

The News - Journal

THE HOKE COUNTY NEWS

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\$1.50 YEAR. IN ADVANCE

Superior Court Disposes Of Six Criminal Cases

Ted Medlin Acquitted of Murder Charge— Thieves Go To Penitentiary and Roads— Much Public Interest In Several Cases

The April term of superior court for Hoke County convened at the court house at Raeford on last Monday morning. The session up until Wednesday was concerned with the criminal docket and disposed of six cases. Late Wednesday afternoon with the verdict in the Swanson case, the criminal docket was finished and the civil docket was begun.

His Honor Judge Frank A. Daniels presided over the term which developed in its criminal docket more than the average amount of interest on the part of the citizens. Two murder cases, one embezzlement, one violating of the prohibition law, and one housebreaking and larceny, composed the criminal docket.

Medlin Case Draws Attention.

Much interest was manifested in the case of the State versus Ted Medlin, Little River young man who on February 22, shot and killed Colonel Larrimore, his brother-in-law. Medlin was exonerated after an intense legal battle. Character witnesses gave Medlin a splendid reputation in his community and established a reputation for violence when intoxicated for the slain man. Medlin himself took the stand and gave his version of the affair, asserting that there was no fuss between the two and that he shot in defense of his stepson and himself. The jury, after a relatively short period of deliberation returned a verdict of not guilty.

Accused Men Exonerated.

Jim Graham, colored, was accused of receiving stolen goods. The case was the result of the discovery of a large quantity of merchandise in Graham's home by the local officers. Three men were accused with him of housebreaking, larceny, and receiving stolen goods. These three plead guilty and were sentenced as follows: John Turnage, not more than three and a half and not less than two and a half years in the state penitentiary; Will Turnage, twelve months on the roads; John W. Graham, prayer for judgment. (Continued on page six)

NEW MEMBERS SWORN ON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The county board of education met in an adjourned session on last Monday. The following members were sworn into office for a term of two years: Jesse Gibson, Louis Parker, M. W. McLean, A. P. Stubbs and H. F. Currie. Mr. Gibson was unanimously re-elected chairman of the board. He was elected chairman on July 7, 1924 and has been serving as chairman since that time. He served an unexpired term and this election makes the beginning of the fourth full term as chairman.

W. P. Hawfield was re-elected as county superintendent to succeed himself. The term begins July the first and this will make the sixth term for him.

Mr. Thomas McLaughlin was appointed on the committee of the Antioch school for a term of three years and Mr. P. McN. Gibson was re-appointed for a term of three years. Mr. J. W. Russell and Mr. D. J. Love were re-appointed for a term of three years for the Blue Springs school and Mr. M. L. Maxwell was appointed to fill out an unexpired term. Mr. H. O. Wooten was re-appointed for the Little River school. Mr. W. W. McCrimmon was re-appointed for the Rosendale school. Mr. D. K. Parker and Mr. T. G. Wood were re-appointed for the Rockfish school. Mr. J. E. Womble was appointed for a term of three years for the Ashmont school. Mr. Ryan McBryde was re-appointed for the Raeford school. Mr. J. D. McBryde was re-appointed for the Mildouson school.

SENATE AND HOUSE REORGANIZE LOCAL MAY AGREE SOON SCOUT COMMITTEE

Luxury Tax Seen As Grounds On Which Warring Fac- tions May Come To Terms— Forces Now Divided.

Wars and rumors of wars set the capital city of North Carolina in a continual uproar as the joint conference committee of the senate and the house failed to agree with each other or among themselves on the Revenue bill, which was submitted to them in the faint hope that they might be able to do something about it. Hope having been long ago given up that any sort of amicable settlement of the Revenue bill could be reached in the respective bodies of the state legislature, a joint committee composed of members of the two houses was appointed to see what could be done to induce both pro and anti sales factions to give in and think at the same time that they were carrying the day.

The joint conference committee is considering the Revenue bill as a unit but significantly enough the general disagreement hinges upon the question of to put into the bill a sales tax or to put into it instead a thirty cent ad valorem tax. However the old antagonism between the sales tax financiers who cannot agree whether it shall be a one-percent gross sales tax or a luxury tax (this latter name is very deceptive) is still extant. There is an absolute necessity to raise by some additional tax other than the normal sources of revenue incorporated in the Revenue bill, about ten millions of dollars to finance the six months school term provided for in the McLean School bill. The legislature and the press have furnished quite an entertaining spring for the land owners, holding before them always the succulent lolly-pop of reduction of ad valorem taxes on land. Now it appears that the lolly-pop will be put back into its slick paper wrapper and stowed away until the next political campaign.

Rumors float that the hitherto unopposed armor of the senate with regard to any form of sales tax is now vulnerable. Proponents of the "luxury" tax claimed Wednesday to

Kiwanis Club Members Will Serve As Advisory Board— Scouts Prepare for Jamboree Next Week.

The Kiwanis Club, sponsors of the Raeford Scout Troop, reorganized the Scout Committee at the meeting of the club last Thursday. The scout committee is a group of Kiwanians who have various duties to perform in helping the scout master carry on his work. The Kiwanians appointed and the duties assigned to them are: R. B. Lewis, chairman of the committee; Paul Dickson, publicity; Ryan McBryde, promotion; W. F. Trawick, camping and hiking; C. E. Upchurch, inspection.

The scout troop is active this week and next making preparations for the Jamboree to be held by the Scouts of the Cape Fear Council in Wilmington on May 1 and 2. The Raeford Scouts are much interested, organizing teams for competition with the other troops and making plans for thorough enjoyment of the Jamboree.

Officials of the Cape Fear Area Council, the scouting organization of which the Raeford troop is a part, assert that this year's Jamboree will be one of the largest events of its kind ever held in North Carolina. It is estimated that at least six hundred scouts from the district will be in attendance. The scouts will stay in tents and the time will be well filled with activity, camp fires, parade and inter-troop competition. Each troop will be strictly graded in inspections, appearance and excellence in the wide variety of competitions.

The present troop is the first Raeford troop to take part in a Jamboree of this kind. The scouts will carry with them the interest and good wishes of a large number of the people of the community, who hope that they will continue their good showing in Scouting.

Nineteen permanent pasture demonstrations have been started in Lee County this spring with the idea of giving impetus to the livestock industry of the county.

YOUTHFUL HOKE COUNTY FIDDLER CARRIES ON IN BROTHER'S PLACE

Dewey Sessoms, Twelve Years Old, Plays the Fiddle Like An Old Timer—Pairs With Man Who Formerly Was His Brothers Partner.

Dramatists, poets and story writers have for many ages depended on the old scheme of "carry on" for the element of interest in many a work in their individual fields. The mind fails when it attempts to number the stories in which the height of interest is reached when the hero intuitively exhibits some characteristic of the father or the family and thus saves the family honor; homestead or cabbage patch. Few things are more interesting than the transmission of talent from older to younger, whether it be in athletics, business, music, drawing or any talent that may be noted by the public. The younger brother who steps into the place at shortstop which another member of his family held years before, the junior business man in whom the older associates recognize the characteristics of the father, the younger man in any field to whom the characteristics of an older seem to have descended in renewed force — these persons are focus points of interest.

Patrons of the newly revived square dance in Raeford have been interested in the expert and mature fiddling of a twelve year old boy who calmly takes his place with an orchestra of mature men. The boy has never taken a music lesson in his life. He has simply picked up the talent that enables him to fiddle with the ability and indifference of the master of fiddling who has been to every convention and square dance in the country. When he was ten years old he won the fiddle which he now plays, at a fiddlers convention. Ask even those who know him well how he learned to play a violin and they will tell you again that he just "picked it up."

The boy is Dewey Sessoms, who lives about seven miles East of Raeford. The ability to play the fiddle runs in the family. Several years ago his brother, Francis Sessoms was well known in the county and many surrounding counties for his dexterity with the fiddle. With Alf McFayden he played all over the countryside until his untimely death a few years ago. But Alf has another partner now. The twelve year old brother of his old partner, who no doubt used to listen with rapt attention as his brother played, has now taken the place which he held, and the music goes on, hands clap and feet tap on the floor in time with the swift rhythm.

Hoke County's twelve year old musician plays a violin. The rapid rhythms of the square dance are not the work of a languid or lethargic bow. Those who have seen him play remember a sandy head, a slight body held stiffly upright, a fiddle resting not under his chin, but in a socket formed by crossed legs and a bow flying across the strings like a shuttle across a loom.

Court Confirms Fall Sale Of Raeford Cotton Mills

Judge Frank A. Daniels Confirms Receivership Sale—Wilmington Man New Owner— Operation of Mill Would Be Aid to Town

PACK LAYER AFTER LAYER—

Criticism of the weather these fine, warm days has been very rare, the officials of last week's poultry car being some of the first to lodge complaint against the present happy fusion of sunshine and light breezes.

This very fine weather however was given as the reason for the light shipment of fowls on the April excursion fostered by the State Department of Agriculture. Two thousand five hundred and thirty-three chickens showed up at the station dressed in their finest feathers and cackling with the excitement of the occasion. Several cliques were evident in the crowd, by far the most numerous being the colored hens, who numbered two thousand and ninety-eight. Leghorns, broilers, ducks and assorted classes made the final number a little over twenty-five hundred.

The receipts to citizens of the county from the sale of poultry was three hundred and seventy one dollars and eighty six cents. The final excursion for the year will be toward the middle of May.

The lightness of the latter shipments is additional proof that fair weather is not fowl weather.

An event that may mean much for this community came to pass Wednesday when Judge Frank A. Daniels, presiding over the April term of Hoke County Superior Court here, confirmed the Receiver's sale of the Raeford Cotton Mills. F. B. Harris, of the Wilmington Savings Bank and Trust Company was the buyer and the consideration was \$35,000.00, thus taking out of the hands of the courts a piece of property which has been idle for more than a year during the receivership. Just what the sale portends for the future is not known at this time; the property is in hands that have the right to make disposition of it and the tedious process of going through a receivership has been passed and whatever disposition of the property is to be made can now be made. It is hoped and believed by many that this mill, once a great financial asset to Raeford and the county, will again be put into operation and become again a great business asset.

This mill was founded in 1905 by Hoke County business men, with Messrs. T. B. and W. J. Upchurch the leading men in the organization. For fourteen years it was an ideal mill community and one of the most successfully managed to be found anywhere. A high type of labor was employed and a fine spirit prevailed between employers and employees. In 1920 the mill was sold to interests headed by Mr. Claude Gore of Rockingham for \$420,000.00 and with the slump in textiles following soon thereafter began to have hard sledding, culminating in a receivership early last year.

With the abundance of electric power available here, the abundance of labor and the low living costs in this community, many believe that this mill, properly financed and with the low capitalization necessary at the price paid for it, should be able to make necessary improvements and operate on a firm basis. Should such be the case it will prove a big boon to business here.

DR. HARDIE BEGINS MEETING HERE SOON

Is Pastor of Large Charlotte Church — Will Hold Ser- vices Here Beginning Sun- day.

The annual spring services of the Raeford Presbyterian church will begin Sunday, April 26th, with the eleven o'clock service. The services will continue through the following Sunday with two services daily during the week, morning service at ten-thirty and evening service at seven-thirty.

The bringing of Dr. James F. Hardie to Raeford is an occasion of much pride to the members and officers of the Raeford Presbyterian church. Dr. Hardie is pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Charlotte, one of the strongest Presbyterian churches in North Carolina. This position Dr. Hardie accepted when it was left vacant by the death of Dr. McGeachy, the virile and beloved minister who was pastor of the church for many years. Dr. Hardie felt the call to the ministry after he had decided upon a career as a business man. Leaving his business he went to the seminary and prepared himself for the gospel ministry. Since going into this work he has held

SOLDIERS CELEBRATE

The two military companies celebrated the promising outcome of the recent inspection at a fish fry at the Country Club this week. The personnel of the two military organizations was on hand almost one hundred percent and enjoyed the fare of fried fish and catfish stew prepared for them under the supervision of Hoke County's pre-eminent social cook.

Work in the military companies has been slackened for several weeks in deference to the intensive work that was necessary to prepare the units for the inspection. The local authorities were well pleased with the spirit of the company during the hard work and decreed two weeks respite from active work.

WILL ROGERS PAYS FLY- ING VISIT TO RAEFORD

Will Rogers, notable humorist, philanthropist, philosopher, actor and writer, the lovable non-such of modern America, paid a flying visit to Hoke county and Raeford on Monday, April 20, according to information gleaned from Will's daily article in the state press the following day. According to this article, Will Rogers traveled from Jacksonville to Washington on one of the air liners of the East Coast Air Line, whose route of travel passes just to the East of Raeford. Some local citizens aver that they deduced the news from the smiling skies but those citizens must have caught Monday's skies at an off moment; or perhaps the skies were hysterical. That might account for it.

At any rate Will's daily articles as printed Tuesday gives ample proof that he got a good glimpse of Hoke county for he refers enthusiastically to the beautiful landscape passed over. Hoke county citizens have ample reason to say that Will was all up in the air over our scenery when he saw it Monday.

SUGGEST FISHERMEN

TO WEAR TAIL LIGHTS

Some guy asked Mr. Henry Teal of Blue Springs Township, 'tother day if he had a license to fish. He replied that he didn't need any license to fish, but that he thought it would be a good idea for all night fishermen to wear tail lights so as not to be bumping into each other.