

THE HYDE COUNTY HERALD

THE NEWS OF THE RICHEST AGRICULTURAL COUNTY IN THE FOREMOST HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA

NO. 3

SWAN QUARTER, N. C., SEPTEMBER 14, 1939

Single Copy 5c

BEHAVEN, THOUGHT DOWN AND OUT BEFORE, ALWAYS RESUMES ITS DEVELOPMENT

Interesting Town on the Pungo River Has Been Knocked Down Many Times; Always Rears Up and Goes Again With Greater Headway by Sheer Grit and Ability of Pioneering Citizenry

By CHARLES BOND

Behaven, the beautiful town of the Pungo River, is a comparatively new town. It has had a remarkable growth since the late 1800s. In 1898, J. A. and J. E. Wilkinson started a saw mill in 1898 at what is now known as Belpert. For a time before the Wilkinson brothers left the Branning Manufacturing Co., in Edenton and went to the settlement with the idea of developing a town, the settlement was known as Jack's Neck. It was principally with the idea of developing a town that John A. Wilkinson erected a mill at the Belpert settlement. It was true that he was interested in the Norfolk Southern Railway which owned all the land and maintained a terminal there. But Mr. Wilkinson, Dr. W. J. Bullock who had sold the land to the railroad company, and the prospects of a fine town were, and it was to create the town that he started a mill there. The people laughed at his courage and looked ahead to the future he saw for Behaven.

Within a year after May, 1898, the Wilkinson Brothers erected their mill in the settlement. It had at that time 78 people within its indefinite bounds, the mill was incorporated and boasted 700 people. There was an interim when the place was also called Mattapungo, which was a coined word in honor of Mr. Bullock's daughter, Mattie, also for the Pungo river. The officials balked at such a long name for a post office and so the office continued to be called Belpert, even for a long while after the town had become known as Behaven. Finally the post office name was changed also to Behaven.

Mill Fire a Serious Blow
At the time the Wilkinson Brothers erected their mill, which formed a nucleus for the town, there were already the Norfolk Southern terminal, a hotel and several oyster houses. The majority of the town population added during the first year after the mill was started was colored, being workers who had moved from all sections to work in the mill. The commissary that Mr. Wilkinson ran in connection with his mill and the general merchandise store that he soon opened were for a long time the only businesses other than the hotel and oyster houses that had been

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IN THE PUBLIC EYE

A brief sketch each week concerning some official or prominent citizen of Hyde County.

This Week: W. J. LUPTON, Accountant and Tax Supervisor.

For almost seven years since his original appointment January 3, 1933 as county accountant and tax supervisor of Hyde County, Walter Jones Lupton has been keeping a close tab on the fiscal affairs of the county. That his official duties have been performed capably and satisfactorily is attested by the fact that six times since his original appointment has his one year term of appointment expired and six times the county commissioners have given him the nod for reappointment.

Unofficially Dick, and he doesn't know how that became his nick name, has become the courthouse "fixer" and is often called upon to repair a typewriter or to fix the sink in the health department and many other gadgets that sometimes get out of sorts. Born at Sladesville Mr. Lupton has spent all of his life in Hyde County having lived at Swan Quarter the greater part of that time. He studied law at the University of North Carolina but did not take the bar examination. He was married March 7, 1936 to Miss Margaret Fisher. He is a Methodist, a Democrat and belongs to the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges, being a past grand of the Odd Fellows.

NO CHANCE OF CCC MEN BEING INDUCTED IN WAR

Director Fechner Says CCC Enrollees on Same Basis as Others of Same Age

In answer to the many questions concerning the chances of CCC enrollees being among the first to be called in event the United States becomes involved in the European war, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Lawrence, Hyde County welfare superintendent, cites an article by CCC Director Robert Fechner which appeared September 2, 1939, in Happy Days. The article pointed out that "there are no official plans afoot to inject military training into the CCC. Nor in the event the United States is drawn into the war now fermenting in Europe, can CCC enrollees be inducted into the nation's fighting forces, except as individual citizens on the same footing as would apply to those outside the CCC. . . . The CCC is not a part of the armed forces of the country. While I am sure that if they are needed to defend the nation or uphold its rights, CCC men would be among the first to respond to a call for such duty, enrollees cannot, under existing law, be inducted into these armed forces. They would enlist or be drafted into national defense service just as any others of their age not in the CCC."

COUNTY CITIZENS RECEIVE \$958.50 IN AID PAYMENTS

Hyde County received a total of \$958.50 of combined county, state and federal funds in August for distribution to 149 recipients under the North Carolina public assistance program, Miss Nelle Johnston field representative for the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, has been advised by Nathan H. Yelton, director of public assistance.

To 100 needy aged in the county went a total of \$713 giving them an average grant for the month of \$7.13, while 47 dependent children received average grants of \$4.51 to make a total expenditure for that purpose of \$212.

Yelton's communication to Miss Johnston showed there were two widows of Confederate veterans in the county drawing old age assistance payments under the legislative act transferring them if eligible to the public assistance rolls. The widows received a total payment of \$3350, or an average of \$16.75.

State-wide average payments to needy old people was \$9.58, to dependent children \$5.91, and to pensioners \$25.31. A total of 55,283 persons over the state received \$463,118.82 in August while for the fiscal year through August state totals were: old age assistance, \$635,140.16; aid to dependent children, \$249,194.54 Confederate widows on the public assistance rolls, \$33,221.26.

Total payments in adjoining counties were as follows:			
	Old	Chil-	Pension-
	Age	dren	ers
Dare	\$1,238	\$278	\$50
Currituck	782	369	100
Tyrrell	585	298	

LUPTON IS ON THE RIGHT



WALTER JONES LUPTON, featured in this week's "In the Public Eye" column, is the man on the right in the above picture. He is shown with W. I. Cochran and S. O. Jones in front of the Hyde County Court House.

MANTEO WATERFRONT FIRE AT ITS HEIGHT



THIS remarkable air view of Manteo's waterfront fire was taken by Ben Dixon MacNeill as Dave Driskill piloted his plane Monday morning over the smoke-filled town. The Raleigh News and Observer very kindly lent the cut to the Hyde County Herald and to the Dare County Times. The courthouse, largest building showing in the right of the picture, was saved by the Elizabeth City fire department.

SIX FACE ASSAULT CHARGES AS RESULT OF CAFE MELEE

FAIR ASSOCIATION PLANS FOR HYDE FAIR

Meeting at Swan Quarter Wednesday; Committees to Begin Work at Once

The Hyde County Fair Association was to have set the committees working at a meeting in the agricultural building at Swan Quarter Wednesday night in preparation for the second annual Hyde County fair to be held at Fairfield the last of October or the first of November.

A classification of exhibits and also the prizes had already been worked up by County Agent A. J. Harrell and was expected to be accepted by the association Wednesday night.

In charge of agricultural exhibits for the various school districts are Fred Langford, Engelhard, A. J. Harrell, Swan Quarter, Preston Swindell, Fairfield, and Frank Fortescue, Sladesville. H. C. Jones of Fairfield is president of the fair association; J. M. Worrrell of Swan Quarter, vice president; and Mrs. Robert Edward Tunnell of Swan Quarter, secretary.

COLLEGE STUDENTS TO LEAVE IN A FEW DAYS

Among students from Swan Quarter who will leave in a few days for college are the following:

Meredith Tunnell and Mary Louise Swindell to W. C. U. N. C. at Greensboro; Helen Credle to Chowan at Murfreesboro; Virginia Spencer and Katrina Baum to E. C. T. C. at Greenville; J. D. Mann to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Rouse Lupton, Jr., to Presbyterian Junior College at Maxton.

Allen Midyette, Seth Blount Harris and Horace Guthrie, State College, Raleigh.

Miss Marguerite Overton will enter Nurse's training at Fowle Memorial hospital in Washington.

FAIRFIELD ROAD

Encouraging is the news coming out of Raleigh that there is hope for the early completion of the Fairfield road, connecting Hyde and Tyrrell county seats. We know the value of this road, and we have never doubted it would be built. We only need faith and courage, and most of all, labor and persistence, and the mountains will be moved.

D. L. Berry and P. D. Midyette spent Tuesday in Manteo.

Ketchup Smearred Over Ceiling in Bottle-Throwing Brawl at Engelhard

A general melee at Engelhard Saturday night, resulting in assault charges against six white men, including two proprietors of the Engelhard cafe, was aired in recorder's court in Swan Quarter Monday.

The gist of the testimony was that Ben and Gerald Midyette ordered Claude Spencer to leave their cafe after the latter had been disorderly. Spencer, it was alleged, was slow in leaving and Gerald Midyette pushed him out the door with a broom. John Norfleet Gibbs then was alleged to have taken the broom from Midyette and struck him with it. Ketchup and pop bottles were thrown with three window panes being broken and the ketchup being smeared on the ceiling from the front to the back of the cafe where the trouble occurred, about 11:30 Saturday night.

Lee Thomas Swindell received a cut under his eye and a couple of knots on his head when he was hit with a pop bottle by Ben Midyette who testified "Lee Thomas Swindell, John Norfleet Gibbs and Claude Spencer were all three on top of my brother (Gerald) and I hit Swindell with a bottle trying to get them off." Midyette said he hit Swindell on the head and that the cut under the eye resulted when he fell on a stool.

Beman Midyette admitted that he was guilty of being drunk but that he did not get into the fracas until Swindell was hit and then merely to try to separate the parties.

Judgment of the court was that Claude Spencer and Lee Thomas Swindell be given 30 days on the roads, suspended upon payment of \$10 fine each and costs, and remain of good behavior for 12 months. John Norfleet Gibbs was found not guilty.

Beman Midyette was assessed \$5 and costs on his own admission of guilt of having been drinking, with prayer for judgment continued on condition that defendant remain of good behavior for 12 months.

Ben and Gerald Midyette, were fined \$10 and costs each for using excessive force in trying to keep order, and to remain of good behavior for 12 months.

Other cases disposed of were: John Spencer, colored, and Luther Sawyer, white, assault with a deadly weapon and also as to Sawyer, selling liquor. Spencer was found not guilty, with Sawyer being given a six months road sentence, suspended upon payment of \$50 fine and court costs and remaining of good behavior for 12 months. Notice of appeal was given in open court through counsel, John Wilkerson of Washington, and appeal bond set at \$250.

Morgan Moore, Jr., colored, was given a 60 day sentence suspended upon payment of \$42.50 doctor's bill and one half court costs when he submitted to a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Willie Gray Hardy, colored, gave notice of appeal from judgment that he pay \$5 a month for the support of a bastard child until the child is of school age. Appeal bond was fixed at \$250.



Sometime during the first half of September, I have visited New York regularly for the past five years, and sometimes in between. It is now a fixed habit, and this week finds me here.

When I first came to New York and got filled up with its dazzling signs, its awesome high buildings, and its breath taking speed of travel, yet slowness of getting around to places, and after having been stepped on and traffic jammed, and jostled about for a few days, I was ready to depart, with the inward thought that I didn't care if I never came back.

But business brought me back the next year, and after my stay three days, I departed with the thought that I might come back sometime. A third trip had me thinking I would like to see more of the old town, and now I am finding new and interesting things all the time.

After being married and finding myself travelling to my wife's home some 400 miles to Western North Carolina occasionally, I learned that it is about the same distance to New York via Cape Charles, so the big city doesn't seem so far away from Manteo.

I have often thought I might set down some of my impressions of the city. But it is so hard to marshal them in my thoughts. I rode last year on subways far below the ground, to read a sign placarded by one company: "We carried 107 million passengers in 1933, and 324 million passengers in 1937." Think of all those tons of nickels. In a day I have wandered through the fishing stalls of Fulton Market, lunched in the stock exchange on Wall Street, watched the apparent bedlam there among the traders, visited at a Fifth Avenue Apartment Hotel, where people pay \$4,000 a year for a single apartment, and ascended 1,200 feet to the top of The Empire State building.

I have leaned backward to observe the tall buildings, witnessed the amazing millions of lights in the cliff like houses along Riverside drive at night; marvelled at the George Washington Bridge flung across the river in a single span nearly a mile long and costing over 60 million dollars.

A year ago, War was the talk everywhere. The papers were full of it. Hitler was in the headlines. He was about to take Czechoslovakia. Well, he did it. Now it is war again, this time real war. A year ago, a vast crowd had gathered to do final honors to Cardinal Hayes; a man had slain his aged mother; Dixie Davis gangster lawyer had been found in hiding in Philadelphia; the beautiful Mrs. Chiang Kai Shek was shown feeding homeless and helpless Chinese babes, orphaned by the Japs. Attention now turns to "atrocities" in other countries. People don't want to talk business because the war is uppermost in one's mind.

War talk everywhere a year ago.

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MANTEO WATERFRONT FIRE LEAVES 21 BUILDINGS IN ASHES IN THREE HOURS

Citizens Miraculously Escape Injury Although Air Filled With Hurling Metal Fragments; Judge Baum Fights Blaze Single-Handed Until Punk Tillett Sends Alarm; Norfolk and Elizabeth City Crews Aid Manteo Fire Department

SUCCESSOR TO GALLOP NOT NAMED BY C. OF C.

Those Considered and Proffered Presidency Decline to Accept For Lack of Time

No definite decision was reached in regard to a successor to P. G. Gallop as president by the board of directors of the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce in the scheduled meeting at Fairfield Monday night nor at the conference later in Swan Quarter.

Mr. Gallop was prevailed upon by several members to reconsider his resignation and to continue to serve but he stood steadfast and flatly refused to reconsider on the grounds that he did not have sufficient time to devote to the organization and thought it would be better for the organization to have at its head someone with more time to devote to the interests of the organization.

Consideration was given one or two other men of the county, including P. D. Midyette of Engelhard, but they likewise declined to accept for the reason that they did not have the time to devote that would be required without sacrificing their other duties.

NO ONE WILL PREDICT WAR'S EFFECT ON COTTON

"What effect do you think the European war will have on the price the farmers in Hyde County may expect for their cotton this year?" was the question the inquiring reporter put to several persons in the county this week, but the answers were all vague because no one dared climb out on the limb.

A. J. Harrell, county agent: "It's hard to tell. I listened to Secretary Wallace's broadcast the other night and according to him, there is a big surplus of cotton now which the government either has bought or made loans on, and that being true, the chances are the war will either cause prices paid farmers this year to go down again or perhaps will have little effect."

O. L. Williams, attorney: "Precedent doesn't seem to be holding and no one can tell what prices will do."

R. B. Burrus, cotton buyer: "You can't tell what the prices will be but I'll guarantee that when cotton does start selling it will bring as high or higher price in Hyde County than anywhere else."

L. Y. Yaekel, Behaven wholesaler: "It's hard to tell what will happen. It's just like with our business. Right now we can only get sugar because we have been a regular customer, and then we have to wait for price quotations from the factory."

SWAN QUARTER PTA TO MEET MONDAY

All parents and patrons of the Swan Quarter school are urged by Principal P. B. Britton to attend the first meeting of the Parent-Teacher association at the school auditorium Monday night, September 18, at 8 o'clock.

MCKINNEY'S STORE WAS BROKEN INTO SUNDAY

Clifton McKinney's store at Engelhard was broken into Sunday night, entry apparently being made through a small rear window. Mr. McKinney's loss was small and he was unable to find any clues revealing the identity of the burglar or burglars.

ODD FELLOWS TO HAVE SPOON NIGHT

The Odd Fellows will hold a "spoon night" in Swan Quarter Tuesday, it has been announced by P. B. Britton, noble grand. All members are urged to be present for the festive occasion.

NAMED DIRECTOR

Mrs. Louella Swindell, postmistress at Swan Quarter, was elected a director of the first congressional district postmasters' association at a meeting in Edenton last week.

By BEN DIXON MacNEILL

Fire that raged for exactly 180 minutes Monday morning, beginning in the M. L. Danjels gasoline storage warehouse on the water front at 5:40 and ending definitely when a growing tongue of flame was yanked by hand from the roof of the Charles R. Evans residence at 8:40, destroyed three quarters of the business area of Manteo.

It was Manteo's morning to burn and nobody's day to die, and three days after the holocaust the wonder grows that none among the hundreds who were for three hours exposed to dangers that could be paralleled only in a village under aerial bombardment, got so much as a bruise or a scratch when the air was choked at times with hurtling fragments of metal sent up by recurring explosions of gasoline drums.

It was Manteo's morning to burn, a morning that everybody for years has believed inevitable, considering the fire hazard presented in crowded, antiquated wooden buildings along the water front, a hazard intensified by the presence of three gasoline storage plants within the crowded area. It had to happen some time and Monday morning it happened and within three hours it was over. Twenty-one buildings, 21 out of 23 in the area of worst hazard were ashes.

Whether the fire started from a shorted electric wire, or from spontaneous combustion generated in the oil-soaked waste by the intense heat of the preceding day and night, will continue among the mysteries. All that any can say with certainty is that when Judge W. F. Baum reached the Daniels wharf a few minutes past 5:30 there was fire in the warehouse. It had been observed already by Leon and Warren O'Neal as they set out for a day's fishing, but Judge Baum was the first to reach it.

Following a natural impulse, Judge Baum tripped, ineffectively, to put out the fire himself, and for a few minutes he worked at it. Seeing that it was too much for him, Judge Baum hurried to give the alarm. Only one other man was on the streets at the time, and Punk Tillett ran to the alarm box and started the siren screaming. Manteo waked sleepily, wondering where the fire was.

Before the siren was well going, the town was rocked from its sleep by the first of a series of explosions that lasted for more than an hour. Hardly had Judge Baum reached his own premises 50 yards from the start of the fire when an exploding gasoline drum sent flames hurtling after him and by 6 o'clock Judge Baum was homeless, and the fire was reaching for the Texaco plant and the Wist ice plant.

Awake and aroused now, the town hastily took stock of the situation. It was the town's morning to burn. That much was obvious. Doom was written large across the whole water front, where the town began in wood two generations ago. Urgent messages were sent to Elizabeth City and to Norfolk for help from their fire departments, but at best it would take an hour and a half to get them here. And in the mean time, the town seemed doomed.

Evacuation was the only hope of saving anything, and evacuation was begun. From the stores merchandise was piled indiscriminately in the trees, and from residences household goods were piled beside them. Into this scene came a half score CCC trucks manned by the entire personnel of the Virginia Dare camp, and with them the crews from Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills Coast Guard stations, and trucks and men from Camp Wright of the National Park Service.

Supt. Harry White, Jim Vannote and Lieutenant Eldridge directed the work of the CCC boys where mostly in pajamas, fought what the town and Dave Driskill worked at the head of the Park Service forces. Paul Middelt fell into lead with the Coast Guardsmen, and the local fire department, uniformed mostly in pajamas, fought what

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