

Capital News Letter

BY THOMPSON GREENWOOD

NOT AS MUCH—Had any watered milk lately? Well, no, not as much as you were getting back in February when this column first brought up the matter of milk and water.

The situation is getting better. That little item written here—only about 75 words—has been echoed and crescendoed in all the papers, on the radio, and in conferences and resolutions. The thought was voiced here that the nasty predicament was being settled in February, but alas, that was only the beginning.

And the worst is yet to come.

TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER—The average February snowfall was about 10 inches over a large portion of the central and northern sections of the state.

In the Charlotte area, 80 per cent of the killing frosts over the past 67 years has come between March 5 and April 15.

Over a 50-year period the last killing frost has hit Haywood and counties west of there about April 20. Also about that time for the area through there from Henderson northeastward to Stokes . . . For Ashe, Watauga, and Buncombe, April 30; Moore, Harnett, Chatham, Wake, April 5; Columbus, Carteret, and the other extreme eastern counties should have no more killing frosts until next fall; Yancey and Mitchell can expect severe frosts until May 10 . . . Bladen northward to Gates over an area 50 miles wide after March will be free of frosts which injure crops . . . says the 50-year average . . . But of course Jack Frost comes when he is least expected.

Anyway . . . Spring begins leisurely to roam the land . . . "Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; and the time of the singing of birds is come."

NOTES—The new "daylight" fluorescent lights are being installed in the Revenue and Agriculture Buildings here . . . The Revenue Building Annex will be ready for occupancy in October . . . Increased funds for teachers may not give them the 30 per cent raise, but they will not be increased . . . School leaders are now fearful there will be no Federal school lunch program for next year—or even after March, except in special cases where local funds will be provided . . .

300 to 400 eight-cylinder Buicks have been ordered for State highway patrolmen . . . But they must await legislative expansion of Highway Patrol . . . Had such a large delegation here last week for the anti-closed shop discussions that members of the Raleigh Fire Department were called out—and in—to see that the Capitol didn't catch fire . . . A piece of foolishness prompted on sudden thought by Fire Marshall Sherwood Brockwell . . . First time in 120 years this has occurred . . . That beautiful pile of rock is the nearest to fireproof of any building in the State.

DRY PROJECT—The talk here is

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ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE
Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of D. M. Sexton, deceased, late of Harnett County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to file the same duly verified with the undersigned on or before the 12th day of March, 1948, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned.
This March 12th, 1947.
EVELYN SEXTON,
Administratrix.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Mrs. Lucie C. Spears, deceased, late of Harnett County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at 111 Corcoran Street, Durham, N. C., on or before the 12th day of March, 1948, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 11th day of March, 1947.
MARSHALL T. SPEARS,
Administrator of the Estate of Mrs. Lucie C. Spears.

(that leaders of dry forces in North Carolina are considering asking Lt. Gov. L. Y. Ballentine to campaign for Governor on a dry-as-a-bone, State referendum ticket.

Although personally a teetotaler and a non-smoker, chances are that Ballentine will not give serious consideration to such a proposal unless, or until, things appear a great deal more troublesome than at present.

CAPITOL PLANS—The architects' drawing of the Capitol—with wings doesn't look bad at all . . . and U. B. Blalock of Anson, chairman of the committee planning alterations, is going to entertain bids for the addition.

Oh, yes, objections have been tremendous . . . and they have come from every where . . . But if you think this will dissuade Blalock, you just don't know him.

JUST SIX ACRES—As a matter of fact—and without consideration for all those objections from the aesthetes ("one who makes much or overmuch of the sense of the beautiful," it says here)—the Capitol square isn't big enough . . . only 6.2 acres . . . and the wings as proposed would lack only 20 feet of jutting right out into Fayetteville Street to the south and Halifax Street on the north . . . virtually cutting in half Capitol Square.

GETTING TIRED—About a third of the Legislators have been stricken with flu or colds within the past month . . . Their money has run out . . . and their tempers have run short . . . Some of their pet ideas have been rubbed into the dirt by legislation regarded as "more important" . . . and other bills have been traded away . . . The folks back home seem more difficult to please . . . The weather has been miserable . . . and, well, they are just getting tired, doggonit . . . and many of them feel, and rightly so, that Raleigh is becoming a little tired of them, too . . . Department heads and other State employees want to relax . . . to rest a little . . . They have been under pressure over two months now.

SO SWIFTLY—Events are moving so swiftly that many a Legislator loafs in the Sir Walter lobby until 11 at night to buy a morning paper . . . so he can find just what all has been done, anyhow . . . Your General Assembly, bright and gleaming and cheerful a few weeks ago, is wearing down to the ragged edges . . . The fellows want to be home by Easter—April 6.

MULL THE MAN?—The patience of Rex Gass of Forsyth ran out last Friday over unsuccessful attempts to keep wine and beer out of one of his townships. Threatening to blow the lid off the gag rule, he got as far as saying that Odus Mull of Cleveland (traded with Liquor leaders from eastern counties so he could become speaker in 1939 there) by giving birth to the "gag" rule. Speaker Pearsall stopped Gass there. He should have let him proceed, for people of the State have been wanting to know more about this for a long time.

DOLLAR'S VALUE—There is a joker in the Good Health Bill, which says that the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission can wait about the great hospital and medical school building program until the State can get a dollar's value for each dollar expended. Now, when will that be? Nobody knows.

OFF THE CUFF—Employment in manufacturing plants in North Carolina jumped from 361,700 in October to 364,500 in November to 371,300 in December . . . 16 per cent of the 288,900 school children fed for each school day in lunchrooms operating in North Carolina under the Federal Program.

One thing, there isn't any indication the program can get under way during the next two years . . . It may be five years . . . or 10 . . . This decision will be left to the Governor and his budgetary helpers . . . The commencement on the actual construction of all those hospitals, and the medical school—if this becomes a part of the project—is as indefinite as the tides of business . . . a dollar's value for each dollar spent . . . When? And whom will the people elect to make the decision?

Signs now point to an unusually large peach crop, but orchardists must have their worries. They have two frets now: 1—That the crop will be so large it won't bring anything. 2—That a late frost may wipe out the crop . . . The lettuce crop was so large last year that an estimated 95,000 crates were plowed under in the Wilmington-Clinton area.

EDUCATION—There are now 4,300 students in the Baptist colleges of this State . . . Wake Forest, Meredith, Campbell, Gardner-Webb, Mars Hill, Wingate, and School of Nursing, N. C. Baptist Hospital . . . But at N. C. State College in Raleigh there are 4,660 students enrolled . . . 300 less than last fall . . . There are approximately 18,000 college students within a 30-mile radius of Raleigh.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL—The anti-closed shop bill enacted by the General Assembly is not expected to prove applicable to concerns engaged in interstate commerce. Look for a test case on its constitutionality in Durham or Greensboro some time in April.

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FINAL WARNING!

Notice is hereby given to all property owners in Harnett County who have not paid their 1946 taxes that the list of delinquents for the land sale to be held on Monday, May 5th, will appear in the county newspapers on Thursday, April 10.

By paying your taxes before that date you will save the extra cost and the embarrassment of seeing your property advertised for sale for taxes.

Too, you can save the increased penalty beginning April 1st if you pay before that date.

W. D. HARRINGTON

TAX COLLECTOR HARNETT COUNTY