

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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

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Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, April 19, 1940.

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COUNTY POLITICS WARMING UP; 21 FILE FOR OFFICES; NINE FOR COMMISSION

L. N. Hollowell Not to Seek Nomination From Hertford Township; Still Chairman

MANY UNOPPOSED

Lane Sews up Hertford Township; Perry Has No Opposition In New Hope; Hottest Contest Looms In Parkville Township; Filing Gates Closed

The race for seats on the county commission took an unexpected twist at 5:30 Saturday afternoon when L. N. Hollowell resigned as chairman of the county board of elections and filed his candidacy for commissioner from Hertford township.

Hollowell's notice of candidacy would have made a total of ten candidates seeking the five seats on the board of commissioners.

Mr. Hollowell, however, has had to withdraw from the race and resume his duties as chairman of the board of elections, on the advice of W. A. Lucas, Chairman of the State Board of Elections.

It developed, according to Mr. Hollowell, after getting in touch with Mr. Lucas, that he should have filed notice of his candidacy with himself, as chairman of the county board, and then resigned at six o'clock, as the filings closed.

Mr. Hollowell resigned first, and then filed with C. P. Morris, chairman of the county Democratic executive committee. Another chairman of the county board of elections had not been appointed when Mr. Lucas asked the present chairman to continue in his duties.

Mr. Hollowell will not be a candidate.

A total of twenty-one candidates had filed with Mr. Hollowell before the deadline Saturday; they include nine candidates for the board of county commissioners; five for the office of representative from Perquimans County; one each for the Senate, register of deeds, recorder of county court, and county treasurer; and three for the board of education.

As the race goes to the primary, incumbents E. M. Perry from New Hope, and A. T. Lane from Hertford Township, are uncontested; while Parkville, at present unrepresented on the commission, will give the county three candidates from which to select one.

Seeking the nomination from Parkville Township are Irvin Nixon, E. U. Morgan and Nathan Hurdle. The race in the neglected township has developed the greatest momentum.

Belvidere and Bethel Townships are running neck and neck; the incumbent commissioner in each being contested by a newcomer. Linford L. Winslow opposes incumbent J. C. Baker in Belvidere; Charles E. White will oppose incumbent Roy H. Chappell in Bethel.

Recorder Granberry Tucker is unopposed for a second term as the head of the county court, and no contestants have into sight for J. W. Ward's office as register of deeds, or Jacob L. White's as county treasurer.

C. R. Holmes was the lone candidate filing in this county for the First District's place in the Senate.

For the Board of Education, D. L. Barber of Winfall, a newcomer, and two incumbents, W. E. Dail and Shelton Long have filed.

C. J. Umphlett To Seek Mayoralty Of Winfall

Candidates up for election at the primary to be held in Winfall for town offices on June 1st, include C. J. Umphlett for mayor; Joel Hollowell, J. D. Cranford and Fred Winslow for commissioners; J. L. Nixon for town clerk, and William Bagley for constable.

Winfall is without a mayor at present, and the commission is lacking one member. D. L. Barber, mayor for the past several years, has resigned to announce candidacy for the county board of education. W. G. Hollowell, member of the board of town commissioners, resigned to take the Civil Service examination and to become postmaster at Winfall.

The incumbent commissioners are J. F. Jones and J. L. Nixon. W. R. Stanton is town clerk, and C. A. Bagley is constable.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Baucus of Hurdletown, on Wednesday, April 10, a son.

Farm Bureau To Elect Officers

The Perquimans County Farm Bureau will meet at the Agriculture Building Saturday afternoon at three o'clock to elect officers and to take in new members, according to an announcement made by Irvin Nixon on Monday. Mr. Nixon is secretary of the Bureau, and J. W. Ward is president.

Asked One Hundred Dollars Damage; May Ask \$10,000

Burney Flays Furniture Dealers For "Taking Advantage of Poor Folks"

"I wish I could be the judge to try this crowd if they are ever brought up again. If I didn't send them to the roads, it would be because I couldn't sign my name to a judgment."

It was Judge John J. Burney talking Wednesday morning on the third day of Perquimans County's April term of Superior Court.

The jury had been sent out, and Judge Burney was proceeding to verbally whittle the tar out of the Southern Furniture Company of Suffolk, Virginia.

The case was one wherein King Solomon Welch, Hertford Negro, was asking \$100 damage for furniture taken from his home by employees of the Virginia furniture house, because he had missed payments.

"This man ought to withdraw this suit for one hundred dollars and enter another for \$10,000 unitive damages, plus actual damages. He's got a case," the judge went on. "This is one of the most outrageous, dastardly manners of taking advantage of poor folks I ever saw."

"Let me tell you," he continued, "a poor man, white or black, is going to get justice when I'm on the bench. I'm tired of seeing furniture stores and such taking advantage of poor folks; selling them a bill of goods, and then when it is almost paid for, reaching out and taking it back, without any legal right whatsoever."

Judge Burney vowed to do all he could to look out for poor folks, "because," he said, "I'm poor, and was raised poor. Why I was reared so far back in the woods we had to use 'possums for house cats."

Judge Burney left no doubt as to what he thought of such business practices, and when his outburst was finished, W. G. Edwards, attorney for Welch, asked a voluntary motion for non-suit. The Court granted it.

From Edwards' action in asking the non-suit, it appears that the Southern Furniture Company will face a larger suit at the next term of Superior Court in Perquimans County, instituted by King Solomon Welch.

Farm Security Administration Unit In Hertford

A Farm Security Administration office has moved to Hertford from Edenton and is occupying quarters above Roberson's Drug Store.

The office, to serve Perquimans and Chowan Counties, brings with it Mr. A. H. Edwards, rural rehabilitation supervisor, Miss Margaret Dail and Miss Marian Morrow of Edenton, and Louis Hassell of Roper.

The office is established in Hertford by the Department of Agriculture under a new setup which provides three such offices to serve the six counties north of the Albemarle Sound; one is in Elizabeth City to serve Pasquotank and Gates, and one is at Currituck to serve Currituck and Camden Counties.

MINNIE WILSON GROUP MEETS

The Minnie Wilson group of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church will meet at the home of Mrs. William Landing on Monday evening, April 22, at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Landing and Mrs. McNider will be joint hostesses. All members are urged to attend.

Judge Commends Officers; Grand Jury Gives Report

Focuses Attention on Condition of Jail; Described In Report as "Very Bad"

In discharging the Grand Jury, the Honorable John J. Burney, judge presiding at the April Term of Perquimans County Superior Court, made special commendation of the officers of Perquimans County for performance of their duties.

Whether it was the speedy apprehension of criminals or the type of case the local officers furnish the prosecuting attorney that prompted His Honor to commend the law-enforcement unit, he did not say.

The report of the Grand Jury focused particular attention on the condition of the county jail, which was described in the report as a "very bad condition."

Heating facilities in the jail were tagged as "inadequate", and the report recommended that an oil heater be installed, on the lower floor if possible, before next winter.

It was recommended also that a sagging hand-rail leading from the lower floor to the upper story should be repaired at once in order to avoid serious accidents. Furthermore, the Jury was of the opinion that the jail needs a thorough cleaning.

The clerk's office, the sheriff's office, other public offices, and the records therein; the prison camp, are all according to Hoyle, but repairs of a minor nature are needed at the county home, according to the report. The inmates at the county home were described as "happy, well-fed and treated kindly."

At the grammar school in Hertford, things were found in not such pleasing conditions; the toilet facilities for both boys and girls again came under the head of "inadequate" and in need of repairs. The high school is in need of repairs to walls and ceilings, and schools at New Hope and Winfall were in good condition. The colored school here needs repairs and painting.

The school buses, which Judge Burney called special attention to in his charge to the Jury, were found to be in good condition and properly manned as to drivers.

The Grand Jury's report also ended with the desire to commend officers of the county for the manner of conducting their offices.

W. H. Harcastle, assistant cashier at the Hertford Banking Company, was foreman of the Grand Jury.

IN PITTMAN HOSPITAL

Rev. Mr. Munns of the Methodist Church went to Fayetteville Monday. He will be treated at Pittman Hospital for a sinus affection. While in Fayetteville he will be the guest of his daughter, Mrs. H. E. Mock.

"Where Are We Falling Down?" Judge Burney Charges Perquimans Grand Jury

Had Judge John J. Burney been making a bona-fide speech as he charged the Grand Jury when Superior Court convened Monday morning, the subject could easily have been "Where Are We Falling Down?"

Judge Burney's charge was a thing of beauty . . . of sheer beauty in the clarity with which it brought the crowded courtroom a ghastly picture of the cost of crime to the United States.

"North Carolina is no goody goody State," His Honor went on, "only one state, Alabama, led North Carolina in homicides and unlawful killings last year; New York, Illinois and Michigan, with New York City, Chicago and Detroit, notwithstanding."

"Who has fallen down?" Judge Burney asked again. "Somebody in the United States is falling down somewhere. Every two seconds a car is stolen. Twelve thousand American citizens were murdered last year. No one has been arrested for 4,748 of these killings. In England over the same period of time, there were 24 murders and 23 hangings for them.

"There were 1,300,000 felonies reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation last year, and this number includes only crimes punishable by death or imprisonment."

"There are more armed racketeers in the United States today than there are soldiers in the Army," he told his listeners. (Not only the grand jurors listened. Spectators were not missing a word). "Who is falling down?" he repeated, "and where is the answer?"

Even more staggering to the in-

Four Absolute Divorces Granted During Court Term

Decrees Granted on North Carolina's Two Year Separation Law; Other Cases

Four absolute divorces were granted at intervals during the April Term of Perquimans County Superior Court; none of them were contested and the decrees were granted on the grounds of North Carolina's "Two-Year-Separation" law. It requires only that the person seeking an absolute divorce shall have lived separately and apart from his (or her) mate for two years, and that they were residents of North Carolina for one year preceding the institution of the action.

Divorces were granted during the term to: Claude Perry, farmer, from Lucy Hunter Perry; Hattie Spivey, boarding-house keeper, from Duckery Spivey; Florence Harris, store-keeper, from Mack Harris; and Philmore Shambry from Marie Shambry, Negroes.

Other cases heard during the term

For being drunk and disorderly, Bob Ivey, Hog Neck Road store-keeper, was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail, to be suspended upon payment of the costs of court and a \$25 fine with a two-year good behavior charge included.

Arthur Felton convicted of assault on Earl Rountree, drew a six months' suspended sentence after he pays the costs of court. He was placed on probation for two years. Both men are Negroes.

Elvin "Spunk" Stallings was given a three months' road sentence for drunken driving, suspended upon payment of the costs of court and a \$50 fine.

Among other decisions handed down by Judge John J. Burney, was one which will allow any future term of Superior Court during the next 12 years to decide that Lafayette Hoffer, Negro, is paying too much or too little for the support of his bastard child.

The court ordered payment of six dollars a month for the child's support until he reaches the age of 16. A \$250 bond was required as surety of payment.

WPA Projects Holding Open House At Central

WPA projects at the Central Grammar School in Winfall, including the matron services and the library, are holding "open house" to acquaint school patrons with the WPA activities as they affect the school.

"Open house" began on Monday of this week, and closes tonight (Friday). The library, it is said, is especially improved through WPA cooperation. Visiting hours are a any time during the regular school day.

Interested audience was Judge Burney's assertion that crime costs the United States each year more than the total cost of running the Federal Government, including the Army, the Navy and the WPA. The crime figure in 1939 was \$15,900,000,000; education, he added, cost three billion.

He elaborated on the evils of many tourist cabins and road houses; "gangsters avoid respectable hotels," he said. "They congregate at many tourist cabins where the owners or operators fail to follow the letter of the law which requires that such places must keep a register of all guests and the license number of their cars."

"If there are such places in this county," Judge Burney went on, "I want to know about them."

"Of crimes in North Carolina," he continued, "sixty-five percent are committed by white people, most of them youths between the ages of 16 and 21."

"Temptations are facing youth today which didn't exist when I was a boy . . . automobiles, moving pictures, slot machines, the numbers racket, road houses and trashy magazines. We must be patient," Judge Burney said, "but we must do something."

He deplored movies that glorify gangsterism and make heroes of gunmen and racketeers. "Temptations," he said, "are on every hand." "What is the answer?" Judge Burney shook his head. "I don't know. But we Americans have always solved our problems. We will reckon with this one and finally solve it as long as we have fearless men to serve on Grand Juries."

SENTENCES AMOUNT TO NINE YEARS IN NEW HOPE MILLING COMPANY ROBBERY

An Important Correction

In a news story in this paper last week an inadvertent omission left the impression that there would be no voting at Nicanor Precinct in Parkville Township at the Primary Election.

This is entirely in error and purely the fault of the writer. Nicanor is one of the six precincts in the five townships of the county. Appointments have already been made for registrar and judges of the election for Nicanor Precinct. They are R. M. Maker, registrar; John A. Kiddick and A. N. Winslow, judges.

The Weekly is indebted to L. N. Hollowell for calling attention to the omission. The names of officials for this precinct were handed over to The Weekly along with the others.

Final Filing Day Brings No Change In House Contest

Number Seeking Office Representative From Perquimans Remains At Five

The final filing minutes brought no change in the March 29th standing in the number of candidates seeking Perquimans County's seat in the House of Representatives.

The number remains at five, a record high, though many persons had expected one or two last minute bids.

To date, or rather to six p. m., last Saturday when the filing gates closed, the announced, filed and active candidates attempting to unseat J. T. Benton and outdo the other three, are: Mattie Lister White, former newspaper editor; Joe Campbell, partner in The Perquimans Weekly; Walter G. Edwards, local attorney and former county court prosecutor; J. T. Benton, the incumbent representative serving his second term; and J. S. McNider, local attorney and veteran of four terms in the General Assembly.

Experienced observers close to the political front, who, a month ago, opined that the race would develop into a seven-pointed affair, are agreed that the contest as it will furnish the voters of Perquimans County with an added incentive to register and thus be entitled to vote in the primary.

Campaigning has not reached a fever pitch; the candidates are quietly lining up their cohorts. Real action will begin when precinct rallies become the order of the season.

Jessup Injunction Holds Until Final Determination

An action in Superior Court Tuesday afternoon before Judge John J. Burney, resulted in a continuation of the injunction S. P. Jessup has secured against the Town of Hertford until a hearing at a future term of Superior Court makes final determination of the matter.

In the meantime, the Town will build no sidewalks on the south side of Grubb Street from Front Street to the River shore, nor disturb any of the shrubbery, flowers, shade plants, etc., that grow beside the Jessup residence at Grubb and Front Streets.

McMullan and McMullan of Elizabeth City, represented the Jessups, as John McMullan read the complaint. Town Attorney Charles E. Johnson and Charles Whebebe represented the Town of Hertford.

Mission Study Class At Baptist Church

The annual county-wide Mission Study Class will be held at the Hertford Baptist Church on the morning of Wednesday, April 24th, at 10 o'clock, it has been announced. Able teachers have been secured to give instruction and to teach from the book "Stewardship Applied to Missions." A large attendance is desired.

Dock Phelps Draws the Heaviest Term; Three To Four Years In State Penitentiary

FOUR-HOUR TRIAL

Bogue, Roughton and Casper Two to Three Years Each; Sentences of Five to Seven Years Each Suspended on Good Behavior For Ten Years

Ten days after the crime was committed four young men were on their way to the State Prison in Raleigh to serve a total of not less than nine years nor more than 13 for the robbery on April 6th of the New Hope Mercantile and Milling Company.

The case never reached the jury. Oscar Bogue and Shelby Casper, both 20 years old and both of Elizabeth City, and Joe Roughton, 24, of Norfolk, Va., entered pleas of guilty as the case came before the Honorable John J. Burney, judge presiding at the April Term of Perquimans County Superior Court.

Dock Phelps, 30, of Elizabeth City, had entered a plea of not guilty through his attorney, P. G. Sawyer of Elizabeth City. Before the testimony was concluded, given principally by Bogue, Casper and Roughton, who turned State's witnesses, Attorney Sawyer changed his plea and entered one of "guilty."

The people took the stand in the case on behalf; they included besides Phelps, Casper and Roughton, Paul Lawson of Elizabeth City, part owner of the Mercantile Company store, and Steve Perry of New Hope, postmaster at Durants Neck.

Like an' Casper, represented by Robert Lowry, told in dejected tones to a vivid story beginning with the robbery before the robbery and ending with a final confession told and signed in Norfolk police headquarters on the following Monday morning.

They, and Roughton, who followed them to the witness stand, confessed their own roles in the \$12,000 robbery of the New Hope store and implicated Phelps at every turn. Judge Burney gave his judgments approximately four hours after the case was first called.

"You don't look like bad boys," he said to the four, "not like criminals." "They haven't had a chance in life," he continued, this time to the courtroom at large. "They couldn't move in circles that would help them. There was probably no one to take them to Y. M. C. A.'s, and to Church. They've had to live in their own environments."

(Continued On Page Four)

United Daughters To Gather Here For Annual Meeting

State President, Mrs. Louis Fisher, to Be Principal Speaker on Saturday

The annual meeting of the 12th District of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be held in Hertford at the Agriculture Building on the morning of Saturday, April 20, at 10 o'clock, according to Miss Mary Sumner, president of the Skinner-Jones Chapter, the local chapter.

Mrs. Louis Fisher of Asheville, president of the North Carolina Division of the U. D. C., will be the principal speaker. Luncheon will be served at the Parish House by members of St. Catherine's Guild.

Among other State officers who will be present at the district meeting, are: Mrs. H. S. McGirt, first vice president, North Carolina Division; Mrs. R. R. Copeland, State chairman of the U. D. C. Bulletin; and Mrs. Claudine McGowan, State chairman of Southern Literature for Home and Foreign Missions.

Miss Sumner says the Skinner-Jones Chapter is expecting approximately 75 members for the meeting. The 12th District is comprised of chapters from Aulander, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Hertford, Plymouth, Windsor, Ahoskie, Harrellsville, Winton and Gatesville.

Mrs. M. D. Burden of Aulander, is president of the 12th District.