

# Golden Anniversary Issue

# THE ZEBULON RECORD

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## Big Parade, Wakelon Homecoming, Dance Highlights of Gala Celebration

### Railroad's Coming Was Cause Of Town's Birth 50 Years Ago

The town of Zebulon wouldn't have been born in it hadn't been for the Norfolk and Southern Railroad that didn't come through Wakefield.

When it became a reality, it, like Topsy, "just grewed" until now it is one of the most progressive towns in all of Wake County.

When the Norfolk and Southern Railroad established its line from Raleigh to Norfolk, Zebulon was one of the towns which sprang up overnight like mushrooms along the route.

The railroad failed to come through Wakefield because there was dissension between some of the prominent persons of that community.

In 50 years since the title of its corporation February 16, 1907, this tiny village, brought into being by a railway, has grown into a sizeable town of approximately 1600 persons. It is located in one of the richest agricultural districts in Eastern North Carolina.

Falcon B. Arendell and Claude and Ed Barbee, of Raleigh, operating as the Zebulon Land Company,

were the founders and promoters of the new town, established in the fall of 1906 on a pine-thicketed tract of land purchased from the Whitley and Horton heirs, which they called Zebulon after North Carolina's Civil War governor, Zebulon Baird Vance.

In July of 1907, the year in which the town received its charter — the charter was granted by the North Carolina Secretary of State, J. Bryan Grimes, August 27, 1907 — the first train passed through Zebulon.

The following is the act that incorporated the Town of Zebulon passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina. The act was ratified February 16, 1907.

"The boundaries of the said Town of Zebulon shall be as follows: Beginning at a stake in the center of Arendell Avenue northwest eighteen hundred feet from the center of the intersection of said Arendell Avenue with Vance Street, running thence northeast exactly parallel with the main line of the Norfolk Southern Railway, eighteen hundred feet to a corner,



The two persons to become the town's first citizens were Mrs. Avon Privette and Zebulon Whitley Chamblee. Mrs. Privette, the former Ernestine Whitley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Whitley, was the first girl born in Zebulon. She preceeded Chamblee, the first boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Chamblee, by two months. Mrs. Privette was born in May of 1907 and Chamblee was born in August of the same year.

thence southeast diagonally across the main line of the said Norfolk Southern Railway three thousand and six hundred feet to a corner; thence southwest exactly parallel with the main line of the said Norfolk Southern Railway, three thou-

sand and six hundred feet to a corner; thence northwest diagonally across the main line of the said Norfolk Southern Railway, three thousand and six hundred feet to a corner; thence northeast (Continued on Page 10)

### Thousands to See Mile-Long Parade Friday Afternoon

The parade Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock promises to match the October weather: bright, gay, sparkling and full of excitement.

The parade will begin a round of festivities lasting through the weekend in observance of Zebulon's fiftieth birthday.

Parade chairmen Aaron Lowery and Frank Wall have released a list of the floats and other addenda to be in the parade which will begin at Lee Street, continue down Arendell Avenue, and on to the Davis National Guard Armory.

The list includes: Zebulon National Guard color guard, flags, Mayor Wilbur Debnam, the town commissioners, Wakelon High School Band, Zebulon Drug Company, Junior Woman's Club, Town of Zebulon, Rotary Club.

Student Council, Chamber of Commerce, Rolesville High School Band, grocery stores, Wakelon Science Club, department stores, Jones Sausage, Wake Forest High School Band, Whitley Furniture Company, Beta Club.

People's Bank & Trust Company Future Teachers, Army, National Guard motorized equipment, Air Force, Library Club, Carolina Power and Light Company, J. M. Chevrolet, Journalism Club, Little River Ice Company of Zebulon, Wakefield Beauty Parlor,

Clayton High School Band, insurance agencies, Language Club,

Persons desiring copies of The Zebulon Record carrying the stories, pictures and historical facts of the town's anniversary may secure them from the Record office for 10 cents a copy.

Gill Buick Company, FFA, FHA, Pope's, Wade's School of Dance, Wendell Motor Company, Commercial Club, Monogram Club, horses, ponies and farm equipment.

After the parade, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Wakelon School will sponsor a chicken and pork barbecue supper in the cafeteria. The proceeds from this supper will be used to relieve the school's indebtedness and for instructional (Continued on Page 9)

### Parade on TV

WNCT-TV, Greenville, and other television stations will be in Zebulon Friday to film the gigantic parade to be held in connection with the town's fiftieth birthday anniversary. The film of the parade will be shown that evening by the television stations represented.



The white frame structure above was Zebulon's first dwelling and first hotel. Originally built as a home for the Mike Whiltey family the owner later turned it into a boarding home and hotel. It had approximately 18 rooms. Many of the town's first residents boarded here, and it was a haven for the various drummers coming to town to peddle their wares. No one could be located who could identify the persons standing and seated on the veranda when the picture was made about 1910.