

# OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY—TOWN AND COUNTY OFFER BRILLIANT OPPORTUNITIES.

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NO. 99

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES IN GRANVILLE

THE STATE AVERAGES ONE DIVORCE FOR EVERY 16.8 MARRIAGES

Granville County's Divorce Rate Is One In Every 31.9 Marriages—Farmers Are Seldom Divorced.

Based on the bureau of census report on marriages and divorces, showing the number of marriages for each divorce granted in each county, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., department of Rural Social Economics, University of North Carolina, points out that there is an average of one divorce for every 16.8 marriages in North Carolina.

One-half of all divorces were granted in the ten counties with the largest towns and cities. The divorce problem is an urban one. Our divorce rate will steadily rise as we change from a rural to an urban state. Ninety-three divorces in Buncombe against a total of 81 in the first twenty-five counties, all rural. Farmers are seldom divorced.

The divorce rate in Granville is one for every 31.9 marriages.

## LASSITER COMPANY WILL PAVE RALEIGH

Awarded Half Million Dollar Contract in the Capitol City.

(Raleigh Correspondent)

Contracting to lay streets in Raleigh at the rate of ten thousand square yards every twenty days and submitting unusually low bids on street asphalt paving R. G. Lassiter & Company, a Raleigh and Oxford concern, submitted the proposal that won the approval of the City Commissioners and will be awarded the contract for more than five hundred thousand dollars worth of street improvements in Raleigh. The successful bid was one of thirteen that were opened Wednesday afternoon in the City Court room.

Two large construction forces of the R. G. Lassiter Company, one of them now at Smithfield and the other at Henderson will move to Raleigh immediately and work will probably get under way at once. The headquarters of the company are in Raleigh and much of the work will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Lassiter.

## OLD MAN DETOUR BURNED IN EFFIGY

Impressive Exercises Conducted As Direct Road From Richmond To Petersburg Is Cleared.

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

"Old Man Detour" was burned in effigy last Saturday, thus marking the completion of the concrete highway between Richmond and Petersburg. The delegation from Richmond met the Petersburg delegation at Falling Creek, where "Old Man Detour" with arms outstretched and wearing an expression that registered disgust, was posted in the center of the road which marked the last barrier of dust and ruts between Richmond and Cockeade City, and put him out of business as far as this stretch of Virginia highway is concerned.

## BAPTIST GATHER AT GASTONIA

Will Lay Plans To Close Seventy-Five Million Campaign Next November and Plan For New Meredith.

(Walter Gilmore)

Gastonia, Dec. 10.—The ninety-third annual session of the North Carolina State Baptist Convention will assemble here in the First Baptist church tomorrow afternoon. Everything is in readiness for the six or seven hundred delegates.

Many questions of vital concern to the denomination will come up for settlement at this convention. Occupying the center of the stage, perhaps will be the matter of closing the 75 Million Campaign the last of next November. The "Greater Meredith" College also promises to be an outstanding feature of the session.

## GOOD DAY'S WORK

Officers Kill Four Wild Turkeys, Eight Rabbits, One Bird and Capture, Still.

Deputy Conrad Walters, Officers Clark and Jackson, of the police force, left Oxford last Friday at noon and returned late in the evening with a big still, four wild turkeys, eight rabbits and one bird. Explaining how they did it, Deputy Walters said: "We started out with the intention of hunting rabbits; the turkeys flew up and we killed them ever now and then we killed a rabbit, and finally we ran across the still, which we demolished, and called it a day's work."

## TOBACCO MARKET TO CLOSE FOR HOLIDAYS

Close Wednesday, December 19, and Reopen On Tuesday, January 8.

At a meeting of the Tobacco Board of Trade, held yesterday, it was decided to close on Wednesday, December 19, and open on Tuesday, January 8. This applies to the auction houses only.

Mr. W. Z. Mitchell, manager of the local pooling station, will announce the closing and opening date later.

## DAVID AND GOLIATH

Mr. John W. Hester Replies To Hon. T. T. Hicks.

Elsewhere in this paper will be found the genteel reply of Mr. John W. Hester to Hon. T. T. Hicks. We use the word "genteel" advisedly, because we recently received a communication from an over enthusiastic member of the Co-operative Tobacco Association who stated that "contract breakers should not only be sent to jail, but they should be stood up by the wall and shot." The writer offered to pay advertising rates to have it inserted, but we declined it because the Tobacco Association does not stand for violence in any form. The Association hopes to win out by honorable means or not at all.

## MRS. W. R. KIMBALL GOES TO WINSTON-SALEM

Will Take Up Social Service Work At the First Of The Year.

Mrs. W. R. Kimball will leave Oxford January 1st to enter upon her duties as Social Service workers at the Y. W. C. A. in Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Kimball was offered this work in September but returned here to fulfill her contract to teach. Requests from the Y. W. C. A. for Mrs. Kimball's release caused the school board to see the great need of a worker in the field there, and as this need must be met at once they have released Mrs. Kimball from her contract here to enter this large field of work.

There are three thousand working girls in Winston among whom workers in Social Service are needed. Mrs. Kimball carries with her the good wishes of her co-workers for her success in this new field.

## COOLIDGE HEARD HERE

His Message To Congress Came Through Perfectly.

The first address of President Coolidge which was delivered to Congress last Thursday, was heard in Oxford by radio.

This is the first time radio facilities have ever been given the American public in hearing the address of a president to Congress. The message came through perfectly and the applause when punctuated several of its passages was distinctly audible. The response was particularly warm, when Mr. Coolidge endorsed Secretary Mellon's tax reduction plan. To the listener Mr. Coolidge appeared to be reading his address which he did in a monotone without oratorical frills. Owners of smaller stations probably were disappointed in not getting the message, this being due to the curtailment of daylight radius which reduces the capacity of smaller stations to receive at a considerable distance.

## DR. COOK HAS TO WORK

The Millionaire Malefactor Scrubs Floors Of Prison.

Word has reached the department of justice at Washington that Dr. Frederick A. Cook, polar explorer, sentenced at Fort Worth, Tex., for oil frauds, has taken to floor scrubbing.

Twenty of the prisoners, according to the report, were confined in a large room in the upper story of the Fort Worth jail. The warden threatened to remove the stove unless the prisoners kept the space about it clean and the next day he went to the room and found Dr. Cook at work with the rest, with a brush and soap.

Dr. Cook's wealth at the time of his conviction was more than \$1,000,000, according to justice officials.

## STORES WILL SOON BE OPEN EVENINGS

Stores of Oxford will be open a few evenings before Christmas for the accommodation of the shopping public, but exact arrangements for this have not as yet been completed. It is thought that probably an agreement will be reached among the merchants whereby they will be open evenings during the week before Christmas, and also on Christmas Eve as well. Decision as to this arrangement will be reached probably in a day or two, it is thought.

## SOME STRAIGHT TALK

THE SPIRIT THAT SHOULD PROMPT OUR CITIZENS

The Things That Are Bably Needed In Oxford.

Our town has no commercial organization looking to the establishing of new manufacturing enterprises in Oxford. An overall factory, a laundry or most any establishment that will employ labor will be of great benefit.

Manufacturing plants are badly needed here, and no active organization here to secure them is a reflection on the business men of Oxford.

We not only need new manufacturing plants, but more encouragement should be given to our enterprises. Our citizens need to know that the way to make a town better is for all to support and help make better and stronger the institutions we have; that is as much necessary for our business men to trade with their home institutions as it is for their home institutions and others to trade with them. The rule must apply both ways before it will work successfully.

Oxford needs no more merchants, no more lawyers, no more banks, no more doctors, no more of most any kind of business that it already has. The town is not large enough to justify the proper conduct of more than it has at present, and further duplication will tend to weaken all.

A united effort on the part of the citizens of Oxford is the only means by which the business interests of our town can be saved from the demerit bow-wows. Trade at home and work with an eye-single for the up-building of Oxford should be slogan of our people.

## BERGDOLL CAPTOR FACES 3-YEAR TERM

Captor Was Swayed By Patriotism and \$50,000 Reward.

Moshach, Baden, Dec. 10.—A sentence of three years for Corliss Hoyer Griffis, of Halimton, O., was recommended last week by State's Attorney Nebel for the attempt kidnap Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, American draft evader.

Nebel also urged three years for Karl Eperber, of Paris; one year for the Russian Prince Faust Gagarin and six months for Eugene Victor Nelson of Chicago.

A patriotic desire to get the notorious draft dodger, who impudently defied American laws and scoffed at American authorities and the attraction of a \$50,000 reward, were advanced by Griffis and accepted by the Court as impelling motives for the two Americans involved. There also was a hint about a newspaper stunt with the idea of yielding a big story for the favored newspaper and pictures for a movie enterprise, but the Court didn't go deeply into this aspect of the case accepting Griffis' statement that the several thousand dollars with which he financed the enterprise were his private resources.

## CITY SCHOOLS TO CLOSE DECEMBER 21

Christmas School Holidays Will Extend Through Eleven Days.

Friday, December 21st, has been fixed as the date of the closing of the schools of the city of Oxford for the Christmas holidays, according to announcement by Prof. C. G. Credle, superintendent of city schools.

Classes will open again on Wednesday, January 2nd, giving the pupils a holiday period of eleven days.

It is customary for the county schools to arrange their own holiday periods, the committees in each instance working out the arrangements. Since the county schools operate on a basis of so many months of work, the longer the Christmas holiday, the longer the term extends into the summer. In many districts it is thought advisable to cut the Christmas season short and complete the year's work earlier in the year, releasing boys for farm work.

## THE MEANEST MAN

He Told the Children That Santa Claus Has Just Died.

There lives on a side street in Oxford the "meanest man in the world." This man gathered his little ones about his knee the day before Christmas and told them that Santa Claus had just died.

We once knew a man who gave his little boy twenty-five cents each week for doing all the chores and then would lead him to the gas meter and permit him to drop the quarter in it, the child believing the meter to be a Christmas savings bank.

That was a mean trick, but nothing to compare with the story that Santa Claus is dead.

Removal Notice.

Dr. G. S. Watkins has removed his office to the room over Lyon's Drug Store. 10-23-23

## SOCIAL SERVICE EXCHANGE ORGANIZED HERE

TO RELIEVE DESTITUTION

The Woman's Club and Each Of The Churches Represented.

The County Welfare Board met last Saturday and enlarged their scope of work and usefulness by organizing a "Social Service Exchange." Each church and the Woman's Club are represented in the organization.

There is so much destitution in the county something had to be done, and done quick: A widow and her six children are reported as being practically down and out. They are badly in need of food and clothing. Their names and age follows: Ada, 6 years old; Lydia 5; Bessie 4; Pearl 14; Theodore 13, and Ruby 18 months.

There are numerous cases in the county just as distressing. Old clothing and food will be gladly received at the room in the Hicks building, or at the office of Mr. J. E. Jackson, welfare officer, in the court house.

The Plan.

(Contributed Later)

Since the County Welfare Department was started, many have had a growing realization that the social service work of the various organizations in town should be co-ordinated. Each has operated regardless of the others and the result has seemed confusing.

It has now been arranged with the glad concurrence of all, that representatives from the various churches and societies shall meet at stated intervals to discuss specific problems, so that there shall be no more overlapping of social service, no duplicating of assistance in some cases or neglect in others.

Two conferences have been held, consisting of two members from each of the churches and one from each of the following organizations: the Red Cross, the Woman's Club, the Parent-Teacher Association and the Welfare Department.

This committee will be called the Social Service Exchange.

It earnestly desires that the citizens shall cooperate by giving information of needy cases and by contributing money and second hand clothing.

Any contributions can be left with Mr. Jackson at the Court House and the committee will endeavor to use them wisely.

## BOY KILLED ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY

Riding Bicycle and Blinded By Auto Headlight.

Last night about 7:30 o'clock Mr. Lakewood, of Durham, who was driving a car, met Sam Chambers, who was riding a bicycle, near Knapp of Reeds, the head-on collision resulting in the death of the said sixteen year old colored boy, Mr. Lakewood was following a large car, and when the boy passed the big car he pulled to the center of the road and met the Lakewood car and was killed almost instantly. The boy was taken to Stem.

Coroner W. D. Bryant empanelled a jury and hastened to the scene. The jury decided that the death was purely accidental.

## DR. WILSON TO WED

Will Go To Richmond For His Bride.

Cards, reading as follows, have been received by Oxford friends of the contracting parties: Mr. and Mrs. James Brannon Barker request the pleasure of your company at the marriage of their daughter Amorette Elizabeth

to Dr. Archer Alexander Wilson on Saturday morning, the twentieth of December at half after ten o'clock Thirty-two hundred and sixteen Seminary Avenue Richmond, Virginia.

CHRISTMAS TREE COMMITTEES see us before buying your Candies, Fruits, Nuts & Etc. 12-11-4tx TAYLOR BROS.

ONLY 11 DAYS LEFT TO SHOP

## CASINO GOES UP IN MIDNIGHT BLAZE

The Granville Warehouse, Next Door Had a Close Call.

The municipal ciren whistle sounded loud and clear upon the midnight air last Saturday night. The fire fighters sprang upon the truck almost instantly and in exactly two and one-half minutes poured a stream of water upon the blazing wooden structure known as the "Casino," the property of John Young, colored, situated on Hillsboro street and adjoining the Granville Warehouse.

It was one of the hottest fires in the history of Oxford, and the rats, as large as Guinea pigs, ran helter-skelter for a more congenial clime. The intense heat caused the warehouse to look like a smoldering volcano, and if it had not been for the brick wall that warded off the heat that building, too, would be a ruin today. The fire was of unknown origin. It started in the center of the building on the upper floor and it was a seething furnace before the alarm was sounded, but it stands today as a shell, exhibiting in unmistakable terms the prowess of our fire department.

John Young, the owner of the property, states elsewhere in this paper that four brick buildings, in keeping with the progress of Oxford, will be erected on the lot at once.

## RADIO IS A SUCCESS

Message In Congress Applauded On New York Sidewalks.

(New York World)

For the first time in history, the voice of a President of the United States delivering his message to Congress in Washington was heard on the sidewalks of New York.

Clearly and distinctly, word for word and syllable for syllable, it came without a break from beginning to end. Thousands grouped on street corners around "loud speakers" heard it as plainly as though they stood within earshot of the Capitol.

"The President has a good radio voice," was the comment everywhere. At the end the hand-clapping and cheers of the thousands on Gotham's streets swelled into a din the fainter applause caught by the radio in the House of Representatives.

## POPULATION CENTER OF THE STATE

Near Mount Vernon Springs In Chatham County.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The exact center of population of North Carolina as determined by the Twelfth census was located in Latitude 35 degrees, 36 seconds and 48 seconds north and Longitude 79 degrees, 31 minutes and 27 seconds west, according to an announcement made by the Census Bureau. The exact location of this spot, according to the report, was three miles southwest by south of Mount Vernon Springs in Chatham county.

The movement of the center shifted between 1910 and 1920 1.7 miles from point to point while the direction of the movement was 0.7 miles southward and 1.5 miles eastward.

## OFFICIAL MILE POST

It Would Serve Well If Placed At the Juncture Of College and Hillsboro Streets.

The zero milestone, located just behind the White House at Washington, on Meridian of Longitude Zero, dedicated to the nation and accepted by President Harding, is the starting point for road measurement east, west, north, south of the capital of the nation.

It is forty miles to Baltimore. It is also forty-five miles to Baltimore, depending on the part of Baltimore to which one measures! It is two hundred and sixty-five miles to the City Hall in New York, etc.

Every town in America ought to have a milestone, on which should be stipulated the distance from Washington. If the stone in our town was placed at the juncture of College and Hillsboro street it would be a great convenience to tourists.

It would cost little and can be financed by the Oxford Woman's Club or the Rotarians. A little research would compute its exact distance from the zero milestone in Washington to Oxford and other points.

## 2 CAR LOADS OF APPLES

Apples, Oranges, Tangerines, Grape Fruit and Celery.

The two car loads of fine fruit, consigned to J. H. Berry, the fruit man, which is being unloaded in the Seaboard yards, attracts much attention. See announcement of prices and variety elsewhere in this paper.

WE HAVE THE PRETTIEST LINE of stationery ever shown in Oxford. Give the "Write" gift. 12-11-5tc HALLS DRUG STORE.

## THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IS ON IN EARNEST

Scores Of Extra Salesmen Are Being Pressed Into Service.

"I can hardly realize that Christmas is almost here," is a daily comment exchanged by individuals throughout this town and county. But dismissing the proposition with that will not in the least defer the date for the holiday festivities. The hour glass continues to drain and everyone may as well be "up and about" their Christmas shopping. It's to everyone's advantage, too, for stocks, are now complete and assortments are plentiful—a condition that cannot obtain in the last days of the shopping season. The wise will both do their shopping and their mailing early. In this there will be found the greatest service and satisfaction.

The thoroughness with which the merchants of Oxford have prepared for this season is shown by a stroll through the business district. Unprecedented business is already started and will increase in volume right up to the eve of Christmas, as is always the case.

Scores of extra salesmen are already on the floors of the mercantile establishments throughout the city, and all are busy filling the wants of a jolly throng of Christmas shoppers. Stores in every line of merchandise are being rushed already and as the season advances additional sales forces will be required, and merchants are already lining up their reserve sales forces to call as emergency or demand arises. Stores are chuck full of gift novelties, as well as dispensing the more staple merchandise in their lines for gift purposes.

Truly, this Christmas promise to be one of the happiest ever for this town and section—happy for the reason that the shoppers who have never been able to meet their needs with greater ease, for the merchants who have striven so splendidly to this end, and for those who will receive the merchandise that is now being distributed from local counters throughout this section.

## NEGRO ELECTROCUTED

Goss Makes Complete Confession To An Oxford Colored Preacher That He Was Guilty Of Attack On Spruce Pine Woman.

(Raleigh Correspondent)

John Goss, convicted negro, convicted of an attack upon a white woman in Mitchell county, paid the penalty with his life at the State Prison here last Saturday, being electrocuted at 10:30 o'clock.

Before being taken to the electric chair Goss made a complete confession to Rev. D. L. Thomas, negro preacher of Oxford, and also repeated his statements to prison officials. Four shocks were required before the prison physicians pronounced the negro dead.

"I am ready to go," Goss told prison officials who called at his cell at the hour for the death march. He did not show the slightest nervousness.

About seventy-five persons saw the electrocution, including several negroes.

Goss was serving a fifteen year sentence for an attack upon a negro in New Hanover county when he escaped from the Mitchell county camp last summer. He was a trusty and had only a few days more to serve when he attacked the aged white woman near Spruce Pine.

## JUDGE DEVIN AT HILLSBORO THIS WEEK

Judge Devin finished up a lengthy docket at Durham last week and is now presiding at Hillsboro. His Sunday School class was very glad to have him present last Sunday and regrets were expressed that he will reside in some eastern counties of the state early next year and cannot be with them every Sunday.

## CO-OPS TO MEET HERE

In the Court House On Saturday Dec. 15th.

A very urgent meeting of the Tobacco Growers Association for the county will be held at the Court House in Oxford at 12 o'clock, Saturday, Dec. 15.

E. Y. FLOYD, Sec.

## NOTICE

Regular Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank, of Oxford, N. C., will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 1924, at 2:00 o'clock P. M.

W. H. HUNT, President.

Your battery should have water about every two weeks. Stop at Oxford Battery Co.