

Cucumber Market Is Considered Failure For Martin Farmers

Unfavorable Season Effects Marked Reduction In Crop

Failure was recognized as a certainty as a number of Martin County farmers went ahead today to complete the marketing of cucumbers from approximately 200 acres under contract. Unfavorable weather conditions and the inexperience of most of the growers headed off all available profits, and the venture will result in a loss for nearly all of the growers, it is understood. The contractors still maintain that there is money in cucumbers if the seasons are favorable and the crop is handled right. In an effort to prove their contentions, the contractors are expected to consider another project in this section next year if farmers want it, unofficial reports state.

Reliable reports maintain that the losses have not been centered on the grower, that two solid carloads were ordered destroyed by food inspectors in the northern market because the cucumbers were water blistered. Many bushels were ordered destroyed in other cars, it was also stated.

Up until today nine cars of cucumbers have been shipped from this point, and it is likely that the remainder of the crop can be handled in one car. The cars have averaged around 500 bushels each, the loadings just averaging above the minimum shipping requirements.

It was estimated that the approximately 200 acres would produce around 30 carloads, that a favorable season would have netted the growers a fair return on their investment and time.

Grading has proved disappointing to many farmers, the average loss ranging around 20 per cent of the deliveries. Busy with other more urgent tasks on their farms, most of the growers abandoned their cucumber fields after rains destroyed much of the early crop.

Price have ranged as high as 70 cents a bushel, but the average will hardly exceed 40 cents, it is understood.

Roanoke Fails To Give Up Its Victim

The body of Johnnie Miller, young colored man who was drowned in the Roanoke River at Jamesville on Thursday of last week, has not been recovered from the turbulent waters, reports reaching here today stated. Efforts to recover the body of the man were abandoned several days ago when the water in the stream rose and became so swift that it was impossible to continue the search.

Miller, coming to this county about a year ago from Princess Ann County, Virginia, went down to a Jamesville wharf where a group of boys was in swimming last Thursday noon. He told the lads that he was going to jump in, but knowing that he could not swim, the boys warned against the act, explaining that the water was deep. Miller ignored the warning and jumped into the stream never rising to the surface a single time.

It is believed that the body has been carried to the mouth of the river and possibly into the sound by the swift current.

Change Suggested In Hog Marketing

Employment of a selling agent to handle the sale of hogs for all cooperative marketing agencies and eradication of the "soft and oily racket" are paramount problems facing North Carolina swine producers, Paul L. Fletcher, livestock marketing specialist of the State Department of Agriculture, announced today.

Basing his information on a 12-months study of Tar Heel swine markets and with four years practical experience of livestock selling on terminal markets, Fletcher said he was "convinced that to meet the requirements of the packers, farmers must offer a fairly constant supply of hogs or else the packers will undoubtedly turn to other markets where constant supplies of swine are available."

Fletcher explained that the "soft and oily" system of buying permits the buyer to retain from \$1.50 to \$2 of the farmer's money until after the hogs are slaughtered and carcasses graded for firmness, which is a "price setting factor." He added that "this system is unfair

Next Monday To Be Observed As General Holiday in County

Next Monday, July 4, with very few exceptions, will be observed as a general holiday through the business realm in this county, reports stating that mercantile establishments, postoffices and other business firms will suspend activities for the day. Filling stations, drug stores and cafes will remain open, of course, but for business in general the Sunday schedule will be in effect.

Farmers who are not rushed with tobacco harvesting or other urgent work are expected to follow a leisurely schedule during most of the day.

No mail deliveries will be made in town or on the rural routes. The Martin County Commissioners have postponed their meeting until the following day at 9:30 o'clock, and Williamston's town council will not

go into a huddle until Tuesday evening at eight o'clock. Judge H. O. Peel is calling off the Monday session of the county recorder's court, and all offices in the courthouse will be closed for the day. The go-away crowd has already started moving to the beaches and watering places for a prolonged week-end, and they will be joined by the mobs tomorrow and Sunday, all of them staging a big come-back next Monday. No celebrations have been planned in this immediate section, but a majority of Williamston people will follow the Martins to Tarboro Monday morning for the first of two games that day. A record-size crowd is looked for here that afternoon at four o'clock when the Martins and Serpents clash in a holiday bill.

DIE YOUNG

The 263 people dying in Martin County last year passed away at a comparatively young age on an average. A recent review of vital statistics for the period shows that the average age of those dying was only 41 years. The average age of the 133 white people who died in 1937 was nearly 50 years while that for 130 colored people was only 33 years.

The average was pulled down by the comparatively large number of deaths among children under one year of age. Several lived to a ripe old age. Included in the list of those who lived to an advanced age were Mrs. Bell White, 94, of Robersonville, and Sam Cordon, of Jamesville, and Martha James, of Williamston, each of whom lived to be 90 years old.

Second Maternal Clinic Scheduled

The second maternal and infancy clinic will be held on Thursday, July 7th, in the Williamston High School building from 1:30 to 4:30 o'clock.

The clinic will be conducted by local physicians and appointments should be made through the health department or referred by a doctor. This center will be conducted primarily for colored people who are otherwise unable to pay for maternity service. Expectant mothers of the white race who are unable to pay a private physician will be given an examination by appointment at the health department, provided they bring a letter from a licensed physician requesting that this examination be made.

Infants at the clinic will be examined, given diphtheria toxoid, and the mother instructed regarding the proper care of both herself and the baby.

The first of these clinics was held several weeks ago and met with marked success. Dr. W. C. Winn, who recently left for Richmond, assisted Dr. Furgurson in making the examinations that kept the two men busy for six hours.

Forbid Trucks In S. C. With 2 Gas Tanks

Truck owners in this section who operate their equipment in South Carolina are warned they will be subject to indictment if their trucks are operated in that state with auxiliary tanks, according to Highway Patrolman W. S. Hunt.

A new law has been passed by the South Carolina legislature prohibiting the use of auxiliary gasoline tanks and standard tanks of more than 30 gallons capacity, this law being applicable to out-of-state truckers operating in that state. "Since there is nothing in our laws prohibiting the use of auxiliary or large tanks, we cannot withdraw the privilege of allowing South Carolina trucks so equipped to operate in North Carolina," Patrolman Hunt said.

"However, we can withdraw our reciprocity privileges and require all such vehicles to carry North Carolina license plates, and so private and public carriers operating with an extra tank from South Carolina will be required to purchase North Carolina license plates," he said.

ANNOUNCEMENT TOBACCO OPENING DATES DELAYED

The announcement of the opening dates for tobacco markets was delayed today when members of the committee attended the funeral of T. M. Anderson, Wilson tobaccoist.

Judge Peel Handles Nine Cases In County Court Last Monday

Tribunal Will Observe Next Monday, July Fourth, As a Holiday

Convening for the first time since June 13, the Martin County Recorder's Court with Judge H. O. Peel on the bench and Solicitor W. H. Coburn prosecuting, called nine cases last Monday and disposed of five. Most of the remaining cases were continued at the request of the defendants until Monday, July 11.

The number of cases on the docket is considered unusually small since the superior court was in session one week giving more time for an accumulation of actions.

Judge Peel announces that the court will observe next Monday, July 4, as a holiday, that the next session will be held on Monday, July 11.

Cases called in the last Monday session are, as follows: The case charging Caswell Brown with bastardy was continued. Having failed to abide by a former judgment of the court, Lonnie Biggs, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for a period of three months.

Prayer for judgment was again continued in the case charging Marcilla Coltrain with violating the motor vehicle laws. The case charging Roland Eugene Thornton with drunken driving was continued for the State until Monday, July 11.

Probable cause appearing, the case charging LeRoy Smith with breaking and entering and larceny and receiving, was sent up to the superior court for trial next September. Smith was placed in jail in default of a \$50 bond.

Charged with the larceny of a \$4 bag of peanuts, Walter Freeman was sentenced to the roads for twelve months.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Henry Page with disorderly conduct and disturbing religious worship.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Paul Wildman pleaded guilty of simple assault. The State accepted the plea and the defendant was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. Hugo Carson, a second defendant in the case, pleaded not guilty and the court adjudged him not guilty.

Charlie Hinton, charged with trespass and assault upon a female, was found not guilty.

Two Deaths In Same Family In Four Days

Mamie Clyde Woolard, highly respected young colored woman, died at her home on Pearl street here last Friday from childbirth. She was buried last Monday following funeral services at the home. Tuesday, her sister, Hannah Lou, died at her home of pneumonia. Funeral services have not been arranged, but they will likely be held Sunday afternoon.

The sister dying last Friday leaves six children whose ages range from one week to 14 years.

Former Resident Reported Improving In Sanatorium

Mrs. A. W. Gresham, who was dangerously ill at the home of her mother, Mrs. Fannie Crawford, here for several weeks and who was removed about two weeks ago to a private sanatorium in Southern Pines was reported much improved yesterday. Her sister, Mrs. Harold Clark, and Mr. Clark, of Miami, and Miss Estelle Crawford, visited here yesterday.

Death Rate Climbs And Births Decrease In County Last Year

Thirty-Two Fewer Births Are Reported in 1937 Than in 1936

The chasm between the number of deaths and births continued to narrow in this county last year as compared with records for the year before, a recent preliminary survey of the 1937 vital statistics for the county showing the deaths had increased from 261 to 263 and the births had decreased from 777 to 745. The trend is small, to be sure, but going back to 1935 and comparing the vital statistics records of that year with those for 1937, one finds that the deaths have jumped from 182 to 263 and births have dropped from nearly 800 in 1935 to 745 in 1937.

The increased number of deaths is confined to the white population, the colored race showing a drop from 155 to 130, or a decrease of 25. In 1936 there were 106 white deaths in the county; last year there were 133, an increase of 27. Six of the townships, Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Williamston, Cross Roads and Poplar Point, reported increases in the number of white deaths, the number in Williamston alone increasing from 15 in 1936 to 39 last year. Robersonville, showing a decrease in the number of white deaths along with Bear Grass and Hamilton, reported 19 deaths among its white population last year as compared with 26 in 1936.

The following table shows the number of deaths among the white and colored population separately for the year 1936 and combined for 1937 and 1936 by townships:

| | Total | | |
|---------------|-------|------|-----------|
| | Wh. | Col. | 1937 1936 |
| Jamesville | 17 | 10 | 27 31 |
| Williams | 8 | 5 | 13 11 |
| Griffins | 8 | 4 | 12 6 |
| Bear Grass | 9 | 3 | 12 14 |
| Williamston | 39 | 42 | 81 75 |
| Cross Roads | 8 | 7 | 15 7 |
| Robersonville | 19 | 20 | 39 46 |
| Poplar Point | 6 | 2 | 8 10 |
| Hamilton | 5 | 16 | 21 23 |
| Goose Nest | 14 | 21 | 35 38 |
| Totals | 133 | 130 | 263 261 |

The causes of the 263 deaths fall under 38 heads and offer some startling facts. Pneumonia claimed the greatest number of lives, 54, as compared with 40 in 1936. Heart disease was second with a claim of 39. The cerebral hemorrhage was third, claiming 33 lives. Tuberculosis, a disease that can be controlled if necessary precaution is exercised, held fourth place, claiming 18 lives, or four more than in 1936. Two

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Playground Plans Delayed Pending Delivery Of Deed

Committee Now Considering Locating Pool in New Location

The construction of a recreational center for Williamston continues at a slow pace, unofficial reports stating that the project is being delayed pending the delivery of a deed to a small piece of land just back of the Agricultural building. Offered \$500, the owner, Mrs. J. B. H. Knight, was withholding the deed at noon today until she could be assured of what type of fence would be built around the abutting property.

During the meantime, engineers have been instructed to make tests with the possibility of locating the pool just off Biggs Street or nearer the county's old abandoned jail. There has also been some talk about getting an injunction in an effort to prohibit the town from paying \$500 for the 80x100 foot lot. Citizens, close to the town official family, have been quoted as saying they had rather see the swimming pool project abandoned before that much money is spent for the particular lot, adding that the property already in the hands of the town and recreational program committee could be cleared and turned into a playground.

A skeleton force of workers has already been made available by the Works Progress Administration, and the men have cleared much of the undergrowth from the property between Watts and Biggs Streets. Much work has already been done toward tilling the large ditch that crosses the property. Materials for the pool and tile for the ditch are said to have been shipped already and are expected to reach here within the next few days.

Surfacing of Road From Butler's Bridge to Hassell School House Recommended by County Board

Draft Women for Jury Duty For First Time in This County

For the first time in history women were drafted for jury duty in Martin County this week, but their services were rejected at the last minute when it was learned the law governing the trial of the particular case at hand specified the services of twelve men.

The jury was called before Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne to conduct an inquisition of lunacy of Mrs. Fannie Bazemore, Martin County woman. When the court ruled that all the jurors must be men, officers rushed out to fill the ranks almost depleted by the removal of the women.

Mrs. J. W. Andrews, Mrs. Juanita Coltrain and Misses Thelma

Brown and Mildred Hedrick were to have served as members of the jury and reported for duty before they were advised their services would not be needed.

Application was made to the court for the appointment of a guardian for Mrs. Bazemore, the jury's verdict making possible an immediate appointment. It was pointed out that Mrs. Bazemore was without immediate relatives, that her cash funds were nearly exhausted. It is now possible for her guardian to sell certain of her properties and apply the proceeds to her upkeep under the direction of the court. It is understood that Mrs. Bazemore had suggested that the action be taken.

Cafe Ratings For June Are Released By Health Division

Report Shows Improvement In Public Eating Places

Ratings for cafes and hotels in Martin County for the month of June were released today by Sanitarian Charles Leonard of the county health department.

The report shows a marked improvement in sanitary conditions surrounding public eating places in the county, Roberson's Cafe, near Williamston, leading the cafe ratings, and the Dunning Place holding top position for the hotel group.

A high rating was maintained by the Edgewood Dairy, the inspector stating in his report that every requirement was being met, that the bacteria count was low and the butterfat percentage, 5.5 per cent, was considerably higher than the average.

No cafes were closed by the inspector during the period, but at least one was just above the border line.

The ratings in the Grade A group are as follows: The Dunning Place 95.0, Roberson's Cafe 92.0, Welcome Inn 90.5, Paul Jones Service Station 90.5, Geo. Reynolds Dining Room 90.0.

Ratings in the Class B group: Sparrow's Service Station 87.5, Williamston Cafe 86.5, J. C. Leggett's 85.0, Sunny Side Inn 80.0, Jim's Lunch Stand (Robersonville) 80.0.

In the Grade C group are: Rumba Dream (Williamston, colored) 77.5, Atlantic Hotel 77.5, Bullock's Lunch (Robersonville) 77.0, Glass Cafe 74.0, Big Apple Cafe (Robersonville, colored) 70.0.

Alterations were being made to the Pulp Mill cafe in the lower part of the county, and no official rating was given that establishment for the period.

Farmers Plan Tour In County Next Wednesday

Accompanied by Tobacco Specialist L. T. Weeks and Assistant State Forester Rufus Page, a number of Martin County farmers are planning a tour of the county next Wednesday, Assistant County Agent J. P. Woodard announced this morning. All farmers wishing to make the trip and inspect the crops, livestock, poultry and general farming practices of their fellow-workers in other sections of the county are invited to be at the agricultural building that morning by 8 o'clock.

The trip will get underway from the county agricultural building at that hour and continue into several districts of the county. Returning here at noon, the group will leave for the afternoon tour at 1 o'clock. A definite schedule is being arranged today, and will be posted in the agricultural building.

A similar tour was made by a number of farmers in this county last year, and the inspections were recognized as very valuable. Farmers from other counties made the trip last year, and it is likely that a few of them will make the tour again this year.

Delegations Advance Claims For Hassell-Robersonville Roads

Propose Spending \$28,000 On Secondary Road in This County

Meeting in special session here, the Martin County commissioners this afternoon recommended the surfacing of the road from Butler's Bridge to the Hassell school house, and urged the improvement of the roads from Farm Life to the Old Mill Inn via Lilley's store and from Robersonville to Stokes. A secret ballot taken by the commissioners shortly after the noon hour gave the Hassell project three votes and the Farm Life and Robersonville roads one vote each. It was unofficially learned.

Advised that the highway commission had available \$104,000 for the improvement of farm-to-market roads in the counties of Martin, Dare, Warren and Gates, the commissioners were called into special session to designate where Martin's share, \$28,000, was to be spent. Immediate action was necessary as the commission had to complete its plans for including the project in its new budget, indicating that work will likely get underway within the near future.

Delegations were before the meeting today from Hassell and Robersonville, the commissioners explaining that they wished it were possible to include all the three projects under consideration in the next highway construction letting. More than an hour was spent listening to the arguments, and an additional hour was spent by the commissioners in their discussion before the secret vote was taken.

It is possible that objections will be filed direct with the highway commission by representatives of the other two projects, but no action in that direction has yet been taken.

Presenting Hassell's claim for the surfacing of a road from Butler's Bridge on Highway No. 125 to connect with Highway No. 11, Mr. J. W. Eubanks explained to the board that his community had no outlet whatever except over bad dirt roads, that the people of that section had been promised a road for the past fifteen years, and that the proposed road really merits consideration. "We were promised a road just as soon as No. 125 was completed. We were promised a road as soon as No. 11 was completed. We were promised a road just as soon as Highway No. 903 from Robersonville to Spring Green was completed, but we have no road yet," Mr. Eubanks said to the board.

Other representatives from Hassell were Messrs. Bob and R. W. Salsbury and George Haislip.

Advancing Robersonville's claim for the surfacing of No. 903 from Robersonville to Stokes, Mr. Vance L. Roberson pointed out that Former Highway Chairman Wayneck had promised in 1936 the surfacing of the approximately four and one-half miles. Mr. R. L. Smith adding that the people there had expected the completion of the project before now. Supporting his claim before the commissioners Mr. Roberson explained that the route merited attention on the basis of traffic using the road, that five direct and thirteen miscellaneous roads served the route as feeders.

Asked by Board Chairman J. E. Pope if the surfacing of the road would not turn more business out of Robersonville than it would turn in, Mr. Roberson replied that the road was already pulling approximately three and one-quarter million dollars worth of business into the county.

In Court For Alleged Violation Health Law

Charged with violation of the public health laws, Fenner Respass, local colored man, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days when found guilty in Mayor J. L. Hassell's court this week. The trial justice suspended the sentence upon payment of the case costs and upon the condition that the defendant build a sanitary privy within the next ten days. The case was the first to enter a court in this county in a number of years for the alleged violation of the health laws.

COMMISSIONERS

Little business has been scheduled for consideration by the Martin County Commissioners next Tuesday when they hold their regular monthly meeting here. The fiscal year closes today and it will be impossible to close the books and prepare the budget in time for consideration next Tuesday, it was pointed out. A special session of the board will likely be called about week after next when the budget estimates will be reviewed. It will likely be the first Monday in August before final figures are determined and the 1938 rate established.

Jamesville Traffic Baffling Problem

Jamesville's baffling traffic problem that has gained much attention from the public and particularly from those drivers hurrying through the town at rapid speeds, continues unsolved, but late reports indicate that more and more motorists are recognizing the laws of the road and are not tearing through the incorporated limits at break-neck speeds.

Reasoning that a stop light would solve the problem, town authorities ordered the purchase of a stop-and-go signal. The light has been delivered, but according to reports reaching here, some of Jamesville's citizens are opposed to its installation. It could not be learned whether the opposition is delaying the installation work or whether arrangements could not be made for a contract to have the "traffic cop" hung.

Officer Holliday is continuing his work in an effort to teach respect for the town's speed laws, and frequent arrests are made but the alleged violations are not as numerous as they were a few weeks ago. It is understood that an appeal has been or will be noted by a defendant in a speeding action brought against him this week. Reports reaching here state that Pete Bell, Plymouth Negro lawyer, was carried before a justice of the peace for allegedly speeding through the town, that he will appeal to the county court.

Everetts Meeting Closes Wednesday

A ten-day revival meeting was brought to a successful close in the Everetts Christian church last Wednesday evening by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Much interest was shown in the meeting throughout the entire period. Rev. Mr. Perry reporting thirteen candidates for membership in the church there.

It was announced that the baptismal service would be held in the Christian church at Robersonville Sunday afternoon, but a change is necessary, Rev. Mr. Perry explains, and the service will be held at Mobley's Mill on the Hamilton highway at three o'clock Sunday afternoon.

ASK 45-DAY DELAY BEFORE HOLDING TRAIN HEARINGS

The State Utilities Commission has been asked to wait 45 days before holding a hearing in connection with the proposed discontinuance of trains in this section.