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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, September 7, 1926

ESTABLISHED 1898

COUNTY TAX RATE REDUCED FROM \$1.50 TO \$1.08; MEANS SAVING OF MORE THAN \$100,000 TO MARTIN TAXPAYERS

Town to Build Warehouse for Use Boat Line

Other Happenings at Commissioner's Meet Last Night

While the pool room attracted the attention of the citizenry as a whole at the meeting of the town commissioners here last night, the question of building a warehouse at the river wharfs attracted the business men of the town.

After several questions in the matter were cleared, the board passed favorably on the proposition and ordered that bids be received for the construction of the building.

The building will be 50 by 175 feet and will cover the space between the warehouses now standing and will extend out a number of feet on this side.

During the past weeks several hundred tons have been unloaded at the wharf, they going from here to various towns in this section. The Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina line, with its local agent, C. D. Carstarphen & Co., is doing much for the promotion of eastern Carolina's waterways.

Fire Chief Reports of Trip Mr. H. D. Harrison, local fire company chief, appeared before the board, reporting on the trip made by several members of the local company to Morehead City.

Dr. J. F. Thigpen appeared before the board asking relief from outside horse dealers, who come here in the best part of the season and then leave for the remainder of the time.

W. H. Heins and J. R. Porter of Tarboro were visitors here today.

Better Prices Than Last Year Being Secured on Markets Opening Today

Reports from several of the tobacco markets received here this morning were very favorable when they held that the weed was averaging around thirty cents.

ed that very little was being sold for less than 20 cents the pound. No exceedingly large breaks were evident on many of the markets opening this morning.

The reports are most encouraging, and a great opening is expected here tomorrow. The warehouses have already taken on a busy appearance; all the buyers are here and everything is in readiness.

Report County Farm Agent for Month August

Hogs Fed Under Agents Direction Bring Best Market Prices

Following is the report of County Agent T. B. Brandon for the month of August, as submitted to the Board of Commissioners at their meeting here yesterday:

- 16 days in field work. 5 days in office work. 67 conferences with farmers in regard to farming. 72 telephone calls. 70 letters written in regard to official duties.

Mr. Jesse Whitley shipped 50 head of hogs to Richmond during the month, fed according to the agent's plan for feeding hogs. These 50 hogs weighed 8,135 pounds and sold for 14 cents per pound, which was the top of the market for that day.

The tobacco fertilizer test has been brought to a successful close, and the agent will publish the results as soon as it can be graded.

Number Barrels of Beer and Cider Seized

Deputy Peel and Chief of Police Daniel were called Friday and destroyed several barrels of beer located at two different stands. No still were found. This was near the Speight farm.

On Saturday they found eight barrels of beer and cider near the J. R. Leggett farm. No person was seen near by. A portion of this material was said to have been the pure "apple."

Wishes to Thank Those Who Made Tour Success

The advertising manager of the Williamston Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank publicly all those who so willingly assisted in the recent good-will tour.

In his offer of thanks, he by no means wishes to fail to extend them to the citizens of the towns visited. No heartier welcome could have been accorded any one than those of the towns visited.

Home Folks On the Air Next Thursday Night

Radio fans will have an opportunity to hear their neighbors and home folks on the air on Thursday night, when the Windsor quartet will sing, accompanied by Mrs. Wheeler Martin, jr., of this city.

"Uncle Tim" Returns To Local Market

Thousands of farmers will be glad to learn that Mr. H. A. Timberlake will again be at the Brick Warehouse here this year, and it is with much pleasure that the management of that house makes known his return.

"Uncle Tim," as he is widely known was here last year, and gained favor with our tobacco growers. His standing with other growers was seen when they came from as far away as 50 to 60 miles to sell with him.

He invites you to see him at the Brick Warehouse, where he was last year.

Respected Colored Man Died Monday

Buck Speller, colored, who was perhaps Williamston's most polite citizen and whose life was apparently a glow of sunshine, died Monday morning.

Buck bought land out on the Washington Road years ago, when it was cheap, and built a store where he did a good trade for a long time.

Buck claimed that when he moved from down town he told all the negroes it was time to leave Main Street and that they would have to follow him, which prophecy he frequently quoted as he pointed to his colored neighbors who built around him.

Buck came from Bertie County about 25 or 30 years ago and has lived in Williamston since that time, where he has maintained the confidence of not only the colored but the white people as well. He was 65 years old. He died from a stroke of apoplexy.

Burial of Child Takes Place This Afternoon

Myrtle, the two and one-half years old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gardner of Williams township, died yesterday. The burial will take place this afternoon.

Jewish New Year on Thursday of This Week

The Jewish holiday, Roshashonna, which comes on Thursday, September 9, will be observed by the firms of Margolis Brothers and W. R. Orleans. The Roshashonna is the Jewish new year and is strictly observed. These stores will be open for business again Friday morning.

Commissioners Hold Regular Meet Monday

Bear Grass Citizens Ask for Road Connecting Them to Highway

The Board of County Commissioners met here yesterday in their regular monthly session at their rooms in the courthouse. All members of the board were in attendance upon the meeting.

The order authorizing the execution of a note for \$25,000, passed at the session of the board held on August 2, for the use of the general county fund, was canceled, since it is found that it is not needed.

The sum of \$350 was ordered loaned to W. L. Stalls from the interest and sinking fund account; the loan to be secured by a deed of trust.

A committee, composed of T. B. Slade, jr., J. C. Barnhill, and John N. Hopkins, was appointed to make an investigation as to the feasibility of making a donation to Goose Nest Township roads.

W. E. Early was appointed township constable of Goose Nest Township to fill the unexpired term of Eugene Price, he having left the township.

Frances Coltrain was ordered allowed \$5 per month on account of indigence.

It was ordered, on motion of J. G. Barnhill, seconded by J. N. Hopkins, that H. M. Burras be allowed \$701.86, being 20 per cent on \$3,509.29 land sold for taxes.

C. D. Carstarphen was ordered refunded \$7 special school tax collected through error.

Matilda Williams was placed on the indigent list, with an allowance of \$3 per month.

A petition from the citizens of Bear Grass to lay out a road from the Bear Trap Mill to the Washington Road near the Green place was received, and notice of a hearing to be held at the October meeting was ordered posted.

John Hadley Says His Car Did Not Strike Man

John Hadley says that the statement of Albert Jones that he ran into Jones one night last week at the corner of Houghton and Main Streets, as published in our issue of September 3, is false. Mr. Hadley says he did not strike him at all.

Hadley says he was going up Main Street about 9 o'clock and a Ford car crossed Main Street without stopping. He pulled in behind the Ford, according to his statement, going out South Houghton Street, and saw a man apparently falling out of the right side of the Ford car, which was then about 20 feet ahead of him.

Hadley says that Jones fully understood that he was not the man who struck him.

Refuse to Grant License to Pool Room Operator

Present Petitions for and Against Its Operation

A real show-down on the pool-room question came last night when petitions for and against the operation of a pool room here were presented before the board of town commissioners. Messrs. Dunning, Martin, and Peel, representing Charlie Sahd, pleaded for him, asking permission of the commissioners to allow their client to operate his tables for six more months.

Lawyer A. R. Dunning read his petition and called out the names of those signing the petition, the number being 115. Those objecting to the issue had the floor for a few minutes and bitterly opposed any such permission, and they in turn read a petition prepared asking that the open operation be, stopped at once.

The discussion brought forth rather startling facts. The same names appeared on both petitions, this being the case in more than a half dozen instances. In both lists there were names of those standing high in church circles, leaders in the business life of the town, and so on through the list.

And while all of this deals with the licensed pool room, nothing has been said regarding the club pool room. Information gathered from several sources this morning held that Sahd would not leave, but will stay and continue to operate the place under the club plan.

It will be remembered that he entered here under such a system, and soon was under the licensed plan. Just how and where the problem will end is not known; but, no doubt, the hearing last night was of some value.

Various objections were raised against the room, and upon these, along with general principles, the request met defeat.

Cranberry Growing In Martin County

"Scientific research is the basis of progress. Dr. B. W. Wells, of State College, has found that cranberries will grow in the great savanna regions of southeastern Carolina."

The above statement brings to our attention the fact that bushels of cranberries grow in Martin County; they are to be found in the bogs or poccus in Griffins Township, and often the people residing in that immediate section pick them for sale.

However, one has to be very careful in watching his step or else he may sink in the marshy soil.

These berries are of fine flavor, and usual size. If attention was paid to their cultivation, another money crop would be added to that of Martin County's valuable list.

Dr. Wells could gain some information right in this section about the berries which are in great demand about "turkey time."

Dog Bites Little Ward Boy Here Saturday

James Willis, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ward, was bitten by a dog here last Saturday. The wound was not serious, but Mr. Ward had the animal's head sent to Raleigh where it was found that the dog did not have rabies.

Mr. W. I. Skinner and daughter, Miss Willie, were visitors here Saturday.

Woman's Club Benefit Show Next Tuesday

"Listen, Lady," one of the best home-talent plays being shown, will be staged here next Tuesday night, September 14. It will be given under the direction of Miss Hendricks, who bids fair to put on a fine show.

Reserved seats will be on sale at Biggs Drug Store. If you want a good seat for a good show, get your tickets early this week.

Hog-Calling Contest to be Staged Here

Julius Peel and S. Rome Biggs to Conduct an Unique Contest

(By JULIUS S. PEEL)

Way out in the corn States of the middle West the Charleston contests and the summer swimming carnivals are giving up their popularity to be succeeded by "Hog-calling Contests". The musical call of "hokey" which has floated out across pastures at dusk and at dawn for years unnoted, save by hogs themselves, is now a thing of almost national importance.

Now down here in Martin County that is exactly what we are going to do, that is, let the hogs be their own judges. Under the auspices of S. Rome Biggs and the writer of this article, and already sanctioned by the Mayor of Williamston, plans are now under way to stage the greatest contest of this kind ever attempted in the East.

Some of our County's greatest orators have gone out into the gloaming in their boyhood days and called the hogs home. To be a successful hog-caller is just as rare a gift as being a great singer or musician.

Have you ever been over in Conine Swamp about sunset on an Indian Summer day, along some winding trail, when everything was quiet and you were listening for the chirp of a squirrel when from the distance beginning doubtfully and far away the soothing, appealing call of "hokey" comes floating thru the air.

Martin County will bring the hog-caller into his own and who knows but what one of our County's sons may win undying fame and have his voice broadcasted to the far ends of the earth all because he has that power and charm that can arouse a sleepy pig in the sunshine to go marching home.

Club Holds First Meet Of Season Tomorrow

The Twentieth Century club will have its first meeting of the season tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock with Mrs. F. U. Barnes. Distribution of books will be made and it is hoped that all the members will be there.

Audit Showed Large Surplus on Some Items

Auditor Says County's Financial Condition Is Above Average

The board of county commissioners yesterday lowered the tax rate for the county from \$1.50 on the \$100 valuation to \$1.08 on the same valuation, resulting in a saving to the taxpayers of Martin County of approximately \$100,000.

The lowered rate comes as a result of an audit of the county's books, which showed that there was sufficient to take care of the sinking funds of the county, and that a \$1.50 levy would more than take care of the demands. The 42-cent drop was made possible when special funds came in that were applicable to the interest and sinking fund.

The decrease comes as a great relief to the taxpayers of the county, and it places us among those counties enjoying a low tax rate.

The auditor's report also shows the sum of \$87,288.34 to be in the county's treasury. Of this amount, \$48,675.41 is bond money, \$18,221.47 schools, \$35,454.03 interest and sinking fund, and \$15,276.52 for roads and bridges.

Condition Better Than Average The auditor said he found conditions in this county much better than in the average county. This would indicate that the conditions in our county are good.

One criticism of the board's action seems evident when they ordered the sheriff to sell many farms and homes for taxes during the dull summer months. When they were bid in by the county, \$12,000 of the best ones were tramped over to D. G. Matthews on his 6 per cent note, and he was allowed to draw 20 per cent out of the unfortunate taxpayers.

The transaction cost Mr. Matthews \$720 per year in interest while he draws \$2,400 from the unfortunate, giving him \$1,680 net. This is a handsome sum to make, and then there is the possibility of his getting deeds for many tracts worth thousands. The law allows this, and even calls for such action when taxes are not paid, and every man has a right to deal to his advantage. But even though the law allows such action, it should be remembered by the board that it is its duty to look after the interest of the taxpayer as long as it is possible.

Accidentally Shot Hunting Squirrels

Mr. James Harrison, who lives near Bear Grass, had a close call on September 1, while squirrel hunting on Spellers Creek and accidentally shot himself.

Mr. Harrison shot a squirrel and went to pick it up. When he set the gun down to reach for the squirrel, the gun fired, the load tearing away the front part of his shoulder and arm about where they join, missing the bone by only a hairbreadth. He was two miles or more from any other person and had to walk out unaided to a highland where he had driven his car. He was able to drive to his home, 12 miles away, where he was attended by Dr. Saunders and then taken to the Washington Hospital, where he remained until yesterday.

Mr. Harrison was hunting with a hammerless gun and had pushed the safety catch off, cocking both barrels of the gun. After firing the first shot he did not close the safety catch and the second barrel fired from the jar of setting the gun down.

Surprise Party Given Mrs. R. L. Shirley

The Philanthropic of the Memorial Baptist church gave Mrs. R. L. Shirley a surprise party last Monday night at her home on Main street. Mrs. Shirley was formerly teacher of the class and was among the best teachers and leaders the class ever had. A gift was presented Mrs. Shirley and then the guests served refreshments of cake and cream which they carried with them.

STRAND THEATRE TOMORROW (Wednesday) REGINALD DENNY in "California Straight Ahead" THURSDAY BEBE DANIELS in "THE PALM BEACH GIRL" FRIDAY "JOANNA" A JAZZ-MAD PICTURE Free to all who come out to the Wednesday Show