

# THE BEAUFORT NEWS

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## TWO NEGROES NOW FACED WITH PREMEDITATED MURDER CHARGE

Elishua Murray Held as Material Witness on \$250 Bond; Other Two Defendants, George Taylor and Robert Murray, Held in Jail Until March Term Superior Court.

The Upper North River section—populated principally by the dusky brethren—which is rather infamous for its feuds, foibles and shooting scrapes galore, furnished another episode Wednesday afternoon when three Negro men—Elishua Murray, Robert Murray and George Taylor—were brought before Justice I. W. Noe in a hearing held in the court house, the three Negroes being charged with the premeditated murder of Wardell Smith, also colored, with a shot gun on the night of November 30.

Much interest was manifested by the colored folks during the hearing, the court room being nearly half filled with them, most of which live in the Upper North River settlement. Only a few whites were present other than Justice Noe, Dr. Clifford Lewis, the Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, Attorneys C. R. Wheatly and James W. Mason, and the newspaper representatives.

Dr. Lewis, the first witness, stated that Wardell Smith was brought to the Potter Emergency Hospital on the night of November 30, and that the man was shot in the body both above and below the diaphragm and also in the left arm and leg. He was unable to ascertain how many loads of shot had entered the Negro's body. Death, he said, was caused by gas gangrene as a result of the shooting.

Deputy Sheriff R. E. Chaplain said that Wardell Smith designated all three men as the ones that did the shooting when the former saw the injured man in the hospital shortly after he was taken there.

Mary Jane Johnson, sister of the shot man, stated that Wardell was shot about or shortly after dark on the evening in question. She said that she met her brother on the road and that he told her that he was going to his uncle's home—Elishua Murray's and ask his forgiveness for some allegation they had had.

Rosetta Smith, also a sister, and Lena Belle Taylor, a niece, were unable to tell much.

John H. Smith, brother of Wardell, told Justice Noe that his brother told him in the hospital that he knew he was going to die and that Robert Murray and George Taylor were the ones that shot him; he also said that Elishua Murray had nothing to do with the shooting, as they had fixed up their misunderstanding and were standing close together at the time of the shooting.

Both Justice Noe and the two attorneys, Messrs. Wheatly and Mason, were of the opinion that the dying declaration made by Wardell in the hospital to his brother John H. Smith was positive evidence and therefore competent. Justice Noe decided that he would hold Robert Murray and George Taylor without privilege of bond; and that, on the testimony of John H. Smith, Elishua Murray could only be held as a material witness, bond fixed at \$250. Case continued until the March term of Superior Court.

Although the shooting occurred on the evening of November 30, the warrant accusing the Negroes of the crime was not issued until last Thursday and the arrest was not made until after it was too late to get the story in the News.

## Juniors Hear Address By Visiting Official

A large crowd attended the public meeting of the local Council Junior Order United American Mechanics in the Duncan building Monday evening, at which time Mr. E. V. Harris, of Tarboro, District Manager of the Beneficiary Degree, made an address. Rev. Mr. Sharpe, of Morehead City, also spoke to the Juniors. Motion pictures of the two orphanages and other work being done by the Order were shown, demonstrating the high type of work now being carried on by the Junior Order. This special meeting was largely attended, not only by the local membership, but quite a number also attended from Morehead City and other parts of the county.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

The Church School, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will have a Christmas Service, Sunday afternoon at 5:45 to which everyone is cordially invited. A special invitation is extended to the parents of the children of the Church School.

## NUMEROUS THEFTS REPORTED LATELY

Thieves Apparently Working Overtime Around Here; Mathis Cafe Entered Twice

A number of Beaufort people have been plagued with what is seemingly an epidemic of thefts and attempted robberies, judging from the events of the past week or ten days. This may be instigated partly by the unemployment condition, for it is usually during times of adversity that some turn from the straight and narrow path and try to get what they want by joining the Light Finger Brotherhood.

Last Thursday, sometime between dark and daylight, some one or a number of persons—presumably amateurs, according to the methods they used—entered the office of the Loftin Motor Company and tried to break into the two safes there by mauling them with tools procured from the repair shop at the rear. These attempts were unsuccessful, but the safes were considerably damaged by the impact of the tools. Being thwarted in their attempt to enter the safes, the thieves searched around and found some ten dollars that had been left in the drawer for change the next day. Nothing else was reported missing.

Last week a table was stolen from the front porch of the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Duncan on Marsh Street, and a spare tire and wheel was also purloined from their Ford coach which was standing in front of their home. Mr. Duncan, in his customary humorous fashion, said that the loss of the table, tire and wheel was "bad" but that the thieves would have been doing him a "favor" if they had also taken his car—just another case of a loss being a gain.

While Mr. F. R. Seeley's car was standing in front of his home last Saturday morning some one relieved him of the possession of the spare tire and wheel. Mr. Seeley's car also was a Ford coach.

Mathis Cafe was entered via the back door last Wednesday night by cutting the screens and breaking the glass out of the door and twenty-four packages of cigarettes, an Eastman Kodak and \$5.07 were taken. Eight nights before this, the same place was broken into and twenty-three packages of cigarettes were stolen and the door on the front machine was forced and approximately two dollars filched. If there is any truth in that old saw, that "what happens twice will happen three times," Mr. Mathis better be on the lookout—or else!

Ben Arrington, who drives the Texas Oil Company truck, says that for some time he has been missing gasoline from the truck and that therefore some one must be paying it nightly visitations.

Minor thefts are not uncommon around here, but the thieves are evidently out for larger "game" this year. The attempted demolition of the Loftin Motor Company's safes is the first occurrence of that kind since the safe of Paul's Garage was broken open about eighteen months ago.

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## St. Paul's Having Parochial Mission

The Parochial Mission, which is now being held at St. Paul's Church, is being attended by quite a number of the members. This service is a part of the program that is being put on in the diocese at the instance of the Bishop in an endeavor to bring about a spiritual revival in the membership of the church.

The Rev. E. W. Halleck, rector of St. John's church at Wilmington, is conducting the Mission. He is considered a very able preacher of the Episcopal faith and will be remembered here for his Mission work.

Services are held every evening at 7:30 o'clock and every afternoon at 4 o'clock there is a Mission for the children. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion at the Tuesday evening service, and this will be repeated Thursday evening at 7 o'clock instead of 7:30. The Mission began Sunday evening and will conclude with the Friday evening service.

## NO TRIALS TUESDAY IN RECORDER'S COURT

There were no trials in Recorder's court Tuesday. A few cases were on the docket but owing to the absence of witnesses or some other cause they were continued. Court will meet Tuesday at the regular hour 9:30 in the morning.

## BIRTH OF SON

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Davis, of Harkers Island, a son, Dec. 14.

## MOST COUNTIES' TAXES ARE LOW

Average For Six Month School Is 33 Cents; Debt Service Greater

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

RALEIGH, Dec. 14—Eighty three of the 100 North Carolina counties reported having decreased their county-wide tax rates this year under last year for an average of 33 cents on the \$100 property valuation, or from a rate of \$1.39 in 1930 to a rate of \$1.06 in 1931, a reduction which is reflected exactly in the reduction of the county-wide rate for the six months school term, figures compiled by Dr. Fred W. Morrison, secretary of the State Tax Commission, show.

The county-wide tax rate for support of the six months school term has been reduced an average of 33 cents on the \$100 valuation, or from 70 cents in 1930 to 37 cents in 1931, while the county-wide rate for purposes other than school remains at 69 cents this year, the same as last year. On the other hand, the average rate levied for debt service, which includes interest, repayments of principle, deposits in sinking funds and other costs paid on money borrowed, increased 16 cents on the \$100, or from 31 cents in 1930 to 47 cents in 1931, as an average.

Brunswick, the only county with a county-wide total tax rate of as much as \$2, was the only county making no reduction. Eight counties, Ashe, Bladen, Chowan, Dare, Forsyth, Martin, Randolph, Swain, reduced the total county-wide rate 10 cents or less. Thirteen counties reduced this rate 50 cents or more, including Camden 56, Currituck 80, Davidson 70, Halifax 50, Henderson 50, Hertford 63; Madison 50, Rutherford 62, Scotland 58, Tyrrell 71, Union 53; Vance 61; Wilkes 54 cents. Thirteen counties have additional county-wide levies for extending the six months school term including Avery, Carteret, Currituck, Greene, Guilford, Henderson, Jones; New Hanover; Northampton, Pamlico, Perquimans, Vance and Washington.

Debt service in five counties remained the same, Alleghany, Chatham, Currituck (none), Davidson and Northampton while decreases were shown in only four counties, Avery, Tyrrell, Warren and Wilson, the other 91 counties showing increases in debt service from 1930 to 1931.

Carteret county's total county-wide rate for 1931 is \$1.70 as compared with \$2.15 in 1930, a decrease of 46 cents. Of this the county-wide rate for schools is 37 cents in 1931 and was 35.6 cents in 1930, or a decrease of 48.6 cents, and the county-wide rate for purposes other than the six months school term is \$1.33 in 1931 and was \$1.30 in 1930, an increase of three cents. The county-wide rate for debt service in 1931 is \$1.08, as compared with 99 cents in 1930, an increase of nine cents.

## DREDGING TAYLOR'S CREEK

The Hodges dredge Reliance from New Bern is now at work digging out Taylor's Creek. Thursday morning it was near the East end of Front Street.

## Better Price Desired For Carteret Turkeys

The turkey raisers of the Newport-Bogue Sound section refused to make a second shipment of their birds on account of the fact that they were unable to get an agreeable price offer. A car load was shipped just before Thanksgiving and netted the raisers twenty cents a pound. They were offered twenty-two cents pound for the turkeys by Philadelphia dealers, but refused to accept this for the Christmas shipment. They held out for twenty-five cents a pound but were unable to get the price advanced. County Farm Agent Hugh Overstreet said that the Beaufort, Morehead City and New Bern markets would very likely consume a large portion of the birds, but he doubts if the growers will receive twenty-five cents a pound.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR XMAS.

The Beaufort Graded School will close Friday afternoon for the Christmas holidays, which will last for two weeks. School will begin again January 4. These two holiday weeks are like an oasis in the desert of the school year to the pupils, and they look forward with marked anxiety to all during the fall term, but after these days off the rest of the school year will seem almost endless to a good many of those attending the school.

## Highway Expenditures Amount Large Sum

Ten Year Highway Program \$183,446,970.76; of This Federal Aid Over Twenty Millions; Maintenance Costs Four Millions A Year; Counties Asked To Pay Taxes

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

## Christmas Program At Baptist Church

The members of the congregation of the Beaufort Baptist Church and their friends will have an opportunity of hearing an unusually fine Christmas program on Wednesday evening, December 23, at 7:30 o'clock. This program will consist of choruses, solos, duets and quartets by a large group of the best singers in the community.

The service will begin with Christmas carols by the congregation and appropriate readings. Following this the individuals and classes will present the "White Gifts to the King." A special appeal is being made this year to make these gifts large in order to take care of all charity assigned to this church. The service will be concluded by the choir and several friends from other churches under the direction of Mrs. G. M. Paul rendering a choral cantata, "King of Kings and Lord of All" by Stults. This cantata will be dramatized, thus presenting the Christmas story in a most beautiful and interesting way. The lovers of good music and those appreciating the true Christmas spirit pictured and told in song, will not want to miss this unusually fine program. A most cordial invitation has been extended to all to attend this service.

## Business Transacted In Superior Court

Last week's issue of the News carried an account of the business transacted in Superior Court up to Thursday. Several other cases were disposed of between that time and Friday afternoon when court adjourned.

Federal Land Bank against Geraldine Oaksmith and others, which was a suit about taxes paid by the plaintiff, resulted in a judgment of \$1,480.60 for the plaintiff.

Federal Land Bank against Geraldine Oaksmith and Wales Engineering Co. This was referred to Referee John A. Guion of New Bern.

Estelle Smith against George A. Conway and wife Addie M. Conway suit for money loaned the defendants, resulted in a judgment of \$500 principal and \$327.50 interest. Notice of appeal by Attorney C. R. Wheatly representing the defendants. Moore and Moore of New Bern appeared for the plaintiff.

Margaret Thornton and others against W. A. Howland Etta P. Holland. This case was nonsuited.

Floyd Chadwick against Fidelity and Casualty Company. Judgment the plaintiff of \$319.09 and interest.

E. L. Davis against Lillie B. Hill and R. H. Hill. Judgment was given the plaintiff for \$242.72 and interest.

Daisy B. Koonce and husband against H. K. Fort, suit growing out of the purchase of a tract of land by the defendant from plaintiffs, was heard by Judge Sinclair without jury by agreement by both sides. Evidence was taken and Judge Sinclair is to review it and make his decision in a short time.

Henry Jones against Matilda Jones, statutory offense charged, divorce granted.

Sarah E. Drewry against Lenwood J. Drewry, divorce granted on statutory grounds.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

W. E. Currier and wife to William Mason, 3 acres Newport Township, for \$300.

Luther G. Simmons and wife to Central Investment Corp. 3 lots M. City, for \$10.

Mary Etta Pigott and husband to Oliver Chadwick, tract Straits, for \$200.

Rachel A. Lewis to J. H. Lewis 21 acres Straits, for \$100.

James M. Davis and wife to Alvie Taylor 1-4 acre Marshalberg, for \$100.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

Joe Washington and Coretta Brown Morehead City.

Milton Taylor and Louisa M. Bailey Morehead City.

Earl C. Day and Lucy P. Daniels, Lola.

RALEIGH, Dec. 14—The North Carolina Highway Commission has spent \$182,446,970.76 for highway construction and \$35,657,364.95 for maintenance and betterment, or a total of \$218,104,335.71 for these two items during the past 10 years of the State's big highway program, figures compiled in the office of Chairman E. B. Jeffress shows.

Funds received for highway work during that period include \$115,000,000 in highway bonds; \$22,615,000 in Federal Aid; \$123,211,000 from license and gasoline tax; \$18,769,000 from county loans, and \$12,430,000 as donations from cities and towns, which, less the \$6,000,000 county road funds of the past two years, included in the license and gasoline tax item gives a total of \$283,025,000 received by the department in that time.

The difference between the \$282,025,000 received and the \$218,104,335 spent for construction and maintenance, or nearly \$64,000,000, is accounted for by such items as \$42,000,000 debt service, \$14,750,000 in repayments of county loans and city and town donations, \$8,000,000 in administration and general maintenance expenses, and other smaller items over the 10 years.

After the launching of the big highway construction program at the start of the fiscal year in 1921, the peak of construction cost was reached in 1924-25, when the cost exceeded \$40,000,000. A gradual drop is shown from that time until 1929-30, when costs of construction went to nine million dollars. Last year the emergency Federal Aid funds helped to raise the amount to a point above \$10,500,000 again. Maintenance costs have gone up until they now range between \$4,000,000 and \$4,500,000 a year.

## Treasury Wants Money

State Treasurer Nathan O'Berry has issued a call upon the 100 counties of the State to respond as promptly as possible with the portion of the 15 cent ad valorem tax and the \$1.50 on each poll that has so far been collected, pointing out that \$3,800,000 in teachers' salaries, nearly half a million dollars in Confederate pensions and several millions of dollars in interest and bond retirement funds are needed or will be required in a short time, and that the State Treasury is at a low point now.

The tax is now due, but is payable at par during December and January, and the counties are required to send in the State funds twice a month. Up to the latter part of last week 76 counties had remitted a total slightly less than \$1,000,000. The total estimated from these funds is \$4,300,000.

The combined statement of the (Continued on page nine)

## TIDE TABLE

Information as to the tides at Beaufort is given in this column. The figures are approximately correct and based on tables furnished by the U. S. Geodetic Survey. Some allowances must be made for variations in the wind and also with respect to the locality, that is whether near the inlet or at the heads of the estuaries.

High Tide	Friday, Dec. 18	Low Tide
3:07 a. m.		9:09 a. m.
3:17 p. m.		9:07 p. m.
Saturday, Dec. 19		
3:56 a. m.		10:03 a. m.
4:08 p. m.		9:52 p. m.
Sunday, Dec. 20		
4:40 a. m.		10:53 a. m.
4:58 p. m.		10:36 p. m.
Monday, Dec. 21		
5:22 a. m.		11:01 a. m.
5:43 p. m.		11:38 p. m.
Tuesday, Dec. 22		
6:03 a. m.		11:17 a. m.
6:26 p. m.		12:20 p. m.
Wednesday, Dec. 23		
6:42 a. m.		11:58 a. m.
7:06 p. m.		1:02 p. m.
Thursday, Dec. 24		
7:22 a. m.		12:40 a. m.
1:42 a. m.		7:45 p. m.