

COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEMS WILL BE MERGED BY PLAN

Would Make Washington, Martin, Bertie, Tyrrell One Unit

If the plan introduced into the North Carolina General Assembly to abolish the 100 county boards of education and 100 county superintendents of education in the State is passed, then Washington, Martin, Bertie, and Tyrrell will be organized as division number 29.

The bill would eliminate the county boards of education and the county superintendents of schools in each of the four counties named above, and one board of education with members from each county would be organized and a division superintendent of schools be appointed instead to look after the schools in the four counties.

This would also eliminate the office of rural supervisor and attendance officer in each of the counties that have them and transfer their duties and responsibilities to the division headquarters. And the act specifies that the division superintendent's office would not be in a courthouse in either county.

The superintendent's office will be as centrally located in the division as possible, from the standpoint of highway accessibility, economical and efficient service to the entire division. The division superintendent will have an office costing not to exceed \$50 monthly in rent.

The division superintendent must be a person of good moral character, good business qualifications and executive ability and a graduate of a standard college with a reputable physician's certificate certifying good physical fitness, and freedom from any infectious disease, and he must reside in the division where he is working.

The district superintendent's salary will be \$3,000 annually, with an assistant superintendent or supervisor's salary placed at \$1,500 a year. Salaries of the clerical assistants will not exceed \$2,400, while office expense is figured at \$829.80, with \$1,500 annual travel expense for the supervisor and superintendent.

The division board of education for the Martin, Bertie, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties would be composed of eight members, including two from each county, and these members would be nominated, elected, and appointed in the same manner as now prescribed by law. If this act is passed, then an organization meeting will be held the first Monday in April, 1933.

The total salaries and expenses of the division office shall be paid from the State's six-month school funds. The eight members of the division board will receive for their services a total of \$512 per diem and travel expenses.

NO FIRE CALLS IN JANUARY

First Time in Years That No Calls Were Received in First Month of Year

For the first time in six years the local fire company was not called out during the month of January. The company has averaged as many as six calls during the month of January and as few as one, but the past month was the first time that no calls were made.

During two or three months in the summer time, the company has had few or no calls. February and March are the most popular months for fires, according to records maintained by the department.

The last call received was before Christmas, but the firefighters continue to hold their regular meetings and remain ready for action.

Groundhog Sees Shadow But Observers Ignore It

With a summer sun shining down, there was nothing to prevent the groundhog from seeing his shadow yesterday if he looked for it.

Except for a little fog in the early morning, the day was clear throughout and the groundhog could not have found a cloud to hide behind if he had gone and looked for it.

So, according to the tradition, he saw his shadow, became frightened at it and ran back into his hole to be safe from six more weeks of bad weather before spring. If he had not seen his shadow, tradition has it, spring would be at hand.

But the weathermen take little or no stock in the groundhog's ability to forecast. They say that whether he saw his shadow or not, we will have six weeks and more of varied weather perhaps more cold than warm because it is still winter.

But, did you hear the rain early this morning?

Excellent Record Is Made by Building and Loan Here in 1932; Earned 6 1-2 Per Cent

FIRST MONDAY

No business of any great importance is scheduled for the Martin County commissioners at their regular meeting next Monday. The board will likely be in session a greater part of the day, however, listening to the pleas of the less fortunate, tax differences, and handling business of a routine nature. The only variation in the program of events known at this time will be the selection of a jury for the March term of superior court.

EIGHT MONTHS SCHOOL TERM IS PROPOSED

Bill For State Supported School Term Proposed In General Assembly

An eight months school term for all the children of North Carolina supported by other than ad valorem tax, was proposed in the general assembly as a direct issue this week, fully several days earlier than was expected, when Senator MacLean, the author of the famous MacLean school law of the 1931 assembly and his colleague, Senator Bailey from this district, advanced a resolution which, if passed, would make it mandatory upon the legislature to provide that school opportunity where it is wanted. It means a wiping out of thousands of special school district lines, consolidations and economies which will bring to the taxpayers at home who are now paying for extended terms, relief of at least \$3,000,000, the introducers of the bill claim.

The MacLean-Bailey resolution for the eight-month school follows: "Whereas, there is now in operation in the state a dual system of schools, consisting of a uniform term of six months supported by the state, and supplemented by ad valorem taxes and various extended terms in certain of the counties and districts of the state, and

"Whereas, experience has shown that such dual system of operation, comprising 1,371 units of administration, does not permit the effecting of all possible economies of the maximum efficiency in the administration and operation of the schools of the state, and

"Whereas, it is now an undisputed and acknowledged fact that the several counties and school districts of the state are wholly unable to continue to support and operate an extended term of any length whatever beyond the constitutional term of six months, and

"Whereas, a uniform term of schools of a length of eight months is recognized as being a minimum standard term of schools, and which the state is unwilling to deny its children, and

"Whereas, a uniform term of the schools of eight months can be operated in the state at an annual saving approximating \$3,000,000; now, therefore,

"The general assembly of North Carolina do enact: "Section 1. That there shall be operated in every county and district in the state which shall request the same a uniform term of schools of eight months.

"Section 2. That said term of schools of eight months shall be supported wholly by the state from sources other than ad valorem upon property.

"Section 3. That the committee on education of senate and house of representatives are directed to prepare and report a school machinery bill to be enacted by this general assembly providing for the carrying out of the provisions of this act, and the committees on finance and appropriations of the senate and house of representatives are directed to include in the finances and appropriation bill provisions for the necessary funds to defray the cost of the term of schools herein provided."

Sales on Curb Market Reach the \$2,485 Mark

The patrons of the curb market will be pleased to receive all eggs in convenient cardboard boxes. The cartons were received here the past week, also paper sacks for the benefit of the sellers on the market. This was made possible by the 2 cents charged on each dollar sale.

The total sales for January were \$51.05, even though small, this was \$12 more for the same period of last year. Total sales since the market opened amount to \$2,485.40.

THIRTY-SECOND SERIES STOCK OPENS IN MARCH

Only Recently Paid \$22,900 To Holder of the 19th Stock Series

The annual statement of the Martin County Building and Loan Association recently released here shows that the organization earned for the year 1932 6 1-2 per cent for its stockholders. Since there is no tax on building and loan stock, the earning is net to the stockholders and one of the highest offered by any investment source.

In addition to its earnings, the association only a few weeks ago paid to its holders of 19th series stock \$22,900, proving itself a real friend at this time.

Again in addition to the earning power of the association stock and the maturity of its 19th series just at this time, the association during the past five years has advanced or made possible building activities valued at more than \$130,125.00. Most of that amount was lent to home builders in this immediate community.

During the past year the association has had to foreclose only one deed of trust and the property in question was sold at no loss to the association.

According to the annual statement as of December 31, 1932, appearing in this paper, the association has \$104,753.77 loaned on real estate and \$20,387.98 on stock of the association.

The operations of the association have proved it to be in sound and in good condition. No stockholders have had to wait for their money when they wished to withdraw it, and stock loans have been made on demand.

During the month of January, 1933, the association paid to holders of prepaid stock the sum of \$287.50 in dividends and to holders of stock maturing January 10 the sum of \$3,833 in earnings was paid. The stock is non-taxable and the earnings were net to the investors.

Next month the association will open its 32nd series for subscription, and it is believed that several hundred shares will be sold during that time.

STANDARD OF LIVING GAINS

Value of The Recreational Industry in New England Is Shown by Survey

Boston.—The value of the recreational industry in New England in raising the standard of living while both manufacturing and agriculture have steadily declined, is shown in a survey of a typical community by A. J. O'Brien at Dartmouth College, announced by the New England Council.

In the community studied by O'Brien, the report stated, the population and standards of living have risen conspicuously since 1920, although manufacturing and agriculture, formerly the town's chief sources of livelihood, have both declined steadily since the early years of the century.

During the period 1920 to 1930, telephones, automobiles, bank deposits, and high school enrollment rose at a faster rate than was shown by the State as a whole. Property values also rose tremendously. Cottages, hotels, and restaurants have been built to meet demand, and grocery and general stores have "doubled in number, the survey showed.

Announce Sermon Topics at Church of the Advent

On February 5 there will be both morning and evening prayer with a sermon at each service at the Church of the Advent. At the morning service at 11 o'clock the subject of the sermon will be: "Encouragement Amidst Discouragement." In the evening the subject will be: "The Character of Ananias."

Legion Indoor Circuses Closes Here Tonight

The indoor circus, sponsored by the American Legion post in this county, has had a comparatively small patronage during the first three nights of the four-day program. However, good sized crowds have attended the dance each night and a large attendance is expected here tonight when the program is brought to a close.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

(Tarboro Southerner) Tuesday morning Harvey Pittman, who runs an eating stand in Tobacco Town, came to The Southerner office and had with him something that is not often seen by any one.

In a tin cup he had an oyster, and in the mouth of the oyster was a small rat whose front leg had been caught by the oyster and held there fast and strong. The rat was afterwards killed.

Evidently this rat wandering around in the night looking for something to eat had stepped on the oyster which closed down and caught him fast.

The unusual happening was reported by Lowell Thomas over the radio this week.

13 PERMITS TO MARRY ISSUED IN PAST MONTH

Number Is Much Smaller Than That Issued Year Ago

Thirteen marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Gessinger in that county last month, the number being 11 under the January issuance of a year ago. Last year there were 17 colored weddings in the county during the month of January, but the custom ordinarily followed by tenants, who take out themselves a wife, rent a piece of land and start work together is not so much in vogue this season, as tenants are finding it difficult to find places. The number of colored marriages dropped from 17 in January, 1932, to 8 last month.

Licenses were issued to the following:

White
Paul Leggett, Kathleen Roebuck, Martin County.
Raymond Lee, of Martin County, and Bell Briley, Pitt County.

Colored
Joseph H. Everett, of Martin County, and Catherine Parrisher, of Beaufort County.
Dillon C. Peel and Louallie Taylor, both of Martin County.
Herman Moore and Eleanor Bonds, both of Martin County.

Colored
Jesse Davis and Rosa Lee Simmons, both of Martin County.
John H. Hassell and Eva Clemons, of Martin County.
Columbus Salsbury and Mary Sabell Mooring, both of Martin County.
Van Wilson and Ruby Little, both of this county.

Levi Purvis and Alice G. Carr, Martin County.
Dave Bonds and Eulala Jones, Martin County.
S. L. Rogers and Annie Gray Boston, both of Martin County.
Frank Speller and Hattie Speller, of Martin County.

TAX COLLECTION IS NEARLY \$100,000

Many Property Owners Are Paying Their Taxes on Installment Plan

County tax collections these past few days have been advanced by leaps and bounds, but the collector fell short of the half-way mark by a few thousand, it was learned yesterday. During the past week, collections were increased from \$83,000 to \$97,670.59, and there are some big accounts expected within the next week or two, the sheriff said. The collections to date are slightly more than they were up to the same date last year.

That the property owners, or at least many of them, are making a worthy effort to square their tax accounts is shown by the partial payment list. Nearly \$2,000 have been paid into the office since last November in this manner. Little by little, the individual accounts have been reduced, but the payers find it a good way to meet their tax obligations.

POISON BARRELS

Somebody is liable to drink some poison liquor if barrels stolen from several Griffins Township farmers are used for the manufacture of liquor, it was learned here today. Persons believed to be engaged in the liquor manufacturing business stole several barrels in that section a few days ago, and one of the containers had been used for mixing poisons, the owner said.

The several water barrels were stolen within a radius of only a few miles of the Hardison mill, it was reported.

PROFITABLE AND LONG SESSION OF COUNTY COURT

Fines Amounting To \$235 Are Imposed by Judge Peel Here Tuesday

Calling thirteen cases, the county recorder's court had an unusually long and profitable session last Tuesday, the session going well into the afternoon and attracting fairly large crowds. Judge H. O. Peel bore down on the victims and called for fines amounting to \$235 in addition to costs amounting to more than \$100.

J. W. Cates and Joe Childress, the two Durham white men charged with transporting a large quantity of liquor, pleaded guilty. Cates was fined \$100 and Childress was fined \$50.

Early May Boston was found not guilty in the case charging him with the manufacture of liquor. Astor Clay and W. H. Weeks, jr., both pleaded guilty of violating the traffic laws. Weeks was fined \$50 and Clay \$25, each defendant to pay one-half the costs.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, William Sherrod was found guilty of simple assault, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the costs.

Charged with cruelty to animals and carrying a concealed weapon, Jesse Bland was found guilty of the second charge. The court suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs.

The case charging Henry L. Harris with killing guinea chickens was not pressed.

Spencer Hyman was adjudged guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws and appealed to the higher courts, when judgment was suspended upon the condition that he pay the costs. Appeal bond was fixed in the sum of \$50.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging Spencer Hyman with abandonment and non-support.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Kan Manning was found guilty of a simple assault, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the cost.

Judgment was suspended in the case charging Will Bell with violating the liquor laws upon the condition that he pay a fine of \$10 and the costs of the action.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging Howard Whitehurst, J. Q. Andrews, J. Q. Andrews, jr., and Mattie Andrews with forcible trespass.

The case charging Herman Farmer with operating a car without license was temporarily dismissed from the docket when it was learned that he had been sent to the roads since the charge was instituted against him and that his arrest had not been effected since he left the camp.

The case charging G. F. Benson and William C. Harris with violating the traffic law was continued.

Better Chevrolet Company Opens New Agency Here

Completing arrangements only a few days ago, the Better Chevrolet Company has opened an agency here and will maintain complete sales and service units. Mr. S. Collin Peel, experienced automobile man, has been manager of the agency here, and he entered upon his duties Wednesday.

The company will operate in Bertie, Washington, Tyrrell and Martin Counties, and will offer an up-to-the-minute service to all Chevrolet owners, Mr. Peel said.

Mr. Peel is placing new cars in its show rooms here, and the owners invite the public to visit them at their business home on Washington Street.

Presiding Elder To Preach for Methodists here Sunday

C. T. Rogers, pastor. Members will take notice of the fact that our first quarter of the church year will close with February. "Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly." A quarterly report will be sent to each member at the close of this month.

Our new presiding elder, Mr. McCracken, will preach Sunday at 11 a. m. We hope for a large attendance. Quarterly conference will be held immediately after the morning service.

Services for the week at the usual hours. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Methodist Missionary Group To Meet Monday

The local department of the Woman's Missionary society of the Methodist church will hold its regular meeting with Mrs. J. E. Harrison Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Welfare Work Helps 6,000 in This County

TAX LEAGUE MEET

A meeting of the Martin County Taxpayers' League will be held in the county courthouse here on next Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, it was announced by the secretary, E. P. Cunningham, here this morning.

Officers of the league expressed a keen hope for a large attendance as there are several important matters now pending before the legislature that could be discussed to an advantage to county taxpayers it was said.

W. T. OVERBY, OF JAMESVILLE DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Funeral Held Yesterday at Home of His Parents in Northampton County

W. T. Overby, popular professor in the Jamesville schools, died at his home there at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, following a long illness of influenza and pneumonia. His condition was considered serious for more than a week before his death.

Suffering an attack of influenza more than two weeks ago, the school man went to render a service for a neighbor and it is believed to have aggravated his illness.

Born in Margarettsville, Northampton County, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Overby. After completing his education in the schools of that county, Mr. Overby entered State College, Raleigh, where he was graduated in 1926. During the fall of that year he went to Jamesville as vocational agricultural teacher in the schools there. Entering wholeheartedly upon his duties there he soon endeared himself to the people of that section. Rapidly he carried his activities to all communities of the district, willingly offering his services to all who needed him in handling baffling farm problems. He did much in that community for its betterment and few men have made themselves as useful to a people as he did. The people of the county, especially those among whom he worked during the past several years, will sorely miss him.

Besides his parents, he is survived by six sisters, Mr. H. P. Atkinson, and Misses Julia and Eunice Overby, of Richmond; Miss Ethel Overby, of Durham; and Misses Lucile and Margaret Overby, of Margarettsville; and two brothers, Henry and Robert Overby, of Northampton County. His wife, formerly Miss Cosie Roland, of Willow Springs, with one daughter, Violet Sue, two years old, also survives.

Mr. Overby was 33 years old, a Mason and a member of the Baptist church. The body was carried to the home of his parents yesterday morning, where services were conducted that afternoon. Members of Skewarkee willingly offering his services to all lodge here and other masons held the services at the grave.

Announce Sermon Topics for Baptist Sunday Service

"The Tantalizing Goal of Perfection," is the subject of Sunday morning's sermon at the Baptist church, and at the evening hour the theme will be, "The Deadliest Sin."

The people are reminded not to forsake the assembling of themselves together in their places of worship, for there is tremendous moral and spiritual tonic in placing, and keeping, oneself under the influence of religious services.

At no time in this century has there been more need for the stabilizing values of religion; and those institutions which try to keep aflame the moral torch and bear it high merit the steadfast and willing cooperation of every one who is interested in, and who profits by, these eternal and imperishable values.

Few Contagious Diseases Are Reported in January

Reportable contagious disease cases are few and far between these days in this county, according to report released by County Health Officer J. H. Saunders for the month of February. Only five such cases were reported during the period, and they were all measles, four cases in one family and the fifth in another. All were among white people in Williamston Township.

TOTAL OF \$12,000 SPENT TO DATE; DEMANDS HEAVY

One Out of Every Four Persons In County Is Receiving Aid

Nearly 6,000 people or about one out of every four persons have received welfare aid in this county since the work was started on a large scale back in the fall and up until the first of this month, it was learned yesterday from the county welfare department here. Approximately \$12,000 have been spent in caring for the needy during the period, and the demands, heavy in the past, are expected to increase during this month and a greater part of March.

The report includes activities of all agencies and gives a complete summary of the relief work done.

It is believed in some quarters that this money is raised and doled out at the expense of Martin County taxpayers. That is not the case. Relief money is raised by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and is deducted from the road building fund ordinarily allotted the several states by the federal government. In other words, this state as well as others will not share in the federal road building fund to as great extent as has been the case in the past, for part of the fund has already been advanced for relief work.

However, a small portion of the money spent is raised in the county, including that for the indigent or pauper fund, a fund that has been and most surely will always be with it.

The following is a summary of the number of people receiving aid in the ten districts:

District	No. White families	Total
Jamesville	139	617
Williams	36	177
Griffins	10	38
Bear Grass	41	151
Williamston	88	391
Everetts	19	94
Robersonville	56	248
Poplar Point	18	87
Hamilton	42	192
Oak City	62	254
	511	2249

District	No. Col. families	No. People
Jamesville	169	785
Williams	55	227
Griffins	3	19
Bear Grass	4	7
Williamston	223	943
Everetts	22	102
Robersonville	64	275
Poplar Point	4	21
Hamilton	131	585
Oak City	55	757
	727	3721

District	No. families	No. People
Jamesville	308	1402
Williams	91	407
Griffins	13	57
Bear Grass	42	158
Williamston	311	1334
Everetts	41	196
Robersonville	120	523
Poplar Point	22	108
Hamilton	173	777
Oak City	117	1011
	1238	5970

SCHOOL FUNDS ARE SLASHED

Appropriations Committee Allows \$13,375,000 For School Operations

Making some concessions to uncertain revenue conditions and the probable rewriting of a revenue bill, the joint appropriations committee in the legislature this week made murderous slashes when the public schools were reached. Some of the cuts would have gone to \$4,000,000 in the recommended \$13,375,000. The school trimming has been pretty artistic. But it was decided to let the \$13,375,000 stand, along with the \$75,000 for emergencies in the support of the six-months term, and \$600,000 in the contribution to the extended term, a tax reduction measure.

That figure represents a cut of \$2,750,000 as compared with the amount requested for the term; a cut of \$2,267,923 as compared with actual operating expenses for 1931-32 and a cut of \$2,072,240 as compared with estimated expenses for 1932-33. Further salary slashes of 15 per cent for teachers, 25 per cent for superintendents, and 22 per cent for supervisors are contemplated under the approved amount.