

Robert Lee Rice Dies In Virginia

Funeral for 75-Year-Old Farmer Conducted on April 21

Robert Lee Rice, 75, of Nelson, Va., died Tuesday of last week of cerebral hemorrhage and illness of nine days.

The funeral was held on April 21 with the Rev. C. E. Newman and



Rev. Mark Andes in charge. Burial was in the family cemetery. Surviving are his wife, two sons, Kent Rice of Nelson, and Grady Rice of Clarksville, two daughters, Mrs. W. J. Bowen of Williamsburg, Va., and Miss Myra Rice of the home, and seven grandchildren. He was a member of Hebron Church and was highly regarded in his community.

Banquet Friday At Oxford Orphanage

The annual junior-senior class banquet of John Nichols School is to be held tonight, Friday, in the Masonic Hall at Oxford Orphanage. Chancelor R. B. House of the University of North Carolina is to be the guest speaker for the formal program, which is to be followed by a dance. Chancelor House has promised to bring along his harp and perhaps do a little practicing before his audience.

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HESTER FIRST RURAL CHURCH IN ASS'N TO GO FULL TIME

(Continued from Page 1)

Hester Baptist Church was organized in September, 1823, when two young ministers, Samuel Duty of Granville County, and Robert T. Daniel, native of Virginia, and reared in Chatham County, met with potential members.

The place of the meeting was a log house, 20x20, which, together with the lot on which it stood, was donated by Captain Benjamin Hester for whom the church was named. Hester was a large land-owner and lived at the home now owned by Boadie Currin. Later, in 1849, five acres were added to the church tract by gift of Rhodes N. Herndon of Oxford.

Worrell Inspired Church

A young man by the name of W. B. Worrell, born in Halifax County, was punished severely, nearly unto death, at the age of 16, for joining a Baptist Church, and he wandered aimlessly into Granville County. He was befriended by Deacon Thomas Williams of Island Creek, who provided shelter and helped the young man in his education. When the Hester Church was constituted, Worrell was called to its oversight.

Dr. R. H. Marsh, who later became pastor of the church, made his first visit to the congregation while a teacher at Oxford College. "Saturday night was spent in the home of Brother and Sister Broadie Meadows near Blackwell's Mountain. On Sunday, the text was 'The Wicked Was Driven Away In His Wickedness.'" Dr. Marsh described the congregation as "large, attentive and patient."

Train of Wagons

Dr. Marsh was first called to be pastor of Hester in 1864, but declined. Four years later he was called again, when a vacancy occurred, and he accepted the call and remained for over 48 years, probably the longest continuous ministry in the Flat River Association.

Dr. Marsh was residing in Chatham County and he was brought to Hester, along with his furnishings and personal effects, "80 miles in a train of wagons sent out by Hester Church under the care and direction of Brethren B. F. Hester and J. Wash Currin."

In his "Echoes and Reminiscences," Dr. Marsh says "I do not remember the log house nor many honored persons whose names and characters are carved on the memorial stones of this house of the Lord, but I recall the appearance of the more pretentious frame building with its shed in the rear for the colored people, its rickety and uncomfortable benches, the pulpit that was made for a short man and was boxed up for secrecy and stood as a sentinel between the front doors to mark the late comers and the out-goers."

"I remember the upping blocks, the covered wagons, the riders on horseback, the foot-goers and the snarling curs. Pleasure vehicles were few in number and curiously eyed. One brother had an old two-horse carriage that came down as an heirloom, out-of-style and about out-of-commission. Another had what was called a "close carriage" or barouche with a beavered driver perched on high. These two came in state on special occasions.

Mothered Two Churches

Hester Church has mothered both Mountain Creek and Enon churches, the first in 1860, the latter in 1875, when letters were granted to Hester members who desired to unite in forming the new churches. The 1875 withdrawals included every officer of the church with the exception of the pastor.

Records show that Hester has entertained the Flat River Association five times, 1868, 1886, 1906, 1927 and in 1943. At the meeting in 1886, the association voted to pay for a new building at Thomasville Orphanage, but it later developed that most of the contributions were applied on current expenses, contributors having failed to designate that their gifts be applied toward the cost of the Flat River building.

Rev. J. A. Stradley, father of the late Town Clerk Walter P. Stradley, was moderator of the association at that time.

Dr. Marsh, educated at the University of North Carolina, was president of the Baptist State Conven-

tion for 14 years. He became quite feeble before retiring from his work at Hester to be succeeded in June, 1917, by George T. Tunstall. Under his leadership, the church was reported to have taken on "new life and began to launch out into a larger service." Shortly after arrival of Mr. Tunstall, plans for the new church began developing and the structure was dedicated in July, 1918. Tunstall was given a leave of absence of 12 months from June 1918, to work with the YMCA in France. Dr. J. D. Harte, pastor of Oxford Baptist Church, supplied in his absence. Sixteen young men went from the church to serve their country in World War I.

Centennial Observed

Hester celebrated its centennial on the second Saturday in September, 1923. B. F. Hester, a former member, made a talk on the early history and Dr. Charles E. Maddry was present.

In 1924, Hester, in conjunction with Enon, erected a parsonage on Broad Street in Oxford.

Upon the resignation of Rev. Mr. Tunstall in 1926, Rev. W. D. Poe accepted a call and began his work in September of that year. Under his leadership, Hester church moved steadily forward. The membership has increased from 285 in 1917 to a little more than 500 as of the present date.

Mr. Williams Takes Over

Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams are graduates of Stetson University. Mr. Williams received his divinity degree at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he also did graduate work. He came to Oxford two years ago from Wirt, Ind., where he was serving a small church, to become missionary in Flat River Association. His work here has been outstanding and his efforts have caught the eye of Baptist leaders throughout the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are residing in their own home on Stovall road and they have three children.

Honor Students To Make Raleigh Visit

Honor students of Oxford Orphanage will spend a day in Raleigh early next month sightseeing as guests of Hiram Lodge.

Orphanage Superintendent Leon Gray stated that the students would visit the museum, capitol, parks and other places of interest before being entertained as guests of Hiram Lodge Masons at Stovall. Date of the visit is May 12.

The Navy has the only two enlisted men piloting planes in the Berlin Airlift.



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Talent Show at Oak Hill School May 11

The senior class of Oak Hill High School will sponsor a talent show on Wednesday night, May 11, at 8 o'clock. The proceeds of this show are to be used by the class to purchase new stage curtains for the auditorium. An excellent program of singing, dancing and music of all kinds is being planned by Mrs. S. M. Watkins.

LATE NEWS

TEXTILE MILLS SLOWING
The growing slow-down in the textile industry has moved into North Carolina. Production in some of its largest plants is being curtailed. A survey this week indicated that payrolls are dropping in a size larger than the list of totally unemployed. A number of mills have gone on a five-day week, with all shifts working.

TWO JOBS FILLED

Governor Scott this week named his private secretary, Miss Myrtha Fleming, to a \$6,336 a year job as chief clerk of the State Utilities Commission and named a campaign aide, John I. Barnes of Clayton, to the \$7,920 a year job as State Burial Association Commissioner. Both will take office Monday. The Governor has indicated that he will act rapidly toward filling other state posts.

TRIAL ON HOGS ASKED

Congress was asked this week to let the administration try its controversial new farm program out on hogs. The "trial run" would mean guaranteed prices for farmers and possibly cheaper pork chops for consumers. Secretary of Agriculture Brannon told the House Agriculture Committee he would like authority to conduct the experiment immediately. His aides disclosed that special legislation is being prepared.

SULLIVAN QUILTS POST

John L. Sullivan has resigned as Secretary of the Navy, firing a roaring broadside at Secretary of Defense Johnson for halting construction of the Navy's super-carrier, the USS United States. The New Hampshire Irishman said he was deeply disturbed because Johnson acted "so drastically and arbitrarily" without consulting the Navy.

NEW FLIGHT RECORD

Six weeks of droning monotonously through the skies ended on Tuesday at Fullerton, Calif., for Bill Barris and Dick Riddel after they boosted the world's flight endurance record 1,008 hours. Tired, but smiling and fresh-shaven, the two Fullerton airport employees were able to walk away from their little Aerona monoplane, the "Sunkist Lady," without help.

ELECTION PLANS SHAPED

A state-wide citizens committee, conceived and incorporated in less than two hours, opened a campaign this week to sell North Carolinians better schools and roads. Chartered as the "Better Schools and Roads, Inc.," the organization set as its first goal the promotion of the \$200,000,000 road bond issue and \$25,000,000 school bond issue voters will judge at the polls on June 4. The incorporation papers carried 110 signatures. Eventually, two directors will be appointed for each county to set up similar county organizations.

RIISING COSTS REPORTED

The rising cost of publishing a newspaper was the main discussion topic at the Tuesday session of the 63rd annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers



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We are constantly being called to repair plumbing and wiring installations. Some of the troubles are small size wire . . . improper fusing . . . overloads . . . no relief or check valves on water heaters . . . refrigerators operating on drop cords . . . unfused water pumps. This month to date we have serviced 27 such troubles. You can't afford this. Let us make your installations "trouble free".

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Association in New York. At two simultaneous meetings, one for small papers and the other for newspapers with 10,000 to 50,000 circulation, dozens of questions on business management, circulation, labor relations, mechanical methods, newsprint and person-

nel problems were discussed.

STOVALL SERVICES

Rev. Arnold B. Poole, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Clarksville, Va., will preach in the Presbyterian Church in Stovall, Sunday, May 1, at 8 p. m.

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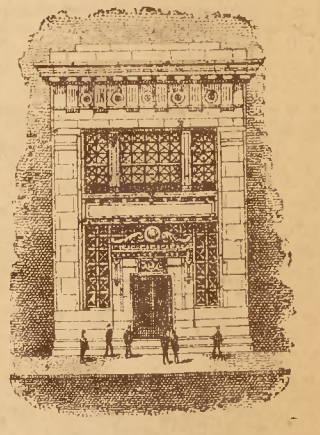
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A Look at the Loan Picture

Last year the banks of the United States made the equivalent of one agricultural loan to every U.S. farm family. These loans totaled \$4,195,491,000—and there was over 7½ billion dollars more available at the banks for farm loans if it had been needed.

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