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Renewed Activity In Sweet Potato Mart Is Reported This Week

Shipments Start Moving After Lull in Trade Since Early January

Renewed activity marked the sweet potato market here this week when the first shipments since early last month started moving to the northern markets. During recent weeks the market has been in a decided slump and few deliveries were effected. Reaching a \$1 a bushel recently, the sweets started moving, and present plans indicate that half a hundred cars will be loaded here for northern delivery within the next few weeks.

With a reported shortage throughout the main potato section, the crop is almost certain to hold its own, and there's a possibility of a slight rise later on. Martin farmers, however, believe the current price is fair and they are making plans to unload their holdings within the near future. There are a few exceptions, of course, for a few farmers will, no doubt, wait until some time in April or May before entering the markets.

It is estimated that this section will offer to the northern trade approximately 75 carloads of sweet potatoes this season. Possibly fifty of them will move out of here by rail. The other twenty-five will be handled by trucks.

The Corbett Package Company is maintaining a receiving center in Williamston at the present time, and will make contracts for deliveries on certain days between now and the end of March or longer, if necessary.

Renewing their seed last season, a number of Martin County farmers are reporting good results. A high percentage of their crop is falling in the U. S. No. 1 class, it was reported. A few farmers who have allowed their seed to "run down" are being penalized almost 40 and 50 percent in some cases.

Potato experts state that the farmer does not necessarily have to buy expensive seed, that he can select the choicest potatoes from his own fields and build up his seed. "It is just as necessary to have a good potato seed as it is to have good tobacco seed for a good crop," a potato expert explains. Martin county farmers are understood to pay all kinds of attention to tobacco seed, and little attention to the selection of potato seed, the expert pointing out that unless more attention is paid to the selection of potato seed, the section that has splendid opportunities for growing the best sweet potato in the entire country will be producing the sorriest within just a few years.

Country Better Place To Live In, Debaters Say

The country is a better place in which to live than the town, James A. Mendenhall and Howell Peel declared in a 4-H club debate held at the Farm Life School last Friday night. The query was: Resolved, The Country is a better place in which to live than in Town. A large crowd was present for the arguments which waxed warm when four young club girls offered opposition. The boys won a unanimous decision, however.

The affirmative was assisted by Miss Lala Smithwick, and Misses Eloise Hodges, Murray Gardner and Bettie Louise Lilley represented the negative.

Fined For Speeding In Town's Business District

Charged with speeding at an alleged rate of approximately 30 miles through the local business district on Sunday, Park Hardison, young Williams Township man, recently home from a visit in Florida, was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here yesterday morning. Hardison admitted he was running over 20 miles an hour, or in excess of the speed limit which is 15 miles an hour in the business section.

The case was one of few, very few charging speeding to come before the courts here in many months.

Interesting Movies Free By Lindsley Here On Saturday

The Lindsley Ice Company is showing a group of unusual and very entertaining moving pictures in the high school building here Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Taken especially for farmers, all farmers in Martin and adjoining counties are cordially invited to attend the show as guests of the Lindsley company.

Farmers are invited to bring all members of their families and enjoy the program which gets underway promptly at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon in the high school building here.

Pulp Company Planning Big Expansion Program in County

According to unofficial but reliable information reaching here today, the North Carolina Pulp Company is considering an expansion program for its plant in the lower part of this county. No details of the program could be learned, but it is thought that the company is planning to add a finishing plant and manufacture containers for case cigarette goods. Officials of the plant are said to have conferred with business men of the section a few days ago, and that the possibility of expanding the plant were advanced at that time. Company authorities were said to have been in this section during last week, but none of them could be reached for a report on the proposed expansion program.

No official estimate on the cost of the proposed additions is available, but it is thought the new units will necessitate an investment of several hundred thousand dollars.

The pulp plant, completed just a few months ago, is now operating smoothly on a full-time basis, and large shipments of the raw pulp are moving regularly to the finishing plants of the Kieckhefer Container company in New Jersey. It is thought that shipments of raw materials to New Jersey will be considerably reduced if and when arrangements are made for the manufacture of pasteboard or corrugated at the plant in the lower part of this county.

LIBRARY

Plans were announced virtually complete for the opening of Williamston's first public library, Rev. John L. Goff stating that the Legion Post had graciously offered the use of space in the Legion Hut for the undertaking. Complete details will be made public shortly.

During the meantime, the leaders of the movement ask all those who made pledges to meet them at either of the local banks or make payments direct to Mrs. J. C. Cooke, treasurer. Several hundred dollars have already been collected, and it is hoped the fund will be increased to at least \$1,000 within the next few days.

P. T. A. Will Hold Meet Wednesday

The program committee of the Williamston Parent-Teacher association has arranged an interesting program for the February meeting which will be held Wednesday afternoon in the grammar school auditorium. Dr. E. W. Furgurson who has recently assumed duties as head of the newly established health department will speak on the full-time public health program for Martin County. Superintendent Manning will present Dr. Furgurson to the association.

The second feature of the program will come in a discussion of the possibilities of the "Cubbing" movement in Williamston by Scout Executive J. J. Sigwald of the Wilson area of Boy Scouts of America. The organization of Cub Scouts is designed to provide leadership in worthwhile activities for nine, ten and eleven year old boys. Parents with boys of these ages will be interested especially in the "Cubbing" program.

The meeting will begin promptly at 3:30 o'clock and last for only one hour. All parents and friends of the school are urged to attend.

County Tourney Begins Tomorrow

The Martin County annual basketball tournament gets underway here tomorrow evening in the high school gymnasium, the teams from five schools looking to the championship contest with great interest and keen anticipation.

The Bear Grass girls are conceded the odds in the girls' championship race, while the outcome of the boys' race seems to rest in the hands of a young chap, named Martin down at Jamesville. Remove that youngster from the line-up and Bear Grass predicts a possible victory in the semifinals. The other teams are not saying much, but all participants can expect some warm competition before the tourney closes on Friday evening.

The schedule:
February 16.
7:00 Bear Grass boys vs. Robertsonville boys.
8:00 Jamesville girls vs. Bear Grass girls.
9:00 Farm Life boys vs. Williams-ton boys.

February 17.
7:00 Jamesville boys vs. winner Bear Grass-Robertsonville game.
9:00 Williamston girls vs. winner Jamesville-Bear Grass game.
9:00 Robertsonville girls vs. Farm Life girls.

February 18.
8:00 Winners of girls' games in first two rounds.
9:00 Winners of boys' games in first two rounds.

Opens Law Office
Attorney Clarence Griffin has located himself in the offices of Attorney Wheeler Martin here for the general practice of law.

Senator Reynolds Discusses New U.S. Farm Control Law

Gives Farmer Some Promise of Aid Where None Prevailed Before

While no one seriously contends that the new farm bill is all that is desired in the way of helpful legislation for agriculture, there is general agreement that it does represent some gains, that farm spokesmen want it and that it deserves to be given a trial. Obviously, if it fails to accomplish the objectives sought, the legislation can be quickly repealed.

Due to sectional differences and the necessity for treating agriculture as a national problem, members of Congress agree that it will always be difficult to draft a law that will meet the full needs of producers of a single crop. However, in writing the new law, Congressional committees went further than ever before in obtaining the views of farmers. Thus the bill now being given its finishing touches is in every respect a compromise as regards the thought of all concerned with the welfare of those who till the soil and produce the food supply for the country.

Nevertheless, there is much evidence that changes in marketing conditions and tariff protection for farm commodities are needed to round-out any farm program. All in Congress who are farm-minded are hopeful that these will eventually come. Until more favorable marketing conditions and tariff protection for the farmer are assured, it is clearly shown that they want the proposed parity and equalization plans.

As an able farm leader points out it is easy to figure that if the farmer does not cut production and current farm prices hold, his income would be greater. Much has been made of this point. Yet, this same farm leader points to another side. If production is not cut and current prices fall the loss to the farmer might prove even greater. It is for this reason that farm leaders are willing to try the referendum plan under the new legislation.

Reviewed briefly, this law is in reality several laws. It continues the soil conservation program. It provides new marketing quotas to be based on findings by the Department of Agriculture and subject to referendum by farms. In the case of tobacco, for example, if more than one-third of the farmers oppose the quota, it is not to be made effective. The two-thirds rule to be invoked is used in the Senate on vital national issues.

Whatever may be the differences of opinion in Congress as regards the soil conservation program and the new plan for crop curtailment and marketing quotas, there is general agreement on other important features of the new law. This applies particularly to the effort to stimulate the sale and use of farm commodities and the establishment of research laboratories to find new uses for farm products. Here is new hope for the cotton farmer, who, perhaps more than any other grower, is confronted with the problem of dwindling markets, intense competition and labor problems. Some believe that the cotton situation should be handled distinct from food commodities.

Whatever may be the final results from the test of the new law, they will soon be revealed. The legislation will in all probability be in effect before this column appears. Hurred activity to set up the necessary machinery will follow. It is recognized that enactment of the law has already been too long delayed. In any event, the new law gives the farmer some promise of assistance where none prevailed before.

On Honor List

Wheeler Martin, Jr., local young man, was one of the honor students at Wake Forest College last term.

Standard Fertilizer Company Adds to Its Fire-fighting System

Automatic Sprinklers Fed By Huge Pumps and Miles of Piping

The installation of a huge automatic sprinkler system was completed in the large plant of the Standard Fertilizer Company plant on Roanoke River here last Saturday afternoon when the last connection in the network of pipes was effected and thorough tests were made.

Installed by the Viking Sprinkler Company of Philadelphia, the system is the most complete in this section of the State, affording an almost perfect fire protection for the huge fertilizer plant. Workmen have been busy since last October installing the more than four miles of pipe lines and control boxes. Sectionalized into five units, the system when in full operation can throw 1,000 gallons of water a minute through 2,075 outlets. A special type pump, manned by a 75-horse power motor and fed by the Roanoke River, the system has a capacity almost equal that of the town.

If a fire were to break out, small plugs in the outlets melt and the system is automatically thrown into operation without the touch of human hands. However, an alarm is sounded and attention of workmen is directed to any part of the building where a fire happens to be burning. A 5,000 gallon capacity tank furnishes the water at the start, but the 1,000 gallon pumper can be brought into use to supplement the supply.

Definite figures are not available, but it is estimated that the new system will effect savings of around 60 per cent in insurance costs and that it will pay for itself over a period of just a few years.

American Legion Meets In New Hut

Using the new hut on Watts street, here, members of the John Walton Hassell post of the American Legion had a very enjoyable meeting last evening, the event attracting more than thirty veterans.

In addition to the routine business the meeting discussed plans to complete work on the hut within the next two weeks. A dedication program is being planned and the event is expected to climax Legion activities in this section of the State. Plans for the dedication service will be formulated within the next few days. J. E. Boykin, commander of the Post, said this morning.

The Legion last night voted to lend room in the building for a public library, the post commander explaining that it would be possible to accommodate the library without interrupting the activities of the legion and auxiliary. Plans for opening the library there will be announced later.

Fire Company Gets Two Calls Today

Two fire alarms were received by the local volunteer fire company this morning. The firemen, due to incomplete instructions, never reached the scene of the first fire at the Sunny Side Inn, but handled a small roof fire in New Town two hours later in quick order.

The first call, received at 8:20, directed the firemen to a filling station on Washington Street. The equipment was carried as far out as the Columbian Peanut company plant where it was turned around. An oil stove went out of control in the Sunny Side Inn oyster bar, and caused considerable smoke damage.

Very little damage was done when fire, starting from a spark, burned a small hole in the William Lambert home on Beech street at 10:20. The house is owned by Miss Clyde Hassell.

EAT TURKEY

Bringing to a close last week their third annual attendance contest, members of the Skewarkey Masonic lodge will eat turkey at a supper in the Woman's Club hall this evening at seven o'clock, the winners eating at the expense of the contest losers. The lodge members will have as special guests their wives and friends.

As a special inducement to the guests, Parson Edwin Moseley guarantees there will be no speeches. An entertaining program has been planned, however.

Passage of Farm Bill Yesterday Places Machinery in Motion for Administering Control Program

Plan Mass Meet In Raleigh On Friday To Push Crop Plan

Machinery Will Be Set Up For Getting Farmers' Voting Support

Plans will be advanced at a big farmers' mass meeting in Raleigh on Friday morning of this week for supporting the newly passed farm bill in the farmers' elections to be held throughout the tobacco-growing areas within the next few weeks, according to an announcement released today by E. F. Arnold of the North Carolina Farm Bureau. All Martin farmers are invited to attend the meeting.

While the farm bill has been passed in Congress and is certain of the President's approval, the bill does not become operative until favored by a two-thirds vote of farmers. The Farm Bureau is interested in getting out a big vote and giving the program a large majority. Plans for holding the referenda will be outlined at the meeting.

Mr. Arnold released the following announcement immediately after the passage of the farm control by the Senate:

"The Farm Bureau won a great victory in the passage of the farm bill by the Senate Monday and we have decided to have a big Victory Rally of Farmers in the Memorial auditorium in Raleigh, 11 a. m., Friday, February 18th. All of the farmers in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina will be urged to attend."

Mr. J. B. Hutson, assistant administrator of the AAA, will address this meeting, explaining the new farm bill. The meeting will be presided over by Mr. J. E. Winslow, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau. Anything you can do towards seeing your neighbors personally and getting them to come to the meeting will be highly appreciated. All farmers who desire compulsory crop control legislation should be urged to join the farm bureau.

"Those who have desired compulsory crop control legislation owe a debt of gratitude to the Farm Bureau which can and should be paid by joining the organization. We should have ten thousand farmers in Raleigh for this meeting to hear Mr. Hutson explain the referenda for tobacco and cotton."

Little Child Continues Seriously Ill In Hospital

Taken suddenly ill nearly six weeks ago, Jimmie, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Coltrain, is in a Durham hospital for treatment, late reports describing the little child's condition as critical. Pneumonia has developed, it was reported.

Thought to have had a form of meningitis, the child was treated in a Washington hospital for several weeks. For several days it was not expected to live. The child's condition improved and he was removed to the home of his parents. Last week he was entered in the Durham hospital for treatment.

Plans Going Forward For Church Night Service

Plans have been going forward for the past two weeks in preparation for the Church Night service to be held in the Williamston Christian church on Wednesday evening at 7:30. Reports will be heard from the several organizations of the Church and Bible school. The annual election of the church officers will be held. Baptismal certificates will be given those who have been baptized during the present pastorate. The pastor will present his program for consideration at this meeting. It is hoped that the entire membership will be present for this first Church Night service.

Tarboro Rotary Club To Hold Clinic February 21st

The Tarboro Rotary Club will hold its regular Orthopaedic clinic on Monday, Feb. 21, 1938, at 9:00 a. m. at the Presbyterian church Sunday school rooms, Tarboro, N. C.

The Rotary club is anxious to render service to all cripples, regardless of age or race, who are unable to pay for treatment.

MORE CHECKS

Formerly employed in the Columbian Peanut Company, fifty-three local people are receiving this week their second unemployment insurance checks. The local employment office is also distributing checks to a number of people in adjoining counties this week. Mr. John Enright, of the district office here, said today.

Nearly 100 men and women, employed in the local tobacco plant until last week, are filing their claims for unemployment insurance. Those claims have to wait about four weeks before the first check is issued.

Former employees of the Columbian company here have only enough credit to advance about five weekly checks which average around \$2.50.

Welfare Board In Regular Meet Today

The Martin County Welfare board is holding a regular meeting here this afternoon in the welfare rooms on the second floor of the county courthouse annex. Members of the board, Messrs. E. C. Shoe, of Robertsonville; Joshua L. Coltrain, of Williams Township; and Robert Everett, of Goose Nest, will review the activities of the department and consider applications for old age assistance and aid to dependent children.

Twenty-five applications for old-age assistance and two applications for aid to dependent children are to be considered by the three member board at the meeting this afternoon, Miss Mary Taylor, head of the county's department of welfare, announced this morning.

The quota allotted the dependent blind in this county is almost filled, and there are only a few openings for the dependent aged, it is understood.

Kiwians Down Lions In Cage Contest Last Friday

Running wild since their organization several months ago, the local Lions could not find their cage and lost a basketball game by a count of 10-5 to the Kiwanians here last Friday evening in the high school gymnasium. The Lions did a lot of roaring and their play compared very favorably with that of their opponents, but they just could not locate their cages; in fact, one Lion ran loose and was found hanging around the Kiwanian den.

Preacher Jim Smith gave the Kiwanians their victory margin with three shots well executed from the field. Bill Hunt and S. H. Grimes "lucked in" a shot from the field to run the count to ten. Flip Peel and Dave Modlin added a goal piece from the field and Gus Ward accidentally scored a free shot.

Fancy field work was handled by Irving Margolis, while Ross Fronberger did the panting for both sides. Dr. Osteen worked as a greasy Lion in and out of the opposition's defense what little time he was in the game. The hair flew when Bill Hunt's elbow plowed through Lion Margolis' head, but accidental hair "knocking" and floor skidding only pepped up the match.

The line-ups: Lions—Fronberger, Margolis, Modlin, Ward and Ed. Ward; Kiwanians—Hunt, Bobbitt, Grimes, J. Manning, and Crockett. Substitutions: Lions—Flip Peel and Osteen; Kiwanians—Bill Manning, Smith and Spivey.

Child Continues Seriously Ill During Long Period

Taken ill about the middle of last December, Zack D. Smith, three years old, continues very ill, reports coming from his bedside in a Rocky Mount hospital yesterday stated. The son of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Smith, of Goose Nest Township, has suffered at least three relapses after being taken ill with pneumonia, it was stated. He has received hospital treatment during much of the time he has been sick.

Leaves for Philadelphia

Mr. Guthrie Strawbridge and son, James, left this morning for a business trip to Philadelphia and New York. They will be away several days.

Quick Approval By The President Is Virtually Certain

Announcement of Allocations to States, Counties and Farmers Expected

A crop control bill, praised as "the best farm bill ever enacted" and denounced as "regimentation" and "more harsh" for the farmer, received final congressional approval yesterday.

The measure, establishing a system under which the secretary of agriculture, in cooperation with farmer committees may prescribe limitations upon the quantity of wheat, corn, cotton, rice and tobacco grown or marketed, now goes to the White House for the expected signature of President Roosevelt.

The last stop in its tortuous journey through Congress, which began in mid-November, was taken when the senate adopted a compromise measure, 56 to 31. The compromise is based upon the conflicting bills passed originally by house and senate.

(Senator Bailey, of North Carolina, voted against the measure; his fellow Tar Heel, Senator Reynolds, voted for the bill.)

Agriculture adjustment machinery was in operation today to fix acreage allotments under the new crop control bill.

Announcement of the allocations to states, counties and individual farms will be one of the early steps toward placing the new program in effect. Farmers will have to comply with their allotments to obtain federal benefit payments.

The agricultural department withheld any formal announcement pending signature of the legislation by the President.

Representatives of the agriculture adjustment administration said the department probably would issue a revision of the 1938 agricultural conservation program, which was announced last September, to make it dovetail with provisions of the new act.

They said one of the first steps to carry out the new legislation would be the establishment of marketing quotas for cotton and flue-cured tobacco. Supplies of these two crops are considered excessive.

The quotas must be approved by two-thirds of the producers voting in referenda to become effective. If put into effect, they will limit the amount of cotton and flue-cured tobacco a farmer may market without paying heavy cash penalties.

The allocation of goals will be handled under three farm groups, A, B and C, according to unofficial information released this week. Bases for farms falling in Group A will be determined after the pattern followed by the old triple A or the soil conservation program, but a number of factors will enter into the final determination of that base, it is understood. Most of the farms in this county fall in this group, and the following reduction is predicted:

Farms with a base acreage of 5.1 acres will likely be granted 70 per cent of that base; farms with bases of 4.8 to 5 acres will be allowed approximately 3-5 acres; farms with bases of 4.4 to 4.7 acres will be allowed 3.4 acres; farms with bases of 4 to 4.3 acres will be allowed 3.3 acres; farms with bases of 3.6 to 3.9 acres will be allowed 3.2 acres. (Continued on page four)

High School Girls Down Teachers By Large Score

Daring youth scored over age here last Friday evening when the local high school basketball girls defeated their teachers and a few special recruits 34 to 8 in a very exciting and hard-played contest. The teachers played a splendid game, but Jones, Leggett et al of the high school proved powerful and accurate in all stages of the game to show up opposition in its every effort. Carstarphen, with six points, led the teachers, and Jones was heavy scorer with 17 points for the girls.

The line-up featured Misses Harrison, Carstarphen, Talley, Daniel, Maynard, Carroll, Knowles and Kinsey. The girls' line-up: H. and E. Mishoes, Dunn, Hardison, Jones, Taylor, Leggett, Ward, Stalls, Keel, Whitehurst and Ramey.