

Steady Rains Slow Lumber Production By Flooding Roads

Many Sawmills Operating On Pari Time Basis While Some Almost Closed

With buildings on almost every farm either under repair or needing to be and much renovating and repairing in the offing in every town the already acute lumber shortage is being aggravated in this section by flooded conditions of woods in the lowlands where water transport has been the most dependable means of getting timber to the sawmills.

Many mills in this vicinity are virtually idle, some have a few hours work each day, and practically none are operating at full capacity. Those sawmill companies which have timber in high lands which can be reached over passable roads have not been able to get trucking equipment to do the work. Some of this equipment has been on order for a long time against the day when high water might close the sources of supply in the low grounds.

Under new federal regulations 40 percent of the mill's production, it is reported, must be reserved for the building of houses by contractors. A lot of lumber which is sold to a contractor and not called for within 20 days may be resold to another buyer, but these regulations have not as yet bothered local lumber producers because they have to have lumber to sell in the first place and they can not get that unless they have the logs to saw it from and logs are not to be had when timberlands cannot be entered.

It appears that the quantity of rain hereabout has not been so much the trouble as the frequency of its appearance. Records show that the rainfall has not been heavy, but they also show that precipitation has been persistent. A day may come now and then when some work can be done, but the crew is hardly organized and operations under way than it is necessary to stop again.

Washington officials have called for an increase in production of lumber with some promise of an increase in price as an incentive but nothing can be done locally until waters recede or trucking equipment can be obtained to provide relief from the present stalemated condition.

The supply of common labor, one of the most pressing problems in all lines of industry which require a large number of unskilled workers, is not longer the problem it was. It is reported that since the first of this year common labor has been available while skilled labor remains difficult to obtain. Opening of the timberlands to the lumberjacks and trucks and raft handlers will provide considerable employment for many laborers in this section who are not now employed or receiving pay, as the mills have found it impossible to continue to hire their full crews without work for them to do.

Increased Activity In Red Cross Office

With servicemen returning to the county in greater numbers, the office of the Martin County Chapter, American Red Cross, on the third floor of the town hall here, is reporting a marked increase in its activities.

Mrs. Edna Laughinghouse, home service director, announced this week that 108 cases were handled in January as compared with 53 in December. Most of the cases had to do with emergency messages and furlough extension reports. However, Mrs. Laughinghouse explained, that the service for veterans is increasing rapidly, that the office was prepared to assist the veterans in handling claims under the GI Bill of Rights. In this connection the Red Cross is in position to offer family counsel, handle claim benefits, including insurance and pensions, outline vocational training, employment, hospitalization, including dental care, and offer financial assistance.

Veterans are invited to visit the office and talk their cases over with the director any week day between the hours of 9:30 a. m. and 12, noon, and 2 to 4 p. m.

Robert Gurganus On His Way To States

Writing in to change his address, Robert F. Gurganus, Radioman 2/C, stated in a recent letter that he was on his way home. He said in his letter:

"I wish to thank you for sending me the Enterprise during my stay over seas. I've enjoyed it very much, and I know all the other fellows have also. At the present I'm at Pearl Harbor and expect to leave in a few days, so I'm letting you know ahead of time that you can drop me in the mail or else let me know when you are going to be home soon."

For the boys who are in the town were Hugh Burton, chairman, Sam Edwards and Dave Davis. They were instructed to work on the problem from all angles and report back to the club at the next meeting or as early thereafter as it is possible.

Series Of Accidents Reported In County

LIFE SCOUT

Awarded six merit badges during the scout program of the Kiwanis Club last week, Bill Burroughs, senior patrol leader of Troop 27, automatically qualified as a Life Scout.

The merit badges awarded by Scout Executive John B. Hackney were: Pioneering, First Aid, Public Health, Personal Health, Physical Development and Athletics. These are six of the 13 merit badges which every Eagle Scout must have as part of his total of 21.

In qualifying for the Pioneering badge, Bill said, he was required to build a bridge of wood without the use of nails, that would withstand half a ton of weight. For his Athletics merit badge he was required, among other things, to write a 700-word essay or theme.

County Boy Writes From Canal Zone

Writing from the Canal Zone under recent date, Seaman J. N. Hopkins, Jr., said:

"To all of my good friends back home I want to take this opportunity to say hello. Something about this beautiful place. When I say it's beautiful let me assure you that I am not exaggerating. It's a swell place to be. The palm trees, banana trees and coconut trees. The Panama Canal is a thrill I'll never forget. The lowering and raising of the water for ships to go through is a swell sight. The biggest surprise I have received so far was the day I came over here from Coco Solo which is on the Atlantic side. I was getting my papers straightened out when all of a sudden I felt my hand going up and down. Of course, I turned around and there stood Vernon Cowan. Let me tell you some one from home sure looks good. I found out about my brother Ben being home. I can understand how glad he must be to get back again.

There is an old saying that there is no place like home. There is a lot of truth in it too. I can remember back in the good old days when all of us boys were back home in school playing football, baseball, and basketball. There was David Robertson, Reuben Williams, Curtis Hopkins, Jesse Rogers, Jimmie Knight and I. What a bunch we were. We almost drove the teachers mad at times. It's the dry season down here now. It will start raining in about a month.

The heat down here is terrific. Some of the cold natured people back home should come here for a vacation. "Well it's pretty late and I must get to work. Closing with lot's of thoughts of the people back home, I would appreciate it very much if more of my friends would write. I haven't gotten the Enterprise yet but I hope to in the near future."

Stolen Ford Auto Is Recovered Here

A 1939 Ford, admittedly stolen by Charlie Barnes, local colored man, in Hertford a short time before last Christmas was recovered in a garage on Sycamore Street by Patrolman W. E. Saunders last Friday.

The car, belonging to Louis L. Proctor, RFD 1, Hertford, had been stripped of its tires, battery and several other parts, but most of them were recovered following Barnes' arrest. Charged with disposing of stolen property, Barnes waived preliminary hearing and was returned to jail in default of a \$500 bond. Just recently off the roads where he served a term for larceny, Barnes will likely be returned to Perquimans County to face a larceny charge.

YOUTH CENTER

Representatives of the local high school having been before civic clubs and governmental bodies in the town with their plea that they be assisted in getting the American Legion but as a youth center when the USO abandons it, President Wheeler Martin of the Kiwanis Club has named a committee to work with other interested parties in promoting the establishment of a youth center here in whatever place may be found available.

Appointed on the committee to investigate a site for a youth center were Hugh Burton, chairman, Sam Edwards and Dave Davis. They were instructed to work on the problem from all angles and report back to the club at the next meeting or as early thereafter as it is possible.

Recommend Post Office Appointment At Oak City

James A. Rawls last week was recommended by Congressman Herbert C. Bonner for permanent appointment as postmaster in Oak City, according to information received here last week-end.

Cushing B. Hassell Dies Suddenly Here On Monday Morning

Funeral Service Today For Member Of Prominent County Family

Cushing Biggs Hassell, Sr., for nearly half a century a leading figure in this section's business field died suddenly in his Main Street apartment here yesterday morning at 4:45 o'clock, the apparent victim of a heart attack. Suffering with asthma and hay fever for more than twenty-five years, Mr. Hassell had been in declining health for some time, but he was getting along about as well as usual last week-end, and even then his condition was not considered critical. Going to his apartment last Saturday, he could not retire to his bed on account of asthma. After sitting up for almost thirty hours, he retired late Sunday night and apparently rested well until about 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning when he suffered what was believed to have been a heart attack. He rolled off his bed and called to his cousin, John L. Hassell, who was sleeping in an adjoining room, to come and help him get up. A neighbor was called and he was helped back to the bed and his condition grew worse rapidly.

The son of the late Walter and Fannie Nichols Hassell, he was born on March 11, 1879, in the home now occupied by the Biggs Funeral home before it was moved to its present location from the corner of Main and Houghton Street. He spent his early life in the stately Hassell family home when it was located where the theater and other business houses now stand on Main Street.

As a youth he attended the old Williamston Academy and when it was forced to suspend classes, he studied as a pupil in his mother's private school, near the old family home. When a young man he studied telegraphy under the late William A. Ellison and was employed for a number of years as telegrapher in Parkton, Plymouth, New Bern and Greenville. Returning home, he formed a partnership in 1903 with his cousin, John L. Hassell, and operated one of the largest mercantile establishments in this section for nearly a quarter of a century, the firm having been expanded about a year after its formation to include the late A. Hassell. In the twenties, he formed a partnership with the late Leslie T. Fowden and handled a large fertilizer and peanut business until he accepted a position with the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company with whom he was associated at the time of his death, in its offices here.

Mr. Hassell was married on April 6, 1910, to Miss Mary Lee Woodard of Wilson, and she survives with two children, Mrs. Lucille Harris, of Washington, D. C., and Cush Hassell, Jr., of Raleigh. He was the last member of his immediate family, a sister, Mrs. Emma Hoyt, preceding him in death in 1943.

A member of a family prominent in the history and progress of this county and section for generations, Mr. Hassell was a great student of history and literature. While his attention was centered in the business realm, he found relaxation and pleasure in reading behind the great writers and authors. In his spare time, he prepared brief articles and personal sketches for publication, and they were read with great interest.

(Continued on page six)

Negro Citizens Plan Red Cross Campaign

Scheduled to attend a meeting called by the chapter chairman, J. C. Manning, in the courthouse here next Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock, colored citizens in this area will lay plans for the annual Red Cross fund drive beginning early next month.

The list includes mostly those faithful workers who have accepted the responsibility of solemn obligations in war and peace. The names of those who have been invited and their respective districts, follow:

Dardens: Rev. Noah Boston, Rev. William Keyes, Rev. Raleigh Keyes, Rev. Joseph James and Principal John James; Jamesville: Rev. Spencer Winstead, Mrs. Ethel Winstead, Mrs. Marion Gregory, Mrs. Carrie McCadden, Mrs. Lina Staton, Mrs. Flora Hopkins and Principal Milton Armistead; Corey's: Mrs. Joanna Corey, Matthew Griffin, Principal Ella McNeil; Smithwick's: William Peel, Ben Reddick, Orange Peel, A. B. Ore and Principal Anna Hassell; Bear Grass: Stephen Griffin, Ben Mason, Mrs. Pearl Mason and Principal Essie Reddick; Biggs: Jimmie Tyner, Mrs. Pochantunt Evans, Mrs. Clayton Brown and Principal W. V. Ormond; Woolard's: Rev. Will Rogers, Mrs. Eva Land and Principal Alonzo Jones; Williams Lower: Wiley Lanier, Octavius Lanier, Sim Bell, Mrs. Gracie Smithwick and

Man Fined \$10 For Resisting Arrest

George Locke, Goose Nest man, was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost last Friday evening by Justice J. B. Whitfield in Oak City for resisting arrest.

Drunk and disorderly, Locke resisted arrest when Officer Edmond Early started to take him into custody. "He grabbed the handcuffs from me and cursed and declared he would not be arrested," the officer would be arrested," the officer was quoted as saying. Early then explained that he fired on the man and shot him through the foot when Locke crowded in on him. Wounded about two weeks ago, Locke is said to be getting along very well now.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, Iziah Roberson was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs in the justice's court that night.

Andrew Jones, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, was bound over to the county court in \$200 bond.

Angry Husband Runs Wife Away

Becoming angry because supper was not ready for him when he went to his home in Williams Township last Saturday evening, Elbert Jones, 26-year-old colored man, threatened his wife's life. When Jones went for his gun she ran away from home and went to a neighbor's, about three hundred yards away. Jones, said to have been drinking, followed, shouting after her as he gave chase. Hiding under a bed in the neighbor's house, the wife remained there until midnight when she slipped out and went to the home of her father-in-law, about a mile away. Jones was arrested and jailed early Sunday morning.

Several months ago, Jones shot his father in the back following a quarrel. Carried into the courts a short time later, he was released under prayer for judgment after the case costs had been paid.

Ask Voluntary Cut In 1946 Peanut Acreage

Martin Farmers Sign Farm Plans In The Various Townships

Parity Prices Tentatively Set For Tobacco and Peanuts For Current Year

Martin County farmers and others throughout the belt are being asked to decrease their 1946 peanut plantings by about 21 percent, according to unofficial but reliable reports coming from agricultural leaders in session at the annual convention of the North Carolina Farm Bureau held in Winston-Salem last week-end. Early reports from the 1946 farm plan sign-up indicate that Martin County farmers are planning to reduce their current year peanut acreages, but the percentage figures are not definite, according to the best available reports.

Peanut prices, based on 90 percent of parity as of a recent date, are figured at about 7.60 cents per pound. An upward revision in the parity figure is expected and the floor will be based on costs as of about the middle of July, according to one report. This means that the floor price will range between \$7.60 and \$8.00 per hundred pounds.

The Farm Bureau Peanut Committee last week offered a resolution suggesting that acreages be maintained in accordance with the available labor supply. In other words, the organization suggests that where there is sufficient labor to plant, cultivate and harvest an acreage equal to that planted last year, the farmer should go ahead and plant that acreage. Quotas will be subjected to a vote of the growers for the 1947 crop, and there is some doubt if the 1946 acreage will be used as a part of the base for fixing the 1947 quotas.

Triple A authorities point out that the 1946 acreage will not be used as a base or part of the base for determining the new quotas. It was also pointed out that no individual farmer's quota may be reduced more than five percent of his 1941 plantings.

It is quite likely that reductions will be effected in the Martin County crop this year because the farmers have their eyes on the 10 percent acreage increase in tobacco allotments, and they will draw on their peanut land to care for that increase. Then, too, farmers are a bit weary with peanuts since yields fell far below normal last year.

Some leaders are of the opinion that peanut prices will be equally as high next fall as they were last, but a solemn warning about large plantings has been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. According to unofficial figures, the 90 percent of parity price for tobacco now stands right at 30 cents. This is what is called the floor price, and one guess is good as another as to what the actual market price will be next fall.

Starting last week-end, Martin farmers are preparing their 1946 farm plans. The task was well advanced in several districts, and in most cases, the growers plan to participate to the fullest extent in the 1946 soil building program which provides for benefits in the sum of \$1,889. The sign-up was handled last week-end in Goose Nest, Hamilton and Robersonville Townships. On Friday and Saturday of this week the plans will be prepared in the remaining districts.

Mysterious Fight On County Highway

At least two persons were reported to have been wounded and possibly others were hurt in a free-for-all fight near Abbit's mill on Highway 125 last Saturday evening. Few details of the fight which has baffled county officers and others could be had here.

Motorists, traveling the route, saw two women and several men fighting in the middle of the road, one report stating that the two females had their clothes almost torn off and that a man in the group was scantily attired. The report also declared that the two women were bleeding badly, and that possibly others in the group had been beaten and cut.

First reports reaching here stated that there had been a wreck and that two women had been badly hurt. Patrolmen hurried out No. 125 and found no evidence of a wreck. Doctors' office and the local hospital were checked, but no trace of the car or its passengers were found.

One report stated that the car license was registered in the name of a fellow Ketter of Scotland Neck. The report could not be verified immediately, and the whole sorry business still has a mysterious and serious aspect.

Painfully Hurt In Freak Auto Accident Sunday

Mr. Johnny Gurkin was painfully injured in Grimestand Sunday afternoon. The county man was pouring one oil into his car engine when combustion caused the oil filter to blow off. The filter struck him in the forehead and left a bad gash just over the eye.

He was treated in the local hospital.

World Goodwill Is Promoted By Work Of Scout Movement

Head Of East Carolina Council Tells Of Activities Of Organization In Peace

TOOK A CHANCE

Knowing full well that Mr. Groundhog would see his bad weather during previous weeks, hoped the little animal would not venture from his home for fear someone would take possession during his absence. Well, the little scoundrel took a chance and the weather has been on the bad side most of the time since.

Over two and one-half inches of rain have fallen since the second, most of the fall, or 2.10 inches, coming down last week-end.

Future Of World Up To Boy Scouts

The hopes of world peace for the next fifty years depends upon what happens in the lives of boys growing up here in America and in the countries of Europe, Walter W. Head of St. Louis, president of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, said in a statement for Boy Scout Week, Feb. 8 to 14, marking the 39th anniversary of the movement in America.

Mr. Head's statement follows: "The theme of the Boy Scouts of America for the year 1946 is 'Scouts of the World—Building Together.' Regardless of what treaties or agreements may be made by the nations of the world, in the last analysis what happens to our hopes of world peace for the next fifty years depends upon what happens in the lives of boys growing up here in America and in the countries of Europe.

"If we can impress upon these boys principles of friendliness and mutual respect, we shall go a long way toward establishing a better understanding among the nations of the world.

"Here in America we have nearly two million members of the Boy Scouts of America. Throughout the world there are approximately three million Scouts and leaders.

"The Scout program seeks to train these boys for service to others and useful citizenship. With these millions of Scouts throughout the world we believe something truly magnificent can be done.

"We hope to develop a body of men who, because of their Scout training, will stand out in their native lands as our Boy Scouts stand out here in America, dedicated to the same ideals of Scouting as expressed in our Scout Oath and Law. Together they will, we believe, help to bring about a lasting peace and build a better world for the future."

Three Men Leave For Army Center

Three Martin County young colored men answered the current month draft call and left last Thursday for the Army reception center at Fort Bragg.

The call was for only two, but a third one had been delinquent and he was instructed to report.

Two of the three are just eighteen years of age and come from the farm. Names of those reporting: Walter Lee Williams, RFD 3, Williamston.

John Wesley James, RFD 1, Jamesville. Charlie Hardison, RFD 3, Williamston.

Man Arrested Here For Shoplifting Saturday

Zeb Campbell, visiting colored man, was arrested and jailed here last Saturday night by city police for the alleged theft of several pairs of pants and a sweater from the Farmers Supply Company on Washington Street.

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