

Harnett County News

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1947

OUTLOOK BRIGHT FOR GOOD CROPS

Oldtimers are reminding us again this season that we should not feel dubious about our crops just because we have had a late Spring. We never see, they say, a poor crop following a late Spring.

That's encouraging, to be sure, but Harnett farmers are not relying altogether on what "they say." In fact, they rely on nothing except their own initiative in making a good crop regardless of all "conditions."

Although it was rather late before they got their tiny roots in the open fields, tobacco plants are now growing like the proverbial mushroom. "In thirty days you will not be able to recognize those little plants," said one experienced farmer to The News the other day.

Cotton, too, seemed to be on the "late side" in getting started on its way to the "fleece white." But now that help is being sought to chop, it may be taken for granted that pickers will be sought along about the regular time for the gins to start.

Other crops are looking good also. Altogether, the prospect of good crops in Harnett this year seems bright enough.

White down in Bladen and Columbus counties last week. The News editor took a glance—a lot of glances—at the crops. Those counties generally are couple of weeks or more ahead of Harnett in crop-making. But only in a very few instances was it noted that there was more foliage in the fields than in Harnett. Spring of 1947 seems to have been late also in other places.

In about sixty days from now it will be time for tobacco-curing to begin. Our prediction is that it will begin on schedule.

HODGE-PODGING TO THE NTH DEGREE

North Carolina went haywire on the liquor issue when counties were allowed to break out of the State prohibition clinch simply because a majority of their citizens desired the legalized sale of liquor within their borders.

The principle of "local self-government" was stretched quite a bit in granting such a privilege, but it must be admitted there was at least some ground for the argument that inasmuch as liquor was on sale in bordering States it might as well be brought under supervision and profits kept at home. It was not, however, fair insofar as the menace of it was brought closer home to the dry counties bordering wet counties.

As has been known all along, the greatest desire for the legalized sale of liquor in any of the wet counties was prompted by the profits that would permit of reduced local tax rates.

But now comes a newer hodge-podge. Under the new liquor law a county can vote dry overwhelmingly while at the same time if a majority of the voters in a city in that county votes wet, the city can have liquor stores. That is hodge-podging to the nth degree.

It is democratic principle that majorities must rule. If a majority of the citizens in a county declare by their votes that they want their county to remain dry, their county should remain dry, regardless of how many votes are rolled up in the cities favoring liquor stores.

The larger towns in a county do not belong solely to the citizens of the towns. For instance, Lillington is the countyseat of Harnett, and it should not be wholly within the province of the citizens of this town to say whether liquor stores should be opened here. This town is not large enough to come within the provisions of the new Act, of course, but the principle applies to larger towns as well.

The contention of The News has been, and is now, that the people of North Carolina should be given the opportunity to vote on the legalization of liquor sales. A statewide referendum is the only way to settle the question and settle it right.

No lasting benefit can be derived from profits on liquor sales—by individuals or governments.

SURE SIGNS OF INFLATION BREAK

Considerable grumbling has been heard over high prices, and certainly there has been good cause for it. No one wants to pay what is considered a fair price for anything. And in a good many cases prices have been, and still are, unreasonable.

But not in every case has the seller been at fault. Production costs have risen to the point where high prices must be charged if the seller is not to be squeezed out of business.

This newspaper, like others, is now being gouged for more than twice the price for newsprint that we paid before the war. That knocks out completely all the profit from subscriptions. We are told that the price will go even higher. But we are not ready to believe the high price will last much longer. We believe that soon there will come an adjustment in paper prices, just as there will come reduction in other prices.

A prominent lumberman told us a few days ago that he had more finished lumber than he knew "what to do with." That sounds as though the builder will get relief soon. When buyers of lumber and other building materials decide to stage a halt, then something is going to be done. It can mean nothing else than a reduction in price. Somewhere along the line the reductions will begin, and labor will be the beginning point.

There are many signs that point directly to a break in the inflation we are now experiencing. Some people like to call this reaction a "recession." That nice word seems to bring less nausea than the oldtime expression "depression."

There is really no excuse for allowing a depression to descend upon us. It will not, if all of us exercise good judgment in our dealings with one another. But if we try to cling to high prices regardless of what comes, the reaction will start sooner and it will be much harder to bear. Here's hoping commonsense will prevail in all quarters.

DERIVES NO BENEFIT FROM BEING IDLE

This newspaper is not "hard down" on the practice of some parents in allowing their teen age youngsters to loaf and roam throughout the vacation season. We believe that all work and no play is harmful, just as all play and no work makes Jack a dull boy.

What we have contended is that one of the best lessons a youngster can be taught is that work is not only honorable but beneficial. Ever so often the News and Observer's "Rhamkatie Roaster" talks right down our alley, and we are here quoting what he has to say on this particular subject:

"What does ye think air responsible for much of the much talked of juvenile delinquency?" was the Old Codger's question this morning.

Ye Editor thought many things entered into it, the relapse after war and parental running around instead of staying at home with their children. To which the Old Codger replied:

"'I'll enliten yer ignorance. Ninetenths of it comes from havin' nothin' to do an' bein' allowed to loaf around pool rooms, drink fountains an' the like. Now when I wuz a boy I wuz a-doin' chores at home an' workin' on the farm an' my town cousins were cuttin' wood for the kitchen an' house, workin' in the garden an' doin' house chores. Now, how many of 'em air workin'?" I tell ye. 'An idle brain air the devil's workshop' an' the devil still finds work fer idle hands to do.

"Work air man's greatest blessin' an' air essential to youth. I believes in play an' thinks all work an' no play air bad fer youths. But all play an' no work air wussor. I agree with Robert Quillen who sez:

"The summer I was 16, I was out on my own, far from home, doing a journeyman printer's work at \$6 a week and my board.

"All boys of that period learned the habit of working in their early teens, and no doubt it kept many of them out of jail in later years. It is the idle youngster who gets into trouble—not the one who is working."

"The first step in curing juvenile delinquency should be a survey to determine how much of it results from loafing and boredom and lack of an interesting, respect-building job of work."

OBSERVATIONS

BY A COUNTRY SCRIBE

NO MYSTERY. — Mayor Loving and his Town Councilmen are up against a hard proposition in trying to discover the guilty party who bored holes in the town's shade trees and poisoned them. The Mayor, being the head of the Town Government, is of course intensely interested in tracking down the vandals; and it devolves heavily upon the Street Commissioner to also do some tracking. It is a shame that these fine trees are destroyed. As many years are required to grow a tree as for a vandal to grow up. We have too few of the former; one is too many of the latter.

However, there is one other shameful thing in Lillington. It is the streets. No mystery at all about how our streets have come into such miserable condition. The vandals'

name? Sure. Here it is: Neglect. With a \$1.74 tax rate, Lillington should have some streets that could be called streets. Who can deny it?

KILLER.—The News heard a suggestion a day or so ago that sounds good enough. It was: that when and if the particular brand of poison used on the town's shade trees is discovered, some of it be used to destroy the weeds and grass being allowed to grow on Lillington's streets. This suggestion is passed on to the town authorities. It sounds good.

PETITIONS.—Down in the courthouse at the Commissioners' meeting last "first" Monday there was a petition for removal of County Farm Agent Cliff Ammons. For some reason or other the Agent has acquired some enemies, although it would be difficult to determine just how many. When the petition was under consideration by the Executives, someone observed that signers to petitions are easy to get; that a petition to lynch a man, any man, at dawn or sunset would get signers, regardless. And that reminds us of an occasion not so long ago when petitions in a certain cause were being circulated. Perusal of the list of signers revealed that one man had attached his signature to both the petition for and the petition against. Was he on the fence? If so, what kind of a fence?

Of-fence and de-fence, I'd say.

PAVING.—One of Lillington's valuable citizens, a strong advocate of paved streets, remarked to The News the other day that the town had not an inch of paved street. And then we had to correct him, pointing out that the town certainly did have three blocks of paved streets. But the paving was paid for by individual property owners on the street. All other paving in town is state highway.

HONOR JOB.—There is no salary attached to Lillington's official positions of Mayor and Councilmen. They are honor jobs. It is indeed a great honor when people entrust their affairs to a small group. Realizing this, each man so honored should do his best to fulfill the duties involved to the very best of his ability—in a truly public-spirited way. Any man who is not intending to do just that, should not accept the honor and responsibility. It is also the duty of every citizen to aid in every way possible in making a success of the city administration. All good citizens will.

CRITICISM.—Every public official who knows anything at all knows that the very fact that he is a public official will bring upon him some sort of criticism—just or unjust. Just criticism is helpful, or should be—will be, if it hits the right type of official. Anyone who doesn't know the difference shouldn't attempt to hold public office.

GOOD TOWN, GOOD PEOPLE.—Lillington is a good town because its people are good. One might hear that such and such a place is a better town than this. But it isn't true. There aren't any better towns than this. To be sure we have some people here for whom we might consider a swap for some people of other towns. But that's true of every town. And so, we had best keep all we've got and try to get some more. By the way, how's the best way to get some more good people? Answer is easy: All of us chip in and make our town even better than it is. Then good people will want to come here. And they will come.

Boy Scout Problem Given to Rotarians

Lillington Rotarians had as their guests Thursday night Scoutmaster Andy Jackson and his assistant Joe Moss, one time captain in the Air Force, specializing in chasing enemy craft from the skies.

Scoutmaster Andy had a plan for revitalizing the local Scout organization by forming the older boys into an Air Patrol under the tutelage of Captain Moss. Not that they would engage in actual flying, he hastened to add, but they would be given ground training in various aerial activities along with model plane building and flying.

The plan was turned over to the Scout Committee for study, recommendation and action.

Present for the meeting was Earl Mahone, Dunn banker and Rotarian, who has charge of raising the funds for the operation of the Scout movement in Harnett County.

President Leslie Campbell of Campbell College had charge of the program and he presented an interesting and thought-provoking talk on the way people change their viewpoint as they grow older, becoming self-centered and bitter in too many cases as their idyllic visions of youth clashed with the stern realities of life. Man cannot live by bread alone, he warned his listeners. He must have mental food too. Life is a one way road—there is no turning back to take another. How are YOU facing life at forty and fifty? was the parting thought he left with his audience.

Constancy to truth and principle may sometimes lead to what the world calls inconsistency in conduct. —Tryon Edwards.

NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK?

By a Mere Thinker

You and I have read and heard much about talented young men and women leaving home to seek their fortunes in other places. The question is: Why do these young people not stay at home and devote their energies and capabilities to the up-growing and advancement of their native communities? The answer is: They see better opportunities elsewhere.

Then comes the flat statement that there exist in the home communities just as good opportunities as are offered anywhere.

That statement is subject to dispute. It is true that there are plenty of channels into which the talents of our young-grown people could be directed. But are these channels opened to them? The answer is no.

The truth of the matter is that when the services of a capable young man or woman are needed, selection is made of someone from a far piece away.

When a chamber of commerce needs a secretary, instead of appointing to the post a local young man who knows everything and everybody in the community and round about and who with a little encouragement and cooperation could bring about more material advancement for the home community than any stranger could ever hope to do, what happens? Mr. Thingumbob from 'way out yonder, whom no one locally knows from Adam's housecat, is called in. (That's one big reason why most chambers of commerce don't get very far with their programs and are continually changing executives.)

Just the other day an announcement by a prominent business concern that its broadcasting station would be opened soon also carried the statement that Mr. Whoozit from faraway Okimo would have charge.

Last week a man from Ohio who has only two and a half years of experience in the service with which he is connected was given priority over a local man with thirteen and a half years to his credit in the same service. And, too, the young man (the "foreigner" is around 60) has efficiency rating plus in all of his work. The young local man was turned down after being promised the newly created position, and it was given to the man from a distance.

I know personally of many instances where this practice has been carried on. And it is not confined to any one particular phase of endeavor. It is practiced by both governmental and privately conducted enterprises.

Is it enough to discourage young men and young women who have attained educational qualifications and are enthused over the possibilities for achievement (but not in their home communities)? The channels should be opened and they should be given a chance to demonstrate their ability to "make good."

But is this done? No. In most instances, no doubt, the local talent is far superior to that imported from a distance. In many cases that fact has been made patent. But the practice goes on.

We hear so much about our need for "building up" and "making progress" and doing this, that and the other, while at the same time we see our own home-grown young men and women leaving us for other parts. The part they should take in helping us to do great things is turned over to new and untried persons who, in the main, have no interest whatever in our local progress other than the pay check (which by the way must be large to start with and increased ever so often).

There is too much of a tendency to discount the capabilities of our local young people. We look upon them as being unqualified for any important work or undertaking or shouldering responsibility. We look upon them as "kids we have known all their lives" and therefore unsafe for trustworthy positions.

Of maximum importance in any undertaking is the character, stability and qualifications of the person who is to be in charge. How will we ever know whether one of our own youngsters can "measure up" (til he or she is given a chance to demonstrate his or her ability)?

Is it any wonder why our youngsters are anxious to get away from home to make their mark in the world?

Is it any wonder we fail to make the progress we would like to make, when we offer nothing but discouragement to the very persons who could and would do more to help us than anyone else?

What do YOU think?

MR. NOAH ANDERSON ILL

Mr. Noah Anderson is very ill at the home of his sister, Mrs. Mary Thomas, 411 West Cabarrus St., Raleigh. He is, however, able to receive visitors. Friends visiting him are requested not to mention having read of his illness in The News.

CASES HEARD IN SUPERIOR COURT

Harnett Superior Court convened Monday morning for its June civil term which has been calendared for only one instead of two weeks, with Judge W. C. Harris presiding.

As The News goes to press the following cases have been disposed of: Seven divorces: Lillian J. Bailey from Ansell E. Bailey, Sr.; Thelma King Hammett from Luther Fred Hammett; Ernest H. Dudley from Louise H. Dudley; Rena M. Dill from Clarence D. Dill; Vester Lee from Annie Lee; Mamie Ennis Core from William Braston Core; Charlie DeBerry from Chief DeBerry.

A judgment of \$1500 was awarded the plaintiff in the case of Commercial Bank of Dunn against J. T. Matthews, Jr.

Raz Autry won a judgment of \$174.25 against A. E. Baggett. Voluntary nonsuit was taken in the case of David H. Young against Worth Stewart.

The case of Ralph Clark against Leroy Allen was continued. The case of F. E. Summerlin against W. M. Pope is being heard.

Father of The News Contributor Dies

G. Broughton Spence, 49, died at 2 p. m. Wednesday at his home, Lillington R-2, following a lingering illness. Funeral services were held Thursday at 4 p. m. at the Antioch Church, and burial was in the church cemetery. The Rev. Lee Johnson of Fuquay Springs and the Rev. A. C. McCall of Bunnlevel officiated. Surviving are his wife; three sons, James Spence of the Navy, and Phillip and G. B. Spence, Jr. of the home; six daughters, Ruth, Betty Sue, Madge, Fay, Judy, and Lottie Spence, all of the home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Spence of Lillington, Route 1, and five brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Spence's son James is the writer of "Sea Thoughts," written for The News while on various cruises with the Navy.

Nearly Through Re-Indexing Job

County Attorney H. C. Strickland announced to the Board of Commissioners Monday that the re-indexing of the real estate records in the Register of Deeds' office is nearly completed. About one month more will be required to finish the job, he said.

The job was begun in 1943 and it was estimated then that it would cost the county around \$8,000 to \$10,000. The task was greater, however, than at first visualized, and the completed cost will run around \$30,000.

The recent Legislature validated the new index.

Planning Board Makes Report

The first comprehensive survey of all the service needs of North Carolina children and youth ever attempted was released today by the State Planning Board Committee on Services for Children and Youth.

"The young people in North Carolina constitute our greatest resource," wrote Governor R. Gregg Cherry in a foreword to the report, which was made possible through a grant of funds from Parents' Institute, New York.

"Continuing, Governor Cherry said: "North Carolina will be a great State in the next generation to the extent that today's youth as individual citizens can make it great. Are the services which they receive from their State today of such quality as best to prepare them for the responsibilities of citizenship to which they must fall heir? What are these services? In terms of sound standards, to what extent are they deficient? What ought the State do to correct the deficiencies?"

The importance of the subject as one which should be of interest to all governmental and nongovernmental agencies concerned with planning for future citizens was illustrated when the report pointed out that more than three-fourths of all the State's general fund expenditures are used directly to provide services for children and youth.

Governor Cherry also pointed out that he thought it was particularly significant that the personnel of the committee, of which Dr. I. G. Greer, Superintendent, North Carolina Baptist Orphanage, is chairman, included representatives of the dozen odd State agencies which have jurisdiction over some phase of providing services for young people.

This coordination of effort was deliberate, the State Planning Board announced, in order that services for the "whole child" could be studied, without regard to departmental boundary lines.

The USDA announced that a program under which miles will be purchased for the Mexican government will be initiated at an early date.

Look upon each day as the whole of life, not merely a section; and enjoy and improve the present without wishing through haste to rush on to another.—Ruskin.

PLANS FOR LEGION MEETING AT CAROLINA BEACH COMPLETE

JOEL H. POOLE

Carolina Beach. — Plans for the 1947 convention of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and the Legion and Eight, to be held here June 14-17 are complete and indications are that it will be the largest Legion convention ever held in the State, according to W. L. "Bill" Farmer, chairman of the convention arrangements committee.

General Jacob L. Devers, chief of the U. S. Army Ground Forces and formerly stationed at Fort Bragg, will make the main address at the closing session on June 17.

Paul R. Younts, executive vice-commander of the North Carolina Department of the Legion, has worked out a full and interesting program and so have Mrs. Tom Bird, president of the Legion Auxiliary, and Edwin Burge, Grande Chef de Gare of the Forty and Eight. Farmer said.

The Legion, Auxiliary and Forty and Eight programs will be supplemented by what Chairman Farmer says will in all likelihood be the "biggest and best" entertainment program ever staged at a North Carolina Legion convention.

In addition to the beauty pageants on Sunday, June 15, at which time a "Miss North Carolina American Legion" will be chosen from among a bevy of beauties representing the various posts in the State, the Carolina Beach committee has planned a mock amphibious battle in which Marines from Camp Lejeune, sailors from Norfolk, Va., and members of the famed 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg will participate. The committee has planned a mammoth fish fry to end the convention on Tuesday afternoon, June 17.

The Forty and Eight, fun and honor society of the Legion, will get the convention underway Saturday, June 14, with a jam-packed program of fun and frolic, including a "wreck" of P. G.'s (Poor Goofs, that is) from various posts in the State.

The Legion program proper gets underway Saturday morning with the beginning of registration of delegates and others in front of the Hotel Bame, convention headquarters. The Child Welfare luncheon will follow at 12:30, and at 2:30 p. m. the Department Executive Committee will meet in the City Auditorium. The annual memorial service will be held that night in the Baptist church, with Department Chaplain John D. McReady presiding.

Big Day Monday

Monday, June 16, will be a full day, with the program getting underway at 9:30 a. m. in City Hall, with Department Commander William M. York formally calling the convention to order. The address of welcome will be delivered by Superior Court Judge John J. Burney, a Legionnaire.

Governor R. Gregg Cherry, first Legionnaire ever to be elected chief executive of the State, will bring greetings to the convention. Committee announcements will follow before final adjournment.

Joel Henry Poole, 71, of Coats R-1, died at his home Sunday about 5 p. m. after a lingering illness. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 3 from the home. Elder J. T. Lewis of Coats officiated. Interment was in the Williams cemetery in Coats. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Fannie Poole; two sons, Hiram of Coats R-1, and Moses of Erwin R-1; one daughter, Mrs. Fleahman Tart of Coats R-1; two brothers, R. A. Poole and Zannie Lee Poole, both of Coats R-1; seven sisters, Mrs. Ando Williams, Mrs. Monroe Sures, Mrs. Tom Williams, Mrs. Minnie Winston, Mrs. Ed Dixon, and Mrs. Frank Stone, all of Coats, Mrs. Joe Stewart of Dunn and seven grandchildren. Mr. Poole was a native of Harnett County and had lived in the Coats vicinity all of his life.

EMORY C. SLOAN

Emory C. Sloan, 33, son of Mrs. Matilda Watson Sloan and the late W. A. Sloan of Jonesboro, R-2, died in a hospital in Raleigh Tuesday morning at 8:34 o'clock after an illness of several months and after one month of critical illness. His father died only one month ago. Surviving are his wife, the former Beale Hart of Wilmington; one son, Jimmy Sloan; his mother; three sisters, Mrs. Garland Perry of Sanford, Mrs. W. L. Bowling of Broadway, Mrs. Clarence M. McNeill of Jonesboro, R-1; and one brother, Landon Sloan of Wilmington. Funeral services were held at the home of his mother, Jonesboro, R-2, at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and burial was in Shallow Well Church cemetery.

low. At 11:00 a. m. there will be a joint meeting of the Legion and the Auxiliary.

At 2:00 p. m. the Army, Navy, and Marine units will stage their mock amphibious battle and other simulated warfare. At 3:00 the drum and bugle corps competition begins and at 5:00 the parade starts.

The annual Go-Getters banquet in honor of Legionnaires who have secured ten or more members during the past year will be held at 7:00 p. m. at the Ocean Plaza. Only those holding Go-Getters cards will be admitted.

The annual Legion ball will be held from 10:00 p. m. to 2:00 a. m. at the Ocean Plaza. In between will come the fireworks display starting at 11:30 p. m.

Tuesday's sessions start at 9:30 a. m., at which time reports and recommendations will be submitted by the various committees. Following this will be the presentation of distinguished guests, the election of department officers and the selection of delegates and alternates to the National Legion Convention.

A silent tribute to departed comrades will be the last order of business before final adjournment.

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