

Alleged Violator of Slot Machine Laws Fined \$500.00 Here

L. B. McCormick Appeals and Posts Bond in Sum of \$1,000.00

Judge H. O. Peel in the Martin County Recorder's Court here yesterday dug down deep into the slot machine law and adjudged L. B. McCormick, distributor of various pin and amusement machines, of Greenville, guilty of violating those laws. At the conclusion of a trial lasting nearly three hours, the judge fined the defendant \$500, the costs to be added. McCormick, through his attorneys, Worthington and Horton, appealed to the superior court. Judge Peel requiring bond in the sum of \$1,000, which was immediately posted.

McCormick offered a strong defense when he maintained that he did not own the machines, that he did not know to whom the machines belonged. The defendant went on to say that his agent, a man named Martin, was given four "race horse" machines to locate in Martin County, that the machines had been "robbed" of their gambling features and were strictly amusement gadgets. Martin, according to the defense, stored the four machines in Randolph's garage in Greenville and without the knowledge of his employer substituted four machines that were unquestionably illegal. McCormick stated that he did not know the illegal machines were being operated in this county until warrants were served on him some time during last August by the Pitt County sheriff at the direction of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck.

After being delayed week after week, the case finally came before the court yesterday for trial. The defense, bringing his master mechanics and several other employees, carried his four machines before the judge's bench, and the State carted the other four machines that were confiscated last August. Mechanic Jasper told how he had removed the gambling features from his company's machines at the direction of Mr. McCormick and added that he aided McCormick's agent, in loading them for delivery to locations in this county. "The defense further maintained that it knew nothing about the machines being switched until a letter was received from Martin who apparently quit the company and disappeared. 'I went to New York looking for Martin, but could not find him,'" McCormick said.

While it is possible the machines confiscated in this county do not belong to the McCormick Vending Machine Company, the State, through its special prosecuting attorney, Elbert Peel, maintained that McCormick was responsible for the acts of his agent, the prosecution having established agency in the early period of the trial.

During the course of the trial, McCormick said from the stand that he did not locate illegal machines especially in Martin County.

The prosecution maintains that a machine that can be easily converted into a gambling device is illegal, and it was quite evident that the slot machine traffic experienced tough sledding in its first real test before the courts in this county.

Leaf Production Up To Estimates

The tremendous increase predicted some time ago in tobacco production is maintained in the October report just released by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The total estimate of production of 1,654,174,000 pounds for all types of tobacco combined as of October 1 is virtually unchanged from a month ago, it was pointed out in the report. It is conservatively estimated that the crop, as a whole, is 22 per cent greater than the average production of 1,360,400,000 pounds for the 10-year period, 1928-37.

It is pointed out in the report that the greatest percentage increase in production is in the Eastern Carolina belt where the estimates point to more than a 100 million-pound increase. It is predicted that the production in this belt will approximate 358,680,000 pounds as compared with 251,980,000 pounds a year and 262,540,000 pounds for the 10-year average, 1928-37.

The acreage production this year is estimated at 980 pounds, nearly 200 pounds greater than the 1928-37 average, and 120 pounds higher than the unit yield last year.

The production increase was fairly consistent throughout the flue-cured belt, and in only one or two sections of the country was there a decrease and in those cases the decrease is negligible.

C. A. Harrison Reported To Be Improving Today

Mr. C. A. Harrison, after a week's stay in a Richmond hospital, was reported some better there shortly before noon today. A communication received here at that time stated that he rested unusually well last night, that he was looking much better and was brighter. He is responding to treatment better than was expected, his many friends here are glad to learn.

Farm Bureau Leaders Renew Drive for Thousand Members

Their goal half reached, Martin County Farm Bureau leaders in a special meeting here last evening renewed their efforts to boost the rolls to 1,000 members by November 16. Offered concrete facts in connection with the good already accomplished and the urgent need for a stronger farm organization, the small group left the meeting more determined than ever to reach the membership goal.

The captains of the membership teams, Messrs. Charles Daniel and J. R. Winslow, briefly addressed the meeting and pledged their every effort for the successful completion of the drive. "Labor has organized its ranks, and tomorrow wages for the industrial worker are being advanced and the hours shortened," Mr. Charles Daniel said, pointing out that the farmers must effect similar organization plans and push forward. J. T. Cooper, field representative of the organization, pointed out

that there was a greater need for a strong farmer organization than ever before, that while prices may rise as a result of the war it is likely that industrial prices will run well ahead of farm commodity prices. "We must be prepared to keep farm commodity prices in line, for there's no reason why prices for some articles should advance and leave farm commodity prices to trail along," Cooper added.

Speaking briefly, Farm Bureau President J. E. Winslow stated that the President of the United States Tobacco Association stated this week that had it not been for the government's entering the markets, tobacco farmers would have received fifty or sixty million dollars less this year for their crop than they would have received without the program. Mr. Winslow went on to explain other benefits received by the farmer through the organization, including a stabilized peanut market and the protection of the farmer in the legislative halls of state and nation.

Conference Reaffirms Opposition to Liquor

5 OUT OF 500

Starting work on an addition to the huge plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county, Contractor Muirhead received applications for jobs from nearly 500 men. The large number of applicants, coming from a wide territory, waited at the plant from early morning until selections had been made. Only five of the group were given immediate employment, representatives of the contractors explaining that approximately 300 workers would be needed when the building activities reached a peak within the next few weeks.

Mrs. W. L. Poteat Dies Last Saturday

Mrs. Emma Purefoy Poteat, wife of the late President Emeritus, of Wake Forest College, Dr. W. L. Poteat, died suddenly at her home in Wake Forest last Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Poteat, who celebrated her eightieth birthday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wheeler Martin, here week before last, left for her home Saturday morning about 10 o'clock. Shortly after reaching her home she explained that she did not feel well, that she wanted to lie down and rest. A short time later her condition was considered critical and hardly before medical attention could reach her, she passed away, the end coming peacefully and as she would have it.

Following the death of her husband just a few years ago, Mrs. Poteat spent much of her time here with Mr. and Mrs. Martin and had many friends here.

Funeral services were conducted in the Wake Forest Baptist church Sunday afternoon at four o'clock and interment was in the Wake Forest cemetery.

The funeral services were conducted by Dr. J. A. Easley, former pastor, and Dr. Everett Gill, present pastor. In speaking of Mrs. Poteat, Dr. Easley said: "It has been said that nothing so shows what we are as that to which we give our love. By this standard, Mrs. Poteat has shown the true nobility of her spirit, for she chose well the objects of her affection."

"She loved beauty—beauty in face and form, in art and nature," he continued. "She loved her church and all that it stood for. Her love for Dr. Poteat was as beautiful as was his love for her. And to love him was to love one of God's noblest spirits. It is a joy to think of their lives reunited in the presence of Christ whom they loved and served and whose they were."

Mrs. Poteat was the former Miss Emma James Purefoy and was a life-long resident of Wake Forest. Besides her daughter here, she is survived by one son, Dr. Hubert M. Poteat, of Wake Forest, and a daughter, Mrs. Helen Poteat Stallings, of New York.

Miss Owen To Address Parents-Teachers Today

An illustrated lecture on eye health by Miss Phyllis Owen, representative of the Virginia Electric and Power Company, will feature the program at a regular meeting of the local parents-teachers association in the high school auditorium this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Miss Owen has appeared before several parent-teacher groups in this county and her talks have been valuable.

Pentecostal Holiness Church Closes 29th Conference Monday

More Than 300 Ministerial And Lay Delegates Present For Conference

Concluding the 29th annual session of the North Carolina Pentecostal Holiness church here late yesterday afternoon, the ministerial and lay delegates, numbering more than 300, adopted resolutions reaffirming opposition to the liquor traffic and declaring intentions to support those public officials who stand for promotion of temperance and sobriety.

The conference voiced a strong opposition to the growing tendency to commercialize the Sabbath.

The conference, opening here last Friday, attracted prominent leaders of the church from several Southern States and the large number of delegates and visitors from over a wide territory evidence a growing church. The session, welcomed here by people of all denominations, "measured up to our fondest expectations," a leader in the host church said this morning.

The Rev. Jerome Hodges, of Goldsboro, for sixteen years the able superintendent of the North Carolina Pentecostal Holiness convention, was re-elected for another term yesterday when the business of the session was resumed following a schedule of devotional and educational program the day before. Rev. S. A. Fann, of Roanoke Rapids, assistant superintendent, the Rev. C. B. Strickland, of Falcon, treasurer, and Rev. A. H. Butler, of Goldsboro, Falcon, executive board member, were re-elected to their respective posts. The Rev. Odell T. Howard, of Tarboro, was elected secretary of the convention for his first term. The conference also confirmed the nomination of Jas. W. Butler, of Goldsboro, as director of young people's activities. Young Butler has been active in this departmental work for ten years, he having ably served the church in that capacity during that time. Rev. W. B. Godwin, of Wade, was re-elected director of Sunday schools. Young people's officers named were, H. D. Marshburn, of Abbottsburg, vice president; Mrs. Thera A. Thornton, of Falcon, secretary; Miss Ruth Johnson, of Kinston, assistant secretary, and Rev. L. E. Peyton, of Chowhobby, and Rev. Odell T. Howard, of Tarboro, board members.

Last official act of the conference was adoption of the report on ministerial work.

(Continued on page six)

Candidates Crowd Field For Governor

Announcing his intention to seek the gubernatorial nomination in this State, Lee Gravelly, Rocky Mount man, adds interest to the race for the highest office in North Carolina. The field is already crowded with candidates, but it is apparent there is always room for one more.

Apparently realizing a long and bitter campaign will air out at least a few of the Democratic party's shortcomings in the State and at the request of the big political wigs, the seekers of the gubernatorial nomination have not officially announced their candidacies. It is very likely, however, that W. P. Horton, lieutenant-governor of Chatham County; J. M. Broughton, A. J. Maxwell and Willis Smith, all of Raleigh, and Tom Cooper, of Wilmington, have their eyes focused on the nomination in addition to the Rocky Mount man.

Mention of Gravelly's intentions for entering the race attracted little attention in this immediate section.

Change In Wage Law Having No Apparent Effect On Business

More People Employed Locally Today Than There Were Last Week

No slackening in activities was apparent on the industrial front in this section today as a new change in the wage and hour law went into effect. Factory payrolls, fairly well crowded last week, have been increased along with an upward revision in pay rates and a slight reduction in hours.

It is also apparent that the principles underlying the wage and hour law are not creating as much disturbance as they did a year ago when they were first applied on a more limited scale. As far as it could be learned no dismissals have been ordered by the captains of industry and the operations under the changed law are being advanced smoothly.

The Columbian Peanut Company added quite a number of workers to its payroll at the local plant this week. The renewed activities there were accompanied by firm prices to farmers, the quotations standing at three and one-half cents for good bunch and three and three-quarters for best jumbos.

Employment is now approaching the highest peak in two or more years locally with the tobacco industry using more workers than in several seasons.

Under the new change in the wage and hour law, hourly pay rates are advanced from 25 to 30 cents as a minimum with maximum hours reduced from 44 to 42 on a regular basis.

Reports from near-by towns where industrial activities are more numerous than they are here, state that the wage scale increase had been applied to higher brackets. Workers not legally affected under the change in the law have had their hour wage rates increased in proportion to the increase applicable as a minimum standard.

Several Are Hurt In Accident Near Here Late Friday

Dallas Taylor Leaves Hospital After Receiving Treatment For Injuries

Three persons were painfully but none was seriously hurt in an automobile crash between here and Sweet Water Creek near midnight last Friday, but the two cars were wrecked almost beyond repair.

Dallas Taylor, passenger in one of the cars, was entered in the Brown Community hospital for treatment, following the accident, but was released the following morning. He suffered lacerations about the face and was badly bruised when he was thrown through the windshield of the car in which he was riding. Mayo Matthews, driver of one of the cars, was dangerously cut near one of his eyes, and Arthur Nixon, a passenger in the second car, was painfully cut on the face. Fred Cherry, Wesley Hardison, Vernon Bryant, Miss Elizabeth Williams and a young man named James, other passengers in the two cars, were not hurt in the wreck.

Driving toward Williamston, Fred Cherry, accompanied by Arthur Nixon and Wesley Hardison, all of Williams Township, abandoned his car when it broke down. Borrowing his brother's car, a 1934 model Ford, he started back to his own automobile and the Ford broke down and stalled in the highway just before he reached the spot where the first car was parked. Matthews and his party were traveling toward Williams and crashed head-on into the stalled car, Matthews explaining that the lights of a third car blinded him and that he did not see the Ford in time to stop.

It was estimated that the Ford driven by Cherry was damaged to the extent of \$200 or more, and that the repair bill to the Model A Ford driven by Matthews will amount to around \$150.

No indictments were drawn as a result of the accident, reports stating that the parties had agreed to settle it out of court.

Directors Farmers Mutual Company In Meeting Here

Meeting in special session here this morning, the board of directors of the Martin County Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association effected arrangements for handling coverage on farm properties against which the Federal Land Bank of Columbia holds claims. There has been some misunderstanding as to the policies of the two companies, but the details have been straightened out and the county company is now in position to handle this type of business. Jas. L. Coltrain, president of the association, announced following the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Messrs. Coltrain, Sylvester Peel, W. B. Harrington, W. M. Green, S. T. Everett, Joseph S. Griffin and Joshua L. Coltrain. R. H. Nelson represented the Land Bank.

Tobacco Prices Reach New High Point on Local Market As Best Sales of Season Are Recorded

Preliminary Estimates Point To Reduction in Peanut Crop

Preliminary reports, based on early harvesting activities, point to a marked curtailment in the Martin County peanut production figures this season. These early reports coming from five widely scattered communities in the county place the average per acre production at slightly less than twelve bags with the yield running as low as six and seven bags per acre in some communities.

"We picked 39 bags from six acres this week," Farmer J. R. Winslow said last evening.

"The first reports indicate that the average in our community will approximate 13 to 15 bags per acre," Farmer Gaston James, of Cross Roads, said.

Farmer Van Taylor says that his first pickings will average around 14 bags.

Bear Grass reports only a medium-size crop is expected, according to Farmers Joe Griffin and W. M. Har-

rison. Picking operations have not gotten underway in Griffins, and in Hamilton and Goose Nest the farmers are just starting the task.

All the reports heard thus far maintain that the quality of the crop is better than usual.

Reports from the markets state that early deliveries brought from three and one-half to three and three-quarter cents for bunch and from three and three-fourths to four and one-quarter cents for jumbos. The market report added, "Many of the peanuts offered were not dry when picked and are unfit for sale. Growers should be very careful not to pick their peanuts until they are dry and well cured. We do not consider there has been any price established as yet, as millers have bought so far only to try to get enough to run milling tests, and the market is not based on what the millers can get for cleaned and shelled peanuts."

Individual Averages Near War-Time Peak On Market Monday

Sales Are Well Over Seven Million Pounds for the Season To Date

Tobacco prices, after holding to around the 15-16-cent level since the reopening of the markets on the 10th of this month skyrocketed here yesterday when well over 300,000 pounds of the golden leaf were sold for an official average of \$19.03. "It was by far the best sale of the season, and while the general average does not compare with those in past years it is very encouraging to farmers under present conditions," Sales Supervisor K. B. Crawford said this morning.

There was a marked "pick-up" in the general feeling surrounding the market, and farmer after farmer willingly stated they received far more than they expected. The price average today will hardly reach the high figure recorded yesterday, but the price trend is holding firm, farmers themselves pointing out that the quality of the offerings is not up to average and considerably inferior to that seen on the floors yesterday.

Individual averages yesterday approximated war-time prices, the individual sales reaching the 43-cent mark with averages for sizable lots exceeding 35 cents. Averages between 28 and 35 cents were numerous and quite a number of individual piles sold around the 40-cent figure.

The upward price trend was quite noticeable for the better types of tobacco. The Export and Reynolds companies were in the thick of the buying yesterday with their price limits well advanced over anything seen so far this season. Spirited bidding was noticeable on the part of all buyers.

The condition of the tobacco offered for sale yesterday was improved, market observers explain and that is believed to have had a marked effect in boosting the general market average. "It is a great relief to buy on a sale like we had today when the tobacco is in good condition and there isn't a world of common quality leaf to look at," one of the company representatives was quoted as saying yesterday.

While it is possible for the local market to work out of a block that has been in evidence since the reopening of the markets two weeks ago today, there is some doubt if all the floors will be cleared by late Friday as deliveries continue almost without interruption night or day. At noon today, approximately one-half million pounds were on the floors awaiting the attention of the buyers.

Anticipating a slackening of deliveries next week the buying companies have decided to maintain the six-hour selling day. There was some talk about the possibility of reducing the daily selling period from six to five hours, but apparently that plan has been abandoned.

A hurried survey of the sales shortly before noon today indicated that prices were holding firm, the several farmers questioned stating that they received higher prices than they had anticipated.

All's Fairly Quiet On Western Front

Quietness reigns on the Western Front as the scene of activities again shifts to the diplomatic front in the European war today. Flood waters along the front have reduced activities to a minimum, the commentators now maintaining that it will be impossible for Germany to successfully launch an attack on the Maginot line this fall.

Tension increased in the Balkan areas, reports stating that Turkey, signing a mutual pact with the Allies, was quietly mobilizing its forces to full-time war strength.

Representatives of Finland are returning home today after an all-night conference with the Stalin government in Moscow. It is believed that Russia's demands have been lessened.

Attention centered today on American neutrality after Germany seized the United States ship, "City of Flint" yesterday and carried it to a Russian port with Germans in actual charge of operation. The advocates of a revised neutrality bill cited the seizure as a step toward war, that it would not have happened had the neutrality act been amended. The isolationists in Congress agreed to limit further debate on the measure of revision and it is expected that a vote on the neutrality act will come during the latter part of this week.

Hold First Committee Elections This Week

Farmers Are Doing Bit Of Politicing In Several Sections

All Farmers Are Eligible To Vote and Serve As Local Committeemen

Martin County farmers will start setting up their machinery at district meetings for administering the 1940 soil conservation program, the office of the county farm agent announcing that all farmers who plan to participate in the program next year are eligible to vote and serve as committeemen subject to a majority vote of those participating in the elections.

The elections are being held according to the following schedule at 7:30 o'clock p. m. with representatives of the agent's office in charge: Tuesday, October 24: Bear Grass with T. B. Brandon and W. H. Harrison in charge; Robersonville with J. P. Woodard and J. R. Winslow in charge; Oak City with T. B. Slade and Jesse Crisp in charge.

Wednesday, October 25: Hassell, T. B. Slade and Jesse Crisp; Cross Roads; J. P. Woodard and J. R. Winslow; Griffins; T. B. Brandon and W. H. Harrison.

Thursday, October 26: Jamesville; J. P. Woodard and W. H. Harrison; Williamston; T. B. Slade and Jesse Crisp; and Williams; T. B. Brandon and J. R. Winslow.

The meetings getting underway this evening will elect a community chairman, a vice chairman, regular member, first alternate, second alternate and a delegate and alternate to the county committee meeting to be held later.

On the same ballot is a certificate which the farmer will sign if he wishes to participate in the election. The certificate is binding in no way, and merely expresses the wish of the farmer. The certificate reads as follows:

"I hereby certify that I have an interest in a farm as a landowner, tenant, or sharecropper, in the community for which this election is held, and during the current year, to the

(Continued on page six)

Missionary Rally Is Well Attended Here

The Plymouth zone rally of the Elizabeth City District Women's Missionary society in the Methodist church here today is being well attended, reports from the meeting state.

The visitors were welcomed by Mrs. Clyde Manning, Mrs. Lee Hardison, of the Holly Springs church, responding. The meeting immediately entered upon its business calendar with Mrs. DeLaney, district secretary, of Hertford; Mrs. Garrett, of Columbia; Mrs. Gertie Matthews, of New Bern; Mrs. I. T. Smith, of Windsor; and Mrs. W. C. Chadwick, of New Bern, taking parts in the program.

Following lunch which will be served at the parsonage, the conference will hear a missionary address. The entertainment program this morning was featured by a solo by Mrs. John Wier, accompanied by Mrs. W. C. Manning.

HARD WINTER

With summer-time temperatures prevailing during the past several days, local weather dopesters are about to discredit the early signs that ordinarily point to a "hard" winter. The mercury has ranged up to points well in the nineties, but the old-time prophets still maintain there'll be plenty of cold weather felt in these parts ere long. No killing frosts have been reported here thus far, but one can be expected before another week is spent.

"There'll be several snows this winter," allows Farmer John Cherry, who points out that for every fog in August there'll be a snow this winter.

Plan Aid For War-Stricken Refugees

Receiving an urgent appeal this week in behalf of the hundreds of thousands of helpless people who have been driven from their homes by war and ruthless dictators, local religious and civic leaders in a meeting last evening mapped preliminary plans for directing an organized drive for funds in this section.

Frank J. Margolis was named chairman of the drive, and he will have as his assistants the various ministers and civic leaders in the community. In launching the drive for aid, the committee humbly beseeches the cooperation of every man, woman and child.

"I hesitated to accept the chairmanship of the drive for several reasons," but upon receipt of appealing literature and urgent requests from national relief headquarters in New York for us to participate in the movement to relieve suffering humanity, I gladly accepted the task," Mr. Margolis said in asking the cooperation of the people here.

Reports from other centers in this section of the state maintain that Rocky Mount has already raised \$3,000, that other towns are raising their quotas quickly and without much trouble.

A word picture of the suffering humanity in Europe and China is offered in a little leaflet just received here. It reads: Hopelessness in Hungary, sorrow in Czechoslovakia, persecution in Germany, hunger in Roumania, tragedy in Poland, and so on in the other areas where war has laid waste even the bare necessities of life.

Hamilton Farmer Produces Record-Size Sweet Potato

Undisputed evidence offered by Farmer Robert L. Grimes, of near Hamilton, points to a record sweet potato crop in that section this fall. Digging his crop last week, Farmer Grimes stated that his production will average slightly in excess of 300 bushels per acre. Some of his potatoes look more like pumpkins on account of their unusual size. Placing one on display here last Saturday evening, a single potato grown by the farmer weighed eight pounds after it had been in the sun two or three days. The potato, possessing a fairly round shape, measured almost 25 inches in circumference.

A second potato taken from the same vine weighed about five pounds and a third one was of normal size.