verdict declaring Archie Stephens, 20-year-old Harnett youth, and J. B. Murray of Durham to have sufficient intelligence to face a first degree murder charge for the robbery and slaying of A. Marshall Stokes September 22nd in a tobacco warehouse.

Snipes, a well-known Lee county farmer, was robbed of \$100 and finally beaten in the warehouse where he had that day sold a load of tobacco. The youths are alleged to have cornered him in an isolated spot in the building and beaten him to death.

Stephens, several days after the killing, was captured in the western section of this county by Harnett deputies assisted by a member of the Lee force. Both youths have signed confessions but they entered a plea of insanity and the hearing last week was to determine whether they have mentality sufficient to confer with their attorneys and plan their defense.

Mothers of both youths testified their sons were mentally deficient. Mrs. Priscilla Stephens who lives near Erwin told the court that her son was subject to dizzy spells and at times became so violent she was forced to call in officers to quiet him. He was easily excitable and had become so incorrigible she sent him to Jackson Training School.

Mrs. Murray, wife of a Durham Holiness preacher, testified that craziness "runs in my family." She declared that her son had suffered from trembling spells and "drawing fits and spasms."

Judge Marshall T. Spears, who presided over the hearing, ordered the defendants remanded to jail to await trial.

## Welfare Agency And The News Give Citizens Chance to Provide Christmas For Poverty-Stricken

### HUGE SLICE OF WEST HARNETT FIGURES IN DEAL

30,000 ACRES AND EQUIPMENT OF OVERHILLS LAND CO. TRANSFERRED TO OVERHILLS FARMS FOR \$100,000

One of the biggest single real estate transfers in Harnett's history—both from the standpoint of number of acres and amount of cash—was filed for recordation last week in the office of Mrs. Inez Harrington, Registrar of Deeds.

Approximately 30,000 acres owned by the Overhills Land Company and all of the company's equipment and accounts were sold to the Overhills Farms, Incorporated, for \$100,000. \$75,000 of this was payment for the huge tract of land and the \$25,000 was the bill of sale transferring title to the equipment and accounts.

The land figuring in the transaction is located in Harnett, Cumberland and Hoke counties, with the major portion of it being in Johnsonville township. It includes the vast farming development of which the nucleus was formed when members of the Rockefeller family purchased a slice of Western Harnett and erected winter homes and a club house near Overhills. All of the property owned solely by the Rockefeller family was excluded from the sale.

It was not made public whether the property was actually changing ownership or whether there had been a shake-up within the company and the transfer was made as a matter of form to change the firm's name. The deed and bill of sale stated that the home office of the Overhills Land Company was in Durham, with a branch office in Overhills, and that the principal office of the Overhills Farms, Incorporated, was in Overhills.

Frederic W. Lincoln was listed as a vice-president of the Overhills Land Company and Arthur P. Barlow is secretary.

W. B. Bruce is the general manager and overseer of the Overhills farm.

### HENRY TURLINGTON HERE

United States Deputy Marshal Henry Turlington was a Sunday afternoon visitor in Lillington. Prior to the time Mr. Turlington accepted his present post, he was a frequent visitor to the countyseat but the Federal officership keeps him out of Harnett so much that his trips to Lillington have been spaced further and further apart. The marshal is extremely popular with his home county folks and he was greeted cordially here Sunday.

### OAK RIDGE SCHOOL PRESENTS CHRISTMAS PLAY WEDNESDAY

The Oak Ridge school in the Lafayette district will next Wednesday night at 7 o'clock present an appropriate play, "On Christmas Hill." Admission will be 10 and 20 cents and the public is urged to attend.

### Harnett Maintains A-1 Credit Rating Despite Low Finances

Faced with the problem of how to meet the county's steadily mounting expense account with an income that so far this year has been under expectations, those who hold the strings to Harnett's purse have been in an extremely tough spot for several months.

Realizing that taxpayers now are burdened almost to the limit, Harnett's Commissioners last year kept the tax rate at the \$1.25 level and, assisted by Auditor Stedman McLean, managed to crowd into the budget those items that were absolutely necessary for efficient government. When the task of budget-making was started, there were many who could see nothing else for the executives to do except raise the rate.

The budget was so completely packed that prompt payment of bills depended upon tax collections and there was no room for additional expenses.

Although current bills can be

### Cotton Blooms

Harnett's mild fall and the unusually late date of the first killing frost have caused crops not plowed under to take second growth and sprout again.

December cotton blooms have been reported from two farms in this county. E. C. Blair, an agronomist with the State Extension Division, last week discovered blooms while he was inspecting crop rotation demonstrations on A. N. Honeycutt's farm near Coats. Blooms were also observed on the Archie McKay farm, south of Lillington.

### PLAN CLINICS TO DETECT ANY SIGN OF TUBERCULOSIS

DR. G. C. GODWIN OF SANATORIUM STAFF WILL START EXAMINATION OF HARNETT STUDENTS JANUARY 2

A series of clinics to detect symptoms of tuberculosis in Harnett children will be started in this county immediately after the schools reconvene following the Christmas holidays.

This series of tuberculin tests will start Monday, January 2, and will continue for a week or 10 days. Dr. W. B. Hunter, director of Harnett's Department of Health, is completing arrangements and Dr. G. C. Godwin of the North Carolina Sanatorium staff will make the examinations.

Present plans provide that a tuberculin skin test be given to each child 10 years of age who has suspicious symptoms or in whose families there have been cases of tuberculosis.

No further examination will be made of those children whose skin tests are negative. In cases where there is a positive reaction, however, a family and personal history will be obtained and an X-ray picture of the chest will be made. It is necessary to make these X-rays before the diagnosis can be completed.

Conducted without expense to the county, these examinations are free but a charge of \$1 will be made for the X-ray. This covers the actual cost of securing and operating a machine. Arrangements will be made to pay this fee for children whose parents are unable to do so.

The series of tuberculin clinics which will be held in Harnett early next year is the first of this class conducted since the county health department was established. Several years ago a clinic physician from the State Sanatorium, who held the same position Dr. Godwin now holds, made a survey of Harnett and made X-rays of pupils who reacted positively to the skin tests.

Dr. Hunter is requesting the full cooperation of parents to insure the success of these clinics.

### OUT OF TOWN GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Lyon of Creedmoor spent Thursday visiting friends in town.

### 12 FAMILIES ARE ON FIRST LIST OF OPPORTUNITIES

ADDRESSES AVAILABLE AT NEWS OFFICE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS TO NEEDY GROUPS

Do you want to play Santa Claus to members of an unfortunate family for whom Christmas will be as drab and colorless as a mid-winter's day, possibly can be unless you or some other benevolent Harnett citizen steps in and assumes the role of Saint Nicholas?

Realizing that many would like to take Christmas joy into poverty-stricken homes if they knew exactly how to go about it, Miss Lillie Davis, of Harnett's Department of Welfare and The News are cooperating in providing addresses of families who will have no gifts except those furnished by outsiders.

The first list, which was prepared by Miss Davis and which is published in this week's issue of The News, contains 12 families in destitute circumstances. For obvious reasons, only descriptions are given but the names and address of the families are available at The News office for those who wish to enter into the real spirit of Christmas by sharing with less fortunate neighbors.

These families live in various sections of Harnett county and a postcard addressed to The News will bring you full information about the family in your community for which you wish to provide. They are divided as follows: 1 in Anderson Creek township; 1 near Bunnlevel; 2 in or near Lillington; 2 in Upper Little River township; 2 near Coats; 1 in Neill's Creek; 1 in Black River and 2 near Erwin. The Dunn Dispatch and civic organizations are making attempts to see that all poverty-stricken families in Averagesboro and Duke townships are provided for.

Families in the list prepared by Miss Davis have been investigated thoroughly and all in this group are known to be absolutely destitute, entirely dependent upon others for whatever additional food or clothing they will receive.

Following are descriptions of the families:

Case 1—Husband (mentally and physically incapacitated), wife, 14-year-old boy and 7-year-old girl. Have very few of life's necessities. Need food and clothing.

Case 2—Widow and five children, ages 5 to 15. Clothing and fruit would be greatly appreciated.

Case 3—Man ill with asthma and not able to work, wife helpless with rheumatism.

Case 4—Woman and two small boys, will be grateful for anything for Christmas.

Case 5—Wife and seven children, need food and clothing. Husband serving term on roads.

Case 6—Man, wife and four children. Have very little on which to live. Children need clothing.

Case 7—Negro widow and seven small children. Very industrious. Would be grateful for clothing, shoes and food.

Case 8—Man, able to work very little, has wife and six children. Badly in need of clothing. Fruit and candy would make them very happy at this season.

Case 9—Man and three small children. Children would be grateful for clothing or fruit.

Case 10—Man with five small children in need of clothing and something for Christmas.

Case 11—Man and woman, practically invalids, have six children who would be grateful for clothing or anything for Christmas.

Case 12—Woman with five children. Husband serving time on road. Clothing, food and fruit will make their Christmas much brighter.

Persons who had rather write for the name and address of a family they wish to help may either ask for the number under which it is listed in the paper or for the name or address of a family which lives nearest them. Inquiries may be addressed either to The News or to the Department of Welfare.

These cases offer an excellent opportunity for organizations and clubs to spread Christmas cheer.