

# THE HYDE COUNTY HERALD

THE NEWS OF THE RICHEST AGRICULTURAL COUNTY IN THE FOREMOST HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA  
VOL. 5; NO. 43 SWAN QUARTER, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1944 Single Copy 5 Cents

## OIL WELL MAY BE SUNK IN DARE COUNTY SOON TO COST \$200,000.00

### Standard Oil Representatives Taking Leases on Lands in Preparation for Geophysical Survey; Wells May Be Bored to Depth of Two Miles; Rivalry Between Oil Companies for Leases

There is more or less about this excitement over oil leases than most of us know about, but at any rate there seems to be some prospect of the sinking of a well in Dare County, and such a well it is estimated will cost \$200,000. Wells in similar territory go down about two miles, and such a well has been driven in Florida, but did not produce oil in paying quantities.

Meantime representatives of Standard and Sinclair, in particular have been busy in this section for months seeking oil leases on lands, and it is apparent that no drilling for oil will begin until as much land as possible has been leased. The state of North Carolina has leased the sound and river bottoms, and a well may be as easily sunk overboard, as anywhere else, perhaps more so, for materials may be brought to the site by water.

One of the first leases for oil rights in Dare County was signed by Theo. S. Meekins of Manteo last week for 7,000 acres of land to Standard Oil at 10 cents per acre. Mr. Meekins sold the land some two years ago, but retained the mineral rights at the time, so his foresight paid him \$700. J. W. Foreman of Elizabeth City recently leased 11,000 acres of Tyrrell County land to Sinclair for \$1,100.

H. C. Kaufman and Mark Wagner of Oklahoma came into town this week representing the Standard Oil and with the assistance of a third man, Mr. Graham, are obtaining the names of landowners in the county. Mr. Kaufman who recently negotiated with the state for its oil rights, says a well will positively be driven in this county, although it will take a long time to make all preliminary surveys. He says considerable money will be spent, all of which will stimulate local trade and bring new business and opportunities to this section.

Reports reach here to indicate that Tyrrell, parts of Currituck and Hyde and all of Dare are the principal sections under consideration for oil surveys in eastern Carolina. Well informed citizens insist that there has been great prospect for oil in this section, it would have been sought long ago.

They insist that the only reason the big oil companies are now active here is that the government is setting up vast sums of money to prospect for new oil, and that it is not so difficult to spend the money of someone else. On the other hand there are those who insist that the scarcity of oil, and the improved methods of finding it may make it feasible to work this area with good results. At any rate oil is scarce because of the waste of warfare; and it is difficult to bring to the eastern seaboard in wartime, and if Standard Oil could find it here close by, it would mean much to its refineries along the Atlantic Coast.

## 34 HYDE FARMERS SELL LAMBS AT CO-OP SALE

Hyde county farmers, 34 strong, sold 318 lambs at the Plymouth co-op sale Monday. Total receipts of the sale were \$1,964.85. Top sales were made by E. J. Clayton of Ponzer who had 5 lambs that sold for \$60 and Prestor Swindell of Fairfield who had 11 lambs that sold for \$124.40. Some 5,000 pounds of wool was marketed at the sale.

## THUNDER SHOWERS BRING RELIEF TO CROPS, GARDENS

Thunder showers that were general in Hyde County Tuesday afternoon brought relief to gardens and crops that in some places were beginning to dry and parch because of lack of rain. The rain that fell in Swan Quarter was the first that had come to the community in three weeks.

While Hyde gardens had suffered some for lack of rain, the situation in the county had not become as serious as it is in some sections of the state.

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

## STATE PEACE OFFICERS MEET NEXT WEEK



SHERIFFS TO MEET—Pictured above are Nash's Sheriff C. V. Faulkner (left), president, and John R. Morris of Wilmington, secretary-treasurer, of the North Carolina Sheriffs Association which holds its annual convention in Hendersonville July 6-7. At its 1943 convention, the association adopted a resolution commending the voluntary cooperation program of the Brewing Industry Foundation's North Carolina committee.

## Around the Courthouse

### SOME STATISTICS

The FSA personnel in cooperation with other agencies recently gathered some interesting information and facts to help them plan their work. Here are some of the things that they learned:

Hyde county has 996 farms with 553 part and full owners; 10 cash tenants; three share cash tenants; 400 share tenants and croppers and 28 other tenants. These figures were obtained from the 1940 census report. It was also learned that in 1939 789 families had a gross farm income of less than \$1000 and 593 had an income of less than \$600.

Hyde county on the basis of one doctor of 1,000 people needs seven doctors and on the basis of one dentist to 2,000 people the county needs three dentists. It was estimated that today 150 low income farms need additional or improved privies; 250 need screens or repaired screens; 150 need water supplies.

### ICE WATER

Hyde county office holders with offices in the county courthouse have obtained a cooler for keeping ice water to help relieve their thirst these hot days. The plan is to rotate it with each office holder keeping it a week and seeing that it is filled with water and ice. It is beginning this week in the office of Bonner R. Lee, Register of Deeds.

### AMONG HIGHEST

The tax levied for debt service in Hyde County is among the highest in North Carolina. Only three other counties in the state have a higher debt service tax rate than does Hyde with \$1.23. The counties having higher rates are Pamlico with \$1.505; Craven with \$1.26; and Ashe with \$1.25.

### PROPERTY VALUATION

The property valuation of Hyde county in 1943 was \$3,889,476. This was slightly more than it was the previous year.

Speaking of valuation, we have heard sentiment, both pro and con, about raising the valuation and lowering the rate. It is

pointed out by those who favor this that it would at least make the records look better, and it would not change the amount of money paid.

This is how the plan would work. The value of a man's property, now listed \$2,000 would be put \$4,000, but the rate would be only half of what it will be or \$1.03 per \$100. The tax would be the same it otherwise would be.

### ROUND-UP

The Board of County Commissioners will meet in regular monthly session Monday. County offices in the courthouse close Wednesdays afternoons.

## AUGUST 27th BIG METHODIST DAY AT STUMPY POINT

### Clyde R. Hoey to Be Principal Speaker at 100th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, August 27th, has been definitely set as the date for the big Methodist event at Stumpy Point, at which time Hon. Clyde R. Hoey of Shelby, nominee for Senator, will make an address, according to Rev. W. B. Parkin, the minister. The occasion will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Methodism on the Dare mainland.

A big outdoor dinner will be a feature of the occasion and several thousand people are expected from Dare and neighboring counties. The citizens of Stumpy Point are making great preparations for the day, and look forward to a homecoming to the church.

## NEW AUTO STAMPS MUST BE ON AUTO BY JULY 1

The Federal Auto Use stamp, which can be obtained at all post offices, must be on all cars and trucks by July 1st. The stamps cost \$5 each. There are penalties provided for failure to buy and display the stamp.

## North Carolina "Seamen" Meet at Service Center in Nation's Capital



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Seaman Daniel Hollingshead, S1/c of Salvo greets a fellow "Seaman", Lois Heath, Waves of Walnut Cove, whom he meets at the Pepsi-Cola Center for Service Men and Women in Washington, D. C.

Seaman Hollingshead is not a native of Dare County, but has been stationed at Gull Shoal Coast Guard station. Miss Heath's home is in the mountains of North Carolina.

## HYDE MAN WAS HUNG FOR COST STORY HAS IT

### Governor Had Pardoned Man But That Didn't Stop Death Sentence

A poor Hyde county man was hung in 1858 despite the fact that he had been pardoned by the Governor, writes Josephus Daniels in his Ramkattle Roaster column in the News and Observer. According to Mr. Daniels story, the poor man could not pay the cost after the pardon was granted and the hanging was carried out.

Here is the story as he tells through the Old Codger in the Ramkattle Roaster column:

"... I'll tell ye a yarn I got first hand what wud seem fer to justify yer incredulity. In 1857 when Jonathan Worth wuz Governor one day Col. Dave Carter uv the Hyde County family uv Carters but who wuz then living in Rolly told the Governor that a man in Hyde whom he had defended wuz to be hung an' convinced the Governor that he wuz guilty. So the Governor issued a pardon, with the great seal uv the State, an' gave it to Colonel Carter to take to the sheriff uv Hyde County to stop the execution. After several weeks Colonel Carter returned an' called on the Governor who said: 'I suppose ye carried my pardon an' arrived in time to prevent the execution?' The Colonel replied that he arrived in good time an' presented the Governor's pardon to the sheriff. 'But,' Colonel Carr added, 'though yer pardon arrived all rite, they hung the man.' This shocked the Quaker Governor who wuz astounded that his pardon had bin disregarded. 'Yes,' sed Colonel Carter, 'on the pardon, in accordance with the law, were the words 'upon payment of costs.'"

He added that the poor devil didn't have the money to pay the costs an' so he wuz hung. "No pardon after that time had the words 'on the payment uv the costs in the case.'"

## HYDE BOY COMPLETES STUDIES AT ARMY SCHOOL

Amarillo Army Air Field, Amarillo, Texas—Angus L. Swindell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Swindell of Swan Quarter, N. C., has completed his course of studies as an aviation mechanic in this Army Air Forces Technical Training School.

His graduation from this technical school now fits him for air-plane maintenance and he will be sent to an air base where he will assist in keeping America's Flying Fortresses in the air for Allied victory.

In addition to completion of the schedule of academic and practical studies as an aviation mechanic, he has been thoroughly drilled in military tactics and defense and a course of physical training that has conditioned him to meet all requirements of an American soldier.

### STATION SET ABLAZE WHEN GAS FUMES IGNITED

Fumes of gas escaping while gas was being unloaded into the tanks at Mack's Esso Station in Swan Quarter Wednesday morning were ignited when Charlie Sadley who was standing nearby lighted a cigarette. The blaze which resulted set the corner of the station afire. The danger of the moment caused immediate concern, but the blaze was quickly extinguished.

## SURPRISE SHOWER GIVEN MRS. GIBBS WED. NIGHT

Mrs. E. L. Gibbs of Swan Quarter was honored at a shower given at the home of her cousin, Miss Magaline Gibbs at Engelhard last Wednesday night. The party was a surprise to Mrs. Gibbs who received many nice gifts.

About 50 guests attended and were delightfully entertained with contests and games.

Delicious refreshments were served after which the gifts were unwrapped and admired by those present.

## LIGHTNING KILLS MULE

Lightning struck and killed one of a pair of mules belonging to George Slade, Negro tenant farmer of near Swan Quarter, during an electrical storm that struck in that section Tuesday afternoon. The mules were standing under a cedar tree which was struck and set afire by the bolt of lightning.

## COUNTY SEAT OF HYDE HAS BEEN LOCATED IN FOUR DIFFERENT PLACES

### Seat of Government Has Been Located At Woodstock, Germantown, Lake Landing and Now Swan Quarter; Population in 1940 Was Only Slightly More Than in 1850

## N. C. AGRICULTURE DEPT. PLANNING LONG PROGRAM

### Great Improvement Now Evident in Test Farms Operated by State

By Thompson Greenwood

Raleigh, June 28—The State Department of Agriculture has expended approximately \$100,000 during the past 12 months laying the foundation for a long-range program looking to the adaptation of agriculture in North Carolina to the needs of the post-war world.

Fred E. Miller, director of the Test Farms division for the Department has supervised the expenditure of these funds for new farms in Ashe, Haywood, and Washington counties, and for various improvements in the old farms.

New cattle will be brought into the State—the famous Brown Swiss breed, which is as large as the Holstein in size and in milk production. And the milk of the Brown Swiss is much richer than that of the Holstein. These cows—around 10 in all—will be placed on the new farm at Transou, N. C., in Ashe.

The 410-acre Ashe farm, which cost \$24,000, will be used for the Brown Swiss, beef cattle, and sheep.

On the Haywood farm, the Clark place on the outskirts of Waynesboro, will be placed dairy cows and projects to be carried out at this station will be concerned with greater milk production for the mountain counties, with poultry, horticulture, and burley tobacco. This farm, 300 acres, cost the State \$45,000. Many farms throughout a half-dozen counties in the Asheville area were studied in the search for a farm suitable to the needs of the Experiment Station.

Corn-planting began at this new mountain farm several days ago. All crops now on the place, with the exception of those on privately leased land, have become property of the State Department of Agriculture.

The State's largest test farm is now in Washington County. Sprawling over 2,000 acres, this land will be used for test in hybrid corn, small grain, soy beans, and lespedeza. Situated five miles east of Plymouth on a Federal highway, this station cost the State \$27,500. The old station, Wenona, eight miles south of the new one, is now up for sale.

There was a time several years ago when it was impossible during the winter months for visitors to reach some of the State test farms, but—thanks to the close cooperation of the various boards of county commissioners and the State Highway Department—this is no longer the case, and all farms are now accessible over paved highways.

Since 1937, when W. Kerr Scott became Commissioner of Agriculture 30 acres have been added to the Piedmont Station at Statesville at a cost of \$8,500; the Upper Coastal Plain Station at Rocky Mount is 248 acres larger, \$20,000; the Coastal Plain Station, Willard, 129 acres, \$6,500; 89 acres have been tacked onto the Tobacco Station at Oxford at a cost of \$6,000; and new buildings, financed by the Works Progress Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture, have been built at Oxford and Willard at a total cost of \$119,000.

As soon as materials are available, new and modern barns and other buildings will be erected at the new farms.

And—though nothing can be released of it yet—work now being carried forward on the eight test farms should mean a new day for agriculture in this State and in the South.

## Your War Bond Investment Is Your Investment In America ...

The county seat of Hyde County was moved three times before it was located at Swan Quarter in 1836. The first county courthouse was built at Woodstock near the present boundary of Hyde and Beaufort; the second at Lake Landing until 1836 when it was moved to Swan Quarter.

The county seat was moved from Woodstock to Germantown in 1789. It remained at this Currituck township community for 31 years until it was moved to Lake Landing. It remained at Lake Landing until 1836 when it was moved to Swan Quarter.

The present courthouse which has been remodeled twice since it was completed is believed to be more than 100 years old. It was remodeled in 1878 and 1909.

Before Hyde was organized as a county, the seat of government for the territory was Bath, which was the county seat of Bath county, of which this section was a part. Hyde county at that time was known as Wickham Precinct. It was formed as such in 1705.

Wickham became an independent county in 1729 and Woodstock was chosen as the location for the seat of government. The name of the county was changed to Hyde in 1712 in honor of Edward Hyde, colonial governor.

Comparing population figures of earlier days with the 1940 census shows that the number of people living in the county in 1850 was only slightly less than there were in 1940 and possibly more than today. There were 7,650 people living in Hyde county in 1850 compared with 7,860 in 1940. Available figures show that the population reached 9,270 in 1900. It was 8,550 in 1930.

## TIRES ON TRUCK ARE CUT, GLASSES BROKEN

Some criminally reckless person or persons did considerable damage to one of Maynard Meekins' trucks, left broken down on the Engelhard-Stumpy Point highway Saturday night, breaking out the glasses, head lights and cutting up the tires. No one has yet been apprehended for this reckless act which was committed apparently without reason.

Meekins, a fish dealer who lives at Engelhard, started to Stumpy Point Saturday afternoon. A bearing burnt out of the motor about six miles out of Engelhard and he was forced to leave the truck. He discovered the damage when he returned Sunday afternoon to have it pulled to a garage.

Deputy Sheriff Claud Davis of Engelhard was called in to investigate the case. No one has yet been apprehended. Davis said it appeared to have been the act of a mean and thoughtless person.

## MISS MILDRED WHITE WEDS ENSIGN ARTHUR L. BARTON

A marriage of interest in Hyde County was solemnized recently in Charleston, S. C., when Miss Mildred White became the bride of Ensign Arthur L. Barton of San Antonio, Texas. The bride wore a lovely gold dress with black accessories and orchid corsage. The marriage was in the home of friends in the presence of a few close friends and officers associated with Ensign Barton.

Miss White is the daughter of W. O. White of Swan Quarter and was graduated from the Engelhard high school in 1943. She has recently been living in Baltimore, Md., where she was doing war work at Black & Decker Co. Ensign Barton, a member of the Navy Air Force, is stationed in Charleston where they will live for the present.

## DURHAM

Ensign and Mrs. James C. Black announce the birth of a son, James Carter Black Jr., in Duke Hospital, Durham, Wednesday, June 7. Ensign Black is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. B. H. Black of Durham, and a grandson of the late Geo. I. Watson of Lake Landing. He is one of five sons of the Rev. and Mrs. Black now in service and is stationed at Miami, Fla.