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COUNTY POLITICAL SITUATION CLEARS

Two of Present County Commissioners Decline to Be Candidates—R. J. Johnson Announces—The Question Is Whether These Declinations Will Satisfy Sentiment for a Change.

With the announcement of Mr. R. J. Johnson, chairman of the board of county commissioners, that he will be a candidate to succeed himself, and with the virtual declination of Messrs. C. D. Moore and W. T. Brooks to be candidates to succeed themselves, the political situation begins to take form.

Mr. Johnson has consulted many citizens of all parts of the county on the question of the old board's retiring, and he has found the sentiment, he says, favoring the retaining of one of the old commissioners, and he was perfectly willing to retire, the wishes of the others seemed positive and he has decided to offer himself again to the people.

There is no question in the mind of the editor of the Record that the board has done as well with the problems confronting it as almost any three men in the county could have done. Yet the Record recognizes a desire on the part of many citizens for a change of officers, and feels that the retirement of two of the commissioners will go a long way toward allaying the existing unrest.

The next question more concerns the candidacy of the sheriff and register of deeds, who have held their jobs for ten years. There is scarcely a man in the county who finds any personal fault with either Sheriff Blair or Register of Deeds Poe. They have both made most excellent records in their positions. The desire, so far as it exists for a change in those offices, relates entirely to the fact of their long tenure. There are many who believe that ten years is as long as any one should hold a county office, in view of the fact that there are always others equally competent to fill the positions. Yet if Messrs. Blair and Poe desire to run, there is scarcely any one so hardy as to attempt to oust either.

Clerk of Court Hatch is on a comparatively different basis, as he has not served so long, but only five years, having been appointed to succeed Dewey Dorsett, who resigned, and having been elected for only one term. However, if the sheriff and register of deeds should express the purpose not to run again, there is little doubt that the demand for a clean sweep, with the possible exception of Mr. Johnson of the board of commissioners, would grow in intensity and that there would be candidates against Mr. Hatch if he should declare himself a candidate. Well, the coroner should probably be excepted also, as his office is not held in the same light as that of those who devote all their time to their official duties, and Mr. Books has made an exceptionally efficient coroner, being a man of unusual judicial temperament.

NEGRO MAN VICTIM OF AUTO ACCIDENT

Saturday night, near the Harmon filling station, two miles below Pittsboro, on highway 75, a truck driven by a colored man ran off an embankment. He was instantly killed. Identification was easy, as he had his name and address in his car. He was from Durham and was owner of the truck. The Record has not been informed as to his name.

ANOTHER WRECK

A car driven by Webb Taylor, colored, ran into Mr. O. B. Mann's car Saturday evening on highway ninety and caused the injury of two of Mr. Mann's daughters, Miss Catherine and Miss Viola, one right seriously about the face, and caused Joe Eubanks, colored, who was riding in the Mann car to get a leg broken. Both cars were seriously damaged. June Taylor, who was riding with Webb, professes that he was drinking, but says Webb wasn't. They are bound over to court, after staying in jail Sunday.

MEN INJURED AT MINE

We are rather tardy reporting the injury of four men at the Coal Glen mine, but better late than not at all. Rocks fell upon them. Two white men, a Mr. Campbell and Mr. Talmage Johnson were seriously hurt. Mr. Johnson got both legs broken, while Mr. Campbell had his face and ear injured. The two colored men were not seriously hurt.

Mrs. Claribelle Marston of Chicago was granted a divorce on her testimony that a red-headed girl had run her husband's legs.

Moncure News

Mr. and Mrs. Evan R. Ray and little daughter of Mt. Airy and Miss Pauline Ray who is teaching in Mt. Airy schools spent last week-end with their parents here Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ray.

Miss Catherine Thomas, who is teaching at Coal Glen spent last week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Thomas.

Miss Annie Lambeth, a student at Greensboro College, spent last week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Lambeth.

Dr. Chas. E. Houston and wife of Cooleemee were in town one day last week looking over the town in view of locating here.

Rev. T. Y. Seymour of Buie's Creek, filled his appointments at the Baptist church here Sunday. His sermons were good and enjoyed by all.

Mrs. J. A. Mims is visiting friends in Raleigh this week.

Prof. and Mrs. H. G. Self spent Sunday at her parents near Siler City.

There will be services here at the Methodist church here next Sunday morning and evening by Rev. J. A. Dailey, the pastor. The public is cordially invited.

A play entitled, "In Hot Tomale Land," will be given by Moncure Glee Club in the school auditorium next Thursday night, March 6. The public is cordially invited. Admission 20c and 30c.

The Junior Epworth League met at 6:30 o'clock last Sunday evening. They have twenty members and are doing good work.

The senior Epworth League met at 7 o'clock. The president, Miss Camelia Steadman, presided. After calling the meeting to order and minutes of the last meeting read by secretary, Mr. Lewis Burns, the meeting was turned over to the leader for the evening, Prof. H. G. Self, who discussed the subject, "The Wesley's and Their Work," in an interesting way. Charles Wesley was the writer of songs and his songs were sung during the service. John Wesley was really the founder of Methodism. The meeting closed with the league benediction. Hawk's Chapel quartet will sing at the league service next Sunday evening.

Miss Annie Lasater, the daughter of Mr. T. M. Lasater, who graduated from State Teachers' College, Boone, last week, is now at home, with her aunt, Mrs. M. A. Moore.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wicker, a son, Robert, Jr.

Mrs. Erwin Walls of Fuquay Springs is visiting her sister, Mrs. R. H. Wicker this week.

We are glad to state that Mrs. R. P. Womble who was in a wreck, near Carroll's filling station last Thursday was not seriously hurt. A truck struck her car and pushed it against a wire fence. Mrs. Womble was bruised, but is getting on very well. We hope she will soon be entirely well again.

THE McNEILL BOOK CLUB

At its regular meeting today, the book club which has heretofore informally called itself, "The Book of the Month Club" officially adopted the name, "The McNeill Book Club."

Wishing to honor and to show their appreciation of him, the club gave a program upon John Charles McNeill. From this influence sprang the unanimous decision to name the organization for him.

Those present at the February meeting expressed themselves as having especially enjoyed the program, as each one contributing seemed to do so from a sense of personal love for the poet and not only because she was "on the program."

The McNeill Book Club was organized on January 23, 1928. The membership is limited to twelve members and any vacancies that may occur are filled by secret ballot of the membership.

The charter members were: Messdames Mary Barber, Geo. Brooks, Sr., W. P. Horton, James Cordon, Wm. Hunt, V. R. Johnson, Walter Johnson, W. D. Siler, Will Chapin, D. B. Nooe, Wade Barber, D. L. Bell.

Miss Maggie Horne and Mrs. C. N. Shiver have been received to fill vacancies.

ATTORNEY A. C. RAY VICTIM OF AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Well Known Lawyer and Esteemed Citizen Killed Instantly Monday Evening by Car Driven by Russell Griffin—Coroner's Jury Finds Death Due to Accident.

BURIAL ON WEDNESDAY

Town Shocked by Suddenness of Tragedy—Two Grief-Stricken Families Recipients of Much Sympathy.

The people of Pittsboro received one of the severest shocks in the history of the town when Attorney A. C. Ray was instantly killed Monday evening. He was run down while walking on the left of the highway from the school building by a car driven by Russell Griffin, a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Griffin, and a student in the high school.

There had been an oratorical contest at the school building that evening. The contest was held to determine the school's representative in the county contest to be held at Moncure Friday evening. Mr. Ray's son Leon had just won the distinction of representing the school. Mr. Ray had been present and five minutes before his death was talking to Supt. Waters about the boy's victory. He left afoot from the school building, and though there is a good sidewalk, he took the highway back to the business part of town. Supt. Reid Thompson whirled past him and is said to have thought of stopping and taking him up. Mrs. Cordon and James passed him a minute before the tragedy, James recognizing him as they passed.

His son Rev. Archie Ray had arrived on the school grounds from Virginia, evidently about the time his father left the grounds. If he had been two or three minutes earlier, he would have doubtless taken his father home. But if Destiny was on the job she successfully thwarted these possible means of escape. Hurrying behind the Cordon car was the fateful vehicle of his death.

Russell Griffin had borrowed Charlie Mills' car to take some girl friends home. It was a single-seated car, and he took up three girls. They were Misses Annie Bynum, Virginia Bean, and Eleanor Shoemaker. It happened that Mr. Ray had just reached one of the darker parts of the street. The Cordon car had already turned the corner into Main street. The road seemed absolutely open, no cars in sight and no thoughts of anyone's being walking on the street when there was a good sidewalk. At the fateful moment, young Griffin looked down to do something to one of the instruments on the dash board, as the car was described by Miss Shoemaker as not running well and "spitting." During that brief moment the car slid to the left of the road and found its victim. Miss Shoemaker was the only one of the quartet who saw Mr. Ray, and she, a newcomer to the town, didn't recognize him, even if she might have done so otherwise. The other two girls felt a slight jar, but seem not to have been greatly disturbed by it. Miss Shoemaker told the driver that she thought he had hit a man. He could hardly believe it, so little had he noticed the jar.

They were by this time near the Methodist church and the young man stopped the car, the young ladies got out and he backed it to the spot of the tragedy. He was thunder-struck when he found Mr. Ray lying dead. At that moment Principal Waters drove up from the school building and Russell stopped him and told him he had hit Mr. Ray. Mr. Waters hurried for a doctor and was back directly with Dr. Chapin, but death had been practically instantaneous.

Others had arrived. Coroner Geo. H. Brooks was there early, living as he does only a short distance away. He immediately empaneled a jury composed of Messrs. Fred Nooe, Newton Moore, J. D. Murdoch, Bob Farrell, Bob Goodwin and Walter Woody, who viewed the body where it lay. Further inquest was postponed till Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. C. J. Griffin, undertaker, took charge of the body, but it was found so badly broken up that it was taken to Sanford, where the facilities for preparing the body under those circumstances were greater. The skull was broken, an arm broken, a leg, and many other bruises and abrasions were in evidence. Mr. Bob Farrell, one of the jury, stated that the skull was broken like the shell on a boiled egg when it has been tapped on all sides.

Mr. Waters and Dr. Chapin had the sad task of breaking the news to the family.

been told the shocking news, Mrs. Cordon arrived on the scene, having hurried to her immediately upon learning of the accident, and as that good lady had just gone through a terrible shock herself, she was peculiarly fitted for the moment. Mrs. Ray clung to her and told her that there was no one else whom she would have been so glad to see, since she knew that she knew how to sympathize with her in her grief. Grief reigned in the Ray home, but the poor young man who had unwittingly caused the tragedy was alone at home, himself weeping. He had not told his parents, who were in bed. He had been advised not to tell his mother at that time, and he had gone to bed. Principal Waters went over to see him and, having called him out from bed, advised him to tell his parents, that the burden was too heavy for him to carry alone and that they must know anyhow. Mr. Waters told the father, and Mr. Griffin, smitten as he was, insisted upon going at once to the Ray home, where, upon his arrival, he expressed his grief and proffered his services.

Fortunately, as stated, the oldest son had just arrived. He was home from his pastorate in Virginia, having resigned to accept a call to a Presbyterian church in New Orleans. He was to visit home folk a few days and go down to his new work. In Baton Rouge were two daughters, Mrs. Saville and Miss Martha. Mr. Saville is a professor in the University of Louisiana; Miss Martha is with her sister and a student in the University. A wire told them of the tragedy. A telephone call by Prof. Waters informed Wyeth, who is a teacher at Mt. Ulla, in the western part of the state. He knew by 10:30 o'clock and was one the scene early Tuesday morning. Mrs. Leslie Wall, another married daughter, was informed at Legerwood, this state. The other two children are Miss Louise at home and Leon at home, who had just won the distinction in the oratorical contest.

The coroner's inquest was continued Tuesday morning, and the three young ladies and Mr. Waters told the story practically as it is told here. The jury took the matter into consideration and rendered a verdict of accidental death.

Because of the delay necessary for the arrival of the daughters from Baton Rouge, the funeral was not held till Wednesday afternoon, and as the Record is going to press at that time, the account of the funeral cannot be given in this issue.

A splendid character was given Russell Griffin, the unfortunate youth, by Prof. Waters, who declared him to be quiet, honorable, and as having during six school sessions given no occasion for discipline. The three young ladies with him are among the most intelligent in Pittsboro and thus could give all the story, though little enough in proportion to the size of disaster, in a most understandable way.

DEATH OF MRS. THOMAS

Mrs. Bettie Thomas, whose critical illness was recently announced in this paper, died last Wednesday afternoon at the age of 67. She was the widow of the late J. A. Thomas, who preceded her to the grave 12 years ago.

Mrs. Thomas was a daughter of the late Rev. Geo. P. Moore, founder of Trade's Hill Baptist church, and Mrs. Thomas was the last surviving charter member of that church, now called Pleasant Hill.

To her and her husband were born sixteen children, ten of whom still survive and are among the staunch of citizenry of this and nearby counties. They are Ben Thomas, of Henderson, S. M. Thomas of Apex, G. N. Thomas, D. L. Thomas, Mrs. Will Drake, Mrs. Addie Webster, Mrs. R. L. Sturdivant, of New Hope and Cape Fear townships, Mrs. J. J. Hackney of Bynum, Mrs. Gordon Copeland of Durham, Mrs. J. R. Copeland of Cary.

A brother and a sister also survive, namely Mr. C. D. Moore, a member of the board of county commissioners, and Mrs. J. J. Hatley. The late Wayland Moore was also a brother of hers.

The burial was at the Pleasant Hill cemetery, Thursday, February 27. Rev. R. R. Gordon, her pastor, conducted the funeral service. Many friends and relatives were in attendance.

George Martin of Liverpool spent his entire legacy of \$2,000 for

Brown's Chapel News

We were glad to have a number of visitors out Sunday afternoon to hear Brother Dailey's fine sermon on "The Unfilled Vessel." Many of those who have been sick were back, but some are still on the sick list. Our visitors were from Chapel Hill, week-end visitors of the Wright girls, also some from Pittsboro and Hickory Mountain.

Jerome Durham and Misses Jewel Justice, Pearl Dark, Allene Dark, D. Whitaker attended the Junior-Senior banquet at Pittsboro Saturday evening, and report a fine time.

Miss Belle Ellis and Mrs. Wiggins of Durham were week-end visitors of Mrs. W. C. Henderson.

The fine weather of late has been taken advantage of by many to sow grass, lespedeza, oats, and to prepare land for spring planting.

Sheriff Blair and four of his faithful deputies destroyed a still and a lot of beer. No man was caught, but it was not the fault of the officers. If those who know of blockading will tell the sheriff, he will do his part. Go tell the sheriff, and if you don't, quit blaming him and him deputies. If all over our country and state we would do our duty toward the law, and I am not speaking of the officers, there would be little complaint of non-enforcement of the law. The man who kicks at the laws is usually one who does not want to abide by them.

As to the game law, for instance, the men who made those laws, whether lawyers or not, did a fine thing for the farmers, but the most of us are too dull to know it. Before the game laws were passed, cars would drive up to my house and park. The men would jump out with their dogs and off they would start. When halted, they would say, "O, I did not know you lived here." What if we were to act so in a store or other places of business. We need to wake up. Things are going on all over the state at great cost to the people which could be avoided if we were not so careless as to our duty, and were not afraid to be blamed or criticised for a right stand.

Mr. Harris Discusses The Tariff Evils

Editor of Record:

I have read with much interest your editorials on economics; also the splendid article from Mr. Murphy in last issue of The Record. I just wanted to ask you a question which, I think you will agree, has connection with the subject under discussion.

If, by international agreement, complete elimination of tariff should be effected, would not this furnish the shortest and surest road to relief?

And this calls for another: Do you think that a self-governing people, if the masses really understood the bearing the tariff has on their every interest, would stand for such a pernicious policy? Paraphrasing a little, it seems that "Tariff is a game which, were their subjects wise, governments would not play at."

A news item recently told of the calling of a conference by the League Assembly, at Geneva, to discuss a tariff truce, but most countries were indifferent if not antagonistic. Why?

In America the expenses of political campaigns are paid by men and corporations who have already fattened on the people and are ever calling for more. With big contributions they gain the privilege of dictating higher rates. This was never more plainly demonstrated than by recent tactics in Congress.

Mr. Hoover really wanted, it seemed, to enact some farm relief legislation, but the high-tariff men couldn't resist the temptation to tinker with their beloved hobby. Putting tariff on agricultural products in this country was an insult to the intelligence of the farmers. Removing tariff from necessities he must purchase would have given relief worth while.

Our country doesn't need tariff for revenue; all countries can maintain their governments without recourse to a policy that has become a disgrace to civilization and is constantly growing worse.

The great law of supply and demand must control farm products and all other products should be subject to the same jurisdiction. If one part of the earth can supply any necessity, natural or manufactured, cheaper than other parts the common people should have the advantage without any government-imposed barriers. If the nations could agree to slay this octopus, abolish this most wicked policy ever sponsored by a government they would do more to promote peace and brotherhood than in sinking all the warships afloat.

T. S. Harris

Bear Creek News

A. D. Coggins is having a siege with mumps. He seems to have suffered a relapse, but we hope he shall soon be out again.

The Nall Land sale, near here, was well attended, which was held last Saturday afternoon. Rev. J. W. Marsh, colored, bought the home place, containing 62 acres, while W. H. Garner bought the other tract, which contained 35 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smith and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Paterson and families of Greensboro, were Sunday visitors in the home of W. A. Coggins.

S. Jackson Fields, of Cummock, Rt. 1, is seriously ill at his home. We wish him an early recovery.

T. P. Beaver, of Rt. 2, is confined to his home with sickness, but we hope he shall soon recover.

Miss Mamie Burke, of Burlington, spent the week-end with her people on Siler City, Rt. 5, near Meroney church.

Glenn McDaniel and his sister, Mrs. Sid Fink, of Durham, were Sunday visitors in the home of Latt D. Poe.

Mrs. E. B. Straughan, of Saxapahaw, spent the week-end in the home of F. C. Straughan, on route 2.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Thomas and family and B. S. Beaver and son, J. B., all of Durham, were week-end visitors in town.

M. F. Norwood has installed a radio in his home.

Mrs. Latt D. Poe, who has been on the sick list for a few days, is improving, we are glad to state.

W. B. Beaver, of Durham, was a Sunday visitor in the home of his father, T. P. Beaver.

Elmer Moore has moved from his place (the Glosson place) to I. H. Dunlap's place on route 2, where A. J. Barber formerly lived.

Miss Emma Beal has moved from her place, near what formerly was Pedlart's Hill, to J. S. Hart's place, on Cummock, Rt. 1. We regret to lose these people.

Hoover Searches for Facts His First Year

A diagnosis of American life in varied phases—industrial, social and economic—has characterized Herbert Hoover's first year in the President's chair.

The anniversary of his inauguration, March 4, finds the engineer-executive in the midst of a broad program of governmental investigation into vital forces affecting men, women and children.

It is this fact-finding spirit that has dominated Mr. Hoover's first year in the White House. With the engineer's propensity for analysis before action, he has named an unprecedented number of investigatory commissions.

Fifteen groups, directed by specialists, have been appointed to delve into problems that touch the farmer, the business man, the housewife and the nation's youth. No other president ever placed such faith in extra-constitutional investigation.

Negotiations leading to the London naval conference, enactment of a farm relief bill and persistent scrutiny of the nation's prohibition dilemma perhaps were outstanding among all events of President Hoover's first 12 months in office.

The law enforcement commission, whose activity probably aroused as much public interest as any, saw its reports followed by prolonged congressional debates on the nation's dry laws.

The farm board, backed by \$500,000 in government funds, is charged with rehabilitation of American agriculture. By act of Congress it is directly possessed of executive duties.

Other Hoover commissions, reflecting the president's initiative in commanding experts to consider new and neglected problems, deal with matters that are expected to be major developments of the next several years.

The committee on social trends, for instance, contemplates a most exhaustive survey of social problems. Three years will be spent of 25 major social questions. The child welfare survey and committee on illiteracy are expected to expedite state and national legislation and reform for years to come.

Long-time development of inland waterways is outlined as work of the interoceanic canal board. The recently-named Haiti commission looks toward eventual withdrawal of the United States from affairs on that island.

The nation's industry generally was given impetus toward continued constructive activity by the President's conferences with business leaders shortly after the stock market crash.

A year in the white house has seen no cessation in Mr. Hoover's vim for activity. Seldom has he allowed interference with his work. Week-end fishing trips last summer