

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, July 29, 1948

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

Border Belt Ready For Opening August 3rd

Harnett Commissioners Set \$1.27 As County Tax Levy

AID SOUGHT IN NOVEMBER FOR COUNTY FUND

ASSISTANT HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT SECURED TO WORK WITH MISS LORAIN VAIL

Harnett county's Board of Commissioners adopted the county budget and set the tax levy against taxable county property on Monday morning, July 28th. It was an unanimous vote, the following commissioners being for it: L. A. Tart, L. R. Byrd, Ferd D. Jackson, and R. L. Pate. The tax rate for the fiscal year 1948-49 is to be \$1.27, and as usual is according to each \$100 valuation on the property taxed. Of this sum to be collected, \$.62 is for the county schools, and \$.65 for county departments. The schools are aided by federal and state funds, and some of the county departments receive help from the same sources. A breakdown in the county department rate shows the following: General County Fund—\$.15, Poor Fund—.10, Health Fund—.10, Bond Fund—.12, County Accountant—.02, County Agent—.025, Veterans Service Officer—.015, Old Age Assistance Fund—.075, and Aid to Dependent Children Fund—.046, or a grand total of \$.65.

In the county department fund rate, the offices of home agent, service officer, old age, and aid to dependent children are aided by non-county funds. The school fund is in three parts: Current Expenses—.11, Capital Outlay—.36, and Debt Service—.15, for a \$.62 total. An extra \$.15 is assessed in Averasboro, or special district No. 2. This was approved by the voters in that district to supplement school salaries and pressing needs. The township road refunding board rates for the retirement of special bonds for which the townships are responsible are as follows: Anderson Creek—.07, Averasboro—.04, Barbours—.05, Black River—.05, Buckhorn—.05, Duke—.07, Grove—.19, Johnsonville—.23, Lillington—.10, Nell's Creek—.06, Stewart's Creek—.15, and Upper Little River—.05. The poll tax is \$2.00 plus three times special rates.

For some time the county has felt that the general fund must be increased to meet the county obligations and rising expenses. In November of this year the tax payers will have a chance to vote on whether to raise this to \$.25, a \$.10 increase over the present rate of \$.15. The commissioners hired Miss Lela Flaxon Huntley of Morven, Anson county, to assist the Home Demonstration Agent, Miss Loraine Vail, with her many duties. Miss Huntley comes well recommended to Harnett county, and will begin her work here on August 16th.

Beer licenses were granted to Gladys Smith, Dunn, and James W. Thornton, all of Dunn R-3. A road petition was approved and passed on to state highway authorities. It asked that a road in Nell's Creek beginning at the Harold Butts filling station and running south to Black Creek, Coats Highway, and passing the homes of Joe Johnson, Cleveland Johnson, Clarence Gaskins, Tyson Betts, Mrs. J. A. Betts, and others, for a distance of five miles, be taken over and kept in condition. The commissioners heard a favorable report on the county library, and discussed a plan for more funds in the agricultural department.

The Department wanted \$2,000 more this year for increase in salaries. The commissioners after discussion went ahead and adopted the budget as fixed by Auditor Carson, and promised the Agriculture Department more assistance if the funds can possibly be found without increasing the tax rate from \$1.27. Auditor Carson told the board it would be necessary to increase the tax rate half a cent if the increase were granted to the Agriculture Department. The board will meet again next Monday, August 2, for their regular session.

RETURNS TO WASHINGTON
Miss Ruth Sawyer has returned from a two weeks vacation in Washington, D. C. where she visited her sister, Miss Iris Sawyer.

"Citizens of Tomorrow"



Fay, age 2 1/2 years, Fred, age 2 1/2 years, children of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cameron, Broadway R-1; Three children of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Strickland, Broadway; Jerald, age 8 years, Barbara, age 9 years, Children of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Myrick, Lillington.

FIVE MARKETS ADDED TO THE EASTERN BELT

FOUR QUIT MIDDLE BELT AND PLAN TO START ON AUGUST 19; DUNN BECOMES ONLY NEW MARKET IN ENTIRE AREA

After long consideration, and appeal to authorities in the tobacco trade, the Sanford, Fuquay-Varina, Aberdeen, and Carthage markets have decided to open this year with the Eastern belt. The four markets have very good reasons for opening earlier, and most farmers and merchants are behind the supervisors and warehousemen in their change of belts and dates.

Durham Market has threatened to open on August 19th too if the Sandhills markets open early, and it looks as if there are to be several drastic alterations in the tobacco picture in this vicinity this year.

The Dunn Market, a brand new concern, is to open on the Eastern Belt this year, and Manager Buck Curran has announced that eight tobacco companies will have buyers on hand for opening day. Several others are expected to be there also.

The new market is equipped to handle approximately one million pounds per day of sale, and has over 100,000 square feet of floor space available. The opening of the four markets in another belt, and the first year of the Dunn Market, adds 23 more days to their sales than previous, and will give the older markets one of their biggest and banner years in business.

Lett Child Hit By Automobile

James Lett, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Gray Lett of Lillington, was struck by an automobile on Sunday afternoon about 2:30 while crossing the highway in front of the Lyric Theatre here. The fender of the car hit the child throwing him in the air. He received bruises and a bad cut on the leg. He was taken to Highsmith Hospital, Fayetteville, where he received treatment until Monday when he returned home. The car was owned by Ernie Jones of Bunnlevel.

MAJOR ATKINS HERE

Major Stewart Atkins, who has been stationed in New York, arrived here Wednesday night and will visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nellie Atkins, and relatives until August 14 when he will leave for Camp Lee, Virginia.

Not Many Exempt From Big Peacetime Draft

The initial registration day for the nation's big peacetime draft is set for August 30th, and local boards are being pressed into service to handle the 9,500,000 young men who are eligible for registration. Through this number the armed forces hopes to secure needed replacements in the various branches, and to build up an armed force more adequate for defense or emergency. The President has exempted former servicemen who saw 90 days in the shooting war, former servicemen who spent one year during actual hostilities, ministerial students, and regularly ordained ministers and conscientious objectors. However, the board may use their discretion in certain cases. Twenty-five year olds are the first group required by law to go to their local draft boards to sign up for the draft. It is estimated that not many will be used out of this age bracket.

Across the country many eighteen-year old swarmed to the big city recruiting offices for the opportunity to get in for limited service before the draft gets under way. Harnett County draft board will be located in Lillington with the same members on it who served during the war period. When the board disbanded, the members were Owen Odum, Coats, Otis House, Erwin, and D. J. Dowd, Dunn. Superior Clerk Howard Godwin of Dunn is in charge of the draft machinery. Major General Lewis B. Hershey, who is again in charge of the draft from the nation's capital, is planning to step up the armed forces by about 250,000 men per month when the draft is functioning properly in every state and territory.

POLIO CLOSES SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN LILLINGTON

METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED TO CHILDREN BECAUSE OF POLIO FEAR

The Lillington Presbyterian and Methodist Churches have cancelled Sunday School for children under 16 years old to avoid any chance of the spread of polio in the community. This decision was made at the Sunday School hour following a discussion of parents and officials of the Methodist Church.

The Presbyterian Church was the first to take such action, having cancelled Sunday School last Sunday. Sunday School and church services for adults will be held as usual. The public will be notified when it is advisable to reopen the Sunday School to children.

According to county health authorities, there are only four cases of polio registered for Harnett out of almost 1,000 for the entire state. The precaution taken by the local churches is to be commended, and may aid in keeping the countryside free from the epidemic.

Dr. W. B. Hunter, county health officer, believes that the spread of polio can be reduced by parents who keep their children at home and away from public gatherings.

FARM-HOME TOUR FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

Annual One-Day Harnett County Tour Announced by County Farm and Home Agents

The annual Farm and Home Tour for Harnett County farm men and women will be held on Friday, August 6, according to a statement today more from the County Farm and Home Agent's Office. Visits will be made on this tour to demonstrations in Harnett County, representing the work of Home Management, Farm Management, Enterprise Projects; namely, corn, alfalfa, cotton, and wine. Demonstrations will also be visited in connection with Club work and Older Youth work in the county.

Details of the tour will be made available early next week and the points to be visited given. Each and every farm person, both men and women, are cordially invited to participate in this tour. The tour will leave the county agent's office at 8:45 on Friday morning and will be one day in length.

Names Of Veterans Still Being Sought

Veterans Service Officer L. B. McLean of Harnett county has announced that his office is still seeking the names of all men and women, white or colored, who died in the Spanish-American, World War I, and World War II, for inclusion of the county memorial soon to be erected on the court house lawn. A large number of names have been received but Mr. McLean is of the opinion that there is yet a large number who have not been reported by friends or relatives. It will not be pleasant, nor create a good feeling, to have someone in a family who should be honored by inscribing his name of the bronze tablet, and have that name missing, and Mr. McLean is doing all he can to avoid such situations. The name, or names, should be sent in to the veterans office at the court house as soon as possible.

Lillington Sprays DDT As Polio Check

For over a week now a crew of supervised sprayers with equipment have been spraying the outside of houses, shrubbery, and public buildings in the city of Lillington as a precaution against the polio epidemic. It will take about two more weeks for them to finish the work. Several North Carolina communities have been doing the same thing, and local authorities headed by Mayor Charles Loving formulated a plan with the state health department for spray work at the county seat.

In the plans were the stipulations that the state would furnish the DDT and the town would furnish the labor and equipment. Supervision was also offered by the state. The town accepted the provisions and the work began immediately.

High Prices Are Expected For Opening Market Day

COUNTY LIBRARY HAS YEARLY SURPLUS OF \$3,524.54

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FIND THAT LIBRARIAN ALLEN McKAY HAS BUSY YEAR AND OPERATES EFFICIENTLY

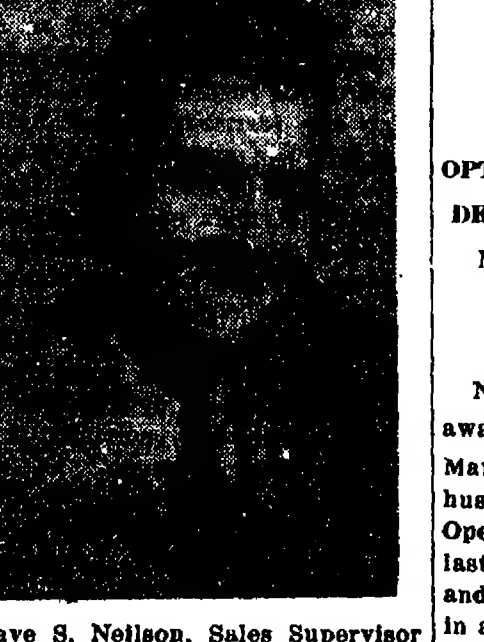
The report of the county librarian was one of the most welcome items heard and approved by the board of commissioners at their Monday meeting. For sometime now report after report has been a call for financial aid to finish the year in the blue, or to show that expenses were just met, and not a cent over. But Librarian Allen H. McKay showed that her department had the grand surplus of \$3,524.54 to the good with all expenses covered. The librarian reported receipts of \$12,218.80, and expenditures of \$8,694.26.

Considering the fact that the unit purchased a new bookmobile for \$1,590.45, and remodeled the library for \$2,880.27, the report was even the more gratifying.

Harnett county appropriates \$2,400 for the library. Mrs. McKay's yearly report showed the following: Number of new borrowers—501; Number of non-resident borrowers—329; total number of registered borrowers—940. Number of volumes at beginning of the year—3,740; books added during the year—1,188; withdrawals and losses—46; total number of volumes—4,882. Volumes circulated, July 1, 1947, to July 1, 1948—19,644; total circulated for this year—24,618.

The total for children loans are almost equal to adult; Children—10,131, and adults—14,485. The bookmobile has 64 stops and was driven 6,183 miles for the year.

Whiteville Market Sales Supervisor



Dave S. Nelson, Sales Supervisor of the Whiteville Tobacco Board of Trade, has the big task this year of directing the progress of the Whiteville tobacco market.

Rob Moore Grows Huge Watermelon

One of the biggest native watermelons seen in these parts recently was displayed to the Newsman last week by Mr. Ed Moore. The huge melon, which weighed 81 3/4 pounds was grown by his industrious young son, Rob Moore, on his half acre patch at his home on Holly Hill.

"This is just a 'dry weather knot,'" Mr. Moore quipped when asked the variety of the melon. No doubt the melon would have weighed close to 90 pounds if it had not been grown in an extremely dry season. Mr. Moore stated that the seed used in growing his 'dry weather knot' were given to him by a friend, and in lieu of the proper name for the variety had named it "Dixie Pride." The thought later occurred to the Newsman that perhaps "Rob's Pride" would be a more appropriate name for this fine species.

CROPS LOOK MUCH BETTER IN LOWER AREA

OPTIMISM PREVAILS IN ALL BORDER MARKETS AS WAREHOUSEMEN COMPLETE PLANS AND RENOVATE BUILDINGS

Next Tuesday morning the long awaited day for the Border Belt Markets will find everyone of them bustling and busting with activity. Opening several days earlier than last year has caused the tobacco men and personnel to get things in order in advance. Cleaning the warehouses, placing the lines; getting all necessary equipment on hand, etc., has been the order of the day now for sometime. However, when the chant of the tobacco auctioneer begins to ring out on August 3rd over the wide extended markets on the belt, everything will be in the best of condition to handle the thousands of first-day farmers who will visit the warehouses.

The Border Belt has a drawing power throughout all of North Carolina. Of course most of the local tobacco goes through the local markets, but figures show that every central and eastern county in the state sells its share of the leaf in the lower area. In Lumberton alone, only one of the Border Belt markets, no less than approximately 1,500,000 pounds of eastern belt tobacco is sold. This is only one of the channels for other than border belt leaf; Whiteville actually is in an area where more out-of-county tobacco is sold than is raised in all of the other counties.

Prices for grade one leaf continue to rise on the Georgia-Florida Belt, a good sign that the crop will sell high on the Border Belt. Optimistic supervisors are looking for a 50-55-60 cent scale on opening day, and it may be higher than that. Farmers, who have suffered curtailment because of the acreage loss, may fare better than supposed if the price stays above the average.

The tobacco crop has a more stable appearance in the Border Belt area. Most of the land is low and level, drainage is at a minimum, and the leaf has weathered the dry spells very well. Then too, the lower area was free of severe storms, especially hail and wind, which took a tremendous toll of plants in the more northerly sections. A close view of the leaf shows it to be bigger and more evenly developed in border belt counties. A personal interview with supervisors at Lumberton, Fairmont, Fayetteville and Whiteville shows them to be optimistic over the year's big money crop. All of them hope to retain their last year's level of sales, and some even expect to better that record. All acknowledge that they will have to draw heavily on the eastern belt farmer to up their figures.

The monstrous new warehouse at Fayetteville at the intersections of Highways 301 and 37 is fast nearing completion. It is directly opposite the market's other warehouses. New warehouses have been built in Lumberton, Fairmont and Whiteville for this year's trade. Millions of dollars will begin to pour through the trade houses in this section of Carolina next week as the farmers begin to invade the border belt markets with their loads of golden leaf.

Soil Conservation Service Technician's Advice Helpful

(Editor's note: This is No. 2 in a series by W. E. Boykin, Harnett County Soil Conservationist, to show how your Soil Conservation Service technician works, what he does, and how he can likely help you as a farmer.)

The Soil Conservation Service technician has just come into his office from the field and is preparing a field map of the farm just visited, drawing in the location of proposed changes from notes on a clipboard lying beside the map on the desk. A man enters the office. He is a stranger to the technician and, from his expression, we would judge that he is not quite sure this is the office he is looking for.

Technician: "Come in. My name is Doe. What can I do for you?"

Visitor: "I am looking for the man who does drainage. I have some land that needs a line of tile."

Technician: "I do not do drainage but can often help farmers decide what type of drainage to use, how to put it in, and how it can best fit in with a plan for conservation of soil and moisture."

Visitor, (whom we will call "Farmer A"): "I need to get rid of some moisture—not conserve moisture—and my land is not washing. I just want to put in this tile line."

Technician: "Where is your farm located?"

Farmer A: "It is just southwest of town, about three miles out on the main highway."

Technician, pulling a sheet from the file: "This is an aerial photograph of that vicinity. Suppose you show me just which is your land so I can outline the boundary lines on this map. It might help if I know just where the place is that needs drainage."

Farmer A: "It borders on the highway on the front side."

Technician: "Is your house next to the road, with two large trees out front?"

Farmer A: "Yes. That's my house. The lines run this way." He shows where his lines run, following familiar landmarks shown on the photograph.

Pvt. Rex L. Dean Arrives in Panama

Pvt. Rex L. Dean of Coats recently arrived on the Isthmus of Panama, having made the trip via the USAF "Gen. Simon D. Sturgis." Upon his arrival Pvt. Dean was assigned to duty with the 66th Anti-aircraft Artillery Group at Ft. Azador, C. Z., on the Pacific side of the Isthmus.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ogburn of Angier announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Blanche Williams Ogburn, to Mr. Harry Clay Dupree, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin T. Dupree, Sr., of Angier. The wedding will take place September 11th.

Home Demonstration Agent And Clubs Publish Cook Book

Harnett county's Home Demonstration Clubs have taken a most progressive forward step among the state's various county units by gathering tested recipes, and having them published in a very attractive sixty-page book entitled, "North Carolina Recipes."

Much of the credit for the undertaking is to be given Miss Loraine Vail, Harnett county home agent for the State College Extension Service. Miss Vail was active in promoting and organizing the idea and subject matter.

Members of the county clubs pledged to buy one copy, and sell one. So 500 copies were ordered, and to date most of them have been sold.

The book carries recipes that are especially North Carolinian in taste, and have a direct appeal to Tar Heel eaters, but the recipes can be used anywhere for those who like good food prepared in simple style.

The book is in heavy binding, and new pages can be added from time to time if so desired. It is the culmination of several years of hard work, and the clubs are to be congratulated for their talent.