

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

Address all communications to THE PILOT PRINTING COMPANY, VASS, N. C.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

## MARTIN MCKENZIE DIED AT CHARLOTTE

Was a Former Moore County Boy—Son of Mr. N. P. McKenzie

The following is taken from The Montgomery Herald and will be read with much sorrow by the people who knew Martin McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie was the son of Pierce McKenzie of the West End community: "Norwood, June 9.—Martin McKenzie, who had been in failing health for the past year or more, died at Charlotte Sanatorium Thursday morning, June 4, at 5 o'clock. At his bedside at the time of his death were his wife and two children, Robert, a student at Duke university, and Nash, who lives with his mother here. For the past eight years Mr. McKenzie had been general manager of the Norwood Lumber company at this place, and his ability for business management has been noted not only in his own work but in the handling of town affairs as well. He was the town's secretary and treasurer for the past two years while so much work was being done on the streets. He had been alderman for several years, and his resignation was accepted on account of his health about three months ago.

"He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and was only about 44 years of age when death occurred. Mr. McKenzie was born and reared in Moore county.

"Funeral services were conducted from the Presbyterian church, Rev. J. Storke in charge, assisted by Rev. F. O. Dryman, pastor of the Methodist church.

"After the funeral the casket was opened not so much for the sake of the friends assembled but in order that the darkies with whom he had been dealing might look for a last time upon his remains. Possibly no other point shows the real character of the deceased as did the fact that the men who worked with him were devoted to him and mourned his loss so deeply.

"Masons of Norwood and Albemarle had charge of the burial. Mr. McKenzie was a Shriner and also took active part in the work of the Eastern Star, being its worth patron until sickness caused his resignation.

"Mr. McKenzie was popular in a wide range of acquaintances. He was a man of joyful disposition, and was most cordially liked by all who knew him. For this reason, there were present at his burial a large concourse of friends from many parts, and floral offerings attested the love and esteem in which he was held."

## YANKEE CO-OPS RE-SIGN TOBACCO

Connecticut Planters Gain Control and New Members In Second Sign Up

The first of the campaigns among the important cooperative associations of tobacco growers in the United States to sign up for a second five year contract, has resulted in a very important victory for cooperative marketing of tobacco in Connecticut, where the farmers have just put over the second sign up campaign of the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Association.

The campaign resulted in a large gain in membership and acreage for the organized tobacco farmers of Connecticut. Many new members joined the Connecticut Valley Tobacco Association and some districts which have never taken part in cooperative marketing of the Connecticut tobacco have joined the pool in order to make sure that the higher prices from cooperative marketing will be continued for the next five years.

Quoting from the report of this

campaign just received at Raleigh headquarters of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association "The growers of the Connecticut Valley fully realized the importance of putting the sign up over. Not only the members but the outside growers openly expressed themselves as believing that a failure of the campaign would mean a calamity to the tobacco industry of the Connecticut Valley. There were many, however, waiting for the eleventh hour to see if they could not let "George" do it. Monday (the last day) witnessed a landslide of contracts into the Hartford office.

The association will have a larger percentage of control of the tobacco in the Connecticut Valley than at any time since its organization."

Over 400 members did their utmost to get every available acre into the contract which runs until 1931, serving as canvassers in the second sign up campaign.

While the Yankee farmers of Connecticut have signed up approximately 75 per cent of the tobacco crop in the Connecticut Valley until 1931, the Carolinas-Virginia growers of the tri-state pool after marketing an average of 150 million pounds a year through their association have set their mark for deliveries of 200 million pounds from the 1925 crop.

S. D. Frissell.

To make a monkey out of a man, first get him up a tree.—Greenville Piedmont.

## THE TOWN OF VASS AND ITS COMMUNITY

A Story of Its Early Life and Development — Yesterday and Today

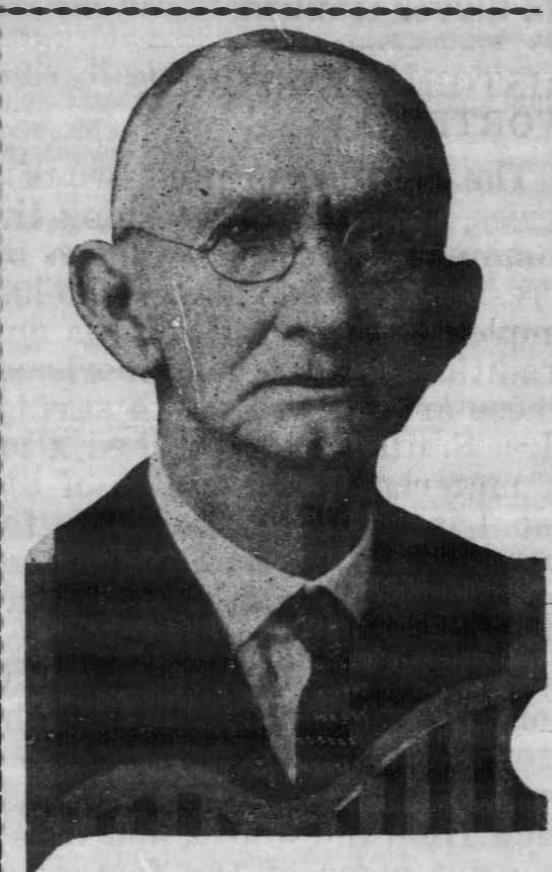
PART II.

Educational facilities in the community were very limited. There were no free schools worthy the name. Short subscription schools were held each year, but the nearest school houses were Shallow Well, Red Hill and Cranes Creek, each several miles from the village and too far for the smaller children to walk. So the men of Winder got together and decided that a school building must be erected in the village. The plan decided on was for a frame building about twenty by thirty feet, planked up and down with rough lumber, with two windows in each side, a chimney and fireplace in one end and a door in the other. The location was within a few yards of the site of the present Presbyterian church. Bids were made, and A. Cameron was awarded the contract. He was to do the work for the sum of twenty dollars. Mr. Cameron says that he nailed every plank; the only help he had was in putting up the rafters. This, the first school house in Winder, was built about the year 1880.

From that time the school was the community center, just as the schools are in the rural communities today. In 1882 the first picnic ever held in the village was held at the Winder school. And a great time it was! The main feature of the day—the dinner excepted, of course—was a singing contest between the Reedy Branch school and the Winder school. Will Ferguson led the singing for Reedy Branch and Randall Melvin for Winder, and if the older people tell things straight, there must have been some good music. They had no judges in the contest, so each side was free to think that it had won.

Previous to this time, whiskey was sold here and there throughout the country, and the general public gave very little if any thought to its bad effects. The open barroom was taken for granted. This same little school house was destined to be the meeting place of the first Temperance Society organized anywhere in the surrounding territory, and be it said to the praise of these forward looking citizens that the birth of this society was the death of the open bar so far as Winder was concerned.

Jim Leach gave a series of writing



W. J. Cameron, one of the pioneers of Vass. He came to the village in 1881, when it was yet called Winder and is therefore one of the pioneers. In 1889 he was appointed postmaster. For three years he was postmaster of Winder, and then with the name of the town changed to Vass he continued to be postmaster, but of another town at the same place. He held the office until 1913, or for a period of 24½ years. Mr. Cameron is still a citizen of the community, a leading farmer and business man.

lessons at night in the school building, thus giving the men who had very limited educational advantages an opportunity of gaining greater proficiency in wielding a pen.

The next problem to confront the people after the school had been arranged for was that of a church. They were religiously inclined, and wanted to attend services, but with Shallow Well, three miles away, the nearest Methodist church; Union and Cypress, six and seven miles distant, the nearest Presbyterian; and Cranes Creek, the nearest Baptist, and with only two buggy horses in the whole settlement, one owned by Dr. J. A. Leslie and the other by E. D. Byrd, how were they to attend? Some walked the distance, and a big per cent of the young people trudged the three miles to Sunday school. But the people wanted a church.

Already that spirit of co-operation and mutual helpfulness that is necessary for the progress of any community had been shown, and the success in building the school doubtless gave the people courage to enter into church building with a greater degree of confidence. Billie Johnson gave the land upon which to build, and a church was erected one mile east of the village in order that it might be more easily reached by the neighbors who had settled across the creek. Mr. Johnson did not live to see the completion of the church in which he was so deeply interested, so it was decided to give it the name "Johnson's Grove church" in his memory.

Johnson's Grove was a Methodist church, but other denominations worshiped there, too, and a real live Sunday school was developed. A. Cameron was the faithful superintendent for nearly a quarter of a century. The word "faithful" is used advisedly, for few were the Sundays during this period when he was not there to greet the people as they arrived. He gave freely of himself and of his means to further the cause, and today that little Sunday school is looked back to with a feeling of tenderness by scores of boys and girls, men and women, who came under its influence.

(To be continued)

## FIGURING FOR THE COMING FALL FAIR

Charlie Picquet Plans a Chorus of a Hundred Voices

Charlie Picquet is some like the Pinkertons who never slept. He is already arranging his plans for the coming fall fair, and one of the big events is a chorus of a hundred voices

which will sing the choruses of the Cantata, "The Rose Maiden," a fairy romance with words by R. E. Francillon and music by Frederick H. Cowen. This is the first time that large choruses have been attempted in this section in any other than the sacred field, and the size of the group of singers is probably also a new record. The Rose Maiden is a cantata of the highest character, and the choruses have been much admired over a wide range of musical territory. The training the singers of the Sandhills have had in the choral singing of the past three or four years with Mr. Picquet's direction brings the chorus to a fine footing for the work that is ahead, and with the selection of the work already made it is reasonable to expect the fall fair to hear something that will eclipse anything ever undertaken in Central North Carolina.

Already Mr. Picquet is casting about for new attractions for the fair for its next meeting, for in addition to the ordinary farm features he has always undertaken to add entertaining and educational side lines that will help to make the big fall event one that the people can attend with the assurance that it will give a few days of relaxation. Several things are in negotiation, but not yet closed, as it takes a lot of inquiry and figuring to secure the features that the Sandhills fair always wants, and Mr. Picquet does not hurry about filling his lists until he is sure that he has the best that is obtainable.

The premium list is now in the hands of the printers at The Pilot office, and it indicates an interesting agricultural show which has always been the case at the Pinehurst gathering.

## OPERATING EXPENSES STEADILY REDUCED

Is Destined to Show Very Material Net Results in Next Year Period

Within the past few months the management of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association has reflected the spirit of efficiency and economy in reduced operating expenses, which is destined to show very material net results within the next year period.

During the past year, and especially the last two or three months, operating expenses of every department of the general office at Raleigh have been steadily reduced, except in the Field Service Department, and the principal of "economy and efficiency" is now being applied in this department, which will begin to show good results even before the new fiscal year begins. Through the process of co-ordination and elimination modern business methods are being adopted under the slogan, "Make service in every department productive."

Making out the final settlement and getting checks to members of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association within half the time required last year, with a considerably smaller force employed in the accounting department, represents one of the tangible evidences of progressive efficiency in that department. Last year it required thirty days, with larger working force, to do practically the same amount of work that was done this year, in the same department, in fifteen days, with less operating expenses than were incurred a year ago.

Farmers' cooperative associations succeed in passing the experimental stage and place themselves on solid foundations only after impractical theories are eliminated and applications of the economies of "big business" are made in all operating departments.

With the larger volume of business that is coming to the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association through a recent growth aggregating more than 1,500 new members, combined with the spirit of "progressive economy and efficiency" that is

(Continued on page 8)

## CONFESSIONS OF HARRISON STUTTS

Pinehurst Warehouse Man Talks to Kiwanis Club

One of the most appreciated biographies unfolded before the Kiwanis Club recently was that of Harrison Stutts, of the Pinehurst Warehouses, who was in the congressional at the dinner Wednesday at Aberdeen. When his name was announced Charlie Picquet's choir started the old hymn, "I need Thee Every Hour," and the whole club applauded Mr. Stutts when he arose in response. He modestly stated that he was born about the line that divides Moore from Lee county, and was not sure which county might claim him, but that he finally landed in Moore. He said his reception had led him to forget what he had intended to say, but he remembered that he was born 36 years ago, if he was not positive where, and that nothing of any consequence happened to him until 11 years ago he lost his mother, and all who know him realize the calamity that meant. For never was a man like Harrison Stutts but a good mother had a hand in the creation of that character.

His first contact with industry was in the employ of Moses Britton, who paid him ten cents a day to work in the dewberry fields. He resigned to go to John Phillips on an increase of salary to twenty cents a day. Later in life he opened a fruit store and had as one of his cash customers John McQueen, who has been the good fairy of many a man and woman in this country. Mr. Stutts married in 1910 and at the end of the first year of married life he found himself \$3,300 in debt. Then he encountered an illness that was almost fatal, but not quite, and on recovery he joined the Seaboard railroad, only to make up his mind that he was not a railroad man. So he opened a store at Vass, and he paid the Vass folks a wonderful tribute for he said that in a business that totaled \$33,000 he lost but \$28 in bad accounts. Then with Nick Gibbon he went to Southern Pines, and eventually landed in Pinehurst, where he established the Pinehurst Warehouses, and there he is now.

A number of other members of the club wanted to tell some things about Mr. Stutts that he had omitted, but he dodged what they had to say, and pulled out under a fine bouquet of approval. He says he owes his success to his friends, and that his idea of heaven is about such a bunch of companions as are found about him here in his own community.

A number of things were taken up and committees asked to get into account (Continued on page 8)

## W. G. CARTER DIES AT OLD HOME NEAR HEMP

Interment in Elise Presbyterian Cemetery—Is Survived by Wife, 3 Sons, 7 Daughters

The funeral of W. G. Carter, who died of heart failure at his home near Hemp on Monday, June 8, was held the following Tuesday at 4 o'clock at the Elise Presbyterian church, of which he was ruling elder. Rev. George F. Mason, pastor of the church, conducted the service, assisted by a former pastor, Rev. W. L. Wilson, now of Carthage. The Elise lodge of Masons, of which the deceased was a member, took charge of the services at the grave.

Mr. Carter is survived by his second wife and three sons, Walter Carter, of Atkinson, and Graham and Robert Carter, and seven daughters, Mrs. Grover Currie, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Mrs. H. D. Pegg, Guilford College; Mrs. Neill Harrington, Sanford; Mrs. John Weskett, Bayboro; Mrs. Talmage Edgerton, Smithfield; Mrs. Ernest Slack, Seagrove; Mrs. Earl Byrd and Miss Virginia Carter, Hemp.