

Rose Hill News

Mrs. Kenneth Mallory has returned to Richmond, after visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Teschey. While here Mrs. Mallory and her mother spent several days at Carolina Beach.

Miss Jessie Moore has returned from an extended visit to relatives in Asheville. She was accompanied on her return by her nephews, James and Carol Cherry, of Asheville.

Friends of W. C. Ward will be glad to know that he has returned from Duke hospital and is recovering from his critical illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Erchey Lanier, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Fussell, with other members of their family, and Mrs. Lanier's and Mrs. Fussell's mother, spent the past week at Carolina Beach.

Miss Dorita Rivenbark, Douglas and George Rivenbark, of Goldsboro, are visiting relatives here.

Mrs. J. A. Teachey spent part of the past week in Richmond, where she visited her son, Marvin, who is a student in Shuford Barber College.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilson have purchased the house formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Barden, it is understood. They are occupying their new home. Mr. and Mrs. Carol Scott have moved into the house recently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

Ira Gordon Early, of Thomasville, who suffered a serious

nasal hemorrhage while on a visit her with his mother, was taken from a Wilmington hospital Friday. The father, Henry Early, who went to the hospital when he learned of the child's illness, came by here when the boy left the hospital. The family has returned to Thomasville.

Mrs. D. B. Herring, Dailed Herring, Mrs. C. F. Hawes, and Mrs. H. S. Johnson visited relatives in Kenansville Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. A. B. Wells had as her dinner guests on Thursday, Mrs. Winnie Wells of Chiquapin and Miss Katie Murray.

Miss Estelle Fussell, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fussell, has returned to Winston - Salem, where she has a position.

Miss Annie B. Farrior, of Willard, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. A. B. Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Farrior, of Willard, were dinner guests of Mrs. A. B. Wells on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stokes Boney, of Wallace, were recent dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Murray.

Little Miss Janet Evans, of Wallace, was the guest of Miss Martha Gray Murray last week.

Fred C. Parsons, of Knoxville, Tenn., was the week-end guest of his father, C. C. Moore.

A son, Albert Parsons, who has been visiting here, returned with Mr. Parsons to Knoxville.

Randolph Rouse, of Okla-homa, is visiting his father, Hal-

Valuation And Homestead Exemptions

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN ASHEVILLE YESTERDAY TO THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY ACCOUNTANTS BY DR. JOHN D. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT.

In the first place, I wish to express my appreciation for the high honor you conferred on me in electing me your president, after I had been a county commissioner for a period of only three years.

I have attended every meeting of the association since I became eligible for membership, and I can assure you that the contact with the men who form his group has repaid me for any financial sacrifices which I may have made to serve as a county commissioner.

I desire to call your attention to the excellent work of Honorable John L. Skinner, Secretary of this Association. His efforts have been untiring, and whatever influence we may have in State affairs is largely due to his services.

In 1933, when I first attended a meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and County Accountants, there was a great deal said about the lack of power invested in the County Commissioners, and loss of prestige due to the fact that their scope of action was so limited, and at all of the meetings since that time there has been more or less of the same complaint.

So, when you honored me by electing me your president, I decided to try to get up a brief and comprehensible outline of the duties, powers, and limit of action of the various county boards under the general law, court proceedings, and rulings of the Attorney General.

At my suggestion, Mr. F. W. McGowen, County Accountant of Duplin County, very kindly consented to make up this brief compend. While the idea is mine, the work is Mr. McGowen's, and we both trust that it will be beneficial to you and future boards of county commissioners of North Carolina.

Many statutes are overlooked, and in getting up this brief compend, we overlooked this one, "The Board of County Commissioners of the several counties in this state shall authorize the procuring of a North Carolina flag, to be displayed either on a staff upon the top or draped behind the Judge's stand, in each and every courthouse in the state, and that the state flag shall be displayed at each and every term of court held, and on such other public occasions as the commissioners may deem proper." (M. C. Sec. 7538).

We believe that after careful study of this, and after reading the sections referred to, you will find that the powers of County Commissioners are ample for them to attend to their duties to the best interests of the several counties, and that the present laws and interpretations of same are sufficient.

In a brief and perhaps rather dis-

connected way, I want to call your attention to some of these duties, and also, to the things which most directly affect good and efficient county government.

With the proposed legislation exempting homesteads one thousand dollars, the counties of North Carolina are facing the gravest financial crisis in their history. Even if it were possible to make the tax levy sufficiently high to take care of the Debt Service the Constitutional limit of fifteen cents for the County Fund would still leave the counties unable to function.

As an example, being more familiar with it than any other County, Duplin County at present has a valuation of a little over fifteen million dollars. This with a tax rate of one dollar and forty-five cents on the one hundred dollars of property in valuation, gives for Debt Service \$160,500.00, for schools \$12,000.00, for Poor Fund \$12,500.00, for Health Fund \$12,000.00, and for the General County Fund \$22,500.00 (a 15c levy).

In checking our various townships, we find that the one thousand dollar homestead exemption will reduce our total valuation over three million dollars. This in our County will mean a loss of \$4,500.00 for the General Fund, and there is nowhere for it to come from. Of course the loss of over \$39,000.00 to the Debt Service, and other funds could be raised by increasing the rate, provided you could collect it, but past experience has taught that an increased rate means a decrease in tax collections.

There is no doubt but that the proposed amendment is going to pass, and in our county it will absolutely remove from the tax books approximately 45 percent of the white taxpayers who own real estate, and approximately 88 percent of the negroes. In the county as a whole, even if the tax rate was increased a sufficient amount to offset this loss, only about 400 people would pay any more tax than they do at present, and the corporations would have to pay a large part of that, provided they would have the money with which to pay.

It has always seemed fair that everybody should pay their proportionate share of the tax burden, and if a policy is inaugurated by which only a few have any part in paying for government, it is natural to suppose that finally only these few who pay for it would receive any benefits.

The only hope we have in this matter is that the next Legislature will not put the amendment in force, and I urge your legislative committee that they watch this question constantly and do all in their power to inform the various legislators correctly about this.

Probably the most vexing problem of County Commissioners at this time is the matter of roads. At present we have no authority over roads except in an advisory capacity. It seems that the matter of County Roads should be left to local authority. So, I urge you, that you endeavor to get the next General Assembly to restore this power to you, and give you one cent of the gasoline tax to do the work with, and in addition give back to the counties the road equipment that was turned over to the Highway Commission or its equivalent. The matter of county roads is a constitutional one, and I doubt the validity of the legislation taking the power away from the county commissioners.

If counties have this revenue and the authority to police properly, I believe that with cooperation of the State Patrol, road accidents would become much less frequent.

I further urge and advise that another one cent of the gasoline tax be turned over to the various Boards of Commissioners on a pro rata basis for the purpose of lighting the burden of taxation for bonded indebtedness and to allow a certain proportion of this revenue for the General County Fund, when it is needed in order for the county to properly function.

This would leave four cents of the gasoline fund to the State Highway Commission, which, together with other funds available to them, should be ample for hard surfacing and maintenance of the State system of roads, and would take care of their Debt Service.

If the State would consent to allowing this benefit to the several counties, it would allow the counties themselves to take better care of their part of the school system particularly in the matter of maintenance of school buildings, and enlarging buildings where necessary. Every agency where the State and Counties are so vitally interested jointly should be handled in such a way that the counties will have sufficient funds to do their part without making the tax burden any greater.

Next to finance, the most important duty of county commissioners is their care of the poor. Of course, the unfortunate should always have our respect and where the case is worthy, we should do our utmost to make their lot more comfortable and minimize their suffering as much as possible. I believe this is a duty that county commissioners as a whole are delegating too much to other agencies and not giving the proper personal attention they should. As a result of this, I believe the cost has been excessive and most of the cost has gone to over-

head and very little to the people that really need it. I believe that when county commissioners of the several counties of North Carolina fully realize this, and attend to their poor and needy according to the law, there will be great improvement of conditions among the poor at much less cost to the tax payers. It is all right to have welfare officers, county health officers, and various others to aid in these duties, but the commissioners should observe a much stricter control of their work.

In the matter of tax collections, I suppose that all counties have a large delinquent tax list. This is brought about by many reasons. In numerous cases the valuations have been too high and the levy excessive. It has been largely a custom to make up a budget and then make the tax rate and valuations sufficient to take care of it. As a result of this, in many instances bonds have had to be issued not only for permanent improvements, but for current expense. No county could possibly get along financially for any length of time if it increases the public debt with bonds for current expenses. It would be just like a merchant paying off his help monthly with the goods on his shelves and never selling anything.

No new bonds should ever be issued except for a permanent improvement which is absolutely necessary. In order to be able to collect taxes properly, the valuations must be reasonable and the levy low enough for the tax payer to be willing to pay his taxes.

It is time that county commissioners realize that their services are a necessity, and that they should have adequate compensation for the work they do. While every county should endeavor to operate as economically as possible, still every necessary officer should have sufficient compensation for his services. If any office of the county is not worth what it costs it should be abolished. In order to have efficiency in government, as in private business, the people that do the work must be paid for same.

After all, we, as commissioners are just the representatives of the people of our counties, and we should strive to the best of our ability to give them good government, and at a price they are willing to pay.

We are about the only one of the early agencies of direct government left to the people. Our duties and obligations are large. We are poorly paid and our services seldom appreciated, but if we have been careful to attend to these duties as economically as possible and in accordance with the statutes, we will have the personal satisfaction of a noble work well done.

are spending the Summer with her brother, Mr. Paul Bass, spent several days last week with her sister, Mrs. J. M. Blanchard, of Burgaw.

Bible School Closed
The Daily Vacation Bible School at the Methodist church, under the direction of Mr. Jarvis, closed last Tuesday night. Songs by the Primaries were well sung. The Juniors gave in Scripture and song the birth and childhood of Jesus. Scripture readings were by Florence Elizabeth Horne, Ester Baker, Georgiana Edwards, Leslie Merritt, Mattie Bell Register, and Mary Helen Brown.

Mrs. Walters told the story of the members of Jesus' family, and of the nature, occupation and development of Jesus in his boyhood. Faye Pope held the program poster. Robert Sanderson recited with globe.

Intermediates gave interesting information. Lela Tucker told how and when the Methodist church was founded. Ouida Lucas gave history of the beginning of the local Methodist church and on up to date with names of all the pastors.

Analee Matthis, Norwood Baker, Felton Rouse, and Ray Smith gave a playlet.

The exhibit of work done by pupils included a book of interesting pictures including those of all the churches in town; a book of scenes in Palestine, prepared by Juniors; a book of special scenes of Georgiana Edwards on the life of Christ; and a book "Let's See Jesus," by Florence E. Horne, Ruth Sanderson and Frances Barden.

Two miniature buildings were exhibited. A house in Palestine with outside stairway and "Elisha's room" on top made by Robert and Ruth Sanderson, assisted by their sister, Miss Elizabeth, who was one of the faculty, was a fine piece of work, and the Magnolia Methodist church and grounds made by Miss Louise Sanderson, primary teacher, was an exact model.

Streets
Do you know how many blocks of paved streets there are in your community? Under the Works Progress Administration good citizens, who otherwise would have been useless idle, have built 100,000 blocks of city streets and alleys.

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PROGRAMME FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 17th, 1936.

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Wednesday, Aug. 19, Only

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Produced by John Emerson and Bernard H. Hyman
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
Comedy: "Airoppers" — News

Three Musical Shorts

Saturday, Aug. 22

"Silver Spurs"
—starring—
BUCK JONES
Comedy — Three Stooges in "The Leather Necker", and Rex and Rinty Serial.

SATURDAY NIGHT OWL SHOW

"Three Cheers For Love"
All Star Musical Cast
Also Serial—"Mystery Mountain"

COMING NEXT WEEK—Poor Little Rich Girl—China Clipper—Girls Dormitory—36 Hours to Kill. Coming Soon—Sing, Baby Sing—Gorgeous Hussy. There will be Two big shows every week from now on. Watch for the titles.

lie Rouse.

Mrs. A. L. Brown, the wife of a former local Baptist pastor, with her children, Misses Edith, Myrtle, and Lulu Brown, Little Miss Martha G. and Bobbie Brown, visited friends here during the week-end. The family resides in Benson.

L. James Teachey was the guest of relatives in Morehead the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Teachey, Mrs. Tommie Neal, and Miss Margaret Teachey, of Richmond, Va., were week-end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Teachey.

Miss Dorris Cubbage, of Savannah, Ga., is the guest of Mrs. J. M. Jerome. On Thursday they visited a Wilmington beach.

Mrs. J. H. Fussell has returned from an extended visit to Goldsboro, where she has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. I. L. Parker.

Mrs. I. J. Johnson has returned from a visit to her mother, Mrs. Jacob Baron, in Scotland Neck.

Magnolia

Dr. Leslie Campbell, of Campbell College, Buies Creek, was in town Wednesday.

Jack Rouse, Carl Tucker and Futon Bradshaw, of C. C. C. spent the week-end with their parents.

Alsa Gavin returned Sunday morning from Summer School at Wake Forest. He will leave Tuesday to work at Pineland College a few weeks.

Miss Mary Emily King, of Duke Hospital and Miss Dorothy King of Wilmington, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. King.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Wood and his mother, of Burlington, spent Friday and Friday night with Mrs. Wood's aunt, Miss Ella Hall, and Miss Hall returned with them and will make her home with Mr. and Mrs. Wood. She has many friends here whose best wishes go with her, and will miss her.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pate are moving in her house this week.

Mrs. Tom Wilson and two children, of Fort Bragg, visit-

ed her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Baker last week.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Peterson last week were their daughters, Miss Verona West, of Durham, and Mrs. Cicero Mudd, her husband and three children of Rockingham.

Mr. Roberson, cashier of the new bank at Rose Hill was in town Wednesday afternoon.

Sunday morning at the Baptist church, the Girls Auxiliary began the observance of "Tocus Week." They wore green and white badges, and marched in from their class room after the lesson and sang the G. A. Hymn, "We've a story to tell to the nations." Miss Mary King, a former president, gave the Star Ideals. After Sunday School they held their regular meeting, led by the president, Miss Aline Wilson.

The Sunbeams met at the same hour and Florence Elizabeth Horne assisted in leading.

Mrs. W. L. Johnson and baby girl, Janet, of Rose Hill, are visiting her sister, Mrs. J. A. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Johnson, who were recently married, returned from their wedding trip Friday night and are at home at his fathers, Mr. Oscar Johnson.

Miss Elizabeth Tucker entertained her young friends Friday night for the celebration of her sixteenth birthday. She received many nice gifts. Lemonade and sandwiches were served. Out-of-town guests were Miss Alma Wells, Messrs. Herman Peterson, Lewis Moore, and Frank Bland, of Harrells Store, and Miss Melrose Sutton, of Kinston.

Mrs. Sallie Wells and Miss Aline Peterson, of Harrells Store, visited Mrs. Clara Gavin Friday night.

Roger Willets, of Winnabow, and Talmage Page, of Roseboro spent Sunday with Alsa Gavin.

Mr. and Mrs. Worth Potter, of Hamlet, are visiting her father, Mr. Tom Batts.

Miss Maude Bradshaw became the bride of Mr. Shelton Batts Mach 22nd in Bennettsville, S.C., but it was not known until Sunday. She had remained with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bradshaw, and he had remained in the home of

his father, Mr. Tom Batts. The young couple has many friends who extend best wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Guy and Miss Cora Rivenbark, of Warsaw, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Ezzell.

Rev. J. H. Barnes preached at Oak Vale, rural Baptist church Sunday afternoon from the subject "The Still Small Voice." The sermon deeply impressed the large congregation present. He has promised to supply as Pastor for a few months or till definite plans can be made for regular pastoring.

Miss Lucille Hollingsworth returned Tuesday from Mars Hill and went immediately to Kenansville where she is taking charge of Murphy Kennedy's office while he is on vaca-

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