

The Clayton Net

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NEW OFFICERS — Shown above are the newly-elected officers of the Junior Woman's club which has just been organized in Clayton. Seated left to right: Mrs. David Bell, recording secretary; Mrs. Eugene Forrester, treasurer; Mrs. C. H. Beddingfield, Jr., president; Mrs. D. G. Satterfield, fines collector. Standing are: Mrs. T. M. Freeman, corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. E. Lambert, assistant secretary; Mrs. Doug Bain, Jr., vice president; Mrs. Charles Barden, communication chairman. Over 40 young women have enrolled in the club. (News photo by Barden)

CLAYTON COMMENT CORNER

The Editor,
The Clayton News
Clayton, N. C.

Dear Sir:

You have outlined some of the main pros and cons about the Cotton Festival but there are several points which I think need to be brought out. The functions of the Merchants Association are very broad because the town is small. Thus it serves as a Merchants Bureau to try to improve merchant services and cooperation in town. Second, it serves as a credit bureau, offering protection to merchants against slow and non-payers and at the same time enabling them to take on with confidence new accounts whose credit standing is unknown to them but can be ascertained through the credit bureau. Third, it serves as a chamber of commerce, promoting the town to its own people and the outside world. In larger towns each of these functions is served by a separate organization and staff. It is impossible for one or two people to perform all these functions fully and effectively at one time.

Last year the Chamber of Commerce phase took precedence. It definitely established Clayton's reputation for an ability to do big things. Dallas Daily said at the Merchant's dinner that this aggressive cooperative spirit was one of the things new industries look for in seeking a place to settle.

I think it would be a mistake for the Merchants Association to undertake another Cotton Festival by itself. However, I believe that if a statewide financial support can be enlisted, which should be possible, then Clayton can continue to have the festival, with its benefits, but without the expense. If

(Continued on page two)

44 Charter Members Enrolled In New Club

A roll of 44 names was compiled of charter members of the newly-formed Junior Woman's club of Clayton. The group was formed at a meeting last Tuesday night.

The first regular meeting of the club will be held at the club house on February 28 at 8 p. m. with the executive board as hostesses. They will be Mesdames Charles Beddingfield, Jr., Douglas Bain, Jr., D. D. Bell, Edward Lambert, T. M. Freeman, Jr., E. N. Forrester, Charles Barden and David Satterfield. At this time Mrs. J. N. Jenrette, State Junior director, of Raleigh will install the officers of the club.

Charter members include: Mesdames Jesse Austin, Jr., Douglas Bain, Jr., Dwight M. Barbour, Joe Barbour, Swade E. Barbour, Jr., Charles Barden, Charles Beddingfield, Jr., D. D. Bell, Harry E. Brooks, Jr., James Cash, Nelson Coats, Everett Duncan, Cecil E. Ellis, Osborne Fields, E. N. Forrester, T. M. Freeman, Jr., Joe Gower, Shelton Hall, Swade Hardee, Raymond Hardee, Miss Mary

News Co-Owner "Citizen of Year"

Ralph E. Delano, co-publisher of The Clayton News, was named "Citizen of the Year" at the annual banquet of the Benson Chamber of Commerce last Friday night.

Delano, who with Bud Willson publishes the Benson Review and the News, has served as president of the Benson Chamber, as superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school, a lay speaker for the Raleigh District of the Methodist church, and is a member of the Benson Kiwanis club.

Since acquisition of the Clayton paper, Delano has served as editor of the Benson Review while Willson edits the Clayton paper.

Delano is a graduate of Colby college and was formerly editor of the Boothbay (Me.) Register.

Rose Harrison, Mesdames Billy Hinton, Jack Hoyle, H. E. Jones, Edward Lambert, John W. Lee, Gattis Lee, Leamon Lynch, John W. Mayo, W. R. O'Neal, Dayton Poole, Duane Poole, Milton Riddell, D. G. Satterfield, Lynwood Shehdan, Buck Smith, Cooper Starling, Sam B. Strickland, W. A. Sorrell, Miss Alice Sumrell, Mesdames Delma Wall, Jr., Frank Weeks, Harold Wheeler, W. Thurman Whitely.

Nabbed In Florida, Youth Is Returned On Break-in Count

A 19-year old Clayton youth, Donald Gene Callahan, has been charged with the January 13th breaking and entering of the bus station here. Police Chief Charles Allen said Callahan was arrested in St. Augustine, Fla., and was brought back here Monday after he waived extradition.

According to Chief Allen, the youth was suspected in the robbery and law enforcement agencies in the south, where Callahan was believed headed, were notified he was wanted here. St. Augustine police arrested Callahan late last week. Chief Allen and Deputy Sheriff J. T. Smith went to Florida to pick up the youth and returned here Monday.

Callahan is being held in the County jail in Smithfield in lieu of a \$1,000 bond. He has waived preliminary hearing in Clayton Recorder's Court and trial has been set for the February term of Superior Court.

Callahan is also being sought by the Army, Chief Allen said, on charges of being absent without leave.

Aiding Allen and Clayton police with solving the break in were agents of the State Bureau of Investigation and the Sheriff's department.

Clayton Is Named Site For N. C. - Va. Selection Of "Maid Of Cotton"

The N. C. Cotton Festival in Clayton has been officially sanctioned as the site of the beauty contest which will send the winner as representative of North Carolina and Virginia to the annual Maid of Cotton contest in Memphis.

That announcement was made in Biloxi, Miss., Tuesday by the National Cotton Council. Attending the meeting from Clayton were Paul Keller and Lawrence Cooper.

The Cotton Festival here will receive official sanction after a contract is signed, but the announcement from Biloxi makes the official signing only a formality. Thus the winner of the local title in the beauty contest will represent both North Carolina and Virginia as the endorsed entrant in the annual beauty pageant in Memphis.

The Cotton Festival, which has been underwritten by the Clayton Merchants and Credit association in the past, will also receive considerable financial support from outside sources, but the exact amount of the budget has yet to be announced. The North Carolina Cotton Promotion Committee, of which Keller is treasurer, has been invited to use the festival as a promotional program.

The festival itself was started here several years ago as a local trade-promotion device and grew into an event of state-wide notice. The beauty winner in 1954, Miss Bet Taylor, visited several states and Washington, D. C., on behalf

of the local organization. The winner of last year's event, Miss Pat Cowden, was sent to the Maid of Cotton contest in Memphis and won the coveted title.

New Financing
With the expansion of the event, many new expenses have been incurred. A dinner here this fall financed Miss Cowden's trip to New York and funds donated by North Carolina cotton factions and Norwich Mill Inc. made possible her attendance in Memphis. In seeking the sanction of the National Cotton Council, not only recognition for the local festival but also financial aid was sought.

Keller presented the petition to the Council while it was sitting in executive session in Biloxi, and he and Cooper told of the backing which North Carolina cotton interests would give the Clayton affair.

Additional financing is expected to result from the publication of a booklet on the festival, which will contain advertising from many sources.

Miss Minogue Named New Queen of Cotton

Miss Bobbie Minogue of Charlotte has been selected as the new Queen for Cotton, taking over the throne vacated when Miss Pat Cowden became the 1956 "Maid of Cotton."

The new queen was selected last Friday in Commissioner of Agriculture L. Y. Ballentine's office. Her name and that of Miss Ardis Messick of Washington, both runners-up in the September festival here, were placed in a hat with Ballentine drawing the winner.

Several Clayton residents attended.

Couldn't Agree — Both Found Guilty

Two motorists who had a minor accident and who couldn't agree on who was to blame appeared before Judge L. H. Champion in Recorder's Court here Monday and both were found guilty of violations of traffic laws.

The drivers, according to Highway Patrolman J. H. Sutt, who investigated the accident, were Miss Eleanor Pearl Newsome of Selma, Rt. 1, and Lt. Donald I. Kelly of Stallings Air Force Base in Kinston. The accident occurred Saturday at 6 p. m. at the intersection of highways 70 and 42, near the overhead bridge. Miss Newsome stopped in the highway before making a left turn and Kelly's vehicle struck the rear of Miss Newsome's car, Sutt said, with damage amounting to \$500 to Kelly's car and at least \$100 to Miss Newsome's car. No one was injured.

Patrolman Sutt indicted Kelly for following another vehicle too closely and charged Miss Newsome with failing to give proper hand signals. Both were found guilty in Recorder's Court and each was ordered to pay court costs.

Other cases included: Bobby Dan Atwood, Clayton, speeding, \$25 and costs. John H. Godwin, Middlesex, Rt. 1, speeding, \$10 and costs.

Francis J. Gallagher, Raleigh, passing on bill, costs.

James Gordon, Clayton Negro, driving after license revoked, six months on the roads suspended for 12 months on payment of a \$200 fine and costs.

March of Dimes Going "Over Top"

Clayton's March of Dimes will go over the top by the end of the week, Mrs. Bob Winston, local chairman, reported Tuesday. As of then, she said, \$950 had already been turned in and several areas had yet to be reported in.

Last year the March of Dimes raised about \$875, Mrs. Winston said, and although no goal had officially been set for the town this year, the solicitors had aimed at the \$1,000 mark which quite evidently will be reached now, she added.

A final report of the fund-raising drive will be made in next week's edition of the News, Mrs. Winston concluded.

Senior Play Delayed; To Be Given Thurs.

The senior class play at Clayton high school was postponed last week but it will be presented this Thursday night at 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

The three-act mystery comedy is entitled "Finders Creepers" and deals with a "murder" and the search for the purported murderer.

Police Arrest Nine

Nine arrests were made by the Clayton police department during the past week. Two drivers charged with careless and reckless driving and two charged with driving without licenses led the parade into the local pokey.

Other arrests included one each for driving after license revoked, assault, driving under the influence of an intoxicant, failure to yield the right of way and for breaking and entering.