

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

EXECUTIVES ASKED TO RECONSIDER SLICING VALUATIONS IN DUNN

TOWN PROTESTS ORDERS TO CUT TAX ASSESSMENT

COUNCIL PETITIONS COMMISSIONERS TO RECONSIDER ACTION LOWERING VALUE OF SEVERAL ITEMS OF REAL ESTATE

Faced with a loss of revenue if reduced tax valuations as approved by Harnett's Board of Commissioners were put into effect, Dunn's town council last week protested several adjustments and will return them to the county executives with a request that more careful consideration be given before the reductions are granted.

Opposition to the reduced valuation was voiced when the governing body in Harnett's largest town failed to approve a batch of adjustments which were granted at recent meetings of the Commissioners. County and town valuations must be the same but the Dunn board asked for reconsideration before making any changes which would reduce the town's annual income from taxes.

Since Harnett completed its revaluation program more than one year ago, each session of the Commissioners has seen a long line of taxpayers appearing before the executives with a request for adjustment. Where errors were discovered or where the board found the property had been assessed at too high a figure, the relief asked for was granted. Others, however, were refused on the ground that the real estate was not valued out of line with similar property in the same township.

More of these complaints have come from the town of Dunn and Averashore township than from any other section of the county. Officials attribute this to the fact that property in the community was not valued high enough and that when the revaluation raised the general level land-owners felt that they had been discriminated against.

Although the Commissioners will be asked to reconsider their order lowering valuations, Mayor Herbert Taylor of Dunn stated that the town's Commissioners were not directing an attack at the county executives but were merely working to secure cooperation in preventing assessments in the town from becoming lopsided.

He stated that it was the opinion of the town authorities that when requests for adjustments were presented the county board a local committee should be called in and consulted before final decision is rendered.

Mayor Taylor insisted that the members of his council were not seeking to usurp any rights of the Commissioners but that the latest batch of adjustments were rejected because the continual line of taxpayers who have appeared before the town board with orders slashing their valuations had threatened to substantially cut the revenue.

While most of the adjustments granted have been small, added together they aggregate an amount that keenly affects the total assessment when subtracted from the city and county valuations.

21 COUPLES GET PERMITS TO WED

Dozen Licenses Issued in Harnett's Register of Deeds Office During Christmas Week-end

In the five and one-half day period which began last Thursday morning and ended Tuesday at noon, 12 Harnett county couples had secured marriage licenses from the Register of Deeds office. Most of these were issued before Christmas.

The dozen permits were divided evenly, six went to white couples and six to Negroes. White couple securing marriage licenses were: William M. Moore and Nora Myrtle Watson of Erwin; Annie Mildred Blanchard of Fuquay Springs, route 1, and William A. Cameron of Broadway, route 1; Prentiss Sloan and Eva Johnson of Lillington; Robert E. Puryear and Christine Rawls of Fuquay Springs, route 1; Albert Strickland of Bunnlevel; and Thelma Glover of Coats; Loyd Johnson and Mabel Holmes of Benson.

Negroes who secured permits during the holiday period were: Leander Matthews and Ethel Williams; Alfrides Brandon and Predeasa McCullers; Woodrow Smith and Clara Mae McLeod; Arch Allen and Katie Brewington Matthews; Vess Layton and Pauline Stocks.

Lands Post



FRANK HANCOCK

Retiring-Congressman Frank Hancock, who last summer vacated his seat in the lower house to stage an unsuccessful fight for the senatorial nomination won by Rober, Reynolds, Thursday was appointed by President Roosevelt for a six-year term on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a position which pays the same salaries as members of Congress are paid and is more attractive because there are no re-election campaigns to finance.

Calendars For First Term of New Year Prepared By Clerk

ANGIER FARMER IS FOUND DEAD

E. A. Matthews Discovers Monday Morning in Yard With Throat Slashed; Inquest Next Monday

With his throat slashed and a bloody knife in his pocket, the body of E. A. Matthews was discovered early Monday morning in the yard of his home on Angier, route 1.

Upon receipt of the message that Matthews had been found dead, Acting Coroner R. B. O'Quinn and Deputy Sheriff Ken Matthews investigated and empanelled a coroner's jury to delve into circumstances surrounding the death. Although it was the belief of the six-man jury that Matthews died by a self-inflicted wound, no verdict was rendered and a formal inquest will be conducted next Monday night.

Matthews had been lying alone for several months and there were no signs that anyone had been in the house about the time he is supposed to have knifed himself. There was a trail of blood which led from his bedroom, onto the porch and then out in the yard where his body was found. There were no evidences in the house of a skirmish or argument of any kind which might have preceded the slaying.

It was the belief of those who viewed the premises and the spot where Matthews was found that he first cut his throat while he was in his bedroom. From there he went onto the porch and sat down on the edge. A large pool of blood was on the porch, evidence that he sat there for a few minutes or even made blood would flow more freely.

A bigger gash in his throat so the jury which conducted a preliminary investigation Monday morning and which will complete its work next Monday night is composed of L. C. Gregory, T. H. Gardner, R. C. Price, L. O. Rameau, Preston Butts and J. A. Hockaday, all of Angier.

Funeral services for Matthews were conducted Tuesday afternoon at Bethel Church. Elder Frank Nordan officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

County Auditor Asked To Cash Voucher Issued In 1928

An uncanceled \$1-county voucher issued more than 10 years ago to an Erwin, route one, farmer who had delivered one bushel of green peas to Harnett's Convict Camp was last week handed over to Auditor Stedman McLean with a request that it be paid.

Since the check was drawn, the county has changed depositories. Although the voucher had never been presented to the bank on which it was drawn, payment would have been refused, unless the payee had attempted to exchange it for cash before this date was made.

STRICKLAND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SPECIAL DINNER

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN HEADS HARNETT COMMITTEE MAKING PLANS FOR JACKSON DAY DINNER JANUARY 7TH

The appointment of Henry C. Strickland as Chairman of the annual Jackson Day Dinner Committee in Harnett county was announced by State Senator John D. Larkins, Jr. of Jones county, State Chairman of the Jackson Day Committee planning for the annual Jackson Day Dinner to be held in Raleigh on the night of January 7th at eight o'clock at the Sir Walter Hotel.

"As the Democratic Chairman in Harnett county, Mr. Strickland has been very helpful in the past and we are counting on him and other good Democrats in the county to help us raise our part to help wipe out the deficit incurred by the National Democratic Executive Committee in the recent campaign," said Chairman Larkins.

Harnett county has been asked to raise \$125.00 as its part in the State-wide campaign that will culminate with the annual Jackson Day Dinner in Raleigh, where a Democratic speaker of National reputation will deliver an address that will leave no doubt in the minds of those who hear him that there is a Democratic Administration in Washington as well (Continued on page two)

HOWARD GODWIN PREPARES SCHEDULE FOR SESSION STARTING JANUARY 9TH JUDGE BONE WILL PRESIDE

Starting preparations for the first session of Superior Court to be held in Harnett since he was installed in office and which will mark his debut as an official in the courtroom, Clerk Howard Godwin last week arranged a schedule of cases to be tried during the week beginning January 9th and prepared copies for distribution among defendants, attorneys and other persons interested.

Not only will the week of criminal court mark the first time Harnett's new clerk will assist in conducting a term of Superior Court but it will also mark the beginning of a new six-months period and will bring to Harnett a judge who never before has conducted a term of court in this county.

Although Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids is the jurist whose turn it is to come to the Fourth District for the Spring terms, Harnett's first session conflicts with a term in another county of the district and Judge Walter J. Bone of Nashville will substitute for Judge Parker.

Judge Bone, successful candidate in the November election after serving for several months as a special judge by virtue of his appointment by Governor Hoey, has had a spectacular career as a lawyer and has figured prominently in North Carolina political circles. He served as law partner to Harold W. Cooley before Mr. Cooley won his present seat in Congress.

Because of the rapid rate with which Judge Claude Williams and Solicitor Claude Canaway clipped cases from the docket at the November session—court was held on Thanksgiving Day in order to clear the calendar—the "work-sheet" for the January court is so light that chances are the full week will not be needed unless an unexpected barrage of crimes break out in the county within the next 10 days.

Including the nine cases which are (Continued on page two)

Effective

The pre-holiday wars staged on bootleggers by county and Federal officers were so effective that few signs of bootleg liquor were detected during the week-end. The success of these campaigns is believed to be largely responsible for so few violations.

According to reports coming into the county seat from the southern and southwestern sections before Christmas led to the discovery and confiscation of 23 stills in three days. Sheriff Bill Salmon and his deputies also destroyed several liquor-making outfits.

Federal officers who used planes combing Harnett swamps and woods for stills were so effective that one farmer is reported to have been afraid to put down his vat to kill hogs lest the smoke arouse officers' suspicion and lead to an indictment.

Another tale arising from these raids states that a distiller was convicted when officers identified him from a picture taken when a camera was snapped as the plane was swooping low over the spot where the still was located.

STOCKHOLDERS DUNN HOTEL ARE IN LEGAL TANGLE

OWNERS OF PREFERRED STOCK ENDORSED BY POPES AND TART ASKING THAT RECEIVER BE APPOINTED FOR CORP.

A legal wrangle among stockholders of the Cotton Dale Hotel in Dunn which may finally culminate with the appointment of a receiver for the Dunn Hotel Corporation was instituted last week in Harnett Superior Court.

Twelve owners of 110 shares of preferred stock personally endorsed by G. F. Pope, A. F. Pope and L. A. Tart have started proceedings to force an accounting of the corporation's financial status and to collect the face value of their stock and the dividends which, they allege, are badly in arrears.

Judge Clawson Williams of Sanford has appointed L. M. Chaffin of Lillington as commissioner and an examination of the company's records will start tomorrow (Friday) morning in the Dunn courtroom. This hearing will probably influence whatever action will follow.

Judge Williams last week also signed a "show cause order" in which the defendants were ordered to appear Tuesday, January 10th, before Judge Walter J. Bone and show why a receiver should not be appointed for the corporation.

In their suit the 12 holders of preferred stock allege that 300 shares of preferred stock were issued by the company, 152 of which are owned or controlled by the defendants. Holdings of the 12 plaintiffs total 110 shares and 38 units are held independently. Common stock, the total amount of which the stockholders do not know, has also been issued. They stated their belief approximately 700 shares of this type, valued at \$100 per share, have been sold.

It is the contention of these stockholders that they have had no information about internal affairs of the corporation since its organization early in May, 1928. They further allege that only two of the 12 stockholders have collected dividends, which are personally guaranteed by the three defendants. The only two who have collected are J. H. Ballance and W. M. Peery.

The plaintiffs say that certain mortgages have been issued against the corporation's property and that the hotel also has some interest in a laundry and beauty shop which have been operated in connection with the hotel.

The county's taxes have been paid but the complaint sets out that taxes due the town of Dunn are still unpaid and that unless the corporation's affairs are settled the property stands in danger of being foreclosed.

In their petition, the 12 plaintiffs ask the court to protect their investment by throwing the corporation into the hands of a receiver who will have the authority to demand a full accounting.

They also ask judgment for dividends on stock accrued and unpaid. Stockholders bringing the suit are Ballance, Peery, Dunn Coca-Cola Co., Mrs. L. H. Lee, H. M. Tyler, L. B. Pope, C. D. Hittuff, G. L. Cannaday, Mrs. Sadie Bahr, Mrs. J. W. Thornton, Mrs. Jessie A. Warren and Mrs. J. F. Byrne.

Attorneys are Dupree, Strickland and Dupree of Dunn and Angier and Varner, McIntyre and Henry of Lumberton.

MANY MATTERS AFFECTING THIS COUNTY SLATED TO COME BEFORE LEGISLATURE CONVENING JAN. 3

Harnett's Members In 1939 Legislature



Neil McK. Ross (above) of Lillington and Fred S. Thomas (right) of Erwin will look after Harnett's interests in the 1939 General Assembly which convenes next Wednesday in the State capital.

In addition to manifesting interest in local bills, Harnett citizens are keenly interested in several State-wide measures which are certain to be discussed, if not enacted into legislation, at the coming session. Among these are bills related to schools, the absentee ballot law, the county-option liquor control law and the sales tax.



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THOMAS AND ROSS ARE MEMBERS OF LAW-MAKING BODY

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE METHOD OF ELECTING COMMISSIONERS ONE OF LOCAL BILLS WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED

North Carolina's law-making machinery will swing into action again next Wednesday when the 120 successful candidates for membership in the House of Representatives and the 50 members of the more sedate and dignified Senate meet to be sworn in and to launch another session of the General Assembly.

Unlike the session two years ago and at other alternating seasons when Harnett's representative in the Senate came from another county in the 12th District, this county this year will have direct representatives in both houses of the Legislature. Fred S. Thomas of Erwin, who paved his way to the upper body by serving four years in the lower house, will be the Senator and Neil McK. Ross of Lillington will take the seat in the House of Representatives which was left vacant when Representative Thomas raised his political aspirations.

With the promotion have come added responsibilities and Harnett's Senator will this year also look after interests of Hoke county, which alternates with Harnett in selecting one of the two Senators elected each two years from the 12th District. The 1941 Senator from these two counties will be selected from Hoke, which last session picked D. R. McBryde of Raeford.

But the local bills—and the interest of Harnett citizens is centered more in these than in State-wide measures—will originate in the lower house and Representative Ross has already felt out public sentiment on a proposal to change the method of selecting the five members of Harnett's Board of Commissioners.

Instead of having the members chosen from the county-at-large, he proposes to divide the county into five districts and have one commissioner from each. These district lines will be followed in the primary and nominating process but in the November general election the dividing lines will be discarded and the county tickets will contain the names of each party's five candidates.

Other legislation is being considered but, so far, no announcement has been made as to what these bills will contain.

As for State-wide measures, the fight for the addition of a 12th grade to the State school system and for an increase in teacher salaries is one of the head-liners. Stiff fights are also in store for advocates and opponents of the absentee ballots, optional liquor bill, the sales tax and the lethal gas death instead of electrocution for first-degree criminals are fairly certain to weather all opposition. The drys are gunning for the liquor bill, although it too is expected to remain virtually unchanged. Some revision is expected in the absentee ballot law but it is unlikely that the Legislature will abolish it altogether.

The Democratic legislators are scheduled for a stiff fight next Tuesday night when they caucus to determine who shall be the winner of the three-way contest for speakership. W. L. "Libby" Ward, Victor Bryant and Bill Fenner are announced candidates.

HARNETT AIDED BY FSC AGENCY

558 Members Of 181 Families Received Articles In November, says Director For North Carolina

According to a report issued recently by A. E. Langston, State director of distribution of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, 558 members of 181 Harnett families were certified as eligible to receive surplus commodity products in November.

The FSC was established to keep prices of farm products stable by rushing in and purchasing quantities of the articles when the markets were glutted to such an extent that prices started downward.

During November, 174,710 persons comprising 38,105 cases were certified by welfare workers and superintendents as eligible to receive products distributed by the FSC. Lee county had 1,132 on the eligible list; Sampson had 1,207; Hoke, 603; Cumberland, 3,108.

40 Harnett Firms Pay Tax To Unemployment Fund

ONE INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Preston Butts Of Near Buie's Creek Received Head Cuts In Collision One Mile North Of Lillington

Preston Butts, young white man of near Buie's Creek, sustained head cuts and minor injuries Sunday afternoon when the car in which he was riding with Haymer Woodley of Bunnlevel was smashed into by one operated by Thornton Matthews, Negro janitor of Harnett's courthouse and jail.

The accident occurred on the Lillington-Angier highway, at the point near Mr. Wilder's home where the dirt road leading through the Neill's Creek community to Coats branches off the Angier road. Butts and Woodley were headed north en route to the home of Mr. C. B. Matthews, their father-in-law, when the car driven by the Negro drove out of the side-road.

Woodley's car, a coupe, was overturned and Butts received a head cut that necessitated several stitches. Miraculously, Woodley was uninjured. Several Negroes riding with Matthews also emerged with hurts no serious than minor bruises.

The Negro's car was badly smashed in front but it was not damaged as badly as the automobile which overturned. One of the wheels was knocked off, the top and fender were badly bent and mashed and an axle was twisted.

No charges were preferred against the Negro driver, who admitted the accident was his fault and made arrangements to have Woodley's car repaired and to pay expenses for the first aid treatment administered to Butts.

Several other minor accidents occurred Saturday night, Sunday and Monday but damages were slight.

41,018.43 DISTRIBUTED IN HARNETT COUNTY TO UNEMPLOYED WHO HAD BEEN WORKING IN COVERED INDUSTRY

Statistics released last week by the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission show Harnett county had 3,148 employees covered by the State Unemployment Compensation Act who received \$3,292,441 in wages in the 18 months prior to June 30th.

These workers were employed by 40 concerns which contributed \$67,616.90 to the unemployment fund which is used to reimburse workers if they are thrown out of employment. During the first 11 months of 1938, \$41,618.43 was paid from this fund to workers who at some time during the year had been employed in an industry covered by the Act.

Industries coming under the unemployment insurance act are those which employ at least eight workers. The tax is paid by the employer, who pays a percentage of his payroll into the fund. Of the 40 concerns in Harnett which come under the act, the Erwin Cotton Mills is by far the largest and its payroll is taxed for a larger sum than any of the other 39 concerns.

Of North Carolina's 100 counties, Guilford had the largest number of employed workers. Mecklenburg had the largest payroll and the largest number of employing units. Guilford paid the most in contributions and the highest per cent of contributions, while Gaston, received the largest amount and the largest per cent of benefits paid to unemployed workers. The slump in the textile industry, which resulted in thousands being thrown out of work, is responsible for Gaston's leading in benefits paid.

The number of workers is based on the average for the last 10 (Continued on page two)

Harnett's Christmas Is Not Spoiled By Disturbances

Taking its place beside the 1937 other Christmases which have been observed by Christian nations, 1938's Christmas slipped into history during the week-end as quietly and unobtrusively as elder Harnett residents can recall the passing of a Yuletide season.

In the rush caused by home-bound holiday vacationists and last minute preparations for the occasion, Harnett's season is usually marred by casualties. But this year was different. Save for a few minor accidents and law violations almost too negligent to be accorded more than passing mention, nothing unusual occurred and the celebration was carried out in accordance with the theme laid down two hundred centuries ago, "Peace on earth and good will to men."

Even Nature favored Christmas Day, which was sandwiched between two unpleasant, rainy days. Saturday and Monday were cloudy

and raw but Sunday was marked with spring-like warmth while the sun smiled benevolently as if the day before had been forgotten and without giving any hint as to what type of weather would prevail Monday.

Saturday afternoon and night, Christmas Eve, was no more boisterous than a Saturday in spring of mid-summer when Harnett's industrious farmers are staking close to their homes and nursing their crops to maturity instead of going to the nearest shopping center and purchasing gifts and supplies for the home and for members of the family.

Although it was quiet, Harnett's Christmas was merry and the absence of noise and disorder cannot mean the holiday was not enjoyed. On the other hand, it might signify that happy people can observe Christmas without having it marred by damages and loss of lives in accidents which, so easily, could have been avoided.

VISIT IN GEORGIA
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Smith and children left early Christmas morning to visit relatives in Georgia.