

News of Columbia & Tyrrell Co.

For Subscriptions, see Mrs. Blanche W. Cohoon, or Call Her, Phone 317-1, Columbia, N. C. She will welcome news of Columbia and Tyrrell County

HIGH COST OF COURTS IN TYRRELL COUNTY

Columbia.—The February term of Superior Court for Tyrrell County, which is a regular designated court, but can be, at the discretion of the county commissioners, cancelled, with no cost except the payment of the regular fee of the court reporter, \$85.

COLUMBIA PERSONALS

Mrs. Hugh G. Martin and daughter Betsy of Raleigh are visiting Mrs. F. L. Liverman. Mrs. Geo. C. Field and son, George, have returned from Statesville where they have been visiting for the past month.

MATTIE MACON CIRCLE

Columbia.—The Mattie Macon Circle of the Columbia Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. A. D. Overton, on Monday at 7:30 p.m. with 16 members present.

10-YEAR-OLD BURNED

Miss Fay West, age 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George West of Columbia, Route One, was painfully burned at her home Tuesday morning. While standing close to the stove, her clothing caught fire, and the flame almost completely enveloped her.

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LENTEN SERVICES

The following schedule of Lenten services to be held in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Columbia, has been released by Rev. Geo. C. Field, Rector: Beginning Thursday after Ash Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., subject "The Holy Communion", to continue each Thursday evening up to and including Maundy Thursday, at which service the subject will be "Institution of Holy Communion".

QUEEN FOR HOMECOMING TO BE CHOSEN IN MAY

Columbia.—The J. J. Clemmons High School of Roper presented a band concert and singing at the Tyrrell County Training High School on February 6. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, preceding the concert, the band led by several majorettes, started from the Tyrrell Elementary Training School and paraded down Broad Street to Main.

COLUMBIA VS. ENGELHARD

Columbia and Engelhard met in a double header basketball game at Engelhard gymnasium on Friday night, Feb. 6, at 7:30, with Columbia winning both games. The girls won by a score of 39 to 18, Carolyn Swain, the new basketball wonder of Columbia high, and Pat Everett led with 12 points each, and Rachel Owens was next with 9.

COLUMBIA HOME CLUB MEETS AT MRS. SPRULL'S

Columbia.—The Columbia Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. Minnie Sprull, Feb. 3, with Mrs. Sprull and Mrs. Roy Roughton as hostesses.

Mrs. R. S. Bateman, vice-president, presided. The song "America", and Club Collect were rendered in unison. Demonstration "Care of Floors" was by the home agent, Mrs. Mary Ann Combs, who announced the following: Special interest meeting on the "making of lamp shades" by Mrs. Catherine Riggie, extension specialist in Housing and Home Making" to be held Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. at the agriculture building. Special interest meeting on "pickle making" to be conducted by Mrs. Rose Elwood Bryan, extension specialist in food conservation, to be held at the agriculture building on March 24 at 2 p.m.; that the meeting of the District of Home Demonstration Clubs would be held at Columbia High School auditorium, Columbia, on April 9th; theme for same to be "Citizenship"; final plans to be announced later.

List of books for 1953, for credit toward book certificates were distributed by Mrs. Combs, who also announced that dues of 50 cents per member should be paid by March 1. \$5.00 was voted for the polo drive.

Mrs. E. J. Brickhouse, loan fund project leader, reported in regard to the loan for educational purposes. She also made a book report on "A Year in Paradise."

A resolution of respect to the memory of Mrs. Catherine Campen Kelley was unanimously adopted. Mrs. Minnie Sprull, health project leader, made a report. Mrs. H. Harris, food preservation project leader, gave as her report, "Figs", methods of planting and pruning.

Mrs. Blanche W. Cohoon won a valentine contest. Cookies, salted pecans, candy valentines, and iced drinks were served by the hostess.

CHAS. McCORMICK DIES

Columbia.—Charles Patrick (Pat) McCormick, age 63, died in Norfolk Feb. 2, 1953. A resident of Norfolk, he married Miss Josie Sprull of Columbia, and has spent much time here, where he was loved by all who knew him. His genial personality, his sincere love of life and happy disposition, placed him in the category of Columbia's adopted son, whom everyone was happy to see when he arrived.

Funeral services were held at the Ewell and Williamson Funeral Home, and interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery at Norfolk. Surviving besides his wife are four sisters, two brothers, and one daughter, Mrs. Francis LaMastre, and three grandchildren.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Final Meeting of the American Heritage Discussion Group was held in the agriculture building Feb. 5. Mrs. C. P. Mitchell, Jr., presided. The film, "Lincoln Speaks at Gettysburg" was shown by E. E. Chesson, Jr. For discussion the book "To Secure These Rights," the report of the President's Committee of Civil Rights, was used.

EPIDEMIC

An epidemic of influenza which almost equals in number of persons afflicted the Spanish "Flu" epidemic of 1918-19, is rampant in the county. Whole families are stricken at the same time.

LEGION AUXILIARY MEETS WITH MRS. W. H. McCLEES

Columbia.—The American Legion Auxiliary held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. W. H. McClees Feb. 4th, with Mrs. McClees, Mrs. J. C. McClees and Mrs. Alton Reynolds as hostesses. Mrs. D. A. Simmons, pres., presided. Besides the regular business, a class on the Constitution and By-Laws of the Auxiliary was led by Mrs. James Henry McClees. Mrs. Johnnie Everett was in charge of the program on "Americanism." The program consisted of a reading by Miss Martha Sykes of "The Origin of the Flag," and special music, the singing of "The National Anthem" by Mrs. Darrell F. Cohoon.

The home was decorated with arrangements of flowering quince and yellow jonquils. In the refreshments, the Valentine and Washington birthday motif was carried out: Red cherry punch, cookies and heart shaped candies. Seventeen members were present.

MOTHER'S MARCH NETS \$114.10 IN COLUMBIA

Columbia.—Final report of Mother's March for the benefit of the polo drive in Columbia, is as follows:

Mrs. Earl Rhodes, \$7.55; Mrs. Sam Woodley, \$5.60; Mrs. E. E. Chesson, \$6.50; Mrs. Albert Spencer, \$17.50; Mrs. J. W. Hamilton, Jr., \$6.40; Mrs. B. F. Alexander, \$17.25; Mrs. Marshall Swain, \$2.40; Mrs. Margaret Grimsley, \$1.50; Mrs. Henry Smith, \$10.25; Mrs. W. T. Beasley, \$3.85; Mrs. C. B. Cooper, \$1.50; Mrs. Louise Hales, \$3.50; Mrs. E. S. Brickhouse, \$2.45; Mrs. Sterling Alexander, \$3.50; Mrs. N. P. McDuffy, \$5.75; Mrs. Ralph Johnson, \$3.60; Mrs. Fred Reynolds, \$5.00; Mrs. Herbert Brickhouse, \$4.00; Mrs. W. G. Toomey, \$5.50; Mrs. Sterling Brickhouse, \$3.00; Mrs. Martha Gibbs, \$1.00; Mrs. Kenneth Cooper, \$1.00; Total, \$114.10.

Mrs. C. Earl Cohoon, woman's chmn., Tyrrell County poliomeitis campaign.

BEN PRITCHETT DIES

Columbia.—Benjamin Franklin Pritchett, age 76, died Feb. 3 at the Columbia Hospital.

He was a native of Tyrrell County; the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Pritchett. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Janie Sawyer Pritchett, one son, Gurney Pritchett of the U. S. Navy; six daughters, Mrs. Jessie Alexander, and Mrs. Hoskins Harrell of Edenton, Mrs. William Rogers of Norfolk, and Misses Lelia, Dorothy, and Lillian Pritchett of Norfolk; three brothers, C. W. Pritchett, and Jack Pritchett of Columbia, Route Two, and L. W. Pritchett of Columbia; two sisters, Mrs. Molly Pledger and Mrs. Nan Davis, both of Columbia, Route Two; and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at 2:00, at Horner's Funeral Home, interment in the family cemetery.

FARM BUREAU LADIES NIGHT

Columbia.—The Tyrrell County Farm Bureau entertained at ladies night, by a barbecue dinner held at the high school lunch room on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 7:00 p.m. William E. Little, Farm Bureau Field Representative, was guest of honor. W. G. Toomey, asst. county agent, gave a summary on the activities at the recent Farm Bureau Convention in Charlotte.

COLUMBIA WINS BOTH GAMES

Columbia.—Columbia won both games of a doubleheader basketball game with Creswell on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. The score for the girls game was 50-33, with Pat Everett leading in points scored, with a total of 24. Carolyn Swain was next with 13.

The boys' score was 37-36, with Larry Hassell leading in points 18, Calvin Harrell was next with 8. Referee for the game was Nick George.

SIDNEY PERSONALS

R. F. Respass, who has been feeble for some time, has been worse recently. Mrs. Walton Paul, who underwent a major operation several days ago in Pungo District Hospital, Belhaven, has been dismissed from the hospital and is getting along nicely.

NAMES OF TWO WOMEN LIVE IN LEGENDS OF OUR COAST

Theodosia Burr and Betsy Dowdy Will Remain Among the Unforgettables of History

RICHARD BENBURY CREECY

The winter of 1775 was a dark and gloomy one for the Revolutionary patriots of North Carolina Governor Tyrone had left his palace in New Bern, secretly and hurriedly, had taken refuge on board the armed schooner Cruiser, and was stationed at the mouth of Cape Fear River, issuing orders fortifying the Tory feeling in the Colony, and inciting the slaves to servile insurrection. Lord Dunmore had been driven from Williamsburg, Virginia, by popular indignation, and had gone down to Norfolk, and entrenched himself there. From this position he was annoying the people of the adjacent section of Virginia by hostile raids, and was expected to make excursions into the adjacent sections of North Carolina. The death of John Harvey of Perquimans County in June 1775 had cast a gloom over the northeastern colonies where his patriotism and manly virtues were best known. But the fires of liberty were kept burning. Dunmore with a few regulars who had accompanied him in the flight from Williamsburg, Pa., had ravaged Suffolk and some other places and was preparing to extend his ravages to the Albemarle section of North Carolina. Our leading men were on the alert, and couriers were keeping them in close touch. John Harvey of Perquimans had joined his fathers across the great divide, but his mantle had fallen upon his kinsman and connection by marriage, Gen. William Skinner of Yeopim Creek, and he was watching every movement of Dunmore. Col. Isaac Gregory of Camden was hurrying with a small militia force to meet the enemy at Great Bridge in Virginia. Tom Bembury of Chowan, then speaker of the lower house of the Assembly had left his luxurious home at "Bembury Hall," that overlooked the sound and was hurrying to join troops under Howe with Commissary stores. Excitement ran high, and the expected invasion of the Albemarle Counties, and the probable collision at Great Bridge where Dunmore was entrenched, was the universal subject of conversation. Howe was pushing by forced marches to the aid of Virginia with some regulars and the Hertford County Militia under Col. Wynns of that county. Public expectation was on tiptoe.

Joe Dowdy and old man Sammy Jarvis lived on the banks opposite to Knotts Island. They were near neighbors and intimate friends. Early in December 1775 Jarvis went to the mainland to hear the news of Col. Howe's movement toward Great Bridge. When he returned home late in the evening he was greatly excited. He was impressed with the dangerous situation of the dwellers by the sea. He was constantly saying "Dunmore and them blamed Britishers will come down the coast from Norfolk and steal all our banks stock and steal our horses, ding 'em." After a short rest and a hasty bite of supper, old man Jarvis went over to Dowdy's to tell him the news.

Dowdy was a wrecker for the money that was in it, and a fisher for the food that was in it. He was always watching the sea; he was a devout man who always prayed for the safety of the poor sailors who were exposed to the perils of the deep, and who always closed with a silent supplication that if there should be a wreck, it might be on the Currituck beach. He had prospered in the business of wrecker, and saved many lives and much wreckage and money. His visible store of chattels, was beef cattle and banker ponies. He herded them by the hundreds.

Uncle Sammy came in without ceremony and was cordially received. "Well Uncle Sammy," said Dowdy, "What are the news, tell us all."

"Well Joseph," said Jarvis, "Things is fogerty. Gregory—Col. Isaac—is hurrying up his Camden Milish to join Howe and Tom Bembury of Chowan is pushing on his wagons of commissaries. If they don't reach Great Bridge in time to bear a hand in this fight they'll hurry on to Norfolk to drive Dunmore out of the old town. But if Dunmore beats our folks at Great Bridge, then our goose is cooked and our property is all gone; all the goods and gold saved in our hard life's work and all our cattle and marsh ponies."

"You don't tell me," said Dowdy. "Yes, its so, just as sure as old Tom. The only thing that can save us is General Skinner in Perquimans and the militia, and he is too far away. We can't get word to him in time."

A Patriotic Woman As Jarvis said these words, slowly and with emphasis, Betsy Dowdy, Joe Dowdy's young and pretty daughter who was present with the family said: "Uncle Sammy do you say the British will come and steal all our ponies?" "Yes," said he, "She replied: 'I'll knock them in the head with a conch shell first.' Betsy soon left the room. She went to

the herding pen and Black Bess was not there. She then went to the marsh and called loud; "Bess Bessie, Black Beauty." The pretty pony heard the old familiar voice and came to the call. Betsy took her by the silken mane, led her to the shelter, went into the house, brought out a blanket and also a small pouch of coin. She placed the blanket onto the round soft seat and galloped over the hill and far away on her perilous journey. Down the beach she went, Black Beauty doing her accustomed work. She reached the point opposite Churches Island, dashed into the shallow ford of Currituck sound and reached the shore of the island. On they sped, Black Bess gaining new impulse from every kind and gentle word of Betsy. The wonderful endurance of the Banker pony never failed, and Black Bess needed no spur lent the cheering word of her rider Betsy, pretty Bess, my black sleek beauty, the British thieves shan't have you. We are going after General Skinner and his milish. They'll beat 'em off of you." She almost sang to the docile pony as they went on their journey. Thru the divide, on thru Camden, the twinkling stars her only light, over Gid Lamb's ferry, into Pasquotank by the "narrows," now Elizabeth City, to Hartsford, up the highlands to Perquimans, on to the Yeopim Creek and General Skinner's hospitable home was reached. The morning sun was gliding the tree tops when she entered the gate. She was hospitably welcomed and when she briefly told the story of her coming, cordial kindness followed. The General's daughters, the boast of the Albemarle, Dolly, Penelope and Lavinia made her at home. He listened to her tale of danger and promised assistance.

Mid-day came, and with it Betsy's kind farewell. Filial duty bade her and she hid her home as she neared her sea girl shore the notes of victory were in the air. "They are beaten, beaten, beaten," they are beaten at Great Bridge." The reports materialized as she went. The battle of Great Bridge had been fought and won. Howe had assumed command of the Virginia and Carolina troops, upon his arrival and was in hot pursuit of Dunmore toward Norfolk, where after a short resistance Norfolk was evacuated by the British troops, who sought refuge on board their ships, and after a few cannon shot in the town, they departed for parts unknown.

Then, and long after, by bivouac and campfire and in patriotic homes was told the story of Betsy Dowdy's ride.

ENGELHARD PERSONALS

Gilbert Gibbs was a visitor in Norfolk last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Royden Neal were Belhaven visitors recently.

Mrs. Chester Williams spent part of last week in Washington. Miss Janie Mann, Mrs. Hyler Cox and little son spent Friday in Swan Quarter.

Hugh Spencer, student at E.C.C., Greenville, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Spencer.

Little Mary Jane Gibbs has returned to her home in Swan Quarter after spending a few days with her grandmother, Mrs. Janie Spencer.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Swindell spent the week end in Goldsboro with their daughter, Mrs. George Williams and Mr. Williams.

Mrs. Richard Gibbs, Jr., of Raleigh spent the week end with Mr.

and Mrs. Jabin Berry and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Gibbs.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Berry and children spent Sunday in Sladesville with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Swindell and family.

Sam C. Spencer has returned to Norfolk after spending the week end here.

S. D. O'Neal and Warren Harris, Jr., were among the Engelhard Rotarians to attend the district meeting in Elizabeth City on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Harris, Jr., attended funeral services for Charley Mann in Washington Monday afternoon.

Mrs. William Berry and children spent several days last week in Manteo, where Mr. Berry is employed.

Edwin Spencer and David Weatherly, who are working in Norfolk, spent the week end at their homes here.

Mrs. Fred Berry, Mrs. Harry Jarvis and Miss Janie Mann attended a county home demonstration club meeting at Swan Quarter Tuesday.

Rev. E. R. Stewart and son James of Hickory, Va., spent Saturday in Engelhard. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Spencer for dinner. Mr. Stewart, a former pastor for Hyde Baptist, delivered some pulpit furniture which he donated for the Baptist Chapel here.

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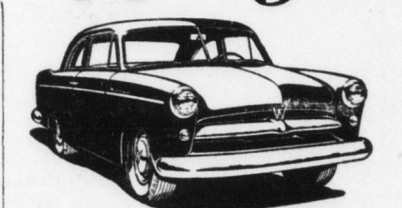
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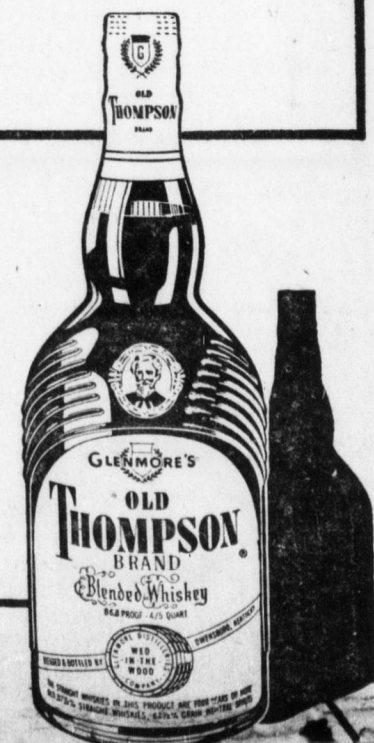
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