

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

THE HOKE COUNTY JOURNAL

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RAEFORD, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1931.

\$1.50 YEAR, IN ADVANCE

LOCAL OFFICERS CHASE CONVICTS

Escaping Prisoners Steal Car Then Desert It Taking Keys—Give Themselves Up After Afternoon Nap in the Wilderness.

Two whimsical escaped convicts born from their fear for their lives and amusement at the queerness of their situation, led Hoke County officers and citizens a merry chase over the lower part of the county Monday and finally after many amusing incidents stepped calmly out of the bushes and gave themselves up to the mercy of the law, late Monday afternoon. The two men were Edward King and John C. Willard, both convicted of larceny, and sentenced to from five to seven years in the State Prison. They had recently been sent to the work camp near Lumber Bridge and had been serving there for some time.

Sunday night these two convicts made good their escape from the prison camp and were lost in the swampy fastnesses in the southern part of Hoke County. Pursuit was attempted by the guards but the chase was in vain and the convicts made good their escape.

Then entered into the story, the pressing need for firewood by some unidentified citizens of that section. For some time Mr. John McGougan had been noticing that some of the finest young pines were falling victim to unlawful axes and had decided to take definite steps to prevent this depredation. Together with Sheriff Barrington, Mr. McGougan journeyed to his farm, near Dundarrach, on Monday morning, armed with posted signs and a desire to prevent further loss in his forest. The two men went down into the woods, looking for signs of illegal wood gathering and found it in abundance. This must have been the first time that the two escaped convicts lay low and watched the citizens of the county in the process of establishing law and order. The deduction is pretty sure for before the pair of investigators had traveled far into the woods they were arrested by the sound of a starting motor. While they had only been expecting ordinary wagons in the vicinity of the wood, their suspicions were justified and more; here they believed was a real racket—they were using trucks to carry off the wood from posted land. That this was not true however was revealed a few minutes later when upon returning to the place where they had left their car they found that it had disappeared. And so the chase began.

Procuring a car and two helpers, Mr. McGougan and Sheriff Barrington started in hot pursuit of the convict car. The chase led them to the lower end of the county where the lower end of the county where Hoke on the highway to Laurinburg. On the old detour which was used when the present new bridge was constructed, near a wooden bridge over the river, the searchers came upon the abandoned car of Mr. McGougan. In the broom straw near by on the edge of a bay the convicts again lay and watched the agents of the law. They were soon routed out by Sheriff Barrington however and took to hurried flight, through swamp and broomstraw in a general northeasterly direction. The reports from a pistol in capable hands gave wings to the feet of the outlawed couple and they at last lost themselves in the dense bay to the south of the paved highway.

Hurriedly notice was given in Wagram that the convicts were at large and guards were posted on the highway and getting away. Subsequently the two Raeford men returned to town and enlisted the aid of Sheriff Hodgins, Murphy How and several others. These returned to the vicinity of the chase station arriving at the Riverside State Station, just this side of the river bridge, found that the two men had given themselves up and were greedily stuffing themselves with the best food the filling station afforded, they having been without food for twenty-four hours.

The remainder of the story comes to us through the story of the convicts, who were agreeable and willing to talk. Both men escaped in their stripes and had been unable to obtain other clothes. They evaded

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BAD EGG AND GOOD CHARACTER

Rev. John R. Miller, Pastor of Baptist church, is Carrying With Him Around A Freak Egg, Laid By One of His Flock.

Rev. John R. Miller, pastor of the Baptist church, came to Raeford highly recommended and has, up until this week, lived up to the high character that was given him. Thursday, however, he was seen and heard up and down the streets of Raeford with an egg that made many of the wary hereabouts shake their heads in a pitiful sort of way as though a good brother had gone wrong. This egg, if you believe the preacher, was laid in his henhouse Wednesday night or early Thursday morning by either a Rhode Island Red or a Buff, with the suspicion resting most strongly on the reds, since they predominated.

The egg in question has a purple top with a light purple band around the center and another deep purple covering the rest of the egg. It looks a great deal like a fancy top. Mrs. Miller thinks that the egg is a sign that hard times are over and many there be who hope that she has read the riddle rightly. Some few scepticists think the preacher painted it himself and is trying to play a "kissin' trick" on the unsuspecting populace. He says, however, that he washed the egg and that it is genuine and that he is going to keep it where anyone can see it so as to back up his reputation for veracity.

PELLAGRA CLINIC

There will be a Pellagra clinic held in the court house here next Thursday, Feb. 5th, with the county doctors in charge. It is desired that all of those who had pellagra last year and all who have since developed it come to this clinic. It will be held from nine o'clock until eleven a. m. The season of the year for this disease to appear is approaching and it is desired that every precaution possible be taken. Since the treatment is largely a matter of diet, it is strongly urged that garden peas and mustard be planted AT ONCE.

DR. R. L. MURRAY,
County Health Officer.

RECORDER'S COURT

In Recorder's Court Tuesday, Buster Shaw, colored, who was indicted on a charge of violating the prohibition laws, had his case continued for one week. Alex Ray and William Handon were given a preliminary hearing on a charge of housebreaking and larceny and were bound over to Superior Court, bond being fixed at a thousand dollars in each case. Dock Rogers, colored, was tried on a charge of larceny and found not guilty.

R. A. Cavaniss, of Raleigh, was tried on a charge of issuing worthless checks and a mistrial was ordered and the case set for trial on August 4th.

In civil action, Pittman Hospital, of Fayetteville, sought to secure judgment against Mr. Nell McGill for the sum of \$128.00 on a note. Evidence showed that when Mr. McGill's daughter was in said hospital and ready to come home that the hospital authorities refused to let her leave until he would sign this note; that on account of this duress and the embarrassing circumstances he signed it when he was in no way liable for the debt nor had he in any way become responsible for it. Judgment in favor of the defendant was rendered and an appeal to Superior Court taken by the plaintiff.

MRS. D. P. SPELL SUSTAINS A BROKEN HIP

Mrs. D. P. Spell, of Four Oakes, who with her son D. P. Jr., has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Lewis Upchurch, happened to a very painful accident last Saturday morning when she fell on the floor of the press room at the oil mill, where she was being shown through the mill. She suffered a broken hip and is now in a Fayetteville hospital where she is getting along nicely. She will probably have to use a

NAMED VICE CONSUL AT MONTREAL, CAN.

Ralph Townsend, Formerly of Raeford, Gets Foreign Service Appointment. Now Resident of New York.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Ralph Townsend, formerly of Raeford, N. C., and in recent years a resident of New York, has been appointed American vice-consul at Montreal, Canada, according to a list of foreign service assignments made public by the Department of State here. Townsend, who is 30 years old, is a native of North Carolina. Before attending Columbia College and the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York, he went to school at Raeford and at Henderson. After graduation from the Columbia University School of Journalism in 1924 he began his career as a newspaperman in San Francisco, returning to New York after three years to take an instructorship in English at Columbia, where he remained from 1927 to 1930.

He was appointed to the foreign service position in December. The office at Montreal, where he has entered upon his new work, is the consulate general of Canada. The appointment carries the title of secretary in the diplomatic service in addition to that of American vice-consul.

FOREST PROTECTION

We have again come to that season of the year when ditch bank cleaning and brush burning is in order. The Forest Fire Laws of North Carolina require that you notify your neighbor before burning and keep your fire under control. Failure to do so, leaves you liable to your neighbor for damage and you will have to answer to the charge of violating the forest fire laws. A reward of fifty dollars is to be taxed with the cost goes to anyone furnishing sufficient evidence to convict violators of this law.

We are badly in need of cooperation in this county and if the landowners would issue orders to their tenants that they can't burn the woods for grass, cows and that no fires be made on their lands without their consent and then must be kept under control, Hoke County would cut her fires by seventy five percent. Every farmer in the county sees his tenants at least once a week. Why not inform them? You give orders as to work and other things on your farm, why not as to fires? Your cooperation will be appreciated.

H. R. McLEAN,
County Warden.

LEGION MEETS AND ELECTS OFFICERS

The Ellis Williamson Post of the American Legion held its annual meeting this week for the election of officers. The following were elected: Commander, W. L. Poole; Vice-commander, Dr. Matheson; Second Vice-commander, Allan Wood; Adjutant, L. Star McMillan; Service Officer, J. Dewitt Tapp; Chaplain, R. L. Murray.

The Legion went on record as favoring the payment by the Federal government of the much discussed bonus, at an early date. They also plan a Fourth of July celebration this year and expect to make a vigorous drive for new members. If "Rube" Poole goes after new members he will come all around getting them, even if he has to use poison gas, chloroform or what not.

NOTICE TO FARMERS

There will be a meeting of farmers at the Dundarrach School House, Monday afternoon, Feb. 2, at 2 o'clock. The purpose will be to consider the possible acreage of tomatoes to be produced in the county this year. Fred T. Abbott, Agricultural agent of the Seaboard Airline Railway will be present to take charge of the meeting. He will explain a plan whereby Mr. Tucker of Ocala, Florida, will contract or handle tomatoes on commission or as many as three hundred acres. W. D. BURTON, County Agent.

"I hear that the flea circus got stranded in Allentown."
"Yes, the leading lady ran off with a poodle." Lafayette Live

FORESTS DAMAGED WEED BED BURNING

Tobacco Bed Burning By Careless Farmers, Results In Grave Injury to Forests.

There is no class of farmers who are more dependent upon their forests or woodlots for their well being than the tobacco farmer and, yet, in the past irreparable injury has been done by the careless burning off of their tobacco beds in the Springs. This is not true of the majority of tobacco farmers, who as a rule, are very intelligent and have already come to the conclusion that if they intend to continue to raise tobacco they must also take care of their timbered land and protect them from fire. It is pretty safe to say that the successful tobacco farmer is not the one who allows his woodlands to burn.

The proper preparation of a tobacco bed calls for a lot of hard work, as it is generally moved from year to year to overcome the menace of disease among the young plants, and beds made in new land have been found the most satisfactory. First, the timber and brush must be removed from the bed proper and the ground cleared for a considerable area beyond the actual limits of the beds. This is an added protection against injurious insects, which might find homes in the leaves and shrubbery until they were ready to do their work of destruction. All the brush which was cleared up around the bed is then piled upon it and burned to sterilize the soil against the germination of weed seeds and other injurious matter. The flames from the burning of this litter oftentimes leap as far as twenty or thirty feet in her air and if a strong wind is blowing may be carried that far in a horizontal direction. The sparks of course travel even greater distances and cause many bad forest fires thru the Spring season. These fires hit the trees at the time of lowest resistance and results in the killing of nearly all of the young growth and even of mature trees.

The farmer cannot cure his tobacco without the use of large quantities of wood and it is his decided advantage to see that they are not injured or entirely destroyed by fires, which after all do no good and are entirely preventable. If a few precautions are taken in the burning of the tobacco bed, and a little care exercised in picking the proper time or burning it will result in the saving of hundreds of acres of valuable woodlands from being burned over. First, after the brush has been cut from the bed, it should be piled up for burning. Then, an area should be burned off surrounding the bed to a depth of forty or fifty feet. This should preferably be done, at night, when there is little or no wind stirring and when the danger from flying sparks is negligible. The tobacco bed itself containing the piled brush should then be burned. If these simple precautions are followed and a competent watchman is kept on the job one of the very serious causes of spring forest fires will be eliminated.

If the forest wardens of a community can be of any help and their services are wanted, the general public will find them ready at all times to help in preventing the spread of fires from any source whatsoever. It is hoped that the farmers will look up the warden in their particular section and secure his help and service in burning their beds.

The problem of our disappearing woodlands is fast becoming a serious proposition to the tobacco farmer and only those who, by constant vigilance, prevent their woodlands from being destroyed by forest fires can hope for any success in tobacco growing in the future. During a time such as this, when we are all hard hit by financial cases, every precaution should be made to protect and save our natural resources.

W. A. PETERSON,
District Forester, Dept. Conservation and Development, Division of Forestry, Fayetteville, N. C.

MRS. GATLIN ILL.

Friends of Mrs. B. R. Gatlin will learn with keen anxiety that she underwent a serious operation in a Fayetteville hospital Wednesday evening. Her daughter, Mrs. G. C. Taylor, of Kinston, came home this

REP. MCEACHERN ON IMPORTANT COMM.

Chairman of Pension Committee and Member of Five Other Important Committees.

Reference was made in these columns two weeks ago to the committee assignments given Representative L. McEachern. This list, it develops, was very incomplete.

Mr. McEachern is on the following committees: Agriculture, Appropriations, Banks and Banking, Education, Election Laws and is Chairman of the Pension Committee.

He introduced a bill last week to abolish the special law for Hoke County which makes it illegal to set a steel trap within three feet of the ground.

T. B. YOUNG OF FLORENCE, S. C. TO MEET POTATO GROWERS

Sweet Potato Growers Association, Florence, S. C., will meet with the farmers of Rockfish and Dundarrach in the Rockfish school house at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, and the farmers of Timberland, Montrose and Ashley Heights at two o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Ashmont school, to discuss sweet potato acreage for Hoke county for this year.

W. D. BURTON.

Suggestions Offered Speaker of House

By CARL GOERCH.

After reading in the papers about some of the bills that have been introduced lately in the legislature, I believe I'll sit down and write a letter to Willis Smith, Speaker of the House, and a mighty fine fellow.

Hon. Willis Smith, Raleigh, North Carolina, My dear Willis:

I've been following proceedings of the legislature with a whole lot of interest and I've been watching some of the bills that have been introduced. There was a bill presented a few days ago by Representative Johnson, of Halifax, to amend the law on the squirrel and raccoon season. There was another bill, introduced by Senator Lawrence, of Hertford, to make blue and white the regular and standard colors of State automobile license tags. Representative McDevitt, of Madison, presented a bill to require at least ten verses from the Bible to be read at the opening each morning of public schools. And Senator McSwain, of Cleveland, came forward with a bill to change the date of the primary from the first Saturday in June to the first Monday in June.

Now Willis; I'm not saying a word of criticism against any of those bills. So far as I'm concerned, all of them may be splendid measures and they may react to the advantage of our people as a whole. I'm not claiming that squirrels and raccoons don't deserve special consideration, and as for the Bible, it's the greatest of all books. Neither have I any objection to a permanent blue-and-white color scheme for license tags, and if they want to have the primary on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, it's O. K. with me.

But Willis; we olde back home are interested in something else besides those bills. The thing that is uppermost in the minds of most of us, is this business of reducing the tax on real estate property. And that brings me up to the suggestion that I had in mind.

When Mr. Johnson, of Halifax, comes up with a bill to give consideration to squirrels and raccoons I want you to give him polite and courteous attention. And I want you to ask him a few questions. "Mr. Johnson," you might say, "I think this bill of yours is a mighty fine thing. But will it help to cut down the tax on real estate in North Carolina?"

"Why, of course not." Mr. Johnson, will table this bill until later on during the session."

When Senator Lawrence appears before you with his license-tag color-scheme bill, you might quiz him along the same lines.

"Will it help cut down taxes?"

"Of course not."

"Then I'm afraid you won't get very favorable consideration of your measure when your bill comes over to our side of the legislature." (Continued on Page Four.)

RAEFORD SCHOOL NEWS

ATTENDANCE HONOR ROLL, FOURTH MONTH

First Grade—Stewart Giles, Wallace Herndon, Julian McKeithan, Roscoe Baxley, Rebecca Akins, Mildred Campbell, Jennie Warren, Helen Patricia Stewart, Margaret Lyttle, Marie Clark, Hazel Burns, Homer Thames, Melvin Gunn. Lawrence Brock, Lester Baker.

Second Grade—Van James Adkins, William Currie, William Campbell, June Johnson, North Lilly, Starr McMillan, Yvonne Baucum, Magaline Guinn, Margaret McNeill, Mary El. Pope, Martha Lyttle Emma Brooks Tapp, Jean Graham, Elizabeth Gore, Jack Culbreath, David Boaha, Howard Baucum, Bill Davis, Dan Maxwell.

Third Grade—Imogene Baucum, Frances Campbell, Eunice Guinn, Mary Louise Hawfield, Mary Nancy Johnson, Rena Benton Lents, Virginia Lindley, Mary Florence Lindley, Lucille McNeill, Helen McDuffie, Edna Pearl Ross, Dixie Smith, Mary Ellen Thomas, Grady Burns, Howard Guin, Clark Goodman, William Harris, Daniel Howell, Lacy Huchabee, Milton Jordan, Tom McLaughlin, Edwin McNeill, Douglas McNeill, Harold Maxwell, Edgar Warren.

Fourth Grade—Nancy Peele, Doris Prevatte, P. C. Howell, Phil Johnson, Jack Pope, Malcolm Pope, Bruce Conoly, Bill Upchurch, Geneva Baker, Helen Baker, Annie Neal Campbell, Ellen Currie, Lucille Hall, Pauline Lilly, Ruth Looper, Ruth Lyttle, Frances McBride, Kathrine McBryde, Mary Shaw McFarland, Eunice McKenrie, Carolyn McLean, Gladys Scull, Mary Frances Tapp, Mary Elizabeth Trawick, Ebb Barrington, Lawrence Campbell, Milton Campbell, James Currie, Lucius Dixon, C. H. Giles, Roberson Haire, William Hawfield, C. B. Johnson, Thomas Lindsay, James McDiarmid, Charles Seate, Robert Thames, Robert Veasey.

Fifth Grade—Watson Gillis, J. D. McKeithan, Hubert McLean, John K. McNeill, Julius Rogers, Clarence Rose, Hester Rose, Claudia Brown, Lois McKenzie, Thelma Parks, Flora Alice Peterson, Clara Potter, Virginia Veasey, Eliza Newell Walters, Elizabeth Warren, Mary Hazel Whitley, Esther Kate Sanders.

Sixth Grade—Gladys Atkinson, Daisy Belle Taylor, Margaret Stephens, Florence Anita Lester, Edna Lentz, Virginia Davis, Alberta Campbell, Helen Barrington, Jean Andrews, Edwin Veasey, Marvin Scull, Howard Pope, Harold McDiarmid, Julius Jordan, Willie Jones, Thomas Jones, Thomas Conoly, Edward Brown, James Baker, Ruth Warner.

Seventh Grade—Allie Mae Davis, Nannie R. Harris, Irma Jordan, Deane Matheson, Kathryn Thomas, Tom McBryde, Sam Morris, Robert Weaver.

High School—Dannie Johnson, Julian Love, William McFayden, Wilson McBryde, Vance Russell, John Lee Stephens, Bill Wade, Robert Whitley, Brown Hendrix, Woodrow Huchabee, Ervin Dixon, Henry McArthur, Jack McDuffie, Mabel Akins, Eva Mae Bethune, Bertha Currie, Ruth Dellinger, Margaret Koonce, Louise Lang, Katherine McBryde, Lillie Parks, Bernice Walters, Naah Andrews, Jake Austin, Thaddeus Koonce, Gray Currie, William Lents, Clyde McIntain, J. W. Russell, Sara Campbell, Thetis Campbell, Cleonie Cook, Lillian Dixon, Margaret Galney, Margaret Morris, Iola McBryde, Caroline Parker, Mary Beabella Ray, Doris Robertson, Mary Scott, Ruth Scull, Gertrude Wood, Lela Wood, Ruth Walters, Mary Catherine Cameron, Lily Florence Cox, Christiana McFayden, Grace Parnell, Dora Sneed, Bernice Yarborough, Albert Akins, Marion Gatlin, Craighead Hampton, Fulford McMillan, Edward Pickler, Ed

HOKE COUNTY COTTON

There were 13,735 bales of cotton ginned in Hoke County of the 1930 crop prior to January 16th, as compared to 9,925 on the same date last year.

It now appears that the final figures will show a crop of about four million, which, considering the reduction in acreage last year isn't so much off from normal. But the price, OH BOY.