

Four Hoke Men Commissioned On Same Day



LT. WILLIAM E. PLUMMER



LT. REID W. CHILDRESS



LT. ELDRED H. HELTON



LT. LAWRENCE HELTON

Four Hoke Countians gained second lieutenants' commissions and were awarded their pilots' wings on the same day as the Army Air Forces, on March 13, graduated the largest class of pilots in the history of the training command.

They are Reid W. Childress, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Childress of Raeford; Lawrence Libburn Helton and Eldred Howell Helton, sons of Mrs. Mary Helton of Timberland and

William E. Plummer, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Plummer of Raeford, Route 2.

All four of the men have been at their homes in the county for ten days. Lts. Helton left Tuesday for Walnut Ridge AAF Kansas, where they will be flight instructors. Lts. Plummer and Childress are still on leaves but are expected to report this week at air fields for duty.

JOINS WAC

Mrs. Mary Pope Matthews will leave today for Durham, enroute to Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., where she will take the basic training of the Womens Army Corps. For the past 18 months she has been employed by a ship-building concern at Newport News, Va.

Two brothers, T/Sgt. Jack Pope stationed in Trinidad, and S/Sgt. Howard L. Pope, a prisoner since the fall of Corregidor, are also in the service.

Sgt. William E. Parks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Parks of Shannon, Route, has recently completed a course in jungle warfare given men of the coast artillery unit stationed in Trinidad.

Two other sons of theirs are also overseas. S/Sgt. Ralph D. Parks is in Trinidad and Leroy Parks is with the merchant marines in Australia.

Col. R. B. Lewis, commanding officer of the U. S. Army post of Port-of-Spain, arrived home last week to spend some time here with his family.

St. Johns School For Negroes Burns

The St. Johns Negro school of the Antioch township was destroyed by fire last Tuesday afternoon. Building and its contents were a total loss, according to K. A. MacDonald, county superintendent of education. Insurance amounting to \$1052.50 was carried on the property.

The school, a two teacher school, serving about 70 pupils, is being continued in a house offered to the board of education by W. C. Holgin. Classes were resumed Monday morning.

It is expected that plans for continued operation of the school will be made at the April meeting of the County Board of Education when it convenes Monday.

Present Stainer's "Crucifixion" On Next Friday Eve

Stainer's cantata, "The Crucifixion" will be given at the Raeford Methodist church on Friday night, April 7, at 8:00 o'clock. This is being sponsored by the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian Church choirs and the Chaminate Music Club. The chorus will be under the direction of Miss Audrey Brunckhurst, director of music at the Presbyterian church.

"Doctors' Day" Will Be Observed Today

Members of the Medical Auxiliary will entertain the Hoke County Medical Society at a spaghetti supper this evening in observance of "Doctors' Day."

March 30th, anniversary of the first use of ether as an anesthetic in surgery by Dr. Crawford W. Long of Georgia, has been selected for annual observance of a day for honoring the members of the medical profession.

Grays In Eastern League Again; Season Opens May 3

Williamsport To Train At Home Due To Travel Conditions.

By Elmer L. Schuyler
Williamsport, Pa. (special)—The Raeford friends of the Williamsport Grays will, we are sure, be glad to know that the Grays are back in the Eastern League. It would be fine if we could report that they would get their spring training in Raeford this year, but travel conditions and the gasoline situation will make a trip out of the question. Let's hope for better things a year hence.

Williamsport will take the place of Springfield, Mass., in the league. The franchise will be Williamsport-owned, but the 1944 team will be directed by John Cambria, a retired business man of Cincinnati, Ohio, who is a dyed-in-the-wool baseball enthusiast.

League ball is being brought back by a group of wide-awake men representing a cross-section of the citizenship and local activities. It is the purpose of the group to raise \$15,000 as a backlog safeguard against possible contingencies during the season. The franchise has already been bought and paid for.

The Eastern league will be made up of Albany, Binghamton, Utica, and Elmira, N. Y.; Hartford, Conn.; and Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport, Pa. The season will open May 3 and the schedule calls for 140 games. In Bowman Field, Williamsport has one of the finest baseball parks in the country. Night ball will be played.

The league was organized in 1923, and Williamsport was a member up to 1943, when its franchise was sold to Elmira and J. Roy Clunk was signed as Elmira's business manager. He had a very successful season, and was signed for this season. So for the first time in more than a decade the Grays will not have him for their manager.

Thomas H. Richardson, who is known to numerous Raeford men, is president of the Eastern League.

Negro Held For Attempted Rape On White Woman

D. J. deBerry Waives Hearing Tuesday; Bound Over To April Term Superior Court.

D. J. deBerry, 17 year-old negro, was ordered held for trial at the April term of Superior Court Tuesday when he waived a hearing on charges of attempted rape upon a white woman before Judge Henry McDiarmid. Bond was set at \$1,000 but the negro was still in jail late yesterday.

The charges were brought by Mrs. William Black, young wife of the overseer of a farm where deBerry used to work, after he had attempted to embrace her at home near town. According to Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin, who investigated the case and arrested the negro, the boy went to the Black home Saturday morning, and after inquiring about members of the family and finding out that Mrs. Black and her infant child were alone at the home, helped her about the house for a while. When the baby started crying, Mrs. Black entered her bedroom and the negro followed her. While she was holding the baby, she told the sheriff, that deBerry caught her by the arm and attempted to embrace her. She ordered him to free her and to leave the place. He left immediately. Mrs. Black notified the sheriff, who a short while later overtook the boy while on his way from the Black home to town on the road near Jess Dunlap's filling station.

The deBerry boy had lived on the farm and worked for the Black family for some time up until a few months ago.

Antioch School Matter Up For Settlement

Question Of Determining Continuation To Be Decided Monday By Board Of Education.

The final decision concerning continued operation of the Antioch graded school is expected to be reached Monday at the April meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education, it was stated yesterday by K. A. MacDonald, county superintendent.

Up for discussion last summer, final decision of the matter was left open until next Monday, when, the board announced, a settlement would be agreed upon.

A petition containing many names of patrons of the school sought the closing of the school last fall and permission for the children to attend the Raeford school. At the hearing on the petition a large delegation urged continuation of the school and a decision was not reached by the board.

The school, once one of the most populous of the county with a large high school, has been operated in the last few years as a grammar school only, and each year attendance records have shown a decrease in average attendance for the past several years. Last year the average attendance dropped so that only two teachers were allowed for the 1943-44 session, and this year there has been a greater decrease and the average attendance so far indicates that only one teacher will be allowed by the State for the school next year.

Due to the fact that only one teacher will be allotted the school next year, but two arrangements are possible, according to the school officials. One, that the school be continued with that teacher dividing instruction among about three grades, or two, that all children be brought to Raeford by bus and enrolled in the Raeford schools.

USE OF BUILDING

In case the latter decision is reached, it has been proposed that the Antioch building be converted into a school for vocational instruction for the boys of the county, and that the last high school year of such students be spent in practical training and classroom work as boarding students as such a school.

The growth of vocational education in Hoke County High has been exceptional and it is said that within a few years present facilities will be inadequate for a well-rounded vocational program. The Antioch school, with its beautiful site and well-constructed brick building would be acquired for such a school. Land could be firm mechanics, carpentry, electricity could be expanded far beyond that possible with present facilities, it is said. Little additional construction would be necessary to provide buildings for a vocational school that would surpass anything in this section of the state.

History Of Raeford To Be Reviewed By J. M. McDuffie

John Murdoch McDuffie will give the Kiwanians a review of the history of Raeford at the meeting tonight, according to Crawford Thomas, program chairman for the evening.

Mr. McDuffie's parents were among the first families to move to Raeford after it became a town, and he has made a study of the doings of Raefordians since he can first remember hearing tales and truths related by his elders.

Business Men Form Chamber Of Commerce Here

County-Wide Group To Hold M. Richardson Friday Eve At Raeford Hotel.

Plans for the organization of a Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association for Hoke County were discussed last week by a group of men representing many of the county's business concerns and an invitation was extended to I. M. Richardson, of Fayetteville, to address a larger representation here on Friday night, March 31, at 8 o'clock at the Raeford Hotel.

Mr. Richardson is a former secretary of the Chambers of Commerce of Fayetteville and Sumter, S. C., and has a wide experience in civic organization affairs.

J. Benton Thomas was named temporary president of the group last week and Harry Green was appointed acting secretary until a formal organizational meeting can be held. They state that considerable interest in the organization has been manifested and a large attendance of business leaders from all parts of the county is expected. No special invitations have been sent out and all persons interested are cordially invited.

In addition, a merchants association is expected to be formed and will be operated in connection with the chamber.

Plans call for the two bodies to cooperate closely with the County Committee of Economic Development in provision for post-war enterprises which will employ returning service men.

Plant Lespedeza For Hay Crop

Due to the shortage of cowpea seed, farmers are urged to plant more lespedeza this year as hay crop for feeding of livestock. According to County Agent, A. S. Knowles, of Hoke County, this crop can be planted as late as April 15 and good crops may be expected.

Seeding of this crop now with small grain is still possible and some seed are still available, Mr. Knowles says.

Final Report Of War Fund Drive Made By McBryde

County Goes Over \$5,900 Quota By \$2,046.29 As Last Report Is Made.

The final report of funds received to Wednesday morning during the Red Cross War Fund campaign which was concluded in Hoke county Saturday showed that Hoke County contributed \$7,946.28 and exceeded its \$5900 quota by \$2,046.29, according to Chairman Ryan McBryde.

Only one township, Allendale, failed to oversubscribe its quota, according to the chairman, with all other groups contributing more than requested.

The campaign workers were divided into three groups for the three races, with each assigned quotas and each oversubscribing them. Contributions for white people were solicited by townships and the following lists money contributed.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Allendale | \$55.00 |
| Antioch | 361.30 |
| Blue Springs | 305.00 |
| Little River | 108.70 |
| McLaughlin | |
| -Rockfish | \$123.10 |
| -Wayside | 250.15 |
| Total | \$973.25 |
| Queshiffle | |
| -Ashley Heights | \$243.71 |
| -Montrose | 151.60 |
| -Sanatorium | 503.00 |
| Total | \$898.31 |
| Raeford | |
| -Pine Forest | \$202.76 |
| -Raedeen | 136.00 |
| -Edinburgh Mill | 120.50 |
| -Officers Wives Club | 65.00 |
| -Hoke High School | 71.00 |
| -Raeford Theatre Collections | 104.46 |
| -Raeford Residential | 1090.80 |
| -Raeford Business | 2434.75 |
| Total | \$4331.76 |
| Antioch Indian | \$55.40 |
| Macedonia Indian | 52.86 |
| Total | \$105.26 |

The drive for the negroes was handed through their schools and the report is given by school districts:

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|----------------|-----------|
| Timberland | \$29.26 |
| Bowmore | 80.05 |
| New Hope | 19.00 |
| Freedom | 48.00 |
| Calvin Martin | 16.00 |
| McFarland | 11.76 |
| Edinburgh | 16.00 |
| Lilly's Chapel | 34.23 |
| Millside | 42.00 |
| Burlington | 64.05 |
| St. Johns | 32.00 |
| Bridges Grove | 34.41 |
| Piney Bay | 20.00 |
| Cedar Grove | 16.00 |
| Shady Grove | 24.13 |
| Laurel Hill | 48.00 |
| Rockfish | 34.42 |
| White Oak | 48.00 |
| Friendship | 32.00 |
| Peachmont | 4.25 |
| Buffalo | 33.00 |
| Upchurch | 300.00 |
| Frye's Mission | 50.00 |
| Unidentified | 1.22 |
| Total | \$1037.61 |

Mr. McBryde and Mrs. H. A. Cameron, chairman of the rural drive, state that they have received wonderful cooperation from the workers who solicited these funds as well as from the donors, and they very highly appreciate the splendid spirit which was exemplified by the fine results shown in the drive.

Ration Stamps No Longer Expire

Raleigh, March 29—(Special) Theodore S. Johnson, Raleigh OPA district director, declared today that expiration dates for food ration stamps are out for the duration.

Beginning in April, Johnson said, red and blue stamps in War Ration Book No. Four will be good indefinitely.

There will be no change in the way in which stamps become valid. Housewives will continue to get three red stamps worth thirty points every second Sunday and five blue stamps worth fifty points the first of every month.

Johnson said the change is in line with similar changes in other rationing programs. The expiration date of shoe stamps was removed last September and sugar expiration dates were done away with three weeks ago.



THE COTTON IMPROVEMENT TROPHY which was presented the Hoke County One-Variety Cotton Improvement Association at a banquet held at the Armory in Raeford on Friday evening, March 17. Holding the loving cup is R. L. Cooper of Clayton, who present it in the name of the Atlantic Cotton Association, which awards annually a trophy to the county making the greatest improvement in ginning and grade of staple grown and having the greatest percentage of its cotton lands planted to one variety.