

The Duplin Times

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1935

FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith." — Act. 11:24.

GOLDEN GLEAMS

Error of opinion may be tolerated, where reason is left free to combat it. — Jefferson.

Political prognosticators are now trying to tell us how the election next fall will come out. Looking ahead, whether right or wrong, is their stock in trade.

Now comes the news that the United States has a magic ray that will locate ships fifty miles off-shore. If we could find one that would locate jobs.

Two little boys played war, the other day, in a neighboring state and one of them was killed with daddy's pistol. This is a tragedy that could have been avoided.

Personally, and speaking for thousands of newspaper men, we welcome any scheme that holds out the hope that some day there will be a six hour, five-day work week.

Stamp collectors paid over a million dollars for imperforated and ungummed special issues. This ought to remove it from the fad class and put in the ranks of big business.

PROTECT OUR LAND

Wind or water erosion is given credit for the destruction of 51,465,097 acres of formerly good farming soil. The area is almost as large as the State of Kansas, although it is, of course, distributed more generally.

Federal authorities predict that a continuation of the present lack of attention to this situation will mean that our agricultural lands will continue to be lost to these natural forces, which have been aggravated by the methods we have adopted, cutting down our forests and unwise methods of agriculture.

THEY DIE EVERY HOUR

Three persons meet death on the highways of the United States every hour, according to the July 1st figures of the National Safety Council, showing that 15,030 lives were lost in motor vehicle casualties during the first six months of this year.

Encouraging, however, is the news that 18 States and some of our largest cities had substantial reductions in the death rate, North Dakota, with a 43 per cent. cut, led the States, with Rhode Island, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon and Utah also reporting large reductions.

EARNINGS OF THE R. F. C.

When the Reconstruction Corporation started making its loans, back in the days of the Hoover administration, there were many prophets who firmly declared that the loans would never be repaid. The Government, said these critics, would lose all its money eventually.

A recent report from Chairman Jesse H. Jones presents a better picture. During the fiscal year ending June 30th the R. F. C. made a profit of \$43,225,822. Money repaid the Corporation exceeded by \$119,062,819 the comparatively small disbursements. Assets and liabilities were around four and a half billion dollars.

Of course, the R. F. C. will lose money on some of its loans. Any agency handling the huge volume of money it did likewise experience some bad debts, especially when some of the loans were made with the idea of "saving" the banking, or insurance, or some other "situation."

Chairman Jones feels that the profits will in the long run make good any losses. "When this thing is settled up," he says, "in ten or fifteen years I think our earnings will offset our losses."

"HIS FORMER PRAISEWORTHY LIFE"

A few days ago neighbors in another state were amazed to discover the dead bodies of a man and his wife, both highly respected in the community in which they lived. Naturally, there was amazement and some curiosity as to what happened, although it was plain to officers that the man had killed the woman and then shot himself.

We are interested in the case mainly because the magistrate conducting the inquiry urged the coroner's jury to avoid the words "murder and suicide." He saw no reason to seek any motive and was anxious to "avoid the yellow sheets." While we find little reason to support his abhorrence of the words that naturally describe the tragedy, we can comment on another sentiment expressed by this official.

Calling attention to the fact that the men was "an outstanding citizen", and that the book of life was closed for him and his wife, the magistrate did not think that the officials "should consider a mistake made by a man for a few minutes that would affect his former praiseworthy life."

The world would probably be a much better place for us all if more of us were inclined to take such a charitable attitude in our judgment of others. Too often good people are inclined to hound and damn an individual for a single mistake, forgetting, in their self-righteousness, a life that, on the whole, has averaged up to a high attitude.

THE EARTH'S AGE

Scientific approximations of the age of the earth, the solar system, and the star galaxy are exceedingly interesting, although because based upon certain assumptions, there are wide differences.

Three principal methods are relied upon by these speculators. One estimates geologic time by sedimentation. Another relies upon radioactive disintegration. Another is based on changes in the temperature and elastic properties of the earth.

The age of the earth, according to Dr. Robley D. Evans, of the Mass. Institute of Technology, lies between 1,850 and 3,500 million years. The ages of twenty-three iron meteorites, which came to the ground, some from outside our solar system, ran up to 2,800 million years. These estimates are based on the radioactive "clock."

The geologists, measuring the sedimentation of great rivers during known periods and calculating how many years it required to build up land areas now existent, only venture to go back as far as the Cambrian period, which they say was about 570 million years ago. This coincides fairly nicely with the estimate of the same period according to the radioactive method.

Old Letter Tells Of Some Activities In Line Of Battle At Petersburg During War

LETTER

The following old letter was written by a Confederate soldier in line of battle during the Civil War. It was loaned to the TIMES by Miss Lula Hinson, of Kenansville, whose father was a Confederate officer and was Sheriff of Duplin County for many years. The comments, shown below, are by A. T. Oullaw, Register of Deeds, who is considered an authority on local history and genealogy. The letter is substantially as follows:

In Line of Battle - Petersburg, Va. August 27th, 1864

Dear Laura:

I take advantage of the present opportunity to drop you a few lines not that I have anything of interest or importance to communicate. My health is very good. I believe the heaviest duty suits by health best. After the fight of the 19th inst. we were ordered back to our position on the lines and our left resting on the Appomattox. There has not been anything to disturb our quiet except an occasional shell or minnie ball. On the 22nd the Yankees made a demonstration in our front and for some time we thought we were to have another bloody time of it but they did not come very near. There was a very severe battle on the Weldon R. R. on the 25th inst. We (A. P. Hill and 3 divisions) attacked the Yankees in their rear whipping them from their works and taking 2500 live Yanks and 9 pieces of artillery. Our loss was so small that it is not counted. They always shoot to high when we get in their rear. Our prisoners or those taken by us on the 19th, have been cut down to 2700. We took at least 4000 but the Yankees took them back and also our men who were guarding them. I would like to hear from you people occasionally. Why do not Bet and M. W. write? What has become of Robert? Tell him he owes me two letters. He must answer one at least before I write again. What is John Nick doing for a livelihood? What does he think of old Abe making peace with us? We dirty Rebels in the ditches would give a loud shout if it comes. I have to talk pretty sharp to some of the boys who are despairing, low spirited, etc. I would be a dull tool myself but for some of our Editors who have become so expert in lying that they are really encouraging, some of them at least. I have been in command of the Company for the last week. Lieut. Watson is sick at the hospital. Capt. Sam procured a sick furlough for 30 days. It is the shortest number of days that is ever given. I understand he intends to resign, etc. He got uncommonly friendly with me before he left for the hospital and we will try to do without him in the winter time if he will resign. We do not miss him during the fighting time. I must close. You must excuse my bad pen & c. My love to family. Write soon to your affectionate bro. H. V. Houston.

P. S. I understand you have a sweetheart. He is rather too old so I object to him - the old Captain. Don't you really think him too gray?

COMMENTS: Hiram VanBuren Houston, writer of the foregoing letter, was a Lieutenant in Company C of the 51st N. C. Regiment. He was a brother of Captain William J. Houston who was a brilliant Lawyer, Legislator and Solicitor, and who lost his life in battle near Ashby's Gap in Virginia during the War. Laura Francenia Houston, to whom the letter was written, was later the wife of William Thomas Oates. She died about 1910. Hiram VanB. Houston died about 1906. Bet and M. W., referred to in the letter, were his sisters Catherine Elizabeth, wife of John Nicholas Stallings, and Mary White, wife of Geo. Washington Carroll Stallings, later known as Doctor Stallings, was a prominent

Lawyer of Duplin County for many years and later an outstanding Baptist Minister of the State. Robert, referred to, was his brother Robert Bruce Houston who was also a Confederate soldier, and married Alice Larkins of Wilmington. Their daughter, Alice Irene, married James Ellis Abe, referred to, was Abraham Lincoln. Lieutenant Watson, referred to, was E. L. Watson who was later promoted to Captain. Captain Sam, referred to, was Captain Samuel M. Stanford who was a brother of John Dickson Stanford, a prominent Lawyer, Legislator and minister for many years. He resigned his Captaincy, as mentioned in the letter. There are portraits of the said Capt. William J. Houston and Dr. Jno Nicholas Stallings in Duplin Courtroom.

CONSCIENCE

By DR. ZENO B. SPENCE
 Goldsboro, N. C.

All aboard! To begin with, we are still talking about alcoholic drinks. Last week we told you to pack up and be ready, that we would sail out into the great spaces on the ship of imagination.

Can you imagine? I can, and even now imagine myself staring out towards the great open spaces in that infinite distance where hidden secrets, yet to be discovered, lurk in that great body of luminiferous ether. I can almost feel the pounding of the rays and waves as they shower down about me. Rays traveling at 186,000 miles per second, showering down, pounding the beautiful flowers, the grass, trees and the very book I am holding in my hands. They are instantly reflected or thrown bounding back and a portion entering my eyes with tremendous force strike against the retina or back part of the interior of my eyes, causing a sensation which being transmitted to the brain by optic nerves produces that wonderful thing we call light. I open my eyes and see the green, but it is actually blue. I wonder about. What a Great God we have to permit us to see, hear, taste, smell, feel, think. To give us everything to make us happy and what a non-appreciative people to be so unthankful. How many of us actually trample on the goodness and destroy the very gifts that he has given us. Well step right aboard, for we are going to sail shortly, right out and away where there is much to learn. Don't miss an issue of this paper. TUNE IN NEXT WEEK, let your conscience be your guide.

TOBACCO IS SELLING HIGH AT Crutchfield Warehouse

WHITEVILLE, N. C.

First Sales Next Week

Monday	Aug. 19
Wednesday	Aug. 21
Friday	Aug. 23

Taylor - Matthews - Crutchfield

PROPS.

"Try Us"

LAST WEEK... ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

the Whiteville Market proved to be a veritable gold mine to the tobacco growers of Eastern North and South Carolina. Its six warehouses paid out money at the rate of.....

\$309.00 PER MINUTE

to the tobacco growers who sold on this market these two days.

The greater majority of the tobacco sold on this market was tobacco of the common or medium types. However, with these first offerings warehouses averaged as high as \$26.04 per hundred pounds for their entire sale. That is why everyone calls Whiteville—"THE MONEY MARKET."

Buying competition is keen. Prompt courteous service awaits you in Whiteville. With six warehouses and three sets of buyers you are assured of a speedy sale.

Bring It to **Whiteville**
 More Dollars For Your Tobacco

WOOD

Funeral Service

DAY PHONE 46

NIGHT PHONE 578 and 208

Ambulance

KINSTON, N. C.