



# The News-Journal

The Hoke County News

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RAEFORD, N. C.

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## ROBBINS BUYS WHITE-TEX MILL PROPERTY

### RECEIVES KIWANIS CITIZENSHIP AWARD



In the picture above Crawford Thomas, right, is shown, as he received the first annual Citizenship Award presented by the Raeford Kiwanis club to the outstanding citizen of the community each year. The presentation is being made for the club at the annual Ladies Night last Thursday by Tom Cameron.

### Big Meeting On Rural Telephones Held Monday

Over 200 Citizens Meet At Courthouse; Organize To Contact Company, REA

Two hundred and twenty-four Hoke County citizens met in the Courthouse on Monday evening, January 30, in the interest of securing more rural telephones in the county. Harry Greene, serving as chairman, introduced Mr. Gupton, Manager of the Red Springs, Maxton, Raeford and St. Pauls district of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. Mr. Gupton could make no promises in regard to the company's expanding the service in Hoke County. He reported that the only line he knew of that the company planned to build in 1950 was from Raeford toward the State Sanatorium.

Several people from various sections of the county aired their feelings toward the telephone company saying that it had made numerous promises to expand into the rural areas but that none of the promises had been kept. It was reported that the company had been asked to send a representative into the county several times to discuss the situation, but the requests had been ignored.

After further discussion Marshall Newton made a motion that a board of nine members, consisting of a chairman and one member from each of the eight townships, be elected to consult the Telephone Company to see if service is available and if not, to

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### Chamber of Commerce Promotes End of Deal After Long Negotiation



WILLIAM P. SAUNDERS

### Deed Signed At Carthage Monday

Robbins Cloth Mills, Inc. of Robbins, N. C. this week acquired title to the real and personal property of the old White-Tex mill here. Raeford Chamber of Commerce officials have announced. The deal between the Robbins corporation and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Commercial National Bank of Charlotte, owners of the property, was concluded at a meeting in Carthage Monday at which time the deed was signed. The purchase price was not announced, but the RFC and the bank got the property in a forced sale some months ago for about \$120,000. The firm is already the operator of three textile mills in North Carolina, at Robbins, Red Springs and Aberdeen, and has apparently chosen Raeford to be the site of a fourth.

The Raeford Chamber of Commerce, Inc. did considerable work through its industrial committee, Crawford Thomas and Lawrence McNeill, to bring about the purchase, and the Chamber also made available a 30-acre tract which the Robbins corporation acquired with the White-Tex property. The tract adjoins the mill property on the west and is on the main line of the Aberdeen and Rockfish railroad and that railroad has sidings into the property.

The Robbins Cloth Mills, Incorporated, is headed by William P. Saunders, of Robbins, N. C. as president, and A. H. Grant of Red Springs is vice-president. Mr. Saunders is also president of the Clarksville Finishing corporation of Clarksville, Va., and executive vice-president of Robbins Mills, Inc., of New York City. These three corporations are affiliated. Ladies dress goods is made at Robbins, men's and ladies suiting and top-coatings are made at Aberdeen, and ladies underwear is woven at Red Springs. All these materials are then taken to the dyeing and finishing plant at Clarksville, Virginia. The Robbins Mills, Inc. of New York is the sales organization.

Mr. Saunders said this week that the company could make no statement at this time as to their plans for operation in Raeford, as their plans were not complete and it would be impossible to make any accurate prediction as to just what they would do here.

The situation here is very similar to that existing in Red Springs in 1939 when the company acquired an old mill property there with some machinery and run-down dwelling units. The Robbins mill in Red Springs now is one of the finest to be found anywhere and employs in the neighborhood of 500 persons. Local Chamber of Commerce officials are hopeful that the future may see the same sort of development here.

Crawford Thomas and Lawrence McNeill, who have devoted much time and effort to bringing the Robbins corporation to Raeford, yesterday expressed their appreciation for the cooperation of Forrest Lockey of the Aberdeen and

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### Patrolmen Get Tighter As 16 Speeders Tried

Judge McDiarmid Also Hefts 13 Other Cases Tuesday; Three Not Guilty

State Highway Patrolmen seemed to be watching speeding tourists and others somewhat close in the past few days, if the number of cases going through the books of the Hoke county recorder's court is any indication. A total of 16 cases of speeding were disposed of in the court this week, some of them being heard before Judge Henry McDiarmid Tuesday morning and 'others, mostly tourists, leaving bonds which they forfeited by failing to appear for trial.

Those appearing for trial were Carson Davis, Jr., Wade H. Norton, Jr., all white, and Garland Little and Henry L. Jones, both colored, \$10 and the costs each. Those posting bonds of \$25 were Robert B. Cooney, Lewis A. Gilbert, Howard Seiderman, Henry Frierich, Mary Agnes Kennedy, and Sumner I. Gold and Dr. Lewis F. Mulschmann, all white. All bonds were forfeited. Jules J. Sherman, white marine left \$50 bond for going 75 miles and hour, as did Michael Caprise, also white. (Continued on Page 8)

### Mrs. Nancy Blalock Buried In Parkton

Mrs. Nancy Lentz Blalock, 64, died at her home in Parkton Thursday morning after several weeks of critical illness. She was the daughter of the late Luther and Eugenia Lentz and the widow of the late Rev. J. E. Blalock. She was a sister of Mrs. John K. McNeill and the late Mrs. J. C. Thomas of Raeford.

Funeral was Friday afternoon at the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. G. Hughes, in Parkton. It was conducted by the Rev. I. J. Strawberry, pastor of the Parkton Methodist church, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Cotton of Rose Hill and the Rev. W. E. Brown of Parkton.

She is survived by three daughters; five grandchildren; five sisters, Mrs. J. K. McNeill of Raeford, Mrs. Leslie Bennett of Fayetteville, Mrs. J. W. Bradley of Raleigh, Mrs. C. S. Bennett of High Point, and Mrs. Jessie Lannier of Norwood; three brothers; J. C. Lentz of Durham, Devere C. Lentz of Asheville, and L. A. Lentz of Raleigh.

### New Farm Agent Assumes Duties Here February 1

E. M. Stallings Of Johnston County Takes Over Job Vacated By H. E. Vernon

Ernest M. Stallings of Johnston county assumed his duties here this week as county farm agent succeeding Herman E. Vernon who resigned the position to manage the farming interests of the estate of his late father-in-law.

The new agent grew up on a farm near Selma in Johnston county and attended N. C. State College, graduating in 1940. Following his graduation he was employed for about a year and a half by the Farm Security Administration at Waynesville in Haywood county.

For the next four years Mr. Stallings was in the Army, serving as an infantry captain in the 80th Infantry Division. In March, 1947, he went to Lumberton where he has been since as assistant farm agent in charge of 4-H club work. He comes here highly recommended by the people of Robeson county.

Mr. Stallings is married, his wife being the former Eranda McLendon of Kenansville in Duplin county. They have two children, a daughter aged five and a son aged three. They were moving yesterday into the home in Sunset Hills vacated on Tuesday by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon.

### Funeral Yesterday At Antioch For J. Dixon McNeill

Funeral services were conducted at three o'clock yesterday afternoon at Antioch Presbyterian church for J. Dixon McNeill, 59-year old Robeson county man who died at his home on Lumberton, Route 3, early Monday. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. B. Heyward, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian church, and burial was in the church cemetery.

Mr. McNeill was a son of the late Edward A. McNeill and Sarah Campbell McNeill of Robeson county and was a member of the Antioch church.

He was married twice. The last time to Rosa Smith, who survives with the following children: J. D. and Dixie of the home, Edward R., in Shreveport, Louisiana and

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### Kiwanis Club Ladies Night Last Thursday

Club Entertains Ladies, Honors Crawford Thomas, Eats Turkey At Gym

The Raeford Kiwanis club had its annual "Ladies Night" at the High school gymnasium last Thursday night and over 100 Kiwanians and their ladies were in attendance. They enjoyed a bountiful turkey supper prepared by Mrs. Lucy Smith.

Outstanding event of the evening was the presentation of the citizenship award to Crawford Thomas as the community's outstanding citizen for 1949. Tom Cameron, in making the presentation, explained that the award was to be presented yearly in the future and also told briefly the things the committee would consider in choosing the man to receive it. These included service to the community in business, church work, boys and girls work, agriculturally and other ways. The trophy is a large silver cup and is to be passed on from year to year. A smaller replica was also presented and this becomes the property of the recipient.

Marcus Smith, toastmaster, presented tabs for perfect attendance at club meetings to several members of the club. These included Marion Gatlin, six years, K. A. MacDonald, Neill A. McDonald, and A. H. McPhaul, four years; Julius Jordan, J. W. McPhaul, David Smith, L. M. Upchurch and Archie Howard, two years and Robert Gatlin, one year.

Entertainment was provided by Clifton Beckwith of the Attorney General's department in Raleigh. Mr. Beckwith made a few serious remarks and told some jokes and then entertained by singing folk songs and accompanying himself on his guitar. He was enjoyed by all present.

### DAVE HANNON LOSES GARAGE BY FIRE

Fire last Thursday night destroyed the garage of Dave Hannon at his home just west of Raeford on the Aberdeen road. Five used cars were in the building and were destroyed along with the building. Loss has been estimated as high as \$10,000 and was not covered by insurance. The Raeford Fire Department went to the fire but were too late to effectively combat the blaze.

### Mrs. Poole's Sister Dies Near Liberty

Miss Madge Albright Coble, 51, died at her home, Route 2, Liberty, Friday morning at five o'clock after an illness of three years. She was a native of Alabama county and was the daughter of the late John M. and Martha Vestal Coble. She served as professor of education at Louisiana State University. She received her bachelor's degree at Guilford college, her master's at the University of Tennessee, and her doctorate at Ohio State University.

Funeral was conducted at three-thirty o'clock Saturday afternoon at Rock Creek Methodist church by the pastor, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Heyward, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Miss Coble is survived by two sisters, Mrs. W. L. Poole of Raeford and Mrs. Josephine Parker of the home, and one brother, Ralph P. Coble of Greensboro.

### MARCH OF DIMES MINSTREL TONIGHT

Tonight will be the last opportunity people in Raeford will have to attend a benefit for the 1950 March of Dimes when the Minstrel show will be staged at the Hoke High school by the Raeford Kiwanis and Lions clubs.

The curtain will rise at eight o'clock on a show that has had much rehearsal and which will feature Ed Smith and Starr McMillan as end men. Also featured will be singing of old minstrel songs by a mixed chorus of eight male and six female voices.

Persons in Raeford who have not been asked for contributions to the March of Dimes and wish to give may mail their money to Robert Gatlin, Raeford chairman.

If there were one word to characterize best the career of William P. Saunders, known to his friends as Bill, president of Robbins Cloth Mills, and long-time mayor of the town of Robbins and outstanding citizen of the State, that would be "progressive."

The word "progressive" is descriptive of his business, as well as public career. Mr. Saunders first became associated with Colonial Mills, now known as Robbins Mills, when there was only one small unit in what is now one of the nation's outstanding rayon and nylon chains. From the modest beginning, the company has previously added units at Red Springs, Aberdeen, and Clarksville, Va. In addition, the original unit at Robbins has been expanded to several times its original capacity.

In every case, the company has made its various units models in construction, equipment, and product. The labor and community relations of the firm have attracted national attention. It is fully expected that any program adopted for the new location will meet every high standard set elsewhere.

Mr. Saunders first became associated with the Company in 1931, and has risen in steady strides to the presidency of the Robbins Cloth Mills, Inc., the latest promotion having come within the last year.

Association with the textile industry comes naturally with Mr. Saunders since he was born in Gaston County at Dallas. His first experience with the industry was with Burlington Mills. He became associated with Colonial Mills in 1931 when its holdings were confined entirely to the one struggling unit at Robbins.

One of his numerous distinctive

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