

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, August 14, 1947

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

Harnett Hospital to be Enlarged If Federal Agency Approves

EXECUTIVES O. K. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

COUNTY TO RELINQUISH ALL FINANCIAL INTEREST AND AT LEAST \$54,000 TO BE SPENT IN ENLARGEMENT

Pending the approval of Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator in Washington, plans are virtually complete for Harnett county to relinquish all financial claim on Harnett County Hospital at Dunn, the institution to be turned over to a corporation known as Dunn Hospital, Inc., and extensive additions to be made.

For making the additions, \$54,000 is now available, and The News is reliably informed that this sum is only a starter toward making the hospital one of the most commodious in this section.

Parties who are making the donation of \$54,000 to the institution are not now revealed, but it is stated that they are ready to increase their gift considerably in order to make the hospital one of the best equipped in the State.

At a special meeting last Wednesday, the Board of County Commissioners agreed with officials of the hospital to turn over all rights and financial interest in view of the fact that the corporation which was formed following a special authorization act by the 1947 legislature, is willing to undertake all responsibilities of further operation and enlargement.

Attorney I. R. Williams of Dunn, acting for the corporation, and County Commissioner Ferd D. Jackson, representing the county executive board, went to Washington yesterday to confer with Administrator Fleming in regard to sanctioning the transfer. If the administrator approves, the corporation will immediately take charge and proceed with its plans for enlargement of the hospital.

Reason for the necessity of obtaining approval of the Federal Works Administrator is that the Government put money into the establishment of the hospital, and that procedure could only be followed in the instance that it was a publicly-owned institution. Transfer, therefore to a private corporation cannot be perfected until that fund is restored. The \$54,000 will be held in trust for that purpose, or used as the Federal Works Agency may direct.

Harnett County Commissioners were only too glad to yield the county's interest to the corporation agreeing to continue the operation of the hospital and enlarge it, because its financing and operation had been more than a headache to the County Executives by reason of the fact that too much detail devolved upon them while they were exerting all their efforts to manage the county's affairs.

It was seen soon after the hospital was established that it was impracticable for the County Commissioners to undertake direct responsibility for its operation, and a board of directors was appointed, some of the Commissioners being included on the board.

The hospital has made a remarkable record. Although crowded far beyond its limited capacity, it has come through with an enviable record of service. The staff has been highly commended.

Youth Fellowship To Meet in Fuquay

The Cape Fear Subdistrict of the Methodist Youth Fellowship will have its meeting on Wednesday, August 20, at 7 p. m. in Fuquay Springs. Visiting Fellowship teams will be present. Everyone is urged to attend and bring a picnic basket.

School Openings

Given choice of two dates for their openings for the 1947-48 term, all principals of white schools in Harnett county have chosen Tuesday, September 2nd, with the exception of Angler and Benhaven.

Principal Carr of Angler has decided to open August 26, and Principal Knox Harrington of Benhaven will probably open on the same date, although he has not yet definitely decided.

So as to conform to the college dates, Bule's Creek school will open on September 9.

Negro schools will open on September 10.

Annual Farm Tour To Start From Lillington Tomorrow

C. R. Ammons, county farm agent, T. D. O'Quinn, assistant, Miss Rachel Herring, home demonstration agent, and Miss Lorraine Vail, assistant, have addressed the following invitation to farm leaders in the various communities in the county:

"The annual farm tour for Harnett county farm men and women will be held on Friday, August 15, starting promptly at 9 a. m. from the Agriculture Building in Lillington.

"This is a one-day tour and will include visits to eight different projects being conducted on the farms and in the homes by farm men and women here in Harnett county.

"Arrangements for lunch have been made by the Agriculture Committee of the Dunn Chamber of Commerce, and this will be served in Dunn about 12:45 p. m. The expense of this meal will be at a nominal price to each individual. An address will be given at this time by a representative of the North Carolina Farm Bureau.

"This farm and home tour includes activities of both farm men and women. While we realize that farm people are very busy at this time, the Farm and Home Agents are anxious that you make arrangements to attend this tour, if at all possible. May we suggest that the neighborhood leaders arrange to assemble one car from their respective neighborhoods and go on this tour?"

"The tour will include projects along the following lines: 4-H Club work; home management and renovation; hybrid corn, both foundation and regular hybrid; and farm management; food conservation and preservation.

"Business men and civic club members are cordially invited to attend and participate in this tour."

LILLINGTON TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE SHOP FOR LADIES

MRS. S. H. AUSLEY AND MRS. CHARLIE MORTON TO OPEN "THE FROCK SHOP" HERE ABOUT SEPT. 1

Newest business firm now assured for Lillington is "The Frock Shop" which is scheduled to open not later than September 1. It will be located in the brick building on Front street next to Hotel Lillington.

Mrs. S. H. Ausley and Mrs. Charlie Morton, two of the most experienced and expert ladies in Lillington in handling ladies' goods, are the proprietors of the new shop, which has been renovated, remodeled and decorated and fitted especially for their use by the owner of the building, Mr. Jool G. Layton, Sr.

It will be the first business house of that nature to locate on the north side of Front street, which holds the bulk of retail dry goods and other stores of the town.

Mrs. Ausley and Mrs. Morton are now busy selecting ready-to-wear items that they through long experience have learned that are the choicest. They state that they will stock the most wanted items, and will cater to the wishes of ladies who know good materials when they see them.

The proprietors of The Frock Shop are announcing in this issue of The News that prospective customers and all other interested may begin now to look forward to their opening date which will be announced soon.

Their formal opening will be announced later.

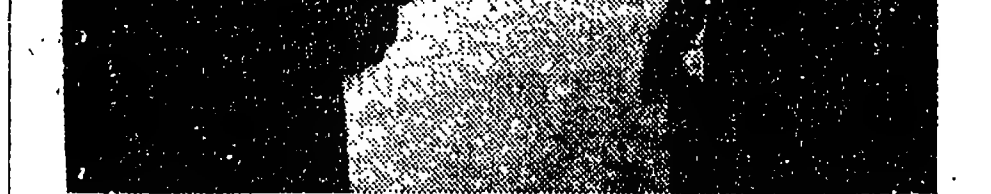
Auxiliary to Have Annual Picnic

The Woman's Auxiliary of Lillington Presbyterian Church will have their annual picnic supper and program in the home of Mrs. Charles Ross on Tuesday, August 19, at 8:30 p. m. Mrs. W. D. Pearce of Raleigh will be the speaker. All members are asked to bring a covered dish and to contact their circle chairmen for transportation if necessary.

Farm and Home Week of Red Letter Days

Since its beginning forty years ago, the biggest Farm and Home Week ever held is contemplated by John W. Goodman, secretary, and assistant director of the State College Extension Service as he goes over the events planned for August 25-29 with Director I. O. Schaub.

Virtually every phase of farming and homemaking will be covered in activities on the State College campus, including exhibits, tours, demonstrations and lectures. List of prominent speakers includes Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Miss Dorothy Thompson, Congressman Stephen Pace, Representative Harold D. Cooley, J. B. Hutson, Thomas J. Pearsall, Dr. T. B. Hutcheson, and others.



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GASOLINE TAX BILL SOARS AS MOTORISTS PAY

STARTLING SUM OF \$19,422,054.76 COLLECTED FROM MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERS FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1947

Revenues from the 6c state gasoline tax paid by North Carolina motorists during the first six months of 1947 totals \$19,422,054.76, according to S. Gilmer Sparger, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Petroleum Industries Committee. This represents a 13.7 per cent increase over the first half of 1946, setting a new high in the 27 year history of gasoline tax collections.

During the first six months of 1947, when automobile registrations were at their peak, gasoline tax revenues amounted to \$14,648,335.00. Special taxes paid by motor vehicle owners rose from a 1941 figure of \$80.27 per vehicle to \$94.66 in 1947, reflecting the increased use of, and dependence of the public on cars and trucks. The total 1947 gasoline tax bill alone is expected to reach \$39,500,000.00, Mr. Sparger said.

"In terms of highway construction," he added, "this means that motorists will pour \$51,700,000.00 in gasoline taxes and registration fees into the state highway fund this year."

"Even though we have become accustomed to talk of roads in thousands of miles and road funds in millions of dollars, there is an element of awe in the fact that North Carolina motorists alone paid a gasoline tax bill of \$19,422,054.76 during the first six months of 1947."

HOOKS SEEKING INDICTMENT

Solicitor is Reported to be Considering Charges Against Person Who Wrote "Suicide Note"

Solicitor Jack Hooks is reported to be considering charges against the person who wrote the suicide note purported to be that of Mrs. Etta Mae Phillips but which the jury last week discarded in rendering its verdict of first degree murder against Charlie Phillips.

Broad statements made during the trial seemed to indicate that the prosecution felt certain of the identity of the writer of the note, and claim was made that it was someone other than Mrs. Phillips.

Rumors since the trial ended have been flying thick and fast, and one report reaching Lillington yesterday had it that the Solicitor was about ready to issue charge against a person whose name was not brought into the trial.

Inquiry by The News failed to bring forth anything of a definite nature, but the reports continue to float around that an indictment will soon be brought.

Master Sgt. Stewart Visiting on Furlough

Master Sergeant Walter Stewart, son of Mr. D. A. Stewart of Lillington R-3, with his wife and children, is visiting relatives and friends in Harnett county. He has been in the service for about 18 years and served overseas with Air Transport Command in China, Burma and India during the war.

Master Sergeant Stewart is now located at Stanton, Va., and is on recruiting duty. He expects to return next Sunday.

Vet Service Officer Has Busy Month

In submitting a report of activities of his office for the month of July, Harnett's veterans service officer, L. B. McLean shows that at his 2 offices, one at Lillington, the other at Dunn, a total of 1199 services were rendered to veterans.

At the Lillington office there were 642 various services rendered and at the Dunn office 557.

On-the-job training services ran 19 for Lillington and 18 for Dunn.

Those Bored Trees

Asked about the removal of the elm shade trees into which vandals bored holes causing them to wither away, Mayor Charlie Loving told The News yesterday that the town would remove the large elm on Front street, but that it was hoped at least some of the others might "perk up" and grow again.

The huge Front street elm is dead. Some of the others are showing faint signs of reviving. No clue has been found as to the identity of the party or parties who did the boring and supposedly inserted poison.

Phillips Gets His Second Death Sentence On Murder Charge

WAR HAS 'ENDED', FOR PROGRAM OF VET ADJUSTMENT

JULY 25, 1947, SUBSTITUTED FOR TERMINATION DATE WORLD WAR II REGARDING ALLOWANCES

July 25, 1947, has been declared the termination date of World War II under the program of readjustment allowances for both unemployed and self-employed veterans as a result of Congressional action, Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the Employment Security Commission, which administers the Servicemen's Readjustment Allowance Act, is advised.

Congress has substituted the date of July 25, 1947, for the words "termination of the war" as they appear in title V of the Servicemen's Readjustment Allowance Act. This means, Chairman Kendall explains, that World War II veterans of North Carolina who were discharged prior to July 25, 1947, will have until July 25, 1949, to draw their allowances.

Veterans discharged after July 25, 1947, will have two years from the date of discharge to draw. However, the termination of the war for veterans who enlisted or reenlisted between October 6, 1945, and October 5, 1946, will be the end of their first period of enlistment or reenlistment and the July 25 date will not apply to them.

Many veterans now have rights under both the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 and the North Carolina Employment Security Law, provided they have worked in covered employment in North Carolina since their discharge from the service and built up sufficient credits under the State law. Too, they are not eligible to draw benefits from both the Federal and State agencies simultaneously.

Chairman Kendall pointed out from now on it will become increasingly important for such veterans who become unemployed to consider the expiration date of their rights under both programs, if they are to be assured of maximum protection under the two systems. Both types of claims are filed through the local offices of the State Employment Security Commission and the personnel of such offices will explain the differences with respect to the amount payable, duration and expiration rights. The veterans may then elect the law under which he desires to file his claim.

Rev. Calcote Accepts Mt. Pisgah Pastorate

Rev. C. I. Calcote of Laurens, S. C., has accepted the call extended by Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church to become its pastor. The church has been without a pastor since the resignation of Rev. P. H. Biddle several months ago to go to a group of churches near Bishopville, S. C.

The Mt. Pisgah church is grouped with Leaflet and Raven Rock, and Rev. Calcote will be pastor of the group.

Home Coming At Cameron Hill

The Homecoming at Cameron Hill Church will be held Sunday, August 31. There will be Sunday school at the regular time 10:00 o'clock. Preaching service at 11:00. It is hoped that a former pastor can be obtained to speak. Picnic dinner at the noon hour. In the afternoon there will be singing.

Any choir or quartet that will honor the crowd with songs are cordially invited to do so.

The public is cordially invited to attend and bring a basket lunch.

On August 16 there will be a clean-up day in preparation for the Homecoming.

Recreational School To Have Program

The children of the Recreational School will present a program Friday evening, August 15th at the high school building at 8:00 o'clock. Numbers on the program will include songs, folk dances, rhythm band selections and games learned during the summer activities at recreational school. The children will dramatize "The Elves and the Shoemaker."

On August 16 there will be a clean-up day in preparation for the Homecoming.

Town Board Waiting For Engineer's Street-Water Report

Mayor Charlie Loving informs The News that Engineer Paul Van Camp of Southern Pines has promised to make a complete report sometime this week on his recent survey of improvements needed in Lillington's water supply and streets.

The preliminary estimate by Van Camp threw a scare into the board members in regard to constructing a filter plant. The board had understood that the cost would be around \$15,000 to \$20,000, but the engineer said it might run to nearly twice that sum.

Pending the complete report from the engineer, board members have been discussing the feasibility of boring another well to take the place of the last and third well which has been the offender in producing water with an odor and sediment.

Mayor Loving said that an engagement has been arranged for a representative from the State Board of Health to meet with the board when Engineer Van Camp makes his report.

"Just as soon as we can get the plans and arrive at the approximate cost, we intend to proceed with the water and street improvements," said the Mayor, who gave it as his opinion that a majority of the people of Lillington would endorse a bond issue to finance the improvements.

Sunday Speaker



R. W. COUSAR

The speaker on the Presbyterian Hour network next Sunday morning, August 17, will be the Rev. R. W. Cousar, D. D., of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dr. Cousar is a native South Carolinian. He took his undergraduate work in Davidson College, and his professional work at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by King College.

His work has been prominently in the pastorate. He has served churches in Norfolk, Graddock and Waynesboro, Va. For two years he was assistant professor of the Bible at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton.

In 1939 he became the pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga. For the past several years he has carried on a most successful radio ministry broadcasting his services on Saturday evenings.

His subject will be "Triumph of Modern Christianity." This broadcast can be heard in this community at 8:30 a. m.

PHILLIPS STILL HAS FRIENDS

Man Condemned to Die for Slaying His Wife Now Penniless, But Friends May Support His Defense

From Fuquay Springs and Bule's Creek come reports that quite a number of people in those communities are not satisfied with the outcome of the trial of Charlie Phillips on the charge of killing his wife last August 18.

The News learns that certain parties do not feel that the jury acted in accordance with the evidence (all of it circumstantial). Some people who do not agree with the jury's verdict go so far as to hint that "there are two sides to that affair," meaning the incident resulting in Mrs. Phillips' death.

Defense Attorney Neill Salmon states that he will continue to fight for Phillips. The case will not be reviewed by the Supreme Court till some time next Spring. Meantime Phillips is on Death Row, with a death sentence stayed by his appeal. Judge Burney sentenced him to die September 19, but an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court.

Phillips was granted his second trial after a paper-writing said to be a suicide note and written by Mrs. Phillips was produced. Written in red ink on a leaf from a patent medicine calendar, the note was produced in court and aroused a heated controversy between handwriting experts from the State and Federal investigating agencies. The FBI agents testified that the handwriting in the note was strikingly similar to other writing of Mrs. Phillips. Federal experts contended to the contrary.

The temperatures ran high during the ten days and nights of the trial, but the courtroom was packed and jammed with people to catch every word of testimony and follow the trial to its final result.

The Sabbath Day fell in the midst of the hearing, and Judge Burney told Officer Sauls that he could take the jurors to a ball game and movie show if they wished to go. Asked by Attorney Neill Salmon if the men might not attend religious worship if they so desired, the judge firmly answered in the negative, citing that on a former trial of like nature he had allowed the jury to attend church and the preacher delivered a sermon on the case.

During the second trial of Phillips, as in the first, there was no undue excitement but spectators, including many of the county's practicing attorneys who were not connected with the case, manifested intense interest.

Many expressions of surprise were heard following the jury's return of the first degree verdict. Most common expectation, according to various persons who expressed themselves, was that a prison sentence would be meted out to Phillips.

CONDEMNED MAN SAYS 'NOT GUILTY' AS HE FACES JUDGE

JURY DELIBERATES LESS THAN HOUR IN RETURNING VERDICT OF FIRST DEGREE; DEFENSE PROMPTLY TAKES APPEAL

For the second time within a year Charlie Phillips, tenant farmer of Black River township, has heard the death sentence pronounced upon him. He heard it last September from the lips of Judge W. H. S. Burney. He heard it again from Judge John J. Burney last Thursday night about 9:30 o'clock after a second trial had lasted ten days and the jury which sat through the case and listened to the mass of testimony had deliberated less than an hour.

When jurymen reported their verdict of guilt in the first degree, Attorney Neill McKay Salmon, who has fought unceasingly to save Phillips, entered an appeal to the Supreme Court, but not until he had requested Judge Burney to poll the jury. Each of the jurors answered the same verdict as that returned by the foreman.

Judge Burney released the jurymen and they filed from the courtroom with a feeling of relief plainly stamped on their countenances.

Following adjournment and as the auditorium emptied its packed audience, a court attendant was approached by one of the jurors with the eager question, "What did the judge give him?"

As Judge Burney read his prepared judgement to Phillips, the condemned man stood erect and answered "Not guilty" to the jurist's question, "What say you, Charlie Phillips?" The death sentence was then pronounced.

Phillips was sentenced to die in the State's gas chamber on Friday, September 19, but the appeal automatically stayed the execution.

Judge Burney gave defense 90 days in which to prepare and file brief in the case for the Supreme Court. The Solicitor was allowed 60 days thereafter to file answer. That will throw the case into January before it can be heard by the higher court.

The Judge told Sheriff Salmon the defendant was in his custody. Sheriff Salmon took Phillips to Death Row Friday morning.

Throughout the second trial, as in the first, Phillips stoutly maintained his innocence. He still believes, he says, that the State will not kill him for something which he declares he did not do.

Attorney Salmon, who has with Attorney Charles Ross defended Phillips, now declares that his client is penniless and is unable to defend himself against the State's charge that he killed his wife, Mrs. Etta Mae Phillips, while they were at the dinner table last August 18th.

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