

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, January 20, 1949

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

Grand Jury Harshly Criticizes Conditions In County's Schools

RECOMMENDS DUNN COLORED UNIT BE CLOSED

AND BUSES AND FUNDS DEFECTS HERE AND THERE; OTHER INSTITUTIONS O. K.

The harshest criticism ever directed at Harnett county's schools and buses by a Grand Jury was contained in the report submitted to Judge Clawson L. Williams, presiding at court here last week, by Foreman Myres Tilghman of Dunn and the jurors serving with him.

All other county institutions were inspected and given approval by the jury, most of them in a complimentary way.

In his report, Foreman Tilghman stated that his jurors had inspected all of the schools and buses, most of the latter being found in good condition.

When it came to the schools, the report went into detail with each unit, citing conditions that need to be remedied. One school, Harnett County Training School (for Negroes) at Dunn, the jury recommended to be closed till repairs can be made.

Following is a complete report of the Grand Jury:

To His Honor Clawson L. Williams, Judge Presiding:

We, the Grand Jurors of Harnett County Superior Court, respectfully submit our final report for the week ending January 14, 1949.

We have examined the County Jail and find it to be clean, sanitary and well kept. The inmates appear to be well cared for. We have inspected the city jails at Dunn and Angler and find them clean, sanitary and well kept.

We find everything at the Prison Camp in excellent condition. All buildings are well kept, clean, and sanitary.

All bills received and passed on with the exception of Case No. 1176 in which the witnesses, Ralph Jackson and Juanita Fowler, could not be located.

The County Home was inspected and found to be in a clean, sanitary condition, with the highest sanitary rating ever. The rating is Grade A.

The following schools were inspected and found to be in the condition as follows:

Dunn Grammar School. Clean, sanitary condition considering the building is under repair. Found to be in an unsafe condition in case of fire, one end of the building is barricaded, leaving an exit at only one end upstairs, which in event of fire would be a very hazardous condition and could result in the loss of many lives. We recommend that this condition be corrected at once by erection of a temporary fire escape or that the steps in that end of the building be completed and the barricade removed. When the Principal was questioned about this situation, she stated she had reported this in September to Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross. Buses at Dunn High School.

Maple Grove Indian School. Bus in good shape, in need of good building and two more toilets, additional facilities needed for teaching above eighth grade.

Smith Grove Colored School. Not served by buses. Building in good shape with exception of front porch, which is in need of repair, needs a new pit for girls' toilet and another outside door in building for use in event of fire.

Beaver Dam Colored School. In good condition and buses which serve school, reported by Principal to be in good condition. Buses parked at Harnett County Training School.

Dunn High School. Needs steps at one of the back doors. No soap in toilets as dispensers are out of order. Toilets need deodorizers, not adequate fire protection with respect to extinguishers, not sufficient storage for school supplies or lunch room supplies, toilet facilities started last summer for colored lunch room help should be completed, need self-closing valve on fountain on playground. Bus No. 67 emergency brake broken, reported in September. Bus No. 58 brakes need adjusting. When loaded, not sufficient. Bus No. 53, emergency brake no good. Inside of this bus needs repair, lug nuts on right front wheel will not stay tight. Bus No. 60, back door will not open, emergency brake needs adjusting, no lights at all. Bus which involved in recent wreck in Dunn, driver says he reported

(Continued on page eight)

Bale Minimum

Cotton yields of farmers participating in the 1948 Five-Acre Contest have been unusually high. Preliminary estimates indicate that the yields will range from slightly more than one bale per acre on up, with a majority of the growers averaging more than 800 pounds of lint per acre. These figures are for all contestants in the county, landlords and tenants, whites and Negroes. In no case will the yield of a contestant be below a bale of cotton per acre.

TB SEAL SALE STILL RUNNING SHORT OF GOAL

COUNTY HAD QUOTA OF \$1,700 AND MISS LASSITER REPORTS \$1,385.87 TURNED IN ON STAMP SALE

With a goal set at \$1,700, the Harnett County Tuberculosis Association sale of Christmas Seals (the little TB stamps) is still short around \$300.

Miss Irene Lassiter of the County Health Department, who is in charge of the Seal Sale, reports that \$1,385.87 has been received in her office from the season's sales.

Miss Lassiter stresses the fact that funds from the sale of the little seals has accomplished much in the way of detection and prevention of the spread of tuberculosis in Harnett county.

She points also to the fact that TB, the ruthless killer among all diseases, is still taking entirely too many lives.

Although much progress has been made toward the eradication of this dread disease, there is much yet to be accomplished. And the funds derived through the Seal Sale is aiding wonderfully in this work.

Seals were mailed out to those who were thought to be interested in the anti-tuberculosis work, with the request that they remit a penny for each seal.

Those who have not yet responded to that appeal may yet contribute to the elimination of tuberculosis in Harnett county by sending the money to Miss Lassiter at the County Health Department.

Those who may not have received the seals can also help by making a contribution—as much as they desire.

Dances Being Held At Cambro Pond

The members of Anderson Creek Home Demonstration Club are sponsoring a series of dances beginning Thursday, January 20, at 7:30 p. m. These dances will be held at Cambro Pond, the proceeds to be used in the building of a Community House. Chaperones will be Mrs. Will Lasater, Mrs. Carroll Wood and Mrs. Angus Shaw.

HARNETT GIRL HONORED

The Teachers Playhouse, dramatic club at East Carolina Teachers College, has announced the election of a large group of both active and honorary members of the organization.

Those chosen as active members includes: Betsy Sue Stafford, Buie's Creek.

Levying On Personal Property Will Hit Prominent People

Harnett county departed from its usual custom of the past decade or two when the Board of Commissioners at its January meeting ordered Tax Collector W. D. Harrington to immediately begin levying on personal property to satisfy unpaid taxes.

Personal property includes automobiles—in fact the autos were mentioned first in the board's order. A tax collector's levy placed on an automobile generally brings in the cash. Nobody, prominent or otherwise, likes to have his or her modern vehicle tied down with a tax lien.

But, if the collector proceeds according to the board's order with the levying on personal property, there will be a lot of automobiles, maybe come trucks too, tied down—until the past-due tax is paid.

Collector Harrington's books show that quite a number of Harnett citizens have not settled their 1948 tax bill with the county.

ROSS EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR JURY REPORT

IN LETTER TO GRAND JURY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS POINTS OUT THAT WORK IS PROGRESSING

Upon receipt of a copy of the report of the Grand Jury serving at the January term of Harnett Superior Court, Superintendent of Schools, C. Reid Ross, addressed the following letter to Mr. Myres Tilghman of Dunn, foreman of the jury:

January 13, 1949. Mr. Myres Tilghman, Foreman, Harnett County Grand Jury, Dunn, N. C.

Dear Myres: I want to express to you my appreciation for your promptness in making available to me a copy of the Grand Jury Report. I would like to give you a preliminary report at this time as many of the things mentioned in the report have already been taken care of and I will file with you a complete report before your next meeting.

Dunn Grammar School: The new stairway at the end of the second floor hallway is not completed but it is in condition to be used as a fire exit. A door has been cut in the temporary partition at the end of the hallway making it available for use in an emergency. The two temporary ladders which were put up at the beginning of the school year will no longer be needed as an emergency exit.

Maple Grove Indian School: There are no funds available for the construction of a new building. Every effort will be made to keep the old building in a usable condition. No provision can be made for teaching above the eighth grade as there are not enough pupils for the State to establish a high school. You probably recall a number of years ago the State aided in the construction of an Indian high school over in Sampson county. Since we do not have enough Indian students in this county for a high school, the State will pay as much as \$10 per month per pupil for transportation for Indian pupils living in Harnett and we have had some pupils in the past to take advantage of this. The two additional toilets are scheduled to be built and will be installed as soon as possible.

Small Negro Schools: The repairs recommended for the following schools, which are more or less of a minor nature, will be made just as soon as possible: Smith Grove, Johnsonville, Ridgeway, McLean's Chapel, Bethlehem, Erwin, Mt. Pisgah, Cedar Grove, Norrington, Angler, Coats. In regard to the stoves at Cedar Grove school, I might say these have already been re-worked with needed replacement parts.

Mary Stewart School: The condition of the stove referred to has been remedied. The other items mentioned will be corrected.

LaFayette School: A plumber has been sent today to check on the toilet facilities. The insufficient storage space and cafeteria space cannot be corrected until additional funds are secured for the building of an agriculture shop which will release the space needed. The Board of Education has plans for such a building and it will be built as soon as possible.

(Continued on page eight)

URGES STUDY OF METHODS TO CLIP CRASHES

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL AND STATE SAFETY DIVISION GIVE RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING BY MOTORISTS

"Be a winter winner" against traffic accidents!

That's the advice of S. L. Gaynor, Jr., Assistant Director of the Highway Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles. "When driving in rain, sleet, or snow," Gaynor said, "every motorist should be especially alert, at the wheel and have the proper equipment to cope with winter conditions." Statistics show that accident rates increase from 24 to 53 per cent during ice and snow months, according to the National Safety Council.

Gaynor urged all North Carolina motorists to study endorsed methods of reducing accidents and fatalities caused by poor visibility and other hazards of the winter season.

The National Safety Council, through testing and scientific research, has prepared the following rules designed to help all of us win the battle against the traffic hazards of winter:

1. Get the "feel" of the road surface when you start out. Test braking and acceleration ability when no other cars are near and before you are faced with an emergency.
2. Reduce speed when road surfaces are snowy or icy so you can stop in time. Remember at only 20 miles per hour it takes 4 to 12 times more distance to stop on snow or ice than on dry concrete.
3. Keep windshield and windows clear of snow and ice on the outside, fog and frost inside. Check your defroster and wipers.
4. Use tire chains when snow or ice conditions prevail. They reduce braking distances for cars and trucks from 40 to 70 per cent, and provide "go" traction often needed to start or climb hills.
5. Carbon monoxide poisoning is dangerous! Never warm your car up in a closed garage. Check exhaust systems and floor boards for leaks. Mainflame type heaters should not be used unless frequently examined for leaks and other defects.
6. Good tire treads are desirable because they improve stopping on wet pavement, but do not depend on only new treads to help on ice or packed snow.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Blanchard of Fuquay Springs announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Catherine Blanchard, to Wilbur Wava Gilchrist, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Gilchrist of Lillington.

The wedding will be held at 12:30 p. m. Saturday, the jury took the case at five minutes after six o'clock Friday afternoon. Late in the night Judge Williams ordered them to get a night's rest. They deliberated again Saturday morning. Finally at noon the jury reported they were

(Continued on page eight)

Judge Williams Sentences 14 To Serve Terms In State Prison

JUDGE SCORES JURY'S VERDICT IN McNEILL CASE

JURY FAILED TO AGREE, PROSECUTOR ACCEPTS PLEA OF ACCESSORY AND JUDGE PRO-NOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE

Another jury was scored by Judge Clawson Williams last week when the twelve men hearing the case of Troy McNeill, charged with the slaying of his wife, failed to agree on a verdict after nine hours deliberation.

McNeill went on trial for the second time for the slaying, having secured from the Supreme Court a new trial after being convicted last May and sentenced by Judge Paul Frizzelle to die in the State's gas chamber. The high court ruled that there was error in the judge's charge.

Solicitor Jack Hooks and Assistant John R. Hood were again asking for a first degree verdict in the second trial. Following the failure of the jury to arrive at a verdict, the prosecuting attorneys accepted a plea of accessory before the fact of murder.

Judge Williams, after lecturing the jury and condemning McNeill, sentenced the defendant to serve the remainder of his life in State Prison. The judge directed Clerk Howard Godwin to make an entry on the sentence to the effect that no pardon or parole would ever be recommended.

McNeill was charged with killing his wife, using several deadly weapons—a fire poker, a stick, an ax and a shotgun. The judge also mentioned the fact that the defendant's daughter is serving a term for manslaughter.

Judge Williams declared the evidence supported a verdict for first degree murder, and he stated that the jurors were derelict in their duty in not agreeing on such a verdict. It was understood that the jurors stood eight for second degree and four for first degree.

This was the last case tried for the term. It was concluded at 12:30 p. m. Saturday. The jury took the case at five minutes after six o'clock Friday afternoon. Late in the night Judge Williams ordered them to get a night's rest. They deliberated again Saturday morning. Finally at noon the jury reported they were

(Continued on page eight)

Potato Man

Ed Gilchrist, who farms on the Dr. Young farm in Anderson Creek township, last week brought to The News office one of the oddest looking sweet potatoes ever seen in these parts. The potato had the appearance of three potatoes grown together and had the resemblance of a little fat man. Ed may not be the biggest potato man in the county, but he is the only one to date who has grown a potato man.

SUPERVISOR SAYS LISTING IS SPEEDING UP

URGING CITIZENS TO LIST PROPERTY PROMPTLY SO THAT BOOKS WILL BE COMPLETE WHEN TURNED IN

Tax Supervisor Berles Johnson's appeal to citizens of Harnett county to list their property promptly is having the desired effect. Listing is proceeding this year faster than usual.

Although the County Commissioners have extended the listing time to February 15, Supervisor Johnson is anxious that all abstracts be filled out this month.

"The earlier we can finish the job of listing," he says, "the sooner we can determine the total valuations we will have this year. This will in turn enable County Auditor Carson to estimate the tax rate necessary for 1949 after he has made up his budget."

The Supervisor's appeal for early listing is prompted by the fact that if there are no "late listing" complete valuations will be booked when the lists turn in the abstracts.

Then, too, there is a penalty of ten per cent that is added to all late listings, and the Supervisor doesn't want a single entry of that sort to go into the records.

Reports from the thirteen townships state that the work is proceeding satisfactorily, and they hope to be able to turn in the final reports with no property owner left out.

Supervisor Johnson states that inasmuch as the Commissioners have extended the closing listing date to February 15, there will be no listing after that date without the ten per cent penalty being applied.

ONLY TWO OF SIX MURDER CHARGES CALLED TO TRIAL

BUT SOLICITOR HOOKS CLEARS DOCKET OF MANY MINOR CASES IN SESSION THAT LASTED ONLY ONE WEEK

Trial of many criminal cases in Superior Court last week, included two murder trials, thinned the heavy docket down, but five of the murder cases listed were left over for the March term.

Judge Clawson Williams sentenced 14 to serve terms in State Prison. Following are the cases tried:

James Grice, who pleaded guilty of being an accessory before the fact of murder, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the State Prison.

Nol pros was taken in the case against Carl Edward Barefoot, careless and reckless driving.

The case against B. E. Westbrook, operating auto while intoxicated, was also not prosed.

Johnnie Walker, who pleaded guilty to larceny of a Cushman Scooter, was sentenced to not less than 3 years nor more than 5 years in State Prison.

James Bowden and Alton Leroy Ruffin pleaded guilty to larceny and were each given 3 to 5 years in State Prison.

John L. Spearman, Jr. was sentenced to not less than 3 years and nor more than 5 years for house-breaking and larceny. An appeal was taken and appeal bond was set at \$100 and appearance bond at \$3,000.

Judson Jackson was given 12 months for larceny.

Berry Griffin plead guilty of breaking and entering other than burglariously at home of Nannie Chance, with intent to commit a felony therein, to wit, larceny. This plea was accepted by the State and he was sentenced to not less than 7 nor more than 10 years in State Prison.

J. B. Senberry was sentenced to 3 to 5 years in State Prison after pleading guilty to larceny.

Raymond Elliott, charged with larceny, was sentenced to 3 to 5 years, suspended upon condition he pay cost and repay his father \$200, and help his father work on the farm and remain of good behavior.

Robert Stewart plead guilty of larceny of less than \$50. He was sentenced to 18 months to 3 years, suspended for 3 years upon condition he remain of good behavior.

Buddy George Smith was sentenced to the roads for 3 months after being found guilty of larceny from the person.

Ernest McNeill was found not guilty of housebreaking and larceny. Willie Price, being tried in the same case, was given 3 to 5 years in State Prison.

Anthony Harris plead guilty reckless driving and was fined \$100 and cost.

J. Lee Langdon plead guilty of operating auto while under influence and was fined \$100 and cost and ordered to surrender his driving license.

Isaac McKeithan plead guilty of temporary larceny of auto and was given 2 years on the roads. Defendant also plead guilty operating auto while intoxicated with operators license and was given 6 months on the roads, sentenced to begin at expiration of sentence for temporary larceny.

Fred Follard and Clayton Hurd were sentenced to 6 months each after pleading guilty of larceny of a Jeep automobile.

Peyton Edward Garner and John Strickland plead guilty of breaking and entering and were sentenced to not less than 18 months nor more than 3 years.

Colden E. Faircloth was found not guilty of operating auto while intoxicated.

In the cotton stealing case Wilford Patterson was sentenced to 3 to 5 years in State Prison. The other defendants, John D. Black, Felton Black, William Hair and Winfred Jackson were given 7 to 10 years in State Prison in each of several charges, the sentences to run concurrently. In another case, the last four named defendants were given 5 to 7 years, the sentences to begin at the expiration of the 7 to 10 year terms. The 5 to 7 year sentences, however, were suspended upon condition the defendants remain of good behavior for 5 years after the expiration of the 7 to 10 year terms.

Time Short For New Acres

HEARING FOR COMPLAINANTS

Town Board to Meet Monday Night to Hear Allegations and Objections to Street Assessments

The roll of street paving assessments has been compiled and placed on file in the Town Commissioners' office in the Lillington Municipal Building for inspection by property owners in the town.

The Town Commissioners will meet next Monday night, January 24, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of hearing allegations and objections, if any, in regard to the assessment roll.

Many property owners have paid their assessments. Some paid before the paving was begun by the Zeigler-Cline Construction Company last summer.

In the event that any of the assessments remain unpaid, the Town Board will order that their assessments be placed against property the same as regular taxes.

ILL WITH PNEUMONIA

Miss Adelaide Shaw, who is associated with the Board of Education office, has been ill for the past several weeks at her home with pneumonia. Her condition is improved.

Safety Council Meeting

Secretary O. H. Hood of the Harnett County Safety Council is notifying members and all others interested of a meeting of the Council in the courthouse auditorium tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:30 o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to attend meetings of the Council because all matters considered are of vital concern to everyone.

Plantbed Time

If you notice curls of smoke rising from the woods here and there throughout Harnett county, almost any day now, you needn't notify Sheriff Bill Salmon or any of his deputies that you've seen evidence of a manufactory of illicit beverage.

Just lay off it. It's planted time in Harnett, and farmers who expect happy times to come again next fall are "burning off" preparatory to sowing the seeds that bring, after much hard labor, those happy times.

Cottage Prayer At Buie's Creek

The Presbyterians of Buie's Creek, their friends and connections, will have a cottage prayer meeting at the home of Mrs. G. G. Page in Buie's Creek Friday night, January 21st, at 7:30. All members and friends are urged to attend this first prayer meeting service and to bring their children. Rev. Donald McMahan, the pastor, will deliver a sermonette and prayer and this will be followed by a social hour. Come out and enjoy this hour of spiritual blessing and fellowship.

To Hot Springs

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols of Coats left last Sunday for Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they expect to stay till February 15. This is their second trip to the health resort.

Mayor and Mrs. Charlie Loving also left Sunday for Hot Springs, where they expect to remain for a while.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Sutton and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Morton are spending sometime at Hot Springs.

FEB. 1 FINAL DATE TOBACCO ALLOTMENTS

NON-ACREAGE FARMERS CAN GET ALLOTMENTS IF THEY QUALIFY BEFORE THAT DATE, SAYS CAMERON

Melbyrd Cameron, chairman of the Harnett County AAA Committee, states that farmers who have never been allotted any tobacco acreage on their farms may become eligible for allotments if they can comply with the stipulations set up for the distribution of surplus acreage allotments.

Applications for new growers' allotments must be filed before February 1, 1949, for the current crop, unless the applicant was discharged from the armed services subsequent to December 31, 1948.

The following conditions must be met before growers may obtain allotments for new farms. The operator shall be largely dependent for his livelihood on the farm. The farm covered by an application shall be the only one of an individual operator for which a tobacco allotment is established for 1949. The operator shall have had experience in growing flue-cured tobacco during two of the past five years, veterans being eligible with one year's experience. The farm shall not have a 1949 allotment of tobacco, other than that for which application is made.

New grower tobacco allotment cannot exceed the smaller of 15 per cent of the crop-land on the farm, or 75 per cent of the allotment for old flue-cured farms which are similar.