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## MINISTERS PLAN MUCH ACTIVITY BEFORE EASTER

### One Week of Simultaneous Services To Be Held Preceding Easter

More attention will be given pre-Easter religious activities here this year than ever before if plans formulated by the several ministers of the town this week are carried out in their entirety, it was learned yesterday.

The ministers of the town held a session last Wednesday afternoon at the rectory on Houghton Street, at which time the Rev. Charles T. Rogers, of the Methodist church, was selected as president of the organization for the ensuing year, and certain matters of interest to the churches were discussed.

According to reports from the session, it is understood that the ministers of the five churches are planning a week of simultaneous services during the days immediately preceding Easter. It was further proposed that a series of noon-day services be held each day that week in the Watts Theatre, such services to last no more than 20 minutes. It is understood that J. W. Watts, jr., has offered the churches the use of his plant for such purposes.

It was felt by those attending that there would be a tremendous advantage if all the churches of the community were observing the Easter period at the same time, and it was believed that the spiritual impact upon the community would be very wholesome.

## COTTON CHECKS ARE COMING IN

### County Farmers Get Total Of \$3,832.62 During Present Week

Martin County cotton farmers this week received \$3,832.62 more of cash from the government for participating in the cotton reduction movement last summer, it was learned from County Agent T. B. Brandon's office yesterday. The 71 checks are now being distributed to the growers.

A few days ago 103 checks amounting to \$4,730.15 were received by Martin farmers. The participating payments will be completed within a short time now, there being only a few checks to come here. So far 174 checks, amounting to \$8,562.76, have been received in this county.

The checks are sent to those farmers who signed reduction contracts with the participating feature. They were paid from \$6 to \$12 an acre when they plowed up their cotton, and they are now receiving payment at the rate of 4 cents a pound, with bright possibilities of receiving additional payments later on.

Cotton prices are now the highest they have been in several years. The staple has reached the 13-cent figure.

## BELIEVE SOME ONE ELSE SHOT BULLOCK BOY

### Continues To Improve, Although Not Yet Out Of Danger

Jesse Bullock, young white boy who was seriously shot at a filling station in Bethel a few weeks ago, continues to improve in a Greenville hospital, but late reports indicate that he is not yet out of danger.

According to first reports received here, Young Bullock was said to have shot himself either accidentally or with suicidal intent. Later reports state that Bullock claims he was shot in the back by another boy through a window. From an examination of his clothing, it was learned that the bullet passed through the back but not through the front part of his clothing. The bullet pierced the suit in the back and passed on through the body, stopping just before it entered the front part of his clothing.

No formal charges have been preferred against any one, but it is understood some action will likely be taken just as soon as Bullock is able to appear at a hearing.

Bullock, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bullock, of Robersonville, worked and attended school in Bethel.

## Unusual-Shaped Egg Is Put On Display Here

A hen egg with unusual features was sent to town this week by Mrs. W. R. Nicholson, of Williamston R. F. D. 3. The egg is patterned after the head of a human being, all features appearing very plainly except the nose and mouth.

## County Farmers Planning To Sow Lot Tobacco Seed

Providence willing, Martin County farmers will have more tobacco plants this spring than the whole of North Carolina can use, it was surmised following a check of the amount of seed cleaned by the county agent's office this week. It is believed that more than 200 acres of land will have been planted to tobacco seed before the planting season comes to a close this winter.

Nearly 200 pounds of seed have been cleaned so far, Mr. F. K. Hodges in charge of the particular activities stating yesterday that the work is about over. About

one-third of the seed were said to have been of inferior quality, Mr. Hodges said. Those farmers wishing to have their seed cleaned for planting this season are asked to take them to the courthouse as soon as possible.

For the most part all seed beds have been prepared in this section, and the work will be completed within a very short time. Farmers are using better canvas this year than they have in the past, as a rule, and they are giving their plant beds more attention, according to reports received here.

## SMOKEHOUSE KEY

Fishing in the cold waters of the Roanoke at Jamesville, John Leary Hassell and T. C. Blount, young white men, found the spring key to Martin County's smokehouse yesterday when they caught the first 1934 herring. The season is opening a bit late this year, Kader Godard having dipped the first herring from the Roanoke waters last year on January 24. Low water in the stream and cold weather are said to have held the fish back.

With favorable weather and a rise in the Roanoke, the fish will start swimming up the stream in almost countless numbers within the next few weeks.

## RECORDER HAD SHORT SESSION HERE TUESDAY

### Several Cases Are Heard, And Number Are Continued

Judge H. O. Peel and Solicitor W. H. Coburn hardly more than marked time in the county recorder's court here last Tuesday when they heard three cases and continued several. No fines were collected and no defendants were ordered to the roads.

The case charging Marvin Orman with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes was continued.

Charged with reckless driving, E. C. Anderson was found guilty of neglecting to give signal for a turn, the court suspending judgment in the case upon the payment of the cost.

Raymond Wynn, charged with larceny, was bound over to the superior court for trial. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Leroy Andrews with reckless driving.

Adjudged guilty Tuesday of last week in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, Johnson Corey was sentenced to the roads for a period of 12 months, the court suspending judgment for two years upon the good behavior of the defendant and payment of the cost.

The case of Dennis Barber against Sarah Jane Perry was again continued.

Continuations were ordered in the case charging J. T. Rhodes with reckless driving and in the case charging Hezekiah Keel with aiding and abetting the manufacture of liquor.

## Athletic Events Held Up At Oak City High School

Athletic events in the Oak City school were recently canceled when the authorities found that scholastic activities were being made secondary in the school program.

Following the commendable action on the part of the authorities, there has been a marked degree of improvement in scholastic work, it was reported here yesterday. Many of the pupils have realized the seriousness of the situation and have reinstated themselves. Regular privileges for those pupils who have shown sufficient improvement in their studies are now being restored, it was said.

## Safety Classes Being Held For Foremen of CWA

Seventeen Civil Works Administration project foremen in this county are receiving instruction in first-aid safety measures offered in a series of classes conducted by Dr. J. A. Eason in the courthouse here.

The first of the five classes was held yesterday morning with all the foremen in attendance. A second class met, this morning. Three classes will be held next week, the school coming to a close next Friday, according to present plans.

## NOTED VISITORS LEAVE AFTER ENFORCED STAY

### Washington Women Put Up Bond When Auto Is Attached

After a forced stay of several days here, Mrs. Arthur Wiggins and Lady Constance Milnes Gaskell, of the British Embassy, left for their home in Washington City Wednesday afternoon. Unacquainted with American law and customs, the noted visitors were greatly surprised when they learned their 1932 model Chevrolet car had been attached for damages resulting from a head-on collision with a car driven by Rev. Roy Respass, of Creswell, on the Washington highway last Friday afternoon. After they learned the particulars surrounding the attachment proceedings, they had very little to say and patiently waited for an insurance company representative to come here from Greensboro to handle the matter. Bond was arranged with collateral estimated to be worth nearly \$100,000 Wednesday afternoon, and the two women left immediately for Richmond.

The visitors were said to have been greatly impressed with the southern hospitality accorded them, adding that even the sheriff and officers were very considerate and accommodating. Guests of the Roanoke Hotel here, Mrs. Wiggins and her companion, apparently enjoyed the southern cooking and friendly atmosphere there.

After their trip was interrupted here, the two women left by bus and train for Charleston, S. C. Finding freezing weather there, they returned here Tuesday noon, and despite their enforced stay, they seemed to enjoy the visit.

Insurance company representatives and the attorney for the plaintiff in the case are understood to be working after a settlement, and if an agreement is reached, it will hardly be necessary for Mrs. Wiggins to return here. In the event no agreement can be reached by the company and the plaintiff, Mrs. Wiggins will likely be called to appear in the case here in April.

## Many Children Distribute Valentines on Wednesday

While there were many comic and youthful Valentines distributed about the town last Wednesday evening, the day was marked by the absence of rowdiness and general pranks carried on by the younger generation. A few gates were removed and there was much stamping on front porches, but as far as it could be learned, there was little or no damage done to property.

## Many Visitors Here To See Film Star in Person

Buzz Barton, the young screen actor, attracted hundreds of young and old when he appeared in person here last Monday and Tuesday night. But the youthful actor did not measure up to the expectations of those meeting him in person, it was stated. The picture programs were declared unusually good, and little complaint was heard about the feeble appearance of the young actor and his cowgirls.

## Provisions of Corn-Hog Contract Are Outlined

A grower can sign the corn-hog contract and still grow corn on land not planted to that crop in 1932 or 1933, provided that the total acreage planted to corn on the farm does not exceed the base acreage for 1932 and 1933, less the 20 per cent reduction required under the contract. This reduction, however, may be greater than 20 per cent but cannot be less. Where the reduction is more than 20 per cent the grower will receive rental payments on all land taken out of production up to 30 per cent of his base acreage for 1932 and 1933.

## FAMED CASE TO BE HEARD BY JUDGE MOORE

### Town Henderson and Telephone Company Injunction Proceedings

At a hearing in Windsor today before Judge Clayton Moore, the town of Henderson is asking that the temporary receivership of the Henderson properties of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, granted recently by Judge Henry Grady, be made permanent. The company will resist, the outcome of the case being considered of much importance in that it will involve all telephone, electric and railroad properties, and will probably go to the United States Supreme Court for a final ruling.

In its answer to the city's complaint, the telephone company requested the dissolution of the temporary receivership granted by Henry A. Grady in Raleigh February 1, after the city had been without telephone service for 21 hours, and seeks to restrain the city or any of its agents from interfering with the company's operation of its plant there, and also asks \$50,000 damages it alleges have resulted from the temporary receivership.

The controversy arose when the company is said to have refused to pay \$2,500 franchise tax to the town of Henderson, and now the town is seeking to condemn the property and operate it as a municipal project.

Starting this morning at 11 o'clock, the hearing will probably last several hours, as both sides have several attorneys. Solicitor Don Gilliam is representing the company along with others.

## COTTON SIGN-UP IS LITTLE SHORT OF 100 PER CENT

### About 350 of 360 Eligible Have Signed; Drive Ended Yesterday

While the cotton reduction campaign missed a 100 per cent goal in this county, early reports received here this morning following the close of the drive yesterday indicate a comparatively large sign-up. It was estimated that around 350 of the approximately 360 farmers eligible to participate in the movement had signed contracts. The resulting acreage reduction has not been determined, but that makes little difference because Martin is not now recognized as a cotton-growing county of any great importance.

While the terms of the contract are fairly clear to those who were eligible to sign, the fate of the small growers who were not eligible to sign remains more or less a secret here. It is believed that those farmers who were eligible to sign contracts and who failed to take part in the movement will be faced with some kind of tax at the gin next fall. It is not definitely known what the tax will be if there is such a tax.

Of the approximately 360 eligible to take part in the reduction movement, 30 are in Cross Roads Township, 70 in Hamilton Township, 130 in Goose Nest Township, 8 in Williamston Township, 5 in Jamesville Township, 90 in Robersonville Township, 6 in Bear Grass Township, and only 1 in Williams Township.

## HIGH BIRTH RATE IN POPLAR POINT

### Below That of Last Year, However; Death Rate Very Low

Poplar Point, establishing what is believed to have been an all-time high birth rate in this section in 1932, reported another unusually high rate last year, it was learned from the reports filed this week by Registrar L. H. Taylor. The township, one of the smallest in the county, reported 43 births, a resulting rate of 46.43 per 1,000 of population. In 1932 the district reported 49 births, a rate of 53 births for each 1,000 population.

Nineteen of the births were among white people. There were 24 colored births and one-third of that number were illegitimate.

The district with a death rate of 23.75 in 1932, one of the highest in the county, made a remarkable showing last year in that the rate dropped to 10.80 the 1,000 population. There were only 10 deaths last year, 9 colored and 1 white, as compared with 22 in 1932.

Conditions surrounding the deaths are a bit saddening in that seven of them were among babies under one month of age. And seven of the ten people were buried in home-made caskets. Only one still-birth was reported in the district last year.

## UNCERTAINTY PERVADES CWA ACTIVITY HERE

### Demobilizing Not To Be Started Here Yet; Plan To Finish Projects

Civil Works Administration activities, while being demobilized in many parts of the country under orders from Washington, will continue in this county, it was learned from the local CWA office this morning. However, uncertainty surrounds the CWA program, and it is not known just how long the present activities will be continued. It is understood that those projects already underway will be completed, but this could not be established as a truth here today.

The curtailment order cut 2,627 persons from work on federal projects in this state, but it was found possible to transfer those men from the federal quota allotted North Carolina to the state quota which had not been entirely filled. That means those projects will be carried on in the future as state and not federal projects.

In the future, only projects believed to be most desirable to the various communities will receive approval, it was said.

Money for the Martin County CWA payroll for this week had not been received here at noon today, but Disbursing Agent Luther Peel was of the opinion that it would be here in time for use tomorrow. If the allotment fails to reach here the workers will not receive their pay tomorrow. The payroll this week will run about \$4,500, it was estimated by Mr. Peel.

## LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF VIRGINIA MADE PROGRESS

### Special Attention To All Safety Factors Shown by Firm in Statement

The annual report of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, recently released by its president, Bradford H. Walker, discloses continuance of stability and careful management.

Communicating with W. G. Peele, general agent of Williamston, President Walker stresses the past year's gratifying operations as again demonstrating the company's good judgment in adhering to the conservative underwriting and investment principles that have always characterized it. Mr. Walker also eagerly gives credit to his loyal field associates for their indispensable services, and gratefully acknowledges the confidence imposed in the company by the owners of its million-dollar policies in force.

Mr. Walker emphasizes the following interesting features of the company's sixty-third annual report. Gradual improvement in national business conditions is happily reflected in an increase of more than \$3,000,000 in the company's outstanding insurance in force.

Also very favorable was the fact that in 1933, for the second successive year, there was a decrease in the amount of policy loans.

Assets were increased by \$977,936.64 surplus was strengthened by the addition of \$245,984.13. An addition of \$500,000 was made to their special contingency reserve, bringing the total of this fund to \$4,000,000.

In conclusion, President Walker observes that continued application of its conservative practice of placing safety of principal before investment yield has enabled the company to maintain its traditionally strong cash position.

## Special Song Service At Methodist Church Sunday

C. T. Rogers, pastor.

"If you have nothing in your own heart worth giving to others, you will not believe in missions."

You, friend reader, need the blessing and help of the Sunday school and church alone supplies. Here something will be put into your heart, if you will let God have His way with you, that you will want to share with the little sick, hungry child of China or anywhere else one is found in need. Come on, get into the harness; help us make our church count in Williamston, and wherever its influence may reach. Sunday is the time to begin; do not put off again. The devil will be working overtime to get you to put off just one more Sunday. Jesus says don't do it, now is the accepted time. Jesus is your friend, and always advises rightly. Decide positively now you will go to Sunday school and church Sunday.

Services Sunday and during the week at Williamston, Holly Springs, and Merry Cherry farm. Special song service Sunday night at 7:30 by the choir.

You are cordially invited to meet with us, if not with us, at some church Sunday.

## Several Additional Candidates in Open

### NEW UNDERPASS

A contract calling for the erection of a new railroad bridge over U. S. Highway No. 64 at the end of West Main Street here, and the removal of the center support that has been a target for many motorists during the past few years, was let to T. A. Loving, Goldsboro contractor recently. The project will cost approximately \$19,853.50.

Just when work will be started on the new bridge and the type of structure that will be built has not been learned here. It was reported that work would be started just as soon as materials were placed on the property.

## LOCAL MASONIC LODGE INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

### Attendance Contest Ends With 'Blues' Winners Tuesday Night

One of the largest gatherings of Masons here in recent years was held Tuesday night at Skewarkee Lodge here, the event marking the conclusion of an attendance contest and installation of officers recently elected for the current year. Around 50 members of the local lodge attended, besides a large number of visitors.

Following the transaction of the regular business of the lodge, work in the second degree was conducted under the direction of Past Masters Norman K. Harrison and N. C. Green.

The "Blues" team, under the captaincy of Bill Spivey, won the attendance contest, which has been in progress since the first of December, over the "Whites," led by S. H. Grimes. During the period nine more "Blues" than "Whites" were present for the stated communications of the lodge. The victors will be the guests of the losers at a banquet in the Woman's Club hall on the night of February 22, which will also be observed as "Ladies' Night." It is expected that a noted Masonic speaker will be secured for the occasion.

The contest which closed Tuesday night is considered one of the most successful ever held, and renewed interest in the work of the lodge is being evidenced throughout the membership.

Officers installed by Past Master W. C. Manning were: J. C. Anderson, master; V. J. Spivey, senior warden; S. H. Grimes, junior warden; N. K. Harrison, treasurer; Irving M. Margolis, secretary; J. C. Manning, senior deacon; L. B. Wynne, junior deacon; R. L. Perry and W. H. Harrison, stewards; and Henry Barber Allen, tyler.

A special meeting of the lodge is expected to be held Tuesday night of next week for conferring the third degree.

## Two Cars Sideswiped in Accident Near Here

The fenders and running board were smashed and the left front wheel was damaged on the car of Mr. N. R. Griffin when it was struck by another car near Holly Springs on the Jamesville road Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Griffin was driving around a curve when another machine, driven by a man from Mount Olive at a rapid speed, crashed into the car.

No one was hurt, but both cars were damaged.

## Local Market Sold Total 4,833,442 Pounds Tobacco

Williamston sold 4,833,442 pounds of tobacco during the recent marketing season, or almost 2,000,000 pounds more than was sold here during the preceding season, according to government reports released this week.

## Finds Weather Not Quite Cold Enough

A traveling salesman found the weather not cold enough here this week when he absent-mindedly started to walk across the Lindsley Ice Company pool. He walked across once and the ice held him. On the second trip, however, the ice cracked and dumped the man into about 3 feet of ice-cold water. After warming himself by a stove at the plant, the traveler ran to a local hotel and changed clothes, but not until after he had suffered the stinging cold.

## L. B. WYNNE FOR CLERK; COBURN OUT FOR SENATE

### Carl Bailey Also in Race for Senate; Judge Smith May Run

With several candidates already in the race for seats in the general assembly and the clerkship of the Martin County Superior court, political activities are fast taking shape in this county for the next primary.

Attorney Robert L. Coburn, for several years mayor of Williamston and a member of the law firm of Coburn and Coburn here, announces he plans to seek a seat in the North Carolina Senate this year. Attorney J. C. Smith, of Robersonville, has announced he will not be a candidate for a seat in the house of representatives, but he might run for the Senates. A. Corcy announced his candidacy for the senate early this week. It was unofficially learned here that Carl Bailey, Plymouth attorney, would seek renomination to the senate, and that several other candidates, including one from Beaufort and another from Dare County, are planning to enter the senatorial race.

Professor L. Bruce Wynne announced this week that he would be a candidate for the Martin County Superior Court clerkship. T. B. Slade announced his candidacy for that office a few days ago.

While other county officials have made no official announcements, it is understood they would be candidates this year.

Under the new law all candidates for county offices and legislative places will be required to file their notices of candidacies on or before May 5 and not later than 6 p. m. on that day. A filing fee of 1-2 of 1 percent of the annual salary paid by the respective offices will be charged all candidates for county offices, such as that of register of deeds, sheriff, clerk of court, county solicitor, and recorder. A flat fee of \$1 will be charged candidates for places on the board of county commissioners, county board of education, and other town ship offices. The one dollar fee will also be charged candidates for surveyor and coroner.

State officers, including candidates for governor, United States Senator, and member of House of Representatives, and solicitors and judges of superior courts, will be required to pay a filing fee of 1 per cent of their annual salary. They must file their candidacies with the proper authorities on or before the seventh Saturday before the June 2 primary.

## DEATH OF MRS. MINNIE WARREN AT GOLD POINT

### Died Suddenly At Home There Last Friday Night

Mrs. Minnie Warren, highly respected woman of the Gold Point community, died suddenly at her home there last Friday night at 9:30 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered a very short time before. She had been in feeble health for several months, however.

Mrs. Warren was born in Pitt County 63 years ago. After marrying Mr. Warren she moved to this county to make her home, locating near Gold Point. She had been a member of the Christian church for a number of years and was active in the work of her church.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Saturday afternoon by Rev. John E. Purvis, of Haxsell. Interment was in the family plot, near the home.

Mr. Warren survived with six children, Henry and Kelly Warren, of Robersonville; Mrs. W. L. Williams, of Bethel; Mrs. John Nelson, of Farmele; and Jack and William Warren, of Gold Point.

## Negro Shot Here Last Night; Refuses to Talk

Wheeler Slade, young local colored man, was painfully shot in the hip here early last night. Slade first said that he had a 38-pistol in his pocket and that it accidentally fired when he slipped down while walking the river hill. He later said someone shot him, but he refused to tell who it was. He maintained that he did not know.

He was removed to a Washington hospital last night, and is expected to recover.