

Ned Laughinghouse Case Is Still Steeped In Silent Mystery

Mrs. Laughinghouse and Party Warmly Received by U. S. State Department

Still possessing a formidable spirit supported by faith and hope despite long and trying hours of uncertainty and suspense, Mrs. Ned Laughinghouse accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Lim Blades, Mr. Blades and Mrs. Elbert S. Peel, sought news of her husband at the United States Department of State in Washington last week-end. They were warmly received by high officials in the department, and official Washington willingly volunteered its services in an effort to run down some clue that would possibly bring some encouraging news to her and to the many friends of Mr. Laughinghouse. The case, carrying a bit of hope and yet not free from despair, is still steeped in silent mystery.

The Department of State opened a file possibly half an inch thick on the case to Mrs. Laughinghouse, the last answer stating that the German raider upon which he was taken following the shelling of the Egyptian steamer, Zamzam, in the South Atlantic last April, had not been contacted in months. Despite all its power and might, the United States government can't learn whether the raider has since been sunk or whether it is still afloat. The information received there was not very encouraging, but with tears trickling down her face, Mrs. Laughinghouse discussed every possible angle of the case.

Contacting high officials of the International Red Cross, and Mrs. Laughinghouse was warmly received there, the party was assured that additional appeals would be sent out at once in an effort to learn the whereabouts of Mr. Laughinghouse. Received at the German embassy, members of the little but anxious party, discussed the case freely with the Charge d'Affairs. The German representative stated that the raider had not been contacted in nearly five months. Its fate and the fate of Mr. Laughinghouse are apparently known only to the high naval command, and that no information can be expected from that source if it would possibly prove detrimental to the cause. There was some hope expressed by the representative when he said that his government reported all deaths excepting those of certain races. In that statement, Mrs. Laughinghouse continues to harbor hope for the safety of her husband.

Senator J. W. Bailey, an old friend of the Laughinghouse family, left the floor of the Senate upon his own initiative to talk with Mrs. Laughinghouse and the party. Urging her to continue to have faith, he assured her that she would hear from him again.

American Legion Installs Officers at Meeting Monday

Large Crowd Attends Supper And Ceremonies; State Officials Present

An installation meeting of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion was held last night in the hut on Waits Street. Mr. Roy McMillan, state commander, of Raleigh, installed the officers and was the principal speaker.

J. R. Winslow, of Robersonville, returned for another term as commander of the county unit, while Messrs. R. H. Goodman, J. H. Ayers and W. C. Wallace were installed as vice commanders.

All the speakers of the evening discussed various phases of Americanism. Messrs. Carroll Kramer and Lloyd Griffin, post officials, of Edenton, gave a comedy skit, which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Other officials who attended were Rev. Sidney E. Matthews, of Washington, state chaplain; Mr. Paul Hoffman, of Gatesville, post commander; Mr. Harry Greenleaf, of Elizabeth City, post official; Mr. Jesse Mercer, of Washington, state vice commander, and Mr. Leroy Hand, of Rich Square, fourth district commander.

Supper was served to the approximately 100 members and guests present.

Gift Car Damaged In A Freak Accident Last Week

The Ford car, won by Harvey Medford at a ball game here back in 1938, was badly damaged by a falling tree limb near Oak City during a bad storm last Thursday night. The limb mashed the top in, mechanics stating that repairs will cost nearly \$300. The owner and his family were sleeping when the limb fell. Buying a chance on the car, Mr. Medford lost his ticket and when he came to the ball game that afternoon he bought another one and that one won him the car. He had taken unusual care of the machine and had driven it hardly more than 13,000 miles.

Poor Outlook For Peanut and Potato Crop In This County

Their attention centered on tobacco marketing, farmers have had little to say about the prospects for sweet potatoes and peanuts this fall, but preliminary reports point to a marked reduction in the production for the two crops in this county. Digging fairly long rows, several farmers said they did not recover enough potatoes to fill a single bushel basket. The peanut crop is a bit spotty, some farmers stating that there are very few of the goobers on the vines, and that indications do not point to even maturity.

Softened by a burning September sun, the peanut vines are shedding the tender goobers, and while the potato vines are standing up well, the tubers are at a standstill underneath. It is believed that a continuation of the dry weather will curtail

both crops by more than 30 and possibly as much as 50 per cent, as a whole.

The hot sun working in close cooperation with the dry and hot weather is maturing the cotton crop far ahead of the usual time, and the corn crop will be ready for harvesting within a short time unless there is a marked change in the weather conditions.

Last month was one of the driest Augusts on record, the weather station reporting only 2.38 inches of rain as compared with 11.07 inches in the same month last year. The last rain to amount to anything was recorded on August 20th when 1.03 inches fell. Hardly half an inch has fallen since that time, the several rains combined being insufficient to stay the dust. Travel over rural roads caused dust clouds almost

B. & L. EXAMINER



Mr. J. D. Taylor was recently appointed examiner for the North Carolina Building and Loan Associations. He will begin his work in this department on October 1st and with his wife will make their home in Raleigh.

Alleged Robber Is Returned for Trial

Tom Pelt, member of a prominent Wayne County family, was returned here from Richmond Sunday morning by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck for trial in connection with the robbery of the Central Cafe early on the morning of May 29, 1940. Pelt, brought here after serving a year's sentence for an alleged robbery in Norfolk similar to the one here, is alleged to have stolen \$104.00 in cash from the local cafe.

Pelt, about 27 years old, fought extradition to this State, and would have gained his freedom had the sheriff been five minutes later reaching the state penitentiary in Richmond. The man could be detained only eight hours and he was at the gate and ready to go within five minutes when the officer called for him.

Neither denying nor admitting the charge, Pelt is waiting to see what evidence is offered against him before he starts talking. It is possible that he will involve others in the crime.

Local Man Named B. and L. Examiner

An appointment for examiner of the North Carolina Building and Loan Associations was received last week by Mr. J. D. Taylor. The appointment was made by Dan C. Boncy, insurance commissioner of North Carolina. Mr. Taylor's association with the department will become effective October 1st.

Mr. Taylor for a long number of years served in the auditing department of the Southern Bell Telephone Company in New Orleans. His former experience especially qualifies him for this new position and his friends throughout the county are delighted with the appointment.

Returning to Martin County five years ago from New Orleans he devoted his time to various enterprises but for the past several months has been employed by Martin-Elliott Company.

Mrs. Taylor, a native of Louisiana, is now employed in Raleigh where they will make their home.

IN DANGER

Reports from several rural communities declare that there is much uneasiness over the roads. Resembling later ridges so much, farmers are likely to start digging them up in search of potatoes. The situation is aggravated by the fact that some farmers are about as optimistic over the possibility of finding potatoes under public ridges as they are of finding potatoes under their own ridges.

Thirty-Seven Civil Cases For Trial In Superior Tribunal

Few Important Cases Slated For Trial During Two-Weeks Term

Holding his first term of Martin County Superior Court next week, Judge Henry Stevens will find only a mediocre civil calendar awaiting his attention, a review of the docket showing very few cases of any importance are scheduled for trial during the two-weeks' term. Thirty-seven cases have been placed on the calendar by the Martin County Bar Association, the first of the cases being scheduled for trial on Wednesday of next week.

Boundary line disputes predominate the calendar, while there are two or three suits claiming damages as a result of accidents.

The cases of Charlie Killebrew against E. C. House and E. L. Glover against J. B. Whitfield involve boundary lines while the cases of H. W. Barber against Vance Price, W. W. Griffin against N. B. Marriner, W. W. Griffin against W. F. Barber, and D. L. Howell against E. P. Leathers set out that the defendants went over fixed boundaries in cutting timber.

The North Side Lumber Company, of Greenville, is suing H. H. Cowen as a result of a disagreement over an account due the plaintiff.

The Linen Thread Company is suing Jeff Rhodes to recover an account allegedly due the plaintiff.

Harry Jones in his suit against W. H. Carstarphen is asking \$492.50 damages alleged to have resulted when the town decided to repair damages done to the river wharf by the flood last August.

In his suit against E. R. Edmondson and others, George Wynne is asking that a deed to certain lands be declared null and void.

The suit claiming the pigs of Geo. E. Roberson damaged the property of John R. Coltrin goes to the high court by appeal from a magistrate's court.

James McGraw is suing to recover on an account against the Goldman Company.

Sharpleigh Hardware Company is suing C. C. Rawls, Sr., to recover on certain notes.

In the case of T. M. Britton, administrator, against Mrs. Helen Allen, the plaintiff is asking a judgment in the sum of \$280.78.

In the case of Dill, Truitt, Cramer Corporation against L. B. Wynne, clerk, the court will decide who owns \$1,600 held in trust by the defendant in the case, the clerk explaining that the money was handed down by former clerks, but that

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Daring Robbery Attempted Here

Approaching the cashier in Darden's Department Store here last Saturday evening about 9 o'clock, a strange colored man asked a dollar bill in exchange for two half dollars. Opening the register, the cashier, Mrs. Laura Crawford, reached for the bill when the Negro pushed her aside and dashed toward the door. She managed to block the man, and the robber fled when she called for help. The store owner chased the man out the back door and through the backlot, but could not catch him.

Following the trail as it led from the back door, Mr. Darden found a dollar bill, two small bundles and an old hat the robber had dropped in a fall at the back of the store.

The attempted hold-up was one of the most daring reported here in a long time. Called to the store, officers were unable to make any progress in the case.

Local Leaf Market Sells Record Poundsage For Season Yesterday

Early Cotton Crop May Force Few County Schools To Close

Bursting forth after a snowy pattern, the early cotton crop in this county is almost certain to upset the schedule for a number of the colored schools. Hardly had the schools opened before teachers and school heads started noticing the cotton fields and saw ahead a decrease in attendance figures. Ordinarily, the colored schools chalk up their best attendance records during the first month of school, but the cotton crop, bursting forth to set an early record, bids fair to upset the attendance figures. The county superintendent is visiting the schools today, and while no official report has been received from him it is fairly certain that at least five of the colored schools will suspend operations for a few weeks or until the cotton picking task is handled.

Reports, although still incomplete, indicate that the attendance upon the colored schools during the first two days was not up to expectation, that instead of showing an increase on subsequent days, the figures are dwindling in most of the schools.

Opening-day enrollment figures in the white schools have shown a slight increase, but they continue to lag behind those of a year ago. Cotton picking holds comparatively few white children out of school, but it is apparent that the all-important tobacco crop is holding many of the youngsters at home. There are some homes, however, where the education of youths is not made secondary to crop marketing. A dip in attendance figures is certain when peanut digging time rolls around.

Low Quality Leaf Is Now Appearing In Large Quantities

Better Grades Continue To Sell As High As 48 Cents a Pound

A reasonable record was established here Monday when the local tobacco market sold 308,112 pounds of leaf, the largest sale of the year for any one day's sale. Tips and low quality tobaccos predominated and more damaged tobacco was offered for sale than on all the other combined sales days of the season.

The offerings were of a low and medium quality with a large proportion of tips but despite the black tips and damaged tobacco the market averaged \$25.96.

Many baskets of tobacco sold for 45 and 48 cents and many individual averages ranging from 48 to 40 cents were made by growers selling on the local market. The better grades of tobacco continue to sell at handsome prices and there is a gradual increase in the number of patrons of the Williamston market as the season progresses. Boasting of an unusually fine crop of buyers, local warehousemen are making satisfactory sales for tobacco growers from at least a dozen counties in the Bright Belt.

Sales yesterday were marked with spirited bidding and all the foreign and domestic companies offered competition on practically all grades. The market looked again yesterday with approximately 75,000 pounds of tobacco left unsold on the floor of the Roanoke-Dixie warehouse. Sales were heavy today and if the warehouse floors are cleared off, it will take most of the day. Unless inclement weather sets in the market should pass the three million pound mark by Thursday and certainly not later than Friday. The quality of the leaf offered today was said to be considerably better than yesterday and today's average should be one of the best this season.

The New Carolina Warehouse has first sale Thursday and on Friday the first sale will be held at the Planters Warehouse. Farmers continue to market their tobacco just as quickly as possible and exceptionally large sales are anticipated over the week-end.

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Premium Lists For County Fair Are Being Distributed

Offering increased and added cash awards, the 1941 edition of the American Legion agricultural fair premium list is being distributed over the county and section this week by Manager W. E. Dunn. Entries are being solicited from the general public and any one wishing to compete for the prizes and who does not receive one of the premium lists is directed to the manager at the Dunn Plumbing Company shop in Williamston.

It is too early to comment on the outlook for the fair, but since the event is entirely under home management there is a greater interest in it. Manager Dunn said yesterday.

We are making extensive preparations for the fair this year, and it is the aim of the Legion to offer something valuable to this agricultural section and at the same time provide an entertaining program," Mr. Dunn added.

The Kam Exposition Show, billed as "America's Cleanest Traveling Carnival," will be on the midway again this year.

The grandstand attractions will be presented by the Jimmy Daley Company of Albany, N. Y. Harry Taylor and his Kewpie Doll Revue will provide the comedy, singing and dancing.

The main attraction of the fair will be acts created by Buddy Lumbar and his All-American Death Dodgers. Many daring and thrilling acts will be performed by the company of speed demons and reckless daredevils.

Fireworks will be shown each night in a bigger and better display and a regular concert band has been booked for the fair, Mr. Dunn said.

Officers Destroy Quantity Of Beer In Free Union

Raiding in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township last Saturday, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel poured out four barrels of beer, but could not find the copper kettle and other equipment used in manufacturing.

LEGION HEAD



Joe R. Winslow, well-known county man of Robersonville, was installed as commander of the John Hassell Post of the American Legion at the regular meeting held here last night.

Work On River Fill Progressing Rapidly

Despite numerous handicaps such as breakdowns, poor labor and heavy traffic, the paving project on the Roanoke River fill is progressing at a fairly rapid pace.

Last Friday the paving crew poured 1249 linear feet, the longest span poured in any one day since the work began. On Saturday a total of 1182 linear feet were poured and yesterday approximately 1000 feet were paved. Through Saturday a total of 8963 feet of the 2.67 miles had been paved and unless some unforeseen difficulty, such as breakdowns, arises the contractor hopes to reach the river bridge by Thursday night.

After the first section of the 22 foot road is completed, the contractors will have to wait three or four days before starting the paving of the second section. The state requires that all traffic be withheld from the road for at least 14 days.

The heat, dust and unusually heavy traffic have been no small factor in holding back the work. However, a representative of the state said the second section of the road could be completed considerably quicker than the first.

Former Local Minister Injured In Car Accident

Dr. S. A. Maxwell, former local Methodist minister, suffered a broken shoulder, and Mrs. Maxwell and three children, Lillian, Lettie and Elizabeth, were slightly hurt in an automobile accident near Rockingham recently. The Maxwell car, a new 1941 Chevrolet, was struck by another machine and badly damaged.

Dr. Maxwell is supplying the Aberdeen charge. Late reports state that he is recovering gradually from his injuries and that Mrs. Maxwell and the children are getting along all right.

APPEAL

Mrs. A. R. Dunning, head of the local production center, American Red Cross, is issuing an appeal for a sewing machine. She stated there was an urgent need for garments which can be made with a sewing machine and any person who has a machine, not in use, is kindly asked to contact Mrs. Dunning. The local chairman said additional help could be used in making the garments.

THIS WEEK In Defense . . .

The President established in the OPM a Division of Contract Distribution with Floyd Odum of New York as director to "face the responsibility of alleviating the hardships which have resulted from the defense program and . . . to marshal our productive capacities to the objective that no plant or tool which can be used for defense shall be allowed to remain idle." The order was issued, the President said, "in furtherance of a determined move . . . to help the smaller business units of the country obtain a fair share of the defense orders and to prevent, as far as possible, dislocation of industry and unemployment of workers in plants where production has been curtailed by priorities and material shortages."

The division will set up branch offices throughout the nation where there will be available; procurement representatives of Federal contracting agencies to negotiate contracts and subcontracts, technical engineering advice on conversion of plants to defense work, representatives of the OPM Labor Division to plan reemployment or training of workers in plants involved, and financial facilities of the RFC and other Federal agencies which may be necessary to finance plant conversion.

To spread defense work "among as great a number of firms and in as many localities as possible," the division will revise Federal procurement practice in favor of the smaller production units—"as yet largely unused"—and promote organization of pools of small manufacturers to undertake defense work jointly. The division will also establish exhibits showing parts of defense articles needed their number, the tools necessary to make them and all other information so that machine shop owners and manufacturers can determine "then and there" what they can do and arrange to do it.

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The President told his press conference armament production will be accelerated by greater expenditures. The new Supply Priorities and Allocation Board, stating it will stimulate and reorganize defense production

"to the limit of the nation's resources," said its general policy demands curtailment of less-essential industries which use materials and facilities necessary to a "realistic defense program."

Navy Ships

The Navy reported that during the first eight months of 1941 a total of 213 naval vessels were completed—including one battleship, one cruiser, eight submarines and eight destroyers—and keels were laid for 436 ships, including two battleships, 13 cruisers, 18 submarines, two aircraft carriers and 57 destroyers.

Merchant Ships

Maritime Commission Chairman Land announced the Commission's building program will place in operation 1,153 new ships of approximately 12,410,000 deadweight tons between July 1, 1941, and the end of 1943. He said production is running 25 per cent ahead of estimates made in May, and that from 130 to 134 new vessels will be completed this year instead of the 105 estimated in May. Admiral Land said an additional 90 vessels will be delivered in the first three months of 1942, 146 in the second quarter, 154 in the third quarter, (Continued on page six)