

FIRST MONTH OF STATE CONTROL ROADS REVIEWED

Experiment Has Proved To Be Very Successful in Martin County

Today, North Carolina completes its first month as operator of all State and county roads within its border, Engineer W. A. Cherry stating yesterday that the experiment had proved very successful in this county so far. Reports having to do with the work throughout the district and State are now being forwarded to the various offices for tabulation, and until that is completed the progress made during the past month can hardly be determined. However, very few complaints have been heard so far in this county, indicating that the State forces are making a good start in this immediate section, at least.

All of the approximately 430 miles of county roads, including those in the A, B, and C class, have been covered in Martin at least one time, and the A and B types have been dragged several times, Engineer Cherry stated yesterday. Bridges have been repaired here and there throughout the county, and various and sundry jobs have been handled by the six foremen and helpers located in this county.

It is a big task, however, and the forces are centering their work as far as it can be successfully done on the A and B roads, and especially on the routes traveled by rural mail carriers and those that will be used often by school buses during the coming term.

Working with badly worn and almost worthless machinery, in many cases, the road forces have experienced many handicaps during the first month the roads have been under State control, but it is the consensus of opinion that more work is being done under the new system than was accomplished under the county or township plan. It is costing the State approximately \$75 each day to work the roads the figure including the labor of 12 men, upkeep of equipment, and incidentals.

Finding a few roads in Cross Roads Township untouched during the past 12 or 18 months, the road foreman in charge called for help. Day before yesterday the engineers added a temporary unit, and during the next two months extra work will be handled in that, Griffins, and Bear Grass Townships, it was stated. The unit, handled by two men, including a caterpillar type tractor and a grading machine.

So far as it is known now there is only one road in the county that is not included in the State system, and that, about a mile and one-half long, connects the old Everetts - Williamston road with highway 90 about five miles from here. The road, used by the public to a great extent, is traveled by the mail carrier serving R. F. D. No. 2 patrons, but it was never included in the county or township system. It was worked once or twice by township forces, it is understood.

Three new trucks have been delivered this week, one each to Foreman Ross, Robersonville; Foreman Hodges near Bear Grass, and Foreman Hines, Griffins.

MARTIN SCHOOLS VALUED \$619,037.00

Plants and Property Used By White Children Are Valued at \$537,625.

Martin County had approximately \$619,037 invested in its 56 school buildings last year, according to figures recently released by "State School Facts," State Department of Education organ. Of the amount, \$537,625 is invested in school property for white children and \$81,414 for colored children. Since these figures were tabulated, a new plant has been added to the colored system, increasing the property value by approximately \$30,000.

The average value for white buildings is \$16,801 and that of coloreds is \$3,392. As compared with other counties, Martin ranks 24th in the value of its buildings for whites and 53rd in value of colored buildings. The average value per pupil enrolled is: for white children, \$148.64; colored, \$24.13. All school property in the State is valued at \$110,421,315. The 3,460 white buildings are valued at \$98,946,273 and the 2,365 buildings used by colored children are worth \$11,475,042 according to figures appearing in the department organ.

Before the consolidation plan on a large scale was introduced this year, there were 32 buildings for white children and 24 for colored children.

John Wadsworth Taken To Washington Hospital

John Wadsworth underwent an operation for appendicitis in a Washington hospital today. He was taken suddenly ill early this morning and was rushed to the hospital.

Texan, Visiting in County, Is Expecting 5-Cent Cotton

Robersonville, N. C., July 30.—"I expect that cotton will be selling for 5 cents a pound by Christmas," Mr. Alonzo Johnson, of Texas, stated while on a visit to his brother, Mr. Arch Johnson, and other relatives here this week. Mr. Johnson, 67 years old and an employee of the Missouri and Pacific Railroad, has spent 32 years in this state and 35 years in Texas, and, of course, he is divided in his praise for the two sections.

He stated while here this week that the prospects are unusually bright for

bumper crops in the Lone Star State, with cotton far in the lead. No fertilizer is used in the cultivation of the crops there, Mr. Johnson declared, stating that a farmer gained 11,900 bales of the staple on 14,000 acres of land, and plowed under 10,000 bales on the same acreage in the same year. An even better yield is predicted this year by the visitor.

Farmers in the section bring Mexicans across the Rio Grande, 130 miles away, to pick their cotton, finding the labor industrious and very cheap.

Price of Tobacco in Georgia Improving

COURT OF HONOR

A court of honor, with Boy Scouts from Roper, Robersonville, and Williamston taking part, will be held in the courthouse here this evening at 8:00 o'clock. Scoutmaster Wheeler Martin stating that the public is cordially invited to witness the proceedings.

A number of merit badges will be awarded at the meeting and Scout work in general will be advanced, it was stated.

RECORDER HAD ONLY ONE CASE

Session Last Tuesday One of Shortest Held In Several Weeks

Another short session of the county recorder's court was held here last Tuesday, when, for the second time in recent weeks, Judge Bailey called only one case. Jasper Williams, charged with stealing corn from Harrison Brothers and Company's Warehouse last week, was sentenced to jail for a term of six months, to be hired out. It's real depression for the court, the number of cases being so limited and the defendants ordinarily so near penniless that the tribunal is collecting insufficient fines to pay for its upkeep.

4 CURING BARNS BURN IN SECTION

Crop Is Type That Makes High Heat Necessary In Curing

While farmers in this immediate section have, so far, been very fortunate in curing their tobacco, those in and around Robersonville have suffered several fire losses, according to a report in the Weekly Herald, Robersonville. The Herald, in its issue this week, has the following to say in connection with the losses:

Four tobacco barns have burned in ago. Mr. C. A. Roberson lost a barn last Tuesday morning.

Mr. C. M. Hurst lost a barn last Saturday afternoon about dark. The barn, holding 560 sticks of tobacco, was considered by Mr. Hurst as the best tobacco he had.

Mr. Hurst carried no insurance on either the barn or tobacco.

Mr. J. C. Stevenson also lost a barn early Sunday morning and Mr. W. J. Little had a barn to burn several days ago.

Many farmers in this section state that tobacco is hard to cure this year, and that they find it necessary to run high heats for a long period, naturally increasing the fire hazard connected with the work. However, they are consoling themselves listening to the old saying that a hard crop to cure is generally found to have good body and sells well.

Presbyterians Announce Sunday Program Services

Sunday, August 2, 1931: "The church with an open door."

Church school at 9:45 a. m. As there will be no preaching service Sunday, all are invited to attend the church school session.

Bear Grass Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. There will be no preaching service at night.

Roberson's Farm Sunday school at 4 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday night at 8 p. m.

Farm Life There will be no service at Farm Life Sunday. Services will be resumed on the first Sunday in September.

Union Service The union service will be held at the Baptist church Sunday night at 8 p. m., the Presbyterian minister bringing the message.

AN AVERAGE OF AROUND 7 CENTS IS PAID TUESDAY

Vidalia Sold Around 400,000 Pounds at Average of 5.92 Cents

Contrary to early reports received from Georgia, tobacco prices paid there on the opening last Tuesday turned out to be lower than they were on the opening day last year. Government grading figures indicate that the 1931 prices averaged \$2.85 per hundred pounds below the 1930 prices, the various markets combined reporting an average of around seven cents a pound for the opening day offerings.

Prices are said to have improved as the sales proceeded after the first hour or two, and yesterday the market apparently was climbing, a point comparing favorably with last year's prices having been reported by several markets.

The only official prices reported on Tuesday came from Douglas, where the U. S. Department of Agriculture is maintaining a crop reporting service. First quality orange lugs there brought \$12.50 near the opening, while fifth grade brought \$2.20. The department said prices averaged below last year's at the opening, but improved during the day.

A total of 92,400 pounds was sold at Statesboro, and the unofficial average price there was \$8.34 per 100 pounds opening day.

Vidalia reported sales of 400,000 pounds for an unofficial average of \$5.92 per 100 pounds opening day.

Growers generally did not offer their best grades Tuesday. Much of the choice leaf has not matured, and tobacco men agreed the sales would be comparatively slow until this crop is brought to the floors.

Offerings at the various markets on Thursday were somewhat heavier than on Wednesday and a better tone prevailed, according to the United States Department of Agriculture tobacco reporting service at Douglas.

Prices were reported as fully 10 per cent higher than during the first two days of the four-week market, ranging from \$1 to \$21 per 100 pounds, according to quality.

Lower grades prevailed in the offerings, but there was a larger percentage of better grades than on Wednesday.

Reports from Valdosta stated that apparently Reynolds is the largest buyer of the good cigarette grades, paying as much or more than for the same grades as last year. Liggett and Myers and the American come next. Export Leaf is not represented there.

But for the fact that most of the tobacco offered is of very low grade, a report stated, "this market would average as much as it did last year."

Prices paid on the markets in Georgia last Tuesday ranged from two to four cents below those paid on Eastern Carolina markets on the opening day last year, government grading reports show. The following table gives the government grades, the prices paid on Eastern Carolina markets last year and those paid on the Douglas market last Tuesday and Thursday:

Grade	1930	1931
E. Carolina Georgia		
X1F	\$17.34	\$12.50
X2F	11.48	9.85
X3F	7.06	5.90
X4F	5.28	3.30
X5F	3.91	2.20

Prices paid last Tuesday and yesterday, compared with prices on East Carolina markets in 1930, according to the government grading service, are as follows:

Grade	Tues.	Thurs.	1930
X1F	\$12.50	\$15.20	\$17.34
X2F	9.85	11.00	11.48
X3F	5.90	8.10	7.06
X4F	3.30	3.60	5.28
X5F	2.20	2.10	3.91

Returning from Georgia yesterday, Mr. J. W. Hight described conditions in certain parts there as critical. Tobacco is no good, he said.

NAME COMMITTEE TO SELECT NEW SCOUT OFFICIAL

Herbert Sutckey Resigns To Take Place on the National Staff

Area Scout Executive Herbert Sutckey leaves Eastern North Carolina in August to take a place on the national staff of the Boy Scouts of America.

His leaving will not change the status of scouting locally as Williamston has a well-organized committee headed by Wheeler Martin, that keeps scouting going for the boys.

A strong committee of area scouts, composed of B. Sugg, Greenville, M. G. Waters, Washington, C. A. Jeffers, Kinston, D. E. Oglesby, Farmville, J. T. Cheatum, Wilson, G. T. Fulghum, Wilson, has been appointed to employ a successor to Mr. Sutckey.

The committee already has a number of prospects, all experienced scout executives with good records, and will select one at an early date.

In the meantime scouting will continue under leadership of the local scouts and scoutmasters, and local people are expected to continue to support this great movement for the boys.

ROSCOE PEEL IS ARMY DESERTER

Former Martin Boy Escapes To Return Home To See Sick Wife

Washington, N. C., July 27.—Roscoe C. Peel, who left this city about two years ago in an auto belonging to F. A. Lilley, and whose whereabouts were unknown for some time, is now being detained by officials at Fort Humphrey, near Richmond, Va., where Peel enlisted in the United States Army shortly after leaving Washington in the Lilly car, and who deserted after enlisting.

Peel enlisted in the name of Jack E. Jones, and since the time of his desertion, army officials have been after him. He has been managing an insurance agency for some time and was apprehended by army officials recently, when he had left the city on a business trip, and was carried on to Fort Humphrey.

According to a letter received by Mrs. Peel, who claims that she wrote the officials at Fort Humphrey shortly after Peel's desertion, informing them that Jack E. Jones was her husband and that he had deserted owing to the fact of her illness, and the arrival of a child. Peel will probably be released.

The letter concerning Peel's release was sent to Mrs. Peel by a major who is conducting the investigation, and states that although the offense is quite serious, owing to the existing conditions, Peel in all probability will be released from serving a term at Leavenworth and doing army service.

The punishment for the offense is a period of confinement at Leavenworth, after which the offender would be forced to serve the usual three years in the army.

Congressman Lindsay Warren has been assisting Mrs. Peel during the officer's investigation, and states that he thinks Peel will, in all probability, be released.

Change Made in Parcel Post Weight Limit

The Post Office Department has extended the parcel post service, effective August 1, so that packages up to 70 pounds will go through to any part of the United States. Heretofore, packages weighing over 50 pounds could not be carried more than 300 miles, which was the limit of the 3rd zone. A 70-pound package could be sent to Philadelphia, but not to New York. Under the rule effective tomorrow, the same package may be sent to New York or any other point in the country.

However, the cost would be greater, as the rate doubles going from the third to the fourth zones. The 70-pound package to Philadelphia would require \$1.48 postage, while to New York the rate would be \$2.88. If the same package goes to Houston, Texas, the cost would be \$8.53. The same package going to Raleigh would cost the sender 77 cents.

S. D. Matthews, Hamilton, Champion Tomato Grower

Mr. S. D. Matthews, prominent citizen of Hamilton, has won, without any doubt, the tomato growers' championship for Eastern Carolina.

Mr. Matthews displayed a cluster of six tomatoes taken from one small branch, the six, perfect in form, uniform in size and ripeness, weighing six pounds. The tomatoes were exhibited in a window of the Enterprise Publishing Company late Wednesday and Thursday and are now on display in the Williamston Cafe window.

County Board of Education In Meeting Here Wednesday

County Man Gets Prize for Picking Chicken Quickest

Lee Andrews, prominent Martin farmer, and one of the party attending the annual Farmers' and Farm Women's Convention in Raleigh this week, "jerked off the most feather" to win a prize in a "chicken-picking contest" arranged by leaders of the meeting program. Eight men and women, representing nearly 1,500 farmers and

their wives at State College competed for the prizes. Mr. Andrews winning a pedigreed cockerel presented by the college. Mrs. J. G. Blake, of Pender County, took the first honors for women, it was stated. Feathers flew thick and fast when the eight men and women settled down to their tasks in much earnestness.

NEW SCHOOL LAW IS MAIN TOPIC OF SPECIAL SESSION

Macedonia Citizens Ask To Be Annexed with the School Here

Meeting in special session here all day Wednesday, the Martin County Board of Education, with State Equalization Board Members T. B. Attmore discussed the new law as it affects the operation of the schools, the authorities passing on several matters developing in the consolidation of several units.

The consolidation of Sandy Ridge school with the Williamston was discussed, the authorities expressing the belief that a sizeable saving could be effected and the facilities bettered for the children by the combination. The consolidation, carrying a 15-cent special tax, would care for more than 80 pupils, and would provide transportation and eight months schooling. Last year, with 63 pupils enrolled, the school reported an average daily attendance of 53. In addition to the enrollment figures for the past year, there were approximately 25 pupils, elementary and high school, who attended the eight months term here. In the cases of the elementary pupils, transportation was made possible out of individual funds. This matter is still pending, however.

Messrs. D. G. Matthews, Paul Salisbury, and John Davenport appeared before the board and Mr. Attmore asked that the high school at Hamilton be continued. Mr. Attmore explained that under the new law it would be impossible to maintain the high school unit there, as the limited number of teachers earned would not be sufficient to warrant its operation, and that consolidation with the High School at Oak City would be necessary as originally planned by the State Equalization Board.

Armed with a petition carrying a goodly number of names, representatives from the Macedonia School District appeared before the board asking that the unit be annexed to the one here rather than have the children sent to Bear Grass, the plan of consolidation advanced by the State Equalization Board. The matter was discussed at length, but no final disposition was made at the Wednesday meeting.

Only one change was made following a centered study of the new school budget. Mr. Attmore increasing the fund set up for repairs to buildings from \$500 to \$1,000.

The county board will hold its regular session here next Monday when several matters of importance are scheduled for discussion. Superintendent J. C. Manning is in Raleigh today in the interest of the schools, and he will report his findings at the meeting to be held here next Monday.

MAN LOSES LIFE AT EDEN HOUSE

Woody Ellington, of High Point, Drowned Late Last Night

Woody Ellington, 23-year old boy of High Point, was drowned in the Chowan River, near Eden House late last night when he attempted a half-mile swim from a speed-boat to shore.

Young Ellington, accompanied by Miss Margaret McKay and her brother, Earl McKay, of Greensboro, and Alfred J. Smithwick and C. E. Moore, of Windsor, was taking a joy ride when the speed boat engine broke down a half mile from shore. Ellington and Miss McKay started to swim to shore, but the young man had gone a short distance when he decided to retrace his course but he had gone only a short way on the return trip before he called for help. Two of the young men in the boat went to his rescue but were unable to hold him up. Miss McKay reached shore all right.

At noon today, the body had not been recovered by searching parties. Each year during the past three, a life has been lost in the Chowan. A young man of Weldon, broke his neck there when he dived into shallow water in the summer of 1929. A Miss Newsome of Ahoskie was drowned July 4, 1930, at Colerain Beach.

County Commissioners In Regular Session Monday

The Martin County commissioners will hold their regular meeting in the courthouse here next Monday. As far as it could be learned, action will center around routine matters and problems.

Decrease Estimated In Yield of Tobacco

CROP THIS YEAR WILL BE FOURTH LESS THAN IN 1930

Production Drops From 857,222,876 Pounds To 645,493,000

"They have whooped and they have yelled about reducing the tobacco poundage for years. Now, let 'em compare the production with the 1931 estimates furnished by the government, and made public this week," Mr. W. T. Meadows, veteran tobaccoist, stated yesterday.

In 1930, the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Virginia raised 857,222,876 pounds of tobacco. This year, according to government estimates, and they are fairly reliable, these States will produce around 645,493,000 pounds of tobacco, an expected decrease of 211,819,876 pounds. This, Mr. Meadows thinks, should boost the price.

The following table shows the 1930 production in six states, and the estimated poundage in the same territory this year:

State	1931 (Est.)	1930
N. C.	438,740,000	559,258,599
S. C.	62,675,000	96,297,126
Ga. - Fla.	58,597,000	107,189,151
Virginia	85,031,000	94,478,000

Exports last year were 40 per cent greater than they were the year before, and this favorable feature combined with the fact that there is an expected decrease in the crop of more than two hundred million pounds should result in a higher price this year than the one paid for the crop last season.

Approximately 4,000 People Attended Masonic Picnic

Approximately 4,000 people from all over Eastern Carolina attended the annual Masonic picnic held at Eden House Beach yesterday.

The local lodge, in charge of the bath house, took in about \$100 for the Oxford orphanage, Messrs. Norman Harrison and V. J. Spivey reported.

Town Property Loss Will Be Approximately \$75,000

An early and unofficial report made yesterday in connection with the 1931 town valuation indicated a loss in personal and real property values of approximately \$75,000, or about one-third of the total loss for the township. Official reports will be available within the next few days, when the books are checked and a 1931 levy imposed, it was stated this week by the town treasurer.

Town Commissioners To Hold Meeting Monday

The board of town commissioners will hold its regular monthly meeting in the mayor's office here next Monday evening at 8 o'clock, it was announced by the clerk yesterday morning. No important business is scheduled on the evening's program, it was stated. However, it was learned that property valuations will be placed before the board by the treasurer's office.

Frank Margolis Leaves For Northern Markets

Frank J. Margolis, of Margolis Brothers, is leaving for New York and Baltimore Sunday, where he will spend two weeks making preparations and buying everything in wearing apparel for the coming fall and winter.

Mr. Margolis says he expects to bring ready to wear merchandise of the very latest styles to Williamston this year.

VISITS BIG RANCH

Mr. L. A. Thompson, owner of the 15,000-acre ranch at Dymond City, completed a first-hand survey of the holdings this week, but was called to Baltimore before making a report on his visit to the proposed ranch.

Mr. Thompson, a resident of Waukesha, Wis., came here from Asheville and left late yesterday for Maryland.

NEGRO DROWNS NEAR HAMILTON

Tom Williams Loses Life By Falling From Tug "Carolina"

Tom Williams, Hertford negro, and an employee of the Major-Loomis Lumber Company of that town, was drowned in the Roanoke River between here and Hamilton late last Wednesday night.

Working on the tugboat, "Carolina," Williams is said to have left the boiler room and went on deck where he drank a quantity of ice water. He sat down on the side of the boat, and joined in conversation with several other members of the boat crew. Apparently affected by the ice water, he complained to the other hands and toppled over into the water and drowned before he could be reached.

Williams' body was recovered early this morning a few feet from where he was drowned. An inquest was ordered, and the body was turned over to a Bertie undertaker, it was reported here this morning.

Church of Advent and St. Mark's Sunday Services

Church of Advent—Williamston Rev. A. H. Marshall, rector. Mr. Maurice Moore, Sunday school superintendent.

Sunday school at 10 a. m. Evening prayer and sermon at 8. You are cordially invited to make this church your church and worship with us.

St. Martin's—Hamilton Rev. A. H. Marshall, rector.

Sunday school at 10 a. m. Afternoon service at 4 p. m. We will be delighted to have you attend this service and make this church your spiritual home.

Equipment On Way Here To Raise Sunken Barge

Equipment for raising the barge, "Lynn," from the bottom of Roanoke River here is on its way to this point from Baltimore, according to Captain Pearce, in charge. Work on raising the boat and its cargo of 671 tons of fertilizer will be started immediately upon the arrival of the equipment, it was stated.

The equipment, several days out of Norfolk, is expected here at any time, Captain Pearce said.

Program of Services At Methodist Church

C. T. Rogers, Pastor. Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Preaching, 11 a. m. Epworth League, Monday, 8 p. m. Hi League, Tuesday, 8 p. m. No service at night. Public cordially invited to worship with us.

According to an estimate by Dr. Ralph Arnold, an eminent geologist, the United States has potential oil resources of 714,000,000 barrels—enough to supply the country's needs for the next 140 years.