

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, May 29, 1947

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

## Graduate Exercises At Campbell Today

### CAMPBELL IS HEADING TOWARD FINALS WINDUP

#### DURHAM EDITOR TO MAKE ADDRESS THIS MORNING AND GRADUATES WILL GET THEIR DIPLOMAS

"A sound mind will link one's life with God," advised Dr. Casper C. Warren, pastor of First Baptist church Charlotte, as he addressed the graduating class at Campbell College Sunday evening.

"Need for a sound mind is imperative," he began, "imperative because of the prevalence of fear in this atomic age when another world war is not only possible but by some considered probable."

"A sound mind is a reasonable mind, distinguishing man from the lower animals. It discriminates between right and wrong, high and low. It follows the gleam of divine guidance and leads one to accept the challenge of humble Christian service. Thereby, in a sound mind the spirit of God will find his earthly habitat."

Invocation was led by J. E. Ayscue and Campbell's capella choir, led by H. Caleb Cushing, sang a group of numbers.

Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock the high school seniors held their Class Day on the Paul Green theatre, and the college sophomores thors at 5.

Wednesday evening at 8 "Anno of Green Gables" will be presented with Bea Douglas of Sanford in the title role. Mrs. G. T. Proffit is director.

Thursday morning Dr. C. Sylvester Green, editor of the Durham Herald, will deliver the address to the graduates.

## RECREATIONAL PROGRAM STARTS

Program Provided For Young People of Lillington Begins June 2; Schedule Given

The recreational program for the young people of Lillington which has been provided by interested patrons and churches will open on June 2 under the direction of Misses Vera Lee Thornton and Catherine Cressman.

There will be three groups participating in the recreational program this summer. The age groups will include four through nine; ten through thirteen, and the teen-age group. The playground at the school will be used as last year.

Bible School activities will be the major interest for the first two weeks.

An outline of the schedule will be as follows:

9-12 o'clock, Monday through Thursday: Ages four through nine will meet at the school. The activities will include, directed play, free play, music, story-telling, ball, horse-shoes, volley-ball, and other interesting features.

3 to 5 o'clock, Monday through Thursday: Ages ten through thirteen, the Junior teen-agers. Activities for this group will include swimming, bicycling, hiking, music, dancing, base ball, volley-ball, Scout meetings. This group will meet at the school also.

Last year there was a total of 1270 children attending the playground, representing over 50 families. With an enlarged program this summer it is hoped to have a larger number attending.

The Girl Scout program will continue as usual.

## Dorothy Thompson Farm-Home Speaker

An invitation to speak at the 1947 Farm and Home Week to be held on the State College Campus August 25-29, has been accepted by Dorothy Thompson, noted journalist and world-wide traveler, according to a joint announcement this week from Mrs. Glenn Duncan, president of the N. C. Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, and John W. Goodman, assistant director of the State College Extension Service and secretary of the event.

The nationally known writer is scheduled to speak before a special meeting of the women at the Raleigh City Auditorium the morning of August 28 at 11 o'clock.

Miss Thompson, whose column appears in daily newspapers throughout the country, has recently returned from a trip through Poland and other European countries.

## JUDGE GRANTS CHARLIE PHILLIPS ANOTHER TRIAL

### SOLICITOR HOOKS SEEKING SPECIAL TERM TO HEAR CASE; BURGWIN PREFERRED JURY DECISION ON MAN'S GUILT

Declaring that though he held definite personal opinion as to the guilt of Charlie Phillips, charged with the murder of his wife, Judge W. H. S. Burgwin in Harnett Superior Court last Wednesday stated that he would prefer that a jury be allowed to pass on it. He thereupon ordered that a new trial be held. Solicitor Jack Hooks said he would seek a special term of Harnett court to hear the case, and that he wanted the term just as soon as a convenient week can be set aside for that purpose.

Hearing of the motion for a new trial and subsequent argument by the Solicitor and attorneys for the defense consumed about two hours last Wednesday afternoon. The hearing started at 2:30.

Phillips, a tenant farmer of near Angier was convicted at last September term of slaying his wife on Sunday, August 15, as they were at the dinner table. Judge Burgwin sentenced him to death and he was placed on Death Row at State Prison. Attorneys Nell McK. Salmon and Charles Ross, who had defended the condemned man, secured a stay of execution upon grounds that newly discovered evidence was sufficient to warrant a motion for a new trial. It was not, however, until the day before the scheduled execution of their client that the attorneys were able to have verified by the State Bureau of Investigation a handwriting of Mrs. Etta Mae Phillips, the slain wife of Charlie Phillips.

It was this letter that was placed before the court here last Wednesday which caused Judge Burgwin to order a new trial. Although the handwriting in the letter had been declared identical with other handwriting of Mrs. Phillips by the FBI, Solicitor Hooks produced a statement from the Federal Bureau of Investigation saying that the letter was neither the handwriting of Mrs. Phillips or Charlie Phillips. This, however, while supporting the theory of the Solicitor that the letter was a forgery, upset his contention that Phillips himself had done the forging. How Hooks will gear his contention regarding this in his next move to convict Charlie Phillips is his own problem. It is thought the Solicitor in the next trial will put great emphasis on the charge that Phillips is an expert forger in his own talent.

At the hearing last Wednesday on the motion for a new trial, Phillips, at the suggestion of a photographer's assistant, posed with his eyes gazing at the pair of slacks in which the suicide note was found, while he held the garment in both hands. The usual stubborn moroseness seemed for the time being to have left the man's countenance—but the photograph revealed exactly nothing.

Practically everybody in Harnett county has either read about the Phillips case or heard it discussed, and the task of securing a jury to pass upon it on a second trial will be difficult.

The June term of civil court starts on the 9th. It is a two weeks term but does not usually last for the full scheduled time. A special term could be scheduled after June 20.

### SUNDAY VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. McGowan, of Raleigh spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. Souders.

## Sunday Speaker



With the Reverend Bruce H. Price as speaker, the Baptist Hour will feature The Christian Home in the broadcast next Sunday, June 1.

The Baptist Hour may be heard over WWNC, WSOC, WGNC, WPTF and WSJS.

## TOWN IS AGAIN ON TAG MAP

### After Going Without Auto License Tags for Several Years, Auto Owners Here to Again Display Them

Things are coming back—as well as up. After going without auto license tags on their cars for the past several years, Lillington motorists can again proudly display the tags denoting not only ownership but the place where they are "from" when they venture beyond the city limits.

But the little tags are not only back—they're up. Whereas formerly they cost only one dime, now they are two bucks. Not that prideful Lillingtonians mind the small up-purge, but showing that "we-uns" is also up-to-date in inflationary circles.

The tags were turned over to members of the Fire Department, each member being assigned the sale of a bunch of the plates.

Mr. John Womble, who visited The News office with a handful of the tags, reported sales good.

## State Recreation Centers To Open

The formal opening of Morrow Mountain State Park Hanging Rock State Park, and Jones Lake Recreation Area has been set for June first, according to an announcement made today by Tom Morse, Superintendent of Parks in the Division of Forestry and Parks.

On this date, Mr. Morse pointed out, the facilities of these three public playgrounds will be made available to all who want to use them. Morrow Mountain and Hanging Rock State Parks have excellent modern bath houses, swimming areas, picnic tables and fireplaces. Jones Lake is reserved for Negro use and also has facilities for swimming, boating and fishing.

Because of the crowded conditions in these Parks during the week-end, Mr. Morse urges the public to make use of their facilities throughout the entire week.

## "Small Potatoes" Not Bad At All

Reading of the destruction by the Federal Production and Marketing Association of 20,000,000 bushels of Irish potatoes, a couple of Harnett farmers remarked to The News this week that, even though they were in hearty accord with the policy of support for farm prices, they could not condone such wanton destruction of food that is perfectly good.

"Just because those potatoes were small," they said, "is no good reason for destroying them. Out our way we eat small potatoes and consider them as good and wholesome as large potatoes."

Irish potatoes are selling in Lillington for 3 1-3 cents a pound for new crop and 7 1-2 cents for old.

## Revival Services At Harmony Church

A series of revival services will begin at Harmony Baptist Church Sunday night, June 1st with services each evening at 8:00 o'clock. The Reverend William T. Smith of Durham will be the visiting speaker. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Also each morning over Station WCKB, Dunn, Rev. Aaron C. Phipps and Rev. Smith will conduct the morning devotional. So don't forget to tune in at 8:30.

The Daily Vacation Bible School will also begin at Harmony on June 1st commencing at 8:00 o'clock each afternoon. All children in this vicinity are urged to attend the very first day.

## Tree Slaughter is Mystery Town Sleuths Cannot Solve

### HARRY JORDAN GOES TO PEN FOR MANSLAUGHTER

#### ERWIN MAN SUBMITS TO CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER WHILE ON TRIAL FOR SLAYING HIS WIFE LAST MARCH 25

Harry Jordan, white man of Erwin, was sentenced by Judge W. H. S. Burgwin last Wednesday in Harnett Superior Court to serve a sentence of 8-18 years for killing his wife, Mrs. Pearl Jordan, at their home last March 25.

Solicitor Jack Hooks started the case seeking a verdict of first degree murder, but his chief witness, Jordan's 12-year-old son refused to repeat on the witness stand his former declaration that his father had slain his mother.

Duncan C. Wilson, attorney for Jordan, had put in a plea of not guilty, but later changed this to a submission to a charge of manslaughter. The plea was accepted by the Solicitor and the hearing came to an end. Judge Burgwin then pronounced the sentence.

Jordan's young son was said to have run to the house and cried, "Daddy, why did you kill Mom?" when he heard the shot that took his mother's life. When Solicitor Hooks tried to get the boy to tell to the jury, he glanced at his father, then hung his head and through sobs murmured "I don't know" to all questions.

Several hours was taken up in drawing the jury from the 100 special veniremen Sheriff Bill Salmon had brought into court. As is customary in such trials, the 13th man was added to the jury. It was expected that the case would run for a couple of days, maybe longer. Court adjourned sine die immediately following completion of the Jordan case.

## Sees No Need For Special Court Term

Clerk Howard Godwin of Harnett Superior Court told The News that he has had no word regarding a proposed special term of the court, and that he sees no need for such a term.

The clerk pointed out that there is nothing urgent on the criminal docket and that the Phillips case can wait till the first fall term which convenes the first week in September.

He also pointed out that farmers, from whose ranks a majority of jurors are drawn, are mighty busy during the summer months, and that the regular civil term of two weeks beginning June 9 will cause them to lose about as much time as they can spare from their crops.

## W. D. Harrington In Lee Hospital

W. D. Harrington, Harnett's tax collector, is in Lee County Hospital, Sanford, where he underwent an operation for appendicitis last Friday night.

Last reports from his bedside were to the effect that Mr. Harrington is resting comfortably.

## New Drivers' Licenses to be Issued in Alphabetical Order

If your last name begins with A or B and you expect to retain your right to drive a motor vehicle in North Carolina, you had better begin right now to brush up on your auto-driving I. Q.

Beginning July 1, the State Department of Motor Vehicles will start its examinations of drivers to determine whether they are qualified to drive a motor vehicle, and if they are, a brand new license will be issued. The law enacted by the 1947 legislature requires it.

The Department will start off its job—big job, that is—on July 1, taking the A and B folks under test till Dec. 31. Then go with the C and D, and so on. It is estimated that four years will be required to finish it. The new licenses will last four years, the holder taking another exam on the birthday following. The cost, by the way, of the new permits will be \$2 instead of \$1 as now.

The motor vehicles head coupled the announcement with a warning that applicants for reissues of driving licenses must pass a driving test. The examination will include an eye test, with the poorest visual

### Investigating

Mayor Charlie Loving told The News yesterday that, although he had not as yet found any definite clue as to the identity of the person or persons who bored holes in the shade trees in Lillington, he intends to exert every effort to determine the guilty party.

The Mayor said Councilman Welle Sutton, street commissioner, gave it as his opinion that somebody got mad because he (Sutton) was re-elected to the board and bored the trees with the idea that he would be blamed for it. Commissioner Sutton said he knew nothing about the vandalism till it was called to his attention by Deputy Ken Matthews.

Mayor Loving declined to reveal his plans for solving the mystery, but stated to The News emphatically that if it is possible to do so, he will find out who dealt the stealthy blow to the valuable shade and ornamental trees of the town.

## FOUR HARNETT PUPILS IN PLAY

Graduating Exercises at Campbell College Today with Dr. Green as Speaker

Four Harnett county graduates appeared in the commencement play at Campbell College Wednesday evening, May 28 at 8 o'clock. The popular "Anne of Green Gables" was the play, coached by Mrs. Edna Proffit. Bea Douglas of Sanford was cast in the title role.

Others in the cast were Carolya Smith of Jackson Springs, Lawrence Ricks of Conway, Clyde Elliott of Chadbourn, Mary Lee Brown of Fuquay Springs, Peggy Butler of Coats, Mary Lois Kinlaw of Lumberton, J. P. Blanton of Wallace, Ina Mae Benner of Raeford, Joyce Gray of Trenton, Shirley Robinson of Wilmington, Mamie Lou Fulk of Dunn, and Stacy Ousley and Betsy Sue Stafford, local students.

Dr. C. Sylvester Green, editor of Durham Herald, will address Campbell's graduates Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. Dr. Casper C. Warren, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Charlotte preached the sermon Sunday evening.

## Triple-A Closed Memorial Day

The Harnett County Triple-A office in the Agricultural Building will be closed all day Friday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. This is a Federal holiday and the postoffice also will be closed.

### Notice

To all 4-H Club members: If you want to go to Camp June 9-12, please send your \$3.00 deposit to the Home Demonstration Office in Lillington immediately.

Rachel Herring, Home Dem. Agent.

### VISITING HERE

Mrs. W. W. Scott of Lexington, Kentucky arrived Tuesday to spend several weeks visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Fowler at their home.

## LOVELY SHADE TREES DYING BY SUPPOSED POISON

### BUT WHO BORED HOLES AND DOPED BIG TREES IS THE QUESTION; MAYOR AND STREET COMMISSIONER DON'T KNOW

Who bored the holes in the great elm tree on Lillington's Main street and did the same thing to elms on Front street and possibly to many others of the town's fine shade trees?

That's what Mayor Charles Loving and indignant residents want to know.

Monday, when questioned about it, Mayor Loving was completely ignorant as to what had been going on. He immediately got in touch with Street Commissioner Welle Sutton, who told the Mayor he didn't know anything about it.

Councilman Sutton, having charge of the streets, removed a large oak tree from a sidewalk on Eighth street a couple of weeks ago, stating that the tree if allowed to stand might cause injury to some person or damage to property if it were allowed to stand in the middle of a paved sidewalk where its huge body and roots had already pushed up the paving. He hired a crew of workmen and removed the oak.

Commissioner Sutton also stated that the elm trees would do damage to the sewer mains in the streets by reason of the roots weaving their way into the pipes and stopping up the drains. Already it had been noticed that some trouble had been caused by the elms to the sewer mains.

The Street Commissioner was unaware, however, of an attempt to destroy trees along the town's streets.

Information thus gained by The News on a round of inquiry served to deepen the mystery of the tree slaughter in Lillington. Who bored the holes in the trees? is still the big question.

The great elm on Main street, which has been standing, according to old inhabitants, at least a hundred years, shades a wide area in the heart of the business district and has been the subject of much admiration by visitors. The old tree, which had never exhibited any sign of age other than by broadening the area each year with its wide-spreading limbs, has been dying for the past several days.

It was not until a day or so ago that the hole was found in its trunk about two feet from the ground. The hole was bored with an auger and bit about one inch in diameter and sinks into the tree's vitals about four inches.

Inasmuch as a mere hole would not produce death for so hardy a tree as an elm, it is thought that beyond doubt a deadly poison was inserted after the auger work was finished. The magnificent old elm will be dead within a few days now, judging by the rate at which it has been dying.

A couple of elms in front of the Allred Furniture Store on Front street has been given the same "treatment," and they are dying too.

Mr. Murph Byran stated to The News that five large elms on J street running by his home had holes bored in them about two feet from the ground and that the trees are beginning to wither.

Mayor Loving is conducting a searching inquiry to learn the identity of the tree borer or borers, and poisoners too, if any.

It is known for a fact that the holes were bored into the trees; whether poison was inserted in the holes is not altogether established as a fact, but no other destroying agency has so far been suggested.

## NO USE BRAGGING—But They Do Say:

The News is relieved of the necessity of bragging about what its ads do. The folks who put the ads in the paper, (sensible folks that they are!) tell the story for us.

Read what these two say: From Rev. Chas. B. Howard of Bale's Creek: "You need not run my ad again. The first issue was enough to sell the property at once. Thanks."

From Mrs. Troy Byrd, efficient manager of Pope's 5c to 85c Store: "I was very pleasantly surprised at the large volume of business we had from our Mother's Day ad. Of course we expected good business, but it ran far above what we expected."

And that's the way it goes!