

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

## Special Court Term To Open Monday

### PHILLIPS CASE ON SECOND TRIAL STARTS MONDAY

JUDGE JOHN J. BURNEY OF WILMINGTON TO PRESIDE AT SPECIAL TERM TO GIVE CHARLIE PHILLIPS NEW TRIAL

Charlie Phillips, tenant farmer of Black River township, will go on trial a second time next Monday morning for the killing of his wife at their home near Angier while they were at the dinner table on Sunday, August 18, 1946.

Less than a month later, Phillips was convicted of the slaying, and Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn sentenced him to die in the State's gas chamber. His execution was stayed when his attorneys, Neill McK. Salmon and Charles Ross of Lillington, appealed the case to Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court refused to reverse the decision of the Harnett court, and Phillips was given a new execution date.

It was a short time before he was to meet death in the gas chamber when a note purported to be written by his wife, Etta Mae Phillips, was found in the pocket of a pair of slacks which she was supposed to have worn immediately preceding her death.

This note, written in red ink on a sheet from a patented medicine calendar, gave an outline of her intention to commit suicide. It was found by some of her relatives while searching through Mrs. Phillips' personal effects. The note was presented by Phillips' counsel as evidence warranting a new trial, and the case was reopened at the May, 1947, term of Harnett criminal court. Defense attorneys made a motion before Judge Burgwyn, who sat on the case for his second time. Judge Burgwyn granted the motion for a new trial.

After he had signed the order granting Phillips another hearing on the charge of slaying his wife, Judge Burgwyn stated he wished to be relieved of sitting on the case when the new trial came up. His wishes were complied with when Governor Cherry assigned Judge Burney to preside at the special term beginning here next Monday.

In conformity to law, the Board of Commissioners at their June meeting drew a jury list of 36 men for the special term. It is doubtful, however, that any of the men will sit on the case since it will probably be difficult to empanel a jury of 12 men from Harnett county who have not read about, heard discussed, or formed an opinion in the case. It will be necessary, says Clerk of Court Godwin, to summon a special venire from an adjoining county to sit on the Phillips case.

If the Phillips case is called first upon the convening of court Monday morning, it will necessarily be delayed by the time taken for Sheriff Salmon to bring jurors from another county. In the meantime, while the court is waiting for the special veniremen to arrive, Solicitor Jack Hooks may call for trial some of the cases waiting for the September term.

Judge Burney will decide from which of the eight counties bordering Harnett the special venire will be recruited. Clerk of Court Godwin states that the law specifies that the jurors must come from an adjoining county.

There are several other cases awaiting trial, and if Solicitor Hooks decides to take up any of these, the 36 jurors summoned to serve for the special term will be called into service; otherwise they will be available for the September term.



RUN OF THE MINE... John L. Lewis glances up doubtfully as he finishes signing new wage contract for his United Mine Workers with the mine operators. The miners returned to work after a brief strike.

### To Fill In

Just to be sure that the special term of Harnett Superior Court which convenes next Monday has no idle moments on its hands as it waits for the long-drawn-out process of securing a jury to sit in the Phillips case is completed, Clerk of Court Howard Godwin has fixed up a little calendar of cases to fill in. They are:

J. B. Lucas, reckless driving; John Ransom Harfoot, cruelty to animals; Robert Tart, cruelty to animals; Bernice and Huey Moore, larceny and receiving; R. B. Jackson, worthless check; Edith Howington, disorderly conduct, profanity; W. C. Coleman, reckless driving; Bruce Gregory, assault on female; James Murchison and Joe N. McAllister, injury to livestock.

It may take several days to get a jury in the box to try the Phillips case, and Solicitor Hooks may take up some of the above cases while waiting for the jury to be brought in.

## PARENTS SUE GOVERNMENT IN SON'S DEATH

MR. AND MRS. M. C. UPCHURCH OF DUNN R-3 FILE SUIT FOR \$50,000 AGAINST WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

Charging that faulty equipment caused their son, Joseph C. Upchurch, to fall into the hold of a ship and sustain injuries from which he died last August 7, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Upchurch of Dunn R-3 have filed a suit for \$50,000 in Federal court in Raleigh.

Suits in admiralty are rare, this being the first filed in the Raleigh court in over a quarter of a century. Joseph Upchurch, 22, was a merchant seaman and was engaged in unloading a ship at Charleston, S. C. Because of the faulty equipment and no safeguards for those engaged in the hazardous work, he lost his balance and fell 40 feet into the hold of the ship.

It is charged in the suit that the operators of the ship, the SS William H. Moody, knew that defective machinery was being used in the handling of the cargo, and that they failed to provide sufficient men to do the work.

Mr. and Mrs. Upchurch claim that their son had an earning capacity of \$400 a month at the time of his death.

Young Upchurch held a boat-swain's rating on the merchant vessel. He died a few hours after the fall.

Representing the plaintiffs are J. R. Hood of Lillington and J. M. Broughton of Raleigh.

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## WOMAN AND MAN HELD IN JAIL IN STABBING DEATH

BESSIE LOUISE McNEILL ADMITS STABBING ANNIE MAE WILLIAMS WITH KNIFE SUNDAY NIGHT

Bessie Louise McNeill, 20, is being held in jail here charged with the killing of Annie Mae Williams, about 20, last Sunday night at the home of Willie Price in Stewart's Creek township near Linden. Scene of the killing is not far from the Cumberland county line.

Also being held is B. C. Cameron, about 35, who is alleged to have been with the McNeill woman when the killing took place. All parties are Negroes.

Coroner C. B. Allred who with Sheriff Salmon investigated the case, stated that the Williams woman admitted stabbing the McNeill woman but claimed that Annie Mae advanced on her with a knife. Search failed to find any knife, however, according to the coroner.

Coroner Allred summoned a jury and the verdict called for the holding of the McNeill woman for action by the grand jury. Cameron also is being held awaiting decision of Solicitor Hooks.

The story of the killing, as learned by the officers, was that a visit was made by Bessie Louise McNeill and B. C. Cameron to the Price home where the Williams woman was. They left but later returned and the stabbing took place. The weapon used was said to be a pocket knife.

Also aiding Coroner Allred in the investigation of the case were Deputy Ken Matthews and Deputy Claud Avery of Erwin.

It was said that Cameron took the McNeill woman to the Price home on both visits. It was learned in a roundabout way that the two women had been quarrelling over the man Cameron.

The grand jury will not meet again till the first week in September when it sits for the first Fall term of criminal court.

## BYRD RESIGNS FROM HOSPITAL

Commissioner Receives High Praise From Chairman Tyler For His Services and Interest in Hospital

Commissioner Lonnie R. Byrd of Erwin R-1 has tendered his resignation as a director of the Harnett Hospital in Dunn. Secretary Raymond Cromartie said Mr. Byrd's successor will be named at the August meeting of the hospital board.

Chairman Henry Tyler gave high praise to Mr. Byrd for his services and interest in the hospital. Other members of the board also expressed regret that the Commissioner felt compelled to retire from the board.

Mr. Byrd has always manifested a keen interest in the affairs of the hospital and rendered valuable services in its successful operation.

He gave as his reason for his resignation his inability to be present at all of the recent meetings on account of his health. The meetings are mostly held at night, and Mr. Byrd lives quite a distance from Dunn.

An act of the 1947 legislature authorized the transfer of the hospital from the county to a private corporation.

Mr. Byrd, whose long continued service to the county is recognized, is regarded as one of the county's outstanding public servants.

MISS RACHEL PLEASANT IS DORMITORY EXECUTIVE

Miss Rachel Pleasant of Angier has been elected an officer for Cotten Hall at East Carolina Teachers College at Greenville.

## AMMONS CALLS ATTENTION TO FARM SAFETY

ASKS OBSERVANCE BY HARNETT FARM FAMILIES OF NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK JULY 20-26

Attention of Harnett County farm families is directed to the importance of National Farm Safety Week, which is July 20-26. This week has been officially proclaimed by President Truman, and this serves as a reminder that over 4,300 people are killed in farm accidents every year and over 900,000 farm people are injured in accidents each year at a cost in dollars and cents of more than \$150,000,000.

An accident, right now, somewhere, is "looking for a place to happen," stated C. R. Ammons, County Agent, today, and here briefly are the two basic rules for farm safety: (1) Prevention. Recognize the dangers on your farm and remove them before accidents happen. (2) Preparedness. Be ready to deal properly with an accident if it should occur. It is important that you sharpen your eyes and wits to discover all possible hazards on your farm and remove them immediately—tomorrow may be too late. Get in the habit of doing things the safe way, and see that every member of your family and every worker on your farm learns safety habits.

There are two basic kinds of accidents: (1) Those resulting from mechanical causes such as unguarded machinery, defective and worn rope, tools, and other equipment, holes in platforms and floorings, etc., (2) Those resulting from personal causes such as carelessness, thoughtlessness, ignorance, stupidity, recklessness, insubordination, "horseplay," and other such human failings. But all these causes of accidents can be brought under control by the intelligent and conscientious farmer.

Past accidents can be valuable guides in preventing similar ones in the future. Vigilance is the necessary price of farm safety.

The true wealth of a nation lies not in its natural resources, or in the amount of gold bullion cached away, but in its human resources. The safeguarding of these priceless human resources, therefore, is the soundest possible investment for the farmer, for his family, and for his community.

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## LADIES' SHOP TO OPEN HERE

Mrs. Inez Ausley and Mrs. Catherine Morton to Deal in Ladies' and Children's Ready-to-Wear

While their store is being renovated and made ready for opening about September 1st, Mrs. Inez Ausley and Mrs. Catherine Morton have been busy collecting modern ideas as well as material for the "Frock Shop" which is located next to Hotel Lillington on Front street.

Following a trip to northern markets to purchase the latest and most wanted wearables for women and children, the well-known and experienced proprietors expect to take due time for arranging all details of their store in order to not only make it attractive but to see that selecting of desired articles can be done in a comfortable and convenient way.

They announce that they will keep in stock everything the feminine fancy may admire and find useful except shoes. They may add these later on.

## Wait A Minute—Waste A Minute!

Did you have eggs for breakfast? Lots of people do—eggs taste good, they're good for you, and besides, they're quickly prepared when you're late for work and time is precious.

Lives are precious, too. In the three minutes or so while your breakfast eggs are boiling, at least two pedestrians were killed or injured somewhere on the nation's highways—or maybe in your community. While you were eating, another ten or more met with disaster.

Chances are 3 to 1 those victims were in a hurry—they took the short way across the middle of the block, instead of the safe way at the crosswalk. They stepped out suddenly from behind a parked car, instead of looking both ways to see if the road was clear, or waiting until the traffic light turned green.

National Conservation Bureau safety specialists report that impatience is the nation's Number One highway killer. Time is precious—sure! But not enough to pay for it with a life.

## Parties in Auto Collision Are Taking Adjustment to Court

### PLAN TO OPEN SUMMERVILLE CHURCH AGAIN

LOCAL PRESBYTERIANS CALL ON ALL WHO CHERISH THE OLD CHURCH TO HELP IN CLEANING UP GROUNDS

Tomorrow (Friday) all those who have relatives buried at Summerville cemetery and all who cherish the old Summerville Church are asked to meet at the church grounds to aid in cleaning up the cemetery and church grounds.

Summerville Church is located across Highway 421 from the County Home, and is one of the oldest of Harnett's houses of worship. Until about ten years ago it was used regularly but has been closed because of consolidation of membership in other nearby churches.

A local committee composed of O. S. Atkins, M. R. Morgan, Dr. S. R. McKay and C. Reid Ross is calling on all who wish to aid in the cleaning-up of the grounds to meet them at the church Friday morning at the ringing of the bell in the old church's tower.

Says the Committee in a circular issued this week: "We want to clean up around the church and have a meeting to make plans for repairing the church so we can have Sunday school there and perhaps have church services there once a month to start with and then, later, more often."

All Presbyterians as well as many others will rejoice in the suggestion that Summerville Church be reopened for worship services. In years gone by the Cause of the Kingdom has been greatly advanced through services at the historic old church, not only by addition of recruits in the work but by re-enthused members of the denomination becoming more determined to follow closely the faith of the fathers.

The call will no doubt meet with hearty and spirited response on the part of Presbyterians, and members of other denominations will manifest their goodwill also.

## FAYETTEVILLE IN BORDER BELT

Cumberland Warehouses To Open August 7 Along With All Other Markets In Border Belt

Of unusual interest to tobacco growers in Harnett and adjoining counties is the fact that the warehouses at Fayetteville are included the Border Belt warehouses.

In making the announcement of the opening of the Fayetteville warehouses, the Tobacco Board of Trade of the historic old Cape Fear town reminds farmers that the market has three modern warehouses, a modern redrying plant, Government grading and inspecting.

Fayetteville being the largest city in the Border Belt area, it stands out prominently as a tobacco selling center. Although in operation only a few years, the market has grown to such proportions that it is destined to become one of the leading leaf markets in the entire bright leaf area.

## Free Orchids To You, Says A Special Message From Quito

Want to go into the orchid business? If so, you can get some free seeds—almost free—that is, Juan Pastor says you can.

In a letter to The News, Pastor, who signs himself Doctor of Science, Doctor of Botanic Medicine, and Director of South American No. 1 Botanical Experimental Station, Quito, Ecuador, South America. Add to that address: Casilla 2220.

Dr. Pastor says: "Free orchids to you, in your own home, from seed to bloom, with South America's compliments and good wishes for a continued hemispheric solidarity."

For only 15 cents in stamps he will send you, he says, a packet of seeds, with "complete instructions showing you how to propagate these fascinating and exotically beautiful tropical flowers right in your own home, winter or summer." (A discount of 5 cents for cash instead of stamps.)

### Pastors Wanted

Regrouping of 8 Presbyterian churches in the upper part of Harnett county has resulted in these formations: Raven Rock, Leaflet and Mt. Pisgah. Ephesus and Barbecue. Church of the Covenant, Cameron Hill and Cypress. There is no pastor for any of these groups, some of them having been pastorless for sometime. Pulpit committees, however, are endeavoring to secure pastors and it is believed that very soon all of the pulpits will be filled.

## STRONG TESTS ARE PROMISED IN 4-H DRESS REVUE

WINNER IN NEXT SATURDAY'S EVENT HERE TO BE GIVEN TRIP TO STATE COLLEGE AUG. 18-25

There will be some stiff competition when 4-H Club girls compete next Saturday in a County Dress Revue. The girls to take part will be those who won first place in the dress revues in their local schools last April. The County revue will be held at 10:00 a. m. on July 26 in the Home Demonstration Office. The winner in this event will be awarded a trip to State 4-H Club week to be held at State College August 18-25. During the week she will take part in the district dress revue.

Also, on Saturday morning there will be a County Canning contest for club members taking Food Preservation. The exhibits in the contest will be divided into two groups: First, the two-jar exhibit—the winning jars in this group to be exhibited at the State Fair in October, and second, the four-jar exhibit from which the best jars will be selected to determine the County winner among the junior 4-H members.

4-H girls are urged to bring their best jars of canned food and take part in the contest. If they can not come in person, jars may be brought in early and left in the home demonstration office.

## Psychological Examinations

Dr. Harry K. Dorsett, Psychologist with the State Board of Public Welfare, Raleigh, held the regular psychological clinic at the Harnett County Welfare Department on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19. Children from Sampson, Moore and Harnett counties were given psychological examination.

## Home-coming Day At Juniper Springs

A Home-coming Day is to be held at Juniper Springs Baptist Church, near Broadway, on Sunday, August 3.

They wish to extend a cordial invitation to all former members, pastors and friends of the church. A picnic lunch will be served. Those who come are requested to bring baskets.

## Free Orchids To You, Says A Special Message From Quito

America this year "and see for yourself the world's greatest natural gardens—a million square miles of jungle."

From seed to bloom, how long? Dr. Pastor doesn't state, but growers of orchids in this country say it takes seven years to get a bloom out of an orchid. They require more nursing than a baby Chihuahua.

First evidence (and it is little more than evidence) is a very tiny hair-like sprout about an eighth of an inch long. (Microscope and small tweezers can be used more effectively in handling them.)

## HEAVY DAMAGE SUIT IS FILED IN COURT HERE

THOMAS FAMILY SUING MISS ALICE PATTERSON FOR TOTAL OF \$25,000 FOR ONE DEATH AND INJURIES

Mrs. Lola Mae Thomas, Steven Thomas and E. C. Thomas have filed suit in Harnett Superior Court for a total of \$25,000 against Miss Alice Patterson, clerk in Tax Collector W. D. Harrington's office. The complaints were filed Monday morning by M. O. Lee and K. R. Hoyle, attorneys for the plaintiffs.

Mrs. Lola Thomas, who is 19, by her next friend, Eldon Thomas, is asking \$10,000, for injuries. E. C. Thomas, husband and administrator of Mrs. Claudia Thomas, is asking \$10,000 for the death of Mrs. Thomas.

An award of \$5,000 is asked for Steven Thomas, aged 2 1/2 years. It is understood here that J. Clayborne McNeill and family of Lee county are filing suit against Miss Patterson in Lee court for a like amount.

The suits grow out of an automobile collision on last March 9 at the intersection of the CCC road and highway 421 between Lillington and Sanford, the crash occurring at what is known as Italy Hill just outside the town limits of Lillington.

The plaintiffs allege that they were riding in Clayborne McNeill's car on highway 421 and that "defendant failed to exercise due care and intelligence in operating her car and operated her car against the said McNeill car while it was on its right side and against the right front fender just in front of the dashboard, causing it to turn around and over on its right side and to crush the head and body of Mrs. Claudia Thomas so she died while being transported in an ambulance to Lee county hospital."

The other five occupants of the McNeill car were injured. It is alleged. Mrs. Thomas' death was the only fatal casualty resulting from the crash.

Three occupants of the McNeill car are residents of Harnett county and the other three were residents of Lee county.

With Miss Alice Patterson in her car at the time of the collision were her sister, Miss Lottie Patterson, and Miss Doris Curran. All three of them sustained injuries.

Although it has not been definitely learned here, it is reported that the suits filed in Lee county aggregate \$35,000.

Plaintiff is allowed 20 days for filing answer. It is understood that Neill McKay Salmon will represent Miss Patterson in the suits.

## Expression of Thanks

The Youth Recreation Council would like to make the following people expressions of gratitude for the summer program:

1. The merchants who so graciously furnished tennis prizes.
2. Mrs. T. D. O'Quinn for her untiring work on the Council.
3. To the parents who furnished refreshments, transportation and financial aid.
4. To Mr. John H. Blackman and others for their work and organization.
5. To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ross and Mr. Alec White for the use of their swimming facilities.
6. To the Town Council for the use of Town Hall.
7. To all who in any way made this program possible.

## OUTMODES ATOM BOMB

Prof. T. D. J. Leech is leading a group in development of an American-British weapon of which he says, "by comparison the atom bomb is a clumsy method of attack." "It is a New Zealand."