

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

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VASS, N. C.

STATE AID FOR COUNTY ROADS IS APPROVED

Senate and House at Raleigh Vote Increase in Gasoline Tax

RAISES \$2,500,000

The State Senate on Tuesday passed to final reading the administration road bill, already passed by the House, to increase the gasoline tax from four to five cents a gallon and to use approximately \$3,000,000 a year on maintenance of county roads by the State and \$500,000 a year as a fund to equalize the amounts spent on the State highways in the nine highway districts. The bill will become a law as soon as it shall have been formally ratified.

This is the Legislature's first reduction of a valorem tax on land. For the extra cent per gallon tax levied, it is expected that about \$2,500,000 will be raised. To this amount \$500,000 will be added from the regular highway funds secured from the four cents a gallon tax. The \$500,000 equalizing fund to benefit counties where construction costs are excessive also comes out of the regular funds. The bill provides that counties must reduce their ad valorem road tax by the amount of money they receive from the State. The State is to maintain certain roads recommended by the county.

Recent Property Sales Enlarge The Winter Colony at Pinehurst

Residents Greet Newcomers From New York and Massachusetts

Less than a decade ago Mr. and Mrs. Chester M. Williams of New York City, and Hot Springs, Va., made a short visit in Pinehurst being guests at the Carolina Hotel. Although but little time was spent here at that time, it was sufficient to make a most favorable impression, and before leaving the village Mrs. Williams received a promise from Mrs. H. W. Priest that if at any future time the Priest residence might be for sale she should be at once advised. On account of Mr. Priest's failing health, it seemed advisable to give up their Pinehurst property and Mr. Williams very quickly became the owner of it.

Mrs. Williams, a wonderful hostess, had entertained much at Hot Springs and White Sulphur Springs, and upon leaving these resorts was impromptu by her host of friends remaining there to return to them. Instead of returning Mrs. Williams urged these friends to come to Pinehurst and today the cottage colony and the Carolina Hotel owes many of its most charming members and guests to Mrs. Williams and her family. A portion of the two recent seasons have been spent by Mr. and Mrs. Williams and their son Winthrop touring Europe, and at the close of the season here last Spring definite plans were made to spend this winter in France, and for this reason their Pinehurst home was rented to Mrs. E. W. Hale. Late in the summer their plans for touring were given up and a home taken in Palm Beach for the winter. That a recurrence of the situation might not happen, Mrs. Williams who spent a week here recently on her way to Palm Beach, completed negotiations commenced last Spring and bought from the Barber estate thru the office of Harry B. Emery, the plateau garage and adjoining lot. Upon this property will be built a residence smaller than the present Williams home, so that in the future a home in Pinehurst will be available for the Williams family even though they may not wish to spend the entire season here and occupy their larger home.

Few winter resorts have as loyal friends as Mr. and Mrs. Chester M. Williams.

Charles E. Murman, of Brookline, Mass., registered in Pinehurst for his first time in 1916 and 1917 and Mr. Murman and his family have never missed a season up to the present time.

Mr. Murman is a former official of the United Drug Company with of-

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House Committee Votes Eight Months Term Bill

Halbert J. Blue Plans New Home on Knollwood Heights

Yeomans, Architect, Preparing Designs for House at Midland and Crest Roads

"CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK"

(By Bion H. Butler)

A. B. Yeomans is drawing a plan for a fine new house to be built on Crest road and the Midland road in Knollwood for Halbert J. Blue, and the work will begin on the structure about the first of April. Mr. Blue has an excellent location there on the top of the hill, surrounded by a group of desirable people, and he says that he looks for others of his friends to follow his example and join the pioneers who have given Knollwood Heights its vigorous start. Mr. Blue is one of the young men native to the Sandhills. I have watched him since he was a little chap around Aberdeen, watched him develop into a man who in many ways calls to mind his father, John Blue, one of the big men of this part of the state, who came back from the war in the sixties and commenced the recreation of a region that had been desolated by war. For Sherman and his army swept through this neighborhood, and where an army of 60,000 men works its way over the country, substituting on the country to the extent the country can provide, there is no plethora of anything left when that army is gone. John Blue came home after his days of service and took hold the best he knew how, and in the course of time he had worked his way to a place of prominence and had become a factor in his community's welfare.

The boy followed in the father's footsteps, not walking along the same thorny road, but taking to his jobs and doing his work, making friends and getting on in his business matters. He made friends also among the visitors who come this way in the winter season, and in accord with the decree of the fates he took to himself a Pittsburgh wife. Not a bad move at that. I brought a wife from Pittsburgh to the Sandhills. It is a good place to get a wife.

On Crest Road

And so he is building a house on the Knollwood hills. "A good place to make a home," he said. "Good surroundings. Good neighborhood. Nice folks about in all directions. And more coming. "Mr. Blue has a good

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Refrigeration Rates Reduced on Fruits and Vegetables

Favorably Affects Sandhills Peach and Dewberry Growers

BERRIES BY EXPRESS

The Interstate Commerce Commission has just issued orders reducing railroad refrigeration rates on fruits and vegetables moving from the south-east to northeastern points. These new rates become effective April 15. Of especial interest to our readers are those reductions which apply to fruits shipped from the Sandhill section. On berries the reduction ordered is 19 1-2 per cent. For North Carolina vegetables and melons a 10 per cent reduction was prescribed, and a six per cent reduction was given general fruit from North Carolina.

The complaints as to peaches from Georgia and Carolina points to western territory were dismissed, but peaches moving to northeast areas from these points are included in the cut rates.

A news dispatch of last week also stated that express service had been ordered on carload shipments of dewberries from the Vass-Cameron section for the coming season, thus enabling the local growers to take advantage of more remote markets and also making it possible to put the berries on the market fresh from the fields.

Both the peach and dewberry industries should be materially improved by these concessions.

Equalization Fund of Ten Million Dollars from State Estimated Requirement

The house committee on education Tuesday voted 12 to 11 to report favorably the MacLean bill providing for a minimum eight months school term in North Carolina.

The bill, sponsored by Representative A. D. MacLean, Democrat, of Beaufort, would extend the present state system of equalization that is based on a six months school term to cover the longer term. Officials of the state department of public instruction have estimated that it would require an equalization fund from the state of ten million dollars instead of the present three and one quarter million dollars fund.

The measure would prohibit a tax levy of more than 40 cents on the \$100 of property valuation by the counties, the state bearing the cost of the eight months' term above this levy. It would give the state board of equalization power to determine the true property valuation in each county and would forbid participation in the state-paid fund unless the county was maintaining an eight months school and calling the 40 cent levy.

Provides Purchasing Agent

In addition the measure would provide for a state purchasing agent for the schools, to be selected by the board of equalization. It would also give the board of equalization power to standardize salaries of all school employes from superintendent to janitors and bus drivers.

A provision of the bill would permit the eight months term in agricultural districts to be divided so as to allow children of farmers to attend school without interfering with farm activities. It would allow the county board of education of any county to limit the school term in any special district to six months on petition of officials of the district if they deemed the longer term unwise. In this case, aid would be received from the state only on a six months basis.

The MacLean bill carries no provisions for raising the tremendous equalization fund that school officials have estimated it would require. The budget revenue bill fixed the equalization fund for each year of the next biennium at \$5,000,000.

The Beaufort representative, however, has estimated that one million dollars would be raised by stricter enforcement of the income tax, another by raising certain brackets in the income tax, two millions by a two per cent tax on electric light consumption. Half a million by raising the franchise tax on power companies and a million and a half through a state automobile drivers' license fee.

Other proponents of the bill have urged a sales tax on cigarettes, theater tickets and bottled drinks as proper sources for the needed revenue. A bill to provide such a tax has been introduced in the house by Representative Halstead, Democrat, of Camden, a member of the education committee.

Tobacco Specialist Coming to Moore Co.

Those farmers who are interested in the growing of tobacco this year will no doubt be interested to know that E. J. Floyd, extension tobacco specialist will speak here in the Court House on February 26th at 10:00 o'clock. Mr. Floyd will discuss the growing and fertilizing of tobacco, the use of lime and any other phase of the work which you are interested in. Having had the opportunity to watch all the experimental work being carried on as well as having demonstrations in practically all the counties, Mr. Floyd is in position to give us first hand information on practically any of our tobacco problems which confront us today.

On account of lack of time it will be impossible for Mr. Floyd to do much, if any visiting of farms, but he has always been glad to answer any questions which are asked during the meetings. If you are uncertain about the kind and amount of fertilizer to use this year it will pay you to be on hand on February 26 and find out about all of those things.

SEEK SUMMER BALL LEAGUE FOR SANDHILLS

Chamber of Commerce Appoints Committee to Look into Plan of Paul Roche.

NEW ADVERTISING SIGNS

The Chamber of Commerce, directors held a meeting Tuesday at Jack's, and along with their serious work they managed to stake a lot of fun. Paul Roche, of Pinebluff was present with a proposition to organize a Sandhill baseball league. The matter was discussed to some length, and was left in the hands of a committee that will look into baseball and see what can be done. Mr. Roche was right enthusiastic, and thought such an organization would attract the people of half a dozen of the villages and give some life to sports during the summer.

Frank Buchan came along with a report on planting and told the directors that the work is proceeding at lively clip on Broad Country club, near the entrance to the streets, and at other points on the streets. However he said money was in hand to care for the work that is being done, and the prospects are favorable for more planting. It appears that public interest in what the Chamber of Commerce is doing continues to awaken, and money is coming in more freely for the needed expenses.

The question of signs indicating the location of some of the utilities of the town brought out much talk, but the important disclosure was that a sign of some magnitude at the south end of the town and another at the north end will in short time be ready to tell travelers where they can find what they are looking for, and these signs will be something on the order that Pinehurst has put up to tell about the hotels over there, and not objectionable in their location or general appearance. So that is pretty well settled.

Incidentally Dr. McBrayer is developing into a tactful and capable presiding officer who handles the work of the board in efficient manner, and as he is a leader who holds his following the year gives promise of a lot of good things for the community.

Complain of Playground

The subject of improving the village park came up, and it was proposed to employ a man with some authority with teeth in it to handle matters there. Complaint was made that a group of young men appropriate the children's playground. It was decided that this would have to be remedied, and was so ordered.

Howard Burns, the secretary, reported money coming in right well to care for the current needs, and it

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Kill 43 on State Roads in Month

Motorists' February Death Toll Smallest Since June, 1928

The State's death toll from automobile accidents last month dropped to 43, which was slightly more than half the number, 83 killed during December, and the smallest number killed in a single month since June, according to the report issued by the motor vehicle bureau of the State Department of Revenue.

The report showed 338 persons killed and injured, 19 of those killed being pedestrians. Seven lost their lives in collisions with other automobiles, one in a collision with a horse drawn vehicle, four in collision with railroad trains, two in collision with fixed objects, and 10 in non-collision accidents.

As to the causes resulting in fatal accidents, the report showed that in eight instances cars were exceeding the speed limit, in three instances they were on the wrong side of the road, four did not have the right of way, two were passing on a curve or hill, one car ran away with no driver, five drove off the roadway, four disregarded signals, and one car was at a standstill. Drivers were intoxicated in three of the fatal accidents, and 244 of the 287 cars involved in fatal and non-fatal accidents, were apparently in good condition.

WEREIN CLAUDE HAYES GETS 'EM COMING AND GOING

In the window of the Hayes-bookstore in Southern Pines during the week has been an unique trap to catch all of them,—saints and sinners. On one side of a little fence is a collection of religious publications of wide variety, while across the dividing line which is about a foot high are pictures of Jack of Clubs, red chips, three of a kind, bridge, Old Sledge, seven-come-eleven, and the rest of that family. As Mark Twain said one time when the preacher came to his sick bed and asked him where he expected to go when he died, "I have friends both places." Hayes never loses a bet. He always hedges before the game is played.

J. McN. Johnson Continues Battle with Lawyers

Lawyer Claims Interest Paid Almost Totals Sum Borrowed Originally

SUGGESTS A REMEDY

B. E. borrowed \$500.00 for a term of five years. They gave him only \$431.50, and required him to execute a mortgage on his home, securing the payment of sixty notes of \$12.50, payable monthly. This is an average of 2 1-2 years. B. E. is supposed to enjoy the possession of \$431.50.

The interest on this \$431.50 for 2 1-2 years at the highest legal rate is \$64.72. Deduct this from the \$750.00 he is required to pay back and we have \$685.28. Now deduct the \$431.50 from the \$685.28, and you have the amount of \$253.78, which B. E. is required to pay to satisfy the lender's usury.

Now let us add the lawful interest he paid, \$64.72 to the amount of which he is robbed, \$253.78, and we have the sum of \$318.50 he must pay for his loan of \$431.50 for an average term of 2 1-2 years—that is to say, 74 percent for the 2 1-2 years, or 29.6 percent per year.

Now another case: John Ulace borrowed \$500.00 on five years' time, but they only paid him \$410.30. They required 60 notes of \$12.50 each, one note payable each month, making \$750.00 he must pay for the \$410.30 for the average term of 2 1-2 years.

The full legal interest of the \$410.30 for the term he enjoys the possession of the money he borrowed is \$61.55 (giving the Shark the fraction). Deduct this legal interest from \$750.00 he is required to pay back, and we have \$688.45 he must pay for his \$410.30. This shows usury in the amount of \$278.15. Now add this usury to the lawful interest of \$61.55, and we have \$339.70 Ulace has had to pay for the loan of \$410.30 for the average term of 2 1-2 years—that is to say: 82.5 percent for 2 1-2 years or 33 percent per year.

These two incidents are not isolated cases, but are only two of hundreds that are being perpetrated on the poorer people of North Carolina continually.

Now, you Legislators, what the Devil are you thinking about that you do not arise in your wrath, and with your combined fists give the Behemoth a solar plexus that will put an end to this unconscionable crime?

When you destroy the Peasantry of a country you destroy the country itself, and no country has ever long survived systematic robbery of the common people. The "Upper Crust" must have a foundation to rest upon, or it too, topples in with the inevitable debacle.

Now is this wrong to be remedied? I know twenty senators and representatives, among them Spence of Moore, McQueen of Hoke, McKeithen of Cumberland, Person of Franklin, Poole of Hoke, Speaker Sandy Graham (God bless his honest Scottish heart), Fountain, Johnson of Robeson, Nash of Richmond, Broughton of Wake, Clark of Mecklenburg—any half dozen of the twenty, if they work Ghuailibh na Ghuailibh, the remedy will be immediately forthcoming in short order.

KIWANIS CARRIES MASTER FARMERS TO STATE CAPITAL

Arrangements for Annual Dance Made at Wednesday's Meeting

ROY PUSHEE IN CHARGE

At the Kiwanis dinner Wednesday afternoon at the Civic Club in Southern Pines the agricultural committee announced that it had taken to Raleigh one day last week the Master Farmers who won the premiums in the club contests, and showed these men the various things of interest up there. The points visited included the State College farms and other features, as well as the government establishments in the next list of farm year.

The main event at the Wednesday was the arrangements for the annual dance which is referred to the dance committee with Roy Pushee as its head. Mr. Pushee was so successful last year that he was named again this year in spite of his protests. The object of the dance is to obtain money for the help of students of limited means, and at the present time the club has a revolving fund of about \$2,300 which is keeping several boys and girls in college. The hope is to increase this fund from year to year, and many people buy dance tickets who do not attend the dance. But they in that way help with this deserving purpose.

Those who care to enjoy the dance or who merely desire to help increase this worthy fund can secure tickets from Roy Pushee, Dr. George Herr, Jerry Healey, Liv. Biddle, Gloma Charles or George Moore.

Further information will be given later.

Cornestone for Moore Co. Hospital Soon to be Laid

Berrett Center of Radio Stars Postponed to March 14th Seats Now on Sale

Charlie Pequet, manager of the Carolina Theatre in Pinehurst, announces that the concert of musical stars from the National Broadcasting Company given for the benefit of the new Moore County Hospital will be postponed until the 14th of March. Ticket are on sale at the Carolina Hotel and the Carolina Pharmacy, Pinehurst, and the Broad Street Pharmacy, Southern Pines, and advise that you make your reservations early.

With the return of fine weather work on the construction of the hospital is advancing rapidly. The framework now towers to three stories and on Thursday the superintendents planned to start pouring the roof slab. In a short time the skeleton looming up on the Carthage road will take on the recognizable outlines of a large building and around March 1st the first brick of the walls will be laid.

A. S. Newcomb is making preparations for the ceremony of laying the cornerstone which will take place sometime between the 14th and 31st of March. The date and program of this event will be announced more definitely as soon as the block arrives. A. L. Miller, superintendent of the construction, has ordered the stone from Bedford, Indiana.

As soon as the weather conditions are right and some of the debris has been cleared away, shrubs and trees will be set out so that when the hospital is officially opened it will have the homely comfortable atmosphere that planting always lends.

C. M. T. C. ENROLLMENTS BEGIN MARCH FIRST

Applications for attending the Citizens' Military Camps next summer will be accepted beginning March 1, 1929. The camp for this territory will be held at Fort Bragg, for thirty days beginning June 13th. This camp will train 800 Field Artillery men.

Any young man of acceptable character and between the ages of 17 and 24 may apply for the basic course.

All necessary expense is furnished free by the government. Those in this territory should write to Albert L. Cox, Raleigh, N. C.