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Fire District And Restricted Areas Created By Board

Prohibits Construction of Wooden Buildings On Washington Street

The construction of wooden buildings on Washington Street is prohibited and building on Watts, Smithwick, Church, Pearl and Elm Streets is restricted under ordinances passed by the local town commissioners this week. A description of the extended fire district and restricted areas is embraced in the ordinances appearing in this paper.

In accordance with the ordinance, the first district of the town now begins on Main Street at the corner of Watts and runs west to Haughton, taking 200 feet on either side of the street. The district leaves the Main Street at two intersections, Washington and North Haughton, the Washington Street extension stopping at Pearl Street, where the Jenkins garage is now under construction. The Haughton Street fire district runs to the railroad and thence up the railroad to Elm and continues on South Elm to Washington Street.

In addition to the fire district, the authorities established a restricted building area, meaning that any business houses constructed therein must be of brick construction. The restricted area leads off Main Street to Church Street on the north, out East Church Street to Elm and then down South Elm to Railroad Street, up West Railroad Street to Pearl and on South Pearl to Warren Street. From that point the restricted area continues to Haughton and from there to Marshall Avenue, the line continuing to Watts Street and from there to the beginning.

By establishing the fire district, the authorities limited all construction therein to that of brick, cement or stone. No more shacks can be built on Washington Street between the warehouse district and Pearl Street. The ordinance does not affect the present buildings in the fire district.

In the restricted areas, it is permissable to build homes of wooden construction and wooden outhouses up to a certain size, but any business house must conform to fire regulations.

State Fire Marshal Brockwell, of Raleigh, assisted Fire Chief G. P. Hall in making a survey of the town and in establishing the extending fire district and restricted building areas.

December Term Of Superior Court Will Convene On Monday

Judge Walter to Preside; Few Civil Cases on Docket

The Martin County Superior court will convene a one-week term next Monday for the trial of both criminal and civil cases. Judge Walter J. Bone, of Nashville, will preside.

Comparatively few criminal cases are slated for trial, but the court is expected to run longer than it did a year ago when Judge Clawson Williams convened the court late Monday morning, cleared the docket and adjourned the tribunal before the day was spent.

With two exceptions, the criminal docket is considered of minor importance. Tom Williams, county colored man, is booked for trial in a case charging him with fatally stabbing Eli Evans, colored, in a Williamston beer garden the early part of last month. Stabbed following the exchange of a few words, Evans is said to have walked out of the beer joint and fell dead on the street. Williams was arrested at the home of his girl friend in the Beaver Dam section of Williamston Township on the night of November 5, and he has been in jail since that time.

Homer Glosson, white man, faces a charge of manslaughter. Glosson is alleged to have run over and fatally injured Isaiah Hardison, colored man, between Jamesville and

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Colored Man, Victim Of Pistol Shot, Improved

Daniel Ryan, colored man who had his right lung punctured by a bullet fired from a pistol in the hands of Raleigh Rascoe, was reported to be getting along fairly well in a Washington hospital early today. "The man will recover if no complications develop," one report from the hospital stated.

Town to Receive Bids Soon For Construction of Projects

Bids for the construction of sidewalks, streets, water facilities and sewer line extensions will be received by local town authorities on Thursday, December 22, according to unofficial information gained this morning.

Plans were announced virtually complete yesterday for floating a $72,000 bond issue for financing the improvement program, the authorities explaining that a $52,200 grant from the Public Works Administration will supplement the $72,000 to be raised by the bond issue. The program was delayed several weeks ago when a misunderstanding arose in connection with the proposed sale of the $72,000 bond issue. "Everything has been straightened out and the bonds will be sold on the 20th of this month," a town official said this morning.

In accordance with the terms under which the PWA grant was advanced, actual work on the several improvement projects is to get underway not later than January. The bids will be let on the 22nd with that understanding.

The improvement program includes a fourth deep well for the town's water supply, the paving of sidewalks on Williams, Warren and Grace Streets and Marshall Avenue, the paving of Warren, Smithwick and Grace Streets and Marshall Avenue, and the extension of water and sewer lines in several sections of the town. Options have been taken on several sites for the location of the fourth deep well, present plans calling for the sinking of a well just off East Main Street.

Prominent Physician Died Today in Norfolk

DIES IN HOSPITAL

Dr. Joseph A. Eason, well-known Williamston physician and a leading citizen of this community, died unexpectedly in a Norfolk hospital early this morning.

Funeral Services For Dr. J. A. Eason Here Sunday 2 P.M.

News of Beloved Doctor's Death Brings Sorrow To Friends Here

Dr. Joseph Allen Eason, prominent citizen and greatly beloved physician of this community, died at 7:30 o'clock this morning in a Norfolk hospital following an illness of less than three weeks' duration. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of his death which came after he was reported to have shown marked improvement during the past two days. Removed to the hospital last Saturday, he was thought to have been improving rapidly until he suffered a relapse during last night, the end coming peaceably a few hours later.

News, carrying the announcement of his death, was received at eight o'clock here this morning and brought sorrow to his numerous friends almost immediately throughout the town and community where he had become known as an able doctor and an upstanding citizen.

The son of Mr. Jerome B. Eason and the late Mary Eliza Munden Eason, he was born in Hickory, Va., thirty-five years ago last Wednesday. After attending schools of his community, he entered the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, and was graduated with honors there in 1927. He then entered the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, and received his degree there in 1932. After a year of interne work in the Retreat for the Sick, Richmond, Dr. Eason located here in July, 1933 as a member of the firm of Rhodes and Eason.

His quiet demeanor and knowledge of medicine immediately gained for him a warm place in the hearts of all the people here and throughout the community. The interested watch over the sick during the long hours of the day and night endeared him to the hundreds whom he faithfully served during the more than five years he labored here as a practicing physician and as a citizen interested in the welfare of his adopted community. He was held in high esteem by everyone in all walks of life, and his friendliness, marked by an ever-present smile and kind, thoughtful words, was

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Transfer Of Pupils To Hobgood Causes Official Protest

Martin School Men Appear Before Commission In Raleigh

Martin County school authorities and members of the Oak City School committee appeared before the State School Commission in Raleigh yesterday and protested the transfer a few weeks ago of twenty-three pupils from the Oak City district to the school in Hobgood. The commission has not yet ruled on the appeal, unofficial reports coming from patrons of the Oak City school indicating that there is too much political pressure behind the recent action for the state authorities to alter the present set-up and return the twenty-three children to the Martin school.

While nearly all the 23 pupils live nearer Hobgood than Oak City, they are being transferred by the State school authorities from a standard elementary school to one of lower rank, a practice that has been ruled against many times by educational leaders. The committee, composed of Messrs. B. M. Worsley, H. M. Ainsley and Dr. E. E. Pittman, representing the Oak City school, and J. C. Manning, superintendent of the county schools, pointed out that fact to the State commission yesterday at the hearing, and expressed their belief that a dangerous precedent in the transportation of school children was being established.

Early in the fall, a move was started to have the children living in Martin County along the Halifax boundary transferred to Hobgood. State school authorities advised the Martin County board of education to decide the matter, and transportation was denied the group, but the children continued to Hobgood, unofficial reports stating that Hobgood citizens accepted the transportation costs. About a month ago, a lawyer entered the case and appealed to the State authorities for free transportation to Hobgood for the children. No decision was reached immediately, but later the authorities

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Speaker Declares Section Is Facing Serious Situation

Bruce Suggs Recalls the Gloomy Picture Painted in 1932-33

"This section is facing a serious situation, one that threatens the schools, business, homes and the entire economic structure of eastern North Carolina," Bruce Suggs, Greenville man, said in an appealing address before a large gathering of county farmers in the courthouse here Wednesday night.

After paying his respects to Martin County as one of the best, if not the best balanced counties in the nation, Mr. Suggs recalled conditions as they existed just a few short years ago.

"In 1930, tobacco prices averaged 11 cents. The next year the average was down to 8.4 cents. In 1933, after the markets were open two days, a marketing holiday was declared and we went to Washington pleading and begging. We invited the government in then, and I hope we won't invite the government out Saturday, for if we do somebody will want to go to Washington next fall, and what can they say then?"

"Before any government program, tax sales at the courthouse door were increasing, the mortgage hammer was falling rapidly and throwing people off their farms and out of their homes. There was gloom and despair on every doorstep. In 1932, I met a man on the streets of Greenville the evening before Christmas and he told me that Santa Claus would fail to visit that night more homes than he would visit in Pitt County."

The speaker warmed up to his subject in painting the picture of that dark period, and added, "We are headed back for just such a time if we vote down control, raise a world of tobacco and beat the price down for years to come.

"I know there is some dissatisfaction with the quotas. I know there have been mistakes in administering the program, but men, it is a tremendous task to handle the hundreds of thousands of cases in a short time. I know the government is anxious to wipe out any and all inequalities, and I sincerely believe that the program, however imperfect it may be, is to be desired over no program at all."

Credit conditions were reviewed as they exist today on the eve of the program, the speaker predicting that extensions would be drawn tight if the program fails. He went on to predict that the warehouse will be closed by demand next fall if the program is cast aside.

"If I did not have hope and faith in the program, I would not be here advocating it," Mr. Sugg said, adding that it was up to the farmers to vote their own convictions on Saturday.

To Open Livestock Auction Mart Here Wednesday Morning

Mobley and Johnson Launch New Venture In Williamston

Arrangements were announced complete today for opening a livestock auction market on Washington Street here next Wednesday, the operators, Messrs. Sid Mobley and Henry Johnson, stating that the first sales would be held at 10:30 each Wednesday morning.

Known as the Williamston Stock Yards, the auction market will handle all kinds of stock, including horses and mules, cattle, hogs and other farm animals.

Pens are being opened on the Mobley lots near the new Carolina warehouse on Washington Street, the owners-operators announcing that plans were complete for holding the initial sales.

Similar markets in other sections of the State are meeting with marked success, and the operators of the new venture here are anticipating a large business.

Mr. Mobley is an experienced stock man, and the new firm is in a position to offer a valuable service to the farmers of this section.

Many Martin County farmers are well acquainted with the operation of livestock auction markets, and they are of the opinion that the one here will prove a valuable asset and meet with success.

Scout Council Will Meet Here Tuesday

The annual meeting of the Martin County Council of the Eastern Carolina Boy Scout organization will meet in the Woman's Club here next Tuesday night when Ben Eagles, of Wilson, will address the members of the group and other citizens interested in Boy Scout activities.

A committee composed of Messrs. Paul D. Roberson, of Robersonville, D. V. Clayton and J. D. Woolard, is inviting everyone interested in scout activities to attend the meeting and hear Judge Harding. County Boy Scout officials and prominent State leaders are expected here for the meeting. Ben Eagles' address is looked forward to as he is very much interested in Boy Scout work and he is an able speaker.

Martin County Tobacco Farmers Hear Stirring Appeal To Support Farm Program at Polls Saturday

Christmas Cheer Campaign Progresses Very Slowly Here

Early reports from the sponsors today indicated that the Christmas Cheer movement for the less fortunate in the community would be quite limited this year. Hope for a successful mission in sharing a bit o' cheer and spreading happiness among the poor has not been abandoned by the sponsors by any means but early responses to calls for aid in supporting the movement have been disheartening.

Up until this morning a lone dollar had been contributed to the cheer fund. Others are said to be planning to participate in the movement, but they are slow to respond, the sponsors pointing out again that they were hopeful no personal solicitation would be necessary in advancing the drive to bring happiness to the underprivileged tots here.

Yesterday afternoon, a toy show, given by Mr. J. W. Watts, in cooperation with the Christmas Cheer committee of the Kiwanis club, met with fair success. "We received approximately 100 good toys," Professor D. N. Hix, chairman of the committee, said.

This afternoon a canvass for old toys and other articles is being made throughout the town under the direction of Scoutmaster Horace Ray and Professor Hix. Early reports indicated that the prospects for a successful canvass were not encouraging. A second canvass will likely be scheduled next week.

Success of the cheer movement will be measured in exact proportion to the response given by the people of the town. Surely, the good people of Williamston will not stand idly by in a crisis when the happiness of little ones is at stake. Lend your support today by leaving a donation either with Rev. John Hardy, Professor Hix or any member of the Kiwanis club. Don't wait to be solicited for the movement is one of giving and not one of personal solicitation.

Peanut Prices Holding Firm on Local Market

Number Of Sales Are Made At Four Cents Early Part Of Week

Peanut Stabilization Unit Maintains Floor Under The Market

Peanut prices continue to hold firm on the local market this week, reports from the field stating that quite a few sales have been made at four cents with good bunch bringing 3 3-4 cents right along.

Farmers of Martin County are receiving higher prices this year for peanuts than were received last year. Peanuts, at the present time are reported to be bringing in from 3 1-2 cents to four cents per pound. This is attributed to the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative of which R. C. Holland, of Edenton, is president, which has set a floor of 3 1-2 cents per pound on the best grade of peanuts and farmers are using this as a basis for bargaining wtih the cleaners for better prices.

The Peanut Stabilization Cooperative was set up by the North Carolina Farm Bureau and the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of protecting the farmers from disastrous prices on peanuts.

"It is conservatively estimated that this arrangement means that the farmers of Martin County are receiving this year $2 more per bag for peanuts than they would have received had this program not been in effect for this year and last year," says J. T. Cooper, field representative for the Farm Bureau, who addressed 160 Martin County farmers in the courthouse here Wednesday night. "Therefore, all farmers in the county who have peanuts for sale are receiving indirect benefits from the work of the North Carolina Farm Bureau of $2 per bag for these peanuts more than the price they would have received had not the Farm Bureau taken the step it has to secure better prices for the peanut farmers. A program such as this merits the support of each farmer who grows peanuts. At the present time only about 20 per cent of the farmers of this county are members of the Farm Bureau organization, and the other 80 per cent are securing the benefits of the 20 per cent without doing anything to entitle them to these benefits.

"It is believed that when farmers realize this as a fact they will be glad to cooperate with their neighbors in the organization that is responsible for them getting around four cents per pound for peanuts when were it not for this organization they would probably be getting 1 1-2 cents to two cents for peanuts."

LIGHTS

The ole holiday spirit, creeping over this town and community during recent days, was given a decided boost last night when hundreds of vari-colored lights were turned on in the business districts. As workmen installed the mass of lights, local business operators and quite a few home owners turned to individual decorations, and in a short time now, the town will be gaily attired in its full Christmas dress.

The City Hall boys and the courthouse gang have been eyeing one another, but neither of the groups have made a move, as yet, to decorate the county hall of justice or the town clock tower.

Solicitor Johnson Loses Only One Of Large Number Cases

Young Man Prosecutes His First Case in Court Last Monday

Receiving his appointment at the hands of the county commissioners just a few minutes before the county recorder's court was convened for its regular session last Monday morning, Solicitor D. Elphonsa Johnson marked up a high score in prosecuting his first docket before the tribunal. The young man, a bit nervous, held his own in the face of a large docket and well demonstrated that he will conscientiously prosecute violators of the law in this county.

Idle during the past two weeks while the superior court was in session, the recorder's court had an accumulation of nineteen cases on the docket, Judge Peel continuing quite a number of them until the 19th of this month.

In the case charging Simon J. Ward with drunken driving, the following record was entered in the minutes: Cause having been continued under prayer for judgment, it is now ordered and adjudged by the court that judgment be now suspended."

The case charging LeRoy Coffield with larceny was nolprossed with leave.

In the case charging Hoyt Lilley with drunken driving, the court recorded the following: "This cause having been continued, it is now ordered that the defendant give a justified bond due October, 1939, to pay fine and costs."

When witnesses failed to appear in the case charging James Curtis Roberson, J. D. and Benson Swan-

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Broome And Suggs Speak To Nearly 200 Farmers Here

Others Speak As Climax To Drive For Control Is Reached

A stirring appeal for support of the agricultural adjustment administration program at the polls tomorrow was heard by nearly 200 farmers at a county-wide meeting held in the county courthouse here Wednesday evening, the event coming as a climax in the campaign that got underway the 18th of last month when J. E. Winslow, head of the State Farm Bureau Bureau Federation addressed a group of farmers here.

Opening the meeting, C. Abram Roberson, county commissioner and head of the county farm bureau, said before introducing John C. Broome, Aurora farmer and member of the State Agricultural Committee from this section, "control offers life, hope and cheer; and without control, there'll be poverty, despair and bankruptcy."

"We are going to complain if we have control and 22-cent tobacco, for we will want to plant more. We are going to complain and get mad with the companies if there is no control," Mr. Broome said, and he told a story to illustrate his point. His story, "A farmer, talking to a friend, said, 'I am going home to dinner, and if my wife doesn't have beans and cornbread, I'm going to raise the devil, and if she has beans and cornbread, I'm not going to eat a bite.'"

"At one time about a hundred years ago," Mr. Broome continued, "it required nineteen farmers to produce enough to feed one industrial worker. Now, one farmer can produce enough to feed 87 industrial workers," the speaker pointing out that it is necessary to establish some kind of balance.

He compared prices without a program with those received under a program, and said that we are going to have control whether we want it or not. "Shall we have orderly control through the establishment of quotas, or will we have control by falling prices?" he asked, recalling conditions existing in 1932. Without control, he pointed out, we can well expect a billion-pound tobacco crop next fall.

Continuing he said, "in 1932 farmers of North Carolina received 97 million dollars for all crops. In 1937 they received 297 million dollars.

"We hung ourselves with surplus production, are we going to hang ourselves Saturday?" he asked.

The danger of losing flue-cured tobacco to eastern Nroth Carolina was pointed out, Mr. Broome stating that during the two years after control was invaildated by the Supreme

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Christmas Savings Club Pays $7,000.00

Mailing out checks amounting to more than $7,000 over the week-end, D. V. Clayton, cashier of the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company said this year's Christmas club was quite successful, having exceeded 1937 Christmas savings by two or three thousand dollars.

A number of local people have come in this week and joined our 1939 club, said Mr. Clayton. We hope to increase our club members to the extent that when we mail out checks next year the total amount will exceed $10,000.

Arrest Young Man For Maryland Auto Theft

Wilson Reynolds, 22-year-old white man, was arrested and jailed here Tuesday night by Patrolman W. S. Hunt for the alleged theft of an automobile from Joseph Black in Ellstan, Maryland, early that morning.

Traveling south, Reynolds is said to have held up a man near Elizabet City.

Given a preliminary hearing here Wednesday afternoon, Reynolds was placed under a $1,000 bond by United States Commissioner Walter Halberstadt and transferred to Elizabeth City for trial.