

LONG SESSION IS HELD BY TOWN BOARD MONDAY

Recognizes Petition From Ministers for Better Sunday Observance

Holding a two-hour session last evening, the local town commissioners called a convention for the nomination of officials for the next two years, beginning July 1, recognized a petition from the Martin County Ministerial Association and ordered the investigation of the possibility of extending or straightening Smithwick Street from the railroad to Marshall Avenue. The regular routine matters were handled between discussions by the authorities in their longest session in several months.

Williamston citizens will carry their politics into the convention next Monday evening, April 12, in the courthouse at 8 o'clock, the town election following on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

Registering approval of the proposed improvement of Smithwick Street, the commissioners took no definite action in the matter other than to appoint Mayor J. L. Hassell to make an investigation of land costs or the right of way. It is said that the proposed project meets with the approval of all but Mr. J. B. Cherry, and he has not been approached relative to running the street across a small portion of his property. Mayor Hassell is to confer with Mr. Cherry and report to the board.

The petition presented by the Martin County Ministerial Association was recognized, the board passing an order pledging its cooperation with the religious leaders in any way possible. However, the board members went on to say that they believed it was too late to take action, but that they would be glad to give the question serious thought and abide by the wishes of the people, the group withholding any personal views they might have held.

The petition, centered around Sunday baseball but touching on Sunday movies and other activities of a commercial nature, follows: "The Martin County Ministerial Association, meeting in session in Williamston, N. C., April 5, 1937, passed unanimously the following resolution to be presented to the Board of Town Commissioners:

"That whereas, the breakdown of the Lord's Day (Sunday) has reached such alarming proportions thru the utter disregard of the Lord's Day by many of the citizens of the Town of Williamston:

"And that whereas this condition is seriously affecting the characters of our children and citizens;

"And that whereas this condition is undermining and destroying the program of the churches,

"And that whereas this situation is deadly and wholly antagonistic to the teachings and spirit of Christianity:

"We, therefore, most earnestly petition you, the town fathers, to do all in your power to correct and rectify this situation by, first, prohibiting Sunday baseball commercially;

"Second, prohibiting the showing of all motion pictures for commercial purposes on Sunday; and, third, that there be made a careful and thorough study of all institutions, business houses, and commercial enterprises operating on Sunday, looking forward to a wholesome solution of this situation, and a better understanding and cooperation between the civil, commercial and Christian forces of the community.

"Respectfully submitted, J. M. Perry, E. C. Shoe, R. N. Fitts, J. H. Smith, John L. Goff, Z. T. Piephoff, W. B. Harrington, R. R. Grant, members of Ministerial Association."

Little Traveling by Some Local Citizens

Two unusual non-traveling records were brought to light here a few days ago, proving beyond all doubt that at least two persons in Martin County are living at home.

A rural neighbor came to Williamston the other day and asked the location of Biggs' Drug Store. Apparently it was the man's first visit to town in several years.

Joe Leggett, local man, has a better record than that, however. Mr. Leggett says he has been out of the county only three times since the World War. Twice he rode across the Roanoke River into Bertie, and once he ventured as far away as Little Washington.

Reports state that George Harris, sr., operator of a Texaco filling station on East Main Street, has not visited in the business section of the town in months.

New County Board of Education Takes Over

PLAYERS DELAYED

Unavoidably delayed, Williamston's baseball club manager, Art Hauger, and several players could not reach here by noon today, but their arrival was expected momentarily. Manager R. H. Goodman said. The trek from Arkansas was started last Saturday by Hauger, and his arrival could not be definitely determined accurately in advance.

No practice schedule for the Martins will hardly be followed this week, but definite action on the diamond here is expected the early part of next week.

21 LICENSES TO MARRY ISSUED DURING MARCH

Issuance for Period Largest Reported in County So Far This Year

Twenty-one marriage licenses were issued in this county last month, 14 of the permits going to colored couples. The issuance was the largest reported in the county this year.

Licenses were issued to the following:

White
Edward Daniel Pritchett and Maggie Bland, both of Martin County.
Grady Morris and Elba Howell, both of Scotland Neck.
Julian Peele, of Oak City, and Effie Bland, of Hassell.
Garland Tice and Early Ruth Corey, both of Williamston.

Colored
Thaddeus LeWene Jackson and Mary Bowen Hampton, both of Washington.
Dallas Williams and Bettie Cross, both of Martin County.
Matthew Bland, of Edgecombe, and Sarah Hathaway, of Martin County.

Steve Peyton and Sarah Mabry, both of Williamston.
John Bonds and Novella Joyner, both of Martin County.
J. B. Williams and Eliza Jane Little, both of Williamston.

George Hooker, of Hyde County, and Clyde Tyner, of Martin County.
James Bonds and Leda Bell Humphrey, both of Martin County.
Abell Smallwood and Syda Mae Whitley, both of Martin County.
S. L. Woolard and Sarah Black, both of Williamston.

Harvey Gardner and Marie Hill, both of Parmele.
Willie Lee Beades and Lucy Small, both of Williamston.
John Briley and Elzina Hunter, both of Robersonville.

Otis Taylor and Mary Sandlin, both of Windsor.
Gus Griffin and Lula Mills, both of Robersonville.
Stephen Griffin, jr., and Vernice Moore, both of Martin County.
Herbert Forrest and Mamie Fuller, both of Edgecombe County.

Everetts Community Sing Meets with Marked Success

Success marked the first community sing held in Everetts last Friday evening and assured a continuance of the undertaking. Principal H. Bruce Russell said yesterday. A half hundred people in the community were present and participated in the singing program "and for two hours we had an enjoyable time," the school man said.

A larger crowd is expected for the singing event Friday of this week, and everyone is cordially invited to attend. The program gets underway at 8 o'clock in the Everetts school auditorium.

Local Firemen Get Two Calls Saturday Afternoon

Two calls were received by the Williamston fire company last Saturday, when fire threatened the homes of the Waldos in Hamilton at noon and of Frances Respass, aged colored woman, on North Elm Street here at 5:30 o'clock. The firemen were moving out the apparatus to make the run to Hamilton when they learned their services were not necessary. Soot in a large chimney caught fire and fired some leaves on the roof, but the resulting damage was negligible.

A small hole was burned in the roof of the one-story Respass home, but the damage was of little consequence.

Organization Is Set Up at First Meeting Held Here Monday

Contract Permitting Sunday Baseball Renewed for Five-year Period

A change in personnel in the Martin County Board of Education was effected yesterday, when the old body held its last meeting and officially turned over the duties of the office to Messrs. J. D. Woolard, of Williamston; E. H. Ange and J. F. Martin, of Jamesville; J. W. Eubanks, of Hassell; and George C. Griffin, of Griffins. Completing six years of service as chairman, Mr. W. O. Griffin; and Mr. J. T. Barnhill, member, stepped from their posts and listened to the new board members subscribe to the oath of office before Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne at 10:30 o'clock. Mr. George C. Griffin, the member from Griffins, was kept at home by sickness, and the two members, Messrs. Ange and Eubanks, succeeding themselves and Messrs. Martin and Woolard were entered upon the duties of the office without pomp or much ceremony.

An organization with J. D. Woolard as chairman was perfected in a short time, but hardly in time to receive a contract for the lease of the high school baseball field to the Williamston Baseball Club. The contract, carrying no Sunday playing restrictions, and few others, was accepted without argument. Members of the Martin County Ministerial Association were heard, but no material changes were made in the contract.

The contract, calling for a five-year lease, provides for league play between May 10 and September 10, no other games to be played unless satisfactory to the superintendent of schools, the local school board and the principal. No league practice or game is to be held before 3:30 in the afternoon on school days, the contract also provides.

J. C. Manning, superintendent of the county system since 1931 was reappointed and Miss Thelma Brown continues as secretary.

The board was in session only a short time, but will be called into special meeting next Monday with the county commissioners for a discussion of school bus routings.

W. A. Stubbs Dies Near Jamesville

Wm. A. Stubbs, 78 years old, died at his home near Jamesville Sunday morning at 5:30 o'clock following an illness of about two weeks duration.

Mr. Stubbs was a native of Beaufort County but had made his home in the Jamesville section for some time, and was well known there. He had farmed a greater part of his life.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at the late home at 3 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Burial was in the Roberson cemetery, near the home.

Mrs. Roberson survives with the following children, J. C. and C. T. Stubbs, of Rocky Mount; Bennie Stubbs, of Jamesville; Mrs. W. H. Spruill, of Rocky Mount; and Miss Emma Stubbs, of Jamesville.

Local Woman's Club To Hold Meeting Tomorrow

The regular meeting of the Woman's Club will be held Wednesday afternoon at 4 p. m. There will be election of officers and also a program of interest.

Recently it has been difficult to get enough members for a meeting. Surely, the club has meant enough to the community to warrant its continuance, and renewed interest in its activities. Efforts are being made to enlist the cooperation of every member. New members are invited to join this worthwhile organization.

Reports 14 Contagious Disease Cases in March

Fourteen cases of contagious diseases were reported in this county last month to the Martin County Board of Health office. There were 11 cases of chickenpox among white children in Williamston Township, 2 cases of diphtheria, one in Bear Grass and one in Robersonville, and 1 case of measles in Robersonville.

LIONS CLUB HERE TO ENTERTAIN 150 CHARTER NIGHT

Elaborate Program Planned By Leaders of Newly Organized Group

The Williamston Lions Club, just recently organized, will observe charter night with an elaborate program on Thursday evening of this week at 7 o'clock in the Woman's Club Hall. Dignitaries in the Lions organization will have parts on the program, and the club is making extensive arrangements to royally entertain around 150 guests. D. V. Clayton, the local club president, announced today.

An unusually entertaining program has been planned, and the local club charter members are looking forward to the event with keen interest. The main feature on the program will be an address by District Governor V. J. Ashbaugh, of Durham. Lion Ashbaugh will present President Clayton the club charter. Lion W. M. Rogers, of Wilson, lieutenant governor of the 31st district, will also be present for a part in the program.

The local Kiwanis Club, boards of the town and county and other organizations will be officially represented, it was said.

Headed by D. V. Clayton, president; J. H. Edwards, vice president; D. E. Darden, second vice president; C. A. Plyler, third vice president; W. I. Skinner, secretary and treasurer; Herbert Taylor, lion tamer; and Eugene Rice, tail twister; the local Lions Club has 29 members, the president stating that several constructive community programs now being considered would be launched by the organization immediately after the charter is received this week.

"After this event is over the Lions Club plans to get on its working clothes in the interest of projects that will be beneficial to town and community," President Clayton said.

Names of the charter members are:

H. L. Barnhill, W. H. Carstarphen, D. V. Clayton, D. E. Darden, J. H. Edwards, E. R. Fronsberger, James E. Griffin, C. E. Jones, C. D. Lamm, K. P. Lindsey, J. S. Livengood, Asa J. Manning, Henry S. Manning, Jno. A. Manning, R. E. Manning, D. G. Modlin, Dr. A. J. Osteen, Herbert O. Peele, R. Edwin Peele, C. A. Plyler, Eugene Rice, C. U. Rogers, W. I. Skinner, Herbert Taylor, F. M. Taylor, E. M. Trahey, J. H. Ward, C. P. Whedbee, K. D. Worrell, jr.

Williamston's Fair Dates Announced By N. Y. Chambliss

Annual Exhibition To Get Underway First Week In October

Announcement was made today by Norman Y. Chambliss, of the N. C. Fair Operating Company, Inc., that the Williamston fair would be held the week of October 4th. No definite announcement was made as to the appointment of a resident manager for the fair, but Mr. Chambliss indicated that probably someone in Martin County would act as resident manager this year to succeed Harvey Walker who was here for two years.

Announcing the dates for the fair, Mr. Chambliss also stated that he would immediately confer with agricultural interests in the county, particularly County Agent Brandon, and Home Agent Lora E. Sleeper, with reference to agricultural premiums, stating positively there would be an increase in such premiums, if possible to arrange it.

No announcement was made as to what midway would play the fair, but it was stated that one of the finest shows in the country would be brought here. It was also stated at headquarters that in all probability, running races would be substituted this year for harness races. The announcement also indicated that Lucky Teter, who filled an engagement here year before last, would again be brought here as one of the main grandstand attractions.

Lyceum Players To Give Performances Here Friday

The Redpath Artists' Bureau will present the Lyceum Players in two stage classics here Friday afternoon and evening of this week in the high school auditorium. Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," will be staged and that evening at 8 o'clock, the players will present "Tempest and Sunshine."

Wide Variations Seen In Property Valuation

Hope To Iron Out Inequalities Before Task Is Completed

Land Values Vary as Much As \$10 Acre, Incomplete List Survey Shows

A representative survey of listings in the several townships of the county by Tax Supervisor Clarence Stallings and released this week shows some rather startling variations in the values. The variations, while not intentional, are shifting the tax burden from one district to another.

The supervisor limiting his investigation to values listed in one district and compared with listings in another.

In one township cleared land was valued at \$48.64 an acre. In an adjoining district the same type of land was listed at \$38.25 an acre. Timber lands ranged from \$7.04 to \$12.60 an acre; that is, one district, as a whole, valued its woodland at \$12.60, while the average value in another township was only \$7.04.

The average value placed on mules was \$133 in one township and \$81.95 in another. In one district the value of implements per mule was \$29.25, and in another it was only \$12.73. The value of provisions per mule in one township was placed at \$51.50, while in another district the average was only \$18.11 for hay, corn, and other feed and foodstuffs.

These values were based on the 1931 listings, and since that time, the valuations have been materially reduced. A horizontal reduction of 33 1-3 per cent was ordered by the county commissioners, and as a result the average acre of cleared land in the county will not exceed \$35 or \$40. The survey was based on 12 pieces of property selected at random in the several townships, and a more complete review might alter considerably the averages offered.

Triangular Debate Ends in Stalemate

The Scotland Neck-Enfield-Williamston debating group was eliminated in the State triangular debates last Friday evening when neither school scored a double victory in the preliminaries. Scotland Neck won over Enfield at this point, and Williamston won over Scotland Neck at Enfield. Debaters Reg and Gordon Manning ably represented the local high school against Enfield at Scotland Neck, but were ruled out. Misses Helen Mishoe and Grace Barnhill scored a marked victory over their Scotland Neck opponents in Enfield.

Ben Everett and R. Leggett, representing Scotland Neck, won a unanimous decision here over Enfield.

A mere handful of spectators heard the debate here.

James and Johnson with Local Warehouse Firm

Jule James, a native of this county but now a resident of Bertie, and Tom Johnson, of Oak City, will be associated with the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here this season, it was announced yesterday. Mr. James, an old hand in the tobacco business, is known all over this section of the state, and Mr. Johnson, coming here as an associate with the Roanoke-Dixie house for the first time, is also well known through this section.

The many friends of the two men will be glad to learn they will be at the Old Reliable this coming season.

Local Young Man Heads R. O. T. C. Rifle Team

H. S. Whitley, local young man, was just recently elected captain of North Carolina State's 1936 R. O. T. C. rifle team.

Whitley is among the 10 members of the 1937 team who will be awarded monograms for their participation in this year's schedule.

Young Tarboro Man Gets Naval School Appointment

Marvin Britt Ruffin, grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Britt, of Williamston, was appointed to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis yesterday. Young Ruffin, a sophomore in the University, has a number of relatives here.

TOWN POLITICS

The eve of a nominating convention here finds little interest in town politics. Mayor J. L. Hassell and Commissioners N. C. Green, G. H. Harrison, Luther Peel, L. P. Lindsey and V. D. Godwin are candidates for the positions now held by them, and as far as it can be learned they will be without opposition.

The citizens of the town go into convention in the courthouse next Monday evening at 8 o'clock to name their nominees who will enter the regular town election on Tuesday, May 4.

REGULAR MEET COUNTY BOARD HELD MONDAY

Hold Joint Meeting Next Monday with Martin Education Board

The Martin County commissioners held an uneventful session Monday, but the board worked a greater part of the day handling a work calendar crowded with routine duties. All members of the board were present and entered into the discussions dealing with taxation, appropriations and the usual flood of bills.

Official action was limited to the granting of tax relief orders and the recognition of a petition for the addition of a road to the highway system.

Bearing the names of 15 or more Williams Township citizens, a petition was presented asking the commissioners to have the road leaving U. S. 64 at Nurney's store, running westwardly a short distance and then back to No. 64 at the Richlieu filling station, placed on the highway map.

On account of physical disability, Biscoe Biggs was granted privilege to sell patent medicines and products without paying the customary license tax.

Edwin Cox was granted a relief order on \$150 property tax as the listing was in error. A similar order was granted R. M. Stalls on \$1,235 worth of property listed in error in Robersonville Township.

The county commissioners are to meet jointly with the board of education next Monday at the request of State school officials, the exact nature of the business not having been announced.

Orphanage Singing Class Here Friday, April 9th

The Oxford Masonic Orphanage will send its well trained singing class and entertainers here for a concert in the high school auditorium on Saturday evening of this week at 8 o'clock. Local Masons are making every effort to have the engagement here meet with success, and the support of the general public is earnestly solicited. No admission charge to the concert will be made, but a free-will offering will be taken.

The young people will be entertained in local homes Saturday and Sunday.

Nathaniel Coltrain Now Home from Hospital

Nathaniel Coltrain, young Williams Township white man who suffered three breaks in his back when the truck in which he was riding was struck by a freight train, near Gardner's Creek the sixth of last month, was discharged by a Washington hospital today. The boy, making the trip home in a Biggs ambulance, is getting along unusually well, reports stated. He will be forced to continue in bed for several months, however.

V. E. P. Co. Increases Its Maintenance Force Here

The Virginia Electric & Power Company increased its maintenance and construction forces in this district this week. Headed by J. W. Harris, a new group was added to the construction forces here, bringing the number of employees to 15 and doubling the number of trucks.

While the district has not been enlarged, increased business and new construction work make the personnel increase necessary, Manager R. H. Goodman said today.

OVER \$110,000 IN SOIL PAYMENTS ARE BEING MADE

Approximately 475 Checks, Amounting To \$35,000, Now Due in County

Soil conservation payments are going forward rapidly in the county, the office of the county agent announcing today that hardly before all the 1,292 checks, received last week and the week before, and representing \$97,683.68, had been distributed, 233 more checks, representing \$12,953.79 cash, were received into the office for distribution.

So far, 1,525 checks, representing 746 farm applications and amounting to \$110,637.68, have been received in the county. The distribution of the 233 checks received Monday will get underway tomorrow.

According to estimates coming from the agent's office, there are approximately 475 checks due farmers in this county. The unpaid amount due under the 1936 soil conservation program is around \$30,000.

New evidence proving the value of the soil conservation program is reaching the office of the county agent almost daily in the form of applications for work sheets. Last year 80 per cent of the farms in this county were covered by the soil program provisions, and no new work sheets are required of those farms this year, but to have the program apply to their farms owners who failed to sign last year must sign work sheets this year or immediately. Already around 40 new farms have been included in the program for this county, and it is believed that nearly all of the 20 per cent unsigned last year will make arrangements to participate in the 1937 program.

Mrs. N. T. Roberson Passes Suddenly at Her Griffins Home

Funeral for Beloved Citizen Of Griffins Township Held Sunday at 2:30

Mrs. Martha Roberson, widow of Noah Thomas Roberson, died suddenly at her home in Griffins Township last Saturday evening about 7 o'clock. She was going about her daily tasks and was in the kitchen when she suffered a stroke, death following about 15 minutes later.

Mrs. Roberson, daughter of the late Thomas Whitley and wife, was 69 years old, a thoughtful wife and loving mother. She was a good woman, and held the friendship of old and young in all walks of life. She reared a large family, but always found time to accommodate and do for others. Her home was held open at all times, and the hospitality of the family attracted hundreds of neighbors and other friends there on frequent occasions, the youth of the community valuing highly her understanding and kindness—expressed by word and act. Her life, humble and unpretentious, was a noble one and served well as an ideal example for others to follow. By her life-long presence there, the Farm Life section of Griffins Township was made a better place in which to live.

Twelve children, Messrs. Simon D. Lewis H., Tom, State, Ben F., Arnold, George and Archie Roberson, and Mrs. Jesse Griffin, Mrs. Dawse Griffin, Mrs. Dave Griffin and Mrs. Mc. D. Hardison, and one brother, Mr. Willie Whitley, all of Griffins Township, survive.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder P. E. Getsinger, assisted by Rev. D. W. Arnold and Rev. W. B. Harrington. Burial was in the Roberson family cemetery, near the home.

Filling Station Robber In Jail Awaiting Trial

Arrested in Robersonville last Thursday for forging a check and robbery of the Standard filling station on the main street here, Alvin Mansfield turned state's witness in another case and made possible the recovery of 43 of the 40 suits of clothes stolen from an Aulander store a few weeks ago. A Norfolk merchant was indicted there yesterday for receiving stolen goods, the grand jury action resting on evidence offered by Mansfield, it was said.

Mansfield, with a crime record in several states, was returned to the Martin jail early today where he will await the convening of the June term of Martin superior court.