

Fifth Annual Carolinas Yam Festival Was Best Of All To Date

In the opinion of hundreds of local persons, the Fifth Annual Carolinas Yam Festival that came to a close last Saturday was far and away the most successful in the series thus far. First, it drew several thousands of people more than had ever been drawn before and in general the organization of the various committees have learned a great deal about administering the event from the four previous years' experience.

The weatherman was a little mean to Tabor City on Thursday, the opening day, and a cold, slow rain prompted the postponement of the planned parade until Friday afternoon. Yet, a huge throng of 10,000 people was on hand Thursday to see the exhibit hall and enjoy the entertainment available.

and two Negro bands were in the parade.

Friday night's big Queen's Ball and choosing of the 1952 Yam Festival Queen met with general approval as Miss Renee Durant, blonde beauty of Florence, S. C., was given the honor. She succeeds Miss Jean Yandle of Elizabethtown, 1951 queen. Runnerup for the crown went to Miss Margaret Day Long of the Bethel community of Columbus county. This marked the first time that a South Carolina girl has received the queen's title.

A distinguished visitor among the queen candidates but not in the contest was Miss Mary Kemp Griffin, of Florence, who is the

year's "Miss South Carolina."

One of the flaws in the Queen's Ball was the lateness which the Coy Tucker band arrived. The musicians did not get here until about 10:00 and caused some confusion in the program. Ben McDonald, popular radio commentator of Raleigh and Wilmington, kept the event moving along as master of ceremonies.

The much-discussed "Mystery King" of 1952, the first year that such a title had been bestowed, was awarded to A. L. Wright of route 1 Tabor City. Wright was honored for having done more for improving the sweet potato in this area than any other grower.

Saturday's program was high-

lighted by the awarding of \$1250 in prizes to farmers in attendance. The streets were again filled with people, bringing the total estimated attendance for the three day event to about 35,000.

A square dance and cake walk at Garrell's Warehouse on Saturday night brought the activities to a close.

And once again Tabor City citizens were left with a feeling of fatigue but yet proud of the success of the 1952 event.

J. Oliver Prince, popular young business man, served as overall chairman of this year's Carolinas Yam Festival, and the success of the festival itself speaks for the efforts of the chairman.

With a million and one details to take care, Mrs. Prince joined her husband in handling many of the problems which arose in planning the 1952 event and in actuality was really a co-chairman with her husband for the festival.

Mr. Prince handled the job for the first time this year and served as president of the Tabor City Merchants Association at the same time.

A. C. Edwards, honorary chairman of the festival, gave considerable assistance to the planning as did many other local persons.



J. OLIVER PRINCE

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HIGH SCHOOL QUEENS



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Fourteen high school girls competed for Homecoming Queen at last Thursday night's annual "Tater Day" football game here. The Queen was chosen from the 14 girls by members of the Tabor City football squad. They chose Miss Sarah Williams for the 1952 honors. Miss Dewayne Stanley was runner up. The girls pictured left to right are: Dewayne Stanley, Sarah Williams, Lana Walden, Patricia Carline, Molly Bell Faulk, Marlene Odum, Rochell Simon, Dana Soles, Shirley Mew, Delores Elliott, Hilda Ward, Janell White, Eva Lee Strickland, and Jean Dimmery. (Photo by Bill Oakley)

TOWN BOARD GIVES WATSON VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Willard Wright Disputes Story On Police Chief

Editor's Note:—The story which Commissioner Wright makes reference to is printed in this issue of The Tribune, much the same as is appeared in Friday's News-Reporter. It in general specifies that Chief of Police L. R. Watson was given a vote of confidence by a 2 to 1 vote by the local town board at its Tuesday night meeting last week.

By Willard C. Wright

This is a reply to an article appearing in the News Reporter of last Thursday which implied that Chief Watson was cleared of charges which I presented to the City Council two months ago. These charges were not denied then, nor since, they still stand as presented.

Members of the Tabor City Board of Commissioners gave Chief of Police L. R. Watson a vote of confidence at the October meeting held last week. However, Commissioner Willard Wright did not vote for Watson.

Ending a 60 day period set aside for consideration of charges of inefficiency and neglect of duty, the town board rehired Watson and expressed confidence in the officer's ability.

Two members of the board asked for Watson's resignation about three months ago, but Troy Bennett, one of the two, resigned a short time later when he was indicted for Ku Klux Klan activity. He was replaced by Fred M. Jernigan.

Several hundred persons rallied behind Watson at a mass meeting at the school house and persuaded him to withdraw his resignation which he tendered at the request of the commissioners. The 60-day consideration period silenced the flareup and the status of Chief Watson was somewhat uncertain until the board's expression of confidence was given last week.

Two of the three present members of the board took the position that they were against the officer who was unfounded and voted for his retention as police chief.

Chief Watson has been head of the police department here for more than five years. He came to Tabor City from Chadbourne in 1947.

Recruiting Sergeant To Be Here Tuesdays

According to official reports there will be 40,000 men inducted into the Army in December of this year. Due to the shortage of recruiting personnel at the present time recruiting sergeants are not in all of the counties covered by this station. M-Sgt. Youmans announced today that he will be in Columbus County Tuesday and Wednesday of each week for the purpose of interviewing anyone who is interested in the Army or Air Force. Sgt. Youmans will be glad to discuss either of these branches of Service with anyone who is interested.

Sgt. Youmans will be in the Tabor City Post Office on Tuesday of each week from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and in Whiteville on Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He urges all men within the draft age to contact him to choose the branch of service he desires and find out what the service has to offer them if they enlist. Any man not able to meet Sgt. Youmans on the above dates should write him at P. O. Box 731 Wilmington and he will be glad to call at homes.

YAM FESTIVAL QUEENS



Reading left to right—Ben McDonald, radio commentator of Raleigh and Wilmington, Miss Mary Kemp Griffin of Florence, "Miss South Carolina," Miss Renee Durant of Florence, "1952" Carolinas Yam Queen, Miss Jean Yandle of Elizabethtown, "1951" Carolinas Yam Queen, and Miss Margaret Day Long of the Bethel Community, was runner-up to Miss Durant. The picture was taken at the Carolinas Yam Festival Queen's Ball Friday evening following the coronation ceremonies as the queen and runner-up received their gifts, the top prize was a prize winning basket of yams. McDonald served as master of ceremonies for the ball and T. Ward Guy crowned the queen.

Yams Average \$3.64

Zon Revival In Progress

A revival meeting is in progress at the Zion Methodist church with Rev. J. M. Carroll of the Bethel church as guest minister. Services are being held each evening of 7:30 through this week. Rev. W. W. Crutchfield is pastor of the Zion church.

Yams on the Tabor City auction market are coming in greater volume and bringing a better average price than they did a year ago at the same stage of the season, Ed Walden, secretary of the marketing company, has announced.

Through last Saturday's sale, the first ten days of the selling season, the market auctioned off 16,768 bushels for \$61,107.50. This was an average of \$3.64 per bushel for all sales during the first ten selling days.

Through the first ten days of the selling season last year, the local market auctioned off only 7949 bushels for \$25,749.03, and averaged only \$3.24.

This season's average to date is running 40 cents per bushel higher than 1951.

The overall season's average last year was \$3.83 per bushel but the average during opening selling days was below that of the current season.

The Tabor City auction market sold 256,000 bushels in 1951, a short crop year, and considerably greater volume is anticipated this season.

Baby Contest Winner Announced

Joey Coleman and Sandra Spivey were winners in the baby contest sponsored by the East Tabor Homemakers Home Demonstration club in the Carolinas Yam Festival Exhibit hall during the festival here last week. Jimmie Hewitt and Sherry Coleman were runner ups. Gifts were presented to the winners and the runner ups Saturday at 1:30 with appropriate ceremonies.

The contestants listed by age included Barry Mills, 2 years; Sandra Prince, 20 months; Sharon Mills, 7 months; Sandra Spivey, 2 years; Joe Coleman, 2 years; Sherry Coleman, 5 months; Sylvia Prince, 4 months; Sheila Spivey, 4 months; Francis Karon Sarvis; Jimmie Hewitt, 19 months; McNeil Wright, 23 months; Eddie Prince, 21 months; and Shelba Gean Cribb.

Phone Protest Meeting Called

A meeting in protest against the proposed rate increase for the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company has been called for Friday evening, Oct. 17, at 7:45 in the assembly room of City Hall in Whiteville.

The Whiteville Merchants Association, which is spearheading the rate hike protest, has invited representatives of all towns in Bladen and Columbus counties to attend.

A well-informed speaker will be present to offer suggestions as to ways and means of opposing the Carolina petition.

Meetings of a similar nature are being held in other sections of the territory served by the telephone company.

Executive Secretary Dave S. Neilson said the interest shown in this meeting might well determine the extent of the protest activity. "We hear many complaints, but delegations from the various towns in the two counties should be on hand to show that they are more concerned about the rate petition than simply saying they don't like the idea," the executive secretary declared. "If the public is really interested, it will manifest its interest by attending the meeting Friday evening."

O.E.S. Chapter Schedules Meet

The Tabor City Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, will meet in the Masonic Hall Monday at 7:30 p. m., Mrs. Inez H. Rogers, secretary, announced. Mrs. Emma W. Smith, Worthy Matron, will preside.

150 ATTEND PRESS DINNER

The most successful press dinner in the five year history of the Yam Festival was held at the Tabor City school cafeteria last Friday night, immediately prior to the Queen's ball.

The dining hall was jammed with 150 persons from many sections of the State and heard short talks by Ben McDowell, T. Ward Guy and others.

A. C. Edwards was master of ceremonies.

WAC And WAF Open To Women

S-Sgt. Elizabeth C. Gavlak, WAC-WAF Recruiter for Southeastern North Carolina, has announced that there is a constantly widening range of skilled technical jobs open to young women who are eligible for enlistment in the WAC or WAF.

The following are the qualifications for enlistment: must be a high-school graduate between 18 and 34 years of age, single with no dependents and a citizen of the U. S. Must also meet certain physical and physical requirements.

A WAF applicant will be sent to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for a 12-week period of basic training and a WAC applicant is sent to Fort Lee, Virginia, for a similar period of training. Upon graduation, the applicants are where they receive training applicable to their career fields. Following this, the WAC applicant is assigned to an air force base or post where there is a requirement for her services.

To obtain an interview or further information contact S-Sgt. Gavlak at room 205 of the Post Office Building in Wilmington.

Rotary Hears Tax Discussed

T. C. Conrad, a certified public accountant of the Conrad & Company firm of Charlotte, discussed income, inheritance and estate taxes at the regular Monday night meeting of the local Rotary club.

Conrad is a tax authority and said that most people do not take their taxes seriously enough. He pointed out how many people overpaid their income taxes because they fail to understand the system.

He was introduced by A. C. Edwards, program chairman for the Monday meeting.

Coach S. W. Caruso asked for further assistance in transporting the rural members of the local football team to their homes after daily practices. Any persons in a position to help in this matter was asked to notify Caruso.

POWER OFF

Officials of the Carolina Power and Light Company stated this week that the electric power would be off in Tabor City Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 p. m. New equipment is being installed and rearranged at the substation.

PANTHERS BEAT RED DEVILS: E'TOWN HERE THURSDAY NITE

The local high school football team started its third loss in five efforts at Civitan Field last Thursday night when rival Chadbourne showed a spirited attack that led to a 21-7 win over the Red Devils.

Tabor City had taken successive victories from Wadesboro and Lumberton and was expected by many to take the Chadbourne Panthers in stride in the annual "Tater Day" bowl game. But the Chadbourne eleven was keyed for the festival frolic and a much more spirited attack played a big part in the decision.

Tabor City was in the thick of the game until the final period when a desperation pass went astray for a Chadbourne interception and a touchdown.

Tommy Lewis, Chadbourne backfield ace, was the overall star of the contest and the spark that made the difference in the game. It was the second season in a row that the fiery little ball carrier led his mates to impressive wins over the locals.

A half time feature of last night's contest was a fireworks demonstration put on by the American Legion. It was the first time fireworks had been shown in Tabor City in many years and perhaps was responsible for the record attendance at the game. It was by far the largest crowd of the season to date.

THIS WEEK'S GAME

With the Chadbourne game already in the record books, the locals began preparation this week for the Thursday scrap with a strong Elizabethtown eleven. The Elizabethtown aggregation will meet Tabor City on Civitan Field here Thursday night at 8:00. Elizabethtown defeated Raeford, a team that fought Chadbourne to a tie, and this gives some indication of the strength of the E-town team.

The locals have been hurt by injuries and sickness but nevertheless expect to make a strong bid for victory No. 3 against the same number of losses when the two grid squads clash Thursday night.



One of the dozens of floats in the Fifth Annual Carolinas Yam Festival parade which took place here Friday afternoon, the second day of the three day event.