

STATE TO TAKE OVER COUNTY ROADS JULY 1

Legislature Passes Connor Road Measure After Lengthy Debates

TAX GOES ON APRIL 1

Free Labor Will Be Used Only In Those Cases Where It Is Cheaper than Convicts

The Connor Road Bill, providing State maintenance of all county roads, was passed in the legislature this week but it'll be the first of next month before its passage is generally known, for at that time the gasoline tax jumps from five to six cents per gallon. All gasoline now in storage in the State and all future shipments will carry the increased tax.

No announcement has been made by oil companies as to whether they will make a price change on the first of April or not. All revenue resulting from gasoline will go into the road fund, four cents for State highway use and two cents for the upkeep of the county roads.

The details of the road bill are not fully known at this time, but it is understood that road operations in the various districts will be handled by the present road commissioners or trustees until or probably a short while after July 1, the date the State is scheduled to take active charge. However, the additional gas tax goes into effect April 1.

The bill, recently enacted into law by the North Carolina General Assembly, closely follows the major recommendations of a report just published by the United States bureau of public roads following an investigation of the financing and administration of county road work in North Carolina.

The major recommendations of the public roads bureau were: Limiting of expenditure of gasoline taxes returned to the counties for the construction and maintenance of the county roads, avoidance of further increases in tax levies until a financial plan can be developed for road improvement based on traffic importance and a pooling of convict labor forces and road machinery.

The Connor bill law creates a new title for all applications for the relief for state maintenance of all county roads and sets up a system for working convict labor on roads. State maintenance also provides for the state to take over all county highway machinery. The district system is abolished and the construction of roads "based on traffic importance" is to be followed.

County maintenance of roads was condemned in the survey. This investigation revealed, it says that under the county and township organizations, road funds are, in many instances, expended without regard to traffic importance of the particular roads improved.

FARM LIFE WILL CLOSE APRIL 10

Athletic Association Will Present Play There Tuesday Night

The Farm Life School will end the 1930-31 term the 10th of next month, it was announced yesterday. It was also stated that "arrangements are being completed for an intensive though modest commencement program."

Next Tuesday night, the Farm Life Athletic association will present "The Chocolate Wedding," consisting of forty, comical negro characters. The play should appeal to the working people in that its playing time is only one hour and a half, due to the fact that it is all in one act with, no time taken in changing scenes. The performance is being given to defray expenses incurred by the school during the past basketball season, and it is hoped that there will be a goodly number in attendance.

Sunday Services At The Local Christian Church

The Christian church will hold its regular services Sunday. At the regular service the pastor will conclude the series of sermons on "The Call of Jesus" by using the subject, "The Leadership of Jesus." Monday evening the last meeting of the pastor's instruction class will be held. All the children who have been coming are urged to be present. At the mid-week service the pastor will tell how Jesus prepared His disciples for that eventful Friday. Other services are as follows:

Sunday school, 9:45
Morning worship, 11
Christian Endeavor, 6:30
Evening worship, 7:30
The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Superior Court Hears Many Criminal And Civil Causes

GRAND JURORS MAKE REPORT TO THE COURT

Make Several Recommendations; Inspect All School Trucks

Directed by Judge W. C. Harris, presiding officer of the current term of Martin County Superior Court, the grand jury made a thorough investigation of the county offices, county home, and all school trucks, the investigators finding conditions in some cases bad, in others fair, and still others ok.

The jury offered a number of recommendations, directing the home agent to visit the county home at least once each month and act as dietitian. Several of the school trucks were found to be in bad condition and repairs were reported necessary.

The report, addressed to Judge Harris, reads: "We have examined and passed on all cases placed before us for consideration. We have examined all the county offices and found them in good condition. The jail is in good condition, and the prisoners are well cared for. We found the county home in fair condition, and the food is well prepared, but we recommend that the home agent, Miss Lora Sleeper, visit the home at least once each month and act as dietitian."

We have examined the various officers' bonds and recommend that the commissioners require corporate surety in all cases. We learned that the treasurer holds depository bonds from banks in which sheriff's and treasurer's funds are deposited.

Reports were received from Justices of the Peace James E. Roberson, Jr., J. W. Hines, B. B. Sherrod, J. L. Hassell, C. L. Nelson, and C. B. Riddick.

Report on Trucks

The real work of the jury members was the inspection of thirty-four school trucks. Dividing themselves into groups, the jury members completed the work in one day, finding conditions bad, fair, and good. The report indicates negligence on the part of drivers and the various principals. However, strict economy has been practiced, and that, in part, is believed to be responsible for some of the existing conditions.

The report in detail:

Williamston School

Gomer Taylor, driver, truck o. k.; Clayton McKeel, driver, truck unsatisfactory; Clarence McKeel, driver, 1 bad tire on truck; Raymond Gurkin, driver, truck o. k.; Woodrow Jones, driver, brakes on truck need relining; Sutton Burrus, driver, truck o. k.; Tyre, driver, truck o. k.

Oak City School

Donnel Hyman, driver, truck o. k.; Charley B. Council, driver, truck o. k.; Rhodes Bunch, driver, radius rod of truck loose; J. C. Johnson, driver, brakes of truck bad; John D. Etheridge, driver, truck o. k.; Woodrow Tyson, driver, steering gear of truck bad.

Robersonville School

Lee Andrews, driver, truck in bad condition; Charley Forbes, driver, brakes need tightening; Elmer Strickland, driver, truck in bad condition; Luther Ward, driver, truck o. k.; William Johnson, driver, brakes need tightening.

Note.—Trucks driven by Lee Andrews and Elmer Strickland have been reported.

Everetts School

Both trucks, driven by Sydney Malory and George Hopkins, were o. k.

Bear Grass School

Leroy Harrison, driver, truck has no brakes and steering gear is out of order; Joe H. Brown, driver, truck has no brakes; Alton Harris, truck has no brakes; Irvin Terry, driver, truck o. k.

Farm Life School

Jesse Griffin, driver, truck in very bad condition; Thomas Manning, driver, truck is fair condition.

Hamilton School

Louis Etheridge, driver, truck has no rear light; Jasper Silverthorne, driver, brakes on truck no good; Alton White, driver, brakes on truck no good.

Hassells School

C. C. Rawls, jr., driver, brakes on truck bad.

Jamesville School

Mack Ange, driver, truck in bad condition; Charles Martin, driver, truck has no emergency brake, no windshield wiper or mirror, needs greasing; Tommy Brown, driver, truck in bad condition; Dan Campbell, driver, truck needs windshield wiper and greasing; Daniel Manning, truck has been discontinued, six-months school.

When you invest in building and loan, you help yourself by making a good, sound and legitimate investment and, at the same time, you help build your community.

COMPLETED ALL CRIMINAL CASES LAST TUESDAY

Court Now Working On A Baffling Case Involving Ownership of Land

The wheels of the superior court in session here this week have been operating rapidly under the direction of Judge W. C. Harris, turning out all criminal cases Monday and Tuesday and clearing a large number of causes from the civil docket.

As a whole the criminal proceedings have been of as little consequence as any group of cases scheduled for trial in a Martin County court in many months. Proceedings recorded since Tuesday morning:

The case, charging Jane Powell with larceny, was continued.

E. J. Edwards, failing to answer Monday, in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, entered the court Tuesday and pleaded guilty. Judge Harris sentenced him to State's Prison for two years, the sentence to run concurrently with a former one of eighteen months on the roads. The second sentence was imposed by Judge Barnhill when Edwards was found guilty of larceny of peanuts.

N. S. Godard, charged with seduction, failed to answer.

Ossie Crowell was found guilty of simple assault and was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. A 30-day jail sentence was suspended.

Johnson Corey was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs for operating a car while under the influence of liquor. He was given a twelve months road sentence, suspended upon his good behavior.

Will Worley was sentenced to prison for not less than eighteen months and not more than four years when he pleaded guilty in the case charging him with house breaking.

Capias was issued and the case continued in which Mote Mills and Furney Coley were charged with an assault with a deadly weapon.

James Bullock and Harry J. Jones pleaded guilty of larceny of less than \$20, the court imposing a \$50 fine and one-half the costs as to Bullock. Judgment as to Jones was suspended upon his paying the costs.

The grand jury failed to find a true bill in the case charging Julian Roberson, Linwood Roberson and Mayo Wynn with house breaking and larceny.

The following cases were not prosed:

Hugh Jones, assault, operating a car while intoxicated and resisting an officer.

Robert Neal, Jr., Kelly Neal and Sam Stephenson, larceny.

Golden Godard, cruelty to animals.

T. S. Hadley, house breaking and larceny and receiving.

Joe Wiggins, abandonment and non-support.

H. D. Rogers, seduction.

The civil docket continues as dry as ever, attracting about the usual size crowds. Several cases have been re-affirmed and one divorce has been granted. The proceedings up until this morning:

The case of Roebuck against bonding company having been heard and the judgment confirmed by the State Supreme Court, it was re-affirmed and ordered off the docket. The old Martin County Savings and Trust Company was Roebuck's guardian. The bank failed, and Roebuck started suit to recover amount of money held by bank. Judge Moore held the surety company liable, the Supreme Court confirmed the judgment, and the court this week re-affirmed it.

The case of Coburn, against stockholders was ordered off the docket. Divorce was granted in the case of Catherine Smith against Jasper Smith.

Defendants were charged with the costs when the case of John T. Daniel, executor of the Jno. T. Hyman estate, against W. E. Davenport et als, heirs at law, was dismissed.

Former judgment of the court having been confirmed by the Supreme Court, the case of Fannie M. Peel against Corey et als was re-affirmed.

Farmers and Merchants Bank vs. Jesse Keel, non suit resulted, nunc-pro-tunc (without further investigation or something to that effect).

J. S. Peel vs. J. A. Warren, case compromised, the case going off the docket with the defendants paying the cost.

The case of J. E. King and others against Town of Williamston in connection with an old paving restraining order, was settled and ordered off the docket.

The case of James S. Peel against Mrs. W. P. Bowen was compromised, the defendant paying the costs. Case of New York Cordage company. (Continued on page four)

FEW VETERANS RECEIVE MONEY

Adequate Supply of Application Blanks Available At Local Postoffice

The number of veterans applying for government loans here is increasing almost daily, but the number receiving checks continues very small. A new supply of application blanks has been received by the local postoffice, and there'll hardly be another storage, it is believed.

The checks received here so far will not number more than a dozen, it is believed. Reports from other sections indicate that the loan money is pouring into the pockets of the vets by the hundred of dollars.

Veterans, failing to apply for their insurance policies until recently, were disappointed this week when they learned that they could not borrow on their policies. The law makes it necessary for a policy to be at least two years old before a loan can be negotiated. There are very few vets locally, however, who did not file their applications for a policy several years ago.

URGE LIMITED TOBACCO CROP

Reports Indicate, However, That Border Sections Will Increase

Realizing a mutual benefit to be derived from small production, bankers, merchants and manufacturers in many parts of Eastern Carolina are urging them to limit their acreages this year. Organized efforts have been made in some sections, it is understood.

It is said that it is better to make a profit on one acre than it is to lose money on two acres.

Recent reports from the border country indicate that there'll be an increase in tobacco acreage in those parts this year. Conflicting reports have been made in many of the counties in this section, some indicating that there'll be an increase, and some indicating that there'll be a decrease. No great change either way is expected in this county.

OMNIBUS BILL IS APPROVED

New County Educational Boards Take Office Next Monday

The omnibus bill providing the election of members to the various county boards of education by the legislature was reported out favorably by the house committee on education this week.

Messrs. J. Eason Lilley, Javah Rogers, John Getsinger, J. T. Barnhill, and W. O. Griffin were nominated in the Democratic primary last June, and their election is expected this week.

The new board takes office the first Monday in next month, when the old members complete their work.

Northerners Coming To Aid Of Relatives Here

That relatives in the North are coming to the rescue of colored families in this section was learned yesterday at the local postoffice where money orders have been cashed for people favored with a loan or gift from their northern friends. The amounts could not be determined.

It was also learned that acquaintances have been forwarding food to friends and relatives in this community. Why they would forward small quantities of sugar all the way here from Philadelphia, via parcel post rather than forward cash for local purchase is not known, but it was learned that a small quantity of sugar was lost when the container was bursted in transit.

On Northern Markets

Mr. Garland Barnhill with Messrs. W. G. Peel, J. L. Hassell and G. W. Hardison left last night for Baltimore where he will purchase additional new goods for Barnhill Brothers, local merchants.

QUESTION BOX

Q. What are the five main causes of absences in the public schools of Martin County?
Q. What is the average instructional cost per pupil per year in the Martin County schools?
Q. How many practicing dentists are there in Martin County?
Q. Is the number of people to each doctor in Martin County greater or less than the number of people to each doctor in the United States.

Urge Counties to Have Their Representatives Stay at Posts

NO BLANKS FOR DROUGHT LOANS

Several Farmers Express Their Need for Aid From Government

While many farmers in this county have expressed their needs for loans from the forty-five million dollar drought fund, no loans have been made so far, it was learned this morning. No blanks have been received by the local agent, and it will be impossible to make any loans until they come.

Blanks have been received in neighboring counties, and loans have already been made in some of them, it is understood.

MAN FALLS DEAD WHILE AT WORK

Bud Latham, Colored, Suffers Heart Attack In Railroad Car

Bud Latham, young colored man, dropped dead early this morning while unloading a carload of cement for the Brown Paving Company on the Atlantic Coast Line siding near the station here.

Latham went to his job at the usual hour and had worked only a short time when, without warning, he dropped dead. Three other men, Neal Ross, Edgar Watson and Harry Richard, were in the car with Latham at the time, each of them stating that the man suddenly dropped to the floor of the car and died suddenly. His death resulted either from heart failure or apoplexy.

HOME AGENT'S CLUB HAS MEET

Held With Misses Hattie and Margaret Everett Yesterday

The regular monthly meeting of the Williams Chapel Home Demonstration Club was held Thursday March 19 with Misses Hattie and Margaret Everett. Remodeling spring hats was the principal work of the meeting and a number of hats including one seven year old model were changed to becoming present day styles. Miss Sleeper Home Agent also gave an interesting talk on "Dress Fabrics" exhibiting to the club women a display of cottons which could be obtained from N. C. mills and from New York, explaining at this time the action taken by the Gaston County Demonstration Clubs in promoting the use of Cotton and cotton products. This action taken for the purpose of increasing the price of cotton given the farmers and thus cutting down the prices on wearing apparel.

As all the club members are very interested in gardens at this season many of them exchanged garden seeds and all were favored with rambler rose roots contributed by Mrs. Julia Mizelle. A social hour followed in which all enjoyed a number of piano solos by Miss Christine Pland who has been a student at the Southern Conservatory of Music. Misses Hattie and Margaret Everett hostesses served home made grape juice and tea cakes. The twenty one women present at the meeting were also favored during their meeting by a visit from Mr. Tom Brandon, Farm Agent—Club Reporter.

Presbyterian Sunday Services In the County

Sunday March 22nd 1931
"The Church With An Open Door."
True Sayings: "A good way to climb high is to stay on the level."
Church School at 9:45 A. M.
Worship Service and Sermon 11 A. M. "Christ, Pilate, and You."
Roberson's Farm
Sunday School 2:30 P. M.
Prayer Meeting every Thursday night at 7:30 P. M.
Bear Grass
Song service, Study Period, and Sermon at 7:30 P. M.
A warm welcome awaits you at each of these services.
GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY.

Midget Salesman Call on Trade Here Yesterday

In this world of overproduction and after hearing so much about a surplus, it was pleasing to the eye to see H. T. Bartlett, cigar salesman, of Roxboro, on the streets here yesterday. Built low to the ground, "the midget salesman" is 32 years old and weighs only 49 pounds.

Spring Will Officially Begin Saturday, 21st

Springtime, the inspiration of poets and the busy season for farmers, will officially get under way tomorrow morning, Saturday, March 21, at exactly 7 minutes past 9 o'clock, according to the old reliable Turner's North Carolina Almanac. This is the season when the days and nights are approximately the same length, with the days gaining a few minutes each day over the night following.

Last Tuesday the sun rose at 6:09 a. m. and set at 6:09 p. m., which made the day exactly 12 hours long. And the "old-timers" are now holding their breath for the equinoctial storms, which are supposed to temper our enthusiasm for the arrival of spring.

POULTRY PRICES SOME STRONGER

Price of Colored Hens for Loadings Next Week Two Cents Higher

Prices, varying from one to three cents higher than those in effect here last month, will be paid for poultry at the cooperative car operating for Martin County towns next week, it was announced yesterday by County Agent T. B. Brandon. The bureau of markets, Raleigh, prepared the contract Wednesday.

The price of colored hens advanced two cents per pound. Leghorn hens will command 15 cents per pound, a three-cent increase. Number one turkeys are listed at 23 cents per pound instead of 20 cents, the price paid last month. Guineas will sell at the same old price, 30 cents each.

POULTRY CLINIC HERE TONIGHT

The Lindsley Ice Company Brings Poultry Specialist Here at 7:30 P. M.

In order to help the poultry raisers in surrounding counties, Lindsley Ice Co. have secured the services of an expert poultry specialist who will conduct a free poultry clinic at the ice plant this evening at 7:30 o'clock, to which all interested poultrymen are cordially invited. This specialist is continually conducting clinics all over the country. He will explain how the poultryman may recognize symptoms of various diseases, which occur from time to time, diagnose any individual troubles correctly and advise the proper treatment to prevent future ailments as well as any other problems which may confront the poultryman. Such clinics and services as these, are absolutely free, and this offering of Lindsley Ice Co. will be of great benefit to the entire community. It is expected that a large number of interested poultrymen will be in attendance.

Methodist Missionary Society Holds Meeting

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, met on Wednesday afternoon, March 18th at 4 o'clock at the church for its regular monthly meeting—16 ladies being present, which was one of the largest crowds that we have had for several months. The topic for discussion was on Stewardship, which was ably discussed by our President, Mrs. C. T. Rogers. Mrs. William Manning beautifully sang the "Ninety and Nine." Reports were given from all the officers, after which we were dismissed by the Society benediction. Mrs. R. A. CRITCHER, Reporter.

Sunday Services At The Church of The Advent

Rev. H. H. Marshall, Rector
Sunday School at 10 a. m.
Morning Prayer and Sermon 11 a. m.
N. P. S. S. at 7 p. m.
Hamilton
Holy Communion at 3:30.
Evening Prayer 7:30 p. m.

Efforts Made To Have State Fair Continued

Raleigh, March 20.—Continuance of the State fair will be insured if the amendment submitted in the House yesterday to the Agricultural Department bill by Representative Upchurch passes the Senate. The bill requires that the State hold the fair or lease it to outside enterprise.

MOVEMENT IS ON TO FREEZE OUT THE LITTLE MEN

Urges Counties To Pay the Expenses of Members If Necessary

ABOUT \$100.00 NEEDED

Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce Asks Members To Stand By MacLean Bill Supporters

Failing in open warfare to have favorable legislation for big corporations continued, some of the wealthy members in the North Carolina Legislature who oppose the MacLean School Bill are said to be forming a movement in an effort to freeze out the less fortunate members that are not in a position to remain in Raleigh indefinitely at their own expense. That the starvation tactics advanced by these certain wealthy legislators might be defeated, Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce officials are calling upon the various county commissioners who are favorable toward the MacLean Bill to arrangements whereby the proponents of the bill might continue at their posts.

In a letter this week to Mr. D. G. Matthews, a member of the trade body, an official stated:

"The proponents of the bill are very much exercised over this situation and it was suggested to us that we write each of our County members to immediately get in touch with your County Commissioners and have them guarantee to pay the actual expenses of the Representatives and Senators from their counties who are favorable to the MacLean bill if they are called upon to do so. It is estimated that this can all be done within two or three weeks and the expenses will not be more than \$100.00 per man."

A majority of the senators and representatives will find it possible to remain there at their own expense, but there are a few who will find it difficult to do so. It is stated that the members who are fighting for trust protection will be able to hang on all the summer at somebody's expense. Information coming from Raleigh states that the game will be to starve out the senators and representatives who are standing for the people.

It was pointed out in the letter directed to Mr. Matthews that there are some members who have very little income, that they are losing their time and business at home, and that the county should come to their rescue. Similar appeals are being directed to other counties, it was pointed out, and it is believed that if there is any starving, but rich and poor in the assembly will share alike.

The matter has not been placed before the county officials here, and it is not known that it will be, but the people are behind their representatives and will accord them any support needed.

HOLD DISTRICT SOCIETY MEET

Dr. Osborne, of India, Talks Before Representatives of Various Societies

Fifty women, representing church societies in Robersonville, Washington Greenville, Pantego, Belhaven and those in several other towns in this section, held a district missionary meeting here today.

Mrs. H. H. Settle, secretary of the State society, opened the meeting at 10:30 in the Christian church.

Dr. Osborne, a resident of India for a number of years, addressed the society members, telling them of conditions in India. His talk was very interesting and instructive. He told of the social conditions there, stating that there were only a few lords but many hungry servants who brought forth sympathy for the down-trodden and superstitious millions.

The visitors of the various churches were served lunch at the Woman's Club hall. Special music was rendered by Mrs. Wheeler Martin and Mrs. J. S. Rhodes, accompanied by Mrs. W. C. Manning, jr.

State Teachers' Meeting Will Be Held In April

The State Teachers' meeting, scheduled to be held in Raleigh next week has been postponed until next month, it was learned in the office of Superintendent R. A. Pope here yesterday. The teachers will go to Raleigh the 9, 10 and 11 of April, according to the announcement. The meeting was postponed pending certain developments in the State Legislature, it is understood.