

# TYRRELL COUNTY TRIBUNE

FOR GREATER PROGRESS OF THE LAKE PHELPS AND PETTIGREW PARK REGION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBOR COUNTIES

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## TYRRELL FOLK WELCOME SUN AND WIND AFTER BEING ISOLATED BY MUD

### Rural Mail Carriers Make Rounds But With Considerable Delay and Difficulties; Bus Unable to Ply Columbia-Engelhard Road; Minister's Appointments Cancelled; Schools Little Affected

The sunshine and wind of Monday was welcomed in Tyrrell County by its citizens, for the past few weeks virtually residents in an island of mud.

Not only was the sunshine and the wind with its drying effect on the roads welcomed by the casual driver, farmer, or whatever one might be, but especially by the rural mail carriers, the Columbia-Engelhard bus driver, the ministers of rural churches, drummers and, in fact, anybody whose business takes them into the country.

At the Columbia post office where rural routes emanate to sections of the entire county, Mrs. Effie Brickhouse, postmaster, reported that Uncle Sam's rural mail in Tyrrell County had all been delivered, but not without hardships and delay.

Saturday E. H. Morris, carrier on route 3, returned over his 60 mile route toward Gum Neck and back at about 5 o'clock when the usual return hour under summer or normal conditions is between 1 and 2 o'clock. Mr. Morris had to be carried over part of the route by the highway road drag.

C. Slade Spruill, carrier on route 1 toward Creswell and return, who took office January 2, and his substitute, the former temporary carrier, M. K. Armstrong, returned Saturday from the 50 mile route at about 5 o'clock. The normal return hour would be about 1 o'clock. Mr. Spruill came in Saturday with a broken bumper, a flat tire, and reported that he had been stuck six times during the day. Both Mr. Spruill and Mr. Armstrong use light cars with eight cylinders.

J. T. Combs, carrier on route 2 toward South Side and Alligator, had better conditions than the other two carriers and covered his 47 miles by 2:30 Saturday afternoon, only a little later than the usual time. Perhaps, too, Mr. Combs knows how to navigate for when he first started carrying the mail 21 years ago, he used a horse and buggy.

"The roads have been the worst this winter since I became postmaster in 1936," Mrs. Brickhouse said.

The bus which the Engelhard-Washington Bus Co. operates between Columbia and Engelhard was unable to make the trip Saturday, Sunday and Monday, a record for non passage, according to Mrs. S. M. Gibbs, owner. The bus missed only one day last winter, she said.

The Rev. A. C. Thompson, Methodist minister at Columbia who also serves the rural churches of Holly Grove at Cross Landing, Cedar Grove at Gum Neck and Wesley Chapel at Alligator was forced to cancel his appointment at Holly Grove the fourth Sunday in December. Four years ago, he recalled, his predecessor was unable to get to Gum Neck for a period of three months.

County Superintendent W. T. Crutchfield reported that the school attendance had not been affected by the roads but that about half of the 13 school buses had been being late because of the slippery roads. The delay was caused mostly by slipping into the ditch or by having the engines drowned out by mud, rather than by getting stuck, he said. The buses are equipped with dual wheels and with mud grip tires. Schools were operated on a short schedule Thursday and Friday of last week only. One bus broke a spring en route.

### BICYCLE SAFETY CLUB ORGANIZED COLUMBIA

A bicycle safety club sponsored by the Columbia Woman's Club and the Town of Columbia was organized at the school Tuesday afternoon after Mrs. A. P. Plythe of the division of highway safety of the state highway department had explained the purpose of such a club. The club members will strive to observe certain rules of safety.

Officers representing the sponsors were named as follows: D. K. Sawyer, chief officer of the club, R. L. Litchfield, directing officer and J. L. Poston, registration and inspection officer.

Also a captain and two lieutenants representing the boy and girl members were named.

### CLUB SPEAKER



W. O. SAUNDERS, of Elizabeth City, secretary of the Greater Albatraz Association, gave an interesting recital of the aims and progress of the association at the fortnightly meeting of the Columbia Young Men's Club in the Methodist church annex Tuesday night. Mr. Saunders reported that the membership in the association was growing rapidly in this entire section.

### J. S. CHAMBLEE MADE DISTRICT HEALTH AIDE

#### Succeeds Dr. N. P. Fitts as Assistant in Charge Hyde and Tyrrell Departments

Dr. John S. Chamblee reported for work with the district health department in Swan Quarter Thursday of last week as assistant district health officer in charge of the health work in Hyde and Tyrrell counties. Dr. Chamblee conducted the regular clinic in Columbia Thursday before coming to the office at Swan Quarter. He succeeds Dr. N. P. Fitts who severed his connections with the department recently.

Dr. Chamblee was born September 7, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. V. T. Chamblee now of Red Oak in Nash County. He attended Wake Forest College and Emory University at Atlanta where he was a member of the Phi Rho Sigma, medical fraternity at both institutions. He received his M. D. degree at Emory after which he interned at the Grady Hospital in Atlanta. Later he took public health field training with the Martin County health department at Williamston, the district health department at Chapel Hill. He took a post graduate course in public health at the University of North Carolina, and comes to the health department here from a short period with the state board of health.

Dr. Chamblee is a Baptist and single. He is making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Nat Credle, Jr., at Swan Quarter.

### BAD ROADS CAUSE MEET BE POSTPONED

Because of inclement weather and impassable roads in the section the chamber of commerce meeting scheduled to have been held at Engelhard Monday night was postponed. President E. A. Williams stated that the meeting to which citizens from Tyrrell and Dare counties had been invited to hear a speech by S. Wade Marr of Elizabeth City would be held at a later date.

### POTATO TRAIN TO COME TO SECTION

An Irish potato train is scheduled to appear in Columbia and in Belhaven in this section the week of February 12, it has been announced by L. P. Watson, extension horticulturist of N. C. State College. It will be a traveling exhibit to demonstrate proper methods of marketing Irish potatoes, and is part of a campaign to stimulate interest among growers in grading, and in improved methods of handling, packing and shipping potatoes.

### COUNTY TO HAVE INSPECTIONS FOR WAGE-HOUR LAWS

#### Inspectors Appointed to Make Systematic Checks; This County in First District

Periodic inspections of any and all manufacturing plants in this county will be made beginning with January 15, it was reported last week by Forest H. Shuford, state commissioner of labor.

Shuford pointed out that enforcement of Federal wage-hour law as well as the state labor laws have been limited almost entirely to investigation of complaints. However, with the appointment last week of 17 state inspectors, Mr. Shuford pointed out that he inspectors will make a systematic inspection of each manufacturing plant in the state to determine whether the act is being enforced, whether or not complaints have been received. He also appeals for full cooperation from both employers and employees.

The counties of Dare, Hyde and Tyrrell are included in the first district with headquarters at Greenville. John R. Bulla is senior inspector for the district and Herbert Lee Holden, Jr., junior inspector. Other counties in the first district are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Washington and Wilson.

### FUNERAL RITES HELD FRIDAY FOR MRS. HART

#### Special Coroner Appointed by Clerk of Court Reports Death by Suicide

J. C. McClees, appointed special coroner by Clerk of Court George W. Jones to investigate the death of Mrs. Emma Davenport Hart, 59, Thursday afternoon of last week, Monday filed his report "that he did not find any evidence of foul play and that from all circumstances she took her own life at her own will." Mrs. Hart was found in the smokehouse at the home of her son, H. T. Davenport, with whom she had made her home for the past few months. A light cord was around her neck by which she was suspended.

Mrs. Hart was a native of Tyrrell County and until recently had lived for several years in St. Petersburg, Fla. She had been in ill health for several years, which fact was thought to have contributed to the motive for her act.

Funeral services were conducted from the home of her son Friday by the Rev. A. C. Thompson, the Rev. A. L. Chaplin, both of Columbia, and the Rev. G. A. Martin of Creswell. Interment was in the family cemetery near Creswell.

Surviving are her son, H. T. Davenport, a brother, D. E. Woodley of St. Petersburg, Fla., two sisters, Mrs. Ida Bateman, also of St. Petersburg, and Mrs. R. D. Blount of Roper.

Active pallbearers were W. H. McClees, B. R. Cohoon, C. Earl Cohoon, E. P. Cohoon, Jr., J. C. McClees and Ed Swain, the latter of Creswell.

### BUSINESS CENSUS IN TYRRELL ABOUT ENDED

#### Census Taker Allen Says People Have Been Surprisingly Cooperative

The business census in Tyrrell County has been virtually completed except for the lumber mills for which blanks have not yet been received, it was reported in Columbia Monday by D. D. Allen of Plymouth, who has charge of the business census in Tyrrell and Washington counties.

"The people in Tyrrell County have cooperated surprisingly well," Mr. Allen observed, "in giving the information required."

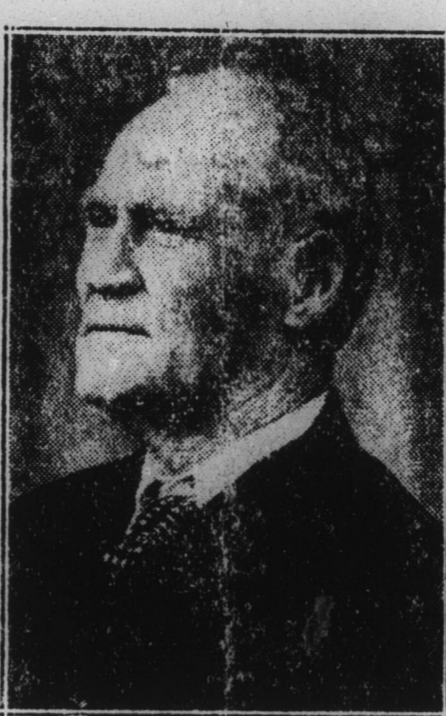
Mr. Allen has still to take the business census in Washington County, having started in Tyrrell first.

### METHODISTS HOLD CONFERENCE SUNDAY

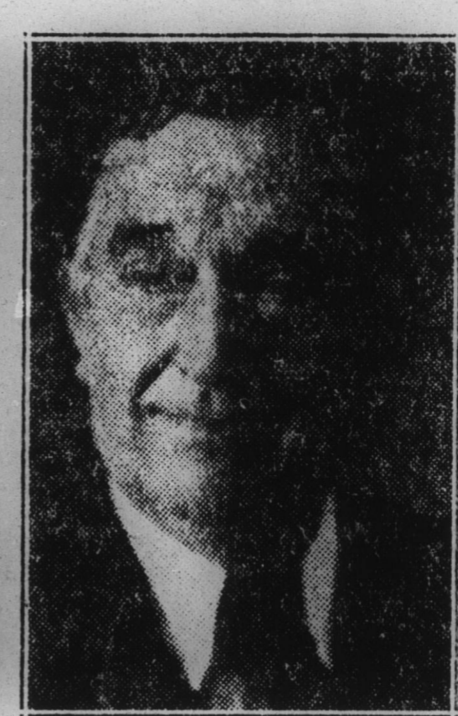
B. B. Slaughter of Elizabeth City, district superintendent, conducted the first quarterly conference at the Wesley Memorial Methodist church in Columbia Sunday night. While here Mr. Slaughter was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Crutchfield and Billy, visited Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McCullers in Edenton Sunday.

### SAYS SUIT QUALIFIES HIM FOR GOVERNORSHIP



CAPT. THOS. P. MIDGETT, who will be 84 September next, announced this week he will run for Governor of North Carolina, following service of notice of a suit brought against him by his neighbor, D. L. Russell, who says Capt. Midgett took his wife away from him, and wants \$20,000 for it.



ATTORNEY D. L. RUSSELL, unannounced candidate for Representative of Dare County, who this week filed suit against Capt. Midgett. Mr. Russell is well-known throughout North Carolina for his distinguished legal career and his oratorical ability.

### SUED AT AGE OF 83 FOR ALIENATING AFFECTIONS OF HIS NEIGHBOR'S WIFE

#### Capt. Thos. P. Midgett Declares He Will Run For Governor Upon Being Served With Notice by Attorney D. L. Russell, Alleging That Aged Man Destroyed Wife's Love and Affection

Capt. Thos. P. Midgett, who will be 84 years old September next, was sued this week for \$20,000 by his former friend Attorney D. L. Russell of Manteo. Mr. Russell alleges Capt. Midgett destroyed his friendship and confidence, won the affections of Mrs. Russell, to whom he had been married only a short time, and caused her to put him out of the home they shared.

Mr. Russell demands \$10,000 actual damages, and \$10,000 punitive damages, which means that he would have the aged man jailed unless he can take the involuntary debtor's oath.

To be sure of tying up the assets of Capt. Midgett until the suit is settled, Mr. Russell has filed a lis pendens, which has the effect of stopping Capt. Midgett from giving title to any of his valuable real estate he is now offering for sale.

Mr. Russell, who came to Manteo from Hickory some six years ago, and who is known throughout the state as an attorney of long standing, is 20 years younger than Capt. Midgett. Upon coming to Dare County, he developed a fast friendship with Capt. Midgett, and the latter supported Mr. Russell strongly when he ran for the legislature in 1938, and aided him in building up a law practice. Since coming to Manteo, Mr. Russell obtained a divorce in Dare County from his wife who is an invalid in the State hospital at Morganton, and took to wife Mrs. Flossie Q. Price of Hickory, a charming middle-aged divorcee.

Mr. Russell brought to Manteo his wife, and established a home, where Capt. Midgett, so rumor has it, was always a frequent and welcome visitor. Shortly thereafter came to live with the Russells, Mrs. Russell's beautiful young daughter Mildred estranged from her second husband, one Smith, whom she soon sued for divorce, and with Capt. Midgett's attentions increasing in frequency, at the Russell home, rumor again insisted that Capt. Midgett was getting her a divorce in order that she might comfort him. The charming young woman acted as nurse and friend of Capt. Midgett, and despite the discouragement offered by relatives and friends, he remained faithful. Relatives had the temerity to say the old man was being led for his money, but Capt. Midgett said it was his money and he had a right to do as he pleased about it.

Sometime last year, Mr. Russell removed from home, and took up his lodgings down town. Word went the rounds that he had a row with his wife, and separated. Now and then he would take a friend in his confidence, and tell them his troubles. Many a doubting eyebrow was raised at the reports of Capt. Midgett's progress, particularly by all men of 40 years old or more, but Mr. Russell would aver that he believed Capt. Midgett was

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## TYRRELL FARMERS ARE OFFERED CONTRACTS TO GROW TOMATOES IN 1940

### Meeting of Interested Farmers to Be Held at Columbia January 27 at Which Response Will Determine If Canning Plant as Well as Green Pack Plant Will Be Located in Columbia

### COLUMBIA'S MAYOR IS A PRACTICAL CITIZEN



W. M. Laughinghouse, the mayor of Columbia, has long been associated with farming interests, having studied agriculture at the old A. and M. College, now State College, at Raleigh in 1911, '12 and '13. After leaving college he accepted a job as superintendent of a large farm for a lumber company and a few years later came to Tyrrell County as county farm agent. During the two years that he was county agent he advised in his work a living at home system of farming with corn crop and care of livestock. He also did much toward controlling hog cholera.

After two years as county agent he left Tyrrell County and worked at various times as farm superintendent for large farms, as field agent for the cotton association and later with them at Raleigh. For a while he kept a boarding house in New Bern, sold insurance and worked the ice cream trade.

In 1930 Mr. Laughinghouse returned to Columbia and set up a cafe which he has continued to operate. He says that since coming back to Tyrrell County he has kept in touch with the farmers and assisted them in their live stock problems. On two occasions during the interim he has helped stamp out hog cholera in the county. At present he is in charge of the hog cholera control work in the county. In May of last year he was elected mayor. "I have the town's interests at heart," he says, "and am doing the best I can for both the people and financial conditions of the town."

### LIST TAKING ABOUT COMPLETE, COLUMBIA

#### Only Remaining Appointments Are at Columbia; Face Penalty For Failure List

With only listing appointments remaining in the Town of Columbia, Clarence Chaplin, list taker for Columbia township, reported this week that listing of property was mostly completed in the township. Appointments have been held in all of the smaller divisions of the township with the percentage of listers ranging from about 50 per cent in one community to almost 100 per cent in another community in which only two persons failed to list.

Mr. Chaplin, not having taken the tax list last year was unable to compare the listing with that time when listing was in April instead of January as provided by the 1939 legislature. "It is the duty of the property owner to contact the list taker," he pointed out. "After we have arranged appointments in the various communities for the convenience of the public, those who fail to list at these times have to look us up at other communities or be faced with the penalty for failure to list," Mr. Chaplin said.

There have been very few complaints due to the change of the listing period, Mr. Chaplin reported.

Mr. Chaplin will be at Columbia January 23, 24, 29 and 31 for receiving the listings of those not able to be listed.

Walter S. Wolf of Newport News, Va., was a week end visitor in Columbia.

Farmers in Tyrrell County interested in contracting to grow tomatoes for green pack delivery to Columbia this summer and also for delivery for canning either to Columbia or Roper have been invited by A. L. Alexander of Columbia, representative of the Neuse Packing Corporation to meet in the agricultural building in Columbia at 2 o'clock Saturday, January 27.

The response at the meeting will determine whether a canning plant for handling ripe tomatoes will be established at Columbia this summer. In any event, however, contracts will be accepted for growing tomatoes to be delivered for green pack at Columbia this summer.

Carroll Crockett, manager of the packing company, will be at the meeting to explain the plan and the contract to farmers interested. A copy of the contracts examined here this week provides for the payment by the company for green tomatoes meeting the specifications for U. S. Number One grade on the following basis per basket, measuring 8 1/2 bushel: 35 per basket to June 25, 30 per basket to July 15, 25 per basket to July 15, and 20 per basket to July 20. Payment would be made each Saturday for tomatoes received prior to noon Friday of each preceding week or payment of cash at a 5% discount at the option of the grower. All ripe tomatoes received from the beginning of the season until August 20 and meeting specifications for standard pack will be paid for at 15 per basket.

The canning plant will be located at Columbia Mr. Alexander stated provided that as much as about 500 acres are contracted in Tyrrell County. In this event ripe tomatoes from some 250 acres in Washington County would be brought here for canning. The canning plant would employ from 50 to 75 persons, providing not only a source of income to tomato growers, but a weekly payroll in Columbia during the packing season. If enough acreage is not contracted to justify location of a canning plant in Columbia, farmers may still bring tomatoes here for green pack and may sell their ripe tomatoes at a plant to be operated at Roper.

Mr. Alexander said that he had raised an average of 11,000 baskets on 15 acres in Washington county where the soil conditions are similar to those in Tyrrell.

### CHOWAN SHERIFF ALLOWED \$50 FOR TRAVEL EXPENSE

#### Other Small Counties Not Only Ones to Complain About Low Salaries

Friends of the Sheriffs of Tyrrell and Hyde Counties are not the only ones complaining about low salaries paid the Sheriff. In Chowan County the other day the Edenton Herald says, the Commissioners finally took cognizance of the situation, and agreed to allow the Sheriff an additional \$50 a month for travel. The Sheriff draws a regular salary of \$200 a month. The county is the smallest in area in the state, and one of the most easily traveled.

The Sheriff is paid one-half of the back taxes he collects for the period between 1933 and 1936, and one-fourth of the 1937 and 1938 poll and personal property taxes.

The Commissioners agreeing after much discussion that the above was necessary, one wonders how in the world similar officers in larger counties with less pay manage to get along, what with bad roads and no help.

### METHODIST APPOINTMENTS ON COLUMBIA CHARGE

Preaching appointments on the Columbia charge of the Methodist church were announced this week by the Rev. A. C. Thompson, pastor as follows:

First Sunday at 11 and 7:30 at Cedar Grove at Gum Neck; second Sunday at 11 and 7:30 and fourth Sunday at 11 at Wesley Memorial at Columbia; third Sunday at 11 and 7:30 at Wesley Chapel at Alligator; and fourth Sunday at 3 and 7:30 at Holly Grove at Cross Landing.