

Martins Break Even In Tarboro Series; Lose One To Billies

Locals Now Hold Second Place by Three and Half Games Over Tarboro

Winning two of the last four games on their schedule, the Williamston Martins, while a bit battered, continue to hold a very respectable place in the Coastal Plain League standings today. The Snow Hill Billies have a six-game claim to first place, the Martins holding second with a 3 1-2 game lead over Tarboro in third place. While the low-ranking clubs squabble over positions in the lower brackets, the three top clubs are now in the middle of a series of contests of their own. The Martins are pitted with Snow Hill in four more games this week and against Tarboro on Thursday and Friday. The top standings are subject to a severe shake-up before the next six days pass.

It was a listless game that the Martins won from Tarboro here last Saturday afternoon, 5 to 3. Rain threatened to stop the contest during the early part, and a 3-run rally by Tarboro in the first inning added to the dark outlook for local fans. In the last half of the first, a triple by Earp, a double by Victoria and singles by Stevens and McCay netted two runs and partially relieved the situation. Rollins held the visitors in check during the remainder of the game, and the Martins knotted the score in the fourth, when Lakatos homered over the center-field fence. The victory margin of two runs was gained in the eighth when Stanley tripled, Victoria singled, and Deim hit for a base to score Victoria. Hautz started on the mound for the visitors, but turned the work over in the second to Biggie, former member of the Martins' chunking staff. Rollins fanned 7 and gave up 6 hits.

Sunday the Serpents and Martins played on equal hitting terms, but Snake Henry's boys squeezed thru with a 4-3 victory. Tarboro executed double plays to tame the Martins in three of the first four innings. Strunk held Tarboro to 4 hits in 6 innings, and Fields, working the next two frames, yielded three singles of the scratch variety. Villepique and Deim, with two hits each, led at bat for the Martins, Stevens, McCay and Lakatos adding one each.

That Longest fellow held the Martins to four hits to feature Snow Hill's 6-3 win over the Martins in Snow Hill yesterday afternoon. The Martins scored in the first, and the Billies tied the count in the second and added a two-run lead in the third. Victoria homered in the fourth and the Martins tied the count at their next bat. The Billies counted two runs on two hits in the sixth to take the lead and added another in the seventh.

For the first time in nearly a month the Martins will play a Wednesday game at home tomorrow. Snow Hill comes here and then on Sunday the two teams meet here again.

Only One Vacancy In Local Faculty

Miss Martha Layton, of Lillington, was elected this week to fill the position made vacant in the local high school history department by the resignation of Professor Milton Griffin. Miss Layton was notified of her election yesterday.

Only one position remains to be filled in the local school faculty, it was learned today, and acceptance by a young man now in New York is expected before the latter part of this week.

Principal D. N. Hix, now employed at Virginia Beach, will resign his work there the latter part of this week and return here to complete plans for opening the schools on Thursday, September 2.

Makes Three Trips To Find Still In Griffins Township

Continuing their drive against illicit liquor manufacturing in this county, officers state that they are experiencing more difficulty in locating the plants than ever before. Led by Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck, the raiders found a 50-gallon capacity copper still in Griffins Township along the Martin-Beaufort Boundary line last Friday, but the officers had failed to find the plant on two previous visits. The raiders explained they walked five miles or more before locating the plant. Four barrels of beer were destroyed and the still was junked.

10 Injured in Series Week-End Accidents

TOBACCO MOVING

The first load of tobacco seen on the roads this season in this section, passed through here yesterday, apparently headed for the auction markets somewhere along the North Carolina border for sale today.

Driving an old model car, the farmer, accompanied by two other men, had the two or three hundred pounds packed in a small trailer, and he was losing little time as he continued thru here from somewhere in Bertie County. Only one farmer in the Williamston area is known to have carried tobacco to the border for sale today, but reports indicate that farmers farther south are crowding the markets.

Tobacco Curing in County Said To Be At Half-Way Mark

Varied Reports on Quality Of Crop in the County Are Received

Tobacco curing in this county is about half completed, some few farmers nearing the end of the task while others are less than half done in the harvesting of the crop.

Varied reports on the quality are received, no two farmers reporting conditions alike. The general opinion is that there will be much inferior quality tobacco in this section, some few farmers reporting the best crops on record. Few of the lugs or first primings are in the quality class, the hot and dry weather parching the tips of the leaves and making harvesting necessary before they ripened or matured. The quality of the first or early curings reminds one of oak leaves.

Some farmers report light crops; others say they will have record poundages. The cigarette types are said to pre-ponderate in some sections.

The harvesting work this week is about to get ahead of the farmers, reports stating that the crop is ripening so rapidly that some farmers are experiencing difficulty in finding necessary barns for curing the leaf. Tobacco is being crowded into many barns, and the curing work is being delayed from 12 to 18 hours in some cases.

Despite the harvesting rush a farmer now and then has found time to prepare a few pounds for market, reports stating that three or four farmers in this section are offering small quantities for sale on the border markets today.

Boykin Named Head Of Local Legion Post

At a recent meeting of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion, J. E. Boykin was elected commander for 1938. Mr. Boykin has been here for the past three years as an employee of the Darden Department store. He is now serving as chaplain of the Post.

Others officers elected were: Mack Wynne, P. M. Holliday, J. H. Ayers, Vice Commanders; Ray Goodson, Adjutant and Finance Officer; R. A. Taylor, Service Officer; H. G. Horton, R. L. Coburn, E. S. Peel and H. L. Swain, assistant Service Officers; W. H. Gray, Sergeant-at-Arms; Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Chaplain; H. L. Swain, Historian; Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Child Welfare Officer; J. R. Winslow, Americanism Officer; J. Sam Getsinger, Graves Registration Officer; W. E. Dudley, Employment Officer; Mack Wynn, Chairman of Membership Committee; J. R. Leggett, Publicity Officer, and J. R. Winslow, Chairman Sons of the Legion.

The John W. Hassell Post won signal honor at the State Convention in that it was awarded the Class "C" Membership Trophy for the greatest percentage of membership quota of any other post of the State. This is the second year that this post won this trophy and it now is entitled to keep it.

Officers Jail Eight Persons In County Over Week-end

Eight persons, six men and two women, fell into the hands of the law in this county over the week-end. Disorderly conduct, drunkenness and reckless driving constituted most of the charges.

9 Sent To Hospitals; All Are Expected To Recover at Present

Fast Driving Accounts For Two Of Four Wrecks During Period

Ten persons were hurt, several of them seriously, and a heavy property damage resulted in a series of automobile accidents in this section over the week-end. Nine of the victims were removed to hospitals, and all are expected to recover if no complications develop, it was learned from Patrolman W. S. Hunt.

Margaret Upton, 15-year-old Edenton girl, was believed seriously hurt when the car in which she was riding with Clarence Gregory, of Elizabeth City, turned over on Highway 17, about four miles south of Williamston, last Saturday afternoon at 3:10 o'clock. After remaining unconscious for more than an hour, the young girl rallied and was able to return to her home after receiving first-aid treatment in the office of Dr. J. H. Saunders in Williamston. She suffered a broken nose and bruises, reports stating that she was not as badly hurt as it was first thought she was.

Gregory, 24 years old, had been employed to drive the car of Frank Murphy, High Point sportsman, from Elizabeth City to Belhaven. He picked up the young girl in Edenton, and was driving about 62 miles an hour when a tire on the machine blew out. The machine, a 1936 Oldsmobile, skidded and plowed down the road for nearly 150 yards before it turned over in the road and threw the girl out. Gregory held to the wheel as the car rolled over again and came to a stop bottom side up in a ditch. He suffered a bad gash on his ankle and the car was demolished. The driver was arrested for reckless driving and was fined \$25 and taxed with the cost in the county court Monday morning.

Stealing a car from the Allsbrooks Motor Company in Scotland Neck, Buddie Sheppard and Willie Hill, both colored, were driving toward Oak City about 10:30 o'clock, when the machine, traveling at a rapid rate of speed, failed to make a curve and turned over about 4 miles from the Halifax-Martin line. The machine plowed down the side of the road for more than 200 yards before it turned over. Hill, thrown from the car, had his right side ripped open and suffered other severe cuts on his arm. He was carried to a Rocky Mount hospital. Sheppard, driver of the car, a 1934 reconditioned Ford sedan, fled from the scene of the accident and apparently was not seriously hurt. He had not been arrested Monday to answer to a larceny charge in Halifax, and reckless driving, hit-and-run, and assault with a deadly weapon charges in this county.

Patrolman Hunt had hardly cleared the Sheppard wreck before he was called to Hobgood, where a colored man ran his car into a wagon, badly injuring 8 of the 10 passengers on the horse-drawn vehicle. Around 200 stitches were necessary to close the wounds of the victims. Patrolman Hunt said. All the doctors in Scotland Neck were called to render first-aid treatment before the victims were removed to hospitals, he said. The driver of the car escaped, but was said to have been arrested later by Halifax officers.

Eugene White, young colored boy, was knocked unconscious last Sunday night at 9 o'clock, when he rode his bicycle into the side of Attorney Henry D. Hardison's car at the intersection of Houghton and Main Streets. The boy was thrown to the pavement and suffered a severe blow on his head. He regained consciousness a short while later while receiving treatment in the offices of Drs. Rhodes, Eason and Winn, and his injuries were not considered serious. He was said to have been racing another boy on a bicycle and was looking back when he crashed into the side of the car as the driver made a left turn into Houghton Street.

Rockingham Farmers Get \$88,460 Conservation Cash

Rockingham farmers to the number of 1,605 shared in \$88,460.54 worth of soil conservation checks recently and 40 additional farmers who did not cooperate in the program last year have signed worksheets for 1937.

Joshua D. Griffin, 39, Dies Friday at Home In Griffins Township

Was Leading Farmer and Prominent Citizen of This County

Joshua David Griffin, well-known farmer of Griffins Township, died at his home there last Friday morning from uremic poisoning, or the same disease that cost Jean Harlow, noted cinema actress, her life a short time ago. Mr. Griffin, taken ill about six weeks ago, had received treatment during that time in a Washington hospital, but returned home when doctors there held there was no hope for his recovery. Mr. Griffin apparently had enjoyed good health prior to his last illness.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Alonza D. Griffin, he was born in Griffins Township, and had lived until Monday he would have been 39 years old. Mr. Griffin, a life-long resident of Griffins Township, was recognized as a leading citizen of his community and a successful farmer. He was a hard worker, valued the friendship and association of his fellowman, met his obligations willingly, and was a thoughtful and understanding husband and father.

Besides his parents he is survived by his widow, who was Miss Elsie Green before her marriage, and four children, Susan Ann, David, jr., Billie and Cleo. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Rosa Peel, and two brothers, Messrs. Alfred and Coy Griffin, all of this county.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elder Ross and Rev. Warren Davis. Burial was in the Green family burial plot on the Pecan Grove farm in Bear Grass Township.

Negro Man Is Near Death as Result of Mysterious Attack

Miles Grimes Questioned in Connection with Attack On Gus White

Gus White, 39-year-old colored man, is near death in a Washington hospital, the victim of a brutal attack mysteriously made on him at his home on lower Main Street late Saturday night. Struck with a heavy piece of iron, the man's forehead was crushed and his eyesight impaired, reports from the hospital indicating that his condition was extremely critical. Yesterday he was in a semi-conscious condition, and no attempt was made by officers to question him.

Miles Grimes, young colored man, and King Station, also colored, were arrested early Sunday morning for questioning, officers later that day releasing Station when fragmentary evidence centered guilt on Grimes.

Before White lost consciousness following the attack he told his wife that Grimes struck him, but he first maintained that he had hurt himself apparently in a fall. The victim's wife, Courtney White, said that Grimes went to their home earlier that evening and left. Later her husband went out and after a short time she heard him say, "Stop, girls, stop." When she went out to investigate, Grimes was standing back of the house and inquiring after her husband. Grimes, at the White woman's request, aided in the search for White, and they found him in a clump of vines near the scene of the attack, apparently having been lifted and thrown over a small wire fence.

White, in the presence of Grimes, accused Grimes of the attack. Grimes denied the charge and then aided in moving White to a local doctor's office, later carrying him to a Washington hospital.

Grimes told following his arrest that King Station had planned a party in his shack on the Saunders & Cox mill property, and that he (Grimes) was to buy the liquor. He further claims that he went to the White home and made arrangements for the delivery of a certain amount of liquor, explaining that he had to make another visit before returning to the party. He claims that when White failed to deliver the liquor, he went to his house and learned that the man was missing, that he aided the White woman in finding her husband. Officers are said to have found a pocketbook on Grimes' person very similar to, if not the same, pocketbook belonging to White.

A hearing in the case is pending the outcome of White's condition, reports from police headquarters stating that one or two other arrests will possibly be made in the meantime.

Border Market Tobacco Prices Average About 25 Cents; Heavy Breaks, Fair Quality Reported

10-Cent Reduction in Town Tax Rate Will Be Suggested

A reduction of 10 cents in Williamston's \$2.70 tax rate will be recommended to the board of commissioners when they meet in special session tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock for a discussion of the new fiscal year budget. Treasurer N. C. Green said today. The budget estimate for the current fiscal year has not been released at this time, but will be made available for public inspection after the meeting tomorrow evening, unless the authorities order drastic changes in the financial set-up for the new operating period.

Treasurer Green said today that the tax rate reduction is based on

an increase of around \$200,000 in property valuations over the 1936 figures. Revenue from the sale of legal liquor, which the town shares with the county, effective at the end of the last quarter, is not considered in the budget, it is understood. Bond principal and interest requirements are said to be about the same this year as they were in 1936, but a slight increase in general expenses is expected. The proposed 10-cent reduction in the local town rate compares with the 2-cent reduction ordered recently by the county commissioners in the 1937 rate.

Prices for Common Grades Are Higher Than In Past Season

Farmers Said To Be Very Well Pleased with the Early Sale Prices

Tobacco was reported to be selling "good" on the border and South Carolina markets today, early reports indicating that the price average would approximate a 25-cent average at the close of the first-day sales. The price was reported just about the same as sales got underway on the sixteen markets a year ago. Individual market reports were not so encouraging as those for the belt, as a whole. Conway, (S. C.) reported an average of between 17 and 18 cents, based on early sales there this morning. The quality of the crop was said to be only fair, and the offerings were heavy. Lumberton, with its houses blocked with what was described as medium tobacco, averaged around twenty-three cents during the early sales. Later reports from the market there showed a slight improvement. At noon the price had climbed to twenty-five cents on an average. Holt Evans, proprietor of the New Farmers Warehouse here, said in a direct message that medium and poor grades were commanding higher prices than they did last year. Mr. Evans estimated that the average there would approximate twenty-five cents.

The market at Mullins with a large "break" of quality tobacco reported an average of twenty-three cents. Farmers in the southeastern area of this State and those in South Carolina placed on the floors of the warehouse in the sixteen markets one of the greatest poundages ever offered on an opening day before. Most of the markets at noon today reported that there would be blocked sales generally throughout the marketing area.

Farmers were said to be very well pleased with their sales, and few tags were "turned" during the early sales on most of the markets. The low average at Conway was partially explained by the unusually low quality of the offerings. It was pointed out, however, that the medium and poorer quality grades were higher than a year ago when numbers of sales ranged around one, two and three cents a pound. Many piles were passed by the buyers last year, but if any of the offerings had been refused this morning, the reports did not mention them. Last year, the South Carolina crop averaged \$19.88 a hundred pounds. Quite a number of warehousemen, farmers and business men from this section are on the markets today seeking first-hand information on price trends. The border belt is composed of sixteen markets, seven of which are in this State. The belt is expected to sell around 25,000,000 pounds this season, or about 15 percent of the amount marketed in the bright areas.

School Truck Route Changes Announced

Distributing First Old-Age Benefits To Aged in County

General Bridgers, Colored, Is First To Get Check In This County

The first old-age pension check to reach this county is being delivered today to General Bridgers, aged colored man, living on rural route No. 3 out of Williamston. Eleven other checks are also being delivered to as many old people in this county.

Made possible by the social security program that is jointly supported by the federal and state government and the county, the 12 checks amounted to \$104. Thirty-two additional checks are expected within the next day or two, Miss Mary Taylor, head of the county welfare department, stating that the checks would be distributed immediately upon their arrival.

General Bridgers, quiet and respected, has been a subject of county relief for some time. Heretofore he received about \$1.50 a month, the new program increasing his monthly income to \$6.

Additional applications for old-age assistance will be received by the county welfare department after the 15th of this month.

Six pension checks, averaging about \$10 each, were distributed to the needy blind in this county direct by the State Blind Commission a few days ago.

Hamilton Blue Laws To Be Tested Soon

The Sunday blue laws passed about two weeks ago by the Hamilton Town commissioners are likely to be tested in the courts sometime within the near future, according to reports received here today.

It is understood the recently passed ordinances make provisions for the sale of certain items on Sunday, and that the validity of the ordinances will be tested probably on the grounds of discrimination. The reports received here further stated that under the new laws it would be all right to sell gasoline and some few other items on Sunday, but that the general operation of stores would be prohibited.

Those who are anxious to see the law tested are said to be planning to place the facts before their attorneys and push the case in the courts, if necessary.

Senator Bailey Quits Post With Painful Headache

Suffering "considerably" with headaches following his five-hour word attack on the court reform bill in the Senate nearly a month ago, Senator Josiah W. Bailey checked out of Washington last Saturday and is not expected to return during the remainder of the session unless something "important" arises. The senator left the capital to be with his family at Morehead City.

Rerouting Done in Interest of Economy By State Board Man

Will Take About Twenty Five Children From School Here

Approximately 25 pupils will be shifted from the Williamston school to the schools at Farm Life and Bear Grass as a result of a change in the bus routes in the Macedonia section of Bear Grass Township and near-by points in Griffins Township, it was learned this week from the office of the Martin County Board of Education. The change is expected to add about 20 pupils to the Bear Grass enrollment and about 5 to the Farm Life school.

As a result of the changes the Williamston school territory will be limited to all of Williamston Township and about two-thirds of Williams Township. The Williamston bus that operated from the home of Henry Peel in Griffins Township will turn around at the Old Mill Inn and children in that territory may walk to that point and board the bus, or they may walk to a point near the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Perry and board the Bear Grass bus.

It was pointed out by the county school authorities that the changes were ordered by Mr. McGeddie, a representative of the North Carolina State School Commission, and that they were made in the interest of economy. It is estimated that the new arrangement will eliminate about four miles of travel daily in the bus operating schedule.

Patrons along the route affected by the change have a right to appeal to the Martin County Board of Education to have the action reconsidered, but so far no steps have been taken that will lead to a formal complaint against the rerouting of the buses.

No other territorial changes will be made in the county, but it will be necessary to alter the bus schedules in those cases where new drivers are employed, it was pointed out.

Judge Walter Bone Hears Action Here

Judge Walter Bone, Nashville attorney who was recently appointed to the superior court bench, heard his first case in this county last Saturday afternoon in a special proceedings brought by H. D. Harrison, local man, against H. A. Berry, pulp mill worker and resident of Plymouth. The jurist vacated an attachment, releasing the automobile of the defendant.

The case originated several weeks ago when the plaintiff drove into the defendant's parked car. Harrison was charged with reckless driving and fined \$500 and taxed with the costs by the Washington County recorder. He appealed, and in the meantime Harrison brought suit against Berry for \$750 and procured a court order attaching the Berry car.

Attorneys Whitley and Bailey were here from Plymouth representing the defendant.

Kiwanis and Lions Play Scoreless Tie

Depending upon little donkeys to do the heavy work, members of the local Kiwanis and Lions Clubs played to a scoreless tie in seven innings of fast donkey baseball here last evening. The Lions Club outplayed their opponents, but the run score by Warehouseman Holt Evans was ruled out because he passed another baserunner and reported at home out of turn.

Several bad spills without serious injury featured the game, along with the uncertain umpiring by Mr. "Fatty" Knox. Bill Wingate, the social security man, starred with his masterful handling of the obstinate beasts.

Increased Alfalfa Plantings Predicted in State This Fall

Extension specialists predict a great increase in the planting of alfalfa and pasture grasses this fall with a corresponding heavy increase in the use of ground limestone.