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FIVE CENTS

NEW VARIETY OF COTTON TESTED OUT IN COUNTY

Duncan McCrimmon Has Sixty
Acres Growing with Boll and
Blossom a Vivid Red

OF EGYPTIAN ORIGIN

By Bion H. Butler

Persons traveling the road from Vass to Loblelia are asking themselves if Duncan McCrimmon has introduced into Moore county a valuable new variety of cotton, and so far it looks as if he has. There on the old McNeill farm, about five miles below Vass he has a field of cotton that is striking if nothing else. About sixty acres of a vivid red foliage strikes the eye as the traveler approaches, and excites wonder as to what is planted in the broad area. Closer approach determines the cotton leaf, the blossom and the boll, all deep red in color, wholly unlike any cotton field ever seen in this section, and an examination shows a crop of good stand, thrifty growth, fruited to the top of the plant, cluster type of bearing, and a curiosity in every way.

Dunc had been telling me about his new cotton, and Monday I went down to see it. What it is to develop into is yet in the lap of the gods, but certainly he has started something there that is worth watching. The flat lands down the Little River valley are fertile. The old McNeill farm has been one of the prominent features in that section for generations. It lies flat and easily tillable, and it has been kept in good condition. So it is right suitable for the test Mr. McCrimmon is making. Some months ago he went down into Texas on a brief journey and on his way through Mississippi he saw a field of cotton that from its unusual color and healthy appearance caught his attention. He stopped to investigate and found what was recommended to him as a new cotton of Egyptian origin, of dense red color, of vigorous growth and liberal yield. He was so much impressed that he brought home enough seed to plant the sixty-acre field down the river, and the result is the spectacle that now presented itself.

May Prove a Find

It is pretty hard to predict what the field will do. I tramped up and down the rows pretty freely, for if Mr. McCrimmon has what seems likely he has brought to Moore county a valuable new cotton. He has one of the best stands in the community, vigorous in growth, although the fertilizer application was small. Good cultivation has kept it in good shape, and it is soon ready to lap in the rows. It stands possibly two feet in its average height, the bolls setting well on the lower branches, which start out a lit-

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Women Derby Fliers Pass Here Saturday

Five women pilots, participants in the Dixie Women's Air Derby, will pass over Aberdeen and the Sandhills tomorrow, Saturday morning en route from Raleigh to Columbia, S. C. The quintet leaves Washington, the start of the race, this Friday, morning, with Raleigh as the destination. They will spend the night in Raleigh, where they are to be entertained at a banquet and other festivities arranged by the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. They leave early Saturday morning for Columbia, thence on to Florida.

No stop is scheduled for the Knollwood field, and only motor troubles or mishaps will cause any landings here. Local aviation authorities have been asked to keep an eye out for the fliers as they pass over this section, and report any signs of distress to the air port at Raleigh.

The event had one casualty before it started. Mrs. May Haizlip of St. Louis was injured in the crack-up of her plane near Greenwood, S. C., while she was en route to Washington for the start of the derby. Her plane was wrecked Wednesday when she made a forced landing in a rough field, and she is in the Greenwood hospital with the extent of her injuries undetermined. No X-ray photographs can be taken until she regains consciousness.

Cypress Tree on Mossiel Farm Tells Sandhills Weather For Past 590 Years

Well Defined Rings on Stump Reveal Age and Rainfall From
Time Long Before Columbus Discovered America.—To Be
Used as Table in Dupont Cabin

One of the most interesting things in this neighborhood is a record at Mossiel farm that tells the weather there for the last 590 years. It is possibly the oldest thing of life that is known to be in this section, for while others may be older it is doubtful if any other is identified, and possessing proofs of its age, or the ability to present in plain form the definite record year by year of what the weather has been. The thing is the butt of a big cypress tree cut on Drowning creek not far above Blue's bridge, and which is now at the Mossiel farm, where it is to be used as a table top for the Dupont log cabin now under construction by Mr. Weaver.

The block is about six feet long, and four or five feet in diameter. But its extreme interest lies in the fact that the rings of growth are plainly visible at each end, and a count of the rings at the butt end disclosed 595 rings, showing a life time of that many years. When Columbus discovered America that cypress tree was a fair sized habitant of Drowning creek forest and aged 157 years. When that tree was a seedling in 1335 Robert Bruce had but recently defeated the British in the memorable battle of Bannockburn. The pope was at the head of the religious world as far as modern Christianity was concerned, and the reformation of Luther and Knox had not begun, and were a century and a half in the future. The Mohammedans were just beginning their invasion of Eastern Europe through the Constantinople gateway, and western European civilization was still a crude condition of serfdom and slavery of the people under the domination of kings and nobility.

It is intended to saw off two or

three blocks an inch or so in thickness to preserve as a record of this ancient history that the tree tells. For some time scientific men have been studying growth, and of late it has been found that the thickness of the rings on trees is governed by the amount of rainfall during the year of growth. This study was pursued in the West by the government scientists, and recently local observers have been checking up on stumps and old logs found in this section. Rings from the old Buchan house show tree growth that tells the story back for more than two centuries, and other old logs and beams in the neighborhood check up with the Buchan house beams. A tree not far from the Buchan house tells the story of the years since that old log a hundred and fifty years old, taken out of the house a few weeks ago, and takes up the weather report where the old one left off. Other stumps of trees recently cut check in, so that the record here in the neighborhood can be carried back positively for three or four hundred years. But the tree at the Mossiel farm goes back of all of them and brings the record in one perfect scroll down to the year in which it was cut. It is also one of the best preserved of these old tree records, and its rings are clear enough that they are perfectly distinct.

The table will be one of the most unusual bits of furniture in the United States, and as its variation in ring sizes tells the state of the rain fall over a period of more than 500 years it is valuable as a definite authority on weather conditions from a time long before mankind had advanced far enough in weather lore to keep any records for himself.

Mrs. E. C. Ashe Dies After Long Illness

Had Endured Herself to Host
of Friends During Four-Year
Residence Here

Mrs. Bessie Ashe, wife of E. C. Ashe of Southern Pines, passed to her last rest in the Moore County Hospital on Thursday afternoon, August 14, following a long continued illness sustained with hopeful fortitude. Coming from Fayetteville with her husband some four years ago Mrs. Ashe with her happy disposition and beautiful character soon endeared herself to a large circle of friends in the new home, all of whom will long mourn her loss.

Funeral services were held in Emmanuel Episcopal Church, of which she was a member, at 4:00 o'clock Friday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. S. Hartsell of the Episcopal Church of Rockingham using the impressive ritual of his church. A quartet comprising Shields Cameron, Frank Buchan, S. B. Richardson and Willard Dunlop sang "Lift Thine Eyes to the Hills" and "Beautiful Land." The casket covered with masses of beautiful flowers, with Paul Barnum, R. L. Hart, Frank Shamburger, Elmer Davis, Frank Goodwill and Dr. Milliken acting as pall bearers, was followed to Mount Hope Cemetery by a large concourse of friends and neighbors.

Mrs. Ashe was born in Wilmington thirty-seven years ago, her father, W. H. Mills, now an invalid, being of a family long settled and socially prominent in that city. Surviving Mrs. Ashe are her husband, E. C. Ashe, who has represented the Standard Oil Company in this district for some time; a young daughter, Margaret; two sisters, Mrs. J. Mercer Taylor of Wilmington, and Mrs. H. W. Koelling of Fayetteville, and a brother, Herman Mills of Greenville, S. C. Attending the last rites for Mrs. Ashe were Mrs. S. A. Ashe, Mr. Ashe's mother; his sister, Mrs. Albert Stockard; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mercer Taylor, Laurens Wright of Wilmington, the Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Koelling of Fayetteville, the Rev. and Mrs. S. Hartsell and Mr. and Mrs. William French of Rockingham, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mills of Greenville, S. C.

Hearing to Discuss Police Fee System

Mayor Stutz, Police and Chamber
of Commerce to Have
Session Sept 3d.

Mayor D. G. Stutz of Southern Pines has called a hearing for Wednesday afternoon, September 3d on the question raised at a recent meeting of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce as to the possible abuse of the fee system as it affects justices of the peace and the police of the village. The matter will be gone into thoroughly by the Mayor, members of the town's Board of Commissioners, the local policemen, justices of the peace, the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and the town's attorney, U. L. Spence of Carthage.

Much discussion around town followed the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at which the subject was broached, and although there is considerable opposition to the fee system of remuneration for police officers and justices, the feeling seems to be general that if the system is abolished, provided it can legally be abolished under the present State laws, police officers should be granted increased salaries in lieu of fees. Many feel that their present salaries are out of line with their duties and responsibilities, especially when it is taken into consideration that they are required to provide their own automobiles and the upkeep thereof. The meeting is called for 2:00 o'clock on September 3d, at the office of the Town Clerk, Howard Burns.

FARM LIFE SCHOOL TO OPEN SEPTEMBER FIRST

The Sandhill Farm Life School will open September 1st. This is a State accredited high school in Moore county. A small boarding department is still maintained at the school, and pupils desiring board should send in their requests at once, addressed to Sandhill Farm Life School, Route 1, Vass.

Dr. James W. Dickie of Southern Pines talked to the Kiwanis Club Wednesday on the psychology of tuberculosis prevention. The meeting was held at the schoolhouse at West End.

HOKE CO. SCHOOLS COMBINE WITH VASS-LAKEVIEW

Mt. Pleasant, Bunker Hill and
Lobelia to Send 100
Pupils Here

MEANS LARGER FACULTY

With three schools from Hoke county, Mount Pleasant, Bunker Hill and Lobelia, joining the ranks, the Vass-Lakeview consolidated schools will open on Tuesday, Sept. 2, for the fall term with a greatly increased enrollment which will necessitate the hiring of two or three additional teachers, bringing the faculty list to fifteen or sixteen members. Supt. John McCrummen of West End, who has so successfully guided the school for the past three years, will again be in charge.

The arrangement made for bringing in the Hoke county boys and girls will be of mutual benefit. Hoke county will provide transportation for its pupils and take care of the salaries of a certain number of the teachers, and the children will have the advantage of the modern, well-equipped building and a full corps of teachers to take the place of the one-and-two teacher schools in their own communities, while the Vass-Lakeview schools, with the increased enrollment, will be benefited by the increased teaching force. Mr. McCrummen expects from seventy-five to a hundred pupils from Hoke county, and with the number of high school pupils added, it is hoped to provide another teacher in the high school department.

Hoke will use three school buses in transporting its pupils, and Vass-Lakeview has three, each of which will make two trips daily. This will be the equivalent of nine buses bringing in the youngsters to the local school. As the vehicles are all practically new, the transportation is not expected to present a very great problem.

Supt. McCrummen was in Vass this week making arrangements for installing additional desks in the school building. One or two more rooms will be equipped and extra desks placed in some of the rooms already in use.

St. Anthony's Lawn Fete Brilliant Success

Miss Julia McDermott Fortunate
Winner of Radio at Popu-
lar Gathering

Miss Julia McDermott of Southern Pines was the fortunate winner of the Victor radio at the highly successful lawn fete of St. Anthony's Church in Southern Pines Wednesday night. Miss McDermott is in Boston and has not yet learned of her good fortune.

The lawn fete was an even greater success than was anticipated by the Rev. Howard V. Lane of St. Anthony's and others in charge of the program. Crowds visited the scene of the gathering on Vermont avenue during the course of the evening, and if there is a youngster in the vicinity who didn't get a ride on one of the ponies or enjoy the other attractions, we do not know who he or she is. There were booths of all kinds where one could procure ice cream, hot dogs, candy and soft drinks; there was a shooting gallery, a cane pitching game, a candy game, dart boards and a fortune teller. And then there was the pony, the popular attraction for the kids.

Miss Emilie May Wilson directed the play, "My Basket of Flowers," which the following cast put on like professionals of years standing: Margaret Roth, Patricia Wood, Jacqueline Boggs, Mary Ellen Wood, Helen Wood, Helen Mafooney, Jeannette Natarfiamo, Mary O'Callaghan, Mary McCarr, Margaret Montesanti, Ruth Atkins and Joan Kelly.

Mrs. N. F. Wilson and Mrs. H. L. Boggs were the hostesses of the lawn fete. Dante Montesanti was general chairman, Miss Millie Montesanti treasurer and Richard Wilson publicity chairman. A goodly sum of money was realized for the church and parish work, and Father Lane wishes to thank all those who by donation, advice and encouragement assisted in the success of the party.

Our Pumpkins

J. McN. Johnson Reaps
Pounds of Pumpkins from
Five Small Seeds

There was a man in our town
And he was wondrous wise,
He planted five small pumpkin
seeds
And grew a hundred pies.

Pumpkins do not make poet laureates, but that's not saying that poet laureates cannot make pumpkins.

J. McN. Johnson, poet laureate of Moore county, planted five pumpkin seeds in his back yard last spring. Result—500 pounds of pumpkins.

COUNTYWIDE FREE LIBRARY IS PLAN OF CLUB WOMEN

Carthage Organization Launches
Splendid Program at "Open
House" Saturday

TREAT FOR CHILDREN

Preparatory to its program of serving the residents of Moore county with free books, the Carthage Woman's Club Free Public Library will open its doors for a "Get Together" meeting tomorrow, Saturday afternoon, August 23d, in the Court House. This splendid civic enterprise had its inception in the Carthage Woman's Club, which for many years has been functioning as the sole literary book center of Carthage, and it is to be highly commended that this group of women has had the community spirit and foresight to enlarge the scope of their library to embrace all residents of the county.

The library, which is at present housed in the basement of the Court House, will be open for a house-warming from four until six o'clock Saturday afternoon, during which time the public is invited to visit and observe the work being carried on in their midst. A special feature of the day will be a children's story hour beginning at four-thirty o'clock. Parents are especially urged to bring their children to the story hour group, and give them this initial introduction to the world of books and good reading. A surprise in the form of lemonade will be served following the story hour.

The library is making a special appeal to both adults and children, through the medium of new books. Through the kindness of the county board of education a gift of \$100.00 was made available for new books, and this entire amount has gone into the purchase of worthwhile volumes for the children's department. All books ordered were carefully chosen by a joint book committee, and supplement books on the standard graded and high school reading lists that are not in the county school libraries. By this means, the library hopes to be able to work in direct connection with the county schools in the matter of required supplementary school reading. The list embraces the better known children's classics, together with standard works in the non-fiction list required for school reading.

Many New Books

New books for the adult department have been added by funds raised through the Woman's Club membership fee, and with this amount about twenty books of new current fiction have been purchased. The library plans to rent out these newer books of fiction at the rate of ten cents a week until they pay for their initial cost. Following that, they will be transferred to the regular free collection.

The Carthage Woman's Club is anxious that it be clearly understood that the library is open to all people living in the county, as well as to Carthage residents. They are starting what is the nucleus of a unified county library system, though they are sadly hampered by lack of funds. They are pledged to raise the reading standards of Moore county, which are among the lowest in a state whose library facilities are at the bottom com-

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CAMERON MAN BATTLES BANDITS IN RAID ON STORE

Ernest Pierce Opens Fire When
Trio Attempts Robbery at
Charlotte Pharmacy

ONE WOUNDED, CAUGHT

No trace has been found of the two gunmen who raided the drug store of M. Ernest Pierce, former Cameron man, on the outskirts of Charlotte nearly two weeks ago, while the third bandit, shot down by Mr. Pierce during the affray, rests in a Charlotte jail awaiting disposition of the charges against him.

Pierce, born and raised on the farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Pierce two miles from Cameron, was about to close up his store at midnight on Saturday, August 9th, when three men entered and ordered those in the store to throw up their hands. With \$500 in cash on hand, Pierce put up a fight, emptying his revolver at the trio and wounding one of them, Rudolph Heimel. He then escaped down the alleyway beside the store while the bandits dragged their wounded companion some distance from the store before abandoning him. He was arrested upon arrival of the police.

One of Mr. Pierce's customers, in the store at the time, Blake Stikeleather, was struck down and stamped on by one of the trio during the scuffle. Mr. Pierce's 12-year-old son was also in the store. All escaped injury except Stikeleather, and as Mr. Pierce made away with the \$500 the midnight raid was far from fruitful.

Abandon Their Car

The gunman left their car, which bore a North Carolina license and a for hire tag on it, in a field near the road. In their flight they could not get to it and made their way on foot through part of the mill village and into the open country.

The wounded bandit, who said he was 20 years old but appeared to be older, gave his address as New Orleans and told Deputy Sheriff M. L. Baker, who guarded him at the hospital, that he and the two others were waiting on a load of liquor at the time and had not tried to hold up the drug store owner. He would not give any information about the other two.

The three had been loitering about the neighborhood of the drug store practically all of Saturday, said Mr. Pierce. The two who got away were said to have been older in appearance than Heimel, one of them wearing a felt hat and the other a straw hat. The latter was said to be about 35 or 40 years old.

Not Seriously Hurt

The scene of the shooting was just to the east of the drug store and next

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McPherson to Build On Country Club Site

Work Begun on Fine English
Colonial House Near Travis
and French Homes

Adding to the many fine homes now under construction in the immediate vicinity of Southern Pines, George McPherson has started work on an English Colonial type dwelling to be located on lot number 305 on Hill Drive not far from the fine residences of F. F. Travis and Emmett French in the Southern Pines Country Club development.

The house, rising from a gentle slope amid the pines will be placed well back from the road and will face due westward, overlooking the 5th fairway of the recently completed second eighteen; from the second floor the valley towards Aberdeen and the slopes of Paint Hill will be in full view.

To be completed by December 1st, this handsome addition to the new homes in this fine location will be of brick and stucco construction, thirty-two by fifty feet, with slate roof; the lower floor to contain living room with large fire place, dining room, kitchen, bed room and sun room; the second floor to have three bed rooms and two baths, the garage with servants' quarters to be separate from the house.