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Oxford Ledger

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TODAY'S THOUGHT
Good character is, in all cases, the fruit of personal exertion.—Joel Hawes.

BUSINESS PROPOSITION
This corner has watched with more than amused interest the proposal of the State Board of Education to provide self-insurance for public school properties in the state.

The great howl that the companies have set up after virtually pricing themselves out of the market has not the echo of a hungry wolf but the growl of Communism—and it doesn't even ring with a first note of clarity or good sense.

School insurance has been profitable business for those who were able to sell the protection against loss by fire. The record shows that the losses paid have been from one-third to one-fourth of premium, the remainder of this multi-thousand dollar business going into the profits columns of the companies.

With virtual sanction of the State Commissioner of Insurance, the companies some eight or ten months ago gave notice that effective last July, rates on school properties would advance 25 per cent. The State Board of Education asked for a show of cause, and has not been forthcoming.

The men who comprise the State Board of Education are good business men. They have pledged themselves to look after the best interests of the state. Their action toward providing self-insurance for school properties is predicated upon good business and economy—things that every citizen of the state has cause to desire in government at every level.

A QUESTION FOR THE BALLOT
The machinery has been set up for a referendum here in the municipal election on Monday, May 3.

The North Carolina General Assembly has authorized the referendum and it is to be held, giving voters an opportunity to approve or disapprove a proposal to employ a manager for municipal affairs responsible only to the Mayor and Board of Town Commissioners.

What the attitude of a majority of citizens here will be on that issue will be accurately and fairly determined by the results of the voting on the proposal in that election. Now under consideration by some local groups of interested citizens is a proposal to merge the courts of Oxford and Granville County. That, too, is a proposal on which there can be no accurate measure of the will of the people except via the ballot. We submit, therefore, that any change in the judicial machinery of the Town of Oxford ought to be made only with the approval of voters.

To provide for them an opportunity to vote on the form of their city government and deny them the opportunity to have a voice in judicial matters is not good democracy. So far as has been learned, the proposal has not been considered in open meeting by either the Board of Town Commissioners or the Board of County Commissioners, the two bodies have been duly elected by and are representative of and responsible to the electorate. For the action to be taken by any group or groups other than those elected by ballot is usurpation of authority that has been placed elsewhere. The proposal is one closer to citizens of Oxford and Granville County than to the Legislature; the responsibility rests in the voters, not on the will of the Legislature.

One hopes that citizens of Oxford will not be denied or otherwise deprived of any right in the current renovations of the municipal government.

Eight bags of onions were reported stolen from a school lunchroom at Waynesville. There should be scented evidence against the culprit.

HERE'S THE MAN
As the Governor has looked to Chapel Hill to find a successor for the late Senator J. M. Broughton, Chapel Hill might look to Washington to provide a successor for Dr. Frank P. Graham.

The president of the Greater University of North Carolina must not of necessity be an alumnus of the university, but it would be more honor to the man and to the institution should that come to pass.

Under-Secretary of State James E. Webb is an alumnus, a man of outstanding administrative ability, recognized as one of the top executives in the nation. His work and contacts have not been in the field of education, but he has nevertheless, in the past few months, had flattering offers from two or three of the outstanding universities of the nation. He has either turned them down, or delayed acceptance for an indefinite period.

Now open is a position that should interest Mr. Webb. He is young enough to possess the physical force this important job demands. He is suave and genteel, level-headed and far-sighted. The successes he has attained in the highly competitive business world and in gaining political recognition have been rewards for outstanding achievement, and open to him any time are positions offering pay more than double that he now is receiving in his government position.

The field of education is one in which the Webbs have shown brilliantly for a generation. James E. Webb has at times experienced a nostalgia for North Carolina; particularly for the ivy clad buildings at Chapel Hill. If he could incline President Truman to release him from his present important position, he would unquestionably meet with great favor and consideration from the Board of Trustees of the Greater University of North Carolina.

THE TOWN PUMP

Copy for this department should be complete and on the hook at this late hour Friday morning . . . but by golly not the first line has been written . . . not the first note made . . . so a mental retracing of footsteps around the beat might be helpful . . .

G. R. Harrison was leaving the post office with a neatly prepared package . . . which he examined carefully . . . "My gloves," he said. "We went up to see Joyce last Sunday and I left them on the divan" . . . the route of the trip was up U. S. 15 for a substantial part of the way . . . at Farmville, Va., he stopped to examine the fire damage at Virginia State Teacher's College . . . and to talk with some of the Farmville firemen about their work on that fire . . . that's the way G. R. learns how others cope with difficult fires . . . he came back via Richmond, not to see a fire but because the driving is better on U. S. No. 1 . . . incidentally, Joyce is in school at Fredericksburg, Va.

Vernon Taylor had on his next to Sunday suit and we asked him why . . . he was, he said, going over to Chase City, Va., in the afternoon to attend the funeral of Harvey Murray, a brother of his co-worker H. H. Murray . . . and with whom he worked here in Oxford many years . . . in the busy-building days . . . just outside the door of the Mayor's Court a woman of considerable size, short stature and interest in the indoor proceedings remarked: "Lawdy, she plead not guilty and he done plead guilty . . . don't see how they git that a-way" . . . Mrs. Stahl was busy at work in the office of Morgan-Crews Company . . . Millard Hill leaving in the direction of up-street customers, an order book in his pocket . . .

Across the street, Miss Martha Crowell was engaged in making colorful programs with the Easter motif . . . for distribution at the Home Demonstration Club Federation meeting Wednesday . . . it was quite a neat job, too . . . gleaned also was the information that the Artificial Breeding Association is getting into business . . . that Technician Vernon Finch is getting one, two or three calls a day . . . that he is right on the ball with his service . . . W. Leak Peace heading into the Granville Library where he unquestionably can find information and entertainment . . . moving west on Williamsboro, one encounters Miss Hilda Carroll with her new (and becoming) hair-do . . . J. P. Floyd, Jr., anking up the hill to confer with Mrs. D. K. Taylor in the Chamber of Commerce office . . .

T. S. Royster comes along and says he sure and see him for a story about the danger of trespassing on Butner lands . . . that the recent fire there revealed a great many dangerous mines and shells that must be removed by experts . . . that the job will require about four months . . . Ed Taylor, before going off with Horace Hicks, who had a matter of business with him, suggested an editorial advocating James E. Webb as the next president of the University of North Carolina . . . wherswath, we showed him a note book where a mental jotting had been made to do that very thing . . . the Prosecutor evidently fixed up Mr. Hicks for shortly thereafter Banker R. K. Taylor was looking for Lawyer Taylor . . . and Mr. Hicks sent him off in the general direction in which the lawyer disappeared behind swinging doors . . .

Into the inner sanctums of the court house . . . typewriters are beating rhythmically on the broad pages of the record books . . . Mrs. Marion Rogers, Miss Charlotte Easton, Mrs. Flora O. Mann, Mrs. E. F. Taylor and Mrs. Lillian Crowell each preparing pages that will be searched by historians in the years to come . . . Miss Mary Shotwell continues her work, digging into the dusty but well-kept records of county school progress of more than half a century ago . . . most every day she comes across something of unusual interest . . . in the sheriff's department there is news of a distillery seized . . . somewhere below Fishing Creek Township . . . just inside the Granville County line . . . the mention of snake bite medicine reminded Deputy O. L. Harrison that he already has seen the first one of the season . . . a big black number around three feet long . . .

Across the way, a couple of patrolmen preparing their daily records . . . nothing of unusual interest along their beats in 24 hours . . . O. J. Mitchell was on the job until about 2 a. m. . . was out of his sleep and out again by about 9 . . . W. G. Allen keeping his eye open for an apartment . . . the recent warm days aroused Jerry Harris' enthusiasm for gardening . . . when encountered at the seed counter, he was wondering if turnip salad planted now would be worth while . . . E. H. McFarland is getting garden conscious . . . perhaps because of his daily association with Harry Dunn . . . Henry Hall was working in the soil the other afternoon . . . he had extremely good luck a year ago with his gardening operations . . . but that puts us jam up against the bottom of the column . . . except for just this word . . .

Stem Seniors to Stage Class Play Friday 8 o'Clock

"Don't Be Bashful" to Be Presented Under Direction Mrs. Morgan Daniel

By EDITH FOWLER
STEM, March 28.—The senior class of Stem High School will present its play, "Don't Be Bashful," directed by Mrs. Morgan Daniel, April 1 in the school auditorium at 8 o'clock.

The players are Rosa Green, as Nancy Adams, the cause of it all, secretly in love with Ken Hunt, a popular college freshman, Walter Adams, Robert Watkins, Nancy's father, is a dignified and commanding man; Grace Adams, Mozelle Moss, Nancy's mother, is a gushing, talkative matron of 45. Ken Hunt, Julius Moore, an amiable youth of 20, is friendly and aggressive; Sam Hunt, Nelson Ellis, Ken's father, is a loud talking, jovial business man. Judy Hunt, Ken's young sister, a girl of 15, vivacious and noisy, with a reputation for both frankness and inquisitiveness is played by Edith Fowler. Larry Marshall, Billy Ingold, is a good-looking chap in his late 20s, energetic and agreeable in his efforts to succeed as a book salesman. Phyllis Burk, Mary Maude Washington, is a pretty young woman of 21, both ambitious and enterprising. Francy Terry, an attractive secretary in her early 20s, is played by Lillian McDonald. Caroline Greene, Mattie Lois Bullock, an advocate of law and order, is a dignified authoritative woman of 45. Officer Pluck, Pine Lakes' police force, is a lively little man of 50, who views his position as an officer of the law. Sam Oakley is Pluck.

We cordially invite the public to come out and see our production. Admission will be 50 cents for adults, and 25 cents for children.

IMMUNE

The boy stood on the edge of the golf links, holding his younger brother by the hand. A thoughtful golfer, conceiving the child's peril in being thus exposed to the flying golfballs, paused in his play, and going over to the children, said reprovingly to the older boy, "Young man, don't you know better than to

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to our doctors, nurses, friends, and church for their thoughtful kindness, helpfulness, and sympathy during the long illness and death of our dear beloved husband and father. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Mrs. John Hart and Children.

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expose your little brother to these golf links?"

"It's all right," the boy reassured him. "He's stone-deaf."



Notice of Sale of Personal Property

As Executrix of the Estate of T. W. Cutts, deceased, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the T. W. Cutts home-place, on

Saturday, April 9, 1949, at 10:00 o'Clock, A. M.

the following described personal property:

- 1 Mowing Machine
- 1 Rake
- Harrow, plows and other farming equipment and tools, and household furniture.

This March 17, 1949.

Mrs. Zula Elizabeth Cutts, Executrix of the Estate of T. W. Cutts, deceased.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

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DOLLAR DAY

5-Pc. CANNISTER SET

4 Cannisters and Bread Box. Complete Set. **\$1.00**

METAL KITCHEN STOOL

Very Sturdy, convenient. In White Enamel. **\$1.00**

14-Pc. Refrigerator Set

In Beautiful Crystal. **\$1.00**

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Blue speckled Finish. 18 1/2 x 12 1/4 x 8 in. Holds 18 lb. Roast. **\$1.00**

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Hillsboro St. Next to Carolina Power & Light Co.

Naval aviation midshipmen in pre-flight training at Pensacola, Fla., are drilled by Marines.

The Constitution, Navy's giant 180-passenger plane, can fly from San Francisco to Tokyo in 19 hours.