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## Tobacco Thefts Are Reported In Cross Roads Last Weekend

### Three Men Are Arrested, But No Trace of Thief Found In Third Theft

Held in check by warnings and the watchfulness of farmers during the first two months of the current marketing season, tobacco thieves finally went into action in this county last week-end when they struck twice in Cross Roads Township and made a small haul in Pitt County.

Two of the thefts were cleared up with the arrests of three men by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck within a few hours after the first one was reported, but no trace of the thieves in the third case has yet been uncovered.

Approximately 300 pounds of graded tobacco were stolen from the porch of a vacant tenant house on the Dave Aushorn farm late last Thursday night. The tobacco, said to have been of inferior quality, was placed on the porch that it might get it back into the house late that night. When he went there he found the tobacco missing.

Making an investigation Friday morning, Sheriff Roebuck was unable to establish a single lead that would "crack" the case, but his activities fitted right in with two other cases even before the thefts were reported. Thieves, operating not far from the Aushorn farm, stole about 125 pounds of tobacco from Mrs. Bettie Bullock and her tenant, Sam Highsmith, Andrew Anderson, a tenant on the Bullock farm, was arrested and charged with the theft. Anderson was said to have carried the small quantity of tobacco to the home of Nathaniel Roberson, nearby, and loaded it on a truck with Roberson's tobacco. When the tobacco was unloaded on the Robersonville market Friday morning, Roberson was said to have asked Anderson what name he wanted to sell it in. Anderson was said to have told Roberson to sell it in his (Roberson's) name. Anderson, arrested a short time later, denied any connection with the case.

While he was working on that case, the officer as a result of information offered by Nightwatchman Arthur Perkins in one of the Robersonville warehouses, suspiciously Albert G. Clark, Sheriff Roebuck was investigating the case when Sheriff Proctor, of Pitt County, called and advised him that a small quantity of tobacco had been stolen over there. The Martin officer invited the Pitt sheriff over, and the two soon brought the case to a head. The tobacco had already been sold, but it was identified and the law then established a watch at the bank. Clark was said to have started into the bank, but turned away when he recognized a representative of the Pitt County law.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck then picked up the trail and followed Clark into a mercantile store. Learning the officer was on his trail, Clark ran up the stairs and hid the check behind some cloth. Unable to find the check immediately, the officers carried Clark to the warehouse where he was identified by the watchman. The check was found later and when Clark realized the officers had the "goods" on him, he admitted the theft and implicated Clarence Ayers, Pitt County farmer.

A ritual contest was the main feature of the program with the different chapters competing. The Columbia chapter won first place with Robersonville winning second, and Plymouth winning third place. Several numbers of string music were rendered by the members of the Plymouth chapter. The boys are looking forward to public speaking, livestock judging and athletic contests at future meetings.

## Peanut Harvesting Work Is Delayed

Slow rains falling in this section yesterday and today have interrupted the peanut harvesting season, reports stating that with a clearing of the skies late today it will be impossible to resume the work before the latter part of this or early next week.

Fair weather this week would have brought the harvesting work to a climax throughout the county, but as a result of the rains there is little activity on the farms or on the market.

Opening up around three and one-half cents, the market continues to hold to that figure. However, few sales have been reported here during yesterday and today.

The sweet potato harvesting work has also been delayed, but it is generally understood that most of that crop has been harvested and is now safe in curing barns from the weather.

Late reports maintain that the peanut production is below normal with the average not expected to exceed twelve or thirteen bags to the acre. Sweet potato production will exceed that of last year, reports indicating that the yield will average between 125 and 150 bushels per acre for all grades.

## Methodists Will Serve Turkey Supper Friday

The ladies of the local Methodist church will serve a complete turkey supper in the Woman's club hall Friday evening between the hours of 6 and 7:30 o'clock for the nominal sum of fifty cents a plate.

## Plans Go Forward for County Wide Annual Red Cross Drive

Plans were announced well underway today for conducting the annual Red Cross membership drive in the Martin County chapter, Chairman Harry A. Biggs stating that membership organization had been perfected in several districts and that others would be named shortly.

At a meeting of Red Cross officials here last Saturday, a new territorial division was effected with the districts of Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston coming under the Martin County Chapter and the districts of Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest coming under the jurisdiction of the Robersonville chapter. The Junior Red Cross will function as an entirely separate unit this year with James C. Man-

## Start Proceedings To Recover County Taxes

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures, shot to pieces by the pink eye and other ailments, are fast returning to normal in the various schools of the county, according to information coming from the office of the county superintendent today. All the youngsters are back in the Everetts school, and the pink eye after reaching real epidemic proportions is fast subsiding in all the other schools.

The Williamston school at one time reported 117 pupils absent with the pink eye. A large number of the pink eye victims continued in school.

The epidemic here, described as the most severe on record, sent several children to the hospital and held others in bed for a week or more.

## County Boys Head Tar Heel Farmers

The Tri-County Federation of Young Tar Heel Farmers held its first regular meeting in the Plymouth High School recently. The Federation is composed of YTHF chapters in the high schools of Martin, Washington and Tyrrell Counties. Chapters included in the Federation are Columbia, Tyrrell; Creswell, Roper and Plymouth, Washington county, and Jamesville, Oak City and Robersonville, of Martin County.

The business consisted mainly of adoption of a constitution and by-laws, and the election of officers. The officers elected are: president, Leo White, of Oak City; vice president, Lucy Ward, of Robersonville; secretary, Joy Gray Browning, Jr., of Plymouth; treasurer, Clayton Marriner, of Roper; and reporter, Darwin Smith, of Columbia.

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## Neutrality Debate Underway In House

Offering the senate neutrality bill to the house on a "take it or leave it" basis administration leaders took sharp issue today with demands of arms embargo advocates for a chance to revise the legislation.

This question of parliamentary procedure, important to both sides for tactical reasons, was laid before the house rules committee. It was a skirmish heralding tomorrow's debate in the house.

The administration forces, confident of duplicating their senate victory over embargo repeal and a "cash and carry" trade program, wanted to prevent amendments being offered from the floor. They insisted that the house vote on the original senate bill.

But Representative Fish, Republican, N. Y., leader of the anti-repeal bloc, contended that the house had a right to alter the measure as it saw fit. He served notice that he not only would fight in the rules committee for that privilege but also would seek at least three days of house debate. Repeal chieftains tentatively suggested two days.

ning, superintendent of county schools, in charge of the drive.

Rev. E. C. Shoe heads the Robersonville chapter activities, and Harry A. Biggs is president of the Martin County chapter. Plans for conducting the Robersonville chapter roll call are virtually complete, reports stating that canvassers had already been named and that the drive will get underway in that section of the county next Monday.

Chairman Harry Biggs said today that Mrs. Joshua L. Coltrain had been named to head the drive in Williams Township, and that Mrs. Joseph A. Eason had been named chairman of the roll call. Mrs. Eason will be assisted by members of the Junior Woman's club in extending the roll call locally.

Reports coming to Red Cross officials indicate a great need for a loyal support in the annual roll call which is slated to get underway in this section on Saturday of next week.

## Actual Transfer Of Property Scheduled Within Four Months

### Defendants in Tax Suits Are Located in Many of the Forty-eight States

The final days of grace allowed property owners delinquent in their tax accounts are fast drawing to a close, the office of the county attorney stating yesterday that foreclosure proceedings are now being instituted to recover approximately \$32,817 in back taxes.

The final action that is certain to result in the transfer of quite a few parcels of land and town lots marks the end of a hectic period in the county's tax history and places the burden directly upon the property owners who have not met their tax assessments.

On previous occasions foreclosure proceedings have been instituted at the direction of the law, but subsequent changes in the state tax laws added to the days of grace for the hard-pressed property owner and the suits were discontinued. Now, the time is up and to comply with the dictates of the law, the county attorney is proceeding to effect final settlements or order the transfer of property titles. The actual and final sales will be effected in about four months from the date the suits are filed in the office of the clerk of the Martin Superior Court.

The tax suits, dating back to the year, 1928, are being brought against approximately 300 property owners in the county. In some cases, the amount of the unpaid taxes is very small, but in those cases where the accounts have not been settled in any of the nine years from 1928 to 1936, the taxes almost approximate the actual value of the property against which the county holds claim.

The tax record in this county up to 1929 reflected almost 100 per cent collections, but when the crash came that fall the old obligations started running into big figures. At the present time, the tax situation is beclouded with unpaid accounts. The accounts for 1938 remain unpaid in numbers; the 1939 accounts are due and payable, and next January—two months off—the taxing authorities will start preparing for the 1940 tax year.

Considering the hectic economic period, Martin County property owners have done exceedingly well by their taxes, the last audit showing that the approximately 300 unpaid accounts out of a possible number of nearly 7,500 represent only \$32,817. Taxes due and unpaid since 1927 are, as follows: 1928, \$766; 1929, \$2,700; 1930, \$4,785; 1931, \$4,784; 1932, \$4,562; 1933, \$3,756; 1934, \$3,392; 1935, \$5,136; 1936, \$6,936. Suits to recover unpaid taxes for the year 1937 and subsequent periods cannot be brought at this time. They will be instituted from year to year in the future.

The first of the suits started by the county is against Thomas and Joe Whitehorse and others.

## Special Service At The Episcopal Church Here

Wednesday, being All Saints Day, there will be a celebration of the Holy Communion in the Church of the Advent at 10 o'clock a. m., Rev. John Hardy, rector, announced today. At that hour the water and wine cruets, given by Mrs. F. U. Barnes in loving memory of her mother, will be consecrated.

## Committee Named To Head Program In Martin County

### Old Officers Are Re-elected At County Convention Held Friday

The machinery for administering the 1940 soil conservation program in Martin County was set up in its entirety last Friday afternoon when delegates elected in the various districts earlier in the week met and re-elected the old officers. The election, marked by harmonious action, was said to have voiced a general approval of the past work of the county committee and laid the foundation for a smooth operation of the program for the coming year.

Mr. Jesse F. Crisp, of Oak City, again heads the local administration as chairman. Mr. J. R. Winslow, of Robersonville, continues as vice chairman, and Mr. W. M. Harrison, of Bear Grass, was re-elected regular member. Messrs. George C. Griffin, of Griffins, and C. C. "Frosty" Martin, of Jamesville, will continue to serve as first and second alternates.

A representative of the Martin County Agricultural Conservation Association, commenting on the recent district and county elections, stated that this county is fortunate to have such able men to administer the program. "They are anxious to protect the interests of every farmer, and constructive criticism will be welcomed by them at all times," the representative added.

Each member of the committee was elected on an individual ticket to the office he now holds. The delegates participating in the election were, Messrs. C. C. Martin, of Jamesville; Charles L. Daniel, of Williams; George C. Griffin, of Griffins; Luther M. Peel, representing Poplar Point and Williamston Townships; Garland Forbes, of Cross Roads; J. R. Winslow, of Robersonville; D. R. Edmondson, of Hamilton; W. R. Egerton, of Goose Nest, and Urban Rogers, of Bear Grass.

A definite work schedule has not been announced, but it is expected that the various committees will start reviewing contracts for 1940 within a short time.

The committee personnel for the county and the several districts follows in its entirety:

County committee: J. F. Crisp, Oak City; J. R. Winslow, Robersonville; W. M. Harrison, Williamston; R. F. D. No. 2, George C. Griffin, Williamston; R. F. D. No. 1, C. C. Martin, Jamesville; R. F. D. No. 1.

District committeemen with the names of chairman, vice chairman, regular member and first and second alternates following in order:

Jamesville: C. C. Martin, C. G. Gurkin, R. L. Stallings, Arthur Modlin and David Holliday.  
Williams: O. S. Green, C. L. Daniel, R. J. Hardison, Walter Gardner and W. W. Griffin.  
Griffins: Asa J. Hardison, George C. Griffin, J. C. Gurkin, L. H. Roberson and S. E. Manning.  
Bear Grass: W. M. Harrison, Joseph S. Griffin, Redden Leggett, Herman Rogerson and Tommie Lawrence Roberson.

Williamston and Poplar Point: W. Mayo Hardison, R. T. Griffin, Fred Taylor, Luther Peel and Mingo Rogers.

Cross Roads: W. L. Aushorn, Gaston James, G. H. Forbes, Henry D. Peel and J. Marion Griffin.  
Robersonville: R. S. Everett, J. R. Daniel, S. T. Everett, J. R. Winslow and H. H. Roberson.  
Hamilton: D. R. Edmondson, W. J. Beach, C. L. Nelson, J. H. Lillard and Woodrow Purvis.  
Goose Nest: L. L. Harrell, H. A. Early, J. C. Ross, J. E. Crisp and J. W. Belflower.

In those cases where community committeemen were elected to posts on the county committee, other members on the community committees will step into those positions made vacant by advancement.

The committee personnel is listed here that individual farmers might discuss various features of the program with their respective representatives.

## President Roosevelt Issues Proclamation

Thursday, November 23, was officially proclaimed Thanksgiving Day by President Roosevelt today. The proclamation carried an appeal to the people to return thanks for the peace that is being enjoyed on this continent today.

## MICE

All snug in their nest, half dozen mice were sold along with a pile of tobacco on the local market this morning. Not until the tobacco was sold were the mice discovered and their presence did not affect the 26 cents paid. The buyer did not complain, but it is likely that the old mother rat is doing some tall searching for her brood.

## Offering New Method For Marking Potatoes

### Cooperative Plan Is Explained To Group Of Martin Farmers

#### Indications Point to a Dollar Market, Official of Exchange Says

Declaring marketing conditions must be improved if the difference in the price received by the farmer and that paid by the consumer is to be narrowed C. C. Hilton, of the North Carolina Farmers' Cooperative Exchange, outlined a new method of marketing to a group of Martin County farmers in the agricultural building here last evening.

"If we can establish a receiving center in this county and render a service to Martin farmers, we will have accomplished something," Mr. Hilton said. "If we cannot do that, then we will tell the growers to patronize the highest market," he added.

The cooperative is considering locating at Williamston and maintain a regular market from about the early part of December during the remainder of the season. The cooperative, under the direction of Mr. Hilton, will operate a regular cleaning and packing depot. A charge of five cents for cleaning and packing will be made and an additional charge of five cents per bushel will be asked for handling the actual marketing activities. If the farmer will stand behind or guarantee delivery of potatoes to the markets in good condition, the 10-cent fee will represent all the charges. In other words, if the market is \$1.10 a bushel, the farmer will receive \$1 net. If the farmer does not wish to guarantee deliveries, then he will be asked to place an extra nickel into a special fund to care for any losses that might follow. Mr. Hilton pointed out that in some cases, the potatoes damage in transit and that the buyers will refuse to pay the contract prices. If the special fund has any surplus at the end of the season it reverts to the growers.

"We are not trying to drive anybody out of the market; we are merely trying to lower the marketing costs to the farmer," Mr. Hilton said, and added that the cooperative is confident that it can render a valuable service to the farmers.

The cooperative representative stated that a 100-car market had already been established and that additional outlets could be created. Before scouting around for additional markets, Mr. Hilton explained that he wanted to talk with the growers to make certain that the orders could be filled. The group of about 40 farmers at the meeting virtually agreed to deliver several thousand bushels to the cooperative in this county, and it is believed that possibly 100 carloads of the sweets can be handled by the exchange.

Farmers interested in the new marketing system are directed to County Agent Brandon who will explain the details and make available contracts.

Recognizing the possibility of expanding the potato market by means of a directed advertising program, the meeting in this county agreed to allow one cent a bushel for the preparation of recipes and other similar advertising material. Each basket of potatoes will carry several of the recipes and the brand name of the cooperative.

D. G. Matthews, Martin County farmer and a large potato grower, told the meeting that he shipped a car through the exchange last season and averaged 11 cents a bushel more than he received through other marketing mediums. He pointed out that it was his belief that the exchange could render a valuable service, especially to the small-scale producer.

The truck problem and its tendency to "beat down" market prices came in for lengthy discussion, the group agreeing that it would be better for the grower to deal through an established agency.

Representing the Southeastern Chain Store Council, H. R. May stressed proper grading and packing.

## Two Minor Accidents In County During Week-end

No one was hurt and very little damage was done in two minor automobile accidents in the county last week-end. Possibly \$30 or \$40 damage was done when the cars of Messrs. B. S. Courtney and Gormer Harrison bumped together in the warehouse district here Friday afternoon. Two fenders were smashed when two cars crashed on a narrow bridge a few miles west of Robersonville Sunday night. One of the cars was driven by Dr. Walker, of Elizabeth City.

## Tobacco Prices On The Local Market Are Holding Firm

### Sales To Date Well Over the Eight and Half Million Pound Mark

Tobacco prices on the local market continue to hold firm with the general average varying more or less, in accordance with the quality of the offerings. Considering the quality, the price is just about as high today as it has been at any time this season with the possible exception of one day. According to Lucian Hardison, farmer and keen observer of tobacco, the market here today was averaging right at 17 cents, the estimate being based on sales during the first two hours. This figure tallies almost to a point with the report released by Sales Supervisor K. B. Crawford for the sales during the week ending last Friday.

Last week, the supervisor reports, the market sold 1,299,040 pounds for \$211,485.38 for an average of \$16.66. Grade for grade, tobacco prices are averaging just as high here as they are on any market, an observer maintains. Up until last week-end, the Williamston market had sold 7,964,464 pounds for \$1,138,812.92, a resulting average of about \$14.50.

It is estimated that four-fifths of the crop in this section has been sold. Using this estimate as a base, it is almost certain that the market will reach the ten million pound mark before the season comes to a close possibly during the latter part of November or early December.

Quite a few farmers have completed their marketing, and it is unusual to find a grower with more than two or three thousand pounds on hand at this time.

Reports from the state, as a whole, state that approximately 247,464,630 pounds have been sold to date for an average of around 15 cents.

Individual sales ranged up to 38 cents on the local market yesterday, and averages of slightly more than 28 cents were reported in some instances.

Last Friday the market cleared its floors, but ran into another block yesterday. The sales were back on schedule early this morning, and by following a strict schedule the selling organizations are expected to clear the floors late this afternoon, making available plenty of floor space for sales tomorrow and during the remainder of this week. It is now possible for a farmer to get a sale the same day he delivers his tobacco.

## Europe Has Jittery Case of Diplomomania

Inactivity continues to mark the European war front today as a greater part of the world suffers in anxious waiting with a severe case of "diplomomania."

On the Western Front this morning Germany was said to be firing big shells on points far back of the French lines, and Hitler's planes were flying deep into French territory to survey the general activities there. According to the Germans, front line trenches had been deserted by the French.

Attention is now centering on a diplomatic parley between Russia and Italy. Other powers are awaiting development, little knowing what to expect.

Mussolini, holding to the quiet front for weeks, is said to be shaking up his forces and replacing old leaders. London recognized in his action an attempt to stimulate pro-German influence.

The Balkans are working to form a pact against invasion either by Germany or Russia.

As a result of the mysterious warfare on the high seas during the first two months of the war, Germany claimed today that England was failing in its blockade, that Germany was about to starve out England.

A warm note has been addressed by the United States to all belligerents, warning them against any harmful acts on the lives of the 41 members of the City of Flint crew. The boat pulled out of a Norway port yesterday, presumably for a German landing. The ship took on large quantities of supplies, and it is believed that she is off on a long and undetermined cruise.

## Condition Of Gun-Shot Victim Reported Worse

The condition of Willie Padgett, Jamesville Township citizen, who had his bladder shot out two years ago next month, was reported much worse yesterday. Virtually helpless since he was shot, Padgett has baffled leading surgeons in his pugnacious hold on life. Nearly a year ago, a leading surgeon stated that there was nothing that could be done to repair the damage caused by a load of gun shot and added that he did not see how the man could live thirty days longer. No marked change has been reported in his condition until yesterday when medical aid was again summoned to him.

## DISAPPOINTING

Current tax collections in this county are proving mighty disappointing, according to a statement made yesterday by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, the collector. Given an additional month of grace when the county commissioners delayed the sheriff's tax sale, the property owners have apparently taken advantage of the grace period. The dead line is fast closing in and collections are increasing from day to day, the sheriff stating that possibly the delinquent list for 1938 will be no larger than the one for 1937.

Starting a drive a few weeks ago for personal property taxes, the officer states that he now has on hand about a dozen cars and a few other items to be offered at public sale next Monday.

## Jas. LeRoy Andrews Dies At Home Near Here Last Saturday

### In Ill Health After Mysterious Shooting Several Years Ago

James LeRoy Andrews, Williams Township farmer, died at his home there last Saturday morning at six o'clock following a long period of declining health. He suffered a complication of ailments, and during the past few weeks his condition was considered critical. He was unconscious for five days preceding his death.

Mysteriously shot while hunting in the Islands section of Williams Townships about seven years ago, Mr. Andrews has experienced poor health since that time. The load of shot, fired from a gun in the hands of a person whose identity was never definitely determined, struck the farmer in the shoulder and lead poisoning apparently resulted. Despite his affliction, Mr. Andrews bore his suffering without complaint and just a few weeks before his last illness he went into the fields and plowed peanuts. Reports state that he was so weak at the time that he had to have help in getting on and off a riding plow. Officers, questioned soon after the shooting about seven years ago, stated they believed Mr. Andrews was mistaken for a bear.

The son of the late Luther and Lucy Perry Andrews, he was born in Williams Township 56 years ago. In early manhood he married Miss Sadie Duncan, formerly of Guilford County. She survives with five children, Misses Kathleen, Katie and Alice and Delbert and John Andrews, all of Williams Township. He also is survived by the following brothers and sisters, Messrs. Sam and Julius Andrews, of Williams Township, and Ben Andrews, of Williamston; W. B. Daniel and Mrs. Sam Jones, of Williamston; Mrs. Lizzie Cherry, Mrs. N. S. Cherry, Mrs. Grover Godard and Mrs. Charles Pate, all of Williams Township, and Mrs. Sam Hopkins, of Washington County.

Mr. Andrews was a member of the Methodist church at Holly Springs. He was a hard-working farmer and an accommodating neighbor.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home last Sunday afternoon by Rev. S. A. Maxwell, Methodist minister. Interment was in the Andrews family plot in Williams Township, near Sweet Water Creek.

## To Start Canvass For Relief Funds

Final plans were formulated at a meeting of civic leaders and other business men in the law office of Wheeler Martin last evening for advancing a drive for funds to relieve untold suffering among war-stricken refugees. Solicitors will start the canvass soon, and all citizens are earnestly urged to participate in the humane cause by contributing liberally to the fund.

Based on poverty, want and suffering already now existing, a fund of twenty million dollars is being asked by the directors of the nationwide movement. Recognizing the merits of the cause, thousands of dollars have already been raised in several eastern North Carolina towns and this county is asked to raise \$500.

Falling victim to malaria last Friday, Mayor John L. Hassell continues in bed. His condition was reported much improved today.