

# THE HYDE COUNTY HERALD

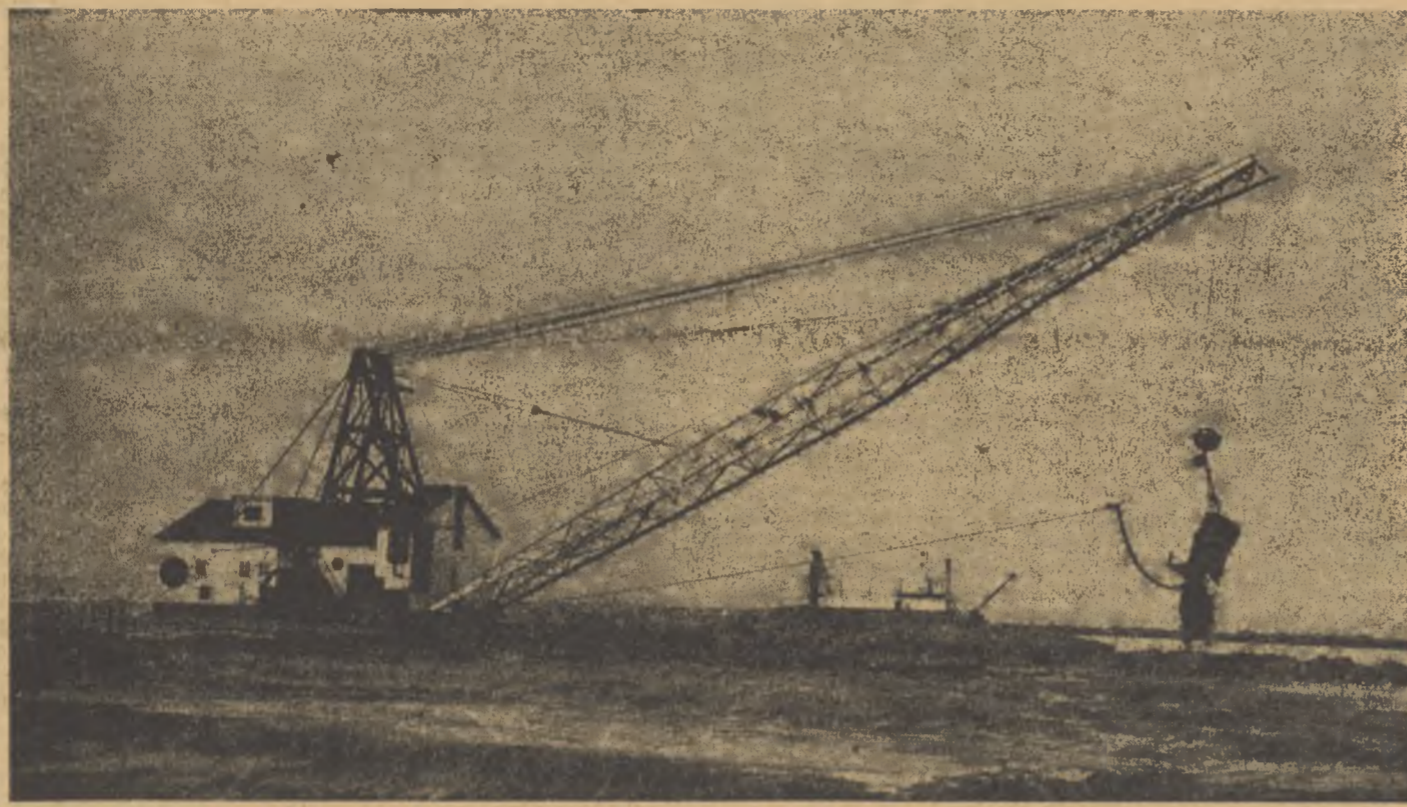
THE NEWS OF THE RICHEST AGRICULTURAL COUNTY IN THE FOREMOST HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA

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GIANT DREDGE DIVIDING WATERS OF STATE'S LARGEST LAKE—MATTAMUSKEET



The 7 cubic yard dragline of the Merritt Dredging Company dumps its load on the five-mile-long base for the Fairfield-New Holland road across the middle of Mattamuskeet Lake in Hyde County. The boom of the dragline is 135 feet long. In the background is the hydraulic dredge now in use on the \$350,000 project. The road base, now little more than half completed, is 230 feet wide from waterline to waterline.

## A BRIDGE MADE OF EARTH

The Highway Commission Spans Mattamuskeet  
(Reprinted by Courtesy State Highway and Construction Journal)

Project number 1520 of the State Highway and Public Works Commission is unique. For project number 1520 is the construction of a road across the middle of the largest lake in the south—Mattamuskeet.

Planned by H. E. Winslow, hydrographic engineer of the Commission, the road, seven and one-half miles long, is being constructed by the Merritt Dredging Company of Charleston, South Carolina, which bid as the Atlantic Dredging and Construction Company. Bid for the project to include grading and structures but not surfacing was \$234,766.10.

The road, in itself, rather a peculiar undertaking, is further interesting because of the nature of the problems encountered in its construction, use and preservation.

Designed to cut some eight or ten miles from the north-south Fairfield-New Holland road, now a third class highway on which travel is difficult in inclement weather, the new road required its engineers to depart from conventional methods of surveying. About five miles wide at the point of the road, the lake is about two and one-half feet deep all the way across. Thus, while all ordinary land methods could not be used, surveyors could set their transits on the lake floor, and wade across, rather than use boats, as is necessary in much highway work of this nature.

"We were very fortunate," Mr. Winslow said, "in that Mattamuskeet does not have a mud bottom. I waded across the lake myself with water up to my thighs and did it in much less time than would have been required to row across."

While at work the surveyors worked in bathing suits, and parked their clothes and lunches on poles in the 30-inch deep lake. After working on the project for about two months, they completed their survey on June 20. Shortly thereafter the contract was signed with the dredging company, provision being that the work on the roadway—official length 7.67 miles with 5.5 miles across water—be completed in 200 working days.

Work on the five structures, each of which with five 5x5 bells, was begun immediately, and provision was made to ship in a dragline. The drag line came down the Alligator-Pungo Canal (part of the inland waterway) to a point near Fairfield, thence up the Fairfield canal, and "walked" on its scows the remaining distance to the job.

An interesting method of drying was employed here by the Merritt company with great success. Small dikes parallel with the edge of the road were built all along the route, and cross dikes were built about 1000 feet apart. The water surrounded by these dikes was then pumped out, and the sandy soil dried rapidly. Thus when the dragline lifted the soil to the roadway, it was already dry.

Despite this method of drying, however, and the fortunate nature of the soil on the lake floor, work has not proceeded as rapidly as was hoped. The dragline with a boom 135 feet long, lifted 7 cubic yards, and by working on a 24-hour shift the contractors expected to lift from 175,000 to 200,000 cubic yards monthly. Actual performance, however, fell far short of this mark, with a peak performance

## CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER OF HIGHWAY BODY



L. B. (BEN) PRINCE

By way of introducing two officials particularly important to the Southern Albemarle county, and whose appointment has been received with approval throughout this section. Mr. Prince, well known lawyer of Hendersonville was appointed Chairman of the



ED G. FLANAGAN

State Highway and Public Works Commission, and Mr. Flanagan, banker, and businessman of Greenville is on the Commission from the division in which these counties are located.

## TIDEWATER ANGLERS TO HEAD UP AT ROANOKE

Newly Formed Fishing Club of Norfolk Men May Establish Lodge Here

The newly formed Tidewater Anglers Club, a group of some 75 Norfolk men, is contemplating establishment of only 90,000 yards reported.

Some time ago the company decided the dragline was needed on a project in South Carolina, and made arrangements to bring in one of the dredges to complete the job. Here came up probably the most interesting problem of the whole project: how to get the dredge to the lake. It had no pontoons, and could not walk to its job as did the dragline.

It finally came up the Fairfield canal, and went thence to Mattamuskeet, two miles away, in a canal dug by itself. There it used one of the canals dug some years ago across the lake by the company which undertook to drain the lake for agricultural purposes. This canal, however, was filled with silt and sand, and the dredge again had to dig its way to its job. All told the dredge traversed 5 miles of self dug canal.

For a while the two machines worked together, but the hydraulic dredge is now working alone. It is doing surprisingly well, almost equaling the speed of the dragline, though the soil it brings up must be allowed to dry.

Specifications call for the road itself to be a 30 foot one with a 20 to 1 side slope. The road is 5 feet above the surface, making a 100 foot slope to the water's edge. The rise, therefore, is virtually imperceptible.

Estimated total cost on the project is \$350,000, which, in addition to saving motorists appreciable mileage, will save the Commission some quarter of a million dollars over paving roads around the lake.

Windbreaking action is expected from the causeway, since it is of the same type as that used on the road at Wrightsville, a remarkably efficient construction. In connection with this action members of the biological survey are taking a leaf from the Highway Commission, in that they are planning to build numerous short dikes

## HYDE EXPECTS MANY VISITORS MAY 30-JUNE 1 FOR FIRST HOMECOMING

Less Than a Month Remains Until Celebration Which Is To Be May 30-June 1; Expected To Be Biggest Get-to-Gether of Recent Times; Held in Commemoration of 230 Years of Progress

## COTTON GROWERS MAY RECEIVE 1941 PARITY PAYMENTS

Must Plant Within Their 1941 Allotment to Do So

1941 Cotton Parity Payments will be made to all cotton growers in Hyde County who plant within their 1941 allotment of cotton, according to an announcement just made by County Agent J. P. Woodard. The payment will be based on the normal yield of each producer's acreage allotment at the rate of 1.38 cents per pound. This payment will be made from the \$212,000,000 fund provided by the 1941 Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act. It is estimated that the 1941 Parity Payment will be approximately \$88,000,000. Hyde County should receive about \$16,000.

According to present plans it is expected that the Parity Payments on cotton will be computed on the same application form as is used for the 1941 Agricultural Conservation Program, and that the Parity Payment and the Conservation Payment will be issued to the producer in one check. If such procedure is followed the Parity Payments will not be received until October, November, and later dates; whereas, in previous years the Cotton Parity Payments have been made in August, September, and October.

The proposal to combine the Cotton Parity Payment application with the Conservation Program application will result in saving of expenses, and will also be of great benefit to the producers since they will have to sign only one application where in previous years it was necessary to sign two.

The total payment on cotton, including both Parity price and the Agriculture Conservation, will be 2.75 cents per pound in 1941.

The rate of \$2 a year for dues. Each party will take care of its own expenses.

Dr. T. C. Anderson is president; M. C. Hopkins, vice president, and Jimmy Tyler, secretary.

## FIFTH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY TO BE AT SWAN QUARTER

To Begin Friday Morning at 9:00 O'clock

School students and citizens from all sections of Hyde County will converge on Swan Quarter tomorrow (Friday) for the fifth county-wide Achievement Day for the mainland schools. The event is one of the most interesting events of the school year. It grew out of the annual Track Meets that were started at the Lake Landing high school back in 1931.

This year a very interesting program has been arranged, and many are expected to attend. The program will be divided in three parts, consisting of an elementary field meet, an indoor program, and a high school field meet. The day's activities will begin at 9 o'clock and close at 4.

The first thing scheduled is the choosing of the healthiest boy and girl in the county by doctors and nurses of the health department.

At 9:30 the elementary field meet will begin with the boys and girls of the grammar grades competing in various types of running and jumping.

The indoor program, which will be held in the high school auditorium, will be called to order at 12:30 o'clock. It will consist of the crowning of the healthiest boy and girl in the county by Dr. S. V. Lewis, district health officer, and performances by the band.

Dr. E. A. Branch, director of Oral Hygiene for the State Board of Health, will make the principal address.

At 2:15 the high school field meet will begin. It will consist of various types of running and jumping, etc.

The program will end at 4 o'clock with announcement of the scores, and awarding of a trophy to the winning school.

## FAIRFIELD STUDENTS SEE NATIONAL CAPITOL

The Juniors and Seniors of the Fairfield high school visited the national capitol from April 10 through April 13.

The pupils motored to Norfolk and went by boat to Washington. There were two full days in Washington for the students. Their stay was packed with sightseeing and good times. Then there was another night on the boat. They returned to Fairfield, Sunday April 13. The visit gave some of them a privilege that may never come again.

Those who went on the trip were: Nelson Camp, Mary Alice Spencer, Allie Proctor Roebuck, Joseph Cutrell, Evy Lee Spencer, Clifton Mooney, Jr., Florine Gibbs, Frances Williams, Marie Daniels, R. W. Jones, Jr., Edna Sexton, Maxwell Blake, Inez Simmons, Betty Berry, Alvenus Payne, Ira Cutrell, Delbert Cutrell, Jackie McKenzie, Clayton Doughtie, Bonnie Armstrong, Faye Harris, Jennie Simmons, Elliot Brown Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Littrell.

## AVERAGE ACREAGE OF FARMS HIGHER

North Carolina's average farm in 1940 was 67.7 acres, or 3.2 acres above the 1930 average, based on T. L. Stuart, junior statistician of the United States census, reports the State Department of Agriculture.

"Land in farms last year totaled 18,845,338 acres in North Carolina, or about four per cent more than reported in the 1930 census," he added. "The average value per farm was \$2,647 last year compared with \$3,018 in 1930."

"The average value per acre for 1940 decreased during the 10-year period from \$46.75 in 1930 to \$39.09 in 1940."

Less than a month remains until the Hyde County Homecoming celebration, which will be held May 30-June 1, when hundreds of people from all parts of the country are expected to converge on the county in what is believed will be the biggest get-together to be held in Hyde in recent years.

The celebration, which is being sponsored by the County Teachers' Association, local Parents and Teachers Associations, and the County School Board, was originally planned for May 8-11, but was recently postponed in order that Ambassador Josephus Daniels might be able to attend and take part in the program.

A county executive committee composed of P. B. Britton, P. G. Gallop, Bob Simmons, W. C. Langston, Lindsay Midgette, Cecil Winstead, and Thos. E. Spencer was named by the County Teachers Association Saturday to carry on the celebration in the absence of a number of school principals who originally composed this committee.

The celebration is being held in commemoration of two hundred and thirty years of progress, development and change of life in the county. It will be the first affair of its kind attempted in the county since it was organized as a part of the Carolina Colony back in 1711.

The festivities for the three day Homecoming will open at Engelhard, Friday evening, May 30, at 8 p. m. with a grand musical program. This is expected to give the celebration a send off that will carry it through three days of entertainment packed with enjoyment for the visitors who come to the county to take part in the 230th anniversary celebration.

Although there is no program planned for Ocracoke, Homecoming visitors will be given an opportunity to visit the island Saturday. Boats will be scheduled to carry those who want to make the trip.

A banquet will be held at the Sladesville Community building Saturday evening at 6 o'clock with the Hon. Josephus Daniels as the principal speaker. Mr. Daniels' mother was born and raised near Slades Creek.

At 8:30, following the banquet at Sladesville, there will be a speaking program at the Fairfield high school. This part of the Homecoming will be dedicated to great Hyde Counties, living and dead. Brigadier General Samuel T. Ansell will be the principal speaker.

Sunday, June 1, will be celebrated by religious services in local churches throughout the county, with a countywide service at Swan Quarter during the evening. The morning services will be at 11 o'clock, and the evening service at the Swan Quarter high school auditorium will be at 7:45.

Community Homecoming committees as named by the County Teachers Association Saturday are: Swan Quarter—Rev. E. G. Cowan, chairman, Mrs. W. C. Langston, J. C. Williams, Miss Lolo Watson and Miss Lizzie Mae Credle. Fairfield—Rev. E. R. Stewart, chairman, Mrs. A. B. Harris, R. L. Harris, Mrs. C. M. Carterright and George P. Carter. Engelhard—Rev. Z. N. Deshields, chairman, Mrs. Juanita Miller, Rev. J. R. Regan, Miss Margarette Silworthorne, and Mrs. Clara Gibbs. Sladesville—Mrs. Emily Sadler, chairman, Mesdames Jeff Credle, Forrest Sears, Mrs. Hamner Credle, Mrs. A. R. Lunton, and Mrs. Linwood McKinney.

## LAST RITES HELD FOR RILEY MIDGETTE SUNDAY

Funeral services for Riley M. Midgette, 57, of Engelhard were held at his home Thursday afternoon. Interment was in the Gulbrook cemetery.

Mr. Midgette died Wednesday morning while working at the Elizabeth City ship yards, apparently from a heart attack.

Mr. Midgette had lived most of his life at Engelhard. He was a member of the Methodist church. Surviving are his wife Mrs. Lula Satterthwaite Midgette, a daughter, Mary Midgette of Engelhard, and two sons, Leslie and Beamon of Norfolk, Va.

## SWAN QUARTER SCHOOL FINALS TO BE NEXT WEEK

Spans With Sermon by Rev. Z. N. Deshields Sunday Evening

The Swan Quarter commencement program, announced by principal P. B. Britton, will begin Sunday evening at 8 o'clock with the baccalaureate sermon and close with the senior class graduation exercises Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. School closes Wednesday.

The baccalaureate sermon, which will be delivered by the Rev. Z. N. Deshields of the Engelhard Christian church will be held in the high school auditorium Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

Class night exercises will be held in the school auditorium Monday evening at 8 o'clock. At that time play pageant, "Education Triumphant" will be presented.

The finals of the senior class graduation will be held Tuesday evening with E. Frank Ruble of Washington as the principal speaker.

Members of the graduating class are: Andrew Alcox, James Berry, William Berry, Lynwood Harris, Ed Warren Spencer, Hal Swindell, Anneta Blake, Imogene Cowan, Lena Cowan, Mary H. Flowers, Helen Gibbs, Ada Martha Harris, Rhoda Jarvis, Verna Jarvis, Grace Midgette, Marjorie O'Neal, Carolyn Sawyer, Nancy Swindell, Ernest Thompson, and Ada Williams. Rhoda A. Jarvis is valedictorian of the class, and Verna L. Jarvis salutatorian.

## FAIRFIELD AND ENGELHARD TO HAVE COMMENCEMENT SAME TIME

Thirty-two Students Graduating From the Two Schools

Commencement exercises of the Fairfield and Engelhard high schools will be held at the same time this year. The baccalaureate sermons for both schools are scheduled for Sunday, May 4 and the graduation exercises are scheduled for Wednesday, May 7.

The Rev. E. G. Cowan of Swan Quarter will deliver the commencement sermon to the ten graduating students of the Fairfield high school, in the school auditorium at 8 o'clock p. m. Engelhard's graduating class of 22 students has engaged the Rev. R. R. Grant of Fairfield to deliver their baccalaureate sermon at 11 a. m.

The graduation exercises of the Fairfield school, which will be held Wednesday evening in the school auditorium, will be unique in that there will be no principal speaker. Each student who is graduating will make a short talk in a program woven around the theme, "Youth and Its Place in the World Today."

The names of the graduates and the subjects on which they will speak are as follows: Inez Simmons, salutatorian; Ira Cutrell, valedictorian; Claxton Doughtie, scholarship and School Spirit; Maxwell Blake, A Boy's Future; Delbert Cutrell, Class Statistician; Jacqueline McKenzie, Youth and Democracy; Betty Berry, The Value of a College Education; Alvenus Payne, Why Every School Boy and Girl in America Should Read Washington, D. C.; Edna Sexton, Class Poet (Youth and Democracy); Grace Smith, After Graduation, What?

The graduating exercises of the Engelhard school will be held in the school auditorium at the same time as those at Fairfield. Dr. P. B. Bryan, dean of Wake Forest College, will deliver the address. Salutatorian, Mary E. Midgette and Salutatorian, Grace Watson will also make short addresses.

Special music will be rendered by the seventh grade. P. G. Gallop will deliver the diplomas. Members of the Engelhard graduating class are: Mildred Mason, Gertrude Pugh, Melba Neal, Sarah Cooper, Della Hooker, Dorothy Lewis, Grace Watson, Margaret Midgette, Louise Berry, Mary E. Midgette, Evelyn Hodges, Charlotte Marshall, Verna Gibbs, P. D. Midgette, III, Sam Barber, Mary Kit Spencer, Geo. Midgette, Elizabeth Johnson, Christine Fulford, Lee Swindell, Chester Selby, Gilbert Gibbs, and Sunshine Harris.

The class night exercises of the Engelhard school will be held Sunday, May 5, at 8 o'clock. At that time the seniors will present play "The Open Road," directed by Carolyn Spencer. Music for the occasion will be directed by Mrs. J. W. Miller.

The Fairfield school is having no class night exercises. Just remember the Golden Rule and abide by it: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."