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Eight Pages This Week

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County's Tobacco Income Off \$722,000 For Year

Hillsboro—Efforts to increase Orange County's farm income during the past year by diversification were more than offset by heavy losses from heat and drought.

Tobacco, the county's major money crop, will bring farmers approximately \$2,598,000, or \$722,000 less than last year's crop. This reduction was laid solely at the door of the severe heat and drought of last July, which reduced the crop's weight by 200,000 lbs. and sent the quality down to the extent that this year's price average was only 50c compared to the 54c average of last year.

These were among the facts presented to the Board of County Commissioners Monday in the summary of 1952 agricultural activities in Orange County by County Agents Don S. Matheson and E. P. Barnes.

In addition to financial losses, the County Agents said the expense involved in producing this year's crop was at an all time high.

Several bright spots were noted in the farmers' financial picture, however.

Black shank disease which caused \$100,000 loss to last year's crop did very little damage this year because farmers rotated their tobacco crop with corn, and used resistant varieties. The most important factor in this seemed to be the rotation in addition to the use of resistant varieties, since the use of resistant varieties alone previously had not solved the problem.

Over \$100,000 extra income was added as result of the Rural Progress Program. Most of the families which reached their \$1,000 extra income goal did so by adding livestock and poultry to their farm enterprise.

Beef cattle production increased over 53 percent and poultrymen increased their flocks by 14 percent. There are now 1,350 head of beef cattle and 140,000 laying hens in the county. Income from the latter is \$370,000. Dairying grossed about \$750,000, or slightly more than last year.

The corn crop was damaged by 10 percent and the average yield per acre dropped from 34 bushels to 17. The seriousness of this was emphasized when it was noted that over \$700,000 was spent by Orange County farmers for livestock and poultry feed last year.

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Engineer's Error Costs County Additional \$1,206

Hillsboro—A change order providing for an additional payment of \$1,206.33 to the contractor on the new Efland Negro School project was approved by the Board of Education this week to compensate him for additional labor and materials required above the original contract because of an error on the part of the architect's engineer.

An error by Hunter Jones, civil engineer employed by Architect Archie R. Davis, in preparing the contour map had placed the level of ground in the plans higher than it actually was. As result more brick, other materials and labor had to be used than was anticipated. The board felt it was a moral obligation to reimburse the contractor who had entered the bid in good faith on the basis of the specifications furnished.

Santa Arrives Monday Night

Hillsboro opens the Christmas shopping season Monday night at 7 o'clock with the arrival of Santa Claus, who will turn on the lights of the community tree on the courthouse lawn.

The high school band will precede the colorful old man to the business district where stores will remain open until 9 o'clock.

Colorful plastic decorations recently purchased by the merchants for two entrances to the business section will also be turned on at that time.

TOBACCO MEETING

Hillsboro—All tobacco farmers are invited to attend a meeting at Aycock School Building, Cedar Grove, on Wednesday night, December 10th, 7:30 o'clock.

Don Matheson, County Farm Agent, has arranged for Harold Nau, State College Specialist, an H. R. Garris, State College Entomologist, to bring the latest information on tobacco experiments, disease resistant varieties, nematode control, and other interesting tobacco facts.

To Leave County



Robert L. Mohler, soil conservationist in Orange County since 1939, has accepted a similar position in Beaufort County, Eastern North Carolina, and will soon move to that locality. A successor has not been named. Active in civic and community affairs, Mohler is currently president of the Hillsboro Lions Club and Orange County Director of Civil Defense. He and Mrs. Mohler plan to retain their farm in the Schley Community.

All-time High Reported In Soil Conservation Work

With the year's end still weeks away, 1952 has already rung the bell as a banner year in soil conservation in Orange County. R. L. Mohler, work unit conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, reports.

As of November 30, a total of 88 new cooperators representing 10,425 acres had joined the soil conservation district program during 1952, as compared with 40 farmers and 1,167 acres in 1951.

By December 31 at the present rate, Mohler estimated that 115 farmers, representing 11,500 acres, will have started conservation farming in the district program—an all-time high.

One of the factors in the increased number of district cooperators has been the new system of progressive planning, set up in the Neuse River Soil Conservation district, with the approval of the board of supervisors of which H. S. Hogan is chairman.

This new system enables a farmer to start the initial phase of a soil conservation district program immediately with one or two practices and go on from there to the advanced stage and finally the basic stage of farm planning in which a soil and water conservation program is developed for his entire farm.

Another factor which is expected to have an increasing effect in speeding up conservation work on the land is the recent realignment of SCS personnel. The former district conservationists have been replaced by a smaller number of area conservationists with supervision over a larger territory, thus making it possible to have additional personnel for technical on-site assistance to farmers on the land.

GROUND OBSERVERS MEET
The volunteer Ground Observer Corps will have its first meeting Wednesday night, December 10, at 7:30. The meeting will be at the courthouse if the courtroom is available, otherwise it will be in the Highway Patrol Office.

Walter G. Wrenn, who is in charge of the local group, urges every member to be present for this most important meeting.

Board Adopts '15 Percent' List Rule; Gets 5-Man Plan

Hillsboro—County Commissioner Sim L. Efland tossed out a proposal that the county's Board of Commissioners be increased to five members by the next General Assembly, as the new administration organized Monday for the next biennium.

Efland thus voiced a proposal and set up machinery for a showdown on an idea widely current during the primary last Spring, but which had not been mentioned in official circles lately.

The idea was proposed for the agenda of next month's meeting when the Commissioners will confer with this county's representatives in the General Assembly and suggest such local bills as they think are needed.

Efland's proposal was for a five-man board with four year staggered terms and a maximum of two full terms or eight years service allowed consecutively. Under the proposal, two would be elected one biennium and three the next and not more than one member could come from a single township.

Reaction of the other two members of the board appeared to be generally favorable but there were differences of opinion as to detail. Both Commissioners Hobbs and Forrest appeared to oppose the two term limitation and the limit of one per township features of the Efland proposal.

Forrest stressed the point that the board desired to get the people's reaction to the proposal.

Efland emphasized he meant no criticism of past commissioners in proposing the board be increased. He backed the new plan on three main grounds: because of the increased population of the county; higher property valuations, which are next year expected to reach a total of \$50,000,000; and for better representation of the total population on the board. He noted that two-thirds of the residents of Orange County now live outside incorporated towns.

COURT NEXT WEEK

Hillsboro—Thirty two drunken driving cases and 51 other charges, including one for murder, have been docketed for trial at a term of Superior Court to be held here next week.

Judge William I. Halstead, a special judge, will be on the bench.

New Home Agent



Miss Ruth Thompson, a native of Surry County, became the new County Home Demonstration Agent December 1. She received her B.S. in Home Economics at W.C.U.N.C. and was assistant Home Demonstration Agent in Wilkes County for over 3 years. She has also had experience as a hospital dietitian and as a home economics teacher.

Farmers Electing Soil Official

Voting is being conducted in Orange County all this week, Dec. 1-6, for the selection of one Soil Conservation Supervisor for the County in the Neuse River District.

James Compton, Cedar Grove, whose term expires Dec. 31, has been nominated to succeed himself, and the other candidate is Claud Gray, of the Caldwell Community. Election will be for three years.

Ballot boxes have been placed at the following places:

The PMA Office, Farmers Exchange, Hillsboro and Carrboro, Lewis Allen's Filling Station, Giles Long's Store, and Hawkins-Wilkinson's Store.

Hold-over members of the Committee of Orange County are Henry Hogan and Charlie Stanford.

Presbyterian Officers Meet To Decide Action On Request For Resignation

Chapel Hill—Deacons and elders of the Presbyterian Church were scheduled to meet last night to decide on what action to take on the request of a Presbyterian Judicial Commission that they resign.

The pastor, the Rev. Charles M. Jones, and the church's nine elders and 13 deacons have been asked to resign by a Judicial Commission of the Orange Presbytery which has been investigating the church for the past six months.

The Rev. Mr. Jones, now on a year's leave to do social work, has said he "declined" to comply with the commission's request that he quit.

The commission has refused to say what action it will take in the event the elders and deacons follow the Rev. Mr. Jones and decline to offer their resignations. In a lengthy investigation report revealed last Sunday, the commission asked for the resignations within a week.

In Greensboro, the Rev. Z. T.

Piephoff, chairman of the Commission, said "the commission has no information to divulge at this time."

Indicating that he felt the commission's work would not be complete until it reports to the Presbytery, the Rev. Mr. Piephoff added "We're sorry that the group down there (the Chapel Hill church officers) has seen fit to let it get out and get so much publicity."

At least three of the officers have said that they will carry their fight to the Presbytery by declining to resign.

However, all are agreed that whatever action is taken will be taken en masse.

In the 6,000-word report on its investigation the Commission indicated that the Chapel Hill Church has become too progressive to remain in the Presbyterian column. It said the church has put "Christianity" before "Presbyterianism."

By doing this, the Commission Continued On Page 8

Cobb, Retiring From County Board, Gets Official Praise For Leadership

Hillsboro—Collier Cobb Jr. this week left the Board of County Commissioners of which he had served for 14 consecutive years, amid the plaudits of his colleagues in the county government and an expression of appreciation for his service and leadership from the new board.

Chairman for the past 10 years and architect of some of the most important developments in the county's history, including the recent school improvement program, Cobb missed only three meetings during his seven term tenure.

Appearing briefly before the new board Monday to pay his final respects, he said:

"I'm especially happy over the progress we've made in our schools program since I've been on the board," he declared. "I'm also glad to have our new courthouse started, and I feel our county finances are in good business hands. I hope that when each of you has served 14 years on this board you'll have the same feeling of satisfaction that I have today."

Shortly before Cobb's arrival at the meeting, the new board passed a resolution of appreciation for his services, noting his "able and faithful and cooperative service and leadership to the county during his terms in office."

Upon motion of Commissioner S. L. Efland, and duly seconded by Commissioner R. J. M. Hobbs, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, Collier Cobb, Jr. was elected to the Board of Commissioners at the general election held in 1938 and has served seven full terms as such official, having been Chairman of the Board from December, 1942 until December, 1952; and,

"WHEREAS, he has during the years given freely and unselfishly to the duties of his office and has rendered intelligent and efficient service to his County; and,

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Gross Inequities In Property Values Led Commissioners To Select Firm To Do Revaluation Job

The Board of Commissioners realizes that the taxpayers of Orange County have many questions relating to the contract which the Board recently executed with the J. M. Clemenshaw Company for the revaluation of all real property in the county. In view of this interest shown by the people, the County Commissioners wish to explain their reasons for taking such action.

The last revaluation of real property in the county was held in 1947. The cost of the job done then was very small in comparison with the contract recently negotiated. Also, very little time was devoted to making the last revaluation. The work done in 1947 was good in view of the short period of time in which it was accomplished. The Board plans for the new reassessment to be more thorough, accurate, and equitable than anything ever done in this county in prior years.

Much study was made on the subject of revaluations before the commissioners decided to proceed with the method selected. Numerous people were consulted on the matter. Certain members of the Board visited various counties where the J. M. Clemenshaw Company had recently completed revaluations. Some of these counties were larger than Orange County while several were smaller. County officials of these counties expressed complete satisfaction with the work done by the appraisal company. Some citizens of Orange County familiar with revaluation procedure were consulted. After a study of the facts involved, they recommended that the Board employ an appraisal concern for the task. These citizens and the commissioners felt that if a thorough job was done by local people in attempting to do this work, that the cost would be almost as much as that charged by

an appraisal company. In view of this, it was agreed that the county should employ a company trained in the business of appraising property.

The Board of Commissioners is aware of many inequities in property values at present on the county tax books. The general rule is that most property is at present assessed from 30 percent to 40 percent of its current market value. Recently, however, it has been observed that property in some parts of the county has sold in excess of twenty times its assessed valuation. The revaluation program will eliminate such gross inequities. Many taxpayers whose property is now assessed equitably with comparable properties will pay no higher taxes after the reassessment is completed.

The contract recently executed by the County Commissioners requires that the appraisal company send competent persons to each

and every parcel of real property in the county. Very precise information will be secured about the property. For instance, every residence in the county will be graded, measured and appraised. The number of square feet in every residence will be the primary basis for the appraisal. Depreciation, heating, plumbing, type of construction and many other factors will be taken into consideration in arriving at the appraisal. The commissioners feel that such detailed information is necessary for a fair valuation. It is obvious that a trained person is required to perform such thorough work. The Board found that it would be impossible to employ competent local people for such work for the length of time needed to complete the project.

The county has found it increasingly difficult each year to get new property appraised equitably with existing values on other properties.

To solve this problem the company is required by the executed contract to train county employees sufficiently to appraise new property each year in the future. In using this method the Commissioners hope to eliminate the need for a similar revaluation for an extended length of time.

It has been stated that this company does not know land values in Orange County. The representatives of the concern readily agree that their knowledge on this subject is very limited. They are required, however, by the terms of the contract to make a thorough study of land values before appraising any property. They will consult many local people such as bankers, realtors, farmers and others in making this study. The Commissioners will also appoint an advisory committee that will work closely with the company representatives in determining base land values.

Hillsboro—The Board of County Commissioners, meeting Monday for the first session of its new term, approved the "15 Percent" system of tax listing for urban and suburban residents while increasing the limitation of property owners coming under the system from two to three acres.

After taking the oath of office from Clerk of Court Edwin M. Lynch, the board retired to privacy in the office vault and elected R. O. Forrest chairman for the new term. R. J. M. Hobbs is the new member and Sim L. Efland begins his second term.

In short order after going into open session, they reappointed all of the county officials under their jurisdiction, as follows: Recorder's Court Judge L. J. Phipps; Court Solicitor John Q. LeGrand; County Accountant Ira L. Ward; and the tax listers for the County's seven townships, L. R. Cheek, Chapel Hill; Henry Heath, Cheeks; R. J. Smith Jr., Hillsboro; Mrs. J. D. Griffin, Eno; R. C. Compton, Cedar Grove; A. E. Wilson, Little River; and J. C. Lloyd, Bingham.

The tax listing plan which the commissioners adopted was used here last year for the first time. Under it, a property owner with two acres of land or less had his household and kitchen furniture listed at a flat 15 percent of the real property valuation. This year, Commissioner Hobbs proposed that the land area be increased to three acres to conform to the State's policy in designating farm land.

For those who rent their homes unfurnished, the listing for household and kitchen furniture is a flat 10 times the monthly rent.

Tax Supervisor Ira Ward told the board the system had resulted in "more equity" among taxpayers of the county and had been adopted last year on the basis of experience in other counties, the recommendations of tax experts, and because of "the tendency of many persons to list too conservatively." He said many people apparently had decided they would not list over the \$300 exemption before they ever began to list.

Under the system approved, refrigerators and water heaters are included under the allowable for household and kitchen furniture, but a number of other items described in the "luxury" class are excluded and must be listed separately.

These items include: sterling silver, fine rugs and draperies, books, clocks, sewing machines, medical and scientific libraries and equipment, shooting irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, deep freezers, radios, television sets, diamonds and jewelry, dish washers, ironers and garbage disposal units.

In other actions, the board voted to let a contract to Electric Construction Company of Chapel Hill for re-wiring the old courthouse on a bid of \$947.00. Second bidder was Hillsboro Electrical Construction Company with a bid of \$1,503.20.

Among several other matters of business taken up by the board were:

County employees were given holidays for Dec. 25, 26, 28, and Jan. 1.

Possible measures to be presented to the General Assembly were discussed, including the increased board membership, the county dog program, and increased fees for the Register of Deeds office.

PMA Nominating Meetings To Be Held Next Week

Nominating meetings for the Orange County P.M.A. community committee candidates will be held December 8, 9, and 10.

The nominating meetings will be held at Compton's Store in the Carr community December 8 at 7 o'clock, St. Mary's Grange Hall in the St. Mary's Community at 7:30, W. M. Snipes Store in the Orange Grove Community at 7, Hollow Rock Service Station in the New Hope Community at 7, at Robert Murray's Store in the Caldwell Community at 8 o'clock, and at G. M. Long's store in the Cedar Grove Community at 8 o'clock.

On December 9, meetings will be held at Bill Dorsetts Store in the Efland Community at 7 o'clock, the Grange Hall in the White Cross community at 7:30 o'clock and at the P.M.A. Office in Hillsboro at 3 o'clock. The tenth community meeting will be at the Farmers Mutual Exchange in Carrboro on December 10.



HIBERNATION... "I shall hibernate", says Gov. W. Kerr in his 28-page "Report to the people" issued last week and now sent to special friends and agencies throughout North Caro-

reference to non-hibernation taken in these parts to mean Scott will be a candidate for U. S. Senate against Willis in 1954.

PERKING... Nothing can be intelligent and alert as a Tennessee mule on a March when he sees someone coming a bride.

heads about the State were their ears like a Tennessee mule on a March day last week rumbling rolling out of home, for yet a few days William B. Umstead. Some of swore he had a bridle on. Others just swore.

URPRISE?... And so, in a week political news was supposed to be pretty thin, foundations for events, real surprises, may have been taking real form in the mind of Mr. Umstead. A quiet, off-the-cuff statement some little bits of conversation picked up since November led to the belief in some quarters that he does not plan to use his liberal tendencies just because he is moving into the governor's office.

Despite all you have heard, to the contrary, Umstead as Congressman was among the most liberal in Washington. As a U. S. Senator, he was not quite so much so and was there the emphasis was placed when he ran for governor.

POSITIVE APPROACH... Umstead isn't going to have much to do on, Gov. W. Kerr Scott has to that, but Bill Umstead isn't going for deficits. He is definitely accentuating the positive; and his worrying some of the boys, heard last week. Elimination of the negative can mean an increase in taxes.

man has a corner on pushing North Carolina forward. It still hangs down near the bottom of national barrel in so many ways. This doesn't sit well with Umstead; and our hunch is based on little statements and you — is that he is planning to do something about it.

We gathered during his campaign that he is not for new taxes less the people want them... and that definite progress can be made within the framework of our present schedule.

A lot of people seem to think the only thing you have to do to make progress is to raise taxes and that progress automatically flows as night the day. Well, it doesn't necessarily so. Know a man a year or so ago had a good business in a little hole-in-the-wall restaurant. He converted it into one of the all-glass, slanted-wall, and open-garden things. Now he is going, irrevocably it seems, toward bankruptcy.

Or to quote the late Tom Bost, noting the late Fats Waller, "one never know, do one?"

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ASSOCIATION MOVES

The Orange County Building and Loan Association moved into new offices in the building that it bought a few months ago from Ray Barham. The building is located on West Franklin Street.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

There will be a Christmas music program at the Efland Methodist Church, Sunday evening, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. This service is sponsored by the Choir, under the direction of Mesdames M. P. Efland, Jr. and Joe N. Howard.

CATHOLIC DINNER

The Annual Catholic Parish Christmas Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 11, in the northeast dining room of Lenox Hall. Tickets, at \$1.50 per plate, may be obtained from any member of the Women's Guild or after each service on the two Sundays preceding the dinner. Tickets must be obtained in advance.