

Dial Phones For Lumberton Planned By Southern Bell

Property Purchased For New Building To House Central Office

LUMBERTON.—Plans to convert the telephone system at Lumberton to dial operation were announced today by L. B. Eisenhart, manager of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. This progressive step, giving Lumberton telephone users the most modern dial telephone system will be taken as soon as the equipment can be obtained and installed.

The company's plans were revealed today at a luncheon given at the Lorraine Hotel in Lumberton for 35 citizens of the city.

A new telephone building will be erected at the corner of Fifth and Cedar Streets on the property recently purchased from Mrs. W. N. Smith and W. P. Smith and will house the new dial central office equipment, the business office and the long distance switch boards. As an additional part of the work of installing the dial system considerable outside plant equipment must be added in various parts of the city.

In engineering the new equipment for Lumberton provision is being made for the future needs of this rapidly expanding area.

According to Mr. Eisenhart, the improvement and expansion of telephone service in Lumberton is another forward step in Southern Bell's steady progress towards its goal of providing more and better telephone service for the citizens of North Carolina.

"Since V-J Day, the Southern Bell Telephone Company has installed eight new positions of switchboard to meet the increased demand for telephone service in Lumberton," Mr. Eisenhart explained.

"Since V-J Day, 1250 new telephones have been installed and as of August 1 there were 2833 telephones working in Lumberton. In spite of this tremendous gain, we still have 410 people waiting for telephone service, which is 193% more than on V-J Day.

"As in the case of all installations of dial equipment by Southern Bell, no regular employee will lose a job when the Lumberton Exchange becomes dial operated. A large number of employees will continue to be needed to operate the long-distance, information, and special operator switchboard, all of which will be continued on a manually operated basis and for other jobs," he concluded.

Report Of Suit In Federal Court Not Confirmed Here

The long-pending action to force "equal" educational facilities for negro school children against Lumberton and Robeson school officials was transferred Tuesday to the Federal courts by the institution of a new complaint, according to The Raleigh News and Observer.

virtually the same as the old but placed in the Federal jurisdiction by attorney Herman L. Taylor. Taylor said that the Superior court action was dropped and the transfer made because the case "became so hopelessly entangled" in the state court.

The original action was begun in the Robeson Superior Court on July 8, 1947, and was closed by Judge Q. K. Nimocks on July 12, 1948, when he sustained a technical demurrer offered by the defendants.

No notice had been received this morning by the Lumberton school board nor by the County Superintendent of Schools of the composition of both groups denied any knowledge of the new action except facts which appeared in the state papers.

Presbyterians To Have Services At Home Church

RED SPRINGS.—The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church will worship in its own church Sunday morning after five weeks in which it shared the St. Stephens Episcopal Church with their congregation.

The Presbyterian church has been repainted throughout and a new carpet installed in the past five weeks. One additional change in the church, made with funds raised by members of the choir, included extension of the front banister of the pulpit platform.

The Rev. Thomas A. Fry, pastor of the church, will return from his vacation especially to preach the sermon Sunday. Guest ministers will supply the church through the rest of the month of August.

Truck crop tonnage this summer is expected to be 7 per cent less than in 1947, but 5 per cent above average.



Fairmont Sales Tops All Records, No Tags Turned

See Possibility Of Million Dollar Day During Season

FAIRMONT.—The 1948 Fairmont Tobacco Market was really off to a flying start on Tuesday with the opening sales topping every record in the history of the forty-eight years that this market has been in operation. A total of 1,150,188 pounds of tobacco was sold at an average price of \$57.42 which was much above the average expected in view of the fact that most of the tobacco sold was classed as lugs and primers.

Of course there was a large percentage of good tobacco on the floor, but there was also quite a bit that in previous years would have been thrown away. In spite of this fact, not a tag was turned during the eight sales and farmers expressed themselves as being high-

ly pleased with the prices and the way in which the sales were conducted.

Prices on opening day of the market last year reached an average of \$50 with a total of 650,000 pounds sold, according to C. B. Stafford, sales supervisor, but all signs point to a much higher average throughout the entire season and the goal for the season is a total of 50,000,000 pounds.

It is also hoped that the sales for one day will reach a total of \$1,000,000. There has been some discussion among the warehousemen concerning the small baskets of tobacco on the floor in view of the fact that only so many baskets can be sold during the day. If these small piles can be handled in such a way that they can be combined then the poundage for the day will be increased and subsequently the one million dollar goal might be reached.

According to Mr. Stafford, there was more foreign tobacco on the floor for opening day than at any sale since he has been connected with the tobacco market. The town was completely overrun and to those who are accustomed to seeing the familiar faces of farmers on the market, many have made the same statement concerning the large number of strangers here. It is hoped that this condition will continue throughout the entire season and that each farmer will be just as pleased as those who were here Tuesday.

Rotary Officers Installed Tuesday At Meeting

FAIRMONT.—At the regular meeting of the Rotary Club on Tuesday last week at the Hotel Fairmont, the officers for the coming year were installed at a most impressive ceremony.

The new officers are: president, Daniel Lane; vice-president, Harold Herring; secretary, P. C. Purvis; treasurer, Glenn Bowers; and sergeant at arms, Charlie Stafford.

Talmage Teague delivered the installation address and administered the oath of office to the new officers. He ended his remarks with the following, "Good, better, best; Never let it rest 'Til your good becomes better, And your better becomes best."

Daniel Lane, as his first act as president of the club, presented a past-president's pin to Pate Littlefield, retiring president. He then announced the new committee for the coming year.

After a very enjoyable dinner consisting of roasted Long Island duck, the club was adjourned.

Miss Wilkinson Is Polio Volunteer

MAXTON.—The request made by the Red Cross for nurses for polio cases throughout North and South Carolina has been answered by Miss Julia Rose Wilkinson of Maxton. Miss Wilkinson left Friday morning for Greensboro where she will be on duty in the polio unit of the Wesley Long Hospital.

Miss Wilkinson, who received her

Lumberton Sells 890,746 Lbs. Weed At 67c Top Price

Second Highest Ever Seen On Market Is Recorded

The Lumberton Tobacco Market, which has long ranked with the tops in this Belt, greeted the opening of the new season with next to the highest average price ever recorded here.

The 11 warehouses and 6 firms, all of which sold opening day (and every day), handled a total of 890,746 pounds for a total of \$592,386 or an all-time record average of \$66.47.

The high rate of exchange between gold and golden weed brought joy to the hearts of growers, warehousemen, and merchants alike, and every face was wreathed in smiles with not a dissatisfied customer in sight.

"They ought to be pleased," was the comment of one veteran tobaccoist. "I've been in the business for 25 years, and today's sale in Lumberton was one of the highest I've ever seen."

The warehouse floors were filled to capacity for the opening but due to Lumberton's system of allocating or "booking" floor space ahead, the marketing was orderly and by late afternoon every sales floor was cleared and another capacity sale was being laid out for the next day.

The quality of the offerings on the first day's sale were "very good" in the opinion of the majority of the veteran tobaccoists of this Border Belt center.

"The crop in this section looks like it is going to be much better than that in the other Belts," one predicted. "The folks who sell in Lumberton should really hit the jackpot this time."

The opening-day sale of 890,746 pounds at an average of \$66.47 was next to the highest in history.

The record was in 1945—749,992 pounds at 56.71 cents. The figure for last year was 458,736 pounds at \$48.08.

The price range at the opening sale ran all the way from 10 cents for nondescript to 67 cents for choice leaf with a few selects hitting as high as 69 cents.

The biggest volume of offerings fell in the range between 60 and 67 cents, and the auctioneer's gold-ent, up one row and down another, was sweet music to the ears of the thousands of growers assembled here for the gala opening—sweet as "Happy Days Are Here Again."

Scott Gives Mrs. McCormick State Dem. Post

Mrs. D. A. McCormick of McDonald was nominated by W. Kerr Scott, governor-nominatee, to fill the post of vice-chairman of the state democratic executive committee. C. Campus Waynick was nominated at the same time for the chairmanship of the committee.

The nomination will have to be confirmed by the committee, but such approval is customary.

Mr. Scott named Mrs. McCormick as a gesture of appreciation for the support he received from eastern farmers and farm women.

Mrs. McCormick has served as vice-chairman of the Robeson County democratic executive committee and as president of the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. She is active in the Grange and is a trustee of Flora Macdonald College. Mrs. McCormick manages a large farm at McDonald.

College Trustees Discuss Advancement

MAXTON.—A meeting of the Trustees on Program of Advance was held at Presbyterian Junior College Cafeteria on Thursday, July 29. It was decided to seek gifts for a fund of \$50,000 to be used for needed alterations on the dormitory and for completing the chemistry laboratory building, the college library building, and the cafeteria. Sub-committees reported on various phases of the college program. This was the first meeting of the Trustees set up by the Trustees last November.

The presiding officer was Edwin Fate, chairman of the trustees. Others in attendance included C. E. Beman, G. P. Henderson, James L. McNair, Jr., Dr. S. H. Fulton, Rev. R. H. Stone, Mrs. Margaret McGuire, A. B. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. McBrady Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall James, Murphy McGirt, Rev. J. Cecil Lawrence, Mrs. Lucy Williams, James R. Dalrymple, J. H. Muse, Miss S. Marguerite Tower, Neil D. Hughes, Rev. W. I. Howell, Dr. I. M. Ellis, Mrs. Ina McNair Avenger, Rev. J. I. Knight, O. W. Ferrone, L. D. Martin, Jr., and Ft. Louis C. Lamotte.

MAXTON.—Rev. Forest L. Young will conduct the morning service at the Laurinburg Baptist Church this Sunday. Mr. Young's pulpit will be filled by Benjamin Zavalata, a foreign student at the college.

EXPENSIVE COURTIN' An Editorial

Interviews with three of the plaintiffs in the recently instigated action against the county commissioners, school boards and various officials confirms a belief, by no means peculiar to us, that the plaintiffs stand as figureheads and not as plaintiffs in the true sense of the word. At the time they were interviewed they professed little knowledge of facts and figures and points of law in the case. They stated plainly that they had merely consented to the use of their names by others whom they expected to pursue the suit for them. They were unanimous in a feeling that something was wrong because "where there is so much smoke there must be fire." But none would specify wrong-doing further than to wonder why the schools had no money for repairs when "a teacher fell through a rotten floor," but suddenly turned up with almost \$300,000 to spend in new construction and repairs in three communities.

The citizens who subscribed to the complaint are reputable and are solid citizens in their communities. It seems almost impossible that they should have brought the charges that they have brought against their county officials without a more careful study of the situation than they appear to have made. It is entirely possible that they "just weren't talking." We believe that, as one expressed it, they "just don't understand what all the shouting is about" and are convinced that a lawsuit is the proper way to find out whether charges which have been made have any foundation.

It has been indicated that attorneys have agreed to pursue the case for a fee of \$1000, provided the case does not go to a higher court, in which case additional money would be necessary. Presuming this to be a reasonable fee, it is only reasonable to suppose that the defense of the commissioners and the boards of education will cost the county a like sum. Admittedly knowing little of the cost of the services of a Certified Public Accountant, it does not seem possible that the employment of such a person to thoroughly examine the books and to issue a detailed report to the public could cost this much. A ruling from the State's Attorney General is free for the asking, although an opinion from him does not have quite the status of a Supreme Court ruling.

Whatever the plaintiffs may elect to do in case of an adverse judgment, it is so improbable as to be impossible to assume that the defendant officials would let the matter rest should a lower court ruling impugn their honor. The costs then to both parties (in both cases the taxpayers) would mount, and mount.

The solution? Demand an audit. Then ask for a ruling from the Attorney General on whether the audit indicates wrong - doing. If the Attorney General's ruling does not satisfy, then sue. Perhaps one part of the suit could be avoided, perhaps both parts. If the financial records will have to be considered in a lawsuit to determine the issue, why not consider them first. Then if further legal interpretation is necessary, take the matter to the courts.

Maxton National Guard Unit Proposed Legion Post Sponsors Meeting Tonight

MAXTON.—Plans are under way for the establishment of a Maxton National Guard unit, and a meeting is being held tonight, Thursday, at the Community Club to organize an automatic weapons battery of the 67th AAA Battalion composed of veterans and eligible men between the ages of 17 and 35 in the Maxton-Laurinburg area.

An announcement from the Adjutant General of the N. C. National Guard, J. Van B. Metts, stated that his department would be represented at the meeting by Capt. David W. Donovan, Raleigh. Capt. Donovan's purpose is to explain the work and purpose of the unit and to answer questions pertaining to National Guard organization.

Sponsored by American Legion Liberty Post No. 117, full strength of the battery would be: one captain, three 1st lieutenants, two 2nd lieutenants, and 131 enlisted men. Legion Commander Percy Phillips stated that the unit would be authorized to form with only three officers and 20 enlisted men.

The meeting tonight is for the discussion of recruit eligibility, possible armory site, regulations and organization procedure.

training at Rex Hospital in Raleigh, served for some time with the Red Cross overseas; she has more recently been with the Scotland County Memorial Hospital here.

Farm wage rates reached a new high on July 1.

Taking Students From Philadelphus Protested; Claim Facts Distorted

Fairmont Dairies Plant To Be Built; Ready For Operation In September

Smith And Nye To Operate

FAIRMONT.—Announcement was made today by S. J. Smith and J. B. Nye of the opening of a new plant, Fairmont Dairies, during the first part of September. The plant will pasteurize milk, make house to house deliveries, and will supply stores, cafes, and the school with all the milk they may desire.

The plant a cinder block white building, will be built completely in accordance with state health department specifications and all milk used by the dairies will be Grade A milk. The new building will be erected on a lot recently purchased from O. M. Huggins and located on Walnut Street just above Russells Barbeque Pit.

Mr. Smith at the same time is starting a dairy consisting of from 15 to 20 cows and run on state specifications. Milk will also be furnished from the Nye dairy. If any farmers have an extra amount of Grade A milk they are asked to contact either of the two men with regard to selling to the plant.

Heretofore, Grade A milk was all that was necessary before putting this item on the market, but according to state health officials, the time is rapidly approaching when all milk must be pasteurized before it can be sold. Therefore the plant is being erected in order to take care of this need.

Fairmont has never had a regular dairy and milk delivery, until Mr. Nye started, was made either from Lumberton or Dillon.

Approve Paving Hilly Branch Rd.

LUMBERTON.—The Robeson County commissioners received and approved Monday a request that the road from Small's Cross Road, on NC Highway 41 between Lumberton and Fairmont, to Hilly Branch Church on U. S. 301 be hardsurfaced. This road would connect Fairmont, via the crossing at Club 41, and the intersection of the relocated US 74 with US 301. The relocation of US 74 from west of Pembroke to 301 at the Earl Thompson farm was reported by Hometown papers some 30 days ago. The proposed surfacing would also facilitate traffic between Fairmont and the Lumberton Municipal Airport vicinity.

A request was also received and approved for the surfacing of the extension of north Third Street in St. Pauls for a distance of approximately one-half mile north and 300 yards west to US 301.

Both requests were forwarded to the State Highway Department.

Frank Mitchell Rites Friday

FAIRMONT.—Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at the Stephens and Prevatte Funeral Home for Franklin Troy Mitchell, aged 45, who died at Thompson Memorial Hospital Wednesday night at 1:00 A. M. after a brief illness. Services will be announced by the Rev. C. P. Herring.

Mr. Mitchell, the son of the late Wilmer Fulton Mitchell and Harriet Pittman Mitchell, had been in business in Fairmont for the past 25 years and for the past few years had been pharmacist at Mitchell and Caudell Drug Co.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Sures Mitchell; one son, Franklin Byron "Barney"; one daughter, Ann Troy, daughter of his first wife, the late Catherine Pleasants of Louisville who died in 1935; one brother, Lester of Fairmont; and two sisters, Mrs. Teda Prevatte of Carolina Beach and Mrs. Geddie Boone of Wallace, N. C.

Lum'ton Golf Course Not Club Property

Lumberton.—The \$80,000 Pine Crest Country Club has recently been completed will open formally Tuesday night. The spacious building is located on the edge of the Lumberton Golf Course and is a private building for use of members only.

The club has no connection with the public golf course other than proximity and the course will remain open for the use of all.

Carlyle To Crown Festival Queen

F. Ertle Carlyle, congressional nominee, has accepted an invitation to officiate at the crowning of the queen of the 6th annual tri-county Tobacco Festival to be held in Whitesville August 14-15. The tri-county event will include the Brunswick-Bladen-Columbus area.

Mr. Carlyle has been invited to participate in the various activities of the festival. Dave Neilson will act as master of ceremonies.

Single 5-Man Draft Board For County

All Races To Be Represented; Registration Begins August 30

Robeson County will have only one draft board to begin the registration under the selective service act on August 30. Gen. J. Van E. Metts, who has accepted appointment as state director of the act, has asked county nominating committees to submit their recommendations for appointment this week and has suggested that minority groups be included on the board. He has also directed that members of the Reserve Boards existent in the counties be requested to accept service on the new Boards.

The Robeson board will be composed of five men, plus appeal agents and a medical advisor. The reserve board which has been organized on a stand-by basis is composed of Ingram Hedgpeath, Avery M. Powers, H. Bascom Ashley, and W. G. Marley.

Mr. Ashley and Mr. Marley have indicated that they would prefer not to serve at this time if they can be replaced, and three new members will probably be appointed to make up the five man board. Nominations are being submitted to Gen. Metts who will approve them and pass them on to Governor Cherry; the names will then go to Washington for approval by the National director of the selective service act.

Local boards in all North Carolina Counties are composed of the Clerk of Superior Court, the chairman of the Board of Elections, and the Superintendent of Schools.

Registration of men 18 through 25 will begin at the end of August and those 19 through 25 will be liable to draft for 21 months service. Men 22 through 25 will be called first, but their number is not expected to be large as most of them who are not veterans (and thus exempt) were not qualified for the war-time draft and will not be accepted in this one. 18-year olds may enlist.

Work Begun On New Methodist Parsonage

FAIRMONT.—Work was begun this week on the new parsonage which is being built for the Trinity Methodist church. The building is contracted by C. C. Fennell.

The new home, an eight room brick structure, is being built on the lot joining the church on Iona Street. Originally the building committee planned to build just behind the church and to erect a smaller parsonage which would later be converted to an educational building when the larger parsonage was built. However, after much discussion and decided to build a permanent home for the pastor at this time.

It is hoped that the new house will be completed before winter begins and Rev. and Mrs. Lane are looking forward to enjoying their new home and having an attractive place in which to receive visitors.

This parsonage has been planned for several years, but due to building conditions has been postponed until now it can no longer be done.

At the beginning of the summer the entire church auditorium was redecorated under the direction of A. L. McDaniel and members of the congregation have expressed themselves as being well pleased with the results.

Philadelphus School Board Hints At Legal Action Against Petitioners

Pembroke.—The County Board of Education has recommended to the State Board of Education that the white children of Pembroke attending grades 7 through 12 be sent to the Red Springs High School rather than the Philadelphus school. The action came after a petition was presented from Pembroke parents and after the Red Springs school had indicated its willingness to accept the additional pupils.

The petition was presented to the county board at its regular session Monday and listed as reasons for the change the fact that the Philadelphus school is not accredited for college entrance, the fact that the Red Springs road is paved and that the railroad crossings have warning devices.

Schooling through the sixth grade provided for white students. Claims Of Petition Denied.

John Pat Buie, Chairman of the board of trustees of the Philadelphus school, and H. E. Rogers principal, state that the petition of the Pembroke citizens is based on misinformation and a distortion of facts.

They went to Raleigh Wednesday immediately upon hearing of the action of the county board for a conference with Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, director of Instructional Services of the State Board of Education. They have secured a letter from Dr. Highsmith stating that the Philadelphus High School if accredited and has been accredited since 1928, one year prior to the time the high school at Red Springs was given this rating.

They also state that it is necessary for the school bus to cross the same grade crossings to come to Philadelphus, as it would have to cross in going to Red Springs. EXCEPT that the bus crosses one more railroad crossing in Red Springs that is not traversed in traveling to Philadelphus.

Mr. Buie and Mr. Rogers state that their school has been hurt by the publicity given these false statements about it, and while they would like very much to continue having the Pembroke children as students of their school, if the parents wish to have them transferred to another school, such transfer should be made upon the basis of justifiable claims, and not upon misleading statements.

The Hometown Newspapers were informed by Mr. Buie and Mr. Rogers that the matter had been placed in the hands of attorneys, and that if legal action could be taken against petitioners, a case would be developed for the difficulties.

Robeson Dairies Sold Tuesday

LUMBERTON.—The incorporators of Lumberton Dairies, Inc., have announced the purchase of the assets of the Robeson Dairies, Inc.

The transaction was completed Tuesday.

Purchase of the business was not by the corporation and the purchasers will salvage the equipment of the Robeson firm for the use of their company or for sale to others, according to W. C. Watts.

Lumberton Dairies, Inc., will continue service to the delivery routes of Robeson Dairies, but will move the entire operation to the former's plant on the Fayetteville Road.

A. Rupert Collins was owner of the purchased firm. Reasons for the sale and consolidation were primarily those of economy; Lumberton Dairies with a new plant and the most modern equipment can handle the business of both with little enlargement of facilities.

Lumberton Tax Valuation Is Over \$10 Million

Lumberton.—The city of Lumberton now has a tax valuation in excess of \$10 million and the 1948-49 budget is based on this figure. The tax levy of \$1.00 per \$100 of valuation will yield on this valuation approximately \$100,000. The additional \$300,000 required by the city budget will come from privilege tax, schedule B licenses, and from the light and water income.

The purchase of power by the city will cost in the neighborhood of \$80,000 and this amount is included in the budget; without the profit from the light and water systems the tax rate would probably exceed \$3.00 per \$100.