

Happy New Year
1949

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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

Vol. XXXI—No. 1

\$2.00 PER YEAR—5c A COPY

Lillington, N. C., Thursday, January 6, 1949

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

Special Senatorial Election Puts Off Beer-Vote To Summer

BEVERAGE VOTE WOULD CONFLICT OTHER ELECTIONS

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, COMING IN MAY WOULD PLACE BEER-WINE VOTE TOO CLOSE; 60 DAYS REQUIRED

Advocates of a special election in Harnett county to decide the question whether legal sales of beer and wine shall be continued find themselves stymied by a provision of law that requires 60 days interim between other elections and a beer-wine vote.

A special election was held in Harnett county last Monday, January 3, along with Hoke, Moore and Randolph, to elect a successor to Ryan McBryde of Hoke county, who had been elected last November but who became ill and resigned.

Sixty days from that election would throw the date within 60 days of the municipal elections which fall in May.

Following is the action taken by the Harnett County Ministerial Association which held its regular meeting at Buie's Creek Monday:

A tabulation of names requesting the Harnett County Commissioners to call an election on beer and wine was made and it revealed that a very good margin over and above the 15 per cent required number was obtained. Many of the petitions have not as yet been returned for tabulation.

The Association took note of the fact that another election was being conducted in Harnett (and other counties) on January 3rd, to elect a Senator from this district, which means that an election on beer and wine could not be held in Harnett for another sixty days. Even if no election had been necessary to elect a Senator, the beer-wine election could not be held before at least sixty days, and probably longer, due to other regulations of the election laws.

The Association also recognized the meeting of the State General Assembly, which convenes this week. While some people feel that the Assembly is certain to grant a State-wide referendum on the entire liquor question, the ministerial association saw no guarantee of this. Even if a referendum is requested, the association feels that it will have a poor opportunity of becoming a law if the House of Representatives operates under the "gag" rule, as it has heretofore.

The sentiment of the association was that "we do not desire to cause the county to have two unnecessary elections—one on beer and wine and (Continued on page eight)

Monthly, Quarterly Report of Register

In her report for December, submitted to the Board of Commissioners Monday, Mrs. Inez Harrington, Register of Deeds, showed receipts in her office during December as being \$753.55, for recording. There were 19 army discharges recorded for which there was no fee.

In her quarterly report of marriage licenses issued, Mrs. Harrington reported:

For October, 16 licenses at \$4—\$64.00; for November, 21 licenses—\$84.00; for December, 19 licenses—\$78.00. The total was \$226.00.

Clerk's Collections \$2606.12 in December

Clerk of Court Howard Godwin, in his report for December, submitted to the Commissioners Monday, showed collections for the month of \$2606.12, from the following sources—From probates \$274.70; from civil and criminal actions and special proceedings in Superior Court \$211.95; from fines in Superior Court \$647.00; from trust commissions \$73.92; from civil and criminal actions in Recorder's Court \$213.55; from fines in Recorder's Court \$1085.00.

Cold Christmas

Dreams that any local people may have had of a white Christmas went floozy, but if they desired it cold, they had their wish. Temperature dropped steadily immediately preceding Christmas Day, and finally reached a low of 14 degrees.

A little snow and sleet that fell early in the Yuletide season quickly vanished when it began to rain heavily.

So far as anyone interviewed by The News could learn, the annual event passed off very quietly.

CITIZENS DON'T DESIRE SERVICE OFFICE STOPPED

COMMISSIONERS HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION YET ON SUGGESTION FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS TO ABOLISH OFFICE

A storm of protest is arising against a suggestion from certain quarters that the office of Veterans Service in Harnett county be abolished.

Commissioner Lofton Tart of Dunn, the only member of the new board to hold over after last November election, first reported the suggestion. He mentioned it before the retirement of the old board, and it has been brought to the attention of the new board, but as yet no action has been taken.

The term of the incumbent Service Officer, L. B. McLean, runs until next June, but he, like some other appointees, are serving at the pleasure of the Commissioners. That means that the office could be discontinued at any time.

Service Officer McLean tells The News that through the efforts of his office there is now coming to former servicemen and their dependents in Harnett county the sum of \$12,760.51 per month in pensions and subsistence allowances.

The expense to the county for the two offices, one in Lillington and one in Dunn, is \$4,500 per year.

Commissioners Carson Gregory and Paul Tysinger told The News they will not under any circumstances vote for the discontinuance of the office while conditions remain as at present. "Certainly not as long as our young men are still being drafted," said Commissioner Gregory.

Learning of the move to abolish the office, District Service Officer Jack H. Daniel wrote to the Commissioners (It was addressed to Former Chairman Angus A. Cameron) the following letter protesting dis-

(Continued on page eight)

30,500 VEHICLES IN 1948, CHIEF LUCAS REPORTS

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF LANE 27 SAYS ONLY 7 OR 8 VEHICLES POSITIVELY REJECTED IN HARNETT COUNTY

Chief Inspector Lucas of Inspection Lane 27 folded up his equipment here last Friday after a week's stay in Lillington, and moved to Clinton for a couple of week's stand there.

Inspection Lane 27 serves Harnett and Sampson counties. Chief Inspector Lucas told The News that his lane inspected 30,500 vehicles in 1948, the initial year of the state-required inspections, and that of that large number, he had positively rejected only 7 or 8 vehicles—that is, refused them the privilege of using the highways.

He said also that on initial inspections around 75 per cent of the vehicles were required to make some mechanical repairs. On second trips to the lane practically all of them passed and received approval stickers. Ninety per cent of them actually passed on second inspection.

Inspector Lucas praised vehicle owners for their cooperation during the year just passed, and he thinks that now there will be no major difficulty in rounding—or rounding out—vehicles that are not road-worthy.

Lane 27 will come to Lillington again on January 25th for another week's stand. Incidentally, two inspections are required this year. The first is to be completed by June 30, the second by December 31.

The lane did a rush business all last week here.

DUNN PRODUCTION CREDIT REPRESENTATIVE HERE

A representative of the Dunn Production Credit Association will be in the County's Agent's office here every day except Saturday from 9 to 4, beginning Thursday, January 6, to accept applications for agriculture loans.

Nine Stills

Commissioners Fields and Tysinger, named as "The Still Committee" of the board at the December meeting, had their first fling at the contraptions Monday.

Nine stills had been reported captured during the past month, and the committee proceeded to make junk of them.

Afterwards, the board went into a discussion of the lack of men captured with the stills. A motion was passed to call in Sheriff Salmon at the February meeting and talk to him about it.

Inspection Lane's Schedule For First Quarter In Harnett Given

The Motor Vehicle Department has announced inspection period for various model vehicles for the first half of 1949.

The Manual sets forth the inspection deadlines for all vehicles for the first inspection period as follows: All vehicles of the year model up to and including the year 1938 must be inspected by January 31, 1949. All vehicles of 1937 and 1938 models must be inspected by February 28.

SIX MURDER TRIALS LISTED FOR NEXT WEEK

CLERK HOWARD GODWIN COMPLETES CALENDAR OF CASES PENDING IN COURT OPENS TRIAL MONDAY

With quite a lengthy calendar for a one-week term, Clerk of Superior Court Howard Godwin lists for trial six murder cases to come before the court when it convenes for its initial term of the year next Monday morning.

Clerk Godwin tells The News that, so far as he now knows, Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids is to preside. He stated, however, that there may be an exchange of judges and that Resident Judge Lawson L. Williams of Sanford may preside.

The case of Ruth Howell, charged with killing her husband, will not come to trial. She is still a patient at State Hospital.

It will not be possible for all of the cases listed on the calendar to be tried in the one-week term. All cases listed are subject to the call of the Solicitor. There are 19 cases to go before the Grand Jury.

Clerk Godwin expects Solicitor Jack Hooks of Kenly to be here, but he doesn't know whether the Solicitor, who has been ill for several months, will be able to prosecute the entire docket. Attorney J. Robert Young of Dunn acted as Solicitor at the November term and succeeded in ridding the docket of a great number of cases.

Following are the cases listed for trial next week:

Monday, January 10
J. P. Gibson, assault with deadly weapon; Herman Barfoot, assault on a female; George Griffin, abandonment; Bernice Carter, violation prohibition law; Gilbert Hair, violating motor vehicle insurance law; Carl Edward Barfoot, careless and reckless driving; Willie Baker, arson; Coy T. Lucas, burglary; Slim Moses Williams, operating auto intoxicated; B. E. Westbrook, operating auto intoxicated and without license; Mattie Bell Blue, assault with deadly weapon; Lewis Wilburn, murder; James Grice, murder; Sam P. Sannady, murder; Emma McLeod, murder; Troy McNeill, murder.

The following cases are to go before the Grand Jury and are to be (Continued on page eight)

COUNTY STANDS TO GET BIG KICK- BACK IN FEES

CLERK HOWARD GODWIN PUBLISHES FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHOWING LARGE AMOUNT UNCLAIMED FEES

Harnett county's treasury stands to get a sizeable kickback from its appropriation for witness fees, if those to whom checks were made for such services do not put in claims soon.

In publishing his financial statement, Clerk of Court Howard Godwin shows a long list of checks made out to witnesses, both in Superior Court and Recorder's Court, who have not claimed their fees.

Clerk Godwin told The News that if claim is not made for the fees he holds he will turn the sum he is holding for that purpose over to the county.

The Clerk reports assets in the Superior Court fund of \$29,517.85; in Recorder's Court fund \$6,362.62, and in the trust account, \$23,374.47. All of the funds are on deposit in the Bank of Lillington with the exception of the trust fund, which is divided: \$16,474.67 in the Bank of Lillington; \$4,900.00 in the First Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Dunn; and \$2,000.00 in the Commercial Bank, Dunn.

All of the deposits are secured by collateral in addition to the Federal Deposit Insurance of \$1,000.

Board Wants Law Relative To Salary Of Its County Attorney

OUTLOOK MEETS SLATED FOR FARM MEN AND WOMEN

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND

A series of outlook meetings will be held in Harnett county with both the farm men and farm women, starting during the week of January 17, stated C. R. Ammons here today.

These outlook meetings are designed to aid farm people in planning and carrying out their farming and business operations during 1949. Indications show that 1949 will be a good agricultural year as far as Harnett county farmers are concerned. Farm people will be advised to watch their operating cost during 1949 in order to realize a larger net return from their endeavors along agricultural lines. Farmers will be cautioned to analyze thoroughly the purchase of additional farms before going too heavily in this direction, as the price of real estate of North Carolina is relatively high as compared to former years.

A schedule of these outlook meetings will be made available at an early date, and not only farmers but business and professional men interested in agriculture are cordially invited to attend.

Can't Get To Church

The recent wet weather has had a bad effect on all dirt roads, but one of the worst to be reported is in a colored community in Upper Little River township.

A delegation appeared before the Commissioners Monday and stated that their road was so bad "the folks couldn't get to church."

There was no petition to forward to the Highway Commission, but the board told the complainants that if they would get up a petition the board would approve it.

Levying To Start

Tax Collector W. D. Harrington is sending out letters to all delinquent taxpayers in Harnett county notifying them that he will start immediately to levy on automobiles and personal property to satisfy unpaid taxes.

On Monday the Commissioners ordered Mr. Harrington to go after unpaid taxes through the levy method.

Unpaid taxes for all years back are reported by County Auditor Carson to be over \$250,000.

Service Officer's Report For December

Letters received 61, Letters mailed 74, Long distance telephone 23, Field trips 25, Interviews, 118, Education 24, On the job training 50, Certified Copy Dis. 66, Pension 6, J. P. & N. P. work 94, Insurance 8, Hospitalization 3, Burial benefits 1, Legal & business advice 16, Commitments 14, Out patient Treatment 31, Miscellaneous 165, Total 791.

RETURN FROM PA.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Porter of Lillington R-3 have just returned from a visit to Red Lion, Pa., where they visited Mrs. Porter's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin Aze.

While there they were entertained by Mrs. Gladys Hittenshouse and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elder. Mr. and Mrs. Aze accompanied them home for a week's visit.

Reason To Crow

A young rooster that really had something to crow about was killed and dressed recently by Miss Zula Matthews. Upon cleaning the 5½ pound rooster it was found that he had an enormous liver that measured eight inches across and weighed exactly one pound.

The liver from the chicken was displayed in The News office by Mr. E. M. Blanchard, who stated that the rooster was grown by his son-in-law, Mr. J. E. Weathers of Paquay Springs R-2.

REPORT SHOWS TAX PAYMENTS STILL INCREASE

HARRINGTON'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER SHOWS RECEIPTS OF \$48,097.84; 70.99 PER CENT OF LEVY PAID

Taxpaying in Harnett county is much better than last year, at the same date, according to the report for December, submitted by Collector W. D. Harrington to the Board of Commissioners Monday.

Harrington's receipts for December amounted to \$48,097.84 from tax sources, and other revenue came to \$79,057.33, making total receipts of \$127,755.23 for the month.

The 1948 levy is now 70.99 per cent paid. Of the \$556,810.67 levy there remains \$161,532.95 to be collected.

The report shows: Current taxes \$46,492.78; delinquent taxes \$2,205.06. Other revenue: General county fund \$34,381.30; school fund \$15,552.97; aid to dependent children \$5,271.75; old age fund \$2,569.00; child feeding fund \$1,369.74; veteran farmers training \$11,763.58; veteran education \$1,149.65. Total of all receipts \$127,755.23. Tax payments at the same period last year were 67.67 per cent of the levy.

WORK STARTED THIS WEEK IN ALL TOWNSHIPS

SUPERVISOR JOHNSON URGING ALL PERSONS SUBJECT TO PROPERTY TAX OR POLL TO LIST PROMPTLY

Tax listers in each of the thirteen townships of Harnett county started out this week on their big task of recording all property and the name of every person subject to poll tax. The listing will continue through this month.

Supervisor Berles Johnson is urging cooperation with the listers. He points out that waiting till the last days of the listing period will cause a rush. Too, he said, there is always a chance that the listing may be forgotten if it is put off.

Another risk that property owners take if they don't list early is that if they do happen to overlook the matter till after January 31, they will be compelled to come to the tax supervisor's office in Lillington to list.

Still another risk is that, if a property owner should fail to list during the stipulated period, a penalty of ten per cent will be added, thus running up the tax bill. Supervisor Johnson asks The News to inform all farmers that no farm census is required this year. (Continued on page eight)

EXECUTIVES TAKE FULL DAY MONDAY SESSION

COMMISSIONER SENTER APPOINTED PURCHASING AGENT AT SALARY \$85 PER MONTH; ORDER FORECLOSURES

Many matters other than routine were considered by the Board of County Commissioners Monday, and it was late in the afternoon when final adjournment ended the session.

It appearing that few of the constables had furnished bond, the clerk was authorized to notify all of them to secure bond before performing any further duties in that capacity.

Commissioner Senter was appointed as the county's purchasing agent at a salary of \$35 per month including travel expenses, subject to analysis of travel, in addition to his regular pay as a member of the board.

The salary of W. A. Johnson as county attorney was fixed at \$200 per month. Commissioner Senter went on record as opposing that salary. The board agreed to confer with Representative Howard Parker in regard to a law fixing the attorney's salary.

L. M. Chaffin was appointed vice recorder at a salary of \$25 per day. He is to serve at the pleasure of the board, not to exceed one year.

The board ordered that list takers be paid at the same rate as last year. H. S. Holloway and C. H. Thornton were named as countywide tax appraisers.

An offer was made to rent the tobacco acreage at the County Home at \$75 per acre, and Commissioner Senter was named to negotiate the deal.

Herbert Matthews and Woodrow Norris were employed as janitors at the courthouse and agricultural building. Matthews is to receive \$45 per week and Norris \$30.

The board agreed to call Sheriff Salmon into the February meeting to discuss with the board ways and means of capturing men operating liquor stills.

The resignation of C. B. Altred as county coroner was received, to take effect January 3.

Bond was received in amount of \$1,000 for Walter Lee Johnson as county surveyor.

Mrs. Fred Cameron was appointed registrar of vital statistics for Johnsonville township in place of T. W. Cameron who resigned.

It was ordered that the tax listing period be extended to February 15. County Attorney Johnson was ordered to proceed with tax foreclosures and secure such assistance as he may deem necessary.

Tax Collector Harrington was ordered to levy on personal property for the collection of all back taxes. The tax collector was ordered to furnish to the Solicitors of the County and Dunn Recorder's Courts a list of all persons heretofore and here-

(Continued on page eight)

FIRE DESTROYS BARNES HOME

Fire Early Saturday Morning Burns Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Barnes Near Lillington

Fire early last Saturday morning completely destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Barnes, about a mile and a half north of Lillington at the crossroads. It was one of the finest homes in the county.

Mr. Barnes stated that the flames sprang up when the floor furnace was lighted. The Lillington fire department responded, but was unable to do more than pour enough water on the burning structure to allow some of the household furniture and personal belongings to be removed.

The home was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Barnes. Mr. Barnes, besides conducting a general merchandise store near his home, is one of Harnett county's largest taxpayers.

(Continued on page eight)