

IF IT IS NEWS ABOUT
PERSON COUNTY, YOU'LL
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Person County Times

THE TIMES IS PERSON'S
PREMIER NEWSPAPER,
A LEADER AT ALL TIMES.

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"First, the Fields" And The Person County Way

An Estimate By Thomas J. Shaw, Jr.

Reproduced above is the distinctive two-toned jacket for "First, the Fields," the novel by Charles Wood, published and released yesterday by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. The artist, John Alan Maxwell, also designed the jacket for Hervey Allen's well-remembered "Anthony Adverse." Mr. Wood, who is the son of Mrs. Charles T. Wood and the late Mr. Wood, will on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock speak over Station WDNC, at a reception to be given in his honor in Durham.

Views Of The News

BANKER DECLARES WE ARE FACING CRISIS

Macon, Ga., April 19.—The American people must be awakened to the dangers of the present day crisis, Dr. Harold Stonier, executive manager of the American Bankers' Association warned Georgia bank officials.

He said the United States will need strong leadership in the critical days soon to come. Stovier said American bankers are now ready to face their greatest task—that of distributing Government bonds and stamps to finance the defense program beginning May 1.

More than 500 bankers attended the golden anniversary dinner last night commemorating the founding of the Georgia Association.

BRITISH WARSHIPS AND PLANES TAKING HEAVY TOLL ON FRONTS

London, April 19.—The German drive against Egypt and the vital Suez Canal has been halted and the Axis forces have been put on the defensive around Tobruk and Sollum, British military quarters said. Military experts declined to prophesy whether the German drive could or would be resumed. It was said that the British campaign against Italy in Ethiopia has not yet been finished. Italian forces still were resisting in small units with the British pursuing and harrying them.

RAF CARRIES FIERY ANSWER TO BERLIN

London April 19.—Great Britain made its heaviest air raid on Berlin of the entire war during the night in a grim challenge to Germany to fight out the war in the air to the finish.

New four-motored Stirling long range bombing planes which carry tremendous loads made the attack. They dropped a new type bomb of terrific destructive power on the center of Berlin.

Rescue squads were still digging the dead and wounded from the homes and buildings demolished in Wednesday night's German raid on London, the greatest air raid of all time, when the British planes took off from their home bases.

Editor's Note:

Published yesterday was "First, the Fields," a novel by Charles Wood, young Roxboro business man. State newspapers and many New York papers are today carrying reviews of Mr. Wood's book, and tomorrow afternoon he will be honor guest at a reception to be given by Gordon Lewis, in Durham at Hotel Washington Duke.

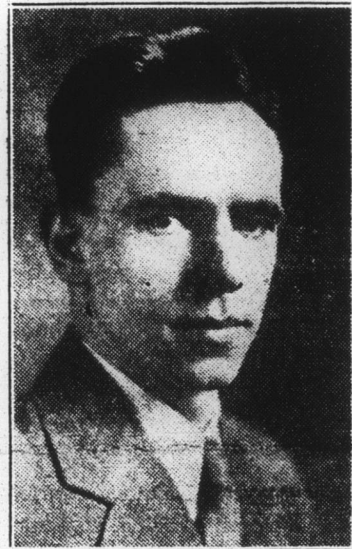
Printed below is a statement of what we believe the book may mean to home folks, who in their hearts know the story, but need to read it to gain for themselves a new perspective on their way of life.

Five or six months ago, after having finished secret manuscript reading of Charles Wood's "First, the Fields," then ready for the printers working for the University of North Carolina Press, we were impressed by the universality of the theme around which Mr. Wood had constructed his very much alive story of life as it has been and is today experienced in the tobacco country of which Person county has for nearly all of its one hundred and fifty years been a part.

We remember that we mentioned six months ago that our friend's book had in it the timeless unity discoverable in the works of England's Thomas Hardy, in the Sophocles of ancient Greece and in the more recent, if suprabundant, Thomas Wolfe, of Asheville. Bookforn reading of "First, the Fields," confirms this impression, but to those citizens of Person county, and of that larger tobacco country which includes Caswell, Granville, Durham and adjacent counties in North Carolina, we must say that Mr. Wood's first novel has a local significance which must not be missed.

Springing as it does from a region in which nostalgia for the past fights continually with present commercialism (avarice is a harder term) this story of Hugh Winton's determined struggle to keep for himself a remnant of the past as a stake on the future parallels too closely for comfort the battle in which all of us who live here are engaged.

Call it "getting ahead," call it "holding our own," call it what we will, there is no escape from the fact that the economic and social conflict of our times, in that middle class of which Hugh Winton and Nancy Clay Winton, his wife, are representatives, is a fight to the finish, is a struggle almost as harrowing as battle of London or the catastrophe now being enacted in the Balkans, ai-



CHARLES WOOD

though the more subtle wounds of economic and social maladjustment come more slowly into view.

Read with close attention to what is inferred but never said, "First, the Fields," must be considered by those of us who know the land in which we live, as a noteworthy example of understatement. The incipient ugliness, the ever-present beauty of tobacco land is here for us to see, if we will see it. In the book, as in life, many things, education, young love, religion, the instinct for possession, are taken for granted until they are measured against tradition and the bare survival accompanying it. Woven into that survival is the not yet forgotten chapter of the tobacco Co-op, an attempt to bring financial order out of chaos, an attempt which was in retrospect doomed to its fore-ordained failure.

Thinking still of the local application of the lesson of "First, the Fields," we cannot be concerned with the warm humanity of Negro Dave, Hugh's boyhood friend who is in later years a true companion; we cannot tarry long over the drabness from which Helen Galloway sought escape in Hugh's company and we cannot be too much impressed with Nancy Clay's inevitable failure as a wife. More memorable are the minor scenes, the rabbit gum, the flashbacks to the Sligo country, the moving day of Dave's grandfather, the illness of little Dumont, son of Hugh and Nancy, while lost in the on-sweeping tide of the book is the court-room prelude to the climax.

Not in years have we read a novel in which men and women so nearly assume proper proportions to the land on which they live. The land is there: it will be there when they are dust in it, but this philosophy is to Hugh

(Continued on Society Page)

George W. Kane Appointed As State Highway Commissioner

TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD SOON AT COURT HOUSE

Nominations For City Offices Will Be Made Monday Night. Citizens Requested To Attend.

Scheduled for Monday night at the Person County Court house is Roxboro's biennial town meeting at which nominations for Mayor and for members of the City Board of Commissioners will be made, with election of these officials to follow on Tuesday, May 6, approximately three weeks later.

Present officials are S. G. Winstead, mayor, with Gordon C. Hunter, Preston Satterfield, Sr., C. Lester Brooks, George J. Cashwa and George W. Kane, as commissioners.

Mayor Winstead, appointed to his office last November by the board is now filling out the unexpired term of the late Mayor S. F. Nicks, Jr., who died in office, November 10. W. Reade Jenos, only other man whose name has been mentioned in connection with nominations for mayor, last week said that he is not seeking the nomination.

Roxboro operates under the City Manager plan and present City Manager is Percy Bloxam, who came here from Raleigh in March 1940.

The Monday meeting will be held at 8:00 P. M.

Presiding officer at the opening will be Percy Bloxam.

(Continued on Sports page)



Bill Murphy, shown above, chairman of the Clean-Up campaign conducted here by the Commercial Law class of Roxboro high school during the week before Easter, yesterday announced decision of the judges.

Winner of prize for best front lawn is Mrs. J. A. Long, Sr.; for the best back lawn, Mrs. Preston Satterfield, Sr.; for the best vacant lot, the Jackson lot near the Tar Heel Chevrolet company; for the best flower garden including planning, Mrs. Aubrey Long; for the best window display and store front, Peoples Department store and for the best store interior and the best outside trash bin, Long, Bradsher and Company.

Judges were Mrs. R. L. Wilburn, F. O. Carver, Jr., and E. B. Craven, Jr. Speaking for the judges Mrs. Wilburn said that the campaign was regarded as very successful, although the judging committee could have wished a larger number of contestants to have registered. Mr. Murphy also expressed his appreciation for cooperation received from citizens, officials, and the student body.

Roxboro Resident Accepts Appointment From Governor J. Melvin Broughton. Official Announcement Made Friday.

Particularly pleasing to Person residents was the unexpected appointment Friday afternoon of George W. Kane, of this city, as Fifth district representative on the State Highway commission.

In naming Mr. Kane to the position formerly held by Sam Bason, of Yanceyville, Governor Broughton selected a busy man, who, between his duties as president of the construction company which bears his name, has nevertheless found time to be active in civic affairs. Mr. Kane has for a number of years been a member of the Roxboro Board of commissioners, has served as president of the Person Boy Scout council, in which he is actively interested, and is a past president of the Roxboro Rotary club, of which he is a charter member.

As Fifth district highway commissioner Mr. Kane will serve seven other counties, Durham, Caswell, Alamance, Guilford, Granville, Rockingham and Orange, in addition to his home county of Person.

Announcement of his appointment came as a surprise to residents here. Previous newspaper speculation had revolved around Mr. Bason, of Caswell, T. Clarence Stone, of Stoneville, and Andrew Joyner, of Greensboro.

Mr. Kane, because of his travels in connection with his business, is well known in all of the counties in the district.

Chairman of the new board is Ben T. Prince, of Hendersonville. Members of the board are to serve their districts, but are also to consider the State roadway program as a whole.

Along The Way With the Editor

April 7, 1941

Mr. Sam Merritt, Editor
Person County Times
Roxboro, N. C.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Appropo your "Along The Way." It is noted with much regret that one Mr. Maurice "Puny" Allen is possessed with fear and trembling, in so far as he finds it necessary to purchase a pig, and I understand keep a garden. As far as the garden is concerned, Mr. Editor, we are delighted and wish that many more of our folks would keep gardens in our City. But in regard to the PIG. "May Someone Help Us." These animals have been detested by well bred cities all down the generations and have given much concern to this City Manager and the Department of Public Health of Person County. Could we respectfully be of assistance to Mr. Allen? As we understand he has a lot on a new highway out near Chub Lake, and we believe arrangements could be made whereby he could pick up a good deal of slops from our City Sanitary and Garbage Department upon proper application to the Chief of the Sanitary Department, which would feed the little pig into a big one some day.

This, my dear Mr. Editor, you know would do much in this campaign our youngsters are putting on to "Clean Up, Paint Up, and Pick the Pigs up to spite the flies" in our City. Pigs and more pigs have given this City Manager one chronic and severe headache all through the year, and if you could be in my office and hear the complaints that we hear regarding pigs at the Post Office, North Main Street, Lamar, etc., etc., etc., I am sure you would endorse a PIG CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN:

Please do your best to assist this matter, and any suggestions you give us will be greatly appreciated. I am sure by the Commissioners and the writer.

Sincerely and cordially yours,
For Big & Better Pigs - Reared
in the County,
Percy Bloxam
City Manager

APPLICANTS FOR GADDY'S PLACE FILE NAMES

Numbers Seek Position As
Supervising District Principal.
Gaddy Remains Firm.

Despite repeated requests that he reconsider his decision to resign as Supervising Principal of Roxboro District schools, H. C. Gaddy, returning from the State Music Festival at Greensboro in which members of the Roxboro high school glee club and band participated, has said that his decision to leave at the close of school, May 7, is final.

Although no meeting of the District School board has been held since Mr. Gaddy last week announced his resignation, it is known that a dozen or more applications for the position have been received. Selection of a new supervising principal will be vested in the board, of which acting temporary chairman during the illness of J. A. Long, chairman, has been Dr. B. A. Thaxton.

Several applications and interviews have been received and granted by R. B. Griffin, Person County Superintendent of Schools, who is expected to turn his information over to the board, of which Mr. Griffin, himself, is not a member.

In his public statement Mr. Gaddy last week said that he desires to secure a position with a school system having a year

FINAL MEETING OF PTA'S WILL BE ON TUESDAY

Final meetings for the present school year of Roxboro Parent Teacher associations will be held Tuesday afternoon and night of next week.

First to meet will be the Central Grammar School association, at 3:30 at Central school, with Mrs. Logan H. Umstead, president presiding. A musical program by the Roxboro high school glee club, directed by Mrs. Sam Byrd Winstead, will be presented.

At 7:30 in the evening at the high school the high school association will meet. Program chairman is Mrs. B. B. Mangum and presiding officer will be the president, Mrs. R. H. Shelton. Since these meetings are to be the final ones of the year a full attendance at each is requested.

Although the 1941 State Teacher association sessions will be held this week in Asheville, officials of the Roxboro associations have reported that owing to the distance to be traveled no official delegates will represent the Roxboro units.

CLERK AT HOTEL

Now clerk at Hotel Roxboro is Henry Thornton, Jr., of this city, formerly with Hotel Oxford, at Oxford. Elmore Gray, previously at Hotel Roxboro, has gone to the Eland Hotel, Raleigh.