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VOLUME 2217—NUMBER 46-79

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, October 4, 1938.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Tobacco Prices Reach Record High Peak on Local Market

Large Group Turns To Woods As Season For Hunting Opens

Warden W.O. Abbutt Warns Against Hunting on Sunday

Opening in the county last Saturday, the hunting season attracted large numbers of gunners to the woods and lowlands, one sportsman experiencing ill luck reporting that there were more hunters than game.

A preliminary survey of the game situation shows that squirrels are plentiful this season, that they are not to be found in the swamps at this time, however. A plentiful acorn yield has pulled the small animals to the border woods, and a few are breaking into corn fields.

Out of forty squirrel hunters, one killed the limit last Saturday. Another shot at 21 and got three, indicating that the animals are fairly numerous after all.

There's a large crop of turkeys this year, reports maintaining that there are more of the prize birds than in many years. "It is not unusual for one to flush three or four flocks a day," County Warden Abbutt said.

Only two deer were reported killed in the county last Saturday, one falling before the gun in Jamesville Township and another in Devreaux Swamp by a member of the Conoho Hunting club.

A warning issued this week by County Game Warden Abbutt makes it plain that Sunday hunting will subject the hunters to fines in the courts.

Urged to change the open season for taking quail from December 15 to December 1, the Department of Conservation is recommending to the Board to act favorably upon the request. Present indications are that the sportsmen will not lose so many days after all. The Board meets next Tuesday in Raleigh. Reports from the fields state that there is not more than half a crop of quail this year. The old-time hunters claim the birds have deserted the fields in large numbers and are seeking refuge in the woods.

The sale of hunting licenses is well ahead of the sale a year ago, Warden Abbutt stating that he interviewed 40 hunters last Saturday and did not find a case where the game laws had been violated. "They had their licenses, and their kills were within the limits," the warden said.

Tobacco Thieves Caught In County

Whit Salsbury, 20, and W. C. Howell, 30, both colored, were arrested in this county Sunday for the alleged theft of approximately 400 pounds of superior quality tobacco from Farmer Hezekiah Chesson on the Joe Roberson Farm near Gold Point, early last Thursday night. Henry Salsbury, also colored, was held in connection with the theft, but he was later released.

The tobacco was found in the home of Nellie Cherry, colored, in Rocky Mount Sunday afternoon. The Cherry woman will likely be brought here as a witness when a preliminary hearing is held in the case later this week.

Young Salsbury and Howell are alleged to have entered the Chesson packhouse while the family was eating supper. They are said to have hauled the tobacco away on a car and later transferred it to an automobile and carried it to the Cherry home in Rocky Mount for safe keeping.

The men denied the theft at first, but finally admitted taking the tobacco. They refused to tell officers where the tobacco was located, but the leaf was repossessed through information offered by a friend.

It was the third tobacco theft reported in the county so far this season. No arrests were made in the first two cases.

Piney Grove Church Will Hold Services On Sunday

Regular services will be held at Piney Grove Baptist church. Sunday, October 9th at eleven o'clock, with Rev. W. B. Harrington delivering the sermon. On Saturday, October 8th at eleven o'clock, a business meeting will be held at the church and all members are urged to be present.

Drive Against Liquor Continues In County

BUSY MAN

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is a busy man these days. Yesterday, the high officer was summoned as a witness in courts at Windsor, Rocky Mount and Washington. He was busy with recorder's court and had an appointment with the Board of Martin County Commissioners. Property owners, paying their 1937 taxes, kept him busy in his office. The officer did not leave town and kept close to the tax-collecting job.

County Board Draws Jury For Superior Court In November

Judge W. H. Burgwyn To Preside Over Two Weeks' Term

Jurymen were selected by the Martin County commissioners in session Monday for service during the two weeks term of superior court convening in November. Thirty-six citizens, drawn from every township in the county, are slated to serve the court.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Jackson, is scheduled to preside over the two weeks' term which was created several years ago by a special act of legislature to handle the trial of civil cases only. Friends of Judge Burgwyn here learned this week that his wife is very ill in a hospital.

Names of the jurymen are as follows:

- First Week**
- Jamesville Township: Church Mobley, J. Carl Griffin and Horton G. Modlin.
- Williams Township: Wendell Griffin.
- Griffins Township: J. C. Gurkin, J. Riddick Griffin and Perlie T. Roberson.
- Bear Grass Township: E. G. Harrison and John H. Roberson.
- Williamston Township: G. G. Woolard and Roy C. Coltrain.
- Cross Roads Township: George Keel.
- Robersonville Township: Jasper Everett.
- Poplar Point Township: W. S. Leggett and V. A. Bunting.
- Hamilton Township: J. A. Roebuck.
- Goose Nest Township: H. A. Johnson and Ernest Bunting.
- Second Week**
- Jamesville Township: W. J. Holliday, Jr.
- Griffins Township: Claudius Hardison, Claudius Roberson, J. Arthur Revels, and J. Rome Corey.
- Bear Grass Township: Eli Rogers and Henry Jones.
- Williamston Township: J. G. Barnhill, M. A. Price and W. C. Gardner.
- Cross Roads Township: Harry Hardy, D. A. Ausbon, Arthur Ayers.
- Robersonville: H. L. Keel.
- Poplar Point Township: W. J. Meeks.
- Hamilton Township: J. B. Everett and N. B. Bland.
- Goose Nest Township: E. L. Glover.

Two In Court For Attack On Lawyer

Charged with assaulting H. L. Swain, local attorney, H. H. Cowen, Jr., and brother, Robert Cowen, were carried before Mayor J. L. Hassell here last Saturday afternoon. The defendants pleaded guilty of simple assault, the court suspending judgment upon payment of costs. A peace bond was asked by the attack victim, and a hearing on the application is scheduled in the county recorder's court next Monday.

Several New Homes Are Under Construction

Constructor work was started or will get underway shortly on several new home here. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Daniel are building on South Houghton street. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Lex Thigpen are building on Marshall Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Keel are planning to start work on their new home on the Everetts road within a short time. The builders are completing the new home for Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Wynne on Academy Street and construction work is well underway on the new home for Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Eason on the same street.

Robbers Break Into P. P. Peel's Store

Breaking through the front door glass to gain an entrance, a robber stole a number of cartons of cigarettes from the P. P. Peel soda shop on Washington Street here late last night or early this morning.

Young Man Held In County Jail For Criminal Assault

Roy Bowers, White, Denied Bond For Alleged Brutal Crime

Charged with criminally assaulting a young Cross Roads Township white girl, whose identity was not disclosed by officers, Roy Bowers, white youth, is in the county jail awaiting trial in the superior court next December, Mayor J. L. Hassell refusing the defendant the privilege of bond at a preliminary hearing held in his office here Sunday.

Held behind closed doors, the preliminary hearing disclosed what was said to be one of the most brutal attacks ever recorded in the crime annals of this county.

Riding between Parmele and Robersonville last Saturday night between 10 and 11 o'clock, Bowers, accompanied by the girl, whose age was given at 17 years, and two other companions, stopped the car, forced the victim from the car and threatened the lives of the other boy and girl if they attempted to interfere. The attack took place in the woods within hearing distance from the car, Bowers' companion, a young boy named Dixon, stating he heard the girl crying for help. He was afraid to interfere, officers quoted him as saying.

The victim at the hearing Sunday showed bruises and numerous scratches on her arms and legs alleged to have been inflicted by Bowers during the attack.

Arrested by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck on a warrant sworn out by Ross Gurganus, well-known Martin County farmer, about 1 o'clock Sunday morning, Bowers denied the attack. After a haughty fashion, the youth told Sheriff Roebuck that he (the sheriff) would never have caught him if his car had not broken down. "I would have thrown sand in your eyes," he told the officer boastfully.

Bowers, who is said to be 21 or 22 years old but whose age was entered on the county jail records at 19, is the son of a substantial Pitt County farmer. During the last Christmas season, he, with a youth named Carson, wrecked havoc in Parmele, Robersonville and Bear Grass while on a dynamiting spree. The two youths fled to Florida, but later returned. Called to answer in the superior court, the boys were released after paying the costs of the case and damages to the owner of property dynamited by them in Parmele.

The manufacturing units, as a whole, were constructed cheaply, Officer Roebuck stating that he found one of the crudest plants during the period he had ever seen in his many years of enforcement work. The plant described by the agent had a 30-gallon capacity gasoline drum. A common coffee can was used for a cap and a small galvanized pipe was used for connections, the operator using an iron pipe coil to complete the unit. Only third rate poison liquor could be expected from such a plant, the officer explained, but someone continues to consume the product.

Fire Destroys Barn And All Contents

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the large packhouse and contents on the Sandy Point farm belonging to Mr. H. H. Cowen near here on the Hamilton Road about 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning. No estimate on the total loss has been advanced, the owner explaining that tobacco from fifteen acres of land, between 185 and 200 bags of peanuts were burned in the barn.

When discovered, the fire was burning rapidly, and efforts to check the fire or remove any of the contents from the barn were futile. None of the tobacco had been sold from the entire crop of fifteen acres, the owner stating that approximately 3,500 pounds had been graded and made ready for the markets. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Several months ago, fire destroyed a packhouse belonging to Mr. Cowen. Large quantities of corn and hay and a number of farming implements were also burned in the first fire.

The owner, while making no accusations, is of the belief that both fires were of incendiary origin.

RAINFALL

If no more rain falls between now and next January 1, the year 1938 will go down in the records as a wet period. In the first nine months of this year, 46.16 inches of rain have fallen compared with 35.77 inches in the first nine months of last year.

More rain fell in this area last month than in any other month during the nine except one. June broke records with 9.71 inches. The weather bureau on Roanoke River reported seven and one-half inches of rain last month.

County Board Of Commissioners In Uneventful Meet

Recommend Better Roads In Two Sections Of The County

The Martin County Board of Commissioners, J. E. Pope, chairman, C. C. Fleming, R. Lee Perry, C. Abram Roberson and R. A. Haislip, members, held a short and uneventful meeting Monday. Convening shortly before 10 o'clock, the meeting was adjourned before lunch the minutes of the session covering less than a page in the clerk's book.

A review of welfare activities was heard, the board endorsing the activities. A report on an investigation made by the recent Martin County grand jury in connection with clothing for inmates at the County Home was heard. It was pointed out that Roy Wynne had appealed to the grand jury, claiming that the welfare authorities would not furnish him with proper clothes. The jurymen, visiting the county home, it was revealed at the meeting Monday, found the inmate poorly dressed as he wandered around the grounds of the institution. The investigation was not stopped there, however, and in the inmate's room the jury men found adequate clothing for nearly every occasion. No mention of the investigation was carried in the grand jury report to the superior court, and no recommendations were offered, it was learned by the county authorities.

The commissioners passed a resolution recommending that the State Highway and Public Works commission investigate and if possible repair bridges and improve the road from the river wharf at Williams-ton to Conoho, a distance of about three miles. It was pointed out that the road serves a number of families and opens up a territory of about 1,000 cleared acres of land.

The board also recommended to the highway commission the surfacing as early as possible the road leading from Palmyra, across the Martin-Halifax line to N. C. Highway No. 125, near Oak City, a distance of only a few miles.

Monday saw the turn over of the new 1938 taxbooks to the collector, but the huge task hardly received recognition in the meeting of the county authorities. In accordance with a past order, the delinquent tax list will be advertised within the next few days preparatory to sale on the first Monday in next month. Until that time, the collector will have two sets of tax books. Reports state that 1938 tax collections were fairly heavy during the first day the books were in the sheriff's hands.

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Mrs. Celia Casper Dies In Oak City

Mrs. Celia Emily Casper, one of Martin County's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at the home of her youngest son, W. W. Casper, in Oak City, last Friday afternoon at four o'clock. She was 88 years old and death was attributed to the infirmities of age.

Before her marriage in early womanhood to William Asa Casper, she was Miss Celia Butler, of Bertie County, where she grew up in the Missionary Baptist church. Moving to Oak City 39 years ago, she and members of her family were instrumental in the organization and maintenance of the Oak City Baptist Church. She was ever a faithful member and worker of the church, and as the oldest member there she was recognized as the mother of the church. Her passing was deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who recognized in her life a Christ-like character.

Mrs. Casper was a faithful and loving mother to a large family, six of the children surviving. Their names are: Sam W., and Walter W. Casper, of Oak City; Willie Casper, of Kenly; and Joseph Casper, of Swanquarter; Mrs. T. E. Johnson and Mrs. W. O. Council, of Oak City; She also leaves about thirty grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Lovey Williams, of Aulander. Mr. Casper died a number of years ago.

Funeral services were conducted from the church which she was instrumental in organizing and which she loved and cherished, last Saturday afternoon at three o'clock by her pastor, Rev. George Leggett. Interment followed in the family plot in the Tom Council burial ground.

Average Above Thirty Cents Here Yesterday

Flying South

A wind out of the north late Sunday started a southward migration. Late that evening thousands of geese flew over here, the leaders of the movement letting out an occasional "honk" to guide the flock to the marshes along North Carolina sounds and rivers. The flock was the second to have attracted attention here in the flight southward.

Following the geese, numbers of army air planes were winging their way south yesterday morning.

Final Plans Made For Sale Of Town Expansion Bonds

Local Commissioners Hold Regular Session Last Night

Final arrangements were made last evening by the local commissioners for the sale of \$72,000 improvement bonds, R. L. Coburn, town attorney, stating that the bonds would likely be placed on the market within the next two or three weeks. The attorney explained that a slight change had to be made in the maturity dates for the bonds, and just as soon as an amendment to the original bond order could be submitted to the bond authorities, the sale would be advertised by the Local Government Commission in Raleigh.

The improvement program was uncertain a few days ago when war threatened to break out in Europe and caused a slump in bond purchases. Now that peace has been virtually assured, the market is said to be much improved and it is believed the bond sale can be made in the near future at a marked advantage.

Holding their regular session, the commissioners had very little business to handle. Rev. J. L. Goff, chairman of the local public library executive committee, appeared before the board and reviewed the activities of the library and asked for whatever support the town could offer. The library executive explained that since the library was opened last April it had lent a book every six minutes on an average, that nearly 5,000 people had borrowed books. "The response has been much better than was anticipated," Mr. Goff said. A \$50 donation was voted by the board for the library.

Mrs. Emma Thompson appeared before the board and asked that a ditch running across her property be filled up. She pointed out that growers troubled her property, and asked the commissioners to order a better police protection around her home on West Main Street.

The \$52,200 Public Works Administration grant was formally accepted by the commissioners who agreed to launch a proposed improvement program within eight weeks and have the work completed within nine months. The swimming pool project, a Works Progress administration project, is not to be confused with the PWA program when it comes to considering time limits.

The town delinquent tax list was ordered advertised week after next preparatory to sale on Monday, November 14.

Women's Clubs To Hold District Meeting Friday

The fifteenth district of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs will hold its annual district meeting in Colerain on Friday, October 7th, with Mrs. O. L. Williams of Swan Quarter, district president, presiding. The guest speaker of the occasion will be Mrs. H. G. Etheridge, of Asheville, state federation president. All club members are urged to attend. The meeting will convene at 10 o'clock in the morning and a plate lunch will be served by the Colerain Woman's club.

Baptist Philatheas To Meet Friday Evening

Members of the local Baptist Philatheas class will meet with Mrs. Coy Lamm at her home on East Grace Street Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Farmers Are Greatly Pleased As Average Reaches High Mark

More Than Third of Million Pounds on Local Floors

Tobacco prices reached a new high record for the season on Williams-ton's tobacco market yesterday when individual prices approximated 80 cents and the average for the entire day boomed above thirty cents. Farmers were all awfully pleased, the auctioneer started talking in the high figures, and sale after sale jumped into the extremely high brackets. Quite a few farmers rushed home to bring an extra few hundred pounds to market, and there were others regretting they had none left at home for sale.

Selling nearly 285,000 pounds before blocking, the market yesterday averaged right at 31 cents, the reports being based on official figures. Buying was brisk all day long, the company representatives finishing their task on the first sale at four o'clock and going to the second sale where the market blocked. A greater part of the morning was spent clearing the block, and sales are likely to continue late this afternoon before the floors are cleared.

Reviewing the yesterday activities one found the happiest group of farmers, as a whole, as have been seen this year. Individual averages above forty cents were numerous, and some went as high as forty-nine and fifty cents. The Imperial and Export companies were unusually strong and their representatives did a good day's work for the growers here. One farmer, tying up two hundred sticks without grading the leaf, received in excess of a dollar a stick for his offerings.

The quality of the break yesterday was recognized as the best of the year, large quantities of the tobacco coming from territories where a more favorable growing season was experienced than was the case in this immediate section. There were some inferior offerings here yesterday and today, and the prices for those types continued to hold to about the same level, some stating that they appeared slightly stronger than a few days ago.

As the market entered its seventh week yesterday, there was the disheartening report that the crop in this immediate territory will have been marketed almost in its entirety in a very short time. Farmers state that 85 per cent of the crop has already been sold. Hundreds of growers have completed their marketing work and sold their surplus quotas. Many more hundreds of farmers have only one or two barns of leaf left at home. Sales are expected to continue brief, and it is possible one or two more blocks will be experienced before there is a decided decrease in marketing activities.

Trial Justice Hears Number of Cases

Fair week, while a bit rainy during two days, passed without serious consequence, Justice J. L. Hassell stating yesterday that none of the fair associates was arrested or appeared in his court. A few other cases were heard during the period and over the week-end, however.

Charged with violating the traffic laws, Charles Leggett, of the Hassell section, was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost. Raymond Boyce, colored man from Tynes, was fined \$5 for speeding on the highways. In a second case charging Boyce with operating a taxi without chauffeur's license, the court suspended judgment upon payment of the cost.

Jesse Manning, Bertie man, was given a 30-days jail sentence for public drunkenness, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the cost. Toby Barber, charged with damaging property in the P. P. Peel soda shop, was bound over to the county court under \$100 bond. The trouble started when Barber is said to have complained about the payment of sales tax.