

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF HERTFORD AND PERQUIMANS COUNTY.

Volume IV—Number 26.

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, June 18, 1937.

\$1.25 Per Year

Meeting Friday Night To Formulate C. Of C.

Everyone Interested In Town Urged to Be at Court House

8 O'CLOCK

Definite Plan Results From Meeting Held Last Week

Every man who is interested in the welfare of the community is invited to a meeting of the citizens of the town to be held in the courthouse on Friday night at 8 o'clock.

Approximately 45 men attended the meeting held on last Friday night, which had been called by the Rotary Club.

Mayor S. M. Whedbee presided and stated the purpose of the gathering, which was to discuss and make plans for a chamber of commerce, or some organization to have for its objective the upbuilding of the community.

Asked to give expression to their ideas as to the character of organization desired, a number of those present, among them being Dr. C. A. Davenport, J. G. Roberson, R. E. White, J. S. McNider, Dr. I. A. Ward, W. T. Brown, Walter H. Oakey, Jr., Rev. E. T. Jilison, Simon Rutenberg, A. W. Hefren and others, responded with brief remarks.

There appeared to be little sentiment for organizing a chamber of commerce, probably due to the failure of former attempts to maintain a chamber of commerce effectively in the past. There was, however, a strong sentiment in favor of some sort of organization which should have for its objective the welfare and the upbuilding of the community.

A motion carried to the effect that a committee of eight be named by the chair to formulate plans for an organization, which committee should make its report to a meeting to be held on Friday night of this week, resulted in the following committee being named: A. W. Hefren, Dr. C. A. Davenport, Rev. E. T. Jilison, W. T. Elliott, Walter H. Oakey, Jr., Simon Rutenberg, J. G. Roberson and Mrs. Mattie Lister White.

The committee was given unlimited power in forming plans for the organization.

A meeting of the committee was held on Tuesday night, with all members being present, at which time, after an informal discussion, a definite plan of organization was arrived at which will be presented to the meeting to be held on Friday night of this week. The committee designated Rev. E. T. Jilison to present the report.

"Too Slow Cutting," Gets Road Sentence

'Puddin,' 'Coco Cola' ad 'Snooks' were among those present at the home of Lillie Forehand, colored woman of "Newtown," according to Lillie's testimony in Recorder's Court on Tuesday, when she appeared as the prosecuting witness against her erstwhile suitor, William H. Felton, and also in her own defense.

Lillie apparently had a narrow escape from being decapitated on the night of May 29, when Felton, with one stroke of his right hand, wielding a sharp knife, inflicted a severe gash across her neck. Her right hand, which she flung upward to ward off the blow, was also gashed to the bone. "If he had worked fast with the knife," explained Lillie, "I could have got my head up in time. He was just too slow cutting."

Lillie and William were arrested together and taken to the county jail. Lillie had a warrant for Felton the night he was injured, and later on Felton drove out one charging Lillie with attempting to cut him.

Both defendants have had a lot of court experience, Lillie once serving ten months in jail and Felton having served a road term. In this affair, however, Lillie was found not guilty and Felton was given a six-months road sentence, to be suspended upon payment of a twenty-five dollar fine and the court costs, and upon good behavior for two years.

PLAY AT COMMUNITY HOUSE
There will be a play, "The Apple and the Core," at the Winthel Community House, Friday evening, June 19. The proceeds will go to the benefit of the children of the Methodist Society. A small admission will be charged, and the public is invited.

Water And Lights Cut Off If Bills Are Not Paid On Time

Due to the laxity with which water and light bills have been paid in the past several months, the Town Council on Monday night decided that it is taking too much time of the town office necessary for other matters to collect these accounts, and will hereafter invoke the rule passed some time ago that all water and light bills must be paid by the 15th of the month, and that hereafter unless the bill is paid in accordance with the regulations of the town, of which ruling the patrons will be notified, the town will discontinue services and will not reinstate the service until the bill is fully paid. This rule, according to officials, will be impartially administered.

Rape Charge Will Be Aired In Court Tuesday Morning

This hearing in the case of Holland Hurdle, young white man charged with the capital crime of rape, was continued by Recorder's Court Judge Walter H. Oakey, Jr., on Tuesday morning, upon a motion by Attorney Charles Whedbee, representing the defendant, when it was shown that P. W. McMullan, of Elizabeth City, who also had been retained by the defense, was unable to be present. The hearing to determine probable cause will be held on Tuesday of next week.

Holland Hurdle, twenty-one, who lives in the Hickory Cross section of Perquimans County, was arrested and placed in jail by Sheriff J. E. Winslow on Friday, June 11, upon a warrant sworn out by Thelma Modlin, seventeen, who lives in a neighboring community of Gates County. The young girl, accompanied by her parents and Hubert Eason, a Gatesville attorney, came to Hertford on Friday of last week and swore out the warrant, alleging that on May 30, Holland Hurdle "did unlawfully, with force and arms, assault one Thelma Modlin, he being a male and she a female, and that he unlawfully and feloniously, by force and against her will, did ravish and carnally know the said Thelma Modlin."

When the Sheriff went to make the arrest he found the accused young man returning from fishing and he is said to have expressed very much surprise at the charge.

When the case was called in Recorder's Court on Tuesday morning there was a large crowd of spectators from the upper section of the County, where the young man's family live. Only three witnesses for the prosecution had been summoned, the girl, her mother and Dr. Blanchard, of Hobbsville. When they were asked to come forward and be recognized for their appearance next week the girl, who is very pretty, appeared to be in a highly nervous state, her hand, when she held it up at the court's direction, trembling violently.

Louisburg College President At M. E. Church On Sunday

Rev. D. E. Earnhardt, President of Louisburg College, will preach at the Hertford Methodist Church next Sunday, at both the morning and evening services. Mr. Earnhardt is an outstanding alumnus of the North Carolina State University and is a member of the faculty of the college.

It's An Ill Wind That Blows No Good

The cool nights and dry weather have caused the farmers of Burgess section much concern as the club bugs have injured the corn, causing many to have to plant over much of their corn crop. However, the peanut crop is doing especially well and the small amount of rain has worked to a great advantage to the industries of the town who are raising turkeys.

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YEAR'S SALARIES SET AT COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY

Walter H. Oakey, Jr., Is Appointed as Town Counsel

FULL SESSION

City Fathers Agree to Wire Lot for Playing Night Soft Ball

Walter H. Oakey, Jr., was appointed town counsel at the regular meeting of the Town Council on Monday night, to succeed Whedbee & Whedbee, which firm resigned when Silas M. Whedbee, the junior member of the firm, was elected mayor.

There was a full session, with many routine matters, as well as a number of special items of business, dispatched.

Salaries for the various town employees were set. The salary of the mayor, who has taken over much of the work of the management of the town's affairs, was set at \$60 per month by the commissioners, which is in keeping with the salary heretofore paid, but the Mayor raised the question as to whether this amount could be legally paid, and the matter was left open, pending a ruling on the legality of the matter.

The salary of W. G. Newby, Town Clerk, who is paid \$165 per month, remains the same, and that of R. N. Hines, Superintendent, who formerly received \$175 per month, was reduced to \$165.

Fenton Britt, employed in the municipal plant, who has been receiving \$60 received a raise of \$15.

The Town decided to purchase a hundred dollars' worth of advertising space, half from the Independent and half from the Advance, for advertising in the special editions these neighboring dailies are issuing shortly in commemoration of the historical celebration on Roanoke Island this summer.

It was decided to have constructed a much-needed foot-way, for the use of pedestrians, from the bridge over Skinners Creek, at the southern end of Church street, over the sunken roadway where the tide water frequently stands, to the high land. It was also decided to construct, with aid of the County, a sidewalk in front of the new Agricultural Building, on Dobb street.

The matter of lighting the town lot, a portion of which is now used for parking cars, in order that the place may be used for playing the game of soft ball, came up for discussion and it was decided that the lot should be adequately wired in order that it may be lighted for this purpose.

Press Association Meets In E. City Friday Afternoon

Preparatory to their annual cruise to Bermuda members of the North Carolina Press Association will hold their sixty-fifth yearly convention at the Virginia Dare Hotel, Elizabeth City, tomorrow afternoon. Newspapermen from all over the state will be in attendance, many of whom will take the sea voyage with others spending the week-end at Nags Head and Manteo.

C. C. Council, publisher of the Durham Herald-Sun, is president of the Association, and will preside at the gathering and at subsequent sessions aboard the S. S. Reliance en route to Bermuda. Those scheduled to take part in tomorrow's meeting are: Rev. J. L. White, Jr., pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Elizabeth City; W. C. Ross, of Waynesville; Charles Parker, city editor of The News and Observer, Raleigh; Holt McPherson, of High Point, and Wade Lucas, of The Raleigh Times. Clayton Rand, of Gulfport, Miss., president of the National Editorial Association, will be introduced as a guest speaker by J. L. Horne, Jr., of Rocky Mount.

Mrs. E. D. Mathews Breaks Arm In Fall

Mrs. E. D. Mathews, wife of the commissioner of Parkville Township, suffered a broken arm when she fell at her home near Hertford on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Mathews fell when she stepped in a deep rut as she alighted from an automobile, breaking her arm in the fall. She was brought to the home of Dr. C. A. Davenport in Hertford for treatment.

COMMITTEEMEN FOR 1937 TO BE NAMED SATURDAY

Meeting Has Been Called By Farm Agent Anderson

AT 2 O'CLOCK

Farmers of Perquimans Got Over \$31,000 For Cooperation In 1936

L. W. Anderson, Farm Agent for Perquimans, has called a meeting of the Perquimans County Soil Conservation Association, to be held on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in the auditorium of the Agricultural Building, for the purpose of electing committeemen to serve in 1937. The association is composed of those farmers who are cooperating in the farm program in 1937.

Practically all of the Perquimans farmers have received their checks for cooperating in 1936, according to Mr. Anderson, who says that there are still a few which have not yet come in, and that the entire amount which will be paid for cooperation in the 1936 program will amount to a little over \$31,000.00.

The payments in 1937, said Mr. Anderson, will be larger, because more farmers will collect the soil building practice payments this year. Not many Perquimans farmers took advantage of the soil building practice requirements last year, but practically all are doing so this year.

New Schedule For Current Is Adopted

A new current schedule, applicable only to those householders who use on a full time basis both an electric range and an electric refrigerator, has been adopted by the Town Council. Those patrons who operate both a range and a refrigerator full time are not required to have two meters, as is the case in other instances. The schedule is as follows:

For the first 10 kilowatts 10 cents per kilowatt;
For the next 50 kilowatts 5 cents per kilowatt;
For the next 60 kilowatts 3 cents per kilowatt;
For all above this amount 2½ cents per kilowatt.

It will be seen from this rate that the first 120 kilowatts would cost \$5.30 and all above this 2½ cents per kilowatt. This rate applies to domestic users only and the minimum charge under this special rate is set at \$4.00 per month.

No reduction has been named in the regular charge for current for lighting purposes, this rate still remaining 12 cents per kilowatt. It is the objective, however, of the town officials, to lower this rate just as soon as possible, and it is their hope that a sufficient number of Hertford householders will take advantage of the special rate so that enough current can be sold to make a reduction in the light rate possible.

In recent months there was a new power rate established which was applicable to operators of more than one major appliance.

Big Bathing Beauty Contest Friday At 9 P. M. In Theatre

In the Bathing Beauty Contest to be held at the State Theatre on Friday night of this week pretty young girls will appear, wearing the newest and smartest in beach attire.

The prizes to be awarded to the winners have been donated by local merchants.

Those expected to appear in timely attire are: Freda Hobbs, Tyner; Willie Hurdle, New Hope; Maude Turner, New Hope; Hattie Pearl Nowell, Belvidere; Audrey Stanton, Winfall; Nell Hobbs, Mary Elizabeth Fields, Mary Wood Koonce, Grace Knowles, Gussie Wood, Katherine Jessup, Edna Ruth Cannon, Nita Newbold, Ruth Hollowell, Pete Relfe, Mary Wood Pierce, Mattie Gatling White and Lizzie Lee Hoffer.

The contest will be held at 9 o'clock, at the end of the first show, and those taking part will be:

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

Mrs. C. F. Sumner, Sr., has returned from a Norfolk hospital, where she received treatment of her eyes. Her condition is much improved.

Is Dual Axe Slayer, Says James Felton

SPEAKER



U. S. SENATOR R. R. REYNOLDS

United States Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, will address the 24th annual meeting of the Tidewater Automobile Association, June 24, to be held at the Chamberlin Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Virginia. The meeting at 8 o'clock is open to the public as well as all members of the Association. Senator Reynolds' address will be broadcast over station WGH, Newport News, Va., on a 1310 KC from 8:30 p. m. to 9 o'clock p. m. Those who cannot attend are invited to listen in.

B. T. U. Convention Meets In Hertford On Friday, July 24

Miss Addie Mae Cooke, of Gatesville, who is associational director of the Chowan Associational Baptist Training Union, will preside at the annual convention to be held in the Hertford Baptist Church on Friday, June 24, when young people and leaders of the Baptist Church in the seven counties of the association will be present.

The theme of the program is "Be ye doers of the word," and the topic of the first session, which will begin at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, is "That we may know Him better through service."

Among those who will take part in the program are Rev. W. D. Morris, pastor of Corinth Church; J. M. Hopkins, of Elizabeth City; Mrs. Victor Morgan, of Elizabeth City; Mrs. D. S. Dempsey, of Hertford; L. H. Sawyer, of Elizabeth City; Rev. W. F. Woodall, of Gatesville; Rev. John R. Link, of Windsor; Rev. H. B. Hines, of Manteo, and Miss Cooke.

At the close of the afternoon session there will be a picnic supper served on the church lawn, and it is requested that every one who comes to the meeting bring lunch.

A vesper service follows lunch, when the theme will be "Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee." This service lasts only three-quarters of an hour.

The closing service will begin at 8 o'clock, with the theme "Giving the Gospel to the whole world through service."

Baptist churches of Dare, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan and Gates Counties will be represented, and all are invited to attend.

There will be special music by the Edenton band.

P. O. Department Seeking Bids For Local Quarters

The Postoffice Department is asking for bids for quarters for the Hertford postoffice for a ten-year period, beginning September 1, 1937. Bids must be filed by July 10.

Any information desired may be obtained from J. E. Morris, Hertford Postmaster, who will also furnish blanks for filing bids.

The present quarters are located in the building located on the south-west corner of Church and Grubb streets, owned by W. T. Simmons, of Norfolk, Va., which building has housed the postoffice for the past twenty years.

Hattie Simpson Murderer Admits Other Crimes

HIGHWAYMAN

Killer Tells Sheriff That "Hattie Knew Too Much"

When State Solicitor Herbert R. Leary, at the April term of Perquimans Superior Court, accepted a plea of murder in the second degree in the case of State vs James Felton, alias James White, there was no way of knowing that he was sparing the life of a man who appears, in the light of a confession made on Monday to Sheriff J. Emmett Winslow, of Perquimans, to have been in the habit of tapping with an axe none too gently the heads of those who happened to incur the displeasure of the small, inoffensive looking Negro, who was sentenced by Judge Clawson L. Williams to 30 years for the slaying of Hattie Simpson in Hertford on January 24.

Felton or White, is a native of Perquimans. He wasn't regarded around Hertford as a dangerous character. He worked at odd jobs, gardening and doing other small chores, and was well liked by those who employed him.

On the night of January 24 of this year he called at the home of Hattie Simpson, at whose house he formerly lived and with whom he had recently had some trouble. Hattie sat in her chair, with her feet propped up on the bed where her little daughter was asleep. James picked up the axe from the woodbox and tapped Hattie on the head. They found her in the chair, dead, her feet still propped up on the bed. James had proceeded to his home and gone to bed, stopping on the way to casually remark to a woman, "I have just killed your friend Hattie Simpson." He didn't resist arrest and never denied the killing. He did tell a lame tale on the stand about Hattie advancing upon him with a knife. Altogether, it seemed to be a pretty cold-blooded proposition.

In sentencing the man Judge Williams said "Hattie Simpson is dead for a long time, and wherever you go, and whatever you see, and whatever you do, when you lie down on your bed at night you are going to hear, as long as you live, that woman's cry 'oh' as you heard it when you struck her that blow with the axe." "That," he continued, "is what you have got coming to you for the rest of your life, and you will never forget it. I am going to shut you up for the rest of your life."

If the solemnly spoken words which so impressed the spectators in the courtroom affected the prisoner there was no indication of it in his countenance or manner. He was sent to the penitentiary and was later transferred to the Perquimans County Prison Farm at Woodville.

Sheriff Winslow denies that he is a good detective, but the fact remains that when he learned, a day or two ago, that up at Jenkins Bridge, Va., in May, the body of a Negro man who had been struck on the head with an axe was found, and that the man had disappeared last August, he began an investigation. He learned that the victim was last seen with one James White. The Sheriff remembered the rumors current last spring that Felton, alias White, had killed a man while he was away sometime before. Felton had denied this at the trial.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Bar Meeting Held Friday, July 9th

The First District Bar of which all the lawyers of the First Judicial District are members, will hold its annual meeting at Washington, N. C., on Friday, July 9, at 11 o'clock.

The Beaufort Bar will be hosts on this occasion and they have prepared a fine program. Judge Isaac M. Meekins, of Elizabeth City, will make the principal address.

Hon. Charles Whedbee, of Hertford, is president and John W. Graham, of Edenton, is secretary. Mr. Whedbee will preside at the meeting.

MASONS HAVE VISITORS

A number of out-of-town Masons attended the regular meeting of the Perquimans Lodge on Tuesday night when the third degree was conferred upon a local candidate.