

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

FORECLOSURE THREATS FORCE DELINQUENTS TO SETTLE WITH HARNETT

BACK TAXES NET TREASURY OVER QUARTER MILLION

COUNTY ATTORNEY STRICKLAND PUSHING FORECLOSURES WITH HOPE OF COMPLETION BY END OF FISCAL YEAR JUNE 30

Pointing out the voluminous work entailed in foreclosure of all tax liens for 1935 and prior years held by Harnett County Attorney Henry C. Strickland told The News yesterday that since the filing of the first suit and issuance of summons February 4, 1937, the county treasury had been made richer by approximately \$350,000. "And it is still coming in," the attorney added, exhibiting the cancellations entered in suits on the judgment docket, noting that taxes, penalties and costs in the cases had been settled.

Somewhere near 80 per cent of the suits are being settled through payment of back taxes and contingent fees by those who have allowed their property to come to foreclosure proceedings. At the opening of the proceedings, when the attorney issued summonses to those interested in the first cases started, \$51,000 was collected on back taxes. This amount came to the treasury on the strength of the first batch of summonses alone. Collecting began to point to an uplift then, not only in taxes in arrears but in current collections in the tax collector's office. There were approximately 300 cases in the first suits.

In a very few cases there are discounts or remissions granted by the Board of Commissioners, due mainly to errors in listing costs. In these rare cases, Attorney Strickland pointed out, nothing short of justice has been done, because property holders are not responsible for mistakes made in listing, where, for instance, there happened to be fewer acres in fact than appeared on the tax books.

A small batch of the suits are headed to Superior Court in the form of civil actions where parties have joined in issues apparently but really are not considering civil action at all; merely playing for time. All of these cases, the attorney stated, are settled out of court when the sued parties get hold of the cash to pay up with.

Attorney Strickland, who has been assisted by local lawyers in gathering data for the suits, listed 722 tax cases when he started last February. He still has a number of summonses to be served, but has prepared practically all of them and will from this time on continue with the process till he has cleared the last case from the records.

It was only by receipt of the back taxes from these foreclosure suits that Harnett county has been able to maintain its low tax rate, Mr. Strickland stated.

JAN. 27 DATE FOR BIRTHDAY BALL

Plans Underway For Celebration To Raise Paralysis Funds And To Honor Roosevelt's Birthday

Lillington's annual Birthday Ball, a celebration to raise funds to assist in the nation-wide fight against infantile paralysis and to honor President Roosevelt, who initiated the movement as a token of gratitude for his recovery from the disease, will be staged in the Municipal Building, Friday night, January 27.

Although the celebration here will be several days ahead of President Roosevelt's anniversary, the 27th was agreed upon as the date for the local party because it was believed a larger attendance would result than if it was postponed until the first of the following week.

Plans for the party are far from complete but those arranging it are making pains-taking preparations to be certain that it will be an outstanding event of the year. Since it is a community project, the cooperation of everyone is essential if the celebration is to be successful. Chairmen of the committees who will assist with the program will be announced next week.

Fifty per cent of the net proceeds will be retained in this county and turned over to Miss Lillie Davis to be used for a patient suffering with infantile paralysis. Heretofore, 70 per cent has been forwarded to the national organization and only 30 per cent has been used locally.

Reciprocating

A \$115-check, mailed last week by Miss Elsie Boggett to the treasurer of the American Red Cross, proves that Harnett people are appreciative and that they have not forgotten the dim, dark days of the depression when the relief organization sent cartons of clothing, flour and other food into this county to relieve suffering.

The check represented one-half of the funds netted by the 1938 Membership Roll Call, in the 11 townships covered by the Harnett Chapter, Averasboro and Duke were canvassed by the Jarvis Chapter, which also reported a successful campaign.

The other half of the funds will be kept in this county to alleviate the condition of impoverished families.

M. O. Lee, Lillington attorney, was chairman of the Roll Call.

YOUTH'S ARM CUT OFF AS CAR SIDE SWIPES PICK-UP

NEILL PARKER, SON OF MR. AND MRS. WILL PARKER OF NEAR LILLINGTON, MANGLED SATURDAY IN ACCIDENT

A collision involving an automobile and a pick-up and which came dangerously near dragging a wagon into it last Saturday afternoon cost the left arm of Neill Parker, youthful son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Parker of near Lillington, and resulted in considerable damage to both machines.

The mishap occurred on the Johnsonville road, just below the homes of N. B. McDonald and M. O. Lee at the point where the composition surface ends and the dirt road bends sharply to the right. John Warren, mechanic in charge of Harnett's fleet of school buses, was driving the pick-up toward Lillington when the car operated by Parker and occupied by four passengers rounded the curve and side-swiped the light truck. Parker's arm, evidently resting on the door of the car, was badly mangled when it was crushed with terrific force against a sharp corner of the truck's steel body and surgeons amputated the limb just above the elbow, shortly after he was taken to a Fayetteville hospital.

The wagon, which almost made the collision a three-vehicle wreck, was on the right side of the road, going in the same direction as Parker's car. Parker attempted to pass the wagon on the curve while, at the same time, he was meeting the pick-up driven by Warren. As he swerved around the curve and was squeezing between the two, the side of his car smashed into the front of the pick-up, which was well on the right hand side of the road and which, Warren said, was at a dead stand-still. The Parker car turned over and the youth was thrown clear of the vehicle. Warren was uninjured and the four riding with Parker escaped with minor bruises and hurts.

RETURN FROM FLORIDA

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Campbell have returned after a holiday in Florida.

Harnett Democrats Heed SOS From Less Fortunate Brethren

Because Chairman Henry Strickland and his board of strategy managed the November campaign so ably and spent the liberal war chest so wisely, Harnett Democrats came out of the election fracas with a two-fold victory. They had a 2500-majority and a neat surplus in the bank after all campaign debts were paid.

In other sections—where campaigns weren't so well managed and where party members weren't as liberal with their donations as were Harnett Democrats—the strain of election expenditures was so great that treasuries were emptied and deficits piled up.

To wipe out this debt, National Chairman James A. Farley, generalissimo of the Democratic forces, worked out a scheme to raise funds by staging Jackson Day dinners, tickets to which sold for much more than the cost of the food. Profits went into the party treasury.

These dinners were held Saturday night. Tickets for the "master" dinner in Washington

THOMAS, ROSS GET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

HARNETT SENATOR CHAIRMAN OF WATER COMMERCE GROUP; REPRESENTATIVE, LANDS HOUSE POSTS

After devoting the first week to opening preliminaries and formalities, members of the 1939 General Assembly showed signs early this week of putting legislative machinery in high gear as House Speaker "Libby" Ward Monday night added his list of committee appointments to the assignments released Saturday by Lieutenant Governor Wilkins, P. Horton, president of the Senate.

With each drawing fairly important assignments for first-termers in their respective branches, Harnett's two representatives—Senator Fred Thomas of Erwin and Representative Neill McK. Ross of Lillington—fared well in the committee assignments.

Ross' chances for a chairmanship or membership on committees which will consider the most important legislation to be introduced this session were somewhat hampered because he went down the line for Victor S. Bryant in the three-cornered fight for speakership. Ward finally tossed out Bryant and his supporters went the most sought-after assignments.

Despite this, however, Ross drew appointments on Judiciary Committee No. 2 and committees delegated to consider bills related to the following: corporations, blind, insane asylums, propositions and grievances, journal and engrosses bills.

Over in the Senate Chamber, where there are 50 committees compared to 46 in the House and only 50 members instead of the 120 in the lower branch, Senator Thomas was appointed chairman of the Water Commerce Committee and was given membership on several others. While his most important committee appointment was to the powerful Agriculture.

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RELATIVE LOCAL PEOPLE SUICIDE

Macon Lanier, Brother To Mrs. A. J. Collins And Earl And Raleigh Lanier, Takes Life In Onslow

Earl and Raleigh Lanier and Mrs. A. J. Collins of Lillington, route 1, received messages Sunday informing them that their brother, Macon Lanier, had committed suicide at his home near Harris Creek in Onslow county. A message that the brother was dead was received at noon and a message received later stated it was suicide.

The body of the youth, who was 19 years of age, was found in his bedroom to which place relatives rushed when they heard the shot. No explanation was given and an inquest was termed unnecessary by Coroner Timmons Jones, who made an investigation.

Friends said that young Lanier seemed in the best of spirits and that he was thought to have planned a trip with a friend Sunday afternoon.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Lanier of Onslow county. Surviving are his sister and two brothers who live near her and two other brothers, Woodrow Lanier of Port Bragg and Alton Lanier of Jacksonville.

Those attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. W. H. Collins and Messrs. Earl and Raleigh Lanier.

FSA TAKES OVER 90 ACRES LAND IN STEWART'S CREEK

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STARTS PROCEEDINGS TO ANEX TRACT IN HARNETT FOR REHABILITATION PROJECT

The number of FSA rehabilitation projects in Harnett county will be increased to 10 when the United States Department of Agriculture completes negotiations now hanging fire in Federal Court to supplement its present holdings with a 90-acre tract in Stewart's Creek.

The land, which the department proposes to acquire and on which will be placed a deserving farm family in the low-income class is located between Bunlevy and the Lillington-Manchester road. In Federal Court, condemnation proceedings have been instituted which, when completed, will give the department clear title to the land and will allow it to carry out present plans.

Under ordinary circumstances, court procedure would be unnecessary as the department could purchase the land outright. An investigation of the history of this particular tract, however, left a doubt in legal minds that a flawless title could be obtained unless the large number of persons who might have an interest in the land be ordered to appear and present their claims. Claims which the court rules valid will be paid for which an unclouded title will be given the Department of Agriculture.

U. S. Marshall Henry Turlington was here last Saturday, issuing summonses to county officials who might have an interest because of delinquent taxes, and to heirs, relatives and neighbors of Mrs. Priscilla Helen Stephens, from whom the land will be purchased.

Howard Watkins, FSA supervisor for Harnett and Lee whose task it is to keep a close tab on families placed on resettlement projects, told The News Monday that he would have no authority over the new tract until the legal department completes the purchase. When the family for the land has been selected, it will be his duty to see that modern farming practices are carried out and that the family is making the most of its facilities.

Although Harnett was not one of the 50 North Carolina counties in which run-down farms will be purchased under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Act and re-sold to deserving tenants, Supervisor Watkins says that the department had nine rehabilitation projects before the act became effective.

Farmers placed on these nine tracts have been given expert advice on how to realize a profit from their operations and Supervisor Watkins says that all of them are progressing. In only a few cases are their payments in arrears. Four of these rehabilitation projects are near Bunlevy; three near Erwin; one in Buckhorn and one between Erwin and Benson.

LOVING MASTER OF LOCAL LODGE

Lillington Masons Installed New Officers Last Monday Night; Kelly And Blalock Are Wardens

In ceremonies which marked the start of another year, Charles E. Loving was last Monday night installed as new Master of the Lillington Masonic Lodge. He succeeded J. O. Sutton. The two ranking officers elected and installed with Loving were G. Carl Kelly, senior warden, and David A. Blalock, junior warden.

Other officers of the local organization are: J. A. Walker, secretary; W. A. Capers, senior deacon; S. G. Howell, junior deacon; G. D. Monroe and H. E. Smith, stewards; and James R. Mason, tiller.

The lodge meets each Monday evening in the hall located on the second floor of the LaFayette Drug Company building.

REV. BETTS WILL PREACH AT OAK GROVE SUNDAY, JAN. 29

Rev. J. D. Betts will preach at Oak Grove Church Sunday morning, Jan. 29th, at 11 o'clock. The church is located near Buie's Creek and a cordial invitation is extended to everyone in the surrounding communities.

Date Omitted

Omission of "Friday, January 13th" in the Newman Poultry Co. advertisement on page three is not due to superstition but was an oversight. A correct copy of the advertisement appears on page eight.

Parker's Trial

Although articles in State newspapers have stated that Lester Parker, central figure in a murder committed nearly seven years ago in Texas, was to go on trial last Tuesday, The News learned from Mrs. E. A. Jagers, his half-sister, that Parker's trial is not scheduled to come before the court until next week.

The confusion evidently resulted, she said, from the similarity of the court's starting date, January 3rd, and the date set for Parker's trial, the third week.

Parker, who came to Harnett shortly after the crime was committed, has won many friends who are staunchly supporting him in his fight for freedom. When arrested at the request of Texas officers, Parker was serving as chief of police in Coats.

He claims self-defense and maintains that he thought the matter was cleared before he left Texas.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS BEGUN IN THIS COUNTY

DR. GODWIN OF SANATORIUM STAFF TESTING HARNETT SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR TUBERCULAR SYMPTOMS

Through the combined facilities of Harnett's Department of Health and the extension services of the North Carolina Sanatorium, Dr. G. C. Godwin of the Sanatorium's staff last week started a series of clinics in this county to determine the prevalence of tuberculosis in school children.

Possibly one-half of Harnett's pupils, or approximately 5,000, will be given skin tests before Dr. Godwin completes his clinical work in this county. The test is simple and harmless and should be given to every child in the grades selected for the examinations.

Since these clinics were started Monday last week, well over 1,000 tests were made and the work will continue until all school children, 10 years of age and older, have been examined. Students in both white (Continued on page eight)

COUNTY'S QUOTA EASILY FILLED

Miss Lillie Davis Has 73 Applications For The 100 CCC Assignments Allotted Harnett

With 73 applications to pick from, Miss Lillie Davis, Harnett's Superintendent of Welfare, last week experienced little difficulty in selecting the eight white and two Negro teenagers to fill this county's quota in the Conservation Civilian Corps.

The youths have been selected and will be taken to Raleigh from which point they will be assigned to camps in various sections of North Carolina.

The CCC provides employment for youths who are unable to secure work and who have parents or brothers and sisters dependent upon them. CCC Juniors are given jobs on reforestation or conservation projects at a salary of \$30 per month, plus board and clothing. Of this \$30, the enrollee is given \$5 per month and the Government sends \$25, the balance, back home to members of the family depending on him for subsistence. If the junior has no dependents, the \$25 per month is held for him until his enlistment period expires.

Between 1050 and 1100 Juniors were enrolled early this month in CCC camps.

Attempted 20-Cent Forgery Leads Into Maze Of Troubles

Much to his dismay, a 14-year-old Negro boy found out in Dunn last week that the law pays little attention to degrees of crime, or amounts involved when it reaches out a strong arm and binds in those who have failed to abide by the code.

John Davis, Jr., attempted two 10-cent forgeries but the effort to defraud led him into a maze of trouble which included a hearing before Recorder Judge Duncan Wilson in Dunn and a final decision Monday in Superior Court by Solicitor Claude Canaday and Judge Walter J. Bone. On top of this, he became a "jail bird" for several days because he couldn't post the \$150-bond required by Judge Wilson.

The escapade which impressed upon the boy the fact that crimes never pay—not even 20-cent ones—started when he was charged with altering figures on two cash tickets given him in exchange for

TWO IMPORTANT CASES DISPOSED OF ON FIRST DAY JANUARY SESSION

BRIEF CHARGE TO JURY OPENS NEW COURT SESSION

JUDGE BONE, ON FIRST ASSIGNMENT TO HARNETT, SENDS JURORS TO WORK UPON COMPLETION OF SHORT MESSAGE

Expressing pleasure at his first judicial assignment to Harnett and his first visit to the countyseat, Judge Walter J. Bone Monday morning opened 1939 sessions of Superior Court with an abbreviated charge to the Grand Jury which indicated "work" will be the key-note of this week's term.

Here, this week due to an exchange of judgeships with Judge R. Hunt Parker, the new-comer to Harnett's bench altered whatever plans he might have had to deliver a lengthy discourse when he was informed that under the permanent Grand Jury system the jurors were already selected and organized. Another of the factors influencing him to make only a brief address was the information that Judge Clawson Williams, at the November term, had thoroughly instructed the jurors on what their duties were.

Judge Bone, who hails from Nashville and who last year was elected for a six-year term in the Second District, pleased listeners with his opening remarks and led observers to believe Harnett's docket would be given a thorough shakedown before the jurist and Solicitor Claude Canaday finish with it.

Although the calendar is exceedingly light for a session of court starting a new term and convening immediately after Christmas and New Year holidays, consistent work will be necessary if any appreciable amount is made in the 27-case docket. Judge Bone's remarks inspired the court would keep steadily at the tasks which lay before it.

In his brief message to the Grand Jury, the presiding officer expressed happiness at his assignment to this county and pleasure at the privilege of working with Harnett authorities. Although he stated that some of his duties this week would be unpleasant ones, Judge Bone said that he was also anticipating pleasant associations and making new acquaintances in Harnett.

He dwelt very briefly on the importance of the courts and emphasized that they could not be any more efficient than the officers charged with carrying out duties.

He also invited the jurors to call on him for whatever assistance they might need in faithfully performing their tasks and conducting their investigations. At the conclusion of his message, he ordered them to begin their duties and Solicitor Canaday presented Foreman Henry Whittemon with a batch of indictments.

MRS. DULA HAS POSITION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Beulah B. Dula has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the Board of Education office which was created when Mrs. Novella S. Smith tendered her resignation prior to her marriage on January 1st. The task of looking after matters pertaining to Harnett's educational program will be a familiar assignment for Mrs. Dula, who served as Superintendent B. P. Gentry's secretary several years ago.

MANSLAUGHTER, FALSE PRETENSE CHARGES ENDED

SOLICITOR TAKES NOL PROS IN SUIT AGAINST DRIVERS OF CARS IN FATAL WRECK; MRS. MCGEE PLEADS GUILTY

Dopey effects of an overdose of medicine taken earlier in the evening to ease a headache were given by Mrs. Pauline McGee of Angler Monday morning as the reason she signed an affidavit late in October falsely swearing Magdalene Holt was 19, instead of 15, to make it easier for the young girl and Max J. Adams to secure a wedding license.

Pleading guilty to charges of false pretense, Mrs. McGee told Judge Walter J. Bone a straightforward story of how she had taken an unusually large amount of medicine and that she was in something of a stupor when her young neighbors aroused her to accompany them to Mrs. Inez Harrington's office. On leaving home, she had no idea she would be called upon to sign an affidavit and she further said she believed it was a favor to her young neighbors, who told her they were going to get married and were going to South Carolina if no permit could be secured in this county.

Mrs. McGee further testified that she did not know what she was signing. Others who appeared as witnesses were Mrs. Harrington and Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Holt, parents of the girl. On hearing her version of the affair, Judge Bone suspended judgment until the next session of court and ordered Mrs. McGee to post a \$100-appeal bond.

Another of the better-known cases stricken from the docket Monday, the first day of Harnett Superior Court's January term, was the manslaughter count against Mahlon Thomas of Varina and Vaden Smith of Angler, drivers of the two cars which figured in the costly accident last March that cost the lives of two young farmers of the Angler community. For nine months, Solicitor Claude Canaday has been investigating the case and Monday morning he ordered a nol pro, evidently realizing that there was not sufficient evidence for a conviction.

The nol pro came as no surprise. Observers, all along, have been unable to see how a case could be made out against the drivers, whom the Coroner's Jury bound over to the Grand Jury as the best way out of a difficult situation. The men assisting the Coroner deliberated for quite a long time before a compromise verdict, which sent both drivers up to Superior Court, was reached.

The session devoted most of Monday and Tuesday to cases of defendants confined in jail who were awaiting (Continued on page eight)

JIMMIE WOOD IS PAGE IN HOUSE

12-Year-Old Son Of Angler School Principal Appointed To Position In Law-Making Body

Harnett's representation in the current General Assembly was upped to three last week when newly-elected Speaker of the House, D. L. "Libby" Ward of New Bern, appointed 12-year-old Jimmie Wood of Angler to serve as one of the House messenger boys, or pages. Others in the Harnett delegation are Senator Fred Thomas and Representative Neill Ross.

Appointment of Young Wood as one of the House pages is deemed quite an honor to Harnett county and the opportunity he will have of getting first-hand knowledge of how bills are enacted into laws should be of great value to him.

Jimmie, the son of Principal J. O. Wood and Mrs. Wood of Angler, is in the seventh grade. Not only is he an excellent student and a leader among class-mates but he is also musically-inclined. He was one of the winners in the Federated State Music Contest which was conducted last spring in Charlotte.

RETURN FROM ROSE BOWL

L. B. Matthews, Preston Smith and others from Harnett county who attended the famed Rose Bowl football classic between Duke and Southern California which was played in Pasadena, Calif., on January 2, have returned to their homes. They report an enjoyable trip.

Smith is a son of Mrs. A. G. Rickman of Lillington.