

Harnett County News

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CORRESPONDENCE
This paper desires correspondence from all reliable sources interesting to the people of this section.

Watch the date on the label on your paper. If your subscription has expired please send in your renewal at once.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948

TAX REDUCTION WILL BE POPULAR

There's no doubt about the reduction in Federal tax levies proving popular. The withholding from the pay of the low-income workers reached the point where it meant hardship.

We have heard staunch Democrats blaming the Administration of their own party for not lowering the Federal tax burden. Now that a Republican-controlled Congress has come along and forced the issue, it is found that their action is meeting with approval of many of their political opponents.

The rank and file of people who have been wanting tax relief will not be impressed by the picture drawn of clouds gathering over us again. It will be universally agreed that if and when war is forced on us, we can gear ourselves in suitable fashion to meet the issue.

There may be some merit in the claim that the tax burden is not equitably distributed, and if that is corrected all will be well. The answer, however, is that the tax burden will never be equitably distributed. It never has been; it never will be.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS NOT AS OF OLD

The gubernatorial and senatorial campaigns in North Carolina may be getting off to a good start, but they're surely not moving along as they did a couple of decades ago.

And why do we say that? Mainly because there is little or no evidence of the working of the "machine" which made smooth the way of the "choice" boys to get the big plums.

We are told that the "machine" is now backing this or that candidate. But nothing is offered to aid our vision in this respect. Our eyesight is still good, and, look as closely as we may, we fail to get a glimpse of that once powerful and smooth rolling piece of political mechanism that swept candidates into the governor's mansion and into the United States Senate.

We have a sneaking notion that those who are wont to harp on the old "machine" stuff had better drop it and hit on a different tack. There simply isn't any such contraption nowadays—that is, not an efficient, working one, so far as we can see.

There are plenty of things to discuss in the present campaign—matters in which all of us are vitally interested, and we are sure the folks who are to do the balloting come May 29 would like to hear some intelligent and enlightening talk about them.

And, by the way, in case you are wondering what has become of the "machine" that once was, we think we are capable of giving you the straight dope on that.

LILLINGTON'S STREETS SHOULD BE GOOD

Now that Lillington is near the point where it will begin improving its streets, it is a good time to arrive at a thorough understanding of what we want, and what is best for us to have.

The State highway forces are laying tar-gravel surface of about an inch thickness on many roads. That, of course, is better than pure dirt surface, or a mixture of dirt and gravel, because it will afford a smooth surface for at least a few years provided there is no freezing weather to break it up.

But freezing weather has a habit of doing its tricks even in this so-

called balmy climate. Many of the State's tar-gravel roads are cracked up now because of the recent freeze.

Mr. Alec White, long experienced in building highways, tells us that surfacing of the type on the Manchester road will cost a little more than the ordinary inch type of tar-gravel, but that it will prove far cheaper in the long run.

The Manchester road is built of what is called the "plant mix"—a black-top that has proven even more durable than some of the State's concrete-surfaced roads. Of course there are load limits placed on the Manchester road, but that should be the practice on all roads, we think, regardless of what surface they are.

It will be well for the town authorities, when time arrives for starting street improvement, to inquire into the advisability of securing the type of treatment that will endure.

Before we begin to spend our street dollars, we should be sure that we are getting the most for our money. The cheapest initial cost is not always really the cheapest, as every good business person knows.

RADIOERS WANT TO EDITORIALIZE

Comes the news that the radio broadcasters—commentators and whatnot—are appealing to the Communications Commission for the privilege of using the air for spreading their views before a public that is too bewildered already by the stark fact that we have as yet won no war, no peace, nor, seemingly, anything through our recent tremendous sacrifices.

For one, The News will not voice any objection to granting the radio shouters the editorial privilege, realizing as we do, and as so many others do, that editorial opinion radio-wise will not be so nauseating as soap operas and crooners and other Kilroys of the air.

Let them spell it out. After all, they may not add to the confusion, and out of it all we may be able to get the lowdown on something or somebody that we wouldn't get otherwise.

TALKING ABOUT OUR OWN BUSINESS

The News doesn't do much talking about its business except to its friends and customers—which are all the same. Possibly we fail to talk to them as much as we should about our business and theirs—which is all the same. Our subscribers buy The News a year in advance, hence it is more their business than it is ours—which is indeed a fact.

The idea which brings forth this little chat is to let our friends know that the post-card reminders we are sending out to let subscribers know when their year is about to expire—these little reminders are working wonders.

Our mails are bringing them in, and curiously enough, many subscribers clip the coupons from their papers for convenience. And they are bright and welcome little messages, too, in this day and time when mails are cluttered up with junk from here, yonder and everywhere, seeking free publicity for almost everything under the sun.

Thanks a lot, folks!

NOW... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

By a Mere Thinker

"Politics is rotten!" Ever since I became of voting age, and even before, I've heard it said that "politics is rotten," and now that I have come along in years I'm wondering why people continue to hurl such slander at our system of elections and those who take part in that system.

Being an inquisitive sort of person, when I began my career as a full-fledged American citizen and started going to the balloting places I started a one-man investigating committee. I wanted to know, if "politics is rotten," why was it so, and who was responsible for the decay.

Very likely thousands of other young persons did the same thing. I have no way of knowing their findings. But this is what I found—and still find:

The most deplorably malodorous thing about politics is the fact that out of a hundred million people in this good country who are eligible to participate in our elections, only about half that number ever take time to have their names placed on the registration books, thus qualifying themselves for casting a ballot, and considerably less than half exercise the great privilege—it should be called duty—of going to the polls!

Often I have heard—and I'm sure you have—people complain about this, that and the other thing in relation to our government, national, state and local. If you spend a few minutes quizzing the complainers, often you'll learn that "No, I didn't even go to the polls in the last election."

Right then you break away, contenting yourself with the thought that after all you are not the sole



ADDED STARTER... Herbert C. Holdridge, retired brigadier general, says he is running for President. He claims that his own "People's party offers the only hope for tomorrow under American traditions, thus avoiding the necessity of choice between fascism and communism."

guardian of the rights and liberties of all the people, and that it is useless for you to try to argue with a person who so utterly ignores his rights and liberties.

Perhaps you are thinking right now that it is just as useless for me to be writing these lines.

A great furor has been waged because some of the States require the payment of poll tax as a condition precedent to the right to vote. North Carolina had such a statute until a decade or so ago, and now we Tarheels are rearing up on our hind legs and saying, "We don't do that." Such self-pity isn't at all commendable—we did it for years and years, didn't we?

But that poll-tax business brings on more argument. If a person hasn't sufficient self-respect to meet such a small obligation to his government, can he qualify as a topnotch citizen? But, for the sake of representative government, let's pass by the item of poll tax.

Is politics really rotten? I would be willing to bet a fortune if I had one that a great majority of the people in practically every country outside of these United States would be tickled pink if they could grab hold of our free and untrammeled privilege of voting.

Our system of elections has withstood the test of time, and I'm sure there's nothing decaying about it. The only thing I can conceive that would make it more sweet and wholesome is for every mother's son and daughter of us to start putting votes in the ballot boxes just as soon as we reach voting age, and keep eternally at it.

Is there any good purpose to be served by continually harping on this subject? I don't know. But there's one thing I do know: Inasmuch as we have in this country a free press always willing and anxious to point up everything of a shady nature that takes place in our government and its elections, there isn't a Chinaman's chance of our politics rotting.

The next time you hear someone say "politics is rotten," just tell him to help you hunt for the decayed parts and carve them out with a ballot.

By the way, this good year 1948 brings us the privilege of selecting officials who will manage our public affairs. It's about time for you and I to get busy figuring on what we will mark up on the election returns.

Motorist Tax Rates Called Higher Than Federal Income Tax

The average North Carolina motorist pays taxes on his motor vehicle at a rate higher than his Federal income tax, according to S. Gilmer Sparger, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Petroleum Industries Committee.

His statement was based on the \$99, which he estimated the average N. C. motor vehicle owner pays in State and Federal gasoline taxes, State registration fees and Federal automotive taxes each year.

"With an exception for a wife and two children, the motorist would need an income of \$2,825.00 to pay a Federal income tax of \$99. But studies have shown that the majority of motorists are found in income brackets well below this figure," Mr. Sparger declared.

"We all recognize that the Federal income tax is high, so high that Congress is now working on legislation to reduce it," he continued. "But it is not generally realized that automotive taxes are an even heavier burden for most motorists."

"This might come as a great surprise to people who do not realize that the gasoline tax alone amounts to 7 1/2 cents on every gallon, which is equivalent to a sales tax of 40 per cent. When State registration fees and the numerous Federal automobile excises are added to this, we naturally have a stupendous tax burden."

He concluded: "The very size of this special tax burden should spur the motorist to action. He should insist that motor vehicle and motor fuel taxes paid to the State be expended in such a way as to give the greatest possible road value for each dollar of these special tax contributions."

OBSERVATIONS

BY A COUNTRY SCRIBE

GOOD PICTURE.—Manager Fabian Morgan of the Lyric Theatre will give you a nice smite of you compliment any of his pictures. But he's got one now that he's never shown on his silver screen. It's a drawing of his new theatre which will go up soon next to Fowler Radio Company.

READY IN SUMMER.—J. O. Sutton, of the B & S Motor Company, Lillington's very newest enterprise, tells The News he expects to have his new garage and sales building on Main street finished by midsummer. He at first expected it earlier than that. But weather conditions have caused the construction work to get off to a slow start. It will be one of the largest and handsomest auto houses in this section. The other member of the company is Billy Byrd.

REVISED ESTIMATE.—Speaking of new building in Lillington, a short time ago The News estimated that, according to the number of prospective builders, the town would just about double its size once things get going good again. There is so much more interest right now, however, in dwelling and business house construction that the estimate needs to be revised: about treble, it should be.

BIG INCREASE.—Estimate of the tax appraisal group, when asked by The News how much they have added to the tax books, was around \$10,000,000. That's enough, they say, to let the tax rate down to around a dollar a hundred. That would be the best news emanating from the courthouse since Tig's great-grandmother was a pup.

BAD SWAP.—A Lillington argument has this nifty piece of argument as a clincher that "women's work is never done." A statistician gave up his Saturday afternoon golf to take care of the children. When his wife returned from her shopping, he handed her the following report:

Dried tears: 9 times.
Tried shoes: 13 times.
Toy balloons purchased: 3 per child.
Average life of balloon: 13 seconds.
Cautioned children not to cross street: 21 times.
Children crossed street: 21 times.
Number of Saturdays I will do this again: 0.

BILL FRANK; FARE UNFAIR.—A local housekeeper went out of town to do some grocery shopping. When she unpacked her buyings upon reaching home, she found a sales slip reading:
50c soup bones...75c.

BIRDS' READY-TO-WEAR.—The Scribe had gotted a robin scampering about on the lawn and felt proud that Spring is really to be, once more sure. Mention of it was made to Lee Chaffin, who threw cold water on the whole business by surmising that it must have been only a sparrow with red flannels on.

CERTAIN.—Hope returned, however, when Bill Lee, Ray Johnson and Ken Mace were sighted grouped with heads close together. It can't be long till fishing time!

CASES HEARD IN SUPERIOR COURT

Harnett Superior Court convened in civil session Tuesday morning with Judge Paul Edmundson of Goldsboro presiding. The court adopted Monday as an Easter holiday.

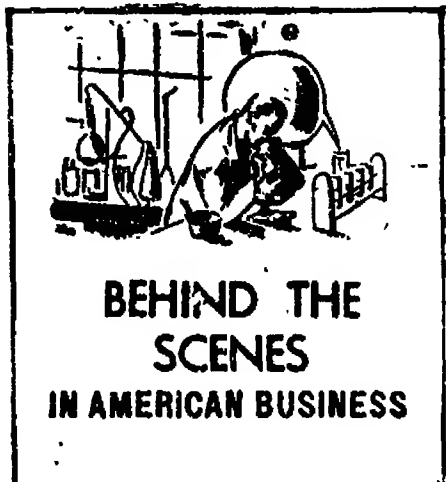
First of the cases to be heard were eight divorce actions, in each of which separations were granted. They were:

Jennie Monds Brewington from Charles H. Brewington; Nellie L. Parnell from Lloyd Parnell; Eloise Lee Godwin from Henry D. Godwin; E. E. Johnson from Sarah Elizabeth Johnson; J. A. Hawley from Ella Thomas Hawley; Ruby Marsk Dawson from W. M. Dawson; Vira McLeod Ford from James H. Ford; Rena Lockamy from Archie Lockamy.

The court then took up the case of Coy T. Lucas vs. D. B. Spell. This case is from Dunn. It is based on ejectment proceedings, and two other suits grew out of it, although they are not on the calendar for this term. The case is being heard as The News goes to press. The term is scheduled for two weeks.

Ohio is one of our ranking states in agriculture, natural resources, manufacturing and commercial activities.

Human felicity is produced not so much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen, as by little advantages that occur every day.—Benjamin Franklin.



BEHIND THE SCENES IN AMERICAN BUSINESS

(By Reynolds Knight)

New York, March 24.—Economists are cautiously voicing the opinion that the steam is escaping from the boom.

Retailers are frankly worried by this year's "early Easter." Manufacturers are showing increasing uneasiness by curbing inventories and instituting operating economies on a broad scale.

But several basic economic "cushions" are being overlooked in these gloomy reckonings. One underlying support is in industry's \$16 billion yearly spending for new plants and equipment. Another is public construction.

Regardless of price flurries in securities, commodities and retail markets, industry for the third straight year is spending more for durable facilities than ever before. Public construction contract awards are up more than 300 per cent over a year ago. State and municipal public works postponed during the war years are expected to keep public construction at high levels.

THINGS TO COME.—Sweet-smelling demise for insects is achieved in a new colorfully packaged insecticide comb containing scented bug-killers. All-in-one hair trimmer being introduced by a large mail-order house combines comb and razor. The "new look" in canned sea food is "bite-sized" tuna, ready for use without flaking. Latest car-cleaning gadget is a spray gun type device which contains a foamy liquid detergent. The device can be attached to the ordinary garden hose to mix water with cleaning fluid. Shoe stores and shoe repair shops are introducing a new device which is said to prevent spread of athlete's foot. Small parts get a fast cut and automatic packing of parts is speeded up through a new high-speed electronic counting system developed by a New York manufacturer. Fluorescent lamps which approximate the warm colors of incandescent lights are on the way from an eastern company. New floor waxer with a plastic handle which doubles as a tank for liquid wax eliminates several hand operations in house-cleaning.

BITS O' BUSINESS.—At the year end, U. S. reserves of natural gas had increased more than 5-trillion cubic feet. Cheered by this news, the natural gas industry is now laying long range plans to meet increasing consumer demand for the fuel because its cost is going down as compared with other fuels. Most surveys say the average family buys furniture only once in a lifetime, but Chicago's Merchandise Mart is going to try and sell furniture "fashion consciousness" by inviting the general public to visit its huge displays. A Wisconsin manufacturer of beauty aids is testing his brand new cosmetic line through selected grocery outlets. The Jewelry Industry Council will spend about \$400,000 next year to promote the jewelry and ornament industry as a whole. Last year's dishwasher sales (100,000 units) are demonstrating that these useful appliances can be sold eventually in the mass quantities usually associated with home laundries and refrigerators. Gray market prices in steel are slipping for many items which were in brisk demand a few months ago. Private trade channels are expected to be used to the maximum in procuring goods for the European Recovery Program.

Q. A veteran who has been granted compensation suffers an increase in the severity of his disability. What steps must he take to get an increase in compensation?

A. He must submit written evidence to the Veterans Administration. This should be in the form of an adequate statement from a private physician showing the veteran's present physical condition. All expenses incurred in securing such statements must be borne by the veteran.

Q. Must a veteran have 10 percent or more service-connected disability to be eligible for out-patient treatment?

A. Any veteran with an established service-connected disability is entitled to out-patient treatment for the service-connected disability regardless of the degree of disability.

Q. I lost last month's subsistence check before, I was able to cash it at the bank. What should I do?

A. Go to your local Veterans Administration office and explain what has happened. The office will take necessary action either to recover or to replace your check.

Q. I am negotiating to purchase a home under the G-I Bill. The appraisal value of the time is lower than the purchase price. Will Veterans Administration guarantee my loan if I agree to pay the difference in cash?

A. No. Veterans Administration will not guarantee a loan on a home where the appraisal value is less than the purchase price. This provision of the law is for your protection.

Q. My daughter of 19 is attending school and I would like to know if she is entitled to participate in my estranged husband's compensation?

A. She is entitled to participate in your estranged husband's compensation until she is 21 if she continues in an approved school until that time.

Q. I was wounded in World War II and would like to know if my compensation check is subject to seizure by creditors?

A. No. Q. How are pieces of job-training approved under the G-I Bill and how does a veteran find out what establishments are approved?

A. Training establishments are approved by State approving agencies for job-training under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (G-I Bill). All VA offices maintain a list of approved establishments in the area in which they are located.

Q. My employer has dismissed me from my job-training position and I would like to know what I can do so that I can continue to receive subsistence?

A. Your training status was terminated and your subsistence allowance ceased when your employer dismissed you. It is now up to you to seek another place of employment with an approved on-the-job training program.

Q. Have I any recourse to civil courts if I do not like the decision of Veterans Administration on my claim for compensation?

A. No. Q. I am a World War II veteran and would like to know how much an attorney who represents me in my claim for compensation or pension against the Veterans Administration is permitted to charge?

A. If the attorney is admitted to practice before the VA he may receive \$10 in an original claim or \$2 in a claim for increase in compensation or pension, provided the claim is allowed. These fees are paid by VA and deducted from the monetary benefits awarded the claimant.

Questions And Answers For Veterans

Q. A veteran who has been granted compensation suffers an increase in the severity of his disability. What steps must he take to get an increase in compensation?

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Melvin of Mayodan announce the birth of a son, Roy Martin, Thursday, March 25th. The Martins are former residents of Lillington.

LAND POSTERS for sale at The News

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of D. W. O'Quinn, deceased, late of Harnett County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to file same, duly verified, with the undersigned on or before the 28th day of March, 1948, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate settlement with the undersigned. This 27th day of March, 1948. JAMES CAMERON, Administrator of the Estate of D. W. O'Quinn, Deceased, Broadway, N. C. RFD 1. 1-6c

Will He?



DWIGHT EISENHOWER

The former General of the Armed Forces, although denying that he is available as a candidate for the Presidency, is still being boosted by those who believe he can be "drafted." His availability, however, will probably not be definitely decided until the June convention.

Wins National Rating As Basketball Official

(Special to The News)

Greenville, March 31.—Nina Ruth Long of Angier, Junior at East Carolina Teachers College, won national rating as an official for women's basketball in examinations given on the campus on March 13, according to an announcement by Nell Stallings of the health and physical education department of the college.

The examinations have been held here annually for the past five years for students and teachers in this section of the state who are interested in athletic programs for women. Miss Long is the first student at East Carolina to receive national rating for her work.

Kiwanis Club Receives Scout Troop Charter

George Turner, district field executive for Boy Scouts of America, presented to the Angier Kiwanis Club the charter for Troop No. 12, Angier Boy Scouts, at the club's regular meeting Thursday night. The charter will, in turn, be presented to the Angier Scouts by the Kiwanis Club who is sponsoring the scouting program in Angier.

The charter differs from the average scout charter in that it carries a ten year veterans seal which signifies that the Angier troop has been organized for the past ten years.

Movie For Farmers To be Shown in Angier

Angier, April 1.—A free showing of the movie "Tobacco Land" will be presented tonight (Thursday) at the Angier school auditorium at 8:00 o'clock by the Angier Kiwanis Club. This picture shows in detail the various stages in the growth and manufacture of the tobacco plant from the preparation of the plant bed through the manufacture of the cigarette.

Farmers, businessmen, and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

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