

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

FACULTY FIRING IN TYRRELL CO. STIRS OBJECTION

Leaving Off Teacher From Approved List Brings Up Questions Demanding Answers

COLUMBIA — "It caught me completely off guard" stated Colton Snell, the newly elected member to the Tyrrell County Board of Education, regarding the recent turmoil making its rounds throughout the populace sparked by the recent firing of faculty members from Columbia Elementary School, at the meeting in the Superintendent's office Monday.

ing her informant, she told "I have been told that Superintendent Basnight is refusing to give me a recommendation to teach elsewhere." She stated that she was told by the principal of the action of the committee, with no reasons given. She further stated that Nichols had informed her that it was an unanimous vote by the committee; that she had contacted four of the five members with one stating he did not vote; two informing her they did not hear her name brought before the committee; the other gave the reasons which she understood as: she was too easy on the children and they played in the hall too much. This committee member, Mrs. Spencer said, admitted that while substituting across the hall from her, she had not noticed any hall activity by Mrs. Spencer's children. Mrs. Spencer, in response to the 'Too easy' understanding cited the average achievement test results in her grade as second year eight months, comparing identically with that of the other second grade, whose teacher was retained by the committee. She told the board that she felt that they should know about these things since they were responsible to the people. Again, she asserted she did not wish to be re-hired, the damage was done, but wanted justice in getting a recommendation, and for those who would follow her. She thanked the board for the 22 years she had been at the school.

Coming to the rescue of the committee was Harvey Davis another member who gave "They (the Committee) hired those Mr. Nichols (the principal) recommended—all teachers he presented to them."

At that meeting Supt. Basnight assured her he would recommend her for school elsewhere. Mrs. Florence Chaplin, who was asked if she would like to make a statement asked "Why, were we two left out?" Others in that meeting were Superintendent Basnight, the three board members, W. J. Nichols who made no oral comment, Mrs. N. P. McDuffie, Secretary and the two local reporters.

Basnight, nodding in agreement to the question "Do I understand that friction has been going on out there for about three years," posed by Snell, who then added "Then something has been left undone that should have been done all along. I appreciate his situation, but he's the principal." Snell further made mention of Nichols having nodded his head in agreement, when one of the dismissed teachers, Mrs. Rachel Spencer, in a call meeting last week, asked him if her work had been satisfactory, and if she went to him at the first of the session offering complete cooperation both in her duties as teacher, and in upholding his authority in dealing with her daughter's behaviour in school.

Business attended to at the Monday meeting included the acceptance of the report of the district committee of teachers for Columbia School: Camille B. Everett, Lois O. Selby, Martha Jane Pollard, Helen S. Melson, Lucy Gray Rhodes, Hettie L. Jones, Dorothy L. Combs, F. M. Johnson, Ernest R. Sutton, Madge Lane Vanhorn, Oscar F. Cumby, Mary Ann Combs, Ruth Tingle Basnight, Rose Bateman, Mary Woodley Walker, and Lucia H. Cunningham.

With a sudden reddening of the face, Superintendent Basnight started "Would you say the lady was loyal to?" then suddenly he cut off his remark. He was probably referring to the meeting last week when Mrs. Spencer admitted having said an uncomplimentary remark about Basnight explaining that it was provoked by his angry accusations of her regarding the 'Steam table' misunderstanding at the school last fall.

List of Tyrrell High School teachers released: Ruth P. Cooper, Janie F. Owens, Helen Spruill Rowson, Harry Lee Hoover, Thelma F. Smith, Jessie S. Bush, Beatrice E. Winslow, Lilla B. Jones, Ella E. McKeathen, Blanche S. Bryant, Viola S. Coston, Eloise B. Heaver, Myrtle E. Poole, Addie G. Midgette, Stella H. Bryant, Sophia McG. White, William Thomas Eddleman, Dallas Spruill, Amphibia B. Spruill, Verna B. Fenner, Mariah C. Bryant, George K. McKeathen and Elvah T. Keiser.

Cohoon agreed that Nichols should give for publication a written report, and stated "He shouldn't tell her her work was satisfactory and then he didn't recommend her."

Budget accepted for fiscal year 59-60 totals \$74,541.92—of which \$53,946 is operating fund; \$2,200 for capital outlay and \$18,395.92 for debt service. Of this amount \$36,031 will be reimbursed by the state, informs Superintendent Basnight, and adds that the budget is \$11,057.91 more this year due to a carry over from year before last.

TYRRELL BOARD TO VIEW BUDGET REQUESTS JUNE 25

COLUMBIA.—The regular July meeting of the County Commissioners for Tyrrell County has been changed to meet June 25 at one p.m. in order to review budgets for fiscal year 1959-60, and to wind up present year's business. D. D. Allen, sanitarian of the District Health Department, and Mrs. Effie A. Brickhouse, appeared before the board in behalf of carrying out the recent state law requiring polio vaccine to all pre-school children. Mr. Allen told that based on live births for Tyrrell County during a certain period of time the state had allocated 119 doses, with 90 received; that these 90 doses had already been given and there was not enough available to finish and to give to those children already of school age who had not been immunized. Mrs. Brickhouse reported that due to a Tyrrell County child now in the process of treatment, all local monies had been spent, and the National Foundation had been requisitioned for about \$1,300 for this child's treatment. To enable the welfare department to carry out the 1959 vaccination program the Commissioners voted to appropriate \$250 as a revolving fund for available vaccine.

C. E. (Jake) Walker, representing Rotary, asked the county to furnish one of three anticipated signs to advertise Columbia and Tyrrell County at a yearly cost of said sign \$144. The request was tabled for further study and consideration. G. W. Selby was appointed to contact Gum Neck township persons for membership of the welfare board.

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL NUMBERS 24 GRADUATES

COLUMBIA — The Graduation Exercises of Columbia High School Tuesday night climaxed the school session, at which 24 seniors marched forward—their 12 year goal attained—to receive the coveted diploma, presented by W. J. Nichols.

Dr. Ralph Brimley of East Carolina College, introduced by Supt. M. L. Basnight, brought an inspiring message for forward guidance. The salutatory address was brought by Miss Madge Morris, and valedictory by Miss Sue Snell.

Special music rendered by Miss Peggy Griffin crowned the program and anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" by the High School Chorus, directed by Miss Jessie Flythe and accompanied by Dottie Pritchitt.

David Cohoon was presented with the \$500 Tyrrell County Scholarship fund by the Rev. Gordon Shaw. Athletic awards presented by F. M. Johnson—Basketball and baseball both to Bill Davenport; Football to Bobby Furlough; Girls Basketball to Madge Morris; Debate medals, presented by W. J. Nichols went to Pat Spencer and Lynda Faye Davis. Commercial Department medals, presented by Borden McClees for short hand went to Pat Cohoon; Book Keeping—Kay Melson; Typing 2—Lynda Faye Davis, and Typing 1, to Iris Snell.

Valedictory medal presented by W. J. Nichols was received by Sue Snell, and the Salutatory medal by Madge Morris. The citizenship trophy, presented annually by the Columbia Woman's Club, on vote by the high school personnel for best citizen, was presented by Mrs. E. J. Brickhouse to Madge Morris.

Invocation was given by the Reverend Herbert J. Bryan and Benediction by the Reverend J. M. Carroll. Processional "Pomp and Circumstance" and recessional "Largo" with the program ending with "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again," was used.

GUM NECK PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Smithson, Mrs. T. J. Cooper and daughter, Eunice spent Thursday in Chapel Hill and Raleigh.

Miss Mildred Cohoon of Fairfield was here on the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosco Sawyer and children, and Mrs. Julian Sawyer of Fairfield spent Sunday here with Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Sawyer.

M. T. Combs, C. O. Workman and I. W. Swindell were home with their families for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parishar and son, Gene of Newport News visited relatives here the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Sexton were at Fairfield Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Eason and son of Newport News spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weatherly.

MOTHER COW ATTACKS TYRRELL COUNTY LAD

COLUMBIA—Ray Owens, four-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Owens, had a narrow escape when attacked by a cow Thursday in the Davis Bros. pasture in Alligator.

The grandfather, Harvey Davis, noticing that one of the cows had calved, went into the pasture, and was followed by the boy and his dog. Noticing that the mother cow acted a little unusual in following Davis, he called to the boy to stop, which he did at some distance away.

The attention given to the calf for a moment took his eye off the boy. The cow had gone the distance; knocked the boy down and in the process of butting him and lifting her foot to paw him when Davis noticed. "Roll over fast" he shouted at the boy, and sprinted to snatch him out of the way.

"With the boy under my arm, I had to kick her several times—one time in the eye, before she stopped attacking us," related Davis, "I think the presence of the dog must have upset her."

HIGHLY ESTEEMED NEGRO PASTOR IN TYRRELL DIES

COLUMBIA.—One of Columbia's venerable Negroes, the Reverend Wade Hampton Owens, 71, was buried Sunday afternoon.

Owens, under the "Grandfather Clause" had been a voter in Tyrrell County since he became of age, and for many years was the only Negro who voted. He voted without any ostentatious display but with humble attitude of thankfulness that his forebears had proven their citizenship, and had given their loyalty to the "South's Cause" in reconstruction days, making them and their posterity eligible for a voice in the affairs of government.

He was a good business man; was owner and operator of a grocery store, and initiated the dry-cleaning business in Columbia. He had been a minister for the past 30 years, and had served Salem Missionary Baptist Church here as its pastor.

The throng of his followers was so great Sunday during the funeral that the weight caused a sill to give way under the floor of the church. About 125 cars were said to be in his funeral cortege.

THREE COURT CASES

COLUMBIA.—Three cases disposed of, one capias issued and one bound over to Superior Court in Tyrrell's Recorders Court Monday:

Fred Edward Rose, no operators license; Arthur Elwood Alexander, careless and reckless driving, Paul Cranwell Mountford, no operator's license, all pleaded guilty, fined \$25 and costs each.

Joe Sykes, charged with giving worthless checks, called and failed, and continued.

Miss Patricia Cohoon TO REPRESENT TYRRELL

COLUMBIA.—Miss Patricia Ann (Pat) Cohoon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Charles Cohoon will represent Tyrrell County in the District 12, Dairy Princess contest to be held in Elizabeth City Friday night.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Dairy Association, the contest is being held for the selection of an unmarried young lady with qualifications to be eligible: pleasing personality, grace, charm, and having speaking ability, between ages 18-25 and a consumer of dairy products, to represent North Carolina. The winner on Friday night will compete in Greensboro on June 23rd.

Miss Cohoon was selected under the auspices of the Columbia Junior Woman's Club, by Mrs. Cecil Lilley, County Princess Chairman, who will escort her.

In this capacity Miss Jane Harris represented Tyrrell County last year.

MISS DAVENPORT TO WED IRVING EVERTON IN FALL

COLUMBIA—Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Thomas Davenport announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Florine Antha Davenport to Lt. Irving Everton, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Everton of Columbia Route 3. An autumn wedding is planned.

A University of North Carolina graduate, Miss Davenport is finishing her internship in Medical Technology at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Everton finished four years in the U. S. Air Force, receiving a commission of Lieutenant. He is still affiliated with the Air Force in limited capacity, while he is studying in the school of engineering at the University of South Carolina.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

COLUMBIA ADOPTS VEPCO 30-YR. LIGHTING PLAN

COLUMBIA — A new 30 year franchise and ten year contract was signed by the Town Board of Aldermen with representatives of the Virginia Electric and Power Co. for improved street lighting Monday night.

Before the signing, the existing 30 year franchise terminates June 1960. Under which the town was allowed 50 street outlets free, for which the electric company was allowed taxes and credit for all lighting equipment owned by the town at the time of sale.

The expiration date only 12 months away, the board acted rather than wait out the remaining year under the present inadequate system, which is beginning to exert pressure according to the board from business firms, with particular emphasis on the dark spots of the town and with practically no lighting on the U. S. 64 By-Pass.

The remaining months of free lighting on the old document which figured \$825, due the town was relinquished for the payment of \$500. plus the full year of taxes for 1960, by the company. Under old contract taxes could not be levied until July, of that year, but without a January listing there is doubt by the men if any taxes for 1960 could be collected.

The present tax valuation of the company listed in Raleigh is \$43,284. Newly installed fixtures, additional poles and lighting expansion will boost this figure for tax valuation for 1960. As of July 1, the town will begin to pay for all street lighting.

The report of Mrs. Blanche W. Cohoon, Registrar in the May 5th Town Election, was accepted.

Report of the paving of Water Street was given by Julian L. Poston. Costs exclusive of town labor and equipment \$635.43, with assessments from property owners on said streets to be \$626.53. Report was accepted and property owners ordered to be assessed.

W. M. Russ was again hired for the annual audit of the towns records.

Borden McClees and Lloyd Davenport and Julian L. Poston were appointed to work out the budget for fiscal year 1959-60.

Acting on complaints from property owners, the Mayor is-

sued notices to be sent to owners whose lots were in dangerous condition from growth of weeds and brush, ordering lots to be put in good condition, otherwise be cleaned by the town with costs to be added to tax receipts.

BEE TREE CANAL TO BE ENLARGED IN TYRRELL CO.

COLUMBIA.—The Bee-Tree canal, located in Tyrrell County, one of the main drainage arteries of Lake Phelps and the surrounding farm lands, will soon undergo a project for enlarging its capacities for more thorough use to the land it drains.

Plans have been completed and bids are expected to be let soon to begin the construction as early as possible, informs Clyde S. Sawyer, Soil Conservationist for Tyrrell and Dare Counties of the Pamlico District.

When completed it will drain 12 thousand acres of farm and timber land; will be seven miles long to run from Lake Phelps to the Scuppernon River, and will go through a deepening and widening process, Sawyer says.

As Lake Phelps is higher than the surrounding land and because lake drainage is provided for the community, a portion of the canal project will be assumed by the State Department of Conservation and Development, in conjunction with 11 property owners deriving the most benefit from its completion Mr. Sawyer said.

IRISH POTATO CROP IN TYRRELL 50% SHORT

COLUMBIA.—The Irish potato season which Tyrrell farmers get set for each year in June, promises to be about 50% short this season, informs B. Frank Alexander, a long-time produce dealer here.

Alexander states that by June 10, the digging will be under way, and that so far prices were holding up well. "Due to the unusually dry weather they will be about 25% short in yield, and the cur-failed planting acreage will account for the difference," he says.

Due to the unstable markets, and lossage over a period of years, spuds which have been considered the main money crop in this county, have given away some to other more secure plantings, he adds.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS OF ALL KINDS... ANYWHERE IN THE ALBEMARLE AREA NO DOWN PAYMENT — 60 MONTHS OR LONGER TO PAY AT 5% Makes No Difference if Your Home is Mortgaged Aluminum Awnings Aluminum Siding Asphalt Siding Roofing Painting Tile Work Brick Work Rooms Built Cement Work Garages Built STORM WINDOWS & DOORS Bathrooms Installed Complete or Anything Else You Want Done to Your Home PHONE 5704 — OR WRITE CHARLES HASKETT Elizabeth City, N. C. — Approved FHA Dealer —

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