

Board Commissioners Authorize Foreclosure All Delinquent Tax Accounts Now Due Martin County

Unpaid Taxes Due County Run Back To The Year 1928

Titles Will Change Hands Three Months After Suits Are Brought

With approximately \$33,000 uncollected taxes on its books for the years 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935, the county this week ordered the bringing of tax suits "as soon as practicable," the commissioners in meeting Wednesday directing the auditor to verify complaints in all tax suits for the years mentioned with definite instructions to foreclose the accounts. It is estimated there are three hundred delinquent accounts for the years in question representing an unpaid balance, according to the 1937 audit, of \$43,474.83. Since the audit was completed, the county attorney has collected nearly \$10,000 on the old accounts, leaving approximately \$33,000 due the county in back taxes.

According to the 1937 audit, the following amounts were unpaid for the years from 1928 through 1935 as follows: 1928, \$965.45; 1929, \$3,804.11; 1930, \$6,507.33; 1931, \$6,876.32; 1932, \$5,497.12; 1933, \$5,355.09; 1934, \$5,774.70, and 1935, \$8,694.71.

There's a long history back of these unpaid accounts, but in accordance with the law, the final chapter is to be written in the approximately 300 cases within the next few months. The crash in 1929 gave rise to one of the most baffling problems the tax authorities ever had. Wholesale foreclosures would have followed had the State law makers failed to pass laws giving the property owners concessions and more time to pay their taxes. In 1931 discounts were allowed on the payment of back taxes and the ever mounting unpaid tax accounts started dwindling. Improved economic conditions in the fall of 1933 resulted in reduced accounts.

Property owners have been paying on the old accounts until there remains unpaid for 1928 less than \$500. Sizeable payments have been made on those accounts due for the years since that time through 1935. After the suits are instituted within the next few weeks, titles to the properties on which the back taxes have not been paid will change hands about three months later, the unofficial reports indicating that the first foreclosure proceedings will have been completed by next September or October.

Young Girl Deserted By Friends In Washington

Deserted by friends in Washington yesterday, Florence Saunders, 14-year-old Norfolk girl, was taken into custody here last evening by Patrolman W. S. Hunt and turned over to welfare authorities. Relatives in Norfolk have been notified, and the young girl will be turned over to them upon their arrival here this afternoon or tomorrow, it was learned from the sheriff's office this morning.

Running away from her home in Norfolk with two older girls—the early part of this week, Florence Saunders told officers she had been deserted in Washington yesterday and that she was trying to get back to her home. The girl's father could not be reached last night as he was with Virginia police, making a search for her, it was said.

Young Man And Wife Arrested Early Today

James R. Miller and his wife, Joan, both about 29 years old, were arrested near the Old Mill Inn on the Washington road early this morning by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Patrolman W. V. Rothrock for the alleged theft of an automobile in Myrtle Beach last April.

Miller, a native of South Carolina, but who now claims he is a man without a home, will be turned over to federal authorities tomorrow. Mrs. Miller is being detained while officers continue an investigation started early today.

Earlier Opening of Tobacco Markets Asked for This Belt

Although doubtful if any change will be made, the Eastern North Carolina Warehousemen association is making strong efforts to have the tobacco markets in this belt open on or about August 18. A meeting of the warehousemen association was held in Farmville last Wednesday evening, but no definite action was taken at that time to perfect plans for submission to the United States Tobacco association. Action will be taken in the near future in an effort to effect an earlier opening.

Last week the national association in White Sulphur Springs set the opening dates for the markets in this section at August 25, while the border and South Carolina market openings were set at August 4.

At a meeting of the Eastern Carolina Warehouse Association several weeks ago in Kinston that body went on record as requesting the national association to set the opening dates in eastern Carolina not later than two weeks after the openings on the border and the South Carolina openings. With this in mind it was evident that the warehousemen at the meeting wished for an opening in eastern Carolina around August 18 instead of the August 25 date.

Without exception the warehousemen present seemed to feel that the opening dates of the Eastern markets should be earlier than the date set by the national association. Opening the meeting, President J. J. Gibbons, of Wilson, head of the Eastern Carolina Warehouse Association, told the gathering that "we must go about this task with a sane viewpoint that is in the best interests of Eastern North Carolina."

President Gibbons commented that the opening as set by the national body for Eastern Carolina was "the longest period of time between the two openings for some time."

Work Going Forward On Recreation Center

Swimming Pool Is On Town Property Near Legion Hall

Work on Williamston's \$18,000 recreational center is now progressing rapidly following the location of the swimming pool on town property between Watts and Biggs Streets and near the hut of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion. Additional labor is being drafted into service and around fifteen men have been employed on the project since a new site for the pool was selected last Tuesday afternoon by Engineer Henry Rivers and members of the recreation committee.

Work on the project has been delayed a few days while the authorities were considering the purchase of a small piece of property adjoining that of the town. With material moving in for the pool, the authorities withdrew their offer of \$500 for the property, choose another site for the pool and started operations.

Nine carloads of rock and cement are being unloaded this week and excavation work will likely get underway some time during the coming week. In the meantime work on tilling the big ditch running through the property is being continued, and the clearing of the site will be completed as soon as possible.

The swimming pool, thirty by ninety feet, will touch county property on the east and extend almost to Watts Street on the west. Sidewalks, ten feet wide, will be constructed around the pool and bathhouses will be located on the east end of the pool.

No date for completing the project has been mentioned, but efforts are being made to handle the work and release labor to regular employment in the late summer.

Twenty-four men were certified for WPA work the middle of this week, and quite a few others were seeking employment, it was learned. Information coming from WPA officials clearly states that when private employment is available, men on the projects are to be released immediately. No large demand for labor is expected locally before late summer, reports coming from the farms stating that the need for surplus labor is not as great this season as it was a year ago. One farmer stated Wednesday that he needed three or four hands, that when he stopped his truck a few minutes here anxious workers crowded into it.

"We only want men on WPA projects when they can't find private work, and when employment is open to them releases are effected immediately," I. M. Bailey of the Williamston district office said, adding that when private employment was tendered and a WPA worker refused to accept then the worker was fired.

Interest Shown in Revival Fairview Christian Church

Considerable interest has been shown in the revival at Fairview Christian Church being conducted by Rev. Edgar Harden, pastor of the Sweet Home Church. A special song service is being featured throughout the revival which will last until July 14th. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Correction
In last Friday's issue a typographical error was made in Harrison Brothers' ad and the price of the dresses was too low. We are glad to make this correction on another page in this paper.

Last Chance Given For Vaccination of Dogs in the County

Commissioners in All-Day Session Here Last Wednesday

Their meeting postponed last Monday on account of a holiday and again the following day on account of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Pope, Board Chairman Pope's mother, the county commissioners were in an all-day session here last Wednesday handling a varied business program and listening to a delegation from Griffins Township.

Advised that hardly more than one-third of the dogs in this county had been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with law, the commissioners issued a last warning to those owners whose dogs have not been vaccinated. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck was instructed to give the more or less careless owners another chance to have their dogs vaccinated, and to indict the owners who fail or refuse to have their dogs vaccinated within a certain time.

Stations for vaccinations will be reopened throughout the county within the next few days, and the authorities propose to prosecute those owners who have not had their dogs vaccinated and who fail to take advantage of the opportunity to do so during the specified time. The law says that all dogs shall be vaccinated against rabies between April and July 1, but unofficial reports maintain that hardly more than 1,000 dogs have been vaccinated in the county this year.

The commissioners issued an order directing that suits be brought "as soon as practicable" to collect back taxes. The problem of recommending a road improvement project was dumped back into the lap of Highway Commissioner D. C. Barnes, of Murfreesboro. A survey of licenses for selling patent medicines was reviewed.

Representatives of various patent medicine firms, it was pointed out, had been operating in the county without permits or proper licenses, the commissioners checking the list and issuing permits without cost in some cases and directing the purchase of licenses in other cases. Permits were granted the following on account of physical disability: B. B. Biggs, Robert Moore, Jasper Bennett, Joe and Jack Everett. Arrangements were made at the meeting by Leslie Gurganus to procure the necessary county licenses, the board ruled that W. W. Roberson and Rev. Ambrose were to purchase license along with any others operating in the county or discontinue their selling activities.

A change in the valuation placed on the property of Marvin Britton was ordered, the board dropping the figure from \$2,500 to \$2,000. The valuation on certain property belonging to Mrs. Lottie Barnhill was discussed, but no action was taken immediately.

Reports were heard from the county farm agent's office and the welfare department.

The board discussed the possibility of opening two National Youth Administration sewing rooms in the county, but took no definite action.

Millions Allotted For Maintenance State Roads

Seven and one-half million dollars have been allocated for the maintenance of State highways and county roads in North Carolina during the new fiscal year, Vance Baise, chief engineer of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, announced this week. State highways will get \$2,938,500 and \$4,576,500 will go for the upkeep of county roads.

The first division which includes this county was allotted \$295,016 for state highways and \$432,862 for county roads.

RAINFALL

Last month was the wettest June on record in this county, according to official figures released this week by the federal weather station on Roanoke River. The station reported 9.71 inches of rain during the period, or slightly more than two inches ahead of the record reported for the month of June, 1936. Ordinarily that much rain in a single month causes no great alarm, but the heavy rains followed an unusually wet season in April and May, the weather station reporting 23.45 inches during the three months. During the past seven years, the rainfall for July has averaged 7.25 inches, but so far very little rain has fallen this month in this section.

Board Rescinds Action Locating Road and Dumps Problem Back Into Commissioner Barnes' Lap

Less Than Half of Farmers In County Ask Leaf Quotas

Less than half of the farmers in Martin County have applied for their 1938 tobacco marketing allotments as the last day for handling the applications in the various districts draws to a close today. Some of the districts possibly have handled more than 75 per cent of their lists, but in one or two districts the community committees have been idle during a greater part of the three days set aside for receiving applications.

It is possible some of the community committees will hold their stations tomorrow, but it is likely that after that time, the farmers will have to file the required information in the offices of the county agent. It is an absolute certainty that every farmer regardless of whether he is operating under the soil conservation program or not will have to report before a marketing allotment is given him. And every farmer who wants to market any tobacco tax free will have to report immediately if he is to get an allotment.

It is not absolutely necessary that the farmer offer a complete report as to the pounds of tobacco sold in 1936 and 1937, but he must report other required information and advise that he has lost his sales records. According to estimates gained from the agricultural building today hardly more than 40 per cent of the farmers are offering any complete records, and of the remaining 60 per cent, many have no records at all.

Another Landmark Bows To Progress

Purchased by Hugh M. Burras the small office building on Smithwick Street will be moved down the river hill next week to make room for an addition to the George Reynolds Hotel.

The office building was said to have been built more than a half century ago by the late John Dawson Biggs who used it for a number of years. One of the town's first dentists, Dr. Burton, occupied the building during the latter part of the century, and he was followed by another dentist, Dr. M. F. Styne. Mrs. Henrietta Bateman and her daughter, Beulah, dressmakers, then moved into the building and occupied it until their deaths a few years later.

Wilson Lamb and the late L. C. Bennett and John Lamb and Howard Herrick then roomed in the two-room structure, the then young men getting the scare of their lives one night. Wilson Lamb and the late Mr. Bennett were awakened one night when a horse stuck his nose through a window and snorted. Awakened suddenly and seeing the object almost over his head, Mr. Lamb cried out, "Pete, the devil has got us now." "Pete," Mr. Lamb referring to Mr. Bennett, "went under the bed on one side, and I went under the bed on the other. We met about middle way underneath and not knowing the movements of the other, we got out in a hurry. Our movements and yells frightened the horse, too, and he tore out the window sash with his head," Mr. Lamb explained.

The young men were followed in the building by the late Dr. William E. Warren in 1903. He quit there to form a partnership with the late Dr. Harrell, and a few years later Dr. H. B. York moved into the building and used it as an office until the York building was erected on Washington street. Mrs. Martha Philpot and family then occupied the building for a number of years or until their home was built on Warren Street. Dr. W. F. Evans then occupied the building until he returned to school last February, and Dr. V. E. Brown used the building until he formed a partnership with Dr. J. H. Saunders.

Local Fund For China's Suffering Raised To \$12

"My crops are not the best I ever had, and I don't have a great deal to spare, but when I think how well off we are compared with the suffering millions in China, I want to help some," a Williams Township farmer said this week in contributing \$5 to the fund for civilian relief in the Far East. It is estimated that the \$5 will feed a person in China for 167 days. The donation increases the fund to \$12 raised in this community, as follows:
Previously acknowledged \$ 4.50
Miss Lora Sleeper 2.50
Farmer friend 5.00
Totals to date \$12.00

Legion Post Will Hold Regular Meet Monday

The John Walton Hassell post of the American Legion will hold its regular meeting in the hut here next Monday evening at 8 o'clock.

Griffins District Advances A Strong Claim for Project

Farm Life-Old Mill Inn Road Serves More Than 110 Families

"We'll forgive you of your error and faults if you will rescind your action in designating the Butler's Bridge-Hassell road and recognize our more urgent claim to consideration," Mr. Pleny Peel, spokesman for the Griffins Township group, addressed the commissioners. The representatives, well aware of the difficult position occupied by the commissioners, offered strong evidence in support of the claim which was masterly presented by Mr. Peel. The Griffins citizens appeared in the meeting Wednesday after failing to get notice of the special session held a week ago today, and it was evident that considerable study of the basic facts had been made.

"We are not asking any special favor or a direct outlet to any one market. We are advancing what we sincerely believe is a valid claim to consideration when it comes to allocating \$28,000 for the construction of a farm-to-market road," Spokesman Peel explained, offering convincing facts to support that claim.

The group, with a well-prepared map of the approximately nine-mile project, called out the names of 110 families—landowners, it was explained—who live on the route, and who are now traveling on the poorest road in the entire county, it was pointed out. Continuing the group said there are 20,000 square acres of cleared land adjacent to the Farm Life-Old Mill Inn road. Six churches and three schools are directly on the route, the spokesman explaining of his volition that two of the schools were colored.

"The majority of our people are between seven and eight miles from a hardsurfaced road, while Hassell is within a mile and a half of one. We are not denying that the good people around Hassell are in need of an improved road, but we are just trying to point out that we believe and know we have a greater claim to consideration," the representatives went on to explain.

"Gentlemen, there are about 15 families living on the Hassell road. They are within a very short distance of a hardsurfaced road on Highway No. 11, on No. 125 at Butler's Bridge, at Oak City and at Hamilton," Mr. Peel added, showing that he and his party were well acquainted with the facts surrounding both projects.

The first sign of a compromise was advanced when Mr. Peel suggested that if the commissioners would not reconsider their action of last Friday they could divide the \$28,000—\$18,000 to the Griffins project and \$10,000 to Hassell. The suggestion apparently did not meet with the unanimous approval of the entire group of representatives, but no objection was voiced.

Commissioner C. C. Fleming was unavoidably detained and since he could not be present for the afternoon session, Commissioner R. A. Haislip made a motion that action be delayed. Mr. Peel's suggestion and Commissioner Haislip's motion did not receive consideration, and Commissioner C. A. Roberson took the floor. "I cannot change my vote, and I make no formal motion in the matter, but I suggest that the matter be left up to District Highway Commissioner D. C. Barnes. Let him make a survey and do as a member of one of the representatives from Robersonville last Friday suggested," Mr. Roberson said. Speaking before the commissioners last Friday, R. L. Smith suggested that a survey of the routes be made, and the \$28,000 allotted to the one serving the most people.

The meeting accepted the suggestion which, after all rescinded the action taken last Friday, upon the condition that Commissioner Fleming concur. Anxious to get the matter settled, the commissioners quit the county courthouse and drove to Jamesville about 5 o'clock but were unable to locate Mr. Fleming, and the matter was left open until yesterday morning when he was reached over telephone and supported the agreement.

Confined to a Richmond hospital, (Continued on page four)



Showing much improvement during the past week, Mr. Arlie T. Belch, co-proprietor of the Planters and New Carolina tobacco warehouses in Williams, is expected to leave a Norfolk hospital tomorrow. The popular tobaccoist has been in the hospital several weeks following an operation for appendicitis.

Will Hold Train Hearing August 2

A hearing on the proposed discontinuance of trains from Plymouth to Tarboro by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company has been postponed until Tuesday, August 2, town officials here have been advised. The hearing was scheduled to have been held in the office of Utilities Commissioner Winborne in Raleigh this afternoon at 3 o'clock, but chambers of commerce and interested citizens in the towns served by the trains on several of the company's branch lines asked that a delay be granted.

During the next few days special efforts will be made to outline a concerted opposition to the company's proposed action. At a meeting in Kinston held yesterday, it was intimated that the operating company had not offered complete facts, that more time was needed to prepare argument against the proposed removal of the trains. Mayor J. L. Hassell and Attorney Hugh G. Horton and Justice A. Corley, of Jamesville, were planning to attend the hearing in Raleigh this afternoon.

Town Commissioners To Meet Next Monday Night

The twice postponed meeting of Williamston's town commissioners has been scheduled again, Mayor J. L. Hassell stating that a session is to be held next Monday evening at 8 o'clock. Budget figures for the new year, old tax accounts and numerous matters falling in the routine class are due consideration, it is understood, but it is not known just at this time what will be placed on the calendar for consideration at the session. The meeting, scheduled to have been held last Monday evening, was postponed until the following evening on account of the holiday. A second postponement was ordered on Tuesday evening when only two of the five commissioners reported.