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"Tabor City — The Town With A City Future"

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Klan King Arrested; Conspiracy Charged

Legion Baseball Starts Next Week

Representatives of teams in Area 2 American Legion Junior baseball league met in Whiteville last Saturday and drew up a schedule of play for the season which begins June 3.

Teams entered in the league in Area 2 this year are Laurinburg, Wilmington, Kinston, Warsaw and Columbus County. It was decided at the meeting to play each team in the league once at home and once away in order to cut down on the travel as much as possible. The teams are scattered so widely that it was believed unwise to play more than a home and a home schedule during regular season play.

A special called meeting of the executive committees of the Whiteville and Tabor City posts Monday night, it was decided to have only one team be selected from Columbus County this season. Both Whiteville and Tabor City had planned to have teams this season. However, the scarcity of creditable legion members made it an impossibility for both localities to field a team.

The new team if approved by the Legion Posts will be known as Columbus County American Legion baseball team. Chadbourne, Fair Bluff, Whiteville and Tabor City legion posts will be asked to cooperate in making this a strong team that will be able to compete with other aggregations in the league. Half the home games this season would be played at Tabor City. The other half at Whiteville. Both teams will furnish two cars for transportation for games away from home and all posts in the county will be asked to give assistance to transporting players to practice sessions.

Practice sessions will be split between Tabor City and Whiteville. Bill Ratteree, coach of the Tabor City team last year will be head coach of the new county team. He will be assisted by Bobby Hoffman, of Wadesboro.

However, the top four teams in the five team league will enter a playoff to determine who represents the district against the winner of some other area. Team number one and team number two will meet in a two out of three series and team number two and team number three will meet in a two out of three series. The winners in these rounds will then play a series for the championship, the number of games to be decided by mutual consent of the two teams involved.

This playoff of the four top teams will begin on July 7. It was also decided that the home club will notify the area commissioner immediately following each contest of the results of each game and that the official standing of teams in the league will be available at the commissioner's office.

The schedule for the regular season's play is as follows:

- June 3—Wilmington at Laurinburg
- June 3—Kinston at Wilmington
- June 6—Warsaw at Tabor City
- June 9—Wilmington at Warsaw
- June 9—Laurinburg at Kinston
- June 11—Columbus County at Wilmington
- June 13—Laurinburg at Warsaw
- June 13—Wilmington at Whiteville
- June 16—Warsaw at Kinston
- June 16—Columbus County at Laurinburg
- June 18—Wilmington at Tabor City
- June 20—Kinston at Tabor City
- June 20—Laurinburg at Wilmington
- June 23—Columbus County at Warsaw
- June 24—Kinston at Warsaw
- June 25—Wilmington at Kinston
- June 27—Laurinburg at Whiteville
- June 28—Tabor City—Chad. at Whiteville
- June 28—Warsaw at Wilmington
- July 2—Columbus County at Wilmington
- July 2—Kinston at Laurinburg
- July 4—Warsaw at Laurinburg

Games in which either team must travel a long distance will start at 7:30 unless decided otherwise by the two teams involved. Games in which relatively short distance of travel are required, will begin at 8:00.

LEGION MEETING

An important meeting of the Tabor City American Legion Post 101 will be held at Blackburn's Barbecue dining room at 7:30 Thursday night. Every member of the post who is interested in this year's baseball program is urged to attend.

CANCER TAGS RAISE MONEY FOR SOCIETY

Tag Day for the local fund, American Cancer Society, will be held here again Saturday, local officials announced today.

Nancy Spivey, Judy Norris and Ramona Spivey will be in charge of the solicitation and the distribution of educational material. The girls raised \$53.20 for the local fund this past Saturday—Tag Day.

DEMOCRATS WILL VOTE SATURDAY

Democrats in Columbus county and throughout North Carolina will go to the polls in droves Saturday, May 31, to cast their vote for public officials who will virtually be elected at the primary.

On a statewide level, the race for governor between Hubert Olive and William Umstead has the spotlight. Columbus county and Tabor City have witnessed a rather not campaign in this particular fight and how the results in this area will be in this particular bout is anyone's guess.

Also of considerable interest to local people is the race between Representative F. Ertel Carlyle, of Lumberton, and his opposition Joe Tally, of Fayetteville. Ernest Mayhan, of Wilmington, is a candidate in this race but the big vote is believed to favor Tally and Carlyle. The results will be in doubt even in the minds of the candidates until the votes are counted.

In the county, considerable interest has been shown in the County Commissioners bout with a host of candidates out for all the votes they can get.

Bill Floyd is opposing Homer Avant for State House of Representatives.

Loris Sergeant On Korean Front

With the 7th Inf. Div. in Korea—Sgt. Jesse M. Jones, whose wife, Mildred, lives on Route 1, Loris, is now serving with the 7th Infantry Division in the western sector of the front in North Korea.

Despite a halt in large-scale actions, men of the division move out daily in raiding and reconnaissance patrols against enemy installations.

Sergeant Jones, a cook in Co. C, 17th Infantry Regiment, arrived in Korea April 2, 1952. He entered the Army in 1944 and has been awarded the European Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

His mother, Mrs. Emma B. Jones, lives on Route 3, Galivants Ferry.

DEATH CLAIMS J. C. CLEMONS

Funeral rites for John Creighton Clemons, 47, were held from the graveside at Long Cemetery, Tabor City, route 3, Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Mr. Clemons, a farmer of Tabor City, route 3, died in the James Walker Memorial hospital, Wilmington, Friday afternoon at 6:30 following several months illness.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, J. C. Clemons, Jr., and Julius W. Clemons, and a daughter, Barbara Ann Clemons, all of the home.

Mrs. Bill Clemons was the dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gore in Bolton Wednesday evening.

TALLY SPEAKS COMMISSIONERS O.K. PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL BUILDING THURSDAY

Joe Tally, Candidate for Congress, will speak at a mass meeting in the Court House at Whiteville Thursday night, May 29th at 8:15 P. M. Mr. Tally will discuss his Congressional program and answer any questions presented from the floor. Mr. Tally has travelled Columbus County extensively and has spoken to a large number of civic and farm groups.

Mr. Tally has campaigned against corruption in Washington, against waste and high taxes, and against seizure of power by Washington. He has cited the great need for integrity and economy in government and for better representation of the people in the Seventh Congressional District. Mr. Tally will discuss the farm program and present his views on how to protect our farm program from the affects that have been made against it. In addition to the farm program he will discuss the many other problems that confront us at this time.

Pvt. Robert Hewett Completes Training

Camp Pickett, Va. — May 26—Pvt. Robert D. Hewett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hewett, Rt. 1, Tabor City, completed basic training recently at the Medical Replacement Training Center here.

At MRTC, the Army's basic training school for medical enlisted men, he has received eight weeks of basic infantry training and eight weeks of medical training.

The infantry training covered subjects given to all new soldiers. Medical subjects studied included Anatomy, physiology, military sanitation, method of evacuation, administration of medicines, ward management, bandaging, hypodermic injection, psychology of nursing, and operating room technique.

MUSICAL PROGRAM SET FOR BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY

Mrs. Nell R. Fowler and Miss Margaret Jo Jernigan will render a program of music at the Mount Tabor Baptist church worship hour Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. Rev. P. C. Gantt, pastor, announced. Mrs. Fowler is church organist and Miss Jernigan is church pianist.

The program will include "Crown Him with Many Crowns" by Hopkins; "The Lost Chord" by Sullivan; "Largo From The New World Symphony" by Dvorak; "In A Monastery Garden" by Cronham; and "The Lord's Prayer" by Malotte.

The program is open to the public and will be given during the sermon period.

Poppy Day To Be Observed Saturday

Poppy Day will be observed here Saturday, Memorial Day, Joe Spivey, commander of the Carlton M. Fonville Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, announced. Local girls will be in charge of the sales.

The poppies are made by disabled veterans of both World Wars and the Korean conflict and the money will be used for veterans and their needy children.

WADE FOWLER TO SPEAK HERE SUNDAY A.M.

Wade Fowler, ministerial student who graduated from Mars Hill college this week, will deliver the sermon for the 11 o'clock worship hour Sunday morning at the Mount Tabor Baptist church, Rev. P. C. Gantt, pastor announced.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Wood and Miss Marjorie Wood spent the weekend with friends in Kinston. On Sunday, they attended the 50th anniversary of Atlantic Christian College in Wilson. Mrs. Wood is an alumnae of A. C. C.

Mrs. H. K. Gause and children, Charlene and Ronnie, left last week for Fort Knox, Ky. to be with Sgt. Gause.

COMMISSIONERS O.K. PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

Columbus County moved a step nearer toward the erection of a new agricultural building Friday when the Board of County Commissioners authorized architects to draw up contracts for the signatures of low bidders.

Although original bids were over the \$100,000 approved in the bond election, alterations and eliminations were made in plans in order to bring the total cost within the authorized sum.

Under the plans approved Friday, the agricultural building will cost \$98,500 for contingencies.

Constructors are East Carolina Construction Company, Fayetteville, general construction; Waccamaw Electric Company, Whiteville, wiring; McGirt's Heating and Electric Company, Maxton, heating; and Thomas Stanley, Whiteville, plumbing.

The Board of Commissioners will meet again on the first Monday in June to sign contracts.

The First National Bank of Whiteville was designated as the official depository for agricultural building funds and the Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company was designated as the depository for hospital bond funds.

The agreement on contract prices at Friday's meeting had the effect of making certain that the agricultural building will be erected as planned.

Perfect Attendance Roster Announced For T.C. School

The perfect attendance roster for the Tabor City school for the year 1952-53 was released this week by Principal C. H. Pinner.

By home rooms the list includes: Mrs. Earle Floyd, Sammy Jacobs and Dian Faulk; Miss Roberta McCulloch—Wanda Lou Fowler, Patricia Norris, and Elizabeth Ann Nealey; Mrs. Leon W. Bullard—Frances Watts and Devon Spivey; Mrs. C. H. Pinner—Rayford Small; Miss Kate Jones—Lenore Beck, Judy Buffkin, Mary Jo Fowler, and Linda Wood; Miss Anne Brooks McGowan—Ronald Ray, Shirley Ann Duncan, Brenda Gale Norris; Betty Jo Stanley, Ann Ward, Edith Williams, Lessie Jane Wright and Shirley Duncan; Mrs. O. V. Hicks—Linda Wright, Judy Grainger, Hilda Gray Spivey; Miss Myrtle Bailey—Nancy Faulk; Mrs. Marguerite C. Smith—Eldon Russ, Arthur Tompkins, Linda Long and Gwendolyn Wright.

Mrs. Laura F. Sarvis—Richard Mills, I. S. Wright, Kay Frances Gore, Phyllis Norris, Geraldine Boswell, Princess Watts and Harold Norris; Mrs. Geraldine Caruso—Betty Jo McDaniels, Douglas Beck, Gary Wayne Gore; Miss Lois Summerford—Clayburn Coleman; Miss Hazel Todd—Vernon Stephens, Judy Norris, Bobbie Jean Shepherd; Mrs. Blane E. Hufham—Harry Strickland and Carolyn Beck; Miss Eva Mills—Toby Fowler, Faye Norris, Pinitta Grainger, Peggy Wright, and Doris Ward; Mrs. W. H. Shnelley, Jr.—Jimmy Spivey (five years).

Miss Helen Butler—Mabel Turbeville and Frances Norris; Mrs. Nettie Hammond—Lollie Jane Spivey; Miss Janet Tomlinson—Linwood Spivey and Virginia Gore; Miss Sarah Britt—Gayle Kelley and Alene Nobles; Worth Dalton—Joan Cox, Willaree Norris, Billy Worth Spivey; Sanford Pittman—Jane Smith and Barbara Spivey; F. F. Thompson—Bernard Norris and James Williams; Miss Carolyn Todd, Mitchell Wray, Billy Spivey and Gail Fowler.

High School—Mrs. Frances Raynor—Dock Fowler, Jr., Estlene Nobles and Janet Watts; Mrs. S. L. Jackson—Mary Canady; S. W. Caruso—Lou Floy Watts; Bill Ratteree—Evangline Etheridge; Mrs. W. W. Woody—Harold Jordan.

MRS. JOE TALLY VISITS HERE

On behalf of her husband's candidacy for congress of the Seventh District, Mrs. Joe Tally of Fayetteville visited here yesterday. She was accompanied by friends from Fayetteville and they were dinner guests of Mrs. R. C. Harrison, Jr.

Mrs. Bessie W. Byrd Claimed By Death

Mrs. Bessie Ward Byrd, died at her home in Conway, S. C., Wednesday afternoon, May 21, at 5 o'clock. Although she had been in declining health for a long period she was confined to her bed only for several days prior to her death.

Funeral rites were held from the chapel of the Inman Funeral home in Tabor City Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock with the Rev. G. W. Crutchfield, pastor of the Saint Paul Methodist church officiating. He was assisted by the Rev. P. C. Gantt, pastor of the Mount Tabor Baptist church, and the Rev. A. F. Ragan, pastor of the Conway, S. C., Methodist church. Interment followed in the family plot at Myrtle Green Cemetery.

Pallbearers were nephews Mr. ray Ward and Jack B. Hyman of Florence, S. C., Dr. W. K. Rogers and Norman M. Rogers of Loris, S. C., A. V. Elliot, Jr., and Eugene Ward of Tabor City.

A daughter of the late Elizabeth Hamilton Ward and the late J. C. Ward of Dillon, S. C., and Tabor City she was the wife of the late W. W. Byrd. She was a charter member of the Saint Paul Methodist church and resided in Tabor City from 1907 until about one year ago. She was born in Dillon county September 5, 1885.

She is survived by one son, Hoyt Byrd of Loris, S. C.; two daughters, Mrs. C. L. Chestnut and Miss Kate Howard Byrd of the home; three brothers, Milton F. Ward of Savannah, Ga.; A. Ward of Whiteville; and V. C. Ward of Tabor City; five sisters, Mrs. N. M. Rogers, Sr., Loris, S. C., Mrs. Maye W. Stevenson of Florence, S. C., Mrs. A. J. Walsh of Brentwood, Md., Mrs. A. V. Elliott, Sr., and Mrs. Blanche W. Hyman of Tabor City and one granddaughter, Sarah Gayle Chestnut of the home.

NEW EMPLOYEE WITH LOCAL WESTERN UNION

Miss Edna Stroud has accepted a position with the local Western Union and bus station. A 1952 graduate of the Tabor City High School, she is the daughter of Mrs. R. B. McKee and the late John Stroud.

The new employee will assume the duties of Mrs. Pricy Fowler who has resigned. Her resignation will be effective about June 1 at which time she will return to Raleigh, her former home.

Schedule Announced For Baptist School

The annual Daily Vacation Bible School of the Mount Tabor Baptist church will get underway Friday with preparation day Monday. C. C. Leggett, principal announced. Students will report to the church Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock for registration after which a parade will be staged. Following the parade students will return to the church for a social period and refreshments.

The school will open Monday morning with classes in all departments—Nursery, Primary, Beginner, Junior and Intermediate. The hours 8:30 to 11:30 will be observed Monday through Friday for a two week period and the school is open to all the children in the community.

Seniors Entertained With Party Here

Mrs. W. W. Woody and Mrs. Nell R. Fowler entertained members of the Tabor City High school graduating class with an outdoor weiner roast at the home of the former Monday evening, May 19. About 53 attended.

Mrs. Lewis Gore, Mrs. M. F. Norris, and Mrs. James Brice attended the final commencement exercises at Coker college Monday at which time Miss Cricket Blackburn graduated. They were accompanied by Cricket's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Blackburn of Loris.

Thomas W. Hamilton, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan in Columbus County Monday through the persuasive powers of the law. In sharp contrast to the 5,000 persons who attended his initial Klan rally last August, less than 100 people were on hand to catch a glimpse of him as he appeared at the courthouse about 10:30 o'clock to accept service on warrants charging him with conspiracy to kidnap and conspiracy to assault in connection with two Columbus floggings.

Dressed in a natty navy blue suit, Hamilton made bond of \$5,000 in each of the two cases. The bonds were signed by Mrs. Roger Bullock of Fair Bluff who lives in the Spring Branch section of Horry County.

The former Grand Dragon, who noted himself to Imperial Wizard following the Klan invasion of this county last year, is scheduled to appear in Recorder's Court on June 10.

Hamilton, accompanied by one of his lawyers, Waldo Hyman of Florence, had nothing to say during his brief sojourn in Whiteville. He shook hands with a couple of county officials but made no comment pertinent to the charges for which he was arrested Saturday.

Throbbled and without any white robes "Imperial Guard," Hamilton looked like an average, unimpressive businessman.

The 44-year-old Hamilton, balding and bespectacled, surrendered in the office of his lawyer in Florence, S. C. about 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, some 20 hours after warrants had been sworn out against him by North Carolina officers.

The surrender was made several hours after George Keels of Florence revealed that the Klan chief would give himself up at that point.

The ex-grocer posted \$10,000 immediately after his arrest and refused to tell newsmen where he was going.

Hamilton waived extradition and agreed to appear here this morning to post the appearance bond.

His bond, \$5,000 in each of the two charges against him, was signed at Florence by Mrs. Waldo Hyman, Sr., mother of Waldo Hyman who is a member of the law firm of Keels and Hyman, Hamilton's lawyers.

Keels has been in the spotlight on previous occasions as counsel for South Carolina Klansmen. He represented Hamilton when the Imperial Wizard was indicted and convicted in Federal Court for leading a scurrilous card through the mails. More recently, Keels was in Columbus Superior Court as counsel for Harvey Barfield, Nichols, S. C. Klansman, who was convicted and given two years in the Johnson flogging.

State Bureau of Investigation agents took the warrants to Columbia on Friday. A fugitive warrant was signed at Lexington and the hunt for Hamilton was on. But he had left his home at Leesville when officers went there to arrest him.

Despite his later statement that he went to Augusta, Ga. "on business" there was a strong suspicion that he had gotten wind of developments and had flown the coop liberately.

SBI Chief James A. Powell had given the go-ahead signal to Agents James F. Bradshaw and W. W. Lowdermilk about 5 o'clock Friday afternoon. They had been waiting for word to proceed.

Sheriff H. Hugh Nance accompanied them and remained there during the long vigil. Solicitor Clifton L. Moore of Burgaw prepared his warrants several days before they were to be served on Hamilton. One warrant charges the KKK chieftain as a conspirator in the flogging of Evergreen Flowers, a Negro man who lives near Chadbourne and who was beaten with sticks the night of January 18, 1951. "We didn't know there was a Klansman within miles," at the time of that flogging, Solicitor Moore said. Gradually, as the evidence unraveled, it became apparent that the downfall of the North Carolina branch of the Klan could be traced to the beating of the Flowers woman.

Origin of the fire remains a mystery.

Solicitor Moore also linked Hamilton with the flogging of Woodrow Jackson, the Whiteville mechanic, who was beaten in a cemetery for excessive drinking. And the solicitor intimated strongly he may be able to connect the grand dragon with at least one other flogging case, in the role of conspirator.

Evidently, Hamilton knew the heat was on before the SBI agents and Sheriff Nance confirmed his suspicions. The grand dragon had scheduled a rally and cross-burning at Darlington, S. C., last week. Suddenly he sent word over the Klan grapevine that the rally was off.

Klan activities, the boss klansman added, were suspended until further notice.

Hamilton has been arrested on three occasions since he assumed the leadership of the Ku Klux Klan in 1949.

Charged with conspiracy to incite to mob violence in Horry County in 1950, he escaped trial when the grand jury refused to return indictments against him and several of his Klan associates.

This case grew out of a Myrtle Beach demonstration by the Klan at a Negro night club. A Conway policeman in the traditional robe of the Klan was slain in an exchange of gunfire.

The Klan's Imperial Wizard also faced a similar charge two years ago at Camden after a YMCA worker at Sumter was beaten by the Klan.

A Federal grand jury indicted Hamilton last June for violating the postal laws after he had been accused of mailing a postal card containing statements "obviously intended to reflect injuriously upon the character and conduct" of Wilton E. Hall, a newspaper publisher at Anderson.

To escape a prison term of one year, Hamilton chose to pay a \$1,000 fine.

Since the first flogging began in Columbus County late last year, officers had been anxious to grab Hamilton. They got their chance after several admitted Klansmen were put on the witness stands in Whiteville and Wilmington, and after the KKK members had been grilled privately by State and Federal investigators.

Rev. Connor, 50-year-old farmer of Cerro Gordo, Route 1, who pleaded no contest to charges that he helped flog Woodrow Johnson, Whiteville mechanic, first introduced the name of Hamilton in Columbus Superior Court.

Early Brooks, exalted cyclops of the Fair Bluff Klavern, read a letter from Hamilton at one of the Klan meetings, Connor remembered. The letter, Connor added, "said that some Fair Bluff women had written him (Hamilton) that a horse trader would have this woman's husband arrested and then go out with her."

Hamilton said "he wanted it taken care of immediately." Connor quoted the letter as saying:

"Steve Edmund, the 25-year-old roly poly Columbus farmer who was a star witness for the prosecution in both the State and Federal trials, said he filled out his Klan membership blank "and gave it to Hamilton."

Along with the blank, Edmund said he gave the KKK grand dragon \$10 as an initiation fee, \$6 for a robe and hood, and \$2 for the quarter's dues.

Another link in the evidence against Hamilton was forged by Walter A. Murphy, who is in charge of the Charlotte FBI office. In the Federal trial, Murphy testified that after Early Brooks was arrested, Brooks said Hamilton promised him (Brooks) \$4 out of each \$10 collected from new Klan members.

Swayed By Speech Like Edmund, another former Klansman, Frank Lewis of Fair Bluff, said he was swayed by Hamilton's vitriolic speech at the first Klan cross-burning in Columbus in August, 1951. Lewis, a former Fair Bluff police chief, later repented and helped implicate other Klansmen.

Referring to the cross-burning when Hamilton, surrounded by hooded figures, stood on an improvised platform to deliver his speeches of hate, Lewis said truthfully:

"I wish I'd took a rock and knocked him (Hamilton) off that stand."

Hamilton always has contended that the only beatings the Klan condone are those which occur "at the ballot boxes." He had proudly proclaimed that "disgraced persons," non-Klan members, have carried out floggings under (Continued On Page 10)