

Second District Building and Loan Group Holds Interesting Meeting in Woman's Club Here

Organization Plans Greater Service To Battle Competition

Local Association Host to Seventy-five Officials Last Evening

"We must keep abreast of the times if we are to progress," O. K. LaRoque, president of the Federal Home Land Bank warned seventy-five members of the North Carolina Building and Loan league in a second district meeting held in the woman's club hall here last evening. The Winston-Salem man, his optimism spurring the building financiers on to a greater activity, explained to the group there would be no need for the Federal Housing Administration "if we would devote more time in building up the institutions of thrift." Mr. LaRoque's talk was one of several heard at the meeting, his mastery in bringing out the finer points with well executed jokes adding much to the meeting that was described as one of the most interesting of its kind ever held in the State.

Introduced by Wheeler Martin, chairman of the meeting and president of the second district building and loan group, Mayor John L. Hassell warmly welcomed the visitors, his remarks receiving favorable comment during the evening. Dinner was served by the Baptist Missionary society, and every phase of the meeting proved unusually interesting, including the three Keesler Memorial essays. Evan Griffin, representing the local association, won the first prize, \$30, in the contest, the second, \$20, going to Miss Margaret Gold Swindell, niece of Editor John Gold, of Wilson. Miss Lillian Gatling, of Rocky Mount, was awarded third prize, \$10. The talks were features in the program, young Griffin winning a unanimous decision by the out-of-town judges.

Informal talks and introductions were added features on the program but serious attention was centered around addresses by George W. Crone, deputy insurance commissioner in charge of building and loan associations, Raleigh; N. Mitchell, president of the North Carolina Building and Loan league, of Winston-Salem, and Henry Gregory of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Rocky Mount.

"The Building and Loan equals in home financing plan in the country, and we have nothing to worry about," Mr. Mitchell pointed out, advising strong competition with the Federal Housing Administration and a cooperative spirit between the two agencies.

Henry Gregory, the Rocky Mount man, admitted the FHA has some merit, that the building and loan organization had profited by the activities of the competitive organization by making the public "more home-conscious," but he explained that he looked upon the FHA only as an emergency organization, and one that should be abolished as soon as possible.

R. C. Holland, president of the North Carolina Peanut Cooperative association and representative of the Edenton association, closed the program with a few well-chosen remarks.

Authorities Fixing Schedule For Listing County Property

Meeting jointly today with the Martin County Board of Commissioners, Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes and the ten township property list-takers are completing a schedule of values to be followed in the listing of property in this county for 1938 taxation. Starting their work at 10 o'clock, the authorities were going into the problems in detailed fashion, and at noon no complete schedule was available.

Supervisor Grimes explained the Farm Census, pointing out that the reports will be graded this year.

The list-takers were directed to record all encumbrances against property, not for county taxation, but to aid the State in checking its list of intangibles. It was pointed out that the owner whose property is mortgaged will aid his own cause by reporting the facts that the holder will pay his fair share of the tax levy.

Are Local People Interested In A Recreational Center?

The Woman's Club is endeavoring to provide a supervised playground for the use of the children of Williamston during the summer months. If plans, now in the making, are carried out successfully, the youth of the town will have access to a playground with swings, see-saws, sandpiles and equipment for numerous games. At present the only available site is the grounds of the Grammar Grade School so this will be used until some provision is made for a permanent playground.

Civic organizations, other than the Woman's Club, will be asked to lend their cooperation. Application has been made to the W. P. A. for actual supervision and assistance in construction. The authorities have promised this aid providing the citizens of Williamston really want the playground. Are the people in Williamston interested to the extent that they will give their cooperation?

A wonderful opportunity is presenting itself to the people of Williamston and community for the proper development of its future citizens. It is an opportunity that cannot be ignored if we will have the time and attention of our children diverted from the streets and questionable gathering places to a place of clean and wholesome recreation.

Hit-Run Driver Given Three Years in Prison

CANDIDATE



Clarence W. Griffin, promising young attorney, today announced his candidacy for the house of representatives from Martin County.

Hardison Youths Draw Eighteen Months On Roads

Trial of Criminal Docket Completed at Noon Wednesday

Three to five years in prison was the penalty exacted by the State on James Moore, young Poplar Point colored man, for the hit-and-run killing of Robert Coltrain, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coltrain, on Williamston's West Main street the 19th of last month. Arraigned for hit-and-run driving, the murder of the youth and injuring Mrs. Charles Bullock and her young son, Robert, the defendant pleaded guilty of hit-and-run driving and threw himself on the mercy of the court. Only a few witnesses were called in the case which was cleared from the docket in record time.

The sentence is the maximum under the law.

James Wallace, Carrie Bell Ward and Almata Edwards, companions of Moore in the death car and charged with aiding and abetting the crime, were given their freedom. A no prob was taken by Solicitor Don Gilliam.

The case was one of two involving deaths on the highways of this county, and slated for trial this week, the court continuing the second until a civil action is carried through the courts.

Occupying fifteen hours of the court's time, the case charging Perlie and C. B. Hardison with violating the liquor laws, was finally brought to a close at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, the jury returning a verdict of guilty after deliberating the issues for about 45 minutes. This case turned out to be the major one on the docket, the spectators crowding the courtroom to hear the proceedings. The defense failed to prove to the jury its claim that the car had been stolen, that the two young men were in Washington when Officers J. H. Roebuck and Bill Haislip intercepted a load of liquor in the Spring Green section on the evening of January 4.

A poll of the jury was asked by the defense, and Judge Bone sentenced the defendants to eighteen months on the roads a short time later. The two young men with a third companion were on the way to Jackson fifteen minutes after sentence was pronounced.

Jesse Whitehurst, young white man, was sentenced to the roads for six months in the case charging him with the larceny of an automobile from the streets in Robersonville. The young man, just completing a 30-day sentence the day before, was bundled up and sent right back late Wednesday afternoon with the six-months' ticket. Charles Mills, a second defendant in the case, was given his freedom, the court postponing the action against him.

Charged with operating a car

Oil Men Planning Big Drive Against Gas Tax Diversion

Organization Is Effected at Special Dinner Here Yesterday

Meeting at an informal dinner in the George Reynolds hotel here yesterday, Martin County oil men effected an organization and mapped a drive against the diversion of gasoline taxes, the group ratifying a four-point program of the North Carolina Petroleum Industries committee as setting forth fair principles of taxation for oil men and motorists of North Carolina.

N. C. Green was named chairman and A. J. Manning and J. Eason Lilley were elected vice chairmen of the organization unit. J. H. Edwards, W. B. Rogerson and H. L. House constitute the organization's legislative committee, and H. S. Manning and C. A. Harrison were named on the local affairs committee. W. M. Baker heading the public relations committee.

The program adopted by the organization while not directed necessarily against the high tax, is being advanced in an effort to check the unfair practice of diverting to some other department taxes paid by the motorist for the maintenance and construction of roads. This practice was pointed out by Chairman Green as a dangerous and unjust financial policy on the part of the State.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Byers, head of the Standard Oil Company in this state, pointed out that the N. C. Petroleum Industries committee was interested in fair legislation and taxation for the oil man and motorist. S. Gilmer Sparger, secretary of the committee, stated that efforts are being made for the adoption of a constitutional amendment prohibiting the transfer of revenue from gas taxes to another department. Sparger also pointed out that the automobile tax, first introduced about 1927, had risen to \$46 per car annually in 1937, that it was time the people became tax conscious. "The money raised from gas taxes should be used to build up the State's road system," Sparger said, adding that there are many roads in Martin County that need surfacing and conditioning.

The committee is working on a state-wide organization, and a determined stand against gas tax diversion can be expected in the future.

Senior Class Play Is Decided Success

The senior class of Williamston high school presented their annual play to a large and appreciative audience here last evening. Miss Emma Gay Stephenson, assisted by Miss Rebecca Harrison, directed the presentation which was entitled "A Million Dollar Joke." Especially capable in their roles were Wilbur Culpepper, a young lawyer who can out-stutter "Chick" Manning; John Ward, an Englishman on the "loose"; Ben Hopkins, a member of the Down and Outers club, and Nora Grimes, a sweet, young girl home from college. These were ably supported by Bernice Ward, Carlyle Hall, Ray Goodson, Geneva Robertson, Thelma Griffin and Frances Humble. Thelma Griffin and Miss Rebecca Harrison collaborated in a Bergen and McCarthy act rather effectively. Miss Griffin, who suffered laryngitis, yesterday pantomimed her scenes and Miss Harrison was the voice. The entertainment netted approximately sixty dollars which will be used to purchase a gift to be presented to the school at the close of the term.

Not Yet, But Any Minute No, Art Hauger, baseball man, has not arrived, but he is expected 'any minute'.

BLUE MOLD

Blue mold, first reported in the border belt a few days ago, is creeping "nearer home", recent reports reaching here maintain. Over in Lenoir county, the blue mold is said to have attacked beds in numbers, that it is possibly exacting a greater damage than a year ago, some reports stating that the plants have been wiped out in their entirety.

The disease has not been reported in this county, but farmers whose plants are well advanced are expecting an attack shortly, reports reaching here today stating that it was believed to have made its appearance on Hensbert Roebuck's farm in Cross Roads Township.

Clarence W. Griffin, Attorney, Announces His Candidacy for a Seat in the State Legislature

Site for Veterans Hospital Inspected Here This Week

Preliminary plans for locating a one and one-half million dollar veterans' hospital in this state were continued here Wednesday morning when C. W. Stratton, representative of the Veterans' Bureau, Washington, D. C., inspected proposed sites for locating the institution here.

Traveling alone, the bureau representative was met by Mayor John L. Hassell and George H. Harrison shortly after 11 o'clock and carried to several locations including the Biggs and Godwin farms on the Washington road, the Martin farm, the fair grounds and the Rhodes property, north of the high school building. The representative asked that sketches be made of the Rhodes and Martin properties, but explained

that no action would be taken for some time in connection with locating the hospital.

While here, Mr. Stratton gathered data on the water supply, housing and other conditions.

The hospital will have a personnel of about 200 people, and the site is to consist of about 100 acres. Nearly 20 acres will be covered by buildings, it was explained.

Damage Suits Filed in Martin Superior Court

Patrolmen Hunt and Rothrock Are Made Defendants In Case

Policeman John Gurganus Asks \$3,000 Damages In Second Case

Two lawsuits, alleging a combined damage of \$4,000, were filed in the Martin County Superior court recently by Perlie Lilley, Griffins Township farmer, and John Gurganus, member of Williamston's police force. No answer in either case has been filed, and it could not be learned when the actions would be placed on the calendar for trial.

Alleging assault and battery and false arrest, Mr. Lilley is asking \$1,000 damages of Patrolmen W. S. Hunt and H. W. Rothrock, the action having been started following the plaintiff's arrest a week before.

The plaintiff says he was returning to his home in Griffins Township in the late afternoon of March 12, that he was approached by defendants and signaled to stop which he did. Defendant Rothrock, the complaint points out, inquired why he had driven across the railroad crossing without stopping and asked if he realized how close the train came to running over him.

"The officers then ordered him out of the car and plaintiff asked 'What he had done' for them to detain him and order him to get out of his car," the complaint reads.

Plaintiff further alleges that Patrolman Hunt caught him by the collar and began pulling him from his car and at the same time struck him in the face with his fist. According to the complaint, the patrolmen said to the plaintiff "You are drunk, consider yourself under arrest." The plaintiff was arrested, and maintains that as a result of the assault and battery, he experienced humiliation and mental anguish, and suffered actual pain, and asks \$500.

In a second cause of action, Plaintiff Lilley alleges he was arrested without legal cause or excuse, that he suffered mental anguish and was damaged to the extent of \$500.

Officer Gurganus, claiming \$1,000 actual and \$2,000 punitive damages, is suing H. R. Barber, alleging that on March 3 he was attacked by the defendant while trying to make an arrest in the George Reynolds hotel, that he was kicked, suffering chest injuries and two broken ribs. Attorneys Clarence Griffin and B. A. Critcher are representing Plaintiff Lilley, and Coburn and Coburn filed the complaint for Officer Gurganus in the second case.

Young County Democrats To Organize Here Tuesday

Preparatory to entertaining a district meeting here next Friday night, young Democrats of the county are being called together next Tuesday night in the courthouse at 8 o'clock when an organization will be perfected, it was announced today.

All young democrats in the county are invited and urged to attend.

ALLOTMENTS

Martin County has been allotted 10,894 acres of tobacco and 6,350 acres of cotton under the new crop control law. The allotments are actual acres to be planted, the office of the county agent pointing out that the reductions ordered are not as great as they are in some sections.

The county committee and employees in the agent's office are working over time to determine the individual farmer allotments which they hope to have ready about April 1. "If the farmers will just be patient and cooperate with us, we hope to have the allotments ready by the first of next month," an official in the county office said today.

Raid Made On Hen And Smoke Houses

Rogues, traveling in the Cross Roads section of this county late last Tuesday night, almost depleted the hen and smoke houses of four farmers, the intruders completely cleaning out the smokehouse of John Howard Taylor.

Officers, working on the case night and day since the wholesale thefts were made, reported little progress today. "But we haven't given up yet," Sheriff Roebuck said this morning after making investigations in several counties.

Twelve hams and four shoulders were stolen from the smoke house of Chester Beach, between Cross Roads and Everetts. A mile away, the robbers stole four hams from the Taylor smokehouse. Changing from the meat department to the poultry house, the robbers stole 50 chickens from Eli Everett and forty from Reuben Everett, a short distance away.

Mr. Eli Everett stated that late in the night, he heard a commotion in his hen house, that he started to investigate but returned to his sleep after falling over a chair.

Young Democrats of District Plan Organization Meet Here

Young Democrats of the First Congressional district will meet in convention here next Friday afternoon in the courthouse at 5:30 o'clock, Carter Studdert, local attorney and chairman of the committee on arrangements, announced yesterday. The convention, designed to bring youthful Democrats of this district into the fold of the organization that has ventured into political battles in other sections, was called by leading members in a meeting here last Tuesday evening with Attorney Studdert.

Commenting on the convention, Attorney Studdert said:

"In the last few years the Young Democrats have played an increasing valuable part in the public life of North Carolina. Their labors have greatly assisted the Democratic

Young Local Man Is First To File In Martin County

Must File Candidacies Not Later Than April Twenty-third

Clarence W. Griffin, promising young local attorney, opened the political season in Martin County today when he formally announced his candidacy for a seat in North Carolina's House of Representatives, unofficial reports stating that his announcement will be followed by others within the next few days. To date little attention has been given politics in this county, but it is possible that developments during the next few days will create considerable interest.

Aspirants to offices have been watching the announcement slate these many weeks, and now that young Griffin has broken the ice it is quite likely that developments in the political arena will follow thick and fast. Reports state that many of the present office holders will be candidates to succeed themselves, that they will watch the closing date for filing with care. Saturday, April 23 at 6 p. m., is the closing date for filing candidacies.

Attorney Griffin, offering his announcement today, stated:

"My announcement for the position of Representative from Martin County in the next General Assembly is a consummation of several weeks of consideration. In making this announcement I am not unmindful of the duties and responsibilities which attach to this job. For a number of years, as an observer of the functioning of the various departments of our government, I have cherished the ambition of being a representative in our state legislative body. Since the next primary is rapidly approaching, I feel disposed to make my wishes known to the people of Martin County. Any consideration which may be given to my candidacy will be greatly appreciated."

Griffin, a native of Griffins Township, entered the University of North Carolina in the summer of 1931, earning his bachelor's degree there in 1935. He entered the law school that fall and completed his work for the degree of bachelor of law last month, opening an office for the practice of law here a few days later. He maintained a high scholastic record during his entire college career, and is recognized as an able speaker.

While candidates are slow to file for offices in this county, state and county authorities are going ahead with their preparations for holding the primary election next June 4. The Martin County Democratic Executive committee and Republican party leaders in a meeting here last Tuesday night named Messrs. Sylvester Peel, J. R. Winslow and Albert T. Perry for appointment as members of the board of elections for this county. Their appointments are expected at the hands of the state committee in meeting at Raleigh tomorrow.

Political positions to be filled in this county subject to the Democratic primary on June 4 and the action of the voters in the next November election are:

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