

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

CONSTRUCTIVE... Harnett's Only County Seat Newspaper... PROGRESSIVE

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, July 8, 1948

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

Hail and Wind Storms Rip Crops in Sections of Harnett

TOTAL LOSS IN SOME SECTIONS OF HARNETT CO.

SEVERE RAINSTORM IS ACCOMPANIED BY HEAVY WINDS THAT TOPPLED TREES AND DROVE HAIL WITH UNUSUAL FORCE

The sultry atmosphere on Sunday afternoon brought into Harnett county one of its severest hailstorms in history. In areas where the egg sized missiles of ice struck, residents affirmed that they had never seen the intensity and force of any previous storm compared with it.

The mid-afternoon storm brought much rain to most of the county, and a welcome relief from the torrid July weather. The hail fell in patches in northern and central Harnett, with heaviest loss reported from the Bule's Creek section.

There the hail slashed through the tobacco and corn fields to render most of them as total losses, and many thousands of dollars were lost to farmers as a result. The crops had been in excellent condition prior to the storm.

The area most injured lies between Angler and Bule's Creek near the Pleasant Union Christian Church. It did not reach the main highway, No. 210, south of Angler, but continued toward Johnston and Wake counties.

Near the Matthews Pond area, the fields literally lay in ribbons, slashed and beaten by the ice and rain. Wind toppled trees in the fields, and across the rural roads, completely blocking traffic until removed. Fruit trees were stripped of their fruit, and leaves scattered on the ground.

The Cleveland Butts farm near Matthews Pond seemed most damaged, although every farm over a wide area had been visited by the storm.

One tobacco leaf from a nearby farm showed thirteen hail bruises on the stock, which means thirteen breaks should the wind or some object move the leaf. The leaf was infiltrated with large and small holes.

Reports from the Ephesus church section on the Johnsonville Road, and Harnett Station near Bunnlevel, were that the storm had done extensive damage to crops there. Some fields in this section were reported stripped. However, it will take time to determine the full impact of Sunday's storm in the county, but even with the initial observation the dollar loss is tremendous.

Fourth Was Quiet

Not a popcracker, nor a yell, nor any other unusual noise was heard around here on the great national holiday, July 4th.

Only here and there could anyone be found working. One of the "heres" was at The News office. Some of the "theres" were at the courthouse.

Superior Court was off celebrating, but county officials and employees were on the job, having taken the Saturday before as holiday.

Biggest procedure was in the Commissioners' room where the County Board wrestled with the budget and ran through the usual routine of "first Monday" business. The Executives called it quits at noon, to meet again July 26.

Streets were mostly deserted, and the evidence seemed to indicate that most local folks had "gone somewhere."

GOP Candidates



Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York and Governor Earl Warren of California, GOP candidates for President and Vice-President respectively, talk about what may happen—and what they fully expect to happen.



SECRETARY... Charles F. Brannan, assistant secretary of agriculture since 1944, was nominated by President Truman to succeed Clinton P. Anderson as secretary of agriculture. Anderson resigned the cabinet post to run for the U. S. senate from New Mexico.

TAX PAYMENTS REMAIN LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

REPORT OF COLLECTOR HARRINGTON FOR JUNE SHOWS \$42,356.48 STILL ON BOOKS; 91.1 PER CENT OF LEVY PAID

Comparison of tax payments through the month of June, this year and last year, show that only 91.1 per cent of the levy has been paid, whereas 93.4 per cent had been paid to the same date last year.

The collector still has on his books \$42,356.48 of the 1947 levy which amounted to \$476,246.44.

The collector's report shows receipts from all sources as follows: Current taxes \$2,145.28; delinquent taxes \$685.65; real estate taxes \$512.00—making a total of \$3,340.93.

Other revenue: General county \$3,645.68; school fund \$16,255.88; old age fund \$6,793.50; aid to dependent children \$3,279.75; child feeding program \$4,179.24; veteran farmers training \$21,985.82; veteran education fund \$384.97—making a total of \$56,518.84.

A number of property owners have paid their 1948 taxes in advance in order to take advantage of the discount allowed by law.

Lillington Chemist Has Remedied Paint Odors

Leonard Williams, former Lillington resident, has originated a chemical in his California laboratory which promises to be a great aid to those who suffer from common physical ailments while painting or being in the area of freshly painted things.

Mr. Williams calls his product, "Paint-Gay", and it comes in liquid form to be mixed with any paint for application. The product is in constant use in Hollywood where scenes are being painted or repainted so frequently. The idea for the deodorizer came to Mr. Williams, who is the son of Mr. J. D. Williams of Lillington, while spending several months in a cast in a California hospital following a severe navy accident.

County Seat Has Four Thriving Auto Agencies

There are four agencies for nationally known makes of cars and trucks in Lillington at present, and the possibility of a fifth firm is expected soon. All of the agencies are doing a good business but they have been hampered by the lack of new-car deliveries. This may loosen up some in the future.

A glance through the business section shows the B & S Motor Company has moved into their spacious new brick garage on the Raleigh Highway. The combination garage and showroom is to be one of the largest in the immediate area.

The B & S Company is owned by Billy Byrd and John Sutton, and staffed with expert mechanics. They are dealers for Pontiac cars.

The Dodge agency is located with the S & W Motor Company. Larger shipments of Dodge cars and trucks, as well as Plymouth cars, are to arrive at the business place, so The News has it from Mr. A. W. Wood, joint partner with Jim Sawyer in the enterprise.

Only recently Mr. Wood bought out the partnership of Mr. M. C. Collins who is retiring from the firm.

RAMBEAU HOME IN CHALYBEATE BURNS SUNDAY

VIRGINIA JOYCE AND SHIRLEY JEAN PERISH; FUNERALS ARE LARGELY ATTENDED WHILE ENTIRE COMMUNITY MOURNS

Fire and confusion aroused the village of Chalybeate Springs on Sunday morning about 1:00 o'clock, and neighbors found the residence of Bernice Rambeau, a short distance from Highway 15A, a seething mass of flames.

The large 10-room home, one of the village's finest, went to the ground as a complete loss, but it also claimed in its destruction the lives of two young women, Virginia Joyce Rambeau, 21, and Shirley Jean Rambeau, 12. The father was horribly burned and remains a guarded patient in the Rex Hospital at Raleigh. Charles Rambeau, 25, a Senior at Wake Forest College, suffered from burns, but was not hospitalized.

Mrs. Rambeau and two other children were not at home when the tragedy occurred, but were spending the night with relatives in Angler.

The victims of the fire were rushed by friends to Dr. W. S. Cosart of Fuquay Springs, who treated them, and hurried them to the hospital. The girls lived but a short time after their admittance.

The cause of the fire remains a mystery, either it started from the kitchen stove or from defective wires in the building. The mother could offer no explanation for the origin.

Witnesses who arrived early on the scene stated that the Rambeau family were outside the burning structure for some time, but decided to re-enter. Once inside they were almost hopelessly trapped, and were unable to leave until aided.

Hundreds attended the double funeral (Continued one page eight)

On Presbyterian Hour

Rev. John R. Richardson, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, S. C., will be the speaker on the Presbyterian Hour Sunday morning, July 11, at 8:30 a. m. He will speak on "To the Sin of the World" and may be heard over station WPTF.

Twenty-eight A Day

The Motor Vehicle Inspection Department loaded their portable inspecting outfit Saturday morning and journeyed toward the big tobacco warehouse in Clinton for their next trial with North Carolina car owners. Only 287 cars passed through the lane in Lillington from June 23 until July 2nd. One hundred-fifty of these were given the blue seal, and 137 were turned down. Of the 137 turned down, 13 never got back on the lane. The Department averaged over 60 per day the last time here, so that the ten days of active inspection passed slowly for the inspecting crew. Supervisor Lucas could offer no solution for the slow pace but the shrug of his shoulders when asked, "why the owners are not coming along," may have meant an unpleasant idea.

OVERBY ACTION AGAINST PARKER IS DISMISSED

COUNTY ELECTIONS BOARD RULES IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO HEAR PROTEST AGAINST RESULT OF PRIMARY

In an action brought by Allison L. Overby of Angler before the Harnett County Board of Elections to have Howard E. Parker of Erwin disqualified as the county's Representative and to have himself (Overby) declared the winner in the recent primary, the Elections Board unanimously ruled that it had no authority now to take such action nor to hear evidence in the case.

The session of the Board was held last Thursday morning in the Commissioners' room in the courthouse, and when its decision was arrived at, the Board granted the motion of Neill Salmou and Neill Ross, attorneys for Parker, that the action be dismissed.

After the ruling and dismissal, however, Judge Franklin T. Dupree, Republican member of the Board, expressed himself as agreeable to a hearing of whatever evidence L. L. Levinson of Benson, attorney for Overby, might desire to present. But after some argument, the Board sat tight on its ruling that it had no jurisdiction, and that settled the matter so far as the Board was concerned.

Levinson gave notice of appeal to the State Board of Elections.

There was considerable argument based on the question whether the Board had power to review the results of the election, since it had already declared Parker the nominee following the second primary June 26, and had indeed on April 17 considered the matter of allowing Parker to file his candidacy.

It was pointed out by Messrs. Salmon and Ross that since Parker had been allowed to file, he had paid the fee which was accepted by the Board, and he had been allowed to run as a candidate for Representative in both the first and second primaries, the Board had no power to review the results now since Parker had been the winner as shown by results of the election.

It was evident from remarks by members of the Board that its members were also inclined to that view, but Attorney Levinson argued that he only desired that the Board hear the facts.

Dougald McRae, member of the Election Board, moved that the protest of Overby be dismissed. His motion failed to get a second until Judge Dupree explained his position in the matter and his desire to act in as fair manner as possible toward both Mr. Overby and Mr. Parker.

Chairman H. C. Strickland of the Board gave as his opinion that the Board did not actually have authority to go into the hearing of the protest at this time, and that opinion hurried the session to a close.

When the Board passed the motion of Mr. McRae, Mr. Levinson gave notice of appeal to the State Board. He was armed, he said, with sufficient evidence to show that Parker was not a qualified candidate.

Ground upon which the complainant, Overby, lodged the protest was that Parker, even though he filed his candidacy by using the legal form provided by law, was not in fact a Democrat.

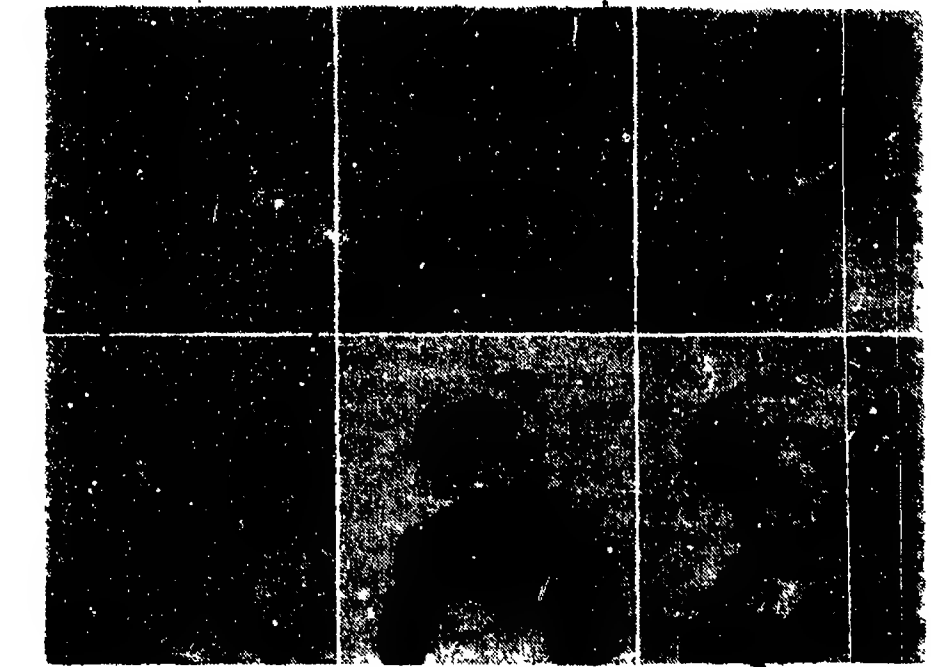
Story of the party affiliation angle to the case is:

Parker's name had been found on registration books with party designation Republican. Parker claimed to the Election Board that he had not registered by giving his party affiliation as Republican; that he stood by his declaration when he filed his candidacy on April 17 that he would support the nominee in the Democratic primary.

It was upon that declaration that the Elections Board allowed Parker to file his candidacy. His name was (Continued one page eight)

Executives See Little Chance For Substantial Tax Cut

"Citizens of Tomorrow"



Top Row: Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack McDonald, Lillington; LaVada, age 15 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dannie McNeill, Lillington R-3; Charles, age 5 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ray, Lillington R-3. Bottom Row: Kay Frances, age 11 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Smith, Lillington R-3; Martha, age 4 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edson Quick, Lillington; Patricia, age 2 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yow, Lillington.

PROTEST IS REGISTERED IN SERVICE CUT

DUNN DELEGATION TELLS COMMISSIONERS DUNN AREA HAS AT LEAST HALF OF VETS AND WANTS SERVICE

Ralph Dowd, Ralph Wade, Dunn postmaster, and D. C. Stephenson, membership chairman of the Dunn Post American Legion, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners Monday morning to protest against the cut recently inaugurated in veterans service in the Dunn area.

They pointed out that inasmuch as that area had at least 50 per cent of the veterans it should have as much time devoted to veterans service there as the upper portion of the county enjoys.

Their protest brought questions from members of the Board, and it was only a matter of minutes till the inevitable happened—a matter which has been brewing almost since the inauguration of veterans service in Harnett county.

It will be recalled that Harnett was among the first counties to set up a veterans service bureau. This came about even before the State established the service.

The keen point at issue was not alone the curtailed service of the Veterans Officer, L. B. McLean, in the Dunn area, which service was recently cut to two days a week.

Joined with that issue was the statement by Mr. Dowd that Harnett is one of the only four counties in the State maintaining a service officer department which has not been approved by the State Veterans Service Commission.

Then it was made known to the Commissioners that if the State Veterans Service Commission approves the officer appointed by the county, the State will pay half of his salary. Members of the Board expressed surprise at this information, stating they had never heard of it before.

Board members then expressed themselves as desirous of having the Harnett office approved so that the compensation could be received. The (Continued one page eight)

COMMISSIONERS PASS TENTATIVE BUDGET MONDAY

AUDITOR CARSON'S FIGURES CALL FOR \$661,312.00 FROM ALL SOURCES, PART OF WHICH IS STATE AID

The Board of Commissioners Monday took the step necessary before a tax rate can be fixed for the fiscal year 1948-49. A tentative budget was adopted. It calls for \$661,312.00, from all sources. Part of this comes from the State in the form of funds for Poor and Health, Old Age Assistance, and Aid to Dependent Children.

Auditor Herbert Carson furnished the figures for the tentative budget with the caution to the Board that he was figuring on the basis of \$1.37 tax rate.

"And to be perfectly frank with you," said Auditor Carson to the Board, "I am fearful of even that." He was referring to the fact that it represented a cut of 8 cents from the 1947-48 tax rate, which, he said, almost ran the county "in the hole."

Reminded that the recent reappraisal of property in the county placed an additional \$5,000,000 on the tax books for assessment, Auditor Carson replied that the replacing of \$75,000 in the current budget to complete the new Bule's Creek school building took all but about \$15,000 of the revenue which the extra \$8,000,000 values would raise.

Then there were other matters to consider, too. Auditor Carson brought in a comparative statement of appropriations and expenditures for the various departmental agencies, and nearly everyone of them had been over-expended.

"If we fall to hew closely to this tentative budget during 1948-49, we will go 'in the red' as certain as the world," admonished the Auditor.

Auditor Carson further pointed out that during the past four years or longer a tax rate too low to provide for emergency expenditures had been adopted; and "now we find that with the ever-increasing costs we have over-spent our appropriations." That will undoubtedly be the case during the present fiscal year if the tax rate is set too low.

Auditor Carson expressed the opinion that, although he would like mightily well to see the tax rate reduced materially, he really thought it would be wise, from a standpoint of good business judgment, to let the tax rate for 1948-49 stand as it was in 1947-48—unless, of course, something can be chipped from the budget.

After the Board adopted the tentative budget, it was ordered filed in the office of Register of Deeds and published so that the taxpayers could see for themselves how much money the county requires them to pay for the various appropriations for the new fiscal year.

The Commissioners have not fixed the tax rate, but are allowing prepayments to be made on that basis. If the rate is lowered, all who pay in advance will receive a refund.

It was thought at first, and it was generally talked among members of the Board, that the 1948-49 tax rate could be cut to \$1.05 or at least to \$1.15. But that hope seems to have gone glimmering in view of the considerable demands as shown by the (Continued one page eight)

1948 Tax Rate Will Be Sad Disappointment to Very Many

The 1948 tax rate in Harnett county is going to prove a sad disappointment to many property owners. Most taxpayers will be looking around for someone to blame it on. That's natural. But they will not need to do much looking around.

The County Commissioners will probably assume the full blame. In fact, they did that very thing, in effect, in their regular session here Monday.

When Auditor Herbert Carson put the figures before the Board, calling for increased appropriations to meet an enlarged budget, it was clearly seen that the \$ million dollars in taxable values placed on the books by Berles Johnson and his corps of property re-appraisers would yield only a few thousand dollars more than cover the added cost of the new Bule's Creek school building.

It will be remembered that when the Board of Education received bids for the Bule's Creek building it was found that the bids ran \$75,000 higher than the cost first estimated. The Education Board went to the Commissioners and asked that the over-cost of \$75,000 be placed in the

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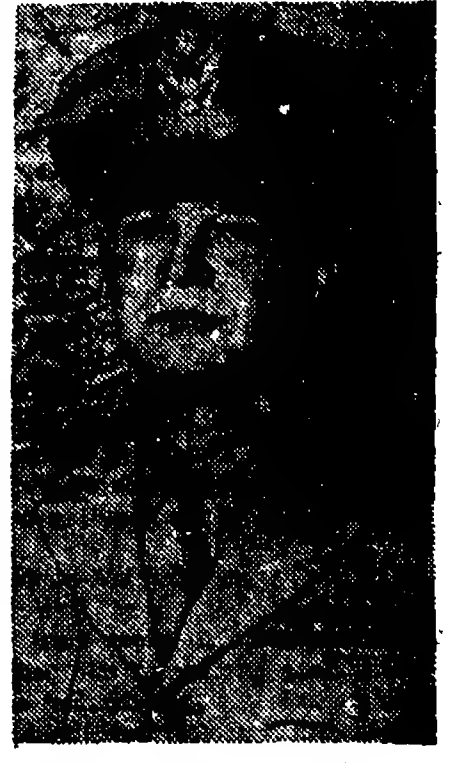
1948-49 budget. The Commissioners agreed. That action, the Commissioners now say, was a mistake. It should have been taken out of the balance of the \$750,000 bond issue bonds, they said Monday.

When Tax Supervisor Berles Johnson reported to the Executives that he had added \$ million to the county's taxables, it was freely assumed that the 1948 tax rate could be cut from 20 to 30 cents. Now it is found that it can be reduced only 8 cents. That's where the disappointment to taxpayers will come.

But there's still another angle. Auditor Carson explained to the Board Monday that for the past four years or more the county had been levying a rate so low that no funds were left to take care of emergencies and the ever-increasing costs of operation. Now, therefore, the treasury finds itself running almost in the "red."

Unless some unforeseen development causes costs to come down, Auditor Carson's suggestion that it will be better not to cut the rate at all may prove to be sage advice.

Ike Says No



President Dwight Eisenhower of Columbia University gave his emphatic answer to his unwanted boosters Monday when he flatly said "No" to those who wanted him to become a candidate on the Democratic ticket for President of the United States.

DEFIANCE... William K. Parker, head of the U. S. Communist party, told the county's military commission that the party would not obey the "Militia Law" and Communist law. He also declared that American Communist would not fight against Russia in the event of war.