

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, June 12, 1947

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

## Legislature Didn't Put Quietus On Carnivals Operating Here

### CARNIVALS CAN'T BE BANNED FROM HARNETT—YET

COUNTY ATTORNEY STRICKLAND FINDS THAT LAW ENACTED BY RECENT LEGISLATURE DOESN'T INCLUDE HARNETT

A month or so ago the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution banning all carnivals from Harnett county. That is to say, the executives declared by that resolution that they would permit license to operate to no more carnival companies and such aggregations.

The board took this action after numerous complaints had been registered and it appeared to be the general consensus of opinion that carnivals were no good anyway and that they should not be allowed to pitch their tents, wheels, paraphernalia, and so forth within the bounds of this good county.

Since the adoption of the board's resolution, County Attorney H. C. Strickland has done some research work and has found that a law authorizing boards of county commissioners, city and town commissioners, etc., to place a ban on carnivals applied only to counties named in the bill. Harnett does not appear in the list of counties receiving such authorization.

It appears, therefore, according to Mr. Strickland's interpretation of the law, that the Harnett Commissioners will have to back-track and rescind their resolution barring the show groups.

Reason for the resolution was that the carnivals not only come into a community and garner up much money to take away, but generally they bring along with them a lot of extra work for the law enforcement officers and the courts. Thus, the small tax that the groups pay is usually offset by the cost of restoring order after their departure.

### BUYS BURWELL HOUSE FOR \$5575

Grayson Biggs of Erwin Highest Bidder on Last Remaining Piece of Burwell Estate

Attorney W. A. Johnson, acting for the town of Lillington, will draw a deed in favor of Grayson Biggs of Erwin, turning over to him the homeplace of the late Lewis D. Burwell, which he had bequeathed to the town together with all of his other property after a life estate for his wife, the late Mrs. Ida Burwell.

This is the last piece of the estate, all other property falling to the town having been sold. Mr. Biggs' bid was \$5575, which topped a bid by Mr. Harry Schafran of Lillington, who raised by 5 per cent a former bid by Mr. Biggs. At the final sale, Mr. Biggs raised the bid of Mr. Schafran by \$10 and there were no other bidders.

The house has been used by the Woman's Club as a community house and a home for the public library. Mrs. J. M. Shaw is librarian. Mr. Biggs is now having the house renovated and painted and as soon as this is completed he with Mrs. Biggs and children will move into it and make their home here.

Mrs. J. M. Shaw, librarian, has moved the library to the small frame building on courthouse square formerly used by the Woman's Club.

### News To Have Pictures Made

The News has arranged with a professional photographer to make pictures of representative citizens of Lillington and community on this Saturday, June 14.

The photographer will be at the Hotel Lillington between 12 noon and 7 p. m. to take these pictures. We will be provided with glossy prints which will be kept on file in The News office for use as news events may warrant.

Recent events in town have disclosed that many of our citizens haven't had a picture made in years. By having the photographer here this Saturday, we will be able to build up a complete file.

There will, of course, not be any charge, and The News will appreciate your taking off a few minutes to have your picture made.

There is also no obligation on your part, but if you wish you may secure additional pictures for your own use to reasonable prices.

## Budget-Fixing In Tentative Stage; Tax Rate Fixed Later

County Auditor Herbert Carson, who is in the midst of compiling a tentative budget to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners at its meeting on the first Monday in July, believes that the prevailing tax rate of \$1.35 will have to be maintained for at least another year, although the Commissioners still hope that they may be able to lop off a cent or two at least.

Auditor Carson will lay the tentative budget before the board on the first Monday in July. He is working on it now. If the board approves the tentative budget (it must also be approved by the Local Government Commission in Raleigh), it must according to law be published and lay over for 20 days before final adoption as a permanent budget.

After this work is completed and the legal period has elapsed for consideration of the tentative budget, the Commissioners will then proceed to fix a tax rate based upon the sum of taxable values listed and the amount which the budget calls for. After giving the proposed budget items a preview, along with a glance at his total valuations, Auditor Carson has arrived at the conclusion that it would not be wise to attempt any reduction in the tax rate—at least until it can be seen what the property revaluation will amount to.

Supt. Reid Ross of the county schools has submitted his tentative 1947-48 budget to the Commissioners. It calls for \$156,287.18 from

taxes. From other sources he is to get an estimated \$128,578.96. Summarized, his budget reads: Current expense \$148,007.00; capital outlay \$68,700.00; debt service \$68,159.13. In his budget Supt. Ross is providing for pupil insurance, a new item allowed by the recent legislature. The State now pays up to \$600 for medical and hospital service. Another new item provides for a supervisor for elementary schools. The tax rate for schools, Supt. Ross says, can be fixed at 58 cents to take care of everything.

Supt. Ross tells The News he does not feel that the school system is losing anything by careful timing of the program for new buildings, repairs and additions under the \$750,000 bond authorization. None of the bonds have yet been sold, and except for certain immediately urgent needs no building activity of great importance has been undertaken. It is quite within the possibilities, however, that if favorable conditions should develop the building program would start in earnest.

Supt. Ross is anxious of course to get started on the building work, but he is willing to bide his time when it appears that by doing so the taxpayers of Harnett county will be benefited.

Auditor Carson states that the countywide tax rate will probably not be fixed before the first Monday in August. He says that the special road levies in the various townships will remain as they were for 1946.

### MRS. GILLESPIE GUEST SPEAKER

Wife of China Missionary to Speak to Baptist and Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Arthur Gillespie will be guest speaker at the Lillington Baptist W. M. U. meeting June 17th at 3:30 p. m. in the Baptist Church. The women from the other churches are invited to hear her.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church are having Mrs. Gillespie as their guest speaker the night of June 17th at eight p. m. in the Presbyterian Church. Those who are unable to hear her in the afternoon are urged to attend that night. The Presbyterian women will meet at 7:45 p. m. in the pastor's study for a short business meeting prior to hearing Mrs. Gillespie.

### Much Interest In County's Land Sale

Interest is increasing in the small tract of land being offered for sale by Harnett county on July 7. The tract consists of 10.5 acres lying on the west side of Highway 15-A and 421 and adjoining the Norfolk Southern railroad track.

There are two acres of the tract under 99 year lease to the railroad "for certain purposes," dating back to the time the railroad first ran down this far and held a pavilion for amusement purposes.

The tract has about 1,000 feet frontage on the highway. Map of the survey by Harold Turlington is at the courthouse.

## Warehousemen of Middle Belt Seeking Earlier Opening Date

The Production and Marketing Division of the Federal Agricultural Department has been asked to see that warehouses of the Middle Tobacco Belt get an earlier opening date this year. The warehousemen want to open on the same date as the Eastern belt, the latter part of August. The request stems from demand by farmers in this section who complain that it is more expensive for them to sell on distant markets and that much of their tobacco is ready for sale long before the Middle Belt has heretofore opened.

Former Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus has been retained as attorney to push the proposal. Senator Clyde R. Hoey and other North Carolinians in Congress are also asked to use their influence in favor of the earlier opening date.

The markets of the middle belt interested in moving up the date of their opening are: Fuquay Springs, Sanford, Carthage and Aberdeen.

These warehousemen, meeting several times to discuss the matter, state that farmers of this immedi-

### Want Meeting Place

Lillington Girl Scouts, numbering 60, want a place at which to hold their meetings. At present, so far as the Scouts have been able to learn, there is no place available, unless some one or more of their public-spirited friends provide a place for them.

The girls need a place not only simply to hold their meetings but one that will allow space for pursuing their indoor projects.

If someone will make it possible to secure such a place he or she will register tops with the Girl Scouts.

### TOWN GATHERING IN BACK TAXES

Delinquents Have Paid Up Over \$8,000 Recently; Some Go Back Nearly Ten Years

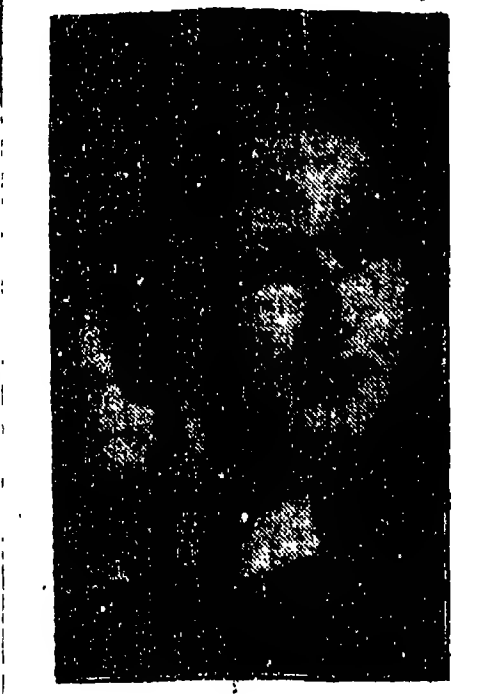
The town of Lillington is pushing for the payment of all delinquent taxes due as far back as the records go, and thus far over \$8,000 has been collected.

These delinquent collections are mostly from personality levies and jail taxes, some of them running back as much as ten years, and which heretofore seemingly no effort had been made to collect.

The town authorities have also decided to employ an attorney to foreclose its liens for taxes on real estate, some of which is also rather ancient.

No hint has been given as yet whether the rate of \$1.74 will again be levied this year.

### To Teach



MRS. GORDON MADDRY The Little River W.M.S. Mission Study Class will be held in the Coats Baptist church on Tuesday evening, June 17. Support will be served at 6:00 p. m. Mrs. Gordon Maddry of Ahsokle, State Mission Study Chairman, will teach "Shining Like the Stars," beginning at 7:00 p. m.

Those who heard Mrs. Maddry at Chalybeate and Bul's Creek will be anxious to hear her teach this interesting book.

All W. M. S. and Y. W. A. members are urged to attend.

### SOMEBODY'S ELSE JOB NOW WITH THE LIST FOR JURY BOX

MRS. HARRINGTON, REGISTER OF DEEDS, TURNS OVER 20,000 NAMES TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR REVIEW

Having completed her big job of compiling a list of all persons in Harnett county subject to call for jury duty, Mrs. Inez Harrington, Register of Deeds, has turned the list over to the Board of County Commissioners for review.

It will be the task of the Commissioners to read over those 20,000 names and determine how many should be eliminated and how many remain for placing in the jury box, which will be the official repository from which all juries will hereafter be drawn.

Legally disqualified for jury duty are: Persons under 21 years of age and all persons who have been convicted of crime; also persons who have been adjudged of unsound mind.

All others are left in the eligible list, and this includes women by virtue of a statute enacted by the recent Legislature. Inclusion of women was what made the list which Mrs. Harrington has just compiled so lengthy. The list includes both white and colored persons. However, there are not 20,000 persons in Harnett county subject to jury duty. In the list just compiled are numerous names of persons who have died or removed from the county; also there are duplications, since some persons have moved from one part of the county to another and therefore their names will likely appear on books in two or more precincts in the county.

For her list Mrs. Harrington went to the registration books in each of the 21 precincts in the county; also to the tax collector's office. Much checking and rechecking will need to be done. It's a big job for the Commissioners. They will need to complete it by August 1 to draw a jury for September term of court.

### OLD RESIDENT ON VISIT HERE

Dr. J. W. Phillips of Ajo, Arizona, Who Practiced Here From 1922-1927, Shakes Hands with Friends

Dr. J. W. Phillips of Ajo, Arizona, who practiced medicine in Lillington from 1922-1927, was here this week shaking hands with old friends.

Dr. Phillips left Lillington in 1927 when his health failed and he was unable to get around. After several years at health resorts he regained his health sufficiently to begin practicing again and located in Arizona. Although he has not fully recovered, he is able to minister to a large number of patients in his adopted community which has a population of 8,000. Ajo is a copper mining town.

Dr. Phillips came to Lillington to be associated with the late Dr. J. W. Halford. He and Mrs. Phillips and children are well remembered here and throughout Harnett and adjoining counties.

Mrs. Phillips has since died and the children, said Dr. Phillips, are all just about reaching the last periods of their education.

Dr. Phillips traveled through the country by auto. His children remained in Arizona.

## TO START WORK WHEN ASSESSORS ARE AVAILABLE

TAX SUPERVISOR BERLES JOHNSON CAN'T FIND ENOUGH COMPETENT APPRAISERS TO BEGIN RE-ASSESSMENT NOW

Asked by The News yesterday when he would begin work of re-appraisal of real and personal property in Harnett county to furnish a new basis for listing property next January, County Tax Supervisor Berles C. Johnson stated that he wanted to begin the work as soon as possible, but that he didn't believe he could secure enough competent persons to do the job at this busy season.

Supervisor Johnson stated that he hopes to organize his force sometime in July or by the first of August at the latest, and that he expects to have the work completed in plenty of time to allow the tax lists to go ahead with the listing the first of next January.

It is not the purpose to review all of the property, piece by piece, but to iron out inequalities wherever they are found. In the majority of cases property is listed at a fair value, but in too many instances there is found to be adjoining holdings that are not appraised with any degree of equity. There is great variation throughout the county, it has been found, and the level in some townships will vary too much from the level in others.

No estimate has been attempted as to how much in tax values the county will gain by the procedure of re-appraisal. It is thought there will be some gain. However, the main purpose in making the re-appraisal is to place all property on equitable footing as regards taxation.

Supervisor Johnson will begin to pick his township groups as soon as he finds that competent persons can spare the time for the work. It has been determined by the Commissioners that fair compensation will induce more satisfactory workers to undertake the job. It is thought that they can be obtained for \$8 to \$10 a day.

### PREPAYMENTS NOW IN ORDER

Those Who Desire To Pay Their 1947 Taxes in June, July, August, Sept. Or Oct. Get Discount

Although you have no way of knowing how much your 1947 tax bill to Harnett county will be, you can make a guess at the amount with your 1946 payment as a guide and receive a discount if you pay during June. The rate will be fixed by the Commissioners at their meeting on the first Monday in July.

The discounts for payments run this way: During June, 2 per cent; during July, 1-2 per cent; during August, 1 per cent; from the first of September till the 2nd of November, 1-2 per cent.

Taxes for 1947 will fall due on October 1.

Discussing the probable rate for 1947 with the Commissioners Monday, County Auditor Herbert Carson felt that it may be reduced a few cents at least. However, it is too early yet to make a definite statement on this point because the tentative budget may possibly need to undergo some changes.

## Yeggs Make Haul Here Friday Night

### To Preach at Angier



REV. KNOLAN BENFIELD of Hickory

### ANGIER BAPTISTS TO HOLD REVIVAL

Rev. Knolan Benfield of Hickory to Assist Pastor H. D. Wood in Services From June 23 to 29

Rev. Harry D. Wood, Jr., pastor of Angier Baptist Church, announces that revival services will begin at his church on June 22 and continue through June 23.

Each year Rev. Wood arranges for revival services for his church, and for each of the annual series he secures an outstanding preacher to assist him.

This time he has secured Rev. Knolan Benfield of Hickory, and there is assurance that all of the services will be well attended.

Services will be held each evening during the period at 8 o'clock.

During Rev. Wood's ministry at Angier church there has been marked interest in loyalty to the church and in its growth and advancement.

### Service Officer Makes Report

L. B. McLean, Harnett county service officer, in his May report shows a total of various services to veterans of 855-537 at the Lillington office and 318 at the Dunn office. On-the-job training, insurance, leave pay and loans are among the largest items on the list.

### Bond Racket

Be on the alert, advises L. B. McLean, Harnett service officer, for "sharp operators" uncovered by VFW who are "loaning" ex-GL's 50 per cent of face value of terminal leave bonds, and holding bond as security with understanding that they will pay yet another 25 per cent if he signs the bond when it matures.

Loan sharks thus realize 25 per cent of bond's face value plus interest. Computed at 2 1/2 per cent annually and on a \$500 bond they stand to reap profit up to \$105.00 on their initial investment of \$500—a usurious practice not now covered by law.

If approached by such lenders a veteran should report the incident to any local vet organization or newspaper.

## CRACK ONE SAFE, TRIED ANOTHER, STEAL PICK-UP

J. B. LEE STATES THE THIEVES MADE OFF WITH \$9,000 FROM HIS SAFE; SANITARY CLEANERS SAFE NOT OPENED

Safe-crackers broke into the County Garage last Friday night and stole tools which enabled them to crack open a safe in the sales stable of John B. Lee and make away with an amount of money which Mr. Lee says ran around \$9,000. They then went to K. G. Mace's Sanitary Cleaners building where they tackled the safe there.

Entrance to the Cleaners place was effected by sawing in two the clasp with which the back door was fastened. Night Policeman W. F. Nipper heard a noise there and when he approached the building, the yeggs made off. They had managed to pry open a small tip of the upper left-hand corner of the lip of the safe door, and given a little more time, they could have opened the safe, in which money was left overnight.

Nothing was missing from the Cleaners although there were hundreds of suits and dresses on racks ready for customers to call for them.

From the County Garage the thieves took the Bookmobile, but decided not to keep it. They rolled it a couple of blocks away to a back street and left it. They made away with a brand new pick-up truck, however, and this was later found on the outskirts of Raleigh in a completely wrecked condition.

Definite clues, according to Sheriff Bill Salmon, are yet to be secured, but he believes there will be arrests in the case before many days.

Marks left by the yeggs show plainly they were not professional or "big time" criminals in the art of safe-cracking. All of their operations Friday night bore evidence of crudeness.

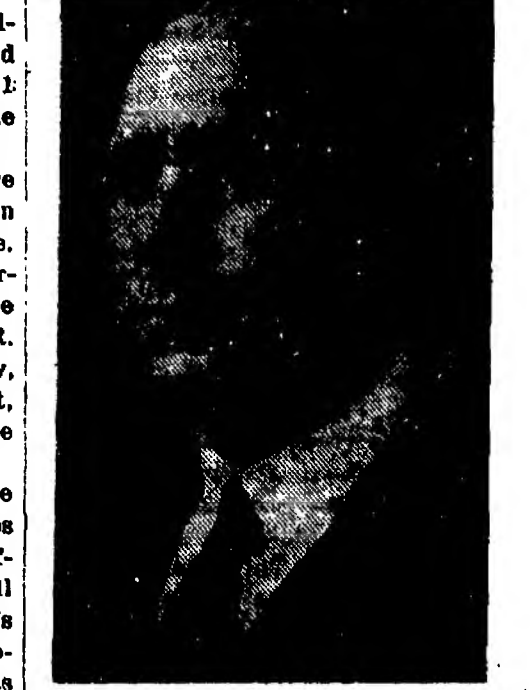
At the Cleaners place the sawing of the clasp which admitted them to the building, showed evidence of being a severely laborious job. Either the saw was very dull or the yeggs were inept at handling it. The attempt to crack the Cleaners' safe, too, was done the hard way. It appeared as though a coil chisel and a hammer had been used to pry open the door. The lock had not been tampered with, and it worked as usual when Manager Robert Coleman turned the dial and opened the safe to show The Newsmen his money-box containing a bag of money, paper bills and checks deposited there the afternoon before at closing time.

So far as he could see after looking over his place, Manager Coleman said the thieves took nothing. His net loss was the big steel clasp that fastened the back door. The small corner of the safe that was bent by the hammering was easily bent back into position.

All the evidence showed that the robbers broke into the County Garage first and there obtained the tools with which they operated in Lee's stable and the Sanitary Cleaners building.

Sheriff Salmon says no fingerprints were left.

### Sunday Speaker



With Dr. W. S. Allen of DeLand, Florida, as speaker, the Baptist Hour next Sunday, June 15, will feature Christian Education as a contributing factor in evangelizing the world, as announced by the Radio Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

The Baptist Hour may be heard over WWNC, Asheville, WSOC, Charlotte, WGN, Gastonia, WPTF, Raleigh, and WSJS, Winston-Salem.