

## MAIL SERVICE POOREST HERE IN MANY YEARS

Noon Deliveries Are Delayed Until Next Morning as a Result of Changes

### ASK BETTER SERVICE

Suggest Extension of Babcock Line Or the Handling of Mail By Busses Out of Raleigh

Mail service to this point as well as to others along the route served by the Babcock busses is recognized at the present time as the poorest in many years. The bus continues its runs to and from the regular stations, but the poor service resulted when a change in train schedules on the main lines was effected a few days ago.

Prior to the change in train schedules on the main lines, the Babcock bus handled a large quantity of mail. Following the train schedule change, the bus handles very little mail; in fact, it handles only that accumulating along the schedule route between Tarboro and Plymouth. Heretofore, the city carriers here delivered a large portion of the daily mail in the afternoon but now they handle practically all of it in the morning, the mail having reached here on the train arriving here late in the afternoon and the one coming here early in the mornings.

Many complaints have been made to Postmaster Jesse T. Price, and local citizens are desirous of having the Babcock line start at Rocky Mount that the recent mail schedule might be continued to this and other points along the route. It has also been suggested that the Coastal Bus Line bring in mail from all points beyond Tarboro. Complaints have been made to the department through Postmaster Price, and it is hoped that some remedy to the present situation might be effected in the near future.

## WISCONSIN MEN LEASE FISHERY

Bispings Will Operate the Capehart Fisheries The Coming Season

Edenton, Jan. 5.—Capehart's fisheries, located about 12 miles from Edenton, on the opposite side of the Albemarle Sound from here, has been leased from Dr. L. B. Evans of Windsor by August Bisping and his son, Walter H. Bisping, both of Menasha, Wisconsin. The fisheries, located near Merry Hill, will continue to be operated by the Bispings, father and son, who have obtained a 10 year lease on the property.

Walter Bispings, with his wife and three children, will make their home in Edenton. The younger man's father will remain here for about two months while the reorganization of the industry is in progress, and will then return to Wisconsin to close out business interests for himself and son in that state.

The Bispings have been in the fishing business for the past 20 years, part of this time having been spent in Mississippi and part in Wisconsin. We expect to operate the Capehart fisheries on a big scale. We haven't yet had time to see what improvements will be needed, but whatever they are, we will make them." August Bisping told a Daily News reporter.

## STREET PAVING FINISHED HERE

Last Of Paved Streets To Be Opened To Traffic About January 24

The last of the town's paving program, including the hardsurfing of practically all the principal streets here, was completed, last Saturday when the Clark Paving company poured the last batch of concrete on William Street in New Town. The thoroughfare will be opened to traffic not later than the 24th of this month, and probably a day or two earlier, Mr. Jim Clark, manager of the firm, stated yesterday.

With the opening of the street to traffic, the town will have an adequate system of paving, one that provides a loop on both the north and south sides of the main street.

## Fire Company Called Out Sunday Morning

The local fire company was called out Sunday morning when it was feared that a chimney blaze would spread to the wood work of the Episcopal rectory. A green blaze was seen at the top of the chimney and a large volume of smoke poured out, resulting in the call of the company. Smoke was found in one of the rooms, but no damage resulted.

Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Marshall, who live in the home, were away at the time.

## County Commissioners Hold Regular Meeting Yesterday

DISCUSS SALARY SCHEDULE AND TWO OFFICES

J. E. Pope Sworn In To Fill Unexpired Term of J. D. Woolard on Board

### IN SESSION ALL DAY

Correct Improper Tax Listings and Hand Out Small Sums To Unfortunate Ones

In an all-day session here yesterday, the Martin County Board of Commissioners faced a complex of problems, tax refunds and the needs of the poor coming in for much attention during the day. Even though the poor are with them always and tax refunds too, the commissioners found time to discuss salary schedules and the offices of the county home and farm agents. But no definite action relative to the matters resulted, but they were continued and are scheduled to be heard at the next regular meeting of the board.

The board witnessed another change in its personnel yesterday morning when Mr. J. E. Pope was sworn in to fill the unexpired term of Mr. J. D. Woolard, resigned. The board personnel is not so far different now than it was before the spirited primaries. Three old members are back, Messrs. T. C. Griffin, chairman; H. S. Everett and J. E. Pope. Messrs. V. C. Taylor is in the office for the first time, and Mr. Joshua L. Coltrain goes in for his second but not consecutive term.

Adjourning after midnight, the board had officially passed upon the following measures during the day:

Mrs. Deborah Coltrain of Jamesville, township, was released from the payment of special school tax on \$1,800 land improperly listed.

Albert Coltrain, of the same township, was released from payment taxes on \$244.00 improperly listed.

C. C. Keys, colored, of Jamesville, township was released from payment of 15.49 school tax on \$7,743.00 improperly listed for special schools.

Mrs. James D. Gurganus of Cross Road was allowed \$3.00 per month for 3 months.

Mrs. Fannie Page of Cross Road was allowed 2.00 per month for 3 months.

J. Daniel Biggs was allowed \$10.00 on burial of Dennis Biggs an inmate of the Insane Asylum.

Noah R. Rogerson was appointed Constable of Bear Grass township.

Mrs. Carrie Ange of Jamesville was allowed the sum of 5.00 per month for 4 months.

Eb. Hopkins, colored, of Cross Road, township was allowed 2.00 per month for 4 months.

P. H. Coffield of Robersonville was released from payment of tax on \$2,350 land listed twice.

W. H. Everett was allowed 25.00 for burial expenses of Letha Rhodes, Mary Hardison, and Virginia Brown.

H. L. Reddick of Williams, township was released from payment of 2.00 poll tax improperly listed.

Aaron Davis, colored, was allowed 1.00 per month.

Lucian J. Hardison filed his bond in the sum of 2000 as Constable of Williams Township and the same was duly accepted.

F. L. Johnson of Robersonville was granted relief from payment of tax on property valued at \$1,500 improperly listed.

Allen Warren of Cross Road was granted relief from 1.00 dog tax.

C. B. Roebuck filed a \$5,000 bond by the American Surety Company which was duly accepted.

### Around 10,000 Pounds of Tobacco on Market Here

Approximately 10,000 pounds of tobacco were offered for sale on the local market today, the first time the market has conducted sales since closing for the Christmas holidays the 19th of December.

Prices were said to be about the same as they were prior to the Christmas holidays.

Buyers and their employees returned here yesterday for the re-opening, the market now operating with a full force.

### Dennis Biggs Buried Near Here Sunday Afternoon

Dennis Biggs, 25 years old, died in the State hospital, Raleigh last Friday afternoon, following an illness of several months' duration. He had been in the hospital several months. The body was brought to the home in Bear Grass township, near here, Saturday, where the funeral service was held Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Wilbur Bennett, of Beaufort county, conducting the last rites.

The deceased is survived by his mother and several brothers and sisters.

## OBSERVE 105TH ANNIVERSARY LODGE HERE

107 Masons and Friends At Celebration Here Last Friday Evening

The 105th anniversary of theSkewerkey Masonic Lodge was observed here last Friday evening when 107 people including masons, their wives and friends assembled in the Woman's club hall to enjoy chicken dinner and an interesting program planned for the occasion.

The program, planned by a committee of which Rev. C. H. Dickey was chairman, consisted of a few short talks which dealt with masonry and a brief history of the lodge here. Following the short talks by Sheriff James H. Haftriss of Washington; J. A. Pritchett, of Windsor; and Dr. J. H. Saunders, W. C. Manning and Rev. C. H. Dickey, Carl Goerch, of Washington, made an entertaining address, offering snappy and original jokes as he proceeded with his talk.

Judge Clayton Moore, ably presided and read the roster carrying the names of the masters of the lodge from the organization back in 1826. The list was not complete, however, as some of the records were destroyed by fire during the early life of the local lodge. It was also learned from the Grand Lodge furnishing the known names of past masters, that the local lodge failed to report during several years the names of the officers, thereby further limiting the list. The names of 25 masters serving the lodge from its organization to 1832 were read by Judge Moore. They are: Alfred M. Slade, Durham Davis, Lawrence Cherry, H. B. Smithwick, Edwin S. Smithwick, Simon M. Smithwick, Kader Biggs, A. S. Mooring, Wm. J. Ellison, G. L. Moore, John D. Latham, Wm. W. Watts, Wm. W. Ward, John H. Thrower, S. W. Watts, Wm. P. Williams, Wilson G. Lamb, Jno. G. Watts, Jos. M. Sitterson, J. H. Ellison, W. H. Carstarphen, W. A. Burroughs, Jno. G. Swain, John H. Hatton and Wm. H. Harrell.

The lodge had several prominent masons and friends from other chapters in attendance, including James H. Harris, deputy grandmaster and his daughter, Mrs. Lindsay Warren, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Goerch, of Washington; Mr. and Mrs. Jno. H. Eubanks of Hassell, Mr. Phelps, and Senator-elect Pritchett, of Windsor. A letter was read from Judge F. D. Winston, of Windsor, expressing his regrets for not being able to attend. An expression for his interest was made by a standing vote, and the secretary was ordered to make it known to the veteran mason across the way.

## TORNADO KILLS FIVE IN STATE

\$100,000 Property Damages Reported in Warren and Rockingham Counties

Warren and Rockingham counties yesterday afternoon killing five people and doing from \$75,000 to \$100,000 property damage in the former county and injuring two people and demolishing buildings in the latter.

Warrenton, Jan. 5.—Five persons are known to be dead and one is in a hospital in a critical condition. Houses are strewn along the ground and property damage is estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000 as a result of a tornado that struck between Wise and Norlina this afternoon shortly before 5 o'clock.

Jim Dunstan, Negro and three of his sons were killed when their home two miles north of Wise was torn down by the force of the wind. A fourth child was badly hurt and is in the Jubilee hospital at Henderson. Dunstan's wife and a three-year-old child escaped. The Negroes were blown clear of the house and were lying several yards away in a corn field.

Edna Harris, Negro girl, boarding at the Warren county training school within a mile of Wise where the greatest property damage occurred was killed when struck by a piece of timber and blown beneath a garage that housed the school trucks.

## STATE SOLONS TAKE UP WORK

Wrangling Now Over the Various Jobs and House Speakership

The legislature opens formally in Raleigh at noon tomorrow. Already battles are waxing warm over the speakership of the house and other jobs, but all that is a issue with the people back home who care little who leads, but who do care in which direction they lead.

All this week the legislators will wrangle over speakerships, committee heads and probable alignments, and it will be next week before the people learn much about what is going on at the present time. Matters of finance and governmental organization that will claim serious attention later on are back issues in the capital city today while a three-cornered race for the speakership of the house is underway.

With Willis Smith, of Wake, and Fred L. Sutton, of Lenoir, both claiming clear majorities on the first ballot, O. B. Moss, of Nash, vigorously representing rumors that he would withdraw from the contest, and mention being heard of the name of H. G. Connor, of Wilson, as a dark horse candidate, the race took on the hectic aspects of the famous three-cornered battle of 1927.

Senator Elbert S. Peel and Representative J. Calvin Smith, representing this district and county respectively, left for the capital this morning, and will be there for the opening program this afternoon and tomorrow noon.

## TAG SALE HERE IS 2,000 BEHIND THE ONE IN 1930

Present Sale Expected To Be from 25 to 35 Percent Smaller

The sale of automobile licenses at the local bureau continued to trail the 1931 sale yesterday when it was learned that the plates sold so far were hardly more than half the number sold for 1930. Last year, 4,000 plates were sold at the local bureau. Up until yesterday, the sale had only reached the 2,150 mark. However, the local bureau will remain open eight more days, but even at the expiration of that time, it is believed that the sale will be trailing the 1930 one by 1,000 and probably more.

December 31, 1929, the local bureau sold 737 licenses for approximately \$12,000. On the same day in 1930, the bureau sold 565 licenses for approximately \$9,000, a decrease in revenue of \$3,000 in one day. The sales on those two days are the largest recorded in any one day here.

With the exception of one class, the \$40 one, there is a decrease in the sale of tags. In the \$40 class a slight increase over last year was reported, but the number is very limited and counts for little. Perhaps the great drop is found among the old Model T Fords, the owners believing it cheaper to junk their cars rather than spend \$12.50 on them for plates.

Patrolmen, county and town officers were ordered to start making arrests of owners who had not displayed the new tags on their cars. No arrests had been reported in this county up until noon today, but the warning is out, and owners operating their cars with old licenses are subject to arrest, according to advises issued from the motor vehicle bureau, Raleigh, last Saturday.

## TOWN OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING

Order Bicycle Riding On Sidewalks In Business Section Stopped

Meeting in regular session here last evening, the town board of commissioners passed an ordinance, requested Chief of Police Daniel to watch skaters on Main Street, inspected and approved bills and adjourned all in a very short while. Only three members of the board, Messrs. C. O. Moore, G. H. Harrison, and N. C. Green, were present.

An ordinance, prohibiting bicycle on the sidewalks in the business district, was passed. Many complaints have been entered against the practice and an effort will be made to check it.

No law was passed, but special attention was given skating on Main Street. The practice was referred to as being very dangerous, and Chief Daniel was requested to keep children out of the street with their skates on. Ten dollars was appropriated by the commissioners to partially offset the costs of the burial of Melvina Smallwood, negro woman murdered by her husband on Main Street here a few weeks ago.

## AGENT CLEANS TOBACCO SEED

Prospects Are For Increase In Crop In Martin This Year

The wheel of chance on the 1931 tobacco crop was started this week when farmers began delivering seed to the county agent for him to clean and treat against certain plant diseases. Farmers will start preparing and sowing their beds within the next few days, preparatory to what promises to be one of the biggest crops raised in this section in years.

"I am going to reduce my acreage to the crop this year," several farmers were heard to say. Past records show that some of them mean what they say, but others apparently change their minds when transplanting time arrives.

"I plant so little that what I do in the way of acreage reduction will mean little," a score of others remarked when asked what their plans were for the coming season.

## Fire Destroys Barn and All Contents Near Here

A barn and contents, valued at \$100, and belonging to Jim Beacham, of near here burned early last Sunday night. The fire, of undetermined origin, threatened the man's home, but neighbors rushed to the scene to hold the blaze to the one building.

## County Outlook Meeting to be Held Here Friday Morning

SPEAKS BEFORE COUNTY BOARDS

Pat Johnson Urges Equal Valuation Of All Properties

Addressing the Martin County Board of Commissioners and the Martin County Board of Education in joint session here yesterday morning, Senator Pat Johnson, member of the State Equalizing Board, stressed the importance of an equal valuation of all property in the State. In his thirty minute talk, the equalization board member assured his hearers that an equal property valuation would make for a fairer distribution of the equalizing funds, that it would be to the advantage of the county to see that its property is valued on the same base that is used in valuing property in other counties.

Several factors to be considered, Mr. Johnson said were the location of an acre of land, the surroundings and productivity. The senator also stated that the matter of taxation in valuation as well as rates will be determined by action of the general assembly in distributing the equalizing fund in the future. It was his expressed opinion that the legislature convening tomorrow would increase the school equalizing fund. Just how much the increase will be, the speaker could not say.

## SCHOOL AT OAK CITY RE-OPENS

Pupils Plan To Follow and Discuss Proceedings of State Legislature

The Oak City Schools reopened yesterday after a suspension of two weeks for the Christmas holidays, the principal reporting a large attendance on the first day of the winter term. However, it was pointed out that the many families moving to and from the district would likely disturb the membership during this month.

Organizing a current history club, the pupils are planning to observe the workings of the State Legislature convening in Raleigh tomorrow. The club will post daily proceedings of the legislative body and conduct class discussions.

Mid-term examinations will begin Monday Jan. 12th.

Most parallel books are completed. Very good library record for fall term: Mrs. W. D. Hyman a patron of the school directed the hot lunch Monday with several timely suggestions.

The following of Oak City spent the holidays with their parents and have returned to their respective schools: Misses Syble Ross and Selma Johnson, Fayetteville, N. C. Miss Erna Johnson, Bath, Miss Pauline Davenport Angier and Mrs. Ira C. Ainsley Ahsokie.

Miss Mary Kathlyn Ainsley a student at the North Carolina College for Women after spending the Christmas vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Ainsley returned Sunday for the spring semester's work.

Miss Madeline Davenport, a student at the East Carolina Teacher's College spent the holidays with her parents Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Davenport. She returned Sunday to resume her work at the college.

## Mrs. Susan Hopkins Dies In Yorktown Thursday

Mrs. Susan Hopkins, grandmother of Mr. C. G. Crockett, of Williamston, died at the home of her daughter in Yorktown, Va., last Thursday at the age of 93 years. Mrs. Hopkins had been in a feeble condition for some time, death coming gradually.

Burial took place in the cemetery in the Virginia town Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Crockett and children being among the 300 kinspeople attending the services.

The deceased is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Crockett, 22 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. V. G. Hancock are at home in the house formerly occupied by the Hights in New Town.

### J. E. Pope Appointed County Commissioner

Mr. John E. Pope, local man, was appointed county commissioner by Clerk of the Court R. J. Peel late last Saturday to complete the unexpired term made vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. D. Woolard.

The names of several men were considered, but since Mr. Pope had had experience in the county's government, the clerk favored his appointment. Mr. Pope was elected to the office back in 1926 and served on the board since that time. He did not file for the office in the last primary, but did run for county treasurer.

Mr. Woolard resigned to accept a position with the Ford people in Goldsboro.

## AGENTS RETURN TO WORK HERE

Local Agents Assist Search For Alleged Murderers In Jones County

Federal prohibition work in this section, after a several days period of inactivity, was renewed yesterday afternoon when Agents Coats, Roebuck, and Crumpler returned to their post here and started a series of raids in this and neighboring counties. During the past several days, all agents in eastern part of the State have been down in Jones county where they took part in the capture of Clyde and Tom Morton, alleged murderers of Asa Hawkins, federal agent, near Kinston on December 20.

The two Mortons, after 14 days and nights in the swamps of Jones county, walked out early Sunday morning and gave themselves up, declaring they could not stand the suffering caused by cold and hunger.

Hawkins and M. R. Morton were shot from ambush near Mayville the evening of the 20th. They were members of a party of five still raiders. The party divided into two groups. Hawkins and Morton entered thick woods by one route the other three by another. Hawkins and Morton had proceeded but a short distance when a fusillade was fired from the brush. One man is said to have stood erect to fire. Several others were prone in the scrub growth and behind trees. Hawkins died almost instantly. Morton was severely wounded. The ambushers broke and ran through the woods.

Five men were arrested the following two days. Federal dry agents from many points, Lenoir and Jones county officers, secret service men sent by the government and Gardner Collins, a smart young motor cop borrowed from the Kinston police department, engaged in the hunt for the slayers. Many square miles of the Jones county countryside were scoured yard by yard. Bloodhounds were used.

Federal Agent Coats is in Greensboro today, but he is expected back tomorrow to join the other two agents in raids planned during the next several weeks.

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## "FARMING FOR A LIVING" WILL BE DISCUSSED HERE

Farmers and Wives and Business Men Urged To Attend

### AGENTS TO BE HERE

Meeting, Local In Nature, Is One of Many Being Held Throughout The State This Month

A Martin County "Outlook meeting," one of a series being held in every county in North Carolina during the months of January and February, is scheduled for Friday of this week, January 9, at 10 o'clock a. m., it was announced this week by County Agent T. B. Brandon. The meeting will be held in the courthouse here. Farmers and their wives, business men, merchants, bankers, members of civic organizations, doctors, lawyers, agriculture teachers, newspapermen, and county officials are particularly urged to attend the meetings, which are being held for a discussion of the agricultural situation in each section.

The meeting will be purely local in nature, it is understood, and there will be two State extension service workers here to assist in every way possible. One of the workers will be a man from the extension service staff, while the other is a woman from Mrs. Jane McKimmon's State Department of home economics. Problems peculiar to Martin County will be brought up and discussed, and the outlook for the year reviewed.

Mr. Brandon stated that the team of extension workers will reach Williamston the afternoon of the day before the meeting and they will be glad to meet with groups of business men, representatives of civic clubs, etc., and explain to them in a brief way the outlook for agriculture in 1931. They will also present local county facts and try to acquaint the business people with the agricultural situation in the county.

Preparations for the meeting are under the direction of Mr. T. B. Brandon and Miss Lora Sleeper, county farm and home demonstration agents, respectively. They are urging every farmer and his wife in the county to be present for the gathering, which will begin at 10 o'clock and last as long as necessary. The primary purpose of the meeting is to have it serve as a get-together affair for the farmers and business people to the end that they may better understand the problems facing them and cooperate more effectively during the present business and agricultural emergency.

Farming in Martin county, as well as in the other eastern counties of the State, has reached a low ebb during the past few years presenting a situation that calls for much thought and study. It is a situation that demands a concerted effort on the part of all. No one knows an exact course to follow, but Friday of this week "Farming for a living" will be discussed. Mr. Troy B. Ferguson, district farm agent, with others, will have valuable information for Martin farmers, and it is assured that many of the perplexing problems now facing the farmer in this county can be solved at the meeting.

Letters are being addressed to schools and other organizations throughout the county requesting them to announce the meeting and to urge the people to attend.

The campaign in the State was formally launched today when five teams of extension workers swung into action in a broad educational movement to make the State self-supporting. The teams are on a four-weeks' tour and will cover every county in the State.

As a result of last year's effort the food and feed crops were increased by \$19,000,000, Governor O. Max Gardner being the guiding spirit behind the campaign which resulted in thousands of new acres being planted in the things that previously the people of North Carolina had been paying out hard cash to buy from other sections of the nation. During 1931 the governor has called upon the farmers of the state to add another \$40,000,000 to the \$19,000,000 increase of last year.

The program for the five teams of extension workers is the most ambitious ever attempted in this state.

## Correct Identity

In the recorder's court news item of last Friday, Elmer James was charged with criminal action.

Mr. Elmer James, of Everett, wishes that we make our report more definite as the Elmer James, to which the article referred was a colored man of the Free Union Section.