

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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ARE FOREST EMPIRE MORE VAST IN AREA THAN DISMAL SWAMP

Hyde and Tyrrell Once Held All of Blount Survey; Now in New Ownership With Possibilities of Development Looming; Public Becomes Conscious of Importance of Long Neglect of Region Abounding in Game, Furs, Timber and Fertile Grazing Lands.

Few people stop to consider that the mainland of Dare County is a vast inaccessible forest empire, which adjoining Hyde county is a more vast region than the famed Great Dismal Swamp. Recently this great neglected area changed hands, and the stock of the Dare Corporation, once belonging to a late wealthy Arkansas woman, is now owned by W. A. Julian, Treasurer of the United States, and Fred N. Maloof of Washington, D. C.

The area owned by the Dare Corporation consists of some 168,000 acres between Alligator River and Croatan and Pamlico Sounds. It is bounded on the north by Alligator Sound and on the South and west by Pamlico Sound, Long Shoal River and the Hyde county line. The history of this great tract of land is varied and colorful and it runs the gamut of flourishing timber development to crooked promotion, when it fell into the hands of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company more than 25 years ago who took it to save the policy-holders of an insurance company wrecked by promoters.

Few people in Dare county probably stop to think of the great value this property has been to all citizens, for at one time it paid a fourth of the taxes in the county, and the tax assessment has been out from the \$18,000 paid 16 years ago to something more than \$9,000 today, largely because of depreciated value of the timber. And this income is rapidly being jeopardized by the destructive forest fires which rage nearly every year, and which have caused great depreciation in value, and promise further damage unless effective fire prevention steps can be inaugurated.

For 18 years Duvall Brothers of Buffalo City have run a modest but profitable sawmill business on the property, buying logs from the former owners, the Metropolitan Life Insurance company of New York. Something like a year ago, the property came into the ownership of Mr. Julian and Mr. Maloof, and the timber contract was not renewed, pending possible development by the new owners. The understanding now is that the new owners will take over the Duvall sawmill, and continue it into a gradually expanding development which may embrace live stock raising and extensive farming.

Briefly, the tract known variously as the John Gray Blount property, the Dare Lumber company, the Blount Survey, etc., was owned by John Gray Blount, Hyde and Beaufort counties. John Gray Blount was the largest landowner in the state in his day, and believed in 100 years was a pioneer in many counties in the state will be found grants of land in his name running into 100,000 acres or more. When he became owner of the property herein mentioned, Hyde and Tyrrell, and which later became parts of Dare.

Fifty years ago a great timber operation was carried on in this East Lake section of Dare county principally by a group of business men from Buffalo, New York. Operating as the Dare Lumber company, they did an enormous business in Juniper, Cypress and Pine timber which was carried to their huge sawmill in Elizabeth City for manufacture. It employed hundreds of people.

And while it was flourishing, two crooks in Pittsburgh, conceived the idea of buying the property, got an option on it from the owners for a million dollars, floated bonds on it for two million dollars, exchanged the bonds for the assets of an insurance company with which one of them was concerned, and because the bonds exceeded the value of the property, the company was wrecked. The crooks were sent to prison. To save the company, leaders in the insurance world got together, and in view of its great strength and prominence, it was agreed that the Metropolitan take over the assets and save the policy holders from loss. For 20 years the Metropolitan (Please turn to page 2)

\$76,000 QUOTA SET FOR HYDE IN BOND DRIVE

M. A. Matthews of Engelhard Is Chairman of Big Campaign

The Fifth ("V for Victory") War Loan drive will begin Monday, June 12. Hyde county's quota is \$76,000. The "E" Bond quota is \$39,000. M. A. Matthews of Engelhard is campaign chairman.

The Fifth Loan quota is the largest that Hyde county has ever been called on to raise. It is \$11,000 larger than the Fourth Loan quota of \$65,000.

Hyde county has gone over the top in every drive so far, according to Mr. Matthews, who is hopeful that the county will keep up this good record. "It is going to take some hard work," he said, explaining that everyone would have to pitch in and help.

TIRE QUOTAS TIGHTER WARNS RALEIGH OFFICE

Hyde County Gets Passenger Tires For June; Truck Tires Scarce

Although the number of new passenger tires available for rationing in June is slightly larger than in May, demand still far exceeds production or the available quota. Theodore S. Johnson, district director of the Raleigh Office of Price Administration, has announced.

He again emphasized the necessity for continued tire conservation. Fewer heavy duty truck tires will be rationed in June than in May. Johnson pointed out, declaring that a critical situation exists in this field.

June passenger tire quotas for the Hyde County Board is 88. The Raleigh District Office has cautioned holders of "A" gasoline ration books not to count "too heavily" on new tires soon, as indicated in published reports from Washington.

They added that "a few" "A" drivers probably would be eligible for new tires later this year, but that even then quotas allotted to local War Price and Rationing Boards would necessitate consideration of applications on the basis of essentiality.

The tire men viewed with concern a sharp decrease in tire rationing business, as reported by OPA field men, adding that the drop probably was a result of false optimism on the tire situation, brought about by the statement.

Motorists were reminded that tires should be rechecked just as in the past, before the casing is damaged. Such a practice prolongs the wear of the tire to a very great extent, the experts said.

Recent orders by the armed forces for more and more mobile guns have placed another large additional drain on the civilian rubber supply, it was brought out, and until service needs are taken care of, there will be no more tires for any but the most essential drivers.

POTATO CEILINGS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED

The new ceiling effective June 1 to 15 for U. S. No. 1 grade of Irish potatoes is \$3.05 per hundred pounds, according to Harry Westcott, State Department of Agriculture marketing specialist. He said that if the potatoes grade 85 per cent U. S. 1 or the commercial grade with 84 per cent U. S. No. 1 quality, the ceiling is \$2.95 per hundred pounds. For commercial with less than 85 per cent U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2, and size B, the ceiling price will be \$2.75 per hundred. The floor for U. S. No. 1's is \$2.30, and the floor for the lower grades is \$1.15 per hundred pounds.

The Fifth War Bond Drive begins in June—remember it.

A SLIGHT IDEA OF WHAT INVASION LOOKS LIKE



Released by U. S. War Department-Bureau of Public Relations
PRACTICE FOR THE GREAT INVASION—On the coast of England American soldiers and sailors and British sailors worked day after day in handling landing barges and in familiarizing themselves with the technique of aquatic offensive warfare. Problems in loading military personnel and munitions and in the rapid discharge of their cargoes were worked out under varying conditions of the seaway and the terrain of the beaches. Thorough training was considered important for the success of actual combat and in saving the lives of the invading forces.

NAGS HEAD DANCES DREW VISITORS FROM EASTERN COUNTIES 91 YEARS AGO

Hyde County Belle Figured in Group Invited to Dance at Nags Head Hotel in 1853 When Leading Families of Eastern Counties and Virginia Enjoyed the Old Resort as Shown by Treasured Memento Owned by Mrs. Grice.

A letter addressed to Miss Virginia Hodges, Slades Creek, Hyde County, N. C., mailed in Edenton 91 years ago by Mr. John W. Giles, carried a formal invitation saying, "The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited at a BALL, to be given at the Nags Head Hotel, on Thursday, the 15th of September, 1853."

The envelope and the invitation it contained are prized relics neatly framed in the cottage of Mrs. Alice K. Grice, one who loves Nags Head and glories in its traditions. The old invitation, speaking for itself, indicates that Nags Head was a greater resort for its time in the days before the Civil War, than it is now. Considering the distances and the difficulties of travel, when there were no trains, and all passing was by sail-boat or steamer, and considering the distinguished people who appeared on the list of managers, it is readily seen that Nags Head was then the most important seaside resort in the state. And even at September 15th, the season had not closed.

The managers of this ball numbered 28 people from the most distinguished families of Eastern North Carolina, and tidewater Virginia. Columbia, Plymouth, Windsor, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Hyde County, Washington, Hertford, Norfolk and other towns were represented. Here is the list of names:

Dr. Wm. A. Armistead, John Myrick, Joshua C. Skinner, Alexander Dixon, Stephen D. Pool, William C. Wood, Chas. W. Skinner, Jr., Dr. O. B. Savage, John W. Keeling, James E. Smith, Patrick H. Winston, C. C. Robinson, Jesse T. Parker, Samuel T. Sawyer, Dr. Edward Warren, Elias C. Hines, John Hope, Joseph S. Jones, Col. E. W. Jones, John M. Matthews, Henry A. Gilliam, Thomas Beckwith, Chas. C. Pettigrew, J. T. Bond, William R. Spruill, A. W. Starke, William Walters, James Wynn, Jr. Dated Nags Head, August 29, 1853.

No doubt the ball was the final affair of the season. One can let his mind drift to the glories of the ante-bellum days and picture the excitement with which the event was anticipated. One can imagine plans being made to travel by carriage from the inland points like Slades Creek, or other towns to the nearest steamboat landing, and thence to embark for Nags Head. It must have been a thrill to journey across the waters to the steamboat landing at Nags Head, and to go ashore there to a hotel that had no plumbing, no lights, and perhaps no screens against mosquitoes. But this, in no whit lessened the glitter and the glamour, and the excitement of the occasion, where romance blossomed, and hopes bloomed or (Please turn to page 2.)

FAIRFIELD YOUTHS ENJOY RECREATION PROGRAMS

Fairfield's recreation center for youth in the community was opened the second time Friday night, June 2. 32 boys and girls were present—there were also 32 present at the first meeting.

Miss Iberia Roach, Mrs. J. L. Blake and Mrs. Mildred Guthrie were in charge of the program. The group thoroughly enjoyed the social hour which was climaxed with the serving of popsicles. The next recreational program will be held Friday, June 16, at 8:30 p. m. a different committee will have the planned program in charge.

POTATO SHIPMENTS BEGIN IN THE EAST

The first carlot shipment of Irish potatoes have begun in Beaufort and Mt. Olive, according to Harry Westcott, marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture. Heavy shipments are expected to get underway within three or four weeks, he said. Due to the inclement weather this spring in Eastern North Carolina, diggings are spotted.

When the potato movement reaches its peak, the Markets division will have approximately 130 inspectors in that area.

The potato floor this year will range from \$2.30 for the U. S. No. 1 grade downward to \$1.15 for the poorest quality.

NORTH LAKE BOY IS PROMOTED AT DREW FIELD

Elmer C. Spencer, Fairfield farmer prior to entering the service in February of last year at Fort Bragg, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Signal Corps at Drew Field, Fla., where he is a mechanic in the Aircraft Warning Unit Training Center.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie S. Spencer, are well known in Fairfield.

WOUNDED IN WAR.

Patrolman C. E. Whitfield of Swan Quarter has learned that his brother, Horace Ray, coxswain, USNR, has been wounded in action in the Pacific.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION FOR NAME OF OLDEST RESIDENT

We can think of several Hyde county people who are getting along in their eighties, and it would be interesting to find out who is the oldest person living in the county. We will give a one-year subscription to the first person sending us the name and a 300-word story of the oldest person living in your Hyde county community by July 15. If you know of an old resident, write us and let us know the facts.

There is Mrs. Adeline Payne of Gulrock; Uncle John Berry of Swan Quarter, and Mr. John O. Gibbs of Engelhard that we can think of right off hand, and there are others—maybe some among our colored population.

There are great stories in the lives of these old ones and The Hyde County Herald would like to print them. There ought to be some kind of a lesson to be learned from the lives of these people that would benefit you younger ones.

If you know of an old person in your community who has reached a ripe old age, sit down and send us the story. You will get a worthy return and you also may help someone by bringing them the facts and lessons of a life that has already paraded by. Address your correspondence to The Editor, The Herald, Swan Quarter, N. C.

HYDE COMMISSIONERS VOTE FUNDS FOR STATE-COUNTY FOREST FIRE CONTROL

F. L. Hooker, District Forester Explains State-County Setup For Forest Fire Control Program; Educational and Preventative Program Adopted; Hailed As Wise Forward Step.

NORTH LAKE FARM FAMILY HELPED BY FSA

Officials Cite Case Saying It Shows Program Benefits Needy Farmers

The Hyde county FSA office cites the case of the Walter Lee Gibbs family of North Lake as showing how the system of credit with supervision used by the Farm Security Administration has proved itself as a good plan to help farmers get started. Here is the story as they tell it.

In 1940 Walter Lee applied at the FSA office for a loan. He was a farmer, had been reared on a farm, knew how to cultivate the soil, but he wasn't making a living from the farm. The year before, his income from crops was \$84.00. Money was necessary and he needed it, but financial credit wasn't the only thing Walter Lee needed. He needed to know more about modern farming practices. He needed to see that diversified farming with several farm enterprises instead of one or two was his only hope, and he needed advice from people skilled in agriculture. (Please turn to Page Three)

The Hyde county Board of County Commissioners met Monday, June 5th for the regular monthly meeting, Chairman A. L. Cuthrell, presiding. The general run of county business was discussed and acted upon. The highlight of the meeting was the appearance before the Board of Commissioners of F. L. Hooker, District Forester who came before the board to explain how the county could participate in the program of forest fire control and prevention developed by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

Mr. Hooker explained that the state would furnish a fire warden and a truck, and that there would be available to the program a plow and tractor at New Bern that could be obtained by a telephone call. The other necessary expenses, he explained, would be divided between the State and the county.

Naturally the heaviest expense connected with such a program is the initial expense which should be regarded as an investment and such expense is not great. As the program develops and people are educated to use extreme care in building fires in forest areas and to be positive that every spark of such fires are extinguished before they leave them; to learn not to throw matches or cigarettes around in such areas or on roads bordering such areas, particularly in dry seasons; the danger of destructive forest fires decreases and so does the expense of the forest fire control program. In some of our Western states there are state laws which levy a heavy fine for throwing lighted matches, cigars or cigarette stubs from cars on state highways bordering forest areas or in dry seasons.

The District Forester asked the Board of Commissioners to budget \$2,000 for the Forest Fire Control program, the state to do the same. The County Board of Commissioners deferred action on the request at the Monday meeting. Tuesday afternoon the Board of Commissioners met again and by a unanimous vote adopted the program. The money is to be budgeted from the General County Fund. The State pays all bills and then bills the county for its pro-rata share of the expense.

This is the first time Hyde county has been in on a Forest Fire prevention and control program. Hyde county in the past has known some destructive forest fires with heavy property loss. The fire warden's duties include the prosecution of anyone proved to have been instrumental in starting forest fires. Comment on the Board's action has been distinctly favorable. O. L. Williams, County Attorney, speaking solely as a private citizen interested in the welfare of his county said: "I believe the County Board of Commissioners has taken a very wise forward step. Nothing has taken a heavier or greater property toll in Hyde county than destructive forest fires."

The County Board of Commissioners will meet June 19 to consider the county budget and discuss a general audit with Bundy-Moran of Elizabeth City, certified public accountants.

SWAN QUARTER BOY GETS PILOTS WINGS

La Junta Army Air Field, Colo.—Vernon L. Sawyer, 21; son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Sawyer, Swan Quarter, N. C., recently was awarded the silver wings of a pilot at this advanced two-engine pilot school of the AAF Training Command.

He was graduated as a second lieutenant after completing the final phase of flight training as an Aviation Cadet in the AT-24 airplanes, a slightly modified version of the famed Mitchell B-25 medium bomber.

Sawyer graduated from the Swan Quarter high school and attended North Carolina State College, Raleigh.

During an intensive 10-week course of study at La Junta, student pilots learn the flying characteristics of medium bombers, practice formation flying, obtain proficiency in instrument or 'blind' flying, and continue their study of navigation, meteorology, and recognition of friendly and enemy air and surface craft.

On graduation, the pilots go immediately into specialized operational training for combat or to four-engine transition training.

SGT. MIDGETT STATIONED AT REPLACEMENT DEPOT

Keams, Utah.—T/Sgt. Hassell E. Midyette, 23 of Lake Landing, N. C., is now stationed at this Overseas Replacement Depot. It is announced by the Public Relations Office.

HYDE COUNTY GIRLS WORKING IN MANTEO

Miss Irene McKinney of Lake Landing has joined her sister, Eunice McKinney and Miss Camilla Selby of Engelhard and the three now constitute the staff of waitresses at Robert Owens cafe in Manteo. Last week The Herald inadvertently stated that Miss Camilla Selby was visiting friends in Manteo. We are glad to correct this statement. Miss Selby is working, being one of the efficient and courteous waitresses at Owen's cafe.

The production of lactose, or milk sugar, this year is expected to reach 14 million pounds, the War Food Administration predicts. Used to grow the mold that yields penicillin, six to seven million pounds of lactose will be needed annually by penicillin manufacturers.

FARM LABOR PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT ENGELHARD

A county-wide meeting of Irish potato growers was held in Engelhard Tuesday night, to discuss the harvesting and grading of potatoes. Details were not known at this writing.

This much is known about the labor program, however. It will be similar to the one used last year. Labor will be shifted from one section of the county to another as needed.

H. G. Guthrie, Swan Quarter, who served as farm labor assistant last year, will serve in that capacity again this year. Those with labor problems and want help should contact Mr. Guthrie.

To move an infantry division of 15,000 men and their equipment by rail, 356 passenger cars, 82 baggage cars and 900 freight cars are needed, the Office of Defense Transportation says.