

# THE ZEBULON RECORD

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## HIS FATHER WAS TALENTED

### Doses of Calomel Tasted Good, Shoes Fitted Fine

"My daddy could make calomel taste best and shoes fit the best of any man that ever lived," Billy K. Hopkins told members of the Zebulon Rotary Club last Friday night. As the newest member of the group, he was giving the highlights of his life during the program time.

Billy's father, Mr. "Tete" Hopkins, was a big man six and a half feet tall weighing 385 pounds, plenty big to take care of his wife and twelve children.

"Every spring it would come time for us all to take our dose of calomel," Billy related. When the children heard Mrs. Hopkins begin to pound the calomel tablets into powder to be mixed with molasses, they scattered, usually hiding under the house.

When Mr. Hopkins lent his aid in rounding up the younguns, it took only a word and a threatening swing of a tree branch to get all twelve meekly lined up around the kitchen table with their tongues stuck out ready to receive the dose.

"Don't it taste good?" Mr. Hopkins would demand. "Yes, sir," the dozen would chorus, weak smiles on their faces.

When it came time in the fall for shoes to be bought, Mr. Hopkins would lead the parade of

little Hopkinses to Satsky's Store in Zebulon, seating them beside the bargain shoe table. He would grab a pair off the counter, and little Billy would try them on.

"Do they fit?" Mr. Hopkins would demand. "Yes, sir," was always the answer, Billy said, because he was afraid that a second pair would fit worse or else Mr. Hopkins would decide a new pair of shoes was not needed, anyhow.

But he learned a great deal from his father in earning a living, Billy said. The whole family learned to be independent and to take care of themselves, and Mr. Hopkins saw that they had a practical knowledge of bookkeeping and the rudiments of running a store.

"I'm the only true countryman here tonight," Billy told the Rotarians. Some of the other members might dabble in farming and might have grown up on a farm, but since then they had moved into town and adopted city ways, even "wearing perfume."

His schooling was received at Union Level School and Hopkins "College," he said. It was after he finished his schooling that the school at Hopkins Cross Roads was consolidated with Wakelon, causing right much hard feelings between the people who lost their school and the folks in town.

"But consolidating the schools was a good thing," Billy said, "because it brought about an understanding between rural and town people, and they are cooperating well now."

His mother was the former Lucy Pearce of Franklin County, "but we grew to forgive her for coming from Franklin County," Billy said.

In tracing the history of his family, he said that he understood the first Hopkinses in this part of the country were three who came here from New Bern. His great-grandfather settled a quarter mile south of where Hopkins Cross Roads is now about 1820, and owned over 1,000 acres of land and numerous slaves.

His grandfather was born in 1840. Three tracts of land owned by these two men are still in the Hopkins family, owned today by Billy and two of his brothers, Willie B. and Cecil.

In commenting on his philosophy of life, Billy said he thinks a man should take care of the way he lives, because you can never know when someone else is patterning his life after you.

## Rural Fire Dept. Meeting Tonight

An important meeting of the Zebulon Rural Fire Department, Inc., will be held tonight at 7:30 in the municipal building. Officers for the coming year will be elected, and a report by the treasurer will be given.

Every member of the Rural Fire Department is urged to attend, said Willard H. Gay, secretary-treasurer of the group.

## Burial Rites Held For Local Plasterer

Funeral services for L. Ernest Patton, 63, local Negro plasterer who shot himself to death last week after writing a note asking that he be buried in his Masonic apron, were held at the Wakefield Church Sunday afternoon at 3:30. Hundreds of people attended the services for Patton, who had made elaborate preparations for his death, including the suicide note and the gift of rings and watches to younger men.

## Nobody Knows the Exact Age Of Hannah Baker, Centenarian

How old was Hannah Baker? Nobody knows for sure, but best estimates are that the prolific old colored lady, who died last week near Hopkins Cross Roads, was certainly over 100 years old. Some local folks believe that she was between 120 and 125 years old.

Chief of Police Willie B. Hopkins, who knew Hannah Baker as an old lady when he was still a boy, says that she had 16 children, and must have more than 150 descendants, many of whom are of the fifth generation.

One of her grandchildren, Garfield Baker, has several grand-

children. Weldon Baker, a son, was over 60 years old at the time of his death over 20 years ago.

Ernest "Boy" Williams, whose own grandmother died eight years ago at the age of 104, says that his grandmother had always told him that Hannah Baker was an "old lady" compared to her.

Without birth certificates from pre-Civil War days, there is no way of telling the exact age of Hannah Baker who expired this month at the Morgan place near Booger Hopkins' store. But one thing is certain: she was the oldest resident of this community by a good many years.

## Funeral Services For Charlie Baker, Dr. Horton Held

### Charlie Baker

Charlie Baker, 73, of Zebulon, Route 3, died at his home Thursday night following a short illness. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 3 p. m. from Bethlehem Baptist Church by the Rev. Eldridge Vinson and the Rev. Fred Crisp. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The body was taken to the church one hour prior to the funeral.

Surviving are his wife; six sons, Horace, Grover, Freddie and Rudolph, all of Zebulon, Route 3, Charlie D. and Monroe Baker, both of Youngsville, Route 1; a daughter, Ethelene Baker of the home.

Three brothers, J. S., J. D. and K. W. Baker, all of Zebulon; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Belvin of Youngsville, Route 1, Mrs. Dave Price of Wendell, Route 2, and Mrs. Siddie Perry of Zebulon, Route 3; and 12 grandchildren.

### Dr. W. C. Horton

Funeral services for Dr. William C. Horton, Raleigh physician who was well known in this community, were held Saturday morning at 11 o'clock from the Mitchell Funeral Home Chapel in Raleigh.

Dr. Horton, who died Thursday, was formerly with the North Carolina Industrial Commission with offices in the Education Building, but retired from his medical work several years ago. He practiced medicine privately for many years in Raleigh, going there soon after the turn of the century from a practice in Wakefield.

Dr. J. A. Ellis, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and Dr. E. McNeill Poteat, pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, officiated at the services. Burial followed at Oakwood. Nephews served as pallbearers.

Surviving Dr. Horton, who lived on North Bloodworth Street after leaving Wakefield in 1903, are a daughter, Miss Savon Horton of Raleigh; a sister, Mrs. Mamie Kimball of Wakefield; three brothers, Dr. M. C. Horton of Pine Bluff, Dr. S. Robert Horton and Roger Horton, both of Raleigh; and several nieces and nephews.

## Miss Siler to Speak At Junior Meeting

"Proper Light for Homes" will be the program topic for the Zebulon Junior Woman's Club meeting tonight. Miss Lane Siler, Carolina Power & Light Company Home Service Representative, will be guest speaker.

Miss Siler will be introduced by Mrs. Haywood Jones, who heads the American Home Department of the Junior Club.

The club is meeting tonight at 8 o'clock in Mrs. G. R. Massey's home on Arendell Avenue. Mrs. Rochelle Long is co-hostess with Mrs. Massey.

## March of Dimes Receptacles Placed

Coin containers are being placed in business establishments in Zebulon this week to receive contributions for the March of Dimes. Ed-Elington, who headed the campaign last year, is serving as chairman for the drive which will last until January 31.

## PRESIDENT



G. C. Massey, retired Wake County deputy sheriff, was elected Friday night to be president of the Zebulon Rotary Club. He will take office in June. G. C. is at present vice-president of the Rotary Club. He will succeed Barrie Davis.

## Pilot to Be Host To Mass Meeting

In support of the efforts of Southern Baptists to enroll "A Million More in '54," four mass meetings for churches of the Tar River Association are scheduled for January 21 at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Pilot Baptist Church will be the site for one of the meetings. The Rev. M. A. Pegram, pastor, announced that Dr. Garland Hendricks of the Southeastern Baptist Seminary, will be speaker.

All officers, teachers, and other interested workers of the churches of the Tar River Association are urged to attend the nearest meeting, according to V. E. Duncan, Associational Missionary.

## Cpl. Ronald Stone Recuperates in Japan

Cpl. Ronald T. Stone, whose wife, Jean, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Stone, live on Route 2, Middlesex, recently spent a seven-day rest and recuperation leave in Kobe, Japan.

Normally stationed in Korea with the 45th Infantry Division, Stone stayed at one of Japan's best resort hotels and enjoyed many luxuries unobtainable on the war-torn peninsula.

A little given seasonably excuses a great gift. — George Herbert

## Public Is Invited to Dedication, Concert, Dance in New Armory

Invitations are being mailed this week to special guests for the dedication of Zebulon's new National Guard armory. The ceremony will be held Tuesday, February 9, with Governor William B. Umstead as guest speaker.

The public is invited to attend the entire series of events, with the single exception of the special supper for National Guardsmen.

The \$100,000.00 building will be open to the public at 3 o'clock. The dedication ceremony begins at 4 o'clock, and the special supper will follow at 5:30, with Major General John Hall Manning as

## Installation Rites Held for New WOW Officers

Zebulon Woodmen were told last week that they belong to the financially strongest fraternal order in the United States by S. A. Smith, superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex.

The statement was made by Mr. Smith, a former field representative for the Woodmen of the World in the principal address at the annual Ladies Night and installation of officers of the Little River WOW Camp on Wednesday, January 16.

Mr. Smith discussed other phases of WOW work, thanked the local Woodmen for their interest in the children at the Middlesex orphanage, and paid tribute to the ladies present.

Other speakers during the evening included J. P. Price, new consul commander of the local camp; Hiram Melvin, state representative, who installed the new officers in an impressive ceremony following the Smith address; and L. G. Woodward, field manager for the Raleigh WOW district, to which Zebulon was recently transferred from the Wilson district.

The speakers were introduced by Ferd Davis, who served as master of ceremonies.

Officers installed by Sovereign Melvin included Consul Commander Price, Paul Strickland as past consul commander, Melvin Lanier as adviser lieutenant, Bertie Brantley as banker, Claud Dunn as financial secretary, Wilton Price as escort, D. C. Richardson as watchman, C. F. Wallace as sentry, and Casey Stallings, Barrie Davis, and Jimmy Spivey as auditors. Stallings will serve a 3-year term, Davis a 2-year term, and Spivey a one-year term.

Following the installation, Sovereign Woodward presented past consul commander pins to Thurman Hepler, Dalmon Whitley, and Paul Strickland. Hepler headed the local WOW in 1950, Whitley in 1951, and Strickland in 1952 and 1953.

Price discussed plans for the local camp in 1954, and assured the Woodmen and their wives that this year would be an active one.

Prior to the addresses and the installation, the Woodmen and their wives were served a chicken and pork barbecue supper. The meeting was held in the Zebulon Woman's Club building.

"Even though you are on the right track you will get run over if you just sit there."—Marshall Craig.

guest speaker.

At 7:30 the famous 94th Army Band of Raleigh will be presented in concert. The program will be open to the public.

A public dance beginning at 9:00 will complete the big day.

Special committees were appointed at the National Guard drill last night to plan for various parts of the occasion, including displays of the weapons and electronic equipment used by the battery.

Battery A expected to move into the armory on Monday, February 1.