

Cotton Farmers to Be Paid 130 Million By U. S. in August

Agriculture Officials Emphasize Need for Quick Action

The Agriculture department intends to hasten benefit payments to farmers whose income has fallen so far they are in need of help.

Department officials said recently that quick action was needed. They reported a bigger drop in the demand for farm products, coupled with a drop in farm prices than at any time in the last four years.

About \$755,000,000 will be available for farmers who complied with this year's crop control program. Ordinarily, the money would be paid several months after the crop season is over, but the plight of the farmer forces a deviation from that policy this year.

The first big lot of benefit payments will be \$130,000,000 in price-adjustment payments to cotton farmers. These payments will be made to growers who produced cotton last year and who planted within this year's acreage allotments. They may start early in August.

A new technique is being introduced this year to reduce the lag between the time the crop is planted and the payment is made. Airplanes will take pictures of farms to determine how much has been planted in crops on which payments are made. This is much quicker, officials said, than the old land surveying method.

Payments to wheat, cotton, tobacco, corn and general crop farmers who comply with soil-building practices under the \$500,000,000 soil conservation program should start in the fall, officials said.

Payments of \$25,000,000 to domestic sugar cane and beet producers on last year's crop will start within a few weeks.

Supplementing these payments will be the spending of \$75,000,000 by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corp., during the next twelve months for surplus farm products.

The Farm Security Administration will use \$175,000,000 more for rural relief.

Meeting At Prison Camp Is Successful

The week's meeting held at the local prison camp by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff and assisted by Rev. G. T. Hill, colored minister, came to a successful end last Saturday when seven of these men were baptized by immersion in Sweeten Water Creek about three o'clock.

The meeting which lasted from Monday night through Sunday afternoon the early part of the month of June resulted in 17 additions. Four of these men were baptized by sprinkling within the prison walls and six came by reinstatement.

The meeting was conducted as a denominational project by the Presbyterians financed by interested friends of other denominations and has been a yearly feature for some time. A church roll is kept of the prisoners wishing to join the church and when the men are released they are given a church letter to the church back home. There are usually from forty to fifty names on the roll all the time.

The Rev. G. T. Hill has given his full time on Sundays to the work and has kept the organization intact. The names of these men are carried on the rolls of the Presbyterian church officially.

It is thought that this is the first time permission has ever been given by the state for prisoners to stockade for a baptismal service of this kind. It is hoped that the future may hold many more such baptisms in store for this neglected group of men.

Beginning on the First Sunday in July the State is taking over the program of services at the prison camp and the local white and colored ministers will supply the services each Sunday afternoon in the future.

Commissioners Will Have Holiday July 4

Striking their meeting date squarely in the face, the Martin County commissioners will observe next Monday, July 4, as a holiday. It is the first time in a long number of years that the officials have not met on the first Monday, and their action in postponing the meeting a day is indicative of a quiet time in the old town next Monday.

The authorities will meet promptly at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning for the dispatch of county business.

Call for Information To Determine Quotas

FOR HUMANITY

The pleas of suffering humanity in far-off China were heard by local citizens last week-end when the first contributions were received as a part of a fund being raised throughout the nation for one of the greatest humane causes to arise in many generations. Additional funds will be received, acknowledged and forwarded to the proper authorities by The Enterprise.

This community was assigned a \$50 quota. To date \$4.50 has been donated as follows:

- W. O. Griffin \$1.00
- Edward Corey 1.00
- Mrs. Myrtle Harris .50
- A Friend 2.00

Roanoke Island To Begin Celebration July 3 This Year

"The Lost Colony" Expected to Be Bigger and Better This Year

Manteo, June 23.—Preparing to open on July 3 a celebration of the 351st anniversary of the coming of the English, Roanoke Island is busy now with thrice-daily rehearsals of an enlarged "Lost Colony" pageant drama that will be produced on a huge stage at historic old Fort Raleigh four times a week from July 3 through Labor Day on Sept. 5.

Daily, Dramatist Paul Green and Director Sam Selden improve "The Lost Colony." Basically, it is the same show which upwards of 100,000 people, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Postmaster-General James A. Farley, Governor Clyde Hoey and hundreds of others of the state's and nation's leaders, saw last summer.

A choir of 36 singers from the Westminster Choir school in Princeton, N. J., twice the number who sang in 1937, and 192 actors from the island, the Federal theatre and the Carolina Playmakers are rehearsing and have already adapted themselves so well to their roles that on the island they are known only by their "Lost Colony" names.

Written by Paul Green, Chapel Hill playwright who a few years ago was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his "In Abraham's Bosom," "The Lost Colony" is a symphonic drama with a foundation deep rooted in the history of Roanoke Island, where 351 years ago the English tried to found a settlement in America and in so doing lost a whole colony of men, women and children. Their disappearance has been an unsolved mystery ever since. Not attempting to solve the problem "The Lost Colony" tells graphically, the story of English colonizers, seeking to make for themselves a home in the wilderness of Roanoke and failing only after a bitter struggle.

It is to be produced again in the amphitheatre of Fort Raleigh, the restored home of the first colonists. The seating capacity of the outdoor theatre has been enlarged so that now 3,600 persons might sit comfortably and watch the drama as it will be enacted by the great cast. The dramatic pageant will be presented on each Wednesday, Friday Saturday and Sunday night from July 3 to September 5, and on other special occasions. The second showing will be on the night of July fourth, and there will be a special performance on August 18th, which will be the 351st anniversary of the birth of Virginia Dare, first child born of English parents in the new world. Presentations start at 8:15 o'clock at night.

And on the Island, the hospitable native have thrown open their homes to the visitors. Rooms might be secured overnight at reasonable rates, and a housing organization has been formed with headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce office in the courthouse where pageant visitors may be directed to comfortable sleeping quarters and eating places. There are accommodations on the Island alone for 3,000 persons.

Three Inches of Rain Falls Here in About Four Hours

Three inches of rain fell here this morning from 8 o'clock up until noon, pushing the total for the month up to almost ten inches. More rain has fallen this month than in any June on record, and almost equals the record for July, 1935 when 11 inches fell.

Growers To Offer Facts Before Any Quota Is Assigned

Dates Will Be Set Later for Tobacco Farmers to Report

In an effort to effect fair and equitable marketing allotments to tobacco growers, the Department of Agriculture is calling for certain information that will be of material help in the accurate determination of the allotments, it was learned from the Martin County agent's office this week.

Wednesday afternoon county committee men and farm agents from four counties will be called here to get instructions for directing the work, it was learned.

No dates have been set for giving instructions to the county committee men who will be assigned the task of receiving the information, but three days will be set apart for the farmers to report, the authorities explaining that every farmer before he can get his marketing quota this year must file the required information to his community committee. In those cases where it is impossible for the farmer to offer the required information, he will be directed to report direct to the county agent's office, it is understood. Community committee men will likely be called in to the county agent's office some time next week, when plans will be advanced for receiving the information direct from the growers possibly during the following week.

Farmers will be asked to submit accurate records of their tobacco sales for the years 1936 and 1937. The heads of families on each farm are to be listed along with their title. The grower will also be asked to list the number of tenant houses on his land, the number and sizes of tobacco barns, and number of acres of tobacco under cultivation this year on each farm.

It was pointed out that this information will be of much benefit in eliminating those cases where one farmer has an allotment of 1,000 pounds and a neighbor just across the way has an allotment of only 750 pounds to the acre.

It is also pointed out that it will be comparatively easy for the individual farmer to fill in the blanks when mailed direct to him and to return them to the committees as directed on dates to be specified. The growers will be notified direct when to handle the small task, and they are advised that the sooner the information is prepared and submitted the sooner they will get their marketing quotas.

Unofficial reports state that the State allotments will be released within the next few days, that the office in Raleigh will be ready to start assigning the individual quotas just as soon as the information can be gathered from the counties.

Mission Study Institute At Holly Springs Thursday

The ladies of Holly Springs and Williamston Methodist churches will hold an all-day Mission Study Institute Thursday at Holly Springs church. The institute will begin at ten o'clock and will be conducted by the pastor, Dr. S. A. Maxwell. The theme of the conference is "Rebuilding Rural Church Life in America." All ladies of these two churches are invited to bring lunch and enjoy this institute together on Thursday.

Continues Quite Ill In A Washington Hospital

Confined to a Washington hospital since May 21, George Harrison, Jr., was reported holding his own today. Given a blood transfusion last week-end, the young man appeared much better Sunday morning, but that afternoon he had a chill and was very sick for several hours. Doctors were called in for consultation yesterday and they reported his condition encouraging.

Exposition Last Week Shows Small Deficit

The merchants exposition and indoor circus here last week operated at a small loss, it was unofficially reported yesterday. According to an incomplete report the event showed a deficit of \$79.22. Actual expenses were figured at nearly \$1,100, the total receipts amounting to \$1,018. "We made no money, but we lost none," a member of the Lions club, the sponsoring organization, said.

Work Is Started on Swimming Pool and Recreational Center

Only Small Number of Men Available for Work, However

Preliminary work on the construction of an \$18,000 swimming hole and a permanent recreation center for Williamston got underway last Friday on the Knight property between Watts and Biggs Streets and adjoining the American Legion hut. Rain interrupted the activities this morning, and it will be the latter part of the week before excavation work on the pool will get underway.

H. S. Wahab, graduate engineer of Belhaven, has been placed in charge of the project and he will work under the direction of Henry Rivers, engineer representing the town. No date for completing the project has been mentioned, but it is not likely that the pool will be ready for use this year.

A shortage of WPA labor is generally reported throughout this county, unofficial reports stating that hardly more than 30 men have been certified for jobs on the various projects. Opposition to the proposed discontinuance of the sanitary privy projects and the transfer of all available workers to the recreational project was met, and it is understood that only a few men will be transferred and that the sanitary project will be continued. A few men can handle the work at the proposed recreational center for a few weeks, but when the engineers get ready to pour the concrete additional men will be necessary to handle the task. If additional men are not certified, then the WPA will have to draw from the privy construction group or the town will have to employ men direct.

Materials have been ordered for constructing the 30 by 90 swimming hole, and apparently they will be made available before the excavation work is completed. Williamston is financing its part of the project by floating \$8,000 in short-term notes, trusting the indebtedness can be shifted to long-term bonds at a special bond election to be held early in August.

Last Of Peanut Crop Moved From County

Increased prices during the past few days have just about pulled every bag of peanuts out of storage in this county, estimates indicating that there are less than half dozen crops in the hands of farmers at the present time. A four-cent market started the goobers moving again, but more than 96 per cent of the crop had already moved.

Coming to the rescue of farmers, the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative maintained an average price of three and one-quarter cents. When the organization found it impossible to handle the peanuts at a profit, it converted virtually all its purchases into oil and removed a big surplus from the edible trade. It is generally believed that had the government remained off the market, the average price would not have exceeded 2 cents.

The government plans to participate in the market this coming fall, it is understood, but definite plans for a continuation of the service have not been made public. The last of the government peanuts stored in local warehouses were moved to oil mills in Wilmington last week. Today a few individual shipments are moving to cleaners.

Miss Eva Chesson, of Roper, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peel. Mr. C. C. Parker spent the weekend at Virginia Beach. He was accompanied home by Mrs. Parker who was visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Boney.

COMPLIANCE

Preliminary reports coming from supervisors in the field indicate that Martin County farmers are complying almost 100 per cent with the soil conservation program provisions. Unintentionally exceeding their acreage allotments, one or two farmers are said to have plowed under the surplus crops.

The first reports are far from complete, but it is generally believed from other reports that few Martin farmers have exceeded their acreage quotas this season and that they are in position to share in the maximum benefits offered through the soil conservation program.

County Road Claims Again Before State Road Commission

Action Is Expected Before Legislature Meets In January

The claims of forty-four counties to refunds for those monies spent on or about the time the State took over the principal highways are before the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission in Raleigh today, reports stating that the commission, in regular meeting, is to advance a plan whereby the claims can be settled or rejected before the next session of the State General Assembly in January, 1939.

Going back nearly eighteen years to lay its foundation for a refund of money advanced the commission for the construction of the Roanoke River Bridge, the Washington and Hamilton highways, Martin County advances what is considered a valid claim to approximately \$650,000. The county is asking no refund for money spent on other than primary roads since the commission was created.

Attempts to have the law makers recognize the claims to road refunds have been advanced in each session of the legislature for a long period, but little progress was made until 1935 when a bill was introduced by R. L. Coburn and others authorizing the creation of a commission to investigate the claims. After traveling over the State and spending a greater part of the money allotted for the investigation, the commission dumped the problem back into the hands of the highway and public works commission. Some disposition of the long-standing problem is now due from that body before next January.

The forty-four counties entering claims for refunds maintain they are entitled to nearly eight and one-half million dollars. However, it is understood that the counties spent much of that money in building up trade centers through the development of parallel roads and those that are not yet included in the State's primary highway system.

Advancing hundreds of thousands of dollars for the promotion of highway construction, this county was and still is of the opinion that the State would later accept the obligations. Money spent under identical conditions by other counties has been refunded in quite a few cases, and Martin County honestly thinks it is entitled to consideration now.

Local Man Planning To Write Memoirs

Warren H. Biggs, collector of rare writings centering around the events occurring in this county since its formation in 1774, is planning to write his memoirs some time in the future. Possessor of valuable facts and writings not listed in any library and given up as lost, Mr. Biggs is expected to throw considerable light on the times and events as they relate to Martin County history and its people from Revolutionary days up to the present.

Particularly interesting will be those facts which Mr. Biggs declares he will incorporate in his memoirs as they relate to unlawful acts committed in years gone by and never prosecuted in the courts. He will use old personal letters, gathered here and there over this and other states, as a source of information to supplement his own first hand knowledge. According to Mr. Biggs he will disclose the record of fires that burned considerable property in Williamston in late years. He also plans to add color to his writings by offering reliable solutions to quite a few mysterious crimes that never reached the courts.

Significant but unimportant incidents such as the visit of Andrew Jackson's mother to Williamston will be mentioned. Some high spots on Civil War history as it relates to raids in Martin County and damage done by the invaders, are certain to be of interest and value.

It is believed an informal history of the county as planned by Mr. Biggs will find a ready sale and prove of great value in years to come.

Aged Resident Reported Slightly Better Today

Mrs. Bettie Pope, one of Williamston's oldest residents, was reported slightly improved today following a relapse a few days ago. Mrs. Pope, almost 87 years old, has been in declining health for some time but has been able to be up much of the time until a few days ago when her condition became worse.

Transfer of Intangible Properties May Prove Expensive To County

TO FIX DATES

Dates for the opening of tobacco markets in the various belts will be determined this week-end by the United States Tobacco Association in annual session at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The dates will not be announced before late Friday or Saturday.

More than 100 representatives of various tobacco associations are expected to attend the meeting, but none are planning to attend from here. East Carolina is asking its markets be opened on or before August 23.

Masons Of Second District Guests Of Lodge At Hamilton

Prominent Lodge Leaders State Address Meeting

Masonic activities in the Second District were centered in a meeting with Conoho Lodge, Hamilton, last Thursday afternoon and evening when prominent leaders in the organization addressed a group of representatives that overflowed the town's temple. The ten lodges, Charity No. 5, Unanimity No. 7, Davie No. 39, Skewarkey No. 90, Colerain No. 171, Wicacoa No. 240, Winton No. 327, Conoho No. 399, Luke McGlaughan No. 504, and Aulander No. 516, were well represented.

During the afternoon session, Grand Secretary John H. Anderson conducted a school of instruction, and that evening the visitors were guests of Conoho Lodge members at a barbecue served on the first floor of the Masonic Temple.

Finding the lodge room too small to accommodate the large crowd, the evening session was held in the school auditorium where Worshipful Master J. W. Eubanks of the Conoho lodge presided. Grand officers, past grand officers and district deputy grand masters were called upon for short talks. He then turned the meeting over to District Deputy Grand Master S. E. Phelps, of the Windsor lodge, who introduced Grand Master Harry T. Patterson, of Wilmington. Mr. Patterson's address was greatly enjoyed by the craft. Past Grand Master Watson N. Sherrod, a native son of Hamilton, made a stirring address which, a failure in light service failed to interrupt.

Others addressing the meeting were Grand Stewart W. J. Bundy, of Greenville; Fifth District Deputy Grand Master Willard, and various members of the lodges in the district who made timely remarks and encouraged a greater interest in Masonic activities in the Second district.

New High In Checks Issued Unemployed

A new high in numbers of checks issued and amount of money involved in the payment of unemployment benefits was reached by the N. C. Unemployment Compensation Commission last Thursday when 11,459 checks totaling \$86,352.77 were written and sent out to unemployed or partially unemployed workers in a total of \$4,379,540.47, in the State.

Through last week, the commission in the 578,685 checks issued through that week. Nearly 200,000 individuals have been or are being paid benefits since the first check was issued January 29, last.

The balance in the State's unemployment fund through last week including interest from the U. S. treasury on the deposit balance was \$9,145,435.71, even though nearly \$4,400,000 had been paid out in benefits.

County Man Eight Months In A Washington Hospital

Willie Padgett, young Martin county man who was seriously shot in November of last year, continues in a Washington hospital, reports stating that he is getting along as well as could be expected. Padgett's bladder was shot out, and several attempts have been made to transplant one from an animal.

Additional Income Expected to Accrue Under New System

Survey Is Ordered in Effort To Find Missing Property

That the law directing a transfer of intangible properties from county and town lists to the State for collection is likely to prove costly to Martin County and the several towns is borne out in a preliminary report released a few days ago by tax authorities. It is virtually certain that the change in the system of listing solvent credits and the introduction of a new property classification will result in a loss to the treasuries of the county and the several towns but a gain for the State the first year.

According to a report on collections as of April 1, tax collections made by the State on intangible property in Martin County up to that time amounted to \$1,802.22 as compared with collections of more than \$5,000 made by the county and turned into its treasury in 1937. The collections made by the State are to be divided, 50 per cent for the State and 50 per cent for the towns and county. Accurate figures are not available, but it is estimated that the town of Williamston treasury would receive as its share of the \$1,802.22 approximately \$100. For the tax year, 1937, the town received or is due to receive around \$1,647. Just how the divisions will be made and when could not be learned.

Unofficial reports indicating that some provision will be made to tide the gap for the current tax year. Passed by the last legislature following an amendment to the State constitution, the law was supposed to bring intangible property out of hiding, the proponents maintaining that through the classification of certain properties and through a graduated tax rate on those properties, tax values would increase. It is estimated that the intangible property in Martin County for 1938 as listed with State tax authorities carries about the same value as it did last year. The figure has increased little, if any, if preliminary estimates are correct.

The State Department of Revenue apparently realizing that proper returns have not been made by owners of intangible property in this county, has ordered a review of the abstracts in the office of the tax supervisor. It also directs that the names of those listing solvent credits in 1936 and 1937 be turned in that they may be checked with the listings now in the hands of the State authorities for 1938. It was pointed out that this information will be of value in the administration of the "Intangible Tax."

Under the new law, the prevailing tax rate on intangible properties is as follows: Money on deposit, including postal savings; 10 cents per \$100 of average quarterly credit balance as of March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15, accounts less than \$100 to be ignored; money on hand, 20 cents per \$100 at December 31 in excess of \$300; accounts receivable, 25 cents per \$100 of face value at December 31 in excess of \$300, current bills payable to be deducted; funds left with insurance companies, 25 cents per \$100 at December 31; notes receivable, bonds, mortgages, etc., 40 cents per \$100 fair market value at December 31 in excess of \$300, like evidence of debt entitling owner to certain exemptions; shares of stock, 30 cents per \$100 fair market value at December 31 in excess of \$300.

Land Plaster Moving From Standard's Mill

Operating its large mill for the second season, the Standard Fertilizer Company is now crushing and shipping thousands of tons of land plaster to farms throughout the peanut belt. Located in the center of the peanut territory, the plant, one of the largest and most modern in the entire country, is assured a business increase over that of last year. The company uses the highest quality Nova Scotia rock in making its brand of land plaster, several large boats having been unloaded at the plant docks on Roanoke River here recently.