

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

THE HOKE COUNTY JOURNAL

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RAEFORD, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1931

\$1.50 YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Hoke County Officers Hosts to Officers of the 252nd Regiment

Noted Military and Civilian Guests Join Local Officers Association In Brilliant Banquet and Ball.

One of the most brilliant social events ever to be given in Raeford was consummated here last Saturday night when the banquet and ball tendered to the officers of the two hundred and fifty second regiment of the coast artillery, North Carolina National Guard by the Officers Association of Hoke County, were given, splendidly in spite of the weather which ranged from inclement to beastly. The gusty, drenching night, fortunately had little effect on the attendance and little or no effect on the mood of the guests who came from near and far to enjoy the hospitality of the local officers. The spirit of the occasion was a direct fulfillment of the old adage that the weather is always excellent when congenial companions are assembled.

The Kiwanis hall which has seen so many delightful banquets presented a gay appearance as the guests walked in to begin the festivities. The walls were dignified with crossed flags and the room was decorated with red, white and blue bunting. At the end of the hall a large "252" showed the allegiance of the guests. The uniforms of the soldiers contrasted with the colorful gossamer of the evening gowns of the lady guests and the whole scene was one in which inspiration abounded. Two notable local guests added the final tone with their natty black and white outfits.

The banquet was opened with the ringing strains of "America", and an invocation by the regimental chaplain, Capt. Brayshaw. This was followed by the conventional welcome, done however in most interesting style. The special guests and principal speakers were seated to the left and right of the toastmaster, Captain Lawrence Poole. In addition to the speeches of welcome and the response, the following officers made short talks: General Metts, Colonel Smith, Colonel McClelland, Major Kemble, Captain Brayshaw and Major Lewis. Mrs. Barrington sang several numbers to the delight of the audience.

Following the banquet, the guests and hosts adjourned to the armory where they indulged in several delightful social hours. Dancing was enjoyed until twelve, with Walter Kelly and his orchestra furnishing splendid music. For the social hours a number of outside guests were present. Those attending the banquet were:

From Raleigh, Gen. J. B. Van Metts and Col. Gordon Smith. From Wilmington, Colonel R. S. McClelland, Major F. Kemble and Mrs. Kemble, Capt. C. D. Cunningham and Mrs. Cunningham, Lt. Joe Howie and Mrs. Howie, Lt. R. P. Houston, Lt. Haskett and Miss D'Olive, Capt. Bradshaw. From Lumberton, Capt. W. H. Humphrey and Mrs. Humphrey, Lt. Y. Floyd and Mrs. Floyd, Lt. McNeill. From High Point, Capt. J. L. Raper, Capt. Sam Davis, Lt. McAuley. From Greensboro, Major R. L. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis, Capt. Ike Wrenn and Miss Wright, Capt. Patterson, Lt. Floyd, Lt. Sharpe, Lt. Nolan and Mrs. Nolan, Lt. Ford and Miss Dianne. From Raeford, Colonel Bob Lewis, Capt. Rube Poole, Capt. John Walker and Mrs. Walker, Capt. J. H. Blue and Mrs. Blue, Capt. R. A. Matheson and Mrs. Matheson, Lt. Herbert McKeithan and Mrs. McKeithan, Lt. Y. S. Snead and Miss Jean LaMont, Lt. J. A. McPhaul and Miss McPhaul, Lt. McNair Smith and Mrs. Fredericks of Monroe, Lt. H. A. Currie, Tommie Upchurch and Mrs. Upchurch, and Lt. Rothig of Sanatorium. Mrs. Ina Bethune and W. R. Barrington of Raeford.

DEZERNE CASE FINISHED MONDAY

Charge of Manslaughter Dismissed by Judge Sinclair—Found Guilty of Hit-and-Run—

The trial of Paul Dezerne on four charges of manslaughter and one of hit and run came to an end Tuesday at Sanford with the conviction of Dezerne on the charge of hit and run. Raeford and Hoke county friends of Dezerne, of whom there are a great many, followed the trial in all of its phases and persisted in their belief that he was innocent and their offers of aid in any possible capacity.

The trial came as the result of a fatal automobile accident near Sanford at Christmas time. A car swerved from the road and ran into a tobacco barn nearby, which collapsed on the car. Four people were killed and Dezerne was accused of side-swiping the car just previous to the accident. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dezerne disclaimed any knowledge of the hitting of the car. Raeford friends went in great numbers to the preliminary hearing, protesting their affection for and their faith in the accused man.

In the court trial which started last Wednesday the state presented its evidence to support the charge of manslaughter and at the end of this evidence on Thursday morning the court dismissed the charges of manslaughter, which is equivalent to a verdict of not guilty.

On the charge of hit and run, in spite of evidence given by Paul Dezerne, his wife, and others, he was found guilty. The defendant and his counsel, fearing that the judge would set this verdict aside and necessitate the expense and embarrassment of another trial did not make a motion to set this verdict aside. The friends of the defendant were strong in the opinion that the judge would have set this verdict aside on petition, in view of the weight of the greater part of the evidence.

Having submitted to the judgment Paul Dezerne was taxed with a fine of one hundred dollars and costs and was ordered to pay into court one thousand and fifteen dollars and fifty cents for the benefit of Mrs. Bradford and children. Two hundred and fifteen dollars and fifty cents of this amount had already been paid by Dezerne for the burial expenses of Sam Bradford and his child.

The many friends of Mr. Dezerne in this community continue in their belief in his innocence. They feel that although there is a probability of setting this verdict aside by petitioning the judge, the embarrassment and expense of a new trial would surpass such an action. Mr. Dezerne's fortitude throughout this trying experience has been in direct keeping with the fine qualities that have endeared him to so many Hoke county people.

RAEFORD GIRL HONORED

Hoke county friends have received with interest the news of the recent honor conferred upon Katie Bell McLean, a Raeford girl who is a student of Queens College in Charlotte. Miss McLean was recently elected to the office of hostess of the Y. W. C. A. hut at Queens. The hut is one of the centers of social life for the college girls and the election to the honor of Hostess is a distinct honor. Her many friends congratulate Katie Bell.

REV. H. C. SMITH HOLDS SERVICES

Presiding Elder of Rockingham District Speaks Daily At the Methodist Church This Week—

A series of protracted meetings were instituted at the Methodist church in Raeford on Sunday and will continue through the coming Sunday. Meetings are being held every morning at ten o'clock and every evening at seven-thirty. The meetings are under the charge of Reverend Floyd Trawick and the Reverend H. C. Smith, presiding elder of the Rockingham district of the North Carolina Methodist Conference is speaking at the morning and evening services.

Mr. Smith is a minister of experience and note throughout the state for a good many years, his last one being the Duke Memorial church in Durham, N. C. While at this church he made a name for his clear thinking and whole hearted devotion to his Master's cause. His members were very unwilling to let him go when he was called to the position of Presiding Elder of the Rockingham district and they hope to have him back some day. In his present position as President Elder, Mr. Smith has active oversight of over 25 pastorates, a job which taxes the strength of any minister but one which he performs with loyalty and diligence. His sermons are powerful and convicting and his personality is one that wins those with whom he is in contact.

Attendance at both the morning and evening services has been very good, but there is still much to be desired. The people of the community, of all churches or of no church are asked to come out to the services and hear these stirring messages from God's word. Special music is provided by the choir and a helpful message is assured at each service.

Local Ladies Go To Goldsboro Meet

Five Raeford ladies were among the hundreds from all over the state who attended the State Convention of Federated Music Clubs in Goldsboro. The local ladies were members of the Chaminade club which is a well known member of the State Federation.

Mrs. Clyde Upchurch, president of the Chaminade club, Mrs. W. T. Covington, Mrs. Marshall Thomas, Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin, left Raeford Friday morning and attended the second day of the annual meeting. Some musical exercises were on the program in addition to the business of the State Federation.

A particularly striking feature of the program was the work of Lee Briggs, a 17 year old student of Asheville High school who is being hailed as a musical prodigy. Briggs has written an orchestral score of high merit, "Hill Billy." On Saturday he conducted a high school orchestra, composed of musicians from the schools all over the state, in several scenes including his own composition. The Chaminade club, through the State Federation is sponsoring the further musical education of this brilliant young musician.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS STRONG THIS WEEK

You hold in your hands an ancient infant. Twenty-five years is not so old; ordinarily it is the beginning of life. Yet newspapers age more quickly than people. At 25 a newspaper is ancient, hoary, a fixture that seems without beginning.

It all began with the Raeford Institute, as did so many things that are taken for granted today. The students of the Institute used to write news articles for the daily and weekly papers. They sought publicity for their school and there was no paper in this immediate section. This was journalism's first bow in the section which later became Raeford.

The first paper published in Raeford was not printed here. J. W. Fagan of Aberdeen printed a sheet in a printing office there and distributed it through the Raeford post office. Fagan printed the Aberdeen

TWO MEN KILLED IN SANFORD MINE

Cave-In Following Explosion Buries Father and Son — Frantic Efforts At Rescue Prove In Vain—

A mine tragedy, the third in six years, occurred in the shaft of the Carolina Coal mines, at Coal Glen, ten miles from Sanford, last Saturday night. Two men, L. A. Honeycutt, and his seventeen year old son, Elbert Honeycutt, were buried alive by a cave-in twenty-six hundred feet below the surface.

The two men went into the mine Saturday night to man the pumps in the shaft and free it of water. For some time there had been no operation of the shaft but two shifts of two men each were employed to keep the shafts free of water. On Sunday morning the two men who had gone down the night before did not appear and the people became alarmed. A crew of forty men were summoned and worked in shifts of twenty minutes each clearing away the debris which choked the shaft after the slide. The air tube was clear and it was thought that the men could be reached and brought to safety. After hours of feverish work however the bodies of the two men were found, imprisoned under a mass of debris.

It was first thought that what had occurred was a cave-in caused by the heavy rains of the weekend. Later reports however say that mine officials believe there was an explosion. They stated however that no estimate of the probable cause could be formed until the shaft was cleared of obstruction.

The Carolina Coal Mines are the same mines in which the disaster of 1925 occurred. In that year explosions occurred there which took fifty-two lives. Some years later two workmen were killed while being lowered into the shaft.

A TREE REVOLTS

No man has bitten a dog, but here's a news article which quite coincides with the well worn standard of news. When a car hits a tree it's not news—it's a daily exercise. But when a tree enraged at the insults visited upon it's tribe, hits a car—that's news of the rarest sort. It happened near Raeford Tuesday night when an enraged tree struck a defenseless Ford coupe sleeping beneath its tossing branches. To whom the car belonged must remain a secret, because his insults to word tribe might be investigated, and prove embarrassing.

day he conducted a high school orchestra, composed of musicians from the schools all over the state, in several scenes including his own composition. The Chaminade club, through the State Federation is sponsoring the further musical education of this brilliant young musician.

Meeting At Courthouse Today To Discuss New Aid To the Farmer

Interested Citizens To Discuss Means of Cooperative Sale of Cream—O. O. Dukes Will Speak.

COTTON EXPOSITION IDEA SPREADING

Lumberton and Concord Will Show the Great Possibilities of Cotton As Wearing Material—

New vicinities are rushing to the rescue of the imperiled southern King, Cotton first, and the principle of forwarding the cause of his majesty by introducing the fibre to new uses is proving popular and successful.

Following the tremendous success of the Gastonia festival other towns in the state have adopted the plan and are carrying it forward in their own neighborhoods. This spreading of the idea is an integral part of the success of the Gastonia event, for it was the hope of the instigators of the Cotton Exposition that the idea would spread. It has spread perhaps more swiftly and concretely than they imagined.

Dispatches from Concord indicate that the exposition planned there for this spring will be larger and more elaborate than that of Gastonia. Negotiations up north with world figures in the textile industry and members of the president's cabinet have met with success and promise to make this exposition another huge boost to cotton.

As nearby as Lumberton plans are being laid for a cotton conclave with brilliant features. This will afford Hoke county people to get a look in at this new principle which the News - Journal fostered and presented to its readers when it was conceived by the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 1930.

One of the surest ways of bringing cotton back to its place in industry is to redeem cotton from the trash heap of cheapness and show the world of clothes buyers the beauty and durability that may be found in cotton fabrics. People will never wear cotton to help farmers. Properly informed by these exhibitions however, they will wear it for its own sake.

Ashmont School Plans Lunches

The Ashmont P. T. A. held its regular monthly meeting, which was the last for the year, Wednesday evening, March 26th. An inspirational program was rendered to a large group of parents and teachers.

The thing that received the most attention and that was set as the goal of the P. T. A. for next year was the planning for the canning of soup mixture to be used for free lunches next year. Mrs. D. H. Johnson, Mrs. J. T. Robinson, and Mrs. E. R. Pickler were appointed as a committee to work out some plan of canning. They are to make a report during commencement. The association voted to ask the county commissioners to provide cans for the work.

The matter of a pre-school clinic was discussed and Tuesday, March 31, was set as the date. Dr. R. L. Murray of Raeford and Mrs. Moss of the Sanatorium will conduct the clinic.

Death of Miss Lula Bottoms

Miss Lula Bottoms, an aged lady, died at Highsmiths Hospital in Fayetteville last Friday, the victim of cancer. She had been seriously ill for some time and little hope for her recovery was entertained. Although born in South Carolina she had been living in Hoke county for six years. She was buried at Brownville, twelve miles below Bennettsville on Saturday, March 28.

At three o'clock this afternoon, Friday, there will be a meeting at the courthouse in Raeford, which should prove of interest to all citizens of Hoke County interested in commercial production of milk. The movement which was started some weeks ago to establish a cooperative Creamery in Raeford is still being considered by County Agent Purton and at the meeting which is announced an effort will be made to ascertain the exact amount of interest extant in the county. The meeting will serve the dual purpose of a poll of the interest of the citizens and a means of informing those interested of the exact nature of the depot which is proposed and the purpose which it will serve.

Mr. O. O. Dukes, able farm demonstrator of Robeson County will be present at the meeting and will make the principal talk. Mr. Dukes will have, in addition to his knowledge of the subject generally a concrete example in the cream depot at Lumberton, which although recently established is already doing excellent work and proving a boon to the cow owners of that territory. A similar depot is also at work in Red Springs, and the cooperative patrons are profiting from it.

The precise function of the cream depot as it is proposed in Raeford, would be to provide a central and definite place at which farmers might deliver their excess cream. The depot would be in charge of a man who would keep accounts and officially operate the depot. A nearby creamery would send trucks for the cream at regular intervals and pay the depot once per month. The farmers however who deliver their cream there would be paid upon delivery. Payment would be upon the basis of butter fat and consequently it would necessitate the installation of machinery to separate the cream from the milk and establish the amount of butter-milk in the cream. Equipment for sterilization of containers and the other standard fixtures of such an operation would be installed.

It is to be hoped that all the people of the county who are interested in this proposition will be present at the meeting at the courthouse Friday at three o'clock. If there are a sufficient number who show their interest there is little doubt that the cream depot can be established and that it will be of a good deal of benefit to those using it.

DR. BITTINGER HONORED

Hoke county friends of Dr. S. M. Bittinger of Sanatorium, N. C., will be interested and pleased to read of the distinctive honor recently accorded him by the American College of Physicians. Dr. Bittinger, although his time is largely taken up with responsible work at the sanatorium, has interested himself consistently in the work and welfare of the county as a whole. He is active in the Raeford Kiwanis Club and has a host of friends throughout the county.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please allow me space in your paper to extend my heart felt thanks to the large number of citizens who have stood by me so loyally in my recent trouble caused by a wreck near Sanford last Christmas. The fact that so many prominent people left their work, attended the trial and did every thing in their power to help me is appreciated beyond the power of words to express. I also deeply appreciate the many expressions of belief in my innocence in this case. The help and confidence shown me during this trouble will be one of my life's sweetest memories.

PAUL D. DEZERNE.