

## Plans Go Forward For Strong County Farm Organization

### More Than 100 Farmers Hear Holland and Arnold Here Last Night

Anticipating some tough battles on the farm legislation front just a few weeks from now, Martin County farmers in a mass meeting here last evening advanced plans for a stronger organization to support its ranks when the course of agriculture will be plotted in the nation's legislative halls next January.

Opening the meeting held in the courthouse, C. A. Roberson, head of that tobacco farmers had received a fair price price considering that peanut prices were scotched and that the farmer, as a rule, is in fairly good shape this year. "But we must look forward to next year and the years to follow," Mr. Roberson said. Continuing he pointed out, "We have been riding on the kite tail of the American Farm Bureau. Now we have got to act. We must join the organization and help in the fight," he said, adding that a strong organization is needed now more than ever.

County Agent T. B. Brandon briefly addressed the group, and ably pointed out that the farmer was not receiving his share in the national income, that organization was necessary if parity and fair prices were to be had by the farmer. Never failing his old friend and hobby—and a serious one with him, too—Brandon stated that Martin County is now about ready to start moving a quarter of a million bushels of sweet potatoes to the markets.

Making the main address of the evening, but not centering his talk on proposals for a new peanut program, R. C. Holland, president of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, pointed out there is coming and coming soon a "New Day in Farming." He declared, "Either we are going to make a business of farming or we are going to lose our farms and go on relief within five, even three years. Unless we go to the all-important task in a business-like way, some corporations—possibly the insurance companies, the banks or some other highly efficient and organized business unit—will take over agriculture and make money out of it," he explained. Holland, a firm believer in the Farm Bureau and a willing worker in its behalf, stressed the value of bookkeeping on the farm and a strong organization to see that agriculture is represented in the national picture, that the farmer gets parity prices and equality. "Farmers must organize to protect themselves, and demand a seat around the conference table along with business, industry and labor, and until farmers get around that conference table they will not get parity prices or share equality along with other industry."

Continuing he said, "A group of Southern farmers in an organization of their own cannot command attention, but such a group in cooperation with farm groups in the Midwest can accomplish something."

For the first time in history, the lowly peanut—a major crop in this section of the country and one that has claimed an undivided attention of Mr. Holland for several years—will be represented at the national meeting of the Farm Bureau in Chicago next month. Mr. Holland plans to be there, to plead with the American Bureau for help in pushing the cause of the peanut in Washington next January. "But it will take a strong organization to do that," he said, adding that if peanut growers did not get a good program he would tell them why by planting time next year.

Recognizing the services of a director in the peanut stabilization cooperative, Mr. Holland asked Mr. W. R. Everett, of this county, to stand before the meeting.

R. G. Arnold, Southeastern director for the Farm Bureau, pleaded with Martin farmers to boost their membership to 1,000 members, to be prepared to demand equal rights in Washington next January when the lowly peanut and other farm crops, too, will face a bitter battle against demands for an ever-greater defense appropriation.

The membership campaign in this county will be brought to a close next Thursday night when another mass meeting will be held here.

## Allege Violations Of The Tobacco Scrap Law

Unofficial reports heard here today maintain that at least two men will face trial in the courts of this county week after next for the alleged violation of the tobacco scrap law. It was also learned that one of the alleged violators of the law had given a worthless check in payment for scrap bought from a farmer in a neighboring county and that the check would be used by the state in prosecuting the case.

Representatives of the State Department of Revenue are checking the sale of scrap and a number of dealers face trial in the courts of several tobacco counties in this belt.

## To Advance Plans for Local Chamber Commerce Tonight

Plans for the organization of a local chamber of commerce will be advanced at a meeting of business and professional men in the courthouse here this evening at 7 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by Elbert S. Peel, chairman of the organization committee. A special invitation is being issued to all business and professional men and others interested in a progressive organization, urging them to be present for the meeting.

Preliminary plans for perfecting a local chamber of commerce were discussed some time ago, but a delay resulted when Attorney Carter Studdert, a member of the organization committee, was transferred to a new field. The undertaking has a strong support behind it and the organization plans are expected to get the approval of local business firm operators and other citizens of the town.

The need for a strong chamber of commerce has presented itself during recent months in a marked way and citizens, interested in the future of the town and community, are earnestly seeking to perfect and build up a strong organization. Individual citizens, acting in a semi-official capacity, have handled the duties of a chamber of commerce organization year after year, but it is hardly reasonable to expect them to carry on that work for an indefinite period. And, too, their individual duties make it impossible for them to devote as much time to the business of the organization as is necessary to assure the greatest returns.

There is work for a wide-awake commerce body here, and local people are urged to participate in its organization and cooperate in its program of activities.

## Red Cross Roll Call Is A Marked Success

### AMPLE SUPPLY

Shifting the topic of conversation from cold cash, Martin farmers declare there is an ample supply of meat in the county this year. While the supply is hardly as large as it was last year, there will be enough meat killed in the county this winter to over-run the smokehouse and leave some for the hungry town population.

Farmer Cratt, out in Bear Grass, officially opened the packing season a few days ago, but the number of hog killings, as a general rule, will be limited until around the Christmas season and early in January. Reports state that there is an abundance of feed and that farmers are in no big hurry to kill their hogs.

## Mrs. Jesse E. Price Dies At Her Home From Heart Attack

### Last Rites Being Held This Afternoon; Interment in Mobley Cemetery

Mrs. Sarah Cobb Price, highly respected county citizen, died of a heart attack at the home of her nephew, Maylon Price, near here yesterday afternoon at 12:50 o'clock. Mrs. Price, one of the oldest residents in her community, had been in declining health for about a year, but she continued unusually active for a person of her age until yesterday morning at 8:30 when she suffered an acute attack of the heart. She was conscious until just before her death.

The daughter of the late Tilghman and Hannay Cobb, she was born near Williamston on December 18, 1862. When a young woman she was married to Jesse Eason Price who died 56 years ago. In 1900 she moved to Williamston with her son, Mr. Jesse T. Price, and made her home here until about 1922 when she returned to her old home community and spent the remainder of her life there.

Possessing a quiet and unassuming character, Mrs. Price devoted her life to the service of others. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Mrs. Price appreciated the simple yet beautiful things in life, and valued the warm friendship of others. Born in a period of strife and hardship that marked the Civil War period in this county, she, as a child, learned to value the basic needs of life, to share the hardships and joys with others.

While she never affiliated with any church, her life was marked by its Christian character and she was a believer in the Primitive Baptist faith. Elder B. S. Cowin, of the church at Bear Grass, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville, are conducting the last rites at the home this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Mobley Cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

## Cars Damaged In Wreck Early Wednesday Night

Eli Roberson, of Robersonville, was slightly cut on the mouth but no one else was hurt in an automobile accident on U. S. Highway 64 between here and Everetts early last Wednesday night. Considerable property damage resulted, however. Hubert Morton, of Kinston, was traveling toward Everetts and Harry Roberson was driving toward Williamston when the two cars met at a barricade in the road and crashed head on. Damage to the Morton car was estimated at \$100 and that to the Roberson car at \$35.

## Incomplete Report Places Membership At High Point Here

### Junior Woman's Club Reports Nearly \$300 Raised In Few Days Here

With the local Junior Woman's club in charge, the annual Red Cross Roll Call now drawing to a close here is recognized as one of the largest and most successful reported here in recent years. Mrs. J. A. Eason, speaking for the club membership, reported today that 240 new members had been added to the humane organization's membership roll and that approximately \$40 had been contributed in smaller denominations. The total amount raised to date is \$273.93, the chairman of the drive stating that approximately \$300 will have been raised by the time the campaign is ended on Thanksgiving Day.

The organization's plea for suffering humanity received a marked response throughout the town with all classes from both races willingly taking memberships or advancing contributions. The work among the colored population was especially pointed out by the chairman.

Mrs. Eason's report shows that 339 persons cooperated in the campaign which was limited, more or less, to the immediate community. The successful drive this year compares with a total of only \$125 raised throughout the entire Martin County chapter last year.

Names of roll call workers, members and contributors, by race, follow:

**White Members**  
Claude Leggett, B. F. Perry, R. L. Perry, Landy Griffin, Mrs. C. T. Roberson, Ralph Taylor, J. C. Anderson, Miss Dorothy Ward, Kenneth Lindsey, J. E. Pope, P. P. Peel, Clarence Whedbee, Paul Jones, Jas. Bailey Peet, John O. Manning, Marvin Britton, N. C. Green, Dean Speight, Roy McCreese, Charles Herriott, Dick Smith, Edwin Holdin, G. H. Harrison, Sr., G. H. Harrison, Jr., Dennis Hardy, Julius Peete, John H. Edwards, Lawrence Lindsey—Roll Call Worker, Mrs. J. A. Eason.

Mrs. C. O. Moore, Mrs. John W. Manning, Mrs. P. Woodford, Mrs. Joseph Griffin, Larry Wade, Urchell Miller, Miss Janie Manning, S. V. Tillman, Rev. J. L. Goff, Mrs. J. L. Goff, Mrs. Charles Leonard, Rev. Z. T. Piehoff, Mrs. Marshall Wilson, Mrs. Claude Griffin, Mrs. John Ward, Mrs. Harold Everett, Mrs. J. W. Watts, Mrs. Fannie Biggs, Harry Biggs, Mrs. Era Cobb—Roll Call Worker, Mrs. Henry S. Manning.

Mrs. Trulah Jones, J. D. Bowen, The Bargain Place, Norman Harrison, City Beauty Shop, Miss Thelma Lilley, Dr. W. C. Mercer, Mr. G. P. Hall, Guaranty Bank, Benjamin Courtney, H. A. Bowen, Mrs. Ethel Wynn, Martin County Building and Loan, Mrs. Tilman Coltrane, L. B. Wynn, Miss Mary Taylor, Miss Audrey Williams, Miss Mary Elizabeth Keel, Mrs. J. S. Getseling, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, Dr. J. T. Llewellyn, Dr. R. G. McAllister, William Carstarphen, Enterprise, C. D. Pittman, Williamson Cafe, Israel Department Store, Garland Barnhill, J. D. Woodard, J. W. Watts, Herbert Clark, C. B. Clark, Jr., C. B. Clark, Sr., C. B. Leggett, Western Union, Eugene Rice, Miss Ernestine Barber, H. O. Peel, Central Cafe, Elbert Peel, Hubert Coburn, Penders, Hugh Horton, Henry S. Manning, C. A. Askew, Oliver Gilbert, Mrs. Oliver Gilbert, Jack Biggs, Mrs. Hewett Edwards, Dr. Frank Wilson, Dr. E. T. Walker, Miss Rae, C. R. Mobley, L. T. Fowden, Wheeler Martin, Jack Horner, A. J. Manning, Mayor Hassell, W. G. Peel, Soda Shop, Taylor's Electric Shop, Alpha Cleaners, Woolard Shoe Shop, Welcome Inn, Irving Margolis.

(To be continued next week)

## Committee Making No Major Changes In 1940 Allotments

### Disappointment Is Rumored Even Before Quotas Officially Announced

An attack against the 1940 tobacco program was rumored today as the committees neared the end of their first week of head scratching and puzzle solving so earnestly done in trying to effect an equal and fair distribution of the 1940 acreage allotments. County committee-men and employees in the county agricultural office withheld any comment, but individual members of the community committees maintained that the allotments were being determined as fairly and as equally as possible, that many of the complaints were unfounded and could not be supported by actual facts. There was no great dissatisfaction expressed, as far as it could be learned, but one or two adjustments effected by the local committee was a "hot" topic of conversation in one township. It was unofficially learned that the adjustment was upward and that only one-tenth of one acre was involved. The committee, virtually completing the preliminary work in that township, listened to the complaint and again reviewed the contracts in a number of cases, but it could not be learned today what action, if any, had been taken.

As far as it could be learned this afternoon, no allotment has been reduced more than 20 per cent, and that the local committees are doing all they can to lower the percentage of decrease in the individual allotments.

That many farmers will be dissatisfied with their allotments is almost certain, as reports from the farms, indicate that quite a few growers hold the opinion that the reductions will be limited to about twenty per cent on their 1939 plantings. The reduction for 1940 will be based on the 1939 allotments and not on the actual plantings.

Preliminary work on the acreage distribution has been virtually completed in Bear Grass, Cross Roads, Goose Nest and Hamilton Townships and the committees for Jamesville, Griffins and Robersonville are now reviewing the contracts for 1940. Work on the contracts for farmers in the three remaining townships, Williams, Poplar Point and Williamston, will be started shortly.

## Colored Teachers' Day Observed Here Sunday By Group

### Stronger Cooperation Between Church and School Is Stressed By G. T. HILL

The Teachers' Day, which was celebrated at Mt. Shilo Baptist church last Sunday, was quite a success. Teachers of Martin and adjoining counties were invited to be present as guests at a public worship service and sit in a body.

Feeling the very close unity which exists between church and school, those responsible for this service undertook to show the great amount of good each could accomplish if they (church and school) would cooperate for one common aim—the betterment of all the people.

The church has not only thrown out a challenge but is pleading for cooperation.

The sermon by the pastor, Rev. L. T. Bond, the addresses of Professors George T. Hyman, W. V. Ormond, Jr., John M. Slade, W. C. Chance and James Faulk, followed by the address of Hon. Elbert S. Peel and the response by Prof. J. W. Bond, should convince the most obstinate that the great need of this age of excitement is cooperation of church and school.

We would like to make special

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## UNUSUAL

The Martin County Superior Court went modern this week when the "no smoking" sign lost its meaning and judge and members of the bar began puffing cigarettes while the tribunal was holding forth. It was an unusual departure from the old custom, old-time observers declaring it was the first time in their memory that smoking was openly allowed in the courtroom. No spectators and few members of the bar dared violate the old custom.

Judge Luther Hamilton moved out of the seat of dignity, seated himself in the witness chair and fired up a cigarette during a lull in the proceedings, others among the bar membership firing up in fairly rapid order. The jury was out, to be sure, but spectators were puzzled when they were advised the session was in progress and that it was permissible to smoke.

## Jury Unable To Reach Decision \$10,000 Suit

### Resume Argument At 2:30 Following Recess For Dinner

### Court Spends Day and a Half On Trial of Mitchell-Hall Damage Suit

The \$10,000 damage suit brought by Jimmy Mitchell by his next friend, Joe Mitchell, against G. P. Hall, local fire chief, continued to hold the attention of the Martin County Superior court this afternoon after the jury failed to reach a decision in the case during an argument lasting nearly three hours and pleaded time out for lunch. The jury returned to its room at 2:30 o'clock and indications are that a verdict will not be rendered until late afternoon with the possibility that a "hung" jury will result in a mistrial.

The case, growing out of an automobile accident on the main street here last March, was called yesterday. All evidence was offered and the counsel for the litigants completed its argument to the jury late yesterday afternoon. Judge Luther Hamilton, presiding over the special two weeks term of the court, recessed the tribunal until this morning when he delivered his charge and the jury took the case at 10:45. About eight witnesses were called by each side in the case, the plaintiffs fixing the speed at between 35 and 55 miles an hour when the young boy was knocked from his bicycle by the fire chief's car and critically injured. Some of the witnesses apparently drew on their reserve imagination as A. K. Heteyh, Tarboro man who was a witness to the accident, stated that he saw the fire chief turn his car around, place the boy in the car and carry him to a doctor's office.

The case was vigorously fought by both the plaintiff and defense counsel, and so far during the term it has been the feature in the proceedings. Next week attention of the court is likely to center on the \$10,000 damage suit of Harris against Taylor.

While one jury argued the Mitchell case, the court started work on the action brought by Hadley and others against Steele and others.

The Sammy Ann Close case, settled by compromise this week, rests under a judgment about as complicated as the issues were in the complaints, but it marks the end of a long litigation, and now it is quite apparent that no one will get a great deal, not even the lawyers.

In the recorded settlement, attorneys were identified with the various litigants, the case having been delayed some time ago when two attorneys each thought he was representing this group or that group. The judgment continues:

That a deed from B. A. Critcher, commissioner, to D. G. Matthews is void, that Matthews is entitled to a lien in the sum of \$340 taxes paid by him.

That the county of Martin is entitled to a tax lien in the sum of \$94.81.

That taxes for more recent years are due and unpaid.

That W. G. Clark waives right to the cash value of the life estate of Sammy Ann Close, but that he holds a valid claim to a deed issued to him by J. C. Smith, commissioner.

That proceeds of 1938 rents in the case of W. G. Clark against S. E. Close be applied on taxes in the sum of \$183.30.

That the receiver pay to Critcher, Peel and Swain, commissioners, \$100 rent for 1939 to be applied on taxes.

That interest in land be distributed as follows: W. G. Clark, Emma Staton, Arlanda Moore and Elizabeth Fields, each one-fifth; William T. Grimes, Ethel Sherrod, Annie Grimes, Luzetta Briley, Novella Busby, Solma Grimes and Gussie Carr, each one-thirty-fifth.

That lands be sold by commissioners for a division.

A judgment was granted to the plaintiff in the sum of \$71 in the case of Lindsey Ice Company against A. Corey.

In the case of George Hoyt Mizelle against insurance company, a compromise was effected, the defendant waiving the payment of all premiums and recognizing the insurance policy as being still in force.

The only case reaching the jury up until today was that of Fannie Coffield against Paul D. Roberson, executor of the Gus Coffield estate. The plaintiff maintained that her husband had given her an automobile for a Christmas present and that it was not a part of his estate. The plaintiff was given legal possession of the automobile.

A compromise settlement was effected in the case of P. S. Bellamy against G. W. Barrett, the plaintiff accepting a judgment in the sum of \$123.19.

After catching up with the calendar in two brief sessions Monday, the court called the case of Marion

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## SALES HOLD UP

With sales holding up unusually well on the local tobacco market, it was suggested today that the season is being closed a bit too early here. However, the final curtain will be closed at the end of sales next Tuesday. Market Supervisor K. B. Crawford announced this morning.

Sales are now close to ten and one-half million pounds for the season with prices holding fairly firm today. A large sale is expected next Monday.

## Club Will Promote Children's Project For Local Library

### Two Thousand New Books To Be Placed on Display Here Next Week

After hearing reports on the need of the Williamston Public Library for a larger collection of children's books, the Junior Woman's club at a recent meeting, selected the improvement of the children's department of the library as a major project during the coming months. In presenting the problem to the club membership, the librarian revealed that the children of the community have read extensively since the establishment of the library and that the repeated demand for new reading matter cannot be met from the present collection. It was agreed that steps should be taken immediately to provide new books and a committee was appointed to promote a Share a Book Plan between next Monday and Christmas. The plan will be launched next Monday with the public display of two thousand new children's books which are being sent here for examination by the North Carolina Library Commission.

The Share a Book Plan is designed to enable a parent or friend to provide a book for a particular child and at the same time provide a book for hundreds of others at no additional cost. With the approach of the Christmas season many will buy books as gifts for children. Parents and friends of the library are asked to buy books and donate them in the name of their children. The child in whose name the donation is made will borrow and read the book first and his name will be written on the book plate. When he has read the book, it will be available through the library for hundreds of other children.

It will be remembered that the library has no support other than that which comes from its friends, and it is hoped that the people of the community will rally to its support during the Christmas season. No donations are requested. Interested persons are merely asked to visit the library any day next week and examine the collections of children's books which will be displayed there. Those who wish to donate may place the order there and leave the name of the child who is to be recorded as donor. One may purchase a book elsewhere and cooperate in the plan by conferring with the librarian so that duplication of titles may be avoided.

Remember, a book provided for your child through the Share a Book Plan will provide a book for a hundred or more children. The Junior Woman's club committee, Mrs. Sam Woodford, Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Jr., Mrs. Ernest Etheridge, Mrs. Irving Margolis, and Mrs. H. O. Peel will be glad to hear from persons interested in library improvement.

The two committees appointed by the club will select the rental books to be placed on a special shelf before Christmas, and to handle the special selection of children's books which will be placed on display and offered for sale at the library between November 27 and December 2.

Parents are invited to purchase books from this collection, which their children may present as a Christmas gift to the library. Some member of the Junior Woman's club will be at the library from 3 until 6 o'clock each afternoon and from 7 until 8 at night to aid parents in selecting their Christmas gift books and to take orders for them.

The librarian announces that on Monday, Nov. 27 only, the library will be open from 3 o'clock through seven. The continuous hours for this day are due to the American Legion meeting Monday night. Reported.

## Firemen Called To Burning Car On Houghton Street

Starting from the engine, fire damaged the Chevrolet car of M. J. Norton in front of his home on Houghton Street Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The local fire company, answering the call, had the fire out and the apparatus back in its stall five minutes after the alarm was sounded.

## Small Fire At Standard Fertilizer Company Plant

Thought to have started from a small stove used in heating water in the colored employee's bathhouse, fire damaged the small building at the Standard Fertilizer Company plant on Roanoke River here late last night. No estimate of the damage was immediately available.

## Half Dozen Cases Handled By Mayor During Past Week

### Two Drivers Cited To Court For Speeding on Highways and Streets

While the county recorder's court continues in forced idleness by the superior tribunal, Justice J. L. Hassell is reporting a business increase in his court these days. During the past week, the trial justice handled half a dozen cases and imposed fines totaling \$55.

For the first time in many months, alleged violators of the speed laws were brought before the bar of justice. Cited to the court for allegedly operating a truck at a speed of 60 miles an hour on U. S. Highway No. 64, near here, Rufus Moore was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost. Pointing out that the maximum speed limit for trucks is 35 miles an hour on the highways, Patrolman W. E. Saunders brought charges against the truck driver.

Pleading guilty of speeding through Williamston's business district, Frank Coburn was not fined, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the cost. Coburn was said to have driven his car through a portion of the business district at a 40-mile-an-hour clip or about 25 miles an hour in excess of the town speed laws. The defendant explained to the court that he realized he was driving a bit fast but he was unconscious of the high rate of speed he was running. Officer J. H. Allsbrooks overhauled the speeder down the river hill.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment—defective steering gear and brakes—William Ed Purvis was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Andrew Purvis was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs in the case charging him with operating a motor vehicle with improper lights. Facing a similar charge, Andrew Purvis and Amos Lang each were fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

## Report No Change In Peanut Market

### Noon reports today at noon indicated the markets were weaker. Buyers withholding any further comment.

Apparently aided by unfavorable weather conditions during the past few days, the peanut market continues fairly stable, late reports from several buyers here late yesterday stating that good bunch were selling for three and one-half cents and that jumbos were commanding three and three-quarters cents a pound.

A dull period was reported in the market last week when heavy deliveries caused a glut at the delivery points and factories. Rains delayed picking operations and deliveries slackened a bit in momentum, but even during the past few days several thousand bags of the goobers have been handled at this point daily.

It was estimated a few days ago that 75 per cent of the crop had been picked in this county. That activity is at a standstill as a result of unfavorable weather, but sales have continued, observers revising their estimate of 50 per cent upward today. In some sections more than 70 per cent of the crop has been sold, but on an average it is believed that between 55 and 60 per cent of the crop has moved out of the farmers' hands.

With prices holding fairly firm at three and one-half cents, few deliveries have been made to the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative at this point. However, Messrs. Leman Barnhill, L. H. Gurganus and J. Edward Corey have received a few peanuts for the government and are ready for other deliveries in the Farmers Warehouse here at any time.

## Plans For Checking Cross-County Ginning Explained

Meeting here this week with agricultural representatives from seven eastern North Carolina counties, J. L. Kelton, of the State Extension Service, Raleigh, explained methods for checking cross-county ginnings. Some confusion had resulted when a farmer in one county carried it to a gin in another county. The meeting offered suggestions to eliminate that confusion and make possible the proper allocation of cotton ginnings to the respective counties.

Representatives were here from the following counties: Pitt, Hyde, Pamlico, Wilson, Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell and Washington.

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