

HOKE COUNTY'S
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The News-Journal

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ONLY
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The Hoke County News

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RAEFORD, N. C., THURSDAY JANUARY 15 1942

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Fire Destroys Raeford Power Plant Thursday

Small Explosion of Transformer Leads Blazing Oil Over at \$50,000 Loss

Destroyed the plant and most of the machinery and equipment of the power plant of Raeford Power and Manufacturing company last Thursday night following an explosion of one of the bank of transformers within the generating plant.

Carson Bundles, night operator, stated that he heard a slight explosion about 11 o'clock and that almost immediately afterwards the building was ablaze. One of the two 500 horsepower generators, the switching equipment were a complete loss and the other generator was badly damaged, it was stated by Tom Cameron, secretary-treasurer of the Upchurch Milling and Storage company, an affiliate concern.

Bundles, who was trapped away from the doors of the building, escaped by diving from a window into the creek, on which the hydro-plant was built. It was located on Rockfish creek about fifteen miles from Raeford and five miles from Hope Mills.

Plan Rebuilding

Plans for rebuilding the generating plant are now being considered and engineers were in Raeford yesterday studying the layout and making recommendations. It was found that the generator could be rebuilt. According to Mr. Cameron, all other equipment will have to be replaced. He stated that estimates of the damage showed the loss to be slightly over \$50,000.

Electricity generated was used by the Hoke Oil and Fertilizer company and the Upchurch Milling and Storage company, and a number of residents on the rural lines leading into Raeford. The company maintained an interchange meter with the Carolina Power and Light company and sold and bought power from that utility as load and demand required. Due to this arrangement none of its customers have been without service on account of the destruction of the plant.

An investigation of the possible causes of the explosion has produced no plausible explanation, stated Mr. Cameron. Apparently there was no natural cause for the explosion from gas accumulations, and the possibility of sabotage is discounted by investigation authorities.

Night-Latch Hurts Mr. Hurt

This morning this week neighbor Hurt went out on his front porch for his paper. While darting across the veranda a wintry blast struck the front door and the night latch struck it. Hurt's feelings were very sorely hurt, at first, then the icy wind bit to hurt, for Hurt was but lightly clad in pajamas and dressing gown.

Hurt was spending the week alone, while his family was off on a visit and the little matter of buzzing the doorbell could bring no one to let him in. He tried the windows of the house, he tried the back door, he tried the side door, but all were securely closed.

In the meantime a kindly neighbor spied him running around the house half clothed and, by now, half frozen. She invited him to come over to her house and warm by the fire. Her husband could be called upon to bring some extra keys so Neighbor Hurt could get back into his home.

Stove Explodes in Davis Home

Though the weather was quite cold when Mrs. Christian McK. Davis fired up her kitchen stove last Friday morning, little did she think that it was sufficiently cold for water pipes to be frozen.

Yet, but a short time afterwards the stove exploded and almost wrecked the kitchen. No one was hurt, but flying metal tore through the walls and ripped out the glass panes of the sash of three windows. Water flooding from the burst pipes did additional damage.

First Aid Class To Be Organized Here Tuesday

Instruction by Qualified Red Cross Workers Offered to Class of Thirty in County

A class for instructors of First Aid, under the supervision of qualified Red Cross workers, will be begun here next Tuesday, January 21, according to Mrs. H. A. Cameron, county chairman.

Applicants for the thirty places in the class are wanted from each section of Hoke county, it was said, so that they in turn could organize first aid groups in their communities. Nurses and teachers are especially urged to apply for attendance. The class will meet three times each week for a period of two hours for a total of thirty classroom hours. Those taking the course will be asked to organize local first aid units in their communities and supervise the training of the members.

Mrs. Cameron has secured the cooperation of the medical and nursing staffs of the state Sanatorium and the instructors of the group here will come from the Sanatorium. She urges all who wish to take this important course to see or write her immediately so the class can be organized before its first meeting Tuesday.

Three Accidents Near Here During Week

R. D. Hardester was painfully injured when he was struck by a car last Monday while crossing highway 15-A at the edge of town after alighting from a bus. The car was driven by Harold J. Frazee of Princeton, N. J. Frazee was arrested by Highway Patrolman Barnes and charged with reckless driving. Hardester suffered bruises, cuts and minor internal injuries.

Foster McCollough and three passengers in his car were slightly injured when their car struck an Army truck parked off highway 15-A last Thursday. The truck, of the 71st Infantry from Fort Dix, N. J., had run out of gas and was hit before it could clear the roadway. McCollough was charged with reckless driving.

Frazer Hilton, garage worker of Laurinburg and Dan Clark of Raeford were both slightly injured when their cars collided on 15-A 3 miles east of Raeford Monday evening about 6:30. Hilton's car caught fire and was considered a total loss by officers of the highway patrol and of the Sheriff's department who investigated the accident. Clark was badly shocked and bruised by the crash but was released by Dr. H. G. O'Brian a few hours after the accident. He was ordered held on charges of operating a car under influence of liquor and on reckless driving charges.

Hold Blackout in N. C. Area

Lumberton District, including Fort Bragg, is Satisfactory in First Test. The Lumberton district, including Fort Bragg and Raeford, was blacked out last night against an imaginary enemy bombing attack. The test was considered generally satisfactory.

Fayetteville reported that the plate glass window of a jewelry store, where a light had been left burning, was smashed but there was no looting. Nor was there an arrest. Two airplanes, presumably civilian flew over Lumberton, where a master switch was thrown to provide darkness.

The Committee on Civilian Protection said that the blackout in Raeford and vicinity was very nearly 100 percent successful.

Waste Paper Will Be Collected By Raeford Scouts

The Boy Scouts of Raeford will collect waste paper here it was announced yesterday, and collection schedules are being arranged this week end for the business and residential sections.

The paper will be collected and bundled and then taken to a central storage building from which it will be sold.

FOR VICTORY



Hoke County Red Cross Chapter Short Of Quota.

\$271.84 is needed yet to bring contributions to the Hoke County Red Cross chapter to its goal of \$2,000 in the special War Fund Drive which is to be brought to a close next week, according to Mrs. Cameron, president of the chapter. This fund, stated Mrs. Cameron, is needed for relief work among our soldiers and civilians in war stricken areas on the United States' on battle lines. It is a separate drive from the annual membership roll call which was conducted last November, a fact which may seem misunderstand. The Red Cross has asked for an additional \$50,000,000 for this work and, if you haven't contributed to this fund, please see your community chairman now.

News Journal Will Print Directory Next Week

The Army Directory on which the News - Journal has been working for several weeks is about complete and will be published next week. At the same time a Directory of the stores, business houses and official personnel of town and county will be published.

The News - Journal wants the Army people and the town to realize what a good thing they have in each other. The paper from this date on wishes to list all movements of the Army personnel and we will consider it a favor if the News-Journal is notified promptly of any changes.

County Court Docket Light

Only six defendants have faced Judge W. B. McQueen in county court during the past two weeks. Last Tuesday James Pou and Neill McAllister paid costs for driving cars without license plates, and Other Clio Johnson paid a like amount for speeding.

This week, Emlo Eugene Lentz drew a 30 day suspended sentence for careless and reckless driving; Matthew Fairley, paid \$50 and cost and had his drivers license suspended for 12 months for operating a car while drunk. He also paid costs for careless and reckless driving. James C. Morris, indicted on two larceny counts, for stealing a car operators license from Aelx Whitted, and for the theft of several bushels of corn from the Upchurch Milling and Storage company, received a three months sentence on the county roads, and a 30 day sentence, to run concurrently.

Kiwanis Install New Officers On Ladies Night

Dr. C. D. Thomas, of Sanatorium, Succeeds N. A. McDonald, Jr., As Head of Civic Group

Dr. C. D. Thomas, of Sanatorium, was installed as president of the Raeford Kiwanis Club, at the meeting held last Thursday evening which was also the occasion of the annual Ladies Night program.

Other officers installed were: J. L. McNeill, vice president, H. C. McLaughlin, secretary and treasurer, and N. A. McDonald, Jr., immediate past president. The directors inducted were J. B. Thomas, Thomas Cameron, Dr. John E. G. McLain, M. C. Dew, D. H. Hddgin, T. B. Upchurch, Jr., Harry K. Holland and K. A. McDonald Senator Ryan McBryde conducted the installation.

Following the dinner Rev. Harry K. Holland gave the address of the evening. His subject was "The American Heritage."

Miss Ina Bethune, the club's only woman member, was presented the annual award for most loyal Kiwanian by M. C. Dew. A program of stunts was presented under the direction of Tom Cameron. The committee in charge of the arrangements for this annual event was made up of H. L. Gatlin Jr., Tom Cameron and Dr. John McLain.

Tire Rationing Board Meets

The tire rationing board of Hoke county of which Ryan McBryde is chairman announces that the following applications have been passed on and approved.

T. C. Scarborough, Raeford Scrap Iron Dealer, 2 tires and 2 tubes for truck; Dr. W. M. Peck, Sanatorium physician, 1 tire and 1 tube for car; Raeford Power Manufacturing Company, Electric Repair Service, 2 tires and 2 tubes for pickup.

On Furlough For a Day

Carlton Niven, John Thomas Walters, Tom Conoly and Talmadge English, members of Battery F of 252nd coast artillery, recently transferred from Fort Screvin, Ga., to Camp Shelby, Miss., spent last Thursday here with their families.

ERROS - RED CROSS RELIEF

The names appearing last week and this, under Red Cross Roll Call, should have come under this caption: "Contributions of Red Cross War Relief of \$1 or Over." There were some very substantial contributions on towards Hoke's quota of \$2000. The War Relief Fund was called for in addition to the Roll Call.

Two Auto Killers On Trial Here Next Week

Judge Walter Bone to Preside Over Superior Court Term; Matricide Case Scheduled

The cases of Benjamin Thomas, colored, accused of the murder of his mother, Susie Thomas, and of Sim Liles and June Breeden, both colored, drivers of cars involved in fatal accidents, will be heard during the session of Hoke County Superior court to convene here Monday morning, with Judge Walter Bone, of Nashville presiding.

Thomas has been in jail for five weeks awaiting action of the grand jury following the fatal shooting of Susie Thomas, his mother, during an argument which Thomas had with a brother and other members of his family. The shooting took place at their home in Little River Township.

Sim Liles, charged with careless and reckless driving and manslaughter was the driver of the truck which collided with the car of Melvin D. Gentry, superintendent of McNair farms, in late November. Gentry was almost instantly killed and his daughter was hurt in the crash.

June Breeden was the driver of the car that collided with that in which Miss Grace Cooley, of Wagram, was riding when she was fatally hurt early in December. Miss Cooley, a sophomore at Flora MacDonald College, was en route to her home with friends, all of whom were severely hurt, at the time she was killed.

Other cases to be heard include: Thomas A. Devane and Thomas H. Sutton, prominent Fayetteville businessmen, charged with hunting quail after sunset; McKinley McCormick, negro of Red Springs, charged with driving car under influence of liquor; James Archie Harrington, charged with assault with deadly weapon on Son Murchison, with intent to kill; and A. A. Barefoot, careless and reckless driving and operation of car while intoxicated.

Lafayette Assn. Holds January Meeting Here

The Lafayette Highway Association held its January meeting in Raeford at the Raeford Hotel. Carol Jordan, Hartsville, S. C., who is president of the Association, presided. John J. Riley, Sumter, S. C., secretary-treasurer, gave the financial report.

At a previous meeting in Laurinburg, December 3rd, it was agreed that the Lafayette Highway Association would employ a full time secretary and furnish traveling expenses for him, it being his duty to travel from Maine to Florida in an effort to stimulate traffic on highway 15-A. After a lengthy discussion at the meeting Tuesday the association decided that it would be impractical to employ a full time secretary at this time.

The Lafayette Highway Association was formed a number of years ago and consists of all towns between Walterboro, S. C., and Raleigh, N. C. Highway 15 and 15-A carried more than 50 per cent of all north and southbound traffic on the eastern Seaboard. The Raeford Association has never failed to pay its quota for maintenance of the Lafayette Association. For the past two years Raeford has paid a total of \$350. This has been made possible by the splendid cooperation of the merchants and other interested people in Raeford.

Those present were W. E. Street, A. A. Graham, N. A. McDonald, Jr. and Tom Cameron, of Raeford; John J. Riley and W. E. Pratt, Sumter, S. C.; Frank J. Deschamps, Bishopville, S. C.; J. F. Patterson and A. L. Breeden, Bennettsville, S. C.; G. E. Betts, A. E. Dixon, and J. R. Boyd, Fayetteville, N. C.; E. D. Sexton, H. E. Foxworth, M. L. Townsend, Society Hill, S. C.; and Carol Jordan, Hartsville, S. C.

Boswell Bethune Takes Job at Wilmington

Boswell Bethune, for the past six years connected with the Hoke Drug

Scrap Metal Total Reaches 700,000 Pounds in Hoke

Campaign to "Scrap The Japs With Scrap" Spreading Far and Wide as County Shows the Way

The total scrap iron collected in Hoke County and sold to "RED" Scarborough will reach 700,000 pounds this week, it was stated yesterday.

Mr. Scarborough said that his concern had already weighed in 625,000 pounds and had bought at least 75,000 pounds additional metal which was on farms but was yet to be hauled to the foundries. The metal is being sold by him to Blue's Foundries of Laurinburg and Ward's Foundries of Fayetteville.

Hoke county has started a defense program of collecting scrap metal that is fast spreading over the state and nation. During the next few weeks special "scrap iron" days are being held in most of the counties of the state, and inquiries have been received by Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College, for information concerning the program held here.

In inaugurating the program here, the county committee expressed hope for slightly more metal than the 100,000 pound goal set, but no one expected the total would reach within a quarter million pounds of the amount actually obtained. While some was brought from outside the county, Mr. Scarborough states that this would amount to only a few thousand pounds. And he says that practically 99 percent of all the metal brought in here was readily usable, and the greater part of it very good quality.

Red Cross Gets \$100
The scrap buyer paid a flat price of 50c per hundred for the metal or approximately \$3,500. Many of those bringing in small lots contributed their entire proceeds from the sale of the metal to the Hoke County chapter of the Red Cross to apply on the war fund of the society.

Mr. Scarborough stated that he was aiding Scotland county with a similar program next week, and following that would go to Bladen County for a "Scrap Iron Week." Moore County held the old metal day this week and many tons of metal were being brought to central points there for sale to buyers.

WARNING

Automobiles Must Not Follow Fire Truck
State Law Will Be Enforced

All drivers of cars will be arrested and prosecuted when caught following the fire truck to fires.

In the past drivers going to fires have endangered the lives of the firemen and blocked operation of the fire department when it arrives at the scene of the fire.

Officers are being instructed to arrest any person violating this law.

THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO FIREMEN DRIVING THEIR OWN CARS. FIREMEN'S CARS ARE IDENTIFIED IN ORDER THAT THE POLICE MAY RECOGNIZE THEM.

(Signed) G. W. BROWN, Mayor

Williamsport Grays Coming Again

W. E. Street, manager of the Hotel Raeford is in receipt of a letter from J. Roy Clunk of the Williamsport Grays to the effect that this ball club will come to Raeford again this year for spring practice. They will arrive March 29. The Williamsport Grays had very attractive offers from several other places but chose Raeford.

Company, left last week for Wilmington where he has accepted a position with the Bellamy Wholesale company, a drug jobbing concern.