

County Town Goes Begging For Mayor After Nominee Quits

Municipal Election Scheduled To Be Held There Next Tuesday

Virtually settling a few weeks ago their political problems for the coming two years after a six-year period of uncertainty as to who was in charge of their town affairs, Jamesville citizens woke up Wednesday morning to learn that their nominee for mayor had moved away. The town is now looking for another nominee, and it is possible there'll be a spirited election in the county town next Tuesday.

Warning the nominating convention several weeks ago that he might not be in Jamesville much longer, Nominee W. T. Gibson, the section's popular physician during the past several years, moved to South Carolina Wednesday morning. And now the town authorities and election officials are not certain as to what to do. They are anxious to abide by the wishes of the people, but to do that and make the action legal calls for time and study. Questioned today, one of the commissioners stated that they were seeking legal advice and it was hoped that some arrangement could be made whereby a mayor could be legally elected along with three commissioners next Tuesday.

It is possible that Dr. Gibson's name will appear on the ticket, and space provided for the voters to insert a second name and vote for the man of their choice since the regular nominee will not be able to serve if elected.

Registrar Bob Mobley states that the names of few electors—six—were added to the books, but it is likely that many of those whose names are on the books will participate in the election if the officials rule that name is written on the regular ballot are to be recognized in the count. Leslie Hardison, son of a former mayor, has been suggested as a possible nominee to succeed Dr. Gibson on the ballot, but there is some doubt if his name can be legally printed on the ticket without the approval of the nominating convention. It is generally understood that his election or that of any other citizen meeting the qualifications of the office will be legal if their names are written on the ballot and a majority is polled by any one of them.

It is also possible for the voters to support Nominee Gibson along with the candidates for places on the board of commissioners. The newly elected commissioners then could declare the office vacant and appoint a man of their own choosing.

The new nominees for places on the board of commissioners are Messrs. C. C. Fleming, Joe Holliday and O. W. Hamilton. Messrs. C. A. Askew, Watson Waters and Clarence Sexton are the present members of the board, but the town has been operating during the past six years part of the time without a mayor. And just when the voters made plans to fill the position vacant these past few months, they learn that their nominee has moved away.

Girl Scouts Hold Meet Last Night

The whole Girl Scouts of Williamston, Troop 1, met in the American Legion Hut for their investiture ceremony Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Meeting the girls in front of the hut, Miss Mary Taylor, captain, and Mrs. Coy Roberson, lieutenant, of the troop, led them into the hut where a horseshoe was formed before the burning candelabra.

After singing the scout song, Miss Taylor invested Mary Warren a patrol leader and she in turn presented the members of her troop. Then followed Madeline Taylor, patrol leader, who presented her troop. Ann Lindsey, assistant patrol leader, presented her troop who were investigated followed by Lillian Maxwell, troop leader, who presented her troop who received their investiture. This investiture included the duty of one to her God, her county and service to her fellows. Each of the Scouts invested received her pin for having passed the tenderfoot test.

With a charge to each of the scouts the ceremony closed with the singing of "Taps." Many parents and children were present for the ceremony.

The following girls were invested: Patrol leader, Mary Warren, Mary O'Neal Pope, Della Jane Mobley, Patsy King, Nancy Mercer, Ann Fowden and Ray Leggett; patrol leader Madeline Taylor, Mary Trullah Peele, Eliza Daniels and Frances Thomas; assistant patrol leader, Ann Lindsey, Mary Neal Lindsey, Albert Knox, Betsy Manning, Frances Jarman and Anne Meador; patrol leader, Lillian Maxwell, Gertrude MacLawn, Letitia Maxwell, Mildred Lassiter, Dora Twiddy, Gloria Roberson, Angela McLawn and Jane Goff.

Memorial Day Here Will Be Observed As Holiday

Next Tuesday, National Memorial Day, will be observed here as a holiday by the postoffice, banks and the offices of the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

Circulate Petition To License Slot Machines In This County

Plans are well advanced over the State for planting a crop of slot machines second in size only to the current tobacco crop, reliable reports stating that the machine owners and their agents are starting a drive to enter Martin County with the automatic coin collector.

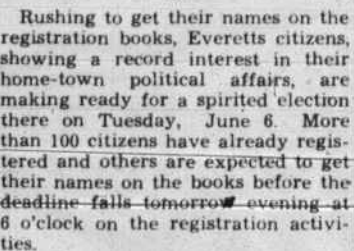
According to information coming from the office of the sheriff today, a petition is being prepared to establish the business in Martin, reported to be the only county in the State where the machine is outlawed. "We are anxious to get the machines in operation in this county that we might stimulate business," a representative of one of the contraption manufacturers was quoted as saying.

Several manufacturers have made direct inquiries about locating their machines in the county, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck stating that no action to license the machines will be taken until the county commissioners meet in regular session June 5. If it is in their power to do so, it is understood that the commissioners will refuse to license the machines in this county regardless of action taken by authorities in the 99 other counties in the State. A ruling has been asked of the Attorney General in connection with the county board's authority to refuse or to grant licenses for the operation of the machines.

As a source of revenue, the licensing of the machines offers little inducement to the authorities who have to collect the taxes and contend with the gambling and robbery ordinarily associated with what has been termed a "racket" in this county in years past. It is the consensus of opinion that the public is not in favor of having the machines located in this county, and that the county commissioners will be supported in their refusal to license their operation.

All types of machines, including the one-arm bandit, are said to be in operation in some counties already, and the taxing authorities are admitting that the licensing business is almost certain to constitute one big headache.

Health Queen



Miss Luella Cox, representing the Robersonville 4-H club, was recently named county health queen following examinations made of a large number of club members in the county.

Spirited Election Predicted In Town Of Everetts June 6

More Than 100 Have Registered; Independent Ticket Is Expected

Rushing to get their names on the registration books, Everetts citizens, showing a record interest in their home-town political affairs, are making ready for a spirited election there on Tuesday, June 6. More than 100 citizens have already registered and others are expected to get their names on the books before the deadline falls tomorrow evening at 6 o'clock on the registration activities.

"There is no factional fight. We are interested in an active town board and mayor," a citizen of the thriving little county town said this morning, and no argument over the eligibility of voters is expected when the registration books are thrown open on Saturday of next week by Registrar J. S. Ayers, Jr., for the challenge of any electors whose names have no legal right to be on the books.

There has been some talk of an independent ticket, and while reports state that there'll be independent candidates to contest the election with the nominees of the last Friday night convention, their names have not been made public. The very fact that 110 people have already registered is cause for one to look for an interesting election and the possible entry of an independent ticket or any other kind of ticket, for that matter.

Last Friday night, the nominating convention held there named C. B. Biddick as the regular nominee for mayor, and Messrs. Mack James, Jesse Keel and H. H. Williams as the nominees for commissioners.

On the first ballot for mayor, the convention divided its vote 8-8 for Riddick and J. Willard Peel. Runners pulled in two more votes off the street and on the second ballot, Riddick won the nomination, 11 to 8.

Mr. Mack James polled all 18 votes to lead the ticket for commissioner. Mr. Jesse Keel was second with 16 votes, and Mr. H. H. Williams was third with 13 votes. A fourth candidate for nomination, Mr. Harry Hardy, lost out by one vote. Mr. Keel is the only candidate offering to succeed himself as a regular nominee for one of the three commissionerships.

According to unofficial reports, supporters of the proposed independent ticket are discussing the legality of their plan with the expectation of legally electing their men.

W. A. Cherry, of Aulander, was a business visitor here yesterday.

Tobacco Growers Favor Acre Basis In Control Plan

Meeting in Nashville this week, representative farmers from the bright tobacco belt unanimously approved the issuance of tobacco allotments by acres rather than by a poundage basis. The group also favored prohibition of "renting" allotment cards.

While farmers are generally recorded in favor of a change in the basic allotment method, some farm leaders see in the movement the weakening of the control program. The acreage allotment system has caused much confusion in the handling of the cotton crop, and the acreage plan, it is claimed by some, will hardly be nothing more than a mere pretense at control.

Ignoring a long-range program, the farmers and many farm leaders are centering their attention immediately to the serious condition facing the leaf growers. With a record crop reported in the field, farmers are of the opinion that a control vote will carry under the proposed allotment system even after control was voted down last fall when allotments were granted under the poundage system.

The two proposed amendments, to be added to the 1938 tobacco control bill when it again is put before growers for a vote, were approved, following the motion of A. W. Jenkins, of Rocky Mount, Route 2.

"These two amendments will help the passage of the control law," Jenkins declared, "more than anything else."

Commending the change to allotments by acreage instead of poundage, a popular proposal with the farmers present, Representative W. E. Fenner, of Rocky Mount, declared: "A man can control his acreage but it's humanly impossible to control his pounds."

After several farmers commented that they had "done a little increasing" this year, J. Henry Vaughan, farmer and chairman of the Nash County commissioners, observed, "Overplanting and getting back to where we have to have control is

(Continued on page six)

County Pulp Mill Continues Closed

Closed by a strike in New Jersey more than two weeks ago, the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company continues idle in the lower part of this county. Pending the settlement of the strike, workers in the plant in this county will start drawing unemployment compensation on Thursday of next week.

In a long-distance telephone conversation with Commissioner of Labor Forest Shuford Thursday afternoon at 2:30, he advised that he had talked with Dr. Steelman, head of the division of conciliation of the Federal Department of Labor, and that there were "no prospects of an immediate settlement" of the differences between the Kieckhefer Container Corporation and the striking unions at Delair.

Dr. Steelman advised the commissioner of labor that a conference had been held last Friday and again on Wednesday of this week, but that there were two or three matters that the unions and plant management could not settle.

Despite the efforts made by one of the best conciliators in the government service to bring the contending factions together, very little progress had been made, it was said. Commissioner Shuford said it looked as if very little could be done at the present time but stated he had implicit confidence in Dr. Steelman and his men and that he believed within a week some progress would be made.

Advance Plans For Leaf Control Vote Early In Summer

Change From Poundage To Acreage Allotment Basis Almost Certain

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and tobacco state Congressmen agree the AAA should be amended to permit a tobacco referendum on or after July 1, Chairman C. T. Hall, of the State Tobacco Advisory Committee, said yesterday.

Hall, along with N. C. Farm Bureau Federation leaders, had just returned from a conference in Washington on proposed AAA amendments. The present AAA allows the secretary of agriculture to call a tobacco vote within 30 days after November 15.

"The early vote on marketing quotas would undoubtedly influence prices during the current season, although the quotas would not be in effect until the following year," Hall said. "For instance, if production is heavy and opening prices of tobacco are low, a referendum could be called and if quotas are approved, the buyers would be influenced to increase their bids, knowing that not as much leaf would be available the following year."

At Washington, congressmen also agreed to submit in a "few days" AAA amendments that would: Make acreage a consideration in figuring tobacco allotments; provide for uniform determination of allotments with an increase to 3,200 pounds or 20 per cent for small farms; apply a uniform 10-cents-per-pound tax penalty rather than 50 per cent of value; and prevent "renting" of marketing cards.

The proposals were submitted as the sentiment of Tar Heel farmers, who recently gave them overwhelming endorsement in response to a questionnaire circulated by E. Y. Floyd, of State College, State AAA executive officer.

About 15,961 were asked to express opinions and the smallest majority on any question was 13,495 to 1,906, that being on the question of changing the penalty provision.

Farm Bureau representatives, who submitted the same questions at district meetings, reported them "unanimously approved."

J. E. Winslow of Greenville, farm bureau secretary, accompanied Hall to Washington.

Uneventful Session Of Recorder's Court Held Last Monday

Only Half Dozen Cases Are Called By Judge Peel In Short Session

An uneventful docket marked the last Monday session of the Martin County Recorder's court. No fines were imposed and no road sentences were meted out by Judge H. O. Peel during the session that lasted hardly an hour. Solicitor D. Elphonsa Johnson prosecuted the docket.

Few spectators were present for the proceedings, the activities of the court suggesting crime has gone on a virtual holiday in the county. As a general rule when the sessions of the court are brief and few spectators are present for the proceedings there is much hard work going on over the county. But, as usual, the slump in court activities disappears almost overnight with the approach of fall and the marketing season.

The half dozen cases called last Monday follow: Judgment was suspended in the case charging Johnnie Powell with an assault upon a female. Powell pleaded guilty in the case.

The case charging James Smithwick with being drunk and disorderly was nolprossed by the court.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Roberta James pleaded guilty of illegal possession, the solicitor accepting the plea. Judge Peel sentenced her to jail for ninety days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

The case charging Roy Bell with reckless driving was remanded to a justice of the peace court for trial.

The case charging Robert Clark with non-support was continued until July 10.

A continuance was granted until May 29 in a similar case brought against Johnnie Peel.

Thousands Take Vaccine in Campaign Against Typhoid

Nearly 4,000 men, women and children have been vaccinated against typhoid fever and more than 500 have been immunized against diphtheria, Dr. F. E. Wilson, county health department head, said as the first week in the anti-typhoid campaign drew to a close in the county this afternoon.

Reporting in an almost steady stream, nearly 600 persons had been vaccinated in the headquarters of the health department up until noon today, and it is expected that the total number will approximate 1,000 before the clinic closes this afternoon.

Starting the campaign last Monday morning, the health authorities will follow the same schedule during the second week beginning next Monday. Health authorities, anxious to have the county make the all-state health honor roll, are urging increased numbers to report to the

clinics in their respective communities as the second period of the campaign gets underway next month.

The injections are virtually painless and few persons have complained with sore arms. It is advisable, however, to discontinue petting and friendly strokes during the vaccination period.

A record of the vaccinations for diphtheria and typhoid up until noon today follows:

	Diphtheria	Typhoid
Dardens	77	407
Jamesville	57	464
No. 90 Filling Sta.	55	346
Bear Grass	67	336
Lilly's Store	47	267
Farm Life	51	359
Corey's Store	35	235
Williamston Col.	76	586
Williamston, White	59	600
	524	3600

*Approximate.

Open Municipal Pool Here Next Thursday

Parents-Teachers To Sponsor Unique Program First Day

Williamston's municipal swimming pool, a project started nearly a year ago, will be opened to the general public next Thursday it was officially announced today following the completion of plans for its operation and for a big program that day under the direction of the local parent-teacher association.

Ralph Parker has been named to manage the pool and his assistants will be named within the next day or two, the authorities stating that it was not certain that WPA workers could be made available to assist in the operation of the project.

A unique program is being prepared by the Williamston Parent-Teacher association for the formal opening of the pool, Mrs. J. B. Taylor explaining that the town authorities had consented to let the organization handle the first day activities and apply the proceeds on a debt incurred in the operation of the lunch rooms for needy school children last term.

The opening of the pool is scheduled at 10 o'clock next Thursday morning following an unusual parade, Mrs. Taylor announced. The parade will center around a number of water babies and a number of floats representing summer-time activities such as swimming, tennis and so on. Pets will be in the parade also.

Mayor J. L. Hassell will deliver an address to round out the formal opening program.

Beginning that evening at nine o'clock, the Parent-Teacher group will sponsor a big street dance on Watts Street. John Wynn and his orchestra will play for the event, and the sponsoring organization is expecting 500 people to attend. The street dance is an added feature in the program prepared for the formal opening of the pool.

No definite cost figures for the construction of the pool have been advanced, unofficial reports stating that the project will represent an outlay by the town of some less than \$10,000.

The regular schedule for the operation of the pool will go into effect next Friday. Opening at nine o'clock each morning, except Sunday, the pool will be closed at 12 o'clock noon. The pool will reopen in the afternoon at two for five

(Continued on page six)

Will Give Killer Hearing Tonight

Booker T. Williams, Charged With Fatal Stabbing Of Alfred Pettiford Here On April 30, Will Be Given Preliminary Hearing Before Justice J. L. Hassell This Evening At 7:30 O'Clock

Williams, who is said to have admitted the stabbing, is expected to enter a plea of self-defense. It is also understood that he has made plans to summon a large number of witnesses in an effort to show that Pettiford threatened his life. Williams is reported to have said that Pettiford chased him up and down the street shortly prior to the time of the fatal attack.

Reports from the scene of the attack on the evening Pettiford was fatally hurt stated that Williams drove his knife into the victim's head while he (Pettiford) was dancing with a girl in Ward's store.

Few witnesses have been summoned in the case by the State but unofficial reports state that relatives of the dead man will employ private counsel to aid the prosecution.

Poppy Day

Sponsored by the Auxiliary of the John Walton Hassell post of the American Legion, a county-wide poppy sale will be advanced on Saturday of this week. Representatives of the auxiliary will extend the sale to the streets and business houses here and in the several other towns in the county, and it is hoped that a hearty response will greet the canvassers.

Proceeds from the sale are used in promoting the welfare of disabled veterans and their families. Results of untold value have been obtained in past sales, and the sponsors are anxious to continue the splendid work.

10 Thousand Dollar Damage Suit Started In Courts Of County

Action is brought by Mitchell Against Local Fire Chief As an Individual

Injured in an automobile-bicycle accident on Williamston's Main Street last March, Jimmie Mitchell, appearing by his next friend, Joe Mitchell, started suit in the superior court of this county this week to recover alleged damages in the sum of \$10,000 from G. P. Hall, local fire chief. The action was brought against Hall as an individual, the complaint making no mention of the fact that he was answering a fire alarm when the 12-year-old plaintiff was critically hurt. The boy, hovering between life and death, was a patient in the hospital for several weeks. He is now able to be up, but the complaint filed in the offices of the clerk of court alleges his injuries are permanent.

No answer in the case has been filed, unofficial reports maintaining that the town of Williamston is likely to enter the suit as a party to the defense.

On the following day a second damage suit was filed against the fire chief, the action growing out of an accident at the intersection of Church and Smithwick Streets the 15th of this month, when the fire chief's car and that of Miss Ella Mae Gaylord crashed. Miss Gaylord is asking \$125 damages.

In the Mitchell suit filed by Attorneys E. S. Peel and Hugh G. Horton, the plaintiff alleges: "That on the 7th day of March at about 4 o'clock p. m., he was riding his bicycle on Main Street in the Town of Williamston on his proper side of the street, in a careful and prudent manner, and the defendant at said time was operating his Pontiac coach automobile on said street traveling in the direction of the Roanoke River bridge. That said defendant was operating his said automobile in a fast and reckless manner on the main street and business district of the Town of Williamston and at a speed greatly in excess of that allowed by law, and said defendant was not keeping a proper lookout ahead and not paying proper attention to the street and said defendant negligently, carelessly and recklessly while operating his automobile at such an excessive rate of speed and at a greater rate of speed than allowed by law, and while failing to keep a proper lookout on the highway ran into the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, knocking him off his bicycle and causing him serious injury and damage.

"That the injuries which the plaintiff received because and on account of the negligence of the defendant hereinbefore—and hereinafter complained of were serious and permanent in their nature, consisting of injuries to his head, injuries to his face, injuries to the muscles and nerves of his head and face, causing concussion of the brain for several days and other less serious but still painful wounds, from which he has suffered greatly physically and mentally and still suffers, and has had to incur medical expenses and doctors' bill to the amount of \$541.50, and has been damaged in the sum of at least \$10,000.

"That plaintiff's injuries above set forth were proximately caused by the negligence of the defendant hereinbefore and hereinafter complained of."

(Continued on page six)

Collins Players Will Appear Here In Fall

It will be interesting to the citizens of Williamston to know that the city is to be favored with the Collins Entertainment Festival, to be presented this season by the Junior Woman's club. A contract for the appearance of the four attractions was entered into with the Collins representative, Miss Cassaford.

Mrs. Sam Woolford, club president, reported that the four attractions for this fall's festival are to be the famous Mordella Merry-Makers, of Boston, featuring Pietro Mordella, celebrated piano-acordion virtuoso, and his two daughters, Rita and Flora, also artists on the piano-acordion and other instruments. Miss Flora won the Beethoven prize in New England for sopranos, two years ago. She is a graduate of the New England conservatory of music, and her sister, Rita—also very talented—is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Tufts College.

The speaker will be Dr. Frank G. Sayers, clergyman, author, radio, counselor, with a dynamic lecture entitled "The American Cavalcade."

The Doris Davison Melodears, featuring harp, piano and voice, will also be heard on the program. Miss Davison is a graduate of the Eastman school of music, of Rochester, N. Y.

The festival always closes with a play, this year it will be presented by the Glen Wells players, who have been on the southern circuit for a number of seasons.

The Collins festival has become increasingly popular in the South, and it is predicted that a large audience will greet the four attractions when they appear here on October 19 and 26 and November 2.

LET CONTRACT

A contract for grading and structures on the Old Mill Inn-Smithwick Creek was let to the F. J. McGuire Company, of Washington, D. C., this week by the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission. Covering 3.10 miles of the route, the project is to cost \$35,427.50.

It could not be learned when work on the project would be started, but it is understood that a contract for the completion of the road will be considered in time to carry the work to final completion without interruption.

The contract for the road in this county was one of 20 let by the commission representing a total of \$1,181,258.50.

Poplar Point Has \$3,000.00 Loss In Its Property Listings

Slight Gain Shown in Real Estate Listings For New Year

While continuing to show a downward trend, property listings are holding up better than was expected, Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes said yesterday following the receipt of the list from Poplar Point and in complete reports from one or two other townships. "There'll be a decrease in the total county values, but the loss will not be as great as some expected when the listing work got underway early in April," it was stated.

Reports based on incomplete returns indicate that one and possibly two townships in the county will show a gain in listings this year over last, but it is hardly possible for those gains to offset the losses.

Submitting his list this week, List-taker L. H. Taylor reports a loss of \$3,056 in the total listings for Poplar Point Township. Personal property values dropped off nearly \$6,000, but the loss there was partially offset by an increase in real listings.

While personal property, as a whole, carries a smaller value this year than last, certain items in the list show increases and reflect an upward trend in livestock farming. The trend is not very marked, but the gain is encouraging. The number of sheep, hogs, milk cows and beef cattle increased, a review of the list for the township shows.

Land values showed a gain of slightly more than \$2,500, but the absence of new motor cars sent the personal values down from \$18,144 to \$14,626.

A detailed comparison of the listings of Poplar Point Township for 1938 and 1939 is as follows:

	1938	1939
Personal	\$ 73,826	\$ 68,130
Real	257,399	260,049
	\$331,225	\$328,179

Personal Property by Races

	1938	1939
White	\$ 68,740	\$ 64,063
Colored	5,086	4,067
	\$ 73,826	\$ 68,130

Real Property by Race

	1938	1939
White	\$250,099	\$252,749
Colored	7,300	7,300
	\$257,399	\$260,049

No. Value

	1938	No. Value	1939	No. Value
Horses	19	1635	20	1610
Mules	225	26305	221	25000
Sheep	14	28	20	40
Goats	30	30	20	20
Hogs	1086	3921	1105	3818
Milk Cows	54	1660	76	2610
Cattle	51	630	54	750
Cars	87	18144	89	14626
Dogs	100	97	97	97
Polls (w)	97	103	97	103
Polls (c)	51	58	51	58

There were 10,099 acres of land listed in 1938 and 1939.