

THE BELHAVEN PILOT

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DELEGATION SEEKS DRAINAGE FOR PUNGO RIVER BASIN AT MEETING AT CAPITOL THURS.

Aid of National Rivers and Harbors Congress Sought In Getting Federal Flood Control Project Which Would Make Possible The Reclaiming of Thousands of Acres of Farming Land In Beaufort And Washington Counties.

A delegation from the Pungo River Basin last Thursday attended a meeting of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington, D. C., to seek the aid of that organization in getting a Federal Flood Control project in the area.

The proposed drainage project, it is stated, would make possible the reclamation of thousands of acres of farming land in Beaufort and Washington counties, many of which were once in cultivation but had to be abandoned.

Those attending the hearing from Beaufort County included B. G. Carawan, Zeno Ratcliffe, A. D. Swindell, Walter Cannady and P. H. Johnson.

The National Rivers and Harbors Congress is not a government agency, it was stated, but an organization which has much influence with government engineers.

According to P. H. Johnson of Pantego there are approximately 125,000 acres in the Pungo River Basin, 85,000 acres of which are in existing drainage districts.

"What was judged to be adequate canals were constructed and a large percentage of that land was cleared and has at one time been in crops," said Mr. Johnson.

"After these canals were constructed it was decided that while they were sufficient to drain the area involved they could not take care of a vast amount of water in the West Dismal lying immediately west of these projects," he continued.

He said that in normal times this water was held back by a ridge forming the western boundary of the basin but that in periods of excessive rain the West Dismal water overflows this protecting ridge and damages crops to such an extent that much of the land had to be abandoned.

"It has been determined that the cost of providing an outlet for this over-flow water, in addition to the normal drainage that would be required, is too great to be taken by individual landowners and they have requested the Federal Government some assistance on the basis of flood control," Mr. Johnson said.

He continued: "The Army Engineering Department at Wilmington last year made a survey to determine the feasibility of the project and we are informed that they have submitted a favorable report to the authorities in Washington. They are now studying that report and it is hoped that they will approve it."

Regarding the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, Mr. Johnson said that the people of the area were indebted to the organization for their voluntary assistance in securing the great inland waterway.

He said that those who attended the meeting last week were hopeful of receiving a favorable recommendation of the project.

The project, it is reported, involves providing an outlet large enough to take care of the excessive over-flow from the West Dismal; the clearing out of Pungo River at its source; and the clearing out of Pantego Creek and Cuckolds Creek at their sources.

The trip of the delegation to the nation's capitol on Thursday followed a meeting in Pantego on Tuesday night, March 21, of some 40 Beaufort and Washington County farmers. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Swindell were named as delegates to represent the group in Washington.

The flood project, should it be carried out, is expected to make possible the reclamation of thousands of acres of farming land and make the Pungo River Basin blossom.

Lands now idle will be green with soybeans, corn and other crops bringing into the region thousands of additional dollars in farm income and providing more jobs for farm workers.

Communities in particular which would be benefited would be Pantego, Wenona and Terra Ceia. Belhaven and Plymouth would also be expected to benefit from the general prosperity it would create in the area.

More than 5,000 industrial plants in North Carolina depend directly upon the forests for raw material, and the value of their production is about \$150,000,000 yearly.

PUNGO POSTSCRIPTS

By VANN LATHAM

Let's change the subject and talk about the DDT (Ditch Trouble.)

While to many people, the project to make a small boat harbor by removing the bridge over Wynnes Gut and widening and deepening the gut may seem to be a purely local problem, the implications therein really have national and even worldwide status. It is another case, and there have been many in the past histories, where a few who are strong enough have gone against the wishes and the best interests of the majority of the people to force through a project which will best serve these few. In our case, the ones who wish to keep the bridge at any cost, called the bridge crowd, are spending the taxpayer's good money to stop the Army Engineers project which would benefit the majority of the taxpayers.

On the other hand, we have the harbor crowd, the ones who are interested in having a small boat harbor in Belhaven, even if it means removing the bridge. And it's quite a crowd too. While it is my opinion that it is desirable to keep West Front Street open and retain some bridge over Wynnes Gut, the benefits to be realized by the construction of a small boat harbor far outweigh the advantages of keeping a bridge.

Another point to be considered is that our town has no place that serves adequately as a public dock. And that "ain't" good for a town which is bordered on several sides by water.

But, all these arguments have been made before. Let us get to the cube root of the problem. It has always been my belief that a group of men in elected by a majority vote of the people in secret ballot and that these men, acting as the Board of Aldermen and as the governing body of the town, are to direct their actions so as to carry out the wishes of the people who elected them and to whom the yare responsible. And a man who is elected to the Board has a big responsibility. He is faced with the possibility of pressure which comes in many forms, from a certain group on the one side, and with the desires of the people who put him in office on the other side. It requires a man who has a conscience and who is really trying to perform his duty to be able to throw off the effects of pressure groups and to pay his debt to the people.

A town that has on its board men who cannot accept this responsibility is in a bad way. Such an administration can make all sorts of messes.

Belhaven Girls To Serve In May Court

Joyce Hodges and Peggy O'Neal Chosen by Pineland Faculty

Salemburg—Two Belhaven girls were chosen by the faculty to serve in the May Court at Pineland College on May Day, Saturday, May 13th. The two are Miss Joyce Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hodges, Sr., and Miss Peggy O'Neal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. O'Neal.

The May queen for this year is Miss Janice Butler, of Roseboro.

The May Day festivities will include the queen and court, a colorful historical pageant, the traditional Maypole dance, and other music and dance specialties. On the following day, Sunday, May 14th, the annual Mother's Day dress parade, drill and band concert will be presented by the cadets of Edwards Military Institute, brother school to Pineland. A large crowd is anticipated for both events and the two days have been designated as Homecoming week end for all alumnae and alumni.

About 6 million cords of fuel wood are used each year in North Carolina.

HYDE ATTORNEY SPEAKS BEFORE BELHAVEN LIONS

District Governor To Visit Belhaven-Pantego Club Thursday Night

"Life is becoming a cheap thing," says O. L. Williams, Swan Quarter attorney and candidate for the State Senate, said in a speech before the Belhaven-Pantego Lions Club at Flossie's in Pantego Thursday night.

The topic of Mr. Williams speech was "Cheapness of Life in a Materialistic World."

He praised the Lions Clubs for their activities in helping the blind and other misfortunates and declared that what they were doing was for a good cause.

Mr. Williams deplored the slaughter on the highways and said these mounting deaths were a cause of concern for all citizens.

Some of the problems facing the General Assembly dealing with human life, he said, are providing better care for the mentally sick, providing decent and safe jails for those held in connection with criminal charges, etc.

Mr. Williams was presented by Walton Johnson, program chairman.

It was announced that Lewis K. Day of Rocky Mount, Governor of District 31-C would attend the weekly meeting of the club Thursday evening, March 30. President Jimmy Hodges urged a 100 per cent attendance.

Visitors included Jack Harris of Washington and Walter Cahoon of Elizabeth City, guests of Jule Purvis; Tom Spencer, guest of Bill Mann; George Fisher, guest of Gus Gaylord; and J. L. Eckenrode, a Lion of Baltimore, guest of Oden Radcliffe.

NOW IS IDEAL TIME TO BED POTATO SPROUTS

Farmers Should Grow Own Sprouts, Specialist Advises

The last week of March or the first week in April is the ideal time to bed sweet potatoes from which to obtain sprouts for setting the 1950 crop, says H. M. Covington, extension horticulturist of State College.

Farmers who grow their own sprouts stand a much better chance of producing top-quality, disease-free potatoes, states Covington at harvest, he says, are caused by diseased potatoes having been bedded.

"If it becomes necessary to buy sprouts," asserts the horticulturist, "know the source of seed and the conditions under which the sprouts are grown. Cheap plants usually are the most expensive in the long run."

In selecting potatoes for bedding, the following points should be observed. Do not bed anything having rotten spots or shriveled ends. Select only those having a deep copper-colored skin. Nick each root near the stem end and save only those that are salmon pink to orange. Throw out those that have a pale pink or white tint. Finally, bed only roots which are one and a half inches in diameter or larger. The larger the seed, the larger the sprouts. Strings (slips) make weak, tender plants which result in poor stands.

Covington also warns farmers against buying plants from out-of-State sources, especially from certain sections of Florida and against further spread of the sweet potato weevil. This pest, he says, has also been found recently in Charleston County, South Carolina. The insect could very easily be brought in on sprouts produced in weevil areas. Covington reminds farmers that there is a State law which prohibits the bringing in of sweet potato. Later a census enumerator will tiled sources.

PTA STUDY COURSE HELD IN BELHAVEN

A district study course on "Child Guidance and Family Education" was held at the Belhaven high school Monday with approximately 100 in attendance.

The course was conducted by Miss Genevieve Burton of Gibsonville, state field worker for the P.T.A.

The meeting was held from 10 a. m. until 3 p. m. Lunch was served in the school lunchroom.

A movie was shown during the afternoon session.

Representatives were present from neighboring schools.

COMMENT

By THOS. E. SPENCER

MAKE THIS A DAY

Make this a day. There is no gain in brooding over days to come; The message of today is plain. The future lips are ver dumb. The work of yesterday is gone— For good or ill—let come what may; But now we face another dawn. Make this a day.

Through yesterday we failed to see The urging hand and earnest face

That men call opportunity, We fail to know the time or place

For some great deed,—what need to fret?

The dawn comes up a silvery grey. The golden moments must be met; Make this a day.

This day is yours—your work is yours;

The odds are not who pays your hire; The thing accomplished—that enquire.

If it be what the days require, He who takes up his daily round, As one new-armoured for the fray,

Tomorrow steps on solid ground. Make this a day.

—The Tallman

TO BUY . . . OR NOT TO BUY

A man lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs.

He was hard of hearing so he had no radio.

He had trouble with his eyes so he read no newspaper.

But he sold good hot dogs. He put up signs on the highway telling how GOOD they were.

He stood by the side of the road and cried: "Buy a hot dog, Mister!"

And people bought. He increased his meat and bun orders.

He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He got his son home from college to help him.

But then something happened. His son said, "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio?"

"There's a big recession on. See COMMENT, Page Eight

PUNGO DISTRICT HOSPITAL NOTES

Birth of four babies at the Pungo District hospital in Belhaven this week highlighted the news at the region's health center. Births were as follows:

Mrs. Earl Pugh of Lake Landing, a baby boy.

Mrs. John Tigheolaar of Terra Ceia, a baby girl.

Mrs. Henry Boyd, Jr., of Belhaven, a baby girl.

Mrs. Howard Voliva of Belhaven, a baby boy.

Patients admitted during the past week, other than the mothers listed above, were Mrs. Lena Sawyer Selby of Bath, Mrs. Lena Sawyer of Ponzer, Henry Everett of Washington RFD, and Mrs. Dora McKinney of Fairfield.

Those discharged during the past week included Charles Rose of Wenona, Miss Arlene Arnold of Engelhard, Mrs. Jennie Manning of Ponzer, Mrs. Lilley Bailey of Belhaven, John Dunbar of Swan Quarter, Charles Rose of Wenona, Mrs. Ardie Gibbs of Lake Landing, and McLain Meekins of Stumpy Point.

Colored patients included Delsie McCabe of Swan Quarter, Ronoin Credle of Belhaven, Marvin Lewis Connor of Belhaven and Carrie Braddock of Belhaven.

IN HELL WITH SOME PEOPLE

I had a dream the other night. I dreamed I was tired of walking to and fro on the face of the earth and so I left the earth, as all people are bound to do someday. I left the earth and went to hell.

I was standing there looking at all the people, and I saw a group of pot bellied, well-dressed men and some of them were slender and not so well dressed. The Devil was a very busy man. He had a great blasting furnace which he stoked with the people of different

GETS SENTENCE OF 25-30 YEARS FOR SLAYING WILLIS

Ralph Midgette of Ocracoke Sentenced to Prison in Beaufort Co. Court Saturday

Ralph Midgett, 42, of Ocracoke, a native of Buxton, got a sentence to prison of 25 to 30 years Saturday in Beaufort County Superior Court in Washington, for the slaying of Glenn Willis of January 25. He shot Willis owner of the vessel Lindsay C. Warren, while it lay in port at Washington.

Trial of the case had consumed most of the week. Judge W. I. Halstead of South Mills presided.

A Beaufort County jury deliberated almost four hours Friday night before finding Midgett guilty of second degree murder.

Midgett testified he argued with the Beaufort captain the afternoon of the shooting. He said he had been drinking and remembered nothing about the shooting until the next day.

Police said Midgett told them he shot Willis because the captain didn't pay him as high a salary as promised.

When Midgett heard Judge W. I. Halstead pass sentence he did not change the expression that had typified him during the entire trial that lasted three days.

Meanwhile the State's chief witness in the case, John D. Banks, 24-year-old cook who claimed he was held at gunpoint while Midgett, armed with a shotgun and rifle awaited Willis' arrival, was jailed on a forgery charge.

He is charged with forging a check for \$18 in the account of Mrs. L. C. Clark. It was endorsed "D. M. Smith."

Banks on probation when he became involved in the Willis slaying case, was given preliminary hearing on the forgery charge. Probable cause was found and he was bound over to the June term of superior court under bond of \$500.

GARDEN CLUB OF BELHAVEN ELECTS OFFICERS MONDAY

Mesdames F. P. Latham and Sara Latham Entertain Club

The Machapungo Garden Club Monday elected officers at a meeting at the Circle Grove Farm with Mesdames F. P. Latham and Sara Latham, hostesses.

The following officers were elected for next year as recommended by the nominating committee:

Mrs. Jessie Taylor, president; Mrs. Julie Purvis, first vice-president; Mrs. George Clark, second vice-president; Mrs. Hubert Wingley, secretary; Mrs. Andrew Hordges, treasurer; and Mrs. W. E. Bateman, art chairman.

New officers will be installed in June and assume offices in September.

Mrs. James Younce, president, asked each member to recommend names for membership. They will be voted on at the April meeting.

The club decided to sponsor a game tournament in April at the Community House. The date will be set later.

The program for the afternoon was given by Mrs. W. E. Bateman. She talked about the beauty and usefulness of driftwood. She had a collection of odd shapes that she had found along the river shore which was very interesting.

She told how the "Chinese Ming Trees" could be made from driftwood.

See GARDEN, Page Eight

PANTEGO CITIZENS PLAN TO APPEAL TO STATE PANEL IN EFFORT TO SAVE SCHOOLS

Beaufort County Board of Education Approves Recommendations of Survey Panel To Consolidate Pantego White And Negro High Schools With Belhaven Following Hearing in Washington Friday Afternoon.

ONE OF BELHAVEN'S NEWEST BUSINESSMEN



EUGENE O'NEAL, 26-year-old World War II veteran and graduate of East Carolina Teacher's College in Greenville, is one of Belhaven's newest businessmen.

Eugene and his brother, Mayor Prentice O'Neal, recently took over the Belhaven Pharmacy on the corner of Main and Pamlico Sts. and operate it as O'Neals Corner Store.

Eugene spent four years in the Navy during the past war, coming out of service in 1946. He entered ECTC in Greenville and graduated there in 1949, majoring in business administration and social studies. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for one year prior to going into service.

Young Mr. O'Neal is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walton O'Neal of East Main St. The O'Neals are natives of Hyde County.

DEBNAM PRAISES BELHAVEN PEOPLE IN HIS BROADCAST

Raleigh News Commentator Comments On Aid Given Negro Family

A noted North Carolina news commentator Monday praised the spirit of the people of Belhaven for helping a Negro family who had lost their home and belongings in a fire.

W. E. Debnam of Raleigh, who presents "Debnam Views the News" over the Smith-Douglas network, said that he wished "the story of Jim Jones and his friends at Belhaven could be told all over the nation." But, he added, unfortunately this isn't the case.

His commentary said in part: "Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will never mention it in My Day. She will continue to criticize economic and social conditions in the South and weep crocodile tears over poverty and unhappiness while she ignores even worse conditions in her own back yard."

"You'll ever read the story of Jim Jones and his new home in Time Magazine or in Life or in any of the other national publications.

You'll never read about it in Drew Pearson's column. You'll never hear Winchell or any other commentator with a coast-to-coast network mention it on the radio.

You will, of course, read and hear a lot about those isolated instances where small bands of hoodlums in the South dress up in bedsheets and pillow slips and go charging about the countryside burning crosses and generally making a fool of themselves.

"You'll read and hear a lot about anything and everything that holds the South up to ridicule . . . but when an entire community . . . white and Negro—as was the case in Belhaven rallied to the support of a deserving colored family in time of need the wagging tongues of southern critics make no mention of it."

Mr. Debnam learned about the story of Jim Jones from the columns of The Belhaven Pilot and complimented the paper for bringing the story to the attention of the public.

Pantego citizens early this week were making plans to appear before the State Building panel in Raleigh today (Thursday, March 30) and seek reversal of recommendations of the Survey panel and County Board of Education calling for consolidation of the white and Negro high schools of the community with those in Belhaven.

The Beaufort County Board of Education Friday night unanimously approved the recommendations of the Survey panel for the county which provides for consolidation of the Pantego and Belhaven high schools at Belhaven.

The action of the County board followed a public hearing at the Agricultural building in Washington Friday afternoon at which time a Pantego delegation made a strong appeal for continuation of their schools.

Spokesmen for the group included D. W. Lupton, chairman of the local school board; E. L. Slack, member of the board; and P. H. Johnson, John A. Wilkinson, Washington attorney and a alumni of the Pantego school, also spoke in behalf of retaining the school at Pantego.

The Pantego spokesmen pointed out that their school was the first high school in the county and that since the beginning it had been noted for its school spirit.

The group asked the County board for three new classrooms, a new lunchroom, a gymnasium and modernization.

Negro spokesmen from Pantego who appeared in behalf of their school were Lee Whitley and Will Farrow. They told the Board that the patrons of their school had worked hard and raised several thousands of dollars to buy land on the promise that they would be given a new school.

The Survey panel recommendation approved by the County Board calls for an expenditure of \$175,000 at the Belhaven white school, not including modernization, and \$40,000 at the Pantego white school, not including modernization.

For the Negro schools the panel recommended an expenditure of \$97,000 at Belhaven, not including modernization.

See CITIZENS, Page Eight

FARM CENSUS BLANKS BEING DISTRIBUTED

Census Enumerators Will Call For Forms At Later Date

A copy of the Agricultural Census Questionnaire for 1950 is being placed in every rural mail box in the nation this month. tato plants other than from cereal for the form, check the information and help complete it if necessary.

D. S. Weaver, assistant director of the State College Extension Service, says North Carolina farm families can help save considerable time and money by having information ready when the census representative calls.

Weaver points out that many decisions and policies, both public and private, depend on accurate information. Such information, he adds, is used in the apportionment of funds for education, including agricultural extension work and in decisions as to size and location of business establishments, to mention only a few of the more important uses made of it.

Although the questionnaire is a formidable looking document, with a total of 181 separate questions, it really isn't as difficult as it looks, says Weaver. Many items will not apply to all farmers. Many others require only a "yes" or "no" answer.

Acts of Congress provide that individual information given to census enumerators must be held in confidence and cannot be used for taxation, investigation, or regulation; and that census questions must be answered truthfully.

The census Weaver points out, is one of the oldest of American institutions. The first one was taken in 1790, and others have been taken every 10th year since then. Since 1920, an agricultural census has been taken every five years.