

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

THE HOKE COUNTY JOURNAL

VOLUME XXVI—No. 45.

RAEFORD, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1931

\$1.50 YEAR, IN ADVANCE

GROUND HOG TAKEN SERIOUSLY HERE

Scientific Investigation Carried On Over What is Said to Be Ground Hog Hole—Astonishing Results Develop.

Due perhaps to the steady adherence of The NEWS-JOURNAL to a practical in the principles of Groundhogism, a scientific investigation was carried on locally to determine in an accurate way, the truth of this respected old legend. Early on the morning of the second day of February, before the combination of sun and groundhog had had a chance to foretell the state of the weather for the next forty all-important days, Raeford's scientific investigator was on his job. Captain Archibald McDuffie had spotted several days before what he was sure must have been the groundhog's hole. It's cavernous mouth yawned near the intersection of Edinboro Avenue East with Main street. It was his plan to watch this hole and establish forever the truth or falsity of the story.

While the dew silvered the dead grass and the sky still hovered oppressively grey, he watched the mysterious hole faithfully. Suddenly the sky was shot with rose and the hues of the east heralded the sun. It was the tense moment, a moment whose program might affect many lives. There was a stirring within the hole. Could it be true? Was the laughter of skeptics the world over to be proven false in Raeford on a dim February morning? And now a figure emerged from the hole and two anxious eyes were focused upon him. The captain could hardly believe his eyes for the figure of Raeford's foremost sanitary engineer, Starr MacMillan appeared and the mystery of the groundhog must remain such for another year.

Carey Stevens Loses Home By Fire

Raeford's afternoon siesta was rudely disturbed last Friday about three o'clock by a fire which completely destroyed the residence of Carey Stevens on North Stewart street. The fire came with unusual suddenness and at the time that the alarm sounded a dense cloud of smoke was already rising over the north end of town. Early arrivals at the fire found the frame house ablaze over the entire roof and apparently beyond help at that early time.

Fast and energetic work by the fire department and the crowd which quickly gathered, fought down the flames somewhat and made it possible to save some of the household effects from the two front rooms. The fire had gotten too great a hold however to be effectually fought and the building was almost totally destroyed.

Raeford's efficient fire company has been worked overtime for the last few months, but always rise energetically to the call. The fire in this case, however, had made to great a start to be fought with any degree of success.

BUCK CHISHOLM IS NEW CHIEF

The town commissioners, in their regular meeting on Monday night were mainly concerned with the appointment of a new Chief of Police, to fill the vacancy left by Chief Alex Walters. Buck Chisholm, a man not unknown around Raeford was appointed for the job.

Friends of the new Chief will be glad to hear that he was at work Tuesday morning and still at it Tuesday afternoon. Plans for making fish ponds out of the parkways in the center of main street are being pushed by some citizens, but their levity is being ignored by most of the townspeople. Agreement on the wisdom of the commissioners' choice was general over town Tuesday.

LOCAL SCOUTS GO TO HONOR COURT

Cape Fear District Holds Court At Laurinburg—Local Scouts Consider Joining Cape Fear Council—15 or More Boys Attend.

Fifteen or more Raeford boy scouts attended a meeting of the Cape Fear Council Honor Court, held at Laurinburg on Monday evening. The Honor Court is a regular gathering of Scouts and officials for the purpose of awarding merit badges and inducting scouts into the various orders of scouting. The only Raeford scouts to take active part in the proceedings were Jack Morris and Paul Dickson, both of whom were formerly made first class scouts.

Scouts were in attendance at the court, from Laurinburg, Raeford, Wagram, Lumber Bridge and Maxton. Officiating were Executive Brothers of the Cape Fear Scout Council and Scout Commissioner Blake, of whom the latter recently addressed the Raeford Kiwanis Club. Raeford scouts attending were Tommy Cameron, William Lentz, Nathan Epstein, Jack Morris, Paul Dickson, Malloy Lamont, Walter Barrington Clyde Upchurch, Junior Peele, Clyde McInnis, Hubert Cameron, Jake Austin, Tom McBryde and Sam Snead. The Raeford boys were especially interested to see the workings of the Honor Court and their visit was more interesting because the local troop is considering joining the Cape Fear Council.

Tommy Upchurch's Car Stolen And Is Recovered

One or more thieves, unknown as yet, made away with a Chrysler coupe, owned by T. B. Upchurch, Jr., last Thursday evening, but the car was recovered, unharmed on Friday. Thursday evening the car was parked at the side of the residence of T. B. Upchurch and at some time between the hours of nine thirty and ten, the thieves entered the yard and made off with their prize. Investigation of the scene of the theft shows that the car was cautiously pushed back toward the street and turned across a flower bed. Then in evident haste, the men started the car and spurning the ordinary road to the street, drove across the lawn and on down main street.

The theft was discovered about 10 o'clock and the word was given to the police departments of all surrounding towns. It is thought that the men who took the car, found out when they arrived at Fayetteville that the car did not have its new license, although the plates were under the seat at the time. They accordingly parked the coupe in the midst of Fayetteville cemetery and departed, it is thought, to steal licenses and return. The car was discovered by the caretaker of the cemetery and the matter reported to the police department. Police notified Mr. Upchurch Friday morning and he went over later to claim the car. He found that the car was in good shape but for the loss of the key and brought it back to town Saturday.

W. G. Johnson Enters Confederate Home

Mr. W. G. Johnson, one of Hoke County's few remaining Confederate veterans, entered the Veterans' Home in Raleigh last Sunday. He had been sick at his home near town for some time, but has recently shown some improvement. His many friends here will regret that he has left the county. Accompanying him to Raleigh were Messrs. John McDiarmid, Alex McMillan, another veteran and W. R. Barrington. Arrangements for his entry at the Soldiers' Home were made by the local chapter of the U. D. C.

W. T. Covington, Jr., of Chapel Hill, spent Sunday with homefolks.

Spring Hill Man Gains Fame As A Writer

Gerald Johnson, Now On Baltimore Sun, Lived and Worked In North Carolina Until 1926—Is Author of Popular Books—Latest Book Tells Story of Our Own Section of North Carolina.

SPRING HILL MAN WINS LITERARY RECOGNITION

By J. R. COVINGTON. Gerald Johnson, a native North Carolinian now residing in Baltimore, Maryland, is fast bringing North Carolina to the fore in modern literature. It might not have been so, had it not been for two things, for Gerald Johnson might have reached literary heights from his home in Maryland and few would have been so interested or so inquisitive as to ask the place of his birth. But two things happened to associate him with North Carolina: remarks made in an essay in a magazine, drew from readers the question as to whether the author was a southerner, and Mr. Johnson's published reply told of the total claim which North Carolina has upon him up until that day in 1926 when he left the state to become editorial writer on the Baltimore Sun; secondly, in his first novel, published this year, he writes a story of North Carolina, "By Reason of Strength."

North Carolina profits by this identification with her of a prominent young biographer and novelist. North Carolina is honored in being able to claim Gerald Johnson as a son; she is also brought into prominence in becoming the scene of another historical romance, a romance of power and deep humanity. That the romantic color of North Carolina history has been virtually untouched by writers of talent for many years is a matter to regret. That this field of fiction is now being uncovered by such men as James Boyd and Gerald Johnson is a matter to cherish.

Mr. Johnson is a newspaper man. Born the son of the editor of a weekly paper in Cape Fear section of North Carolina, he lived six years of his life when neither he nor his father were connected with any paper. Those first six were his last. Until the time when he left Chapel Hill in 1926, he was almost wholly in North Carolina and was a devoted son of the state and of the south.

B. L. Cox Appointed U. S. Commissioner

Mr. B. L. Cox received a letter this week from Judge John J. Hayes of the United States Court, Middle District of North Carolina, informing him of appointment as United States Commissioner in Hoke County. The United States Courts divide North Carolina into East, West and Middle Districts, of which Hoke County is in the middle district with headquarters at Greensboro. The nearest court to Raeford is at Rockingham and offenses to National laws as apart from state and county laws, are tried there.

The office to which Mr. Cox has been appointed has various duties not generally known. Among his duties will be the investigation of offenses, and the exercise of a magistrate's power in releasing or binding over to court such offenders as are heard before him. He will have power to issue warrants and will inform county officers and aid them in the apprehension of offenders.

Mr. Cox has served in lesser capacity with the Federal courts over a period of years, his previous offices being deputy clerk and deputy marshal, both offices held in other counties.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Conoly and son, James, of Waycross, Ga., spent the past week-end with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Sexton. Mr. and Mrs. Sexton had as their guests, also, on this occasion, Dr. and Mrs. Tom Ferrell, of Rocky Mount, N. C.

GERALD JOHNSON



Sketch by Robert Covington

Although an intense Southerner, he possesses that sincerity of mind that was not biased by the affection that he held for the South and in matters of controversy was guided by one ideal, the finding and telling of the truth. During most of this boyhood his father was the editor of a weekly paper, and growing in the atmosphere of newspaper work it was inevitable that his mind should be drawn toward the writing of facts rather than fiction, and that his mind should be trained to see in the people about him those human tragedies and comedies that make fiction seem a light and airy thing. The observation of humanity through the leisurely eyes of a weekly newspaper will inevitably impress upon an open mind the romance of the commonplace, the immensity of the small and ignored things in every life.

Early Days in North Carolina.

On the western edge of a tract of eastern North Carolina known under the name of the Cape Fear section, the Spring Hill neighborhood lies, marked by slim pines and bordered by the black, swirling water of the "Lumbee" River. It was settled by clear-minded God-fearing Scotch people. From early days it has been a name for neighborliness, old-fashioned religion, and cultural life, a neighborhood of faith, work and books. Here flourished a family.

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THREE HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS TAKE TOLL

Two Killed Near Aberdeen—Two Cars Turn Over On Laurinburg Road Without Fatalities—Former Local Man in One.

Three highway accidents occurred in the section this week, two being without fatal injuries and the other killing both occupants of the car.

Evander Gillis, a former citizen of Raeford and well liked by the people of the community, turned over on the Laurinburg highway when some impairment to the steering wheel of the car he was driving caused him to lose control of the car. The driver fortunately escaped injury.

Tuesday, on the highway between Pinhurst and West End a car in which young men, later identified as students of the University of Alabama, were driving, turned over three times fatally injuring both occupants. The young men, Nicholas D'Carlo and Gerald Cetrulo, both of New York City, were so severely injured that both died a few hours later.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Y. Jones, of Laurinburg, turned over on the Laurinburg highway Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Jones was driving. The car left the road and turned over once, and righted itself. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were the only occupants of the car and received no injuries.

Parent-Teacher Association Organized

Parent-Teacher Associations have been organized in each of the schools. Mrs. W. W. Martin, Field Worker from North Carolina College, was present at each one of the schools and gave very interesting talks on the workings of Parent-Teacher Associations.

On Friday night the County Council was formed with Mrs. H. A. Cameron as president, Mrs. Jesse Gibson of the Mildouson school, vice-president, Mrs. John Henry McNeill, of Antioch, second vice-president, Mrs. Neal Clark, of Blue Springs, third vice-president, Mr. Carlyle Townsend, of Rockfish, secretary, and Mr. D. H. Johnson, of the Ashmont school, treasurer. The executive committee is to be composed of the County Physician, Farm Agent, Superintendent of schools, the principals of the schools, the four officers of each local, president of the Woman's Club, chairman of the County Board of Education and one

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Ministers Meet Here For Day of Prayer

Tuesday morning and afternoon saw a large group of Presbyterian ministers gathered in Raeford from all points over Fayetteville Presbytery. In accordance with the program of the Presbyterian church all over the south, ministers from churches in the Presbytery met at the Raeford Presbyterian church to spend the day in conference and prayer, particular consideration being given to the devising of ways and means whereby a proposed cut in the funds for running the mission program of the church could be avoided.

Over sixty ministers from the surrounding churches were in attendance at the meeting. Following the session which lasted over into the afternoon, a light lunch was served to the visitors by the women of the Raeford church.

CITY FATHERS BUY ADDITIONAL LAND FOR CEMETERY

The city fathers of Raeford closed a deal with Mr. J. W. McLaughlin whereby the city bought a strip of land adjoining the cemetery one large lot in width and running all the way across the Western edge of the cemetery.

LEGISLATURE GOES TO STATE PRISON

Mr. Pou Submits Suggestions to Aid Prisoners and Farmers—Passage of McLean Bill Important—Raising of Funds Problem Now.

By CARL GOERCH. The most important thing done by the legislature last week was adoption of Representative McLean's school bill.

It specifies that the State shall pay the cost of financing all schools for a term of six months. The only thing about the bill that hasn't been decided as yet is where they're going to get the money.

The legislature has a lot of confidence in McLean. They figure that he, being Scotch, wouldn't advocate any measure unless it was strictly economical, so they passed the bill without giving it much consideration. Their confidence is justified. You see, he's from my own county, and I've known him personally for a long, long time. They tell around home that he used to put a mirror in front of each of his children's plates when they were eating dinner, so they'd think they were getting double portions.

George Ross Pou, Superintendent of the State Prison, had about 150 members of the legislature out to an oyster roast last week. A lot of Raleigh folks, when they saw the various senators and representatives heading for prison, breathed a sigh of relief. They were very much disappointed when they saw the same crowd heading back to town again an hour later.

Mr. Pou told his guests some interesting facts about the prison. He is particularly anxious to put his idle prisoners to work. It's alright for members of the legislature and other politicians not to be doing anything useful, but he claims that the prisoners ought to be doing something to help pay for their keep. When he told of the building and the expense of maintaining the present old building, and the excessive cost of operating the various camps on the present basis, it made a big impression on his listeners. Here are some of his recommendations which the legislators as a whole seemed to endorse.

1. That a new central prison plant, built on an economical scale, be erected at Cary.

2. That an adequate parole system be adopted so that prisoners will be followed up and "checked and double checked" to see they do not leave the straight and narrow.

3. That a cold storage and packing plant be installed on one of the farms so that sufficient porkers, to be raised on the prison farms and by the North Carolina farmers, can be cured to furnish all State supported institutions. Mr. Pou pointed out that State supported institutions purchased \$458,042 worth of meats and meat products last year. He thinks 99 per cent of this was shipped in from other States. He wants to create a market right at home for any surplus hogs the farmers may have.

4. That a modern creamery be operated at one of the farms to can sufficient vegetables on the prison farms and buy any surplus the farmers in such locality may have. Last year State supported institutions purchased canned vegetables amounting to \$70,572.00. Superintendent Pou wants the prison and North Carolina farmers to benefit from this large expenditure for vegetables. It is believed 99 per cent of canned vegetables bought came from outside the State.

5. He further recommended the operation by the prison of an up-to-date creamery. Mr. Pou says State institutions purchased \$178,269 dairy products last year. He wants to open up a creamery and buy surplus raw milk from the farmers and also to produce some at the prison farms.

6. He advocates that the prison raise feed and feed stuffs for State supported institutions and bring in the way across the Western edge of the cemetery.

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