

LEE PEACH CROP MOVING

WILKINS PEACH FARM WILL NET 8,000 BUSHELS

Wilkins Brothers State Production Might Possibly Reach 10,000 Bushels.

The Lemon Heights Orchard located seven miles out of Sanford, is far from being the largest orchard of its kind in North Carolina's famed Sandhill section and the Sandhill peach industry is many notches below that enjoyed by this fruit in Georgia and California, yet the local orchard is strikingly interesting not only from a community but from a viewpoint to which a much larger scope contributes.

Wilkins Pioneer. But whether in the Sandhills or not, that is a question that must be left to geological authority for settlement, this orchard is by no means secondary to any in the real peach belt and the visitor to this orchard cannot leave its aromatic environment without at least thinking "I have seen one of the most beautiful sights in Goshen."

Ten years ago, the late Lucien P. Wilkins, an enterprising Virginian, who had trekked to Lee county many years before, attained unusual success as a business man and tobacco farmer, became interested in the peach industry. He became optimistic but his optimism was promptly nipped by that of the misguided sort for Mr. Wilkins was by nature the investigator and he did not enter this new field without first making a comprehensive study of the problems to be faced in peach growing.

Today, there is not a more successfully operated orchard in the North Carolina peach belt, and while it is common knowledge that a great many growers in the past several years, have been driven into bankruptcy through poor crops and low prices, the owners of this orchard have broken even four years out of the past six, the length of time in which the orchard has been productive, and that realize handsomely on the remaining two years.

This year there is a wonderful crop of peaches in the Lemon Heights orchard. So productive were the trees that early in the season the necessity that many of the peaches be pulled from the trees to give those that were left a chance to attain their normal growth. Now, where they have not been harvested they hang in luscious clusters awaiting the approach of the picker. The owners of this magnificent orchard, Lucien P. Wilkins, Jr., Alexander B. Wilkins and W. Banks Wilkins, sons of the late Lucien P. Wilkins, believe they will harvest from eight to ten thousand bushels of peaches from the 100 acres this orchard covers this year.

Already they have shipped ten carloads, a total of almost 4,000 bushels, and they expect to ship eight or ten more carloads before the close of the season which they anticipate to end by the middle of next week. The 4,000 bushels comprise only their long distance shipment. For the past week or two the Wilkins trucks have been transporting the delightful fruit to other towns and cities of North Carolina and much of their crop has been disposed of locally. Hundreds of cars during the past few days have stopped at the Wilkins farm, charmed by the magic sight, and made purchases to carry home. In fact a great quantity of this crop has been disposed of in this manner, for being the first orchard of the belt to which cars approach from the north and the last as they come from the south, the motorists have been unable to overcome the impulse that commands them to stop and purchase the fruit. So they have been "gettin' 'em goin' an' comin'."

Low Prices. There is only one fly in the ointment to worry the Wilkins boys this year, and that is the price. And this is one commodity the political economists must admit, that has not come under the "high tariff" wall. But it has come under another wall, equally as depressing, even though it should not be so, and that is overproduction. Heaped on this is another factor, equally if not more so depressing to the North Carolina growers, and one that is an annual fright—the early opening of the mammoth Georgia crop, the size of which is several times several of the Carolina crop. That is exactly what happened this year. There is a large crop, and the Georgia crop beat the Sandhill crop to the New York market. Consequently, the Wilkins boys, instead of mopping up from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per bushel as they did last year—one of their best years in the business—are getting but from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel this year—an amount (Please Turn to Page Eight.)

SOLICITOR WILLIAMS RAISES TOBACCO WELL AS SHEOL AMONG LAWBREAKERS

Disappointed In The Price Of Peaches Last Year, Solicitor Clawson L. Williams Switches To Tobacco Culture—Has One Of The Finest Crops Of Tobacco Seen In Lee County This Year—Is Able Farmer As Well As Able Prosecutor Of Criminal Docket.

Solicitor C. L. Williams has proven beyond doubt that he is able to raise tobacco as well as sheol among block-adeis and other law-breakers. He has reputation of being one of the ablest solicitors in the State, but it seems that he is not satisfied with wearing the honors of an able prosecuting officer; he has an ambition to be known as one of the best farmers in this section of the State. A few years ago he bought one of the best farms on Boone Trail between Jonesboro and Broadway. To own a good farm in that section is within itself a distinction that many would like to enjoy.

When the peach fever struck the Sandhill section, which includes part of Lee and Harnett as well as Moore and adjoining counties, Solicitor Williams, along with many others, thought he saw a fortune in peach culture. He put a large acreage on his farm to peaches, and in two or three years people stopped to admire his beautiful peach orchard as they passed along on the highway. He had fine prospects and felt that soon his pocket would be bulging with the long green from the sale of peaches, but he is dealing with the great commission houses of New York and other markets is one of the greatest gambles of modern times, like other enthusiastic peach growers he soon discovered the web into which delusion had entangled him. After playing a losing

LEE COUNTY HOLDS THE RECORD ON BULL CALVES

County Demonstration Agent E. O. McMahan in making his report on farm activities to the State Agricultural Department states that the Lee County 4-H Club claims the record for bull calves. The members of the club were furnished 13 purebred Jersey heifers in May, 1930, by the Sanford Rotary Club. Eleven of these heifers have calved, ten dropping bull calves, and one a heifer. The heifer died with pneumonia when three days old, so that the increase is now ten bull calves and no heifers.

It is suggested that the next 13 heifer calves for breeding purposes be furnished by the Kiwanis Club in an effort to balance up this one-sided production.

BENEFIT DANCE HOTEL WILKIR

A brilliant summer social event is to be the Benefit dance which is to be held at the Hotel Wilkirk Friday night. This affair, which will be staged for the benefit of the Lee County Relief Association, will begin at 9:30 p. m. and last till 1:30 a. m. Music will be furnished by Theodore Barrow's Hotel Wilkirk Orchestra.

MISS GUNTER TO TAKE NEW PLACE

County Supervisor Schools Accepts Position On N. C. C. W. Faculty. Announcement of acceptance of a position on the faculty of the North Carolina College for Women was made recently by Miss Ruth Gunter, who has served as County Supervisor of Lee County schools for a number of years. The public has been taken with much surprise with this announcement for Miss Gunter, who has been, perhaps, more instrumental than any other individual in the wonderful development of the public school system in this county, had come to be regarded as a permanent fixture here. She has been regarded, state school officials advise, as one of the best school supervisors in the State.

OVERSHOT WHEEL TURNS MILL WHEELS

Some of the older readers of the Express have seen what is known as the overshot wheel in operation at water mills that were built on streams in this section many years ago. The old mill that was removed to make room for the Sanford pumping station years ago, was run by an overshot wheel. The weight of the water pouring into the "pockets" on the rim of the wheel turned it. Files of the Express carry a story, which was published years ago to the effect that colored laborer under the wheel to remove some kind of an obstruction which had stopped it from turning. As he seemed to be slow in reporting to the owner of the mill an investigation was made and it was found that he removed the obstruction, but that his head became wedged between the wheel and a rock in the stream and held fast. He was dragged out by the heels and to the surprise of those who witnessed the accident he was little the worse for his experience. People who would like to see an overshot wheel in operation can have their curiosity gratified by visiting the mill of Mr. Joe Kelly on the Capt. J. O. A. Kelly place near Broadway. While Mr. Kelly's mill is of recent construction it is operated by an overshot wheel of ancient pattern.

LEE BOARD URGES OIL TREATMENT OF JONESBORO ROAD

County Commissioners Take Up Important Matters In Monthly Meeting.

ORDER SCHOOL ELECTIONS Defer Advertisement Of Tax Sale Until September 1

Several matters of more than usual importance were discharged by the county commissioners in their regular monthly meeting, held at the county offices Monday, and Tuesday. Among these were: The ordering of school elections to be held in the Cool Springs and Underwood school districts on September 15, the postponement of the advertising of real estate for taxes until September 15, and the resolution of the State Highway Commission, urging that oil treatment be given the Jonesboro-Lemon Springs road, and an order to the sheriff that unsanitary conditions prevailing in the county jail be corrected.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS

A motion to the effect that a special school election be held September 15, 1931, on the question of the creation and establishment of a special tax district in Cool Springs school district, for levying 30 cents on each hundred dollars real and personal property, was made. This motion was duly carried, all commissioners voting in the affirmative on the question of calling such election to be held on September 15, as provided by law.

Ask Oil Treatment.

Commissioner Dan C. Lawrence offered and moved the adoption of the following: "Whereas the Board of Commissioners understand that certain citizens of the county are going to make application to the State Highway Commission that the surface of the roadway leading from Jonesboro to Lemon Springs be oil treated; and whereas the traffic over and along said road (particularly in travel going from Highway 60 to any point on Highway 50, and vice versa) is heavy and it would be for the best interests of persons using said road that the same be treated with oil; therefore, Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Lee county: That the State Highway Commission of North Carolina be urged to do anything it possibly can to the end that the surface of the roadway leading from Jonesboro to Lemon Springs, and connecting highways 50 and 60 be oil treated."

Order: Jail Cleaned.

Commissioner Kelly offered the following motion: "Whereas, State Board of Health reports to the Board that the Lee County jail is not in a sanitary condition; therefore, Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Lee county: That the jail be cleaned."

Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Lee county, that the Sheriff be notified as to information received, and that such officer forthwith clean up the unsanitary condition, complained of by the State Board of Health, and keep said jail sanitary, according to law, and the Clerk of this Board notify the Sheriff as to this resolution."

Report of grand jury was read and its recommendations considered and ordered carried out.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Lawrence that the Budget, under the head of "General Control" six months school term for the fiscal year, 1931 to 1932, and for "Capital Outlay," as amended, be adopted, on condition that Sanford Graded School (Please Turn to Page Eight.)

UNIT TO LEAVE FOR CAMP

BATTERY "E" TO ENTRAIN SUNDAY FOR FORT BRAGG

Local Unit 113th Field Artillery To Enter Field Training Period. WILL SPEND TWO WEEKS

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Equipment, consisting of two howitzers (155 millimeters), five tractors, one real car, three trucks, four caissons, two sub-calibre guns (37 millimeters) and kitchen utensils, a part of that stationed at the local Army, preceded the personnel of Battery "E" to the Fort.

Officers in command of the local unit are Captain Dan B. King, First Lieutenant Max Haines and Second Lieutenants Lucien P. Wilkins and William Anderson. A complete roster of the local unit, all of whom will entrain, follows: First Sergeant: William P. Bridges; Staff sergeant, Marion Vestal; Sergeants: Jessie Clark, Henry Mansfield, Walter Moffitt, James Seymour, William Smith; Corporals: Ernest Bridges, William McAuley, George McNeill, Lavern Sloan, Paul Sloan, Ernest Wicker, Hershel Wrenn; Privates, first class: Carlyle Clark, Clinton Boyd, John Denson, Duncan Farrington, Bernick Hight, Paul Johnson, Oddie McBrady, Layton McDonald, Leonard McNair, Frank Oliver, Richard Poe, Fletcher Powers, James Rossor, John Sloan, Duncan St. Clair, Staley Underwood, Clayton Wicker; Privates: Paul Bowers, John Brown, Ernest Buchanan, Doyle Campbell, Craven Cox, Iremis Gunter, James Hunter, Charles Johnson, Blanton Hartness, James Kelly, Norman Kelly, Rives Kinney, James Lockamy, Alonzo Love, Howard McDonald, Thomas McDonald, James McFarland, Duncan McVey, Howard Bosser, Woodrow Seymour, Donald Sloan, Emory Sloan, Jordan Sloan, Merwyn Sloan, Charlie Smith, William Spivey, Mervin Sloan, Monroe Suggs, Godwin Thomas, Robert Wicker, Aubrey Wicker, Clarence Willett, Neil Wilson and William Utley.

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BROWN ADDRESSES LOCAL ROTARIANS

Club Hears Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church Discuss International Matters. The Rotary Club met Tuesday in the basement of the Episcopal church where luncheon was served by the ladies of the church. After luncheon an interesting talk was made by the rector of the church, Rev. F. Craig Brown, of Southern Pines. After spending some time in the Far East, Mr. Brown returned to this country five years ago. At that time conditions in India and other parts of the Orient were anything but ideal. On every hand was to be found poverty, banditry and war. One would naturally expect conditions to be different in Europe, said Mr. Brown, but when he reached Italy on his way home he found soldiers everywhere, and everywhere was poverty of the direst kind and evidence on every hand of preparation for war. It was the same way in France and to a less extent in England and the United States. Here in his home land Mr. Brown did not find as many men under arms as in Italy and older hands here in banditry and lawlessness were even more marked. "We make a mockery of prohibition," he declared, "and while we talk of peace we prepare for war."

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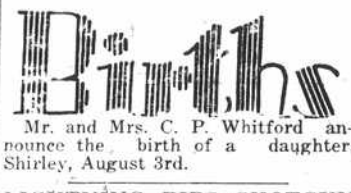
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LIGHTNING RIPS SHOTGUN BUT IT DOESN'T FIRE

One of the worst electrical storms of the entire season passed over Jonesboro and vicinity Tuesday night. There were at least four clouds which followed in succession from early in the evening until about 11 o'clock. During one of the severe clouds the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bonkenmeyer was struck by lightning. Mr. and Mrs. Bonkenmeyer had a narrow escape from death as lightning struck the corner of the bed room, ripping the timbers and otherwise demolishing the outside of the room. A shotgun standing in the corner was broken in two, but did not discharge. While not injured Mrs. Bonkenmeyer is suffering from the severe shock.