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# The News-Journal

HOKE COUNTY'S  
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NEWSPAPER

The Hoke County News

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## Lt. Dickson Tells Truth About Trinidad

Port of Spain, Trinidad, July 17, 1941.—Captain Betts, commanding officer of Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 252nd Coast Artillery, called me the other day just after the air mail from the States had been distributed. He said "What are these ghost stories you've been writing home?"

I was immediately curious to know just what he was talking about, and to satisfy this curiosity he handed me a letter from a member of the family of one of the men in his battery. The woman who wrote it was very distressed, as the boy she was interested in had not written home in some time and she said that she had seen an article in the paper by Lt. Paul Dickson to the effect that forty-seven men of the 252nd were in the hospital with malaria fever and that two others were being sent home because they were crazy from the "unbearable" conditions down here.

At the outset I say that these are the first words I have written for any paper since I have been in Trinidad. A letter I wrote my mother from the American Legion was published, but it was written prior to our landing here. I have also not written any facts at all to the United States about conditions here. However, since I am being quoted any way, I shall tell a few facts about this place and about our life here in order that in the future I may at least be quoted correctly.

In the first place only four men of the 252nd have returned to the United States from the Trinidad Base Command. Of these, three went home because the authorities here were convinced that circumstances existed at their homes which caused them to be needed there. The other was sent back with an illness in no way tropical (nor venereal) for the reason that hospital facilities there were considered better to deal with his particular case.

In the second place the physical condition of the men who are here is generally good. There are some illnesses, of course—there would be anywhere—but in no greater proportion than there would be on a post in North Carolina. As far as malaria and mosquitoes are concerned, there are not as many mosquitoes here in this camp as there are on my front porch in Raeford plenty of nights during the summer. At some of the other camps there are more of the anopheles or malaria-carrying type in the minority. Most of them are the same sort of mosquitoes you have up there, merely pests. All precautions are taken as far as each man and officer is concerned to protect him from mosquitoes.

As to these bogus bogies we build up among ourselves for the fun of it the way we have certain houses "haunted" at home, it seems that some of the folks back there have been taking very seriously the news that vampires were liable to suck our blood and run us crazy almost every night. When I was a kid I had plenty of the colored folks and the older people tell me the same sort of stories about what would get me if I went into the dark and the like. Well, this is almost a parallel as those tales were probably based on activities of the Ku Klux Klan long before and these are based on the actual existence of a vampire bat. This bat used to carry rabies and give it to humans. It hasn't happened in several years now, although a bat was killed a year and a half or two years ago with rabies. Of many bats killed in the last few years no others have been found carrying the rabies germ. If someone does happen to get bitten by one, Dr. Peyton, a government doctor here, has a serum which is a sure preventive in case the old vampire is really as bad as he's cracked up to be—and the odds are a thousand to one he won't be. In the case of the snakes which are talked about here, we have contacted fewer poisonous snakes than we would have rattlers and cottonmouth moccasins under like circumstances at home.

Having told you as nearly as I could the straight story of the evils around here, I'll now tell you about some of the things we have here to make life a little better. We do have them, in spite of the fact that the Equator and the Amazon jungles are not over a few hundred miles from us and that some of our more homesick comrades are blind to these good things at times.

In the first place, the climate here is unbelievably pleasant to a person from the temperate zones. The mean or average temperature on the Island of Trinidad for the year round is from eighty to eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit. That's one thing you can't have to take my word for, but

## Hoke To Have Rural Policeman

Mr. J. A. McGoogan, County Auditor, has announced that the County Commissioner have decided to put a rural policeman into service in this county. This officer will go into service in September and will be a full-time man. He will patrol the whole county and his duties will be to uphold law-and-order all over the county. It is not yet known who this officer will be, but the Commissioners have several names under consideration and expect to make a selection and iron out the details in August sessions.

## Aluminum Needed For Defense

A. S. Knowles, chairman of the Hoke county drive for Aluminum for Defense says that every person in Hoke county should make an effort to give all the aluminum that can possibly be found. He states further that a receiving station will be located in front of the Courthouse. Those having aluminum should carry it to this assembly point.

Old pots and pans will comprise the bulk of the aluminum, but there are many other articles. Mr. Knowles says to bring it to the receiving point whether it be large or small. He says that the campaign will close on Monday, July 28.

Gladys and Tracy Monroe are spending this week in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

up in your atlas or geography book. While the sun is pretty hot through the day, the nights are invariably cool and comfortable.

For recreation the boys have a softball league, or rather two leagues, and play regularly scheduled games three times a week. At the end of the season there will be a series between the flag winner in each league for the base championship. To date "D" Battery of the 252nd is the only undefeated team in either league.

Another much patronized form of recreation is the movies. The War Department has installed a theatre everywhere there are troops and five pictures are shown each week. They are the same pictures the folks at home are seeing with Mickey Mouse, Popeye, Donald Duck, and plenty of American newsreels thrown in. We even saw ourselves in a newsreel a couple of weeks ago.

Each Sunday large groups of the troops are taken on excursions to various points of interest on and near Trinidad. Picnic lunches are carried and on many of these trips the boys get to spend some time on the beautiful tropical beaches. This form of amusement is rapidly growing in popularity with the men.

Last Wednesday night the men of 252nd had a big buffet supper followed by a dance in their mess hall here. The girls for these affairs are contacted through the Soldier's and Sailor's Club and are fine girls. The club, incidentally, is run in much the same fashion as the Service Centers in the States. I understand that a company of the Infantry is planning another such affair for one night this week.

One of the biggest occasions since we have been here was the mammoth Independence Day celebration staged by all American Forces in Trinidad. The men took part in contests, athletic and otherwise, during the morning and afternoon. At noon the Commanding General of the Trinidad Base Command, the Governor General of Trinidad, and the American Forces in Trinidad took part in the impressive forty-eight gun Salute to the Union. The day wound up with a big fireworks display in the evening, the first, I am told, since the war began.

Before I wind up this little session it might be well to mention our actual living accommodations here. We are quartered in the same sort of tents and sleeping on the same sort of cots and mattresses that we started out last September. Our food is also about the same and we have a Baptist preacher of our own to listen to every Sunday in our own chapel.

It is my hope that what I have said will help North Carolina folks to realize that we are not faring so badly here. Some of us get homesick at times and some of us more than others, but we'd do that anywhere we were kept away from home several months at a stretch. Then, too, when some of us are missing our girls back home real badly we carry the old soldier's beefing a little further than we mean to. The people there shouldn't get the idea from that that we can't take it as well as the Regular soldiers with whom we are working. We haven't quite got used to it maybe, but we'll take it all right, and the Old Sergeant will be proud of us when we get back.

## Red Cross Sewing Room Schedule

Mrs. H. A. Cameron, Red Cross chairman in Hoke County, has announced the following schedules for the Red Cross Sewing Rooms for this and next week. Mrs. Cameron asks that the ladies of the county please bear these dates in mind and report on the proper days.

July 22-25, Mrs. J. W. Crawley, Supervisor.  
Rockfish—Tuesday, July 22  
Raedeen—Thursday, July 24  
Allendale—Tuesday, July 29  
Mildouson—Tuesday, July 29  
Wayside—Thursday, July 31  
Antioch—Thursday, July 31  
Little River—Thursday, July 31  
Presbyterian Circles  
Number 2—Mrs. J. L. McNeill, Friday, July 25.  
Number 3—Mrs. Ernest Campbell, Friday, August 1.  
Methodist Circles  
Mrs. Mitchell Epstein, Monday, July 28  
Baptist Circles  
Pearl Johnson and Eli Young, Wednesday, July 23.  
Business Women's and Pearl Johnson, July 30.  
Signed: Mrs. H. A. Cameron

## Hoke Cattle To Be Tested For Bang's Disease

Testing of cattle in Hoke County for Bang's disease was started yesterday by Dr. R. D. Rodgers, veterinarian for the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, according to A. S. Knowles, county agent. Farmers who have any cattle are asked to cooperate in having all cattle tested. This will not cost the farmer, but it will mean much to those having cattle to know that their cattle are free of this disease.

Three-fourths of the counties in North Carolina have completed this work, according to Mr. Knowles. The county commissioners are cooperating in this disease campaign by furnishing a helper. It is expected that the work will be completed in Hoke County by October. If any cattle are overlooked in any community it should be reported at once to the county agent.

## Light Docket In Recorder's Court

Only three cases came before the recorder this week, all others being continued because the principals, or the chief witnesses could not be found. James W. Hardy, of Little River, was charged with abandonment and desertion. The court continued the case indefinitely on the condition that he pay \$10 monthly for the support of his child.

Leonard Scriven was charged with assaulting Andrew Melvin with a deadly weapon, to wit, an ax. The court found probable cause and bound him over to Superior Court.

Mary Young and Alberta Monroe, who were charged with affray and assault, and pleaded guilty, were sentenced to sixty days in jail, sentence to be suspended on payment of the cost and a fine of ten dollars. Alberta Monroe paid the fine and costs, proving that a razor is just as effective as a knife.

## Methodist Notes

The summertime Sunday School Contest is in full swing at the Raeford Methodist Church. The Men's Class and the Fidelis Class are in a close race. We invite you to enroll in our school if you are not already enrolled elsewhere.

Preaching at the Raeford Methodist Church Sunday morning; Union Service at the Baptist Church, Sunday night with Rev. E. C. Crawford preaching; Mr. Thumm will also preach at the Raeford Mill Chapel Sunday night.

## Baptist Church Notes

Sunday School 9:45  
Morning Worship 11:00  
Union Service at the Baptist Church, Bro. Crawford preaching, J. E. Reamy, Pastor.

Mrs. Keith, of Keith's Beauty Shop, is on her vacation this week. She will spend part of her time with her mother, Mrs. Thomas, in Cameron. Mrs. Lelia Boyle, is assisting in the Beauty Shop while Mrs. Keith is away.



"TAINT FUNNY, McGEE!" Jim and Marion Jordan (Fibber McGee and Molly) are now working in RKO Radio's riotous comedy, "Look Who's Laughing," in which they star with Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy and Lucille Ball. Advance "raves" of the show which have reached New York indicate that they deliver their radio brand of comedy repartee even more effectively on the screen.

## Referendum On Soil Conservation Friday-Saturday

Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26, are the days set for holding the referendum which is to determine whether a soil conservation district is to be established in Hoke County, according to a statement by A. S. Knowles, county agent. The voting will take place at the county agent's office.

The proposed conservation district will include the counties of Hoke, Cumberland, Robeson, and Scotland. It will be known as the Pee-Dee-Cape Fear Soil Conservation District. Hoke farmers have an opportunity to get a service in the county without cost to the state, county, or individual farmer. Some of the services offered through the district may be listed as building terraces to check erosion, encourage the planting of more cover crops to control wind erosion, plant and protect forests, assist with a definite crop rotation to insure better farming practice, make soil tests, and give correct fertilizer recommendations. There are other services which are too numerous to mention, stated Mr. Knowles.

Farmers very often get the idea that the Soil Conservation District is a part of the AAA program, but this is not true, said Mr. Knowles. The program has nothing to do with adjustment or allotments; however, it may assist in earning payments by planting some recommended crops or following a program of erosion control. The purpose of the district is to control erosion on the farms of Hoke County. Every farm in the county has some problems that need the soil conservation district.

Ballots have been mailed to all land owners. If the land owners think that this type of program will benefit them or their neighbors, they should vote for the district. Each ballot voted must be marked and signed. Ballots must be returned not later than Saturday, July 26. Voting will take place in the county agent's office also on the 25th and 26th. Several ballots voted by land owners may be returned in the same envelope. At least 51 percent of those voting must favor the establishment of a district before the vote is carried. A large vote must be cast in order to justify the creation of the District.

## Hunting and Fishing Licenses Now On Sale

Due to the fact that 1941-42 hunting and fishing licenses are void after July 31st, the 1941-42 licenses are now on sale with agents who sold them the past season. Those desiring to purchase their hunting licenses early, will also find these available. However, placing these licenses on sale at this time, does not give anyone the privilege of hunting before the opening of the hunting season as set forth by the North Carolina Game Laws.

H. R. McLean, County Game and Fishing Protector.

## Orthopedic Clinic To Be Held Friday

The Orthopedic Clinic will be held in the basement of the Agriculture Building in Lumberton on Friday, August 1st, beginning at 9 o'clock, and is free to all indigent children under twenty-one years of age.

Dr. O. L. Miller of Charlotte will be the surgeon in charge.

## Aluminum To Be Gathered In County This Week

Josephine Hall and A. S. Knowles, Home and Farm Agents, respectively, are lending a helping hand in the aluminum gathering campaign in Hoke County this week. The people of the county were asked to bring any old aluminum not in use to Farm and Home Field Day at the ball park on Wednesday. A pen has also been placed in front of the Court house and people in the County who have not yet brought in aluminum may bring their articles there.

On Friday, at three o'clock p. m., the Raeford Theater is running a special matinee in cooperation with the drive and any one bringing in a good sized article of aluminum will be admitted free.

Miss Hall and Mr. Knowles say "Anything that's made of aluminum will do. Aluminum is light in weight and will not rust. Pots and pans, toys, salt and pepper shakers, hair curlers, kettles, double boilers, picture frames, old ice trays, measuring cups, jar caps, and dozens of other articles we use everyday are made of aluminum. A careful search of pantries, basements, and other storage spaces will probably reveal many items no longer useful to the owner but that will help increase our present aluminum supplies. The purpose of the campaign is to supply the large amount of aluminum needed for the production of defense equipment, especially fighting planes."

The people of the county are urged to take part in the campaign just as are the people in the other counties and states this week.

## Prizes Offered For Attendance At District Meetings

The Guilford County Farm Bureau, through its President, George Sockwell, announced today that it was offering a grand prize of \$15.00 to the county in North Carolina with the largest attendance at any of the four Farm Bureau Meetings to be held at Asheville, July 22nd; Greensboro, July 23rd; Gastonia, July 24th, and Greenville, July 25th.

In addition to the grand prize, there will also be given a first prize of \$10.00 and a second prize of \$5.00 to the county with the largest attendance at any one of the four district meetings.

The largest attendance score will be based on both mileage and number present from the county. The total score for a county will be calculated by multiplying the number present by the mileage from the county agent's office to the place of meeting.

Mr. Sockwell stated today "The Farm Bureau is bringing to North Carolina for these meetings some of the outstanding Agricultural Leaders in the United States, including J. B. Hutson, President of the Commodity Credit Corporation and Walter Randolph, President of the Alabama Farm Bureau. These two men know perhaps more about tobacco and cotton than any two men in the United States. The farmers of North Carolina should take this opportunity to hear a full discussion of the agricultural problems of the Day."

The Government has announced a national effort to prevent fruits and vegetables from going to waste this summer by promoting full use, canning, drying, or storage of these foods.



AMERICA ON GUARD!  
Above is a reproduction of the Treasury Department's Defense Savings Poster, showing an early suggestion of the original "FOR DEFENSE BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS" slogan by James M. Smith, Jr., Chief of the War Relocation Authority, and a member of the War Relocation Authority's staff.