

Idle WPA Workers Stand Good Chance Of Recovering Jobs

Thirty Project Workers Are Dropped From Rolls in This County

Thirty-four WPA workers in Martin County were taken off the payroll last Saturday, according to H. B. Hargett, assignment supervisor for the employment division of WPA.

However, there is a strong possibility that a good portion of these workers will be put back to work within a month, says Mr. Hargett. Thirty of those cut off were certified workers who had been on the payrolls continuously for 18 months. The other four were non-certified administrative employees in the division headquarters in Williamston.

The certified workers who lost their jobs were equally divided between men and women. They will not be eligible for re-employment by WPA until at least 30 days after being cut off.

The assignment supervisor said he expected replacements for those laid off would be made within the next few days. He added, however, that the number of certified workers eligible for WPA work at present is less than 30, and that therefore all 30 vacancies probably will not be filled immediately.

The number of certified applicants for jobs in the whole district has increased during the last couple of weeks, probably because of the ending of the potato season in Camden and Currituck counties. But this will probably be offset during the next few weeks, due to the opening of the Bright Leaf Tobacco Belt.

Mr. Hargett was notified this week that 1,000 Negro men and women will be needed in Greenville during the next three or four months. It is expected that a considerable number of Negroes from this and adjoining counties will answer the call. This, of course, will decrease the demand by Negroes for WPA jobs in this county.

There is a possibility that the quota for this district, and for Martin County, will be cut next month. If it is not, many of the 30 certified workers dismissed last Saturday will have excellent chances of returning to work when their 30-day waiting period is ended.

The 30 vacancies now existing are to be filled from the waiting list of certified applicants. But since the number on this list is less than the number of vacancies, the remainder of jobs will be filled from among those who have just been let out. The difference is that those who have not been working may go to work as soon as the Williamston offices can take necessary steps, whereas those just cut off are compelled to finish their 30-day waiting period.

The four non-certified administrative workers may be put back to work, or their places may be filled with other workers, at the discretion of the WPA State organization. Mr. Hargett said, however, that he understood no re-appointments or new appointments for these four jobs will be made in the immediate future.

Before certified workers who have been let out can regain their jobs, they must be re-certified as of relief status and qualified for employment.

"Pink slips" have been issued to 6,180 persons out of an estimated 8,500 affected in North Carolina, according to State Administrator C. C. McGinnis. He said the remainder of the total would be suspended within two weeks, and that additional workers passing the 18-month limit would be let out on succeeding pay days.

Mr. McGinnis emphasized that the restrictions on relief workers' length of service was a permanent feature of the new WPA set-up, applying inflexibly to every WPA employee who exceeds the limit during this fiscal year.

Postpone County Tax-Listing Cases

Trials of eight Martin County men on charges of failure to list taxes, have been continued until August 28. The cases were docketed for trial in the recorder's court next Monday.

The cases were continued in order to keep from interrupting the farm work of the defendants, it was said. The warrants were taken out early this week by Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes.

Mr. Grimes said yesterday he was delving further into his records, and indicated that other warrants might be served soon, charging failure to list property according to law.

Those whose cases were continued to August 28 are Vance Andrews, of Robertsonville, and Jesse Cogdell, Hebrew Dickens, Bardin Hooks, Lewis Elks, Joseph Thigpen, Levi Dixon and Albert Sherman, all of the Griffin and Johnson farms, near Hassell.

Rev. R. R. Grant, of Manteo, visited friends here a short while this afternoon.

Art Lewis Shows Booked for Local Fair, September 26-30

The 1939 Williamston Fair will be held September 26-30, according to an announcement today by the North Carolina Fair Operating Company.

Mrs. Clyde Kendall, of the association, will open an office at Williamston about September 1, and will probably have an assistant in handling matters concerning the fair.

The Art Lewis shows have been booked for the midway this year. Several grandstand attractions have been arranged. Wednesday, September 27, will be "thrill day", featured by "Suicide Hayes and His Hell Drivers."

Hayes is well known in Williamston. He worked on the local tobacco market in 1934 and 1935. This is his first trip to the county, however.

HOSPITAL

Pending the arrival of complete equipment, the Brown Community hospital has delayed its formal opening until the latter part of next week. Dr. Victor E. Brown, owner and operator of the institution, announced today.

The hospital readily recognized as a badly needed asset to this community, held its informal opening this week upon the receipt of partial equipment for the institution. Mrs. Charles Edwards was the first patient, she with Mr. Edwards announcing the birth of a daughter, on Tuesday, July 25.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Norwood Martin at the Brown Community Hospital here yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Brown is planning visitors' day in connection with the formal opening, and many are expected to inspect the hospital at that time.

Light Carry-Over Of Peanuts Looked For In State This Year

The entire peanut trade is concerned over the fact that the whole supply of good farmer's stock Virginia type peanuts in the Carolina-Virginia area may be exhausted before this year's crop of goobers hit the market.

A. B. Harless, Federal-State Market News Representative at the State Department of Agriculture, says that one indication of this worry by the peanut trade is that the price of best Jumbos and Best Bunch peanuts is steadily mounting.

Mr. Harless says that opinions differ widely as to the volume of peanuts still unmarketed. He adds, however, that the belief is growing that the carry-over into the new crop will be confined to low-grade peanuts, and that the volume of even these will be light.

Present indications are that the present crop will be a splendid one, probably the best in many years. Ample rainfall in most areas has accounted largely for the present good state of the peanut crop generally.

The indication now, on the basis of the Peanut Stocks Report, is that the supply of peanuts now in the hands of shellers, cleaners, crushers and warehouses will not last six weeks. There is some doubt of course, as to how many peanuts are held by speculators and how many are still in the hands of the farmers.

The Southeastern peanut market has strengthened, due partly to the delayed harvesting in the Southwest. Harvesting in Florida and South Georgia with favorable weather should be general by the end of this week, Mr. Harless says.

Resigns As Member Of Local School Faculty

Miss Rebecca Harrison, popular first grade teacher in the local schools, resigned that position this week to become associated with the High Point Schools.

Professor Z. Hardy Rose, of Nashville, visited here a short while today.

ELEVEN IN ONE

Joe Sam Taylor, who lives on the J. B. Cherry farm near here brought an 11-headed ear of corn to the Enterprise office last week-end.

Starting as a single unit at the base, the ear becomes double almost immediately, trips a little further up, then seems to scatter all over everywhere half-way up the ear.

The corn is in the tender stage and would go mightily well as a "roan's ear". If taken apart, there would be a small ear for each of the whole family and some of the neighbors.

The ear—or ears—may be seen in the window of the Enterprise office.

as a "suicide" and "hell driver." The promoters of the fair, as well as all others having any connection with it, are hoping for a "break" in the weather this year. If they get it, it will be for the first time in five years. Each year rain has not only dampened the spirit of the fair, but has bitten heavily into the income of the fair.

It is reported that the fair association lost \$7,200 in 1938, and that it has lost a total of \$16,000 during the four years that the Williamston fair has been operating.

No detailed announcements have been made yet about the entertainment features of the fair, but will probably be made known when Mrs. Kendall arrives here the latter part of next month.

No Big Drop In Tobacco Income Total Expected

Increased Production Likely To Offset Any Price Decrease

Advance notices indicate that Martin County's net benefit from this year's tobacco crop will be below that of last year. Net benefits probably will be about 10 per cent lower than last year, according to a comparison, for the two years, of production, expense, and probable price.

The production this year is expected to be about 30 per cent higher than last year's nine million pounds, or nearly 12 million pounds this year. But, based on the opening prices of the Georgia market, the average prices for Martin County will probably be about 17 cents a pound. This is nearly a third lower than last year's average of 23 1/2 cents.

Last year's crop brought roughly \$2,115,000. This year's production, based on the above estimates of production and probable price, will bring about \$1,989,000 or about six per cent less than last year's.

The cost to the farmer in raising his crop this year has been far above that of last year, also. Because of the heavy crop, with its consequent heavy demand on the supply of fuel wood, tobacco sticks, and labor, the farmer has had to pay dearly to get his crop housed.

The weather man has taken a hand, also, in handing the farmer a loss on this year's crop. The intense heat of the last few weeks has caused the weed to ripen much faster than ordinarily. With a crop so large that curing barns would have been at a premium even if the tobacco ripened normally, the farmer has found himself with woefully insufficient curing facilities for the ripe leaves crying to be housed.

Seeing his tobacco burning up in the fields, more than one farmer naturally has become jittery. The inevitable result was a hurry to get one barn full of tobacco killed out so that the barn might be re-filled. Hurry, in some cases, meant abnormally high heat. It is thought that the great loss by fire of barns in the county has been due in a large measure to this hurry to get tobacco cured.

The loss of barns, of course, further cut down on the housing facilities of the county's farmers, and increased the loss from burning up in the fields.

Optimistic persons in the county, however, not only hope that the price may exceed 17 cents, but think the production might be higher than early estimates. If they are right, Martin County may enjoy a better gross income from tobacco than last year.

Judgment Suspended In Cough Quarantine Cases

Four colored women were convicted last night by Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell on charges of violating a quarantine against whooping cough early this week.

Those convicted were Nancy Clemmons, Rosa Edwards, Lena Robinson and Meniza Williams, all of Griffin Street. Judge Hassell imposed a 30-day sentence on each, but suspended the sentence on condition that they pay court costs and observe the quarantine until it is lifted.

The quarantine was instituted by the Martin County Health Department after 16 cases of whooping cough were reported in a single block of Hatton Street.

Mother Of Williamston Woman Dies In Ahoskie

Mrs. Charles Odom, of Ahoskie, mother of Mrs. K. D. Worrell, of Williamston, died of angina this week in Ahoskie. Funeral services were conducted from the Baptist church there.

Mrs. Odom had been in failing health for some time, but was taken seriously ill about two days before her death.

Besides Mrs. Worrell, Mrs. Odom is survived by her husband, Charles Odom, of Ahoskie; two sons, Winborne and Henry, of Ahoskie, and another daughter, Mrs. Ina Mae Hogard, of Richmond.

Voice Opposition To Low Leaf Price In Georgia Belt

Farmers Clamoring Suspension of Sales and New Referendum

Decreased prices on the Georgia markets this week stirred tobacco farmers to action, and appeals were directed to the governor urging him to suspend sales, the growers looking to far away Washington with an apparent yearning for another control referendum.

Registering a marked dissatisfaction after recovering from the low-price shock of last Tuesday, the farmers are said to be resorting to mass action in an effort to relieve the low-price situation.

Their crop little increased over last year, Georgia tobacco farmers are victims of the farm program defeat. They gave the program a majority and now with an inferior quality crop and no marked increase in production, the economic outlook for them is recognized as serious.

The appeals for higher prices are certain to hit a concrete wall in the form of a run-away production. Then there is the inferior quality factor to be considered. Reports from individual observers indicate that the price is to be regarded as fair considering the increased production of bright tobacco and the inferior quality.

No comment was forthcoming from federal agricultural authorities and others who earnestly tried to eliminate beforehand the depressing price factor of over-production.

Price trends continued about the same as the markets approached the close of the first sales week, the average holding to the 15- and 16-cent level throughout the belt.

Comparisons of 1939 prices with last year on selected U. S. grades showed:

Cultures	1939	1938
Fair Lemon	21.00	32.00
Fair Orange	21.00	31.00
Lugs, Choice Lemon	21.50	32.00
Choice Orange	21.00	31.00
Fine Lemon	19.50	30.00
Fine Orange	19.50	28.00
Good Lemon	17.00	27.00
Good Orange	17.00	27.00
Fair Orange	11.75	19.00
Primings:		
Choice Lemon	21.00	33.00
Fine Lemon	20.00	31.00
Fine Orange	19.00	30.00
Good Lemon	17.00	28.00
Good Orange	16.50	26.00
Fair Lemon	12.75	22.50
Fair Orange	11.00	20.50

Teacher Benton Has Plenty To Do During The Summer Months

Arthur M. Benton, recent graduate of N. C. State College, and now agricultural teacher at Oak City High School, is managing to keep plenty busy during the summer months, despite the fact that he has no classes.

"The duties and tasks of the teacher of agriculture are unlimited," says Mr. Benton. "He has a busy time the year around. Teaching in the classroom is only a part of his work."

Mr. Benton has outlined some of the work he has been doing in the last several weeks, since the closing of the Oak City school. In the first place, he has to prepare his teaching plans for the coming year. Then there is the matter of filing bulletins and securing reference material.

The project work which his students started last spring requires the constant vigilance of the agricultural teacher during the summer. He makes numerous visits to the farmers of his community, and does much community work, including the vaccination of hogs.

Cooperating with the county agent in his program of work, and keeping on his toes at all times to be of service to the farmers of the section are other matters which help keep the agricultural instructor busy the year around.

Section Bows To Heat Wave In Past Few Days

Following a comparatively cool period, a heat wave, accompanied by relatively high humidity has held this section in its grasp during the past few days. No record has been established by the mercury, but readings of 96 reported in the shade, have under atmospheric conditions tested the vitality of farmers and others who were obliged to remain by their tasks.

Intermittent showers have fallen, but even then the weather has been oppressive.

Thirteenth Curing Barn Destroyed In The County

Fire, believed to have started when an over-heated flue caught the logs, destroyed the curing barn and, a large quantity of tobacco on the Coburn farm near Dardens early last night. Incomplete reports state that the barn was the thirteenth to have been destroyed by fire in the county so far this year.

Farmer Dennis Coburn, reporting the fire this morning, stated that he with neighbors had much difficulty in preventing the fire from spreading to another barn.

Facts Indicate There Is Very Little Unemployment Locally

According to current facts coming from reliable sources, there is little real unemployment locally at this time. Calls for 75 or more workers have been virtually ignored, and every inducement possible has been offered to fill new positions created in a tobacco factory at Greenville, Cyrus W. Bazemore, manager of the local unemployment office here, said this morning.

A first call for employable colored women was issued two days ago, and up until this morning only four people had applied for the work that will pay them 25 cents an hour, during 55 hours each week for the next five or six weeks. No marked response has been received even though employment officials point out that arrangements have been made for group transportation and room and board at reasonable rates.

"It is possible for a colored woman to accept the work, and clear as much as \$50 during the working period," Mr. Bazemore said, adding that his office was at a decided loss to understand why more colored women had not applied for the jobs.

It is true that farmers are using much town labor in harvesting tobacco, but the closing of the peanut plant a few days ago should make available at least 50 women who could leave their homes for just a few weeks.

The work is not difficult, but last reports maintain that employment authorities are experiencing much trouble in rounding up enough workers in several eastern counties to fill the approximately 1,500 jobs recently created. Any one wishing to work is directed to the employment office in the town hall here.

Authorities Map Plans For Sanitation Drive

Seek Cooperation Of The Public In Promoting Drive

Stated Objectives Will Be Outlined By The County Health Department

General plans for an extensive drive to improve general sanitary conditions were formulated at a joint meeting of town authorities and the heads of the board of health and volunteer department held in the town commissioners' room here last evening.

Calling upon the health department forces to take charge, the commissioners passed a resolution pledging their support in advancing the general clean-up campaign.

The first move in the drive will be in the form of a general appeal to the public, urging all storekeepers and property owners to cooperate in the movement and work to relieve those conditions that are aggravating the public health and disturbing the cleanliness of the town.

No effort was made to point out conditions that are really deplorable but the authorities and departmental heads recognized those conditions and attacked the problem with the expressed desire of solving it without resorting to court action. "Most of the merchants who scatter garbage out the back doors of the stores are just careless, but I believe they will cooperate with any movement to improve sanitation," Dr. F. E. Wilson, head of the health department, told the meeting.

The health officer said that he had seen little children eating from the garbage collections back of stores and eating places, that nearly every back lot in Williamston would not meet a lax sanitary law. It is quite evident that store operators, possibly unconsciously of the fact, are preparing ideal breeding places for flies, rats and other vermin in numbers.

Garbage disposal was discussed, and the town authorities are expected to make a detailed survey of the problem following a preliminary investigation by the board of health.

After appealing to the civic pride of the town's citizenry, and after attacking the problem through an education drive, the authorities, if the two first plans do not meet with success, propose to resort to court action in an effort to remedy the bad sanitary conditions that now exist.

While removed from the eyesight, foul sanitary conditions exist within a few yards of the town's main street, health authorities point out. Just two blocks removed from the main business district a small settlement is equipped with a limited number of privies, and the privies are insanitary. Liquor law enforcement officers have just about refused to enter or go near the settlement because the filth and clouds of savory stench are worse than a machine gun attack in actual warfare.

It was gathered from the meeting, that the authorities in charge plan to seriously prosecute the sanitary movement, and the general public will do well to lend its cooperation. Mayor Hassell and health authorities are mapping out details for the drive which is expected to get underway very shortly.

William Taylor To Face Trial In Superior Court

Charged with the carnal knowledge of Ella Louis Outerbridge, 15-year-old colored girl, William Taylor was placed under bond in the sum of \$500 for his appearance in the superior court for trial here next September. Taylor, admitting his guilt in the case, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice Hassell Wednesday. Unable to raise the bond, the defendant was returned to jail.

Will Get Cotton Price Adjustment Payments Ere Long

Farmers To Apply For Special Cotton Money Within Few Days

Between thirty and thirty-five thousand dollars will be made available to Martin County cotton farmers within the next six or eight weeks in the form of cotton price adjustment payments. T. B. Slade, special assistant in the farm agent's office here, announced today.

Announcing that the applications for the payments would be received just as soon as the compliance work is checked in the office of the farm agent, Mr. Slade pointed out that both the landlord and tenant must sign the forms, that the cotton growers will be advised when to make formal request for the money.

Overplanting their allotted cotton acreage, a few farmers in the county have already forfeited their claims to the cotton price adjustment payments as well as those offered under the soil conservation program. Those farmers planting an excess cotton acreage, can qualify for the payments however, by plowing up the excess acreage, it was pointed out.

The cotton price adjustment payments are payable to those farmers who received a cotton allotment but who did not plant a stalk of cotton.

The payments, figured at the rate of about 1.6 cents per pound, are based on allotments and will average around three to five dollars an acre. The size of the payments are determined from the poundage allotments and in those cases where no cotton was actually planted the payments will be distributed among landlords and tenants in accordance with terms and agreements that would have been in effect had the cotton been planted.

Cotton is under a strict control program, and those farmers who have excess acreages will be required to pay a three-cent penalty on surplus poundages. Red cards will be issued to those growers exceeding their allotments.

A few farmers in this county have already applied for the cotton price adjustment payments, but the majority of the applications will hardly be filed before early August. Last year most of the payments were effected in late September and October.

Health Department Finishes Its Work In The County Clinics

Nineteen vaccination clinics conducted by the Martin County Health Department came to a close this week. During the four weeks the clinics ran, a total of 25,356 injections of typhoid serum were made, according to records of Dr. F. E. Wilson, county health officer.

The largest number of injections made was at the health office in Williamston, where 4,135 arm punctures were made. The second largest number was 2,636, at the Williams-ton colored school. The smallest total figure was 315, at Parmele.

In some sections of the county, the clinics were greatly disappointing to the health department, mainly because of the fact that farmers have had their hands full with the tobacco crop.

Although most of the injections were against typhoid, there were 1,372 people in the county who took single shot vaccinations against diphtheria. Most of the diphtheria vaccinations were given the first week, though there were quite a few during the second week.

The number of diphtheria injections in the last two weeks of the clinic was small. The three-shot diphtheria treatment started off strong but dropped sharply after the second week, because there were few starters after that week, which was the biggest of the four.

Following is a tabulation of the total typhoid injections in each of the 19 clinics:

No. 95 Filling Station	1,402
Jamestown School	1,852
Dardens-Jordan's Store	1,531
Farm Life School	1,509
Eason Lilly Store	1,140
Bear Grass School	1,910
Corey's Filling Station	1,073
Williamston Col. School	1,073
Williamston Health Dept.	4,135
Roebuck's Store	223
Hamilton	926
Oak City	1,967
Robertsonville	1,091
Gold Point	929
Hassells	598
Parmele	315
Everetts	1,237
Cross Roads	740
Total	25,356

Defendant In Sordid Case Released From County Jail

Edward Wilkey, middle-aged man charged with committing a crime against nature, was released from the Martin County jail here yesterday morning when his young son, Thomas Wilkey, failed to appear and offer evidence for the State at a preliminary hearing scheduled before Justice J. L. Hassell.

The prosecuting attorney explaining to the court that the witness was sick and could not appear, Wilkey was released under bond in the sum of \$700. The case will be reopened just as soon as the prosecuting witness is able to attend court.

Cuts Finger Off While Repairing Lawn Mower

Testing out a lawnmower at his home on East Main Street here day before yesterday, Mr. Tom Cook accidentally got a finger on his left hand tangled up in the blades and lost the end of it. The injury, while painful, was not at all serious.

BOOM

Its daily life altered with the construction of a hard surface highway some years ago, Jamesville is fast adopting itself to the new situation, late reports stating that a building boom is getting underway there, and that the new movement will virtually complete the shift of business from the town's one thriving main street to the highway.

Merchant Ira T. Coltraine is starting the construction of three brick stores on his property facing the highway, according to information received here today.

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