

Largest Snow Of The Season Falls Here Wednesday

Rain, Sleet, Snow, Moonshine And Sunshine Reported. In Brief Period

With the mercury leaning heavily on the low side, the weather cut some unusual capers and in a brief period here this week.

Measuring nearly one and one-half inches, rain fell here last Tuesday night. Shortly before midnight the moon was shining and hundreds of stars dotted the heavens. About two hours later, the elements started covering the earth with a white blanket. The work was slow at first, the keeper of the weather bureau stating that possibly six inches of snow was sacrificed before a foothold was gained. Out of the approximately eight inches of snow that fell, the weather station recorded only two that could be counted. On Wednesday morning the sun broke through the clouds for a brief period, but the snow continued to fall for quite a while.

While this section was digging from under those two inches, other areas in the State were covered by a foot and one-half of snow. In a few northern areas and also inland sections of Minnesota and the Dakotas, towns were snow locked with transportation systems blocked tight.

No immediate relief from the cold assaults is promised, the weather authorities stating that possibly one man winter would loosen its tight grip about next Monday or Tuesday.

Whipped by strong winds out of the northwest, the snow formed slight drifts here, but in the Oak City sector, drifts were deep enough to hide a grown man.

The weather records show that while the mercury stood at 28 degrees during the snow storm last Wednesday morning, it was down to 14 degrees at the same hour on the same day in 1936. But the recent reading was plenty cold especially when it is compared with the mercury activities on January 24, 1909. The mercury reached a high of 72 degrees in this section on that day, thirty-one years ago.

According to predictions coming from Martin County farmers the snow has about snowed out for this winter. Claiming that for every fog in August there'll be a snow the following winter, the farmers counted about seven fogs. Weatherman Hugh Spruill has recorded five snows to date. The first inkling of a hard winter in these parts came from Farmer Jordan Peel last summer. Mr. Peel was in town one day and said that he had found a matured sheep bur. He explained that when the bur matured early, a severe winter ordinarily followed. Well, apparently there is something to the signs, and if snows continue to fall a check on the number of fogs back in August will be in order.

Discusses Situation Facing Leaf Farmers

J. Con Lanier In Conference With Washington Group

Statement Released Following Visit To Washington This Week

An encouraging note is sounded in a review of the tobacco situation released this week by J. Con Lanier, Pitt County man and former executive of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, following a conference held in Washington this week with farm leaders and government officials. Mr. Lanier's statement follows:

"I conferred with several members of Congress this week in reference to the perilous position of flue-cured tobacco occasioned by the recent action of Great Britain in prohibiting further imports at this time. I found that North Carolina's delegation in Congress was taking a leading part in efforts to solve this acute situation, and nothing is being left undone by them to recover the British market for the flue-cured tobacco growers.

"Our tobacco farmers are the first casualties of the present war. Our crop is chiefly an export crop. Only about one-third is normally consumed in domestic markets, and therefore the very life of the flue-cured tobacco industry is dependent upon outlets to foreign markets. The permanent loss of the English market would be a major economic disaster to the whole area.

"It must be remembered that England at this time is engaged in a life and death struggle, and the friendship of Turkey and Bulgaria is vital

(Continued on page six)

Farm Operations Are Based On Size of Tobacco Acreage

One of the serious troubles with agriculture in this State is traceable to the failure of "getting across" the soil conservation program to the individual farmers, according to a statement made by E. Y. Floyd, chief state executive officer for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, during a visit to the county this week. Floyd admitted that possibly he and other leaders in the farm movement had not accomplished what they should have accomplished in pointing out the great value of proper farm practices.

During recent years, Martin County farmers and those in other counties, too, have looked at the farm act as an agency for advancing various types of payments and dishing out allotments for various crops. Interest was centered on how many acres a farmer could plant and how much

"come-back money" he could get. Of course, there were minor arguments as to who was entitled to the payments.

Farm leaders, this week pointed out, that the value of the program is centered around soil-building practices and a program calling for independent farm units. Reports state that quite a few tenants have been cut adrift in this county by landowners who figured the extra families were not needed because the tobacco acreage had been materially decreased. "If those landlords would direct the tenant to raise a garden, and use him at a reasonable rate of pay in thinning timber tracts, clearing ditch banks, repairing buildings and assisting in the hundreds of other duties on the farm that are generally neglected, the owner would profit and the tenant could live," it was pointed out.

PASSES



The picture above is a likeness of John L. Bailey, well-known county citizen, who died at his home near Everetts a few days ago at the age of 83 years. Mr. Bailey was held in high regard by hundreds of people in all walks of life throughout the county.

Second Rattler Killed In County This Winter

Apparently the dangerous rattlesnake is changing its habits and is becoming active the year around. Reports coming from the Jamesville sector state that Farmer H. G. Modlin killed a sizable rattler there a few days ago while preparing ground for a tobacco plant bed. The plot of land had been plowed and harrowed several times. Mr. Modlin stated that the snake had been badly bruised and battered but that it could rattle and sing.

FROZEN

A marked drop in water consumption is being reported these cold days by the local municipal plant. According to the superintendent, local people are using hardly 125,000 gallons daily against a normal of more than 150,000 or about 65,000 gallons below the usual summer-time consumption.

Water pipes have frozen here in numbers, and the customers have been getting along with a scant supply in many cases.

A marked increase in consumption is anticipated when the weather moderates and pipes start bursting to start the meters turning in a big way.

Damage Caused By Storm In County

A few trees were upset, communication lines were thrown out of order and an old gin house on the Hamilton Road caved in during the blizzard that struck this section last Tuesday night and early morning, but no great damage resulted in this county.

Reaching a velocity estimated at 50-60 miles an hour, the wind kept many awake, but property was held intact.

The cold weather exacted considerable damage to state highways and roads, preliminary estimates placing the loss at nearly two million dollars. Business progressed slowly during the period here, and in some sections it was at a virtual standstill.

The potato market virtually closed down here, and comparatively few peanuts have been moved during the past few days.

Young White Man Is Facing Serious Charge In Courts

Dennis Wynne Charged With Attempt To Kill and Rob Local Merchant

Dennis Wynne, young county white man who left a wide crime trail through several sections of this county during the past few weeks, had his troubles multiplied yesterday morning when Sheriff C. B. Roebuck served a warrant on him charging "an assault with a deadly weapon—a truck or automobile crank—by secreting himself in the rear foot of Charles Davis' car and by waylaying him with intent to kill and rob." Wynne, released under a \$1,000 bond last Saturday in connection with the alleged robbery of several filling stations in the county, was detained only a short while yesterday, the sheriff accepting a temporary bond for his appearance before Justice J. L. Hassell here this morning for a preliminary hearing in the hold-up case.

Wynne, once recognized as a promising young county citizen, is alleged to have attacked Charles Davis, dry good merchant on Washington Street here, early on the morning of December 24. Davis reported the hold-up attempt to local police, but action was delayed pending an investigation. Formal charges were incorporated in a warrant issued just about the time Wynne fell into the hands of the law for alleged robbing of several filling stations.

About 1:30 or 2:00 o'clock on the morning of December 24, Merchant Davis, after closing his business, went to a filling station cafe, near the warehouses, for a late meal. While talking with acquaintances there, Wynne, who was nearby, heard the merchant say that he had to return to his store, that he had forgotten to lock his safe. According to the story told by Davis, the Wynne boy left the filling station and secreted himself in the back seat of the Davis car. A few minutes later, the merchant got in his car and drove to his place of business just to the rear of the Atlantic Hotel building on Washington Street. He started to get out of the car when Wynne raised up and directed a blow with the engine crank at his head, the blow went wild and Davis was struck on the shoulder, but not badly hurt. After missing his mark with the engine crank, Wynne is alleged to have jumped out and knocked Davis to the sidewalk. A scuffle followed but when Davis yelled so loud that police, several blocks away, heard him, Wynne is said to have run.

Rushing to his aid, police said they found Davis almost white from fright, Davis, for several reasons which he later explained, did not tell the officers whom he thought had attacked him. No developments were reported in the case until the early part of this month when Davis appeared before the county sheriff and later swore out a warrant for Wynne's arrest. Davis told officers that after regaining his composure he returned to the filling station cafe, saw Wynne's car parked there, but did not see Wynne. Davis did not say how much money he had on his person at the time of the robbery attempt, but he did say that he had the receipts from a good business enjoyed the day before.

E. S. Peel has been employed to assist the prosecution, and H. G. Horton was retained yesterday by the defense in the case.

Wynne is charged along with his brother, Bill Wynne, and two colored boys, Grandy Pemberton and Lorne Wiggins, with robbing the Standard filling station here and the Standard Station in Plymouth. He is also alleged to have robbed a filling station in Griffins Township and one in Everetts.

Farm Program Is Offering Farmer A Sizable Income

Martin County farmers, regardless of embargoes, weather conditions, war or whatnot can, through compliance with the soil conservation program, earn a fairly sizable income in 1940, according to J. C. Broom, Agricultural Adjustment Administration representative, who addressed a two-day farm meeting here this week.

On a farm of 150 acres, the farmer may earn \$257.80 under the program, as follows:

Ten acres of tobacco, \$100; eight acres of cotton, \$38.40; 20 acres of peanuts, \$25; five acres of potatoes, \$21 — a total of \$184.40 which represents the amount derived in soil conservation payments provided for soil-depleting crops. The soil-building practices will add \$43.40 to the amount, and by participating in a forestry program, the farmer can earn \$30, boosting the total to \$257.80. The county agent's office or agricultural committeemen will be glad to explain the plan.

Farm Group Advances Tobacco Relief Plan

Secretary Arnold Addresses Farmers Here Wednesday

Strict Enforcement of Leaf Penalty Law Is Urged By Farmers

High tension following the announced embargo on eastern North Carolina tobacco a few days ago is being relaxed to some extent in the minds of growers as farm leaders and legislators undertake the task of relieving the serious situation facing the 1940 marketing season. In an address to Martin County farmers here last Wednesday evening, E. F. Arnold, secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, outlined a program now being proposed to relieve the situation.

Just back from a series of conferences with agricultural authorities, congressmen and State Department authorities in Washington, Mr. Arnold said that the problem is receiving every consideration possible, and that he honestly believed the outlook, while not any too bright, is not as bad as many would picture it to be. "There's a sympathetic feeling for the flue-cured tobacco grower in Washington but there's work to be done in the field," Arnold said, pointing out that the thousands of farmers must place their appeals before Congress, as a whole, and give the program support back home. He had reference to the referendum that will be called some time next summer for control of the 1941 crop.

Approaching the Commodity Credit Corporation this week, Farm Bureau authorities were led to believe that a system for handling export purchases similar to the one in effect last fall would be arranged provided Congress takes no drastic action to curtail the Commodity Credit Corporation activities. The peanut program is tied up with the same agency program, Arnold added.

Looking to the credit agency for handling the export situation, the Farm Bureau representatives in Washington this week turned to members of Congress in an effort to get a reshuffle of the cards and bring tobacco farmers' income up to parity or place it on an equal basis as that enjoyed by other farmers. "We are justified in asking Congress to take 20 per cent of the \$580,000,000 tobacco tax money and help the tobacco farmer," Arnold declared. A bill is being proposed along this line by Congressman Coolidge. The enforcement of the ten-cent pound penalty on excess tobacco plantings was discussed at length in the meeting here this week. The farmers, while recognizing the rights of those refusing to participate in the program, were unanimous in their views as to a strict enforcement of the penalty provision. The farmer, planting in excess, should be required to pay the entire penalty from the

(Continued on page six)

Schedules Special Picture In County

The children of the public schools of the county will be treated to a rare privilege the week of February 5-9 when the Rev. Z. T. Piephoff screens his schedule of picture recordings with a showing of 350 feet of sound film on the New York World's Fair.

The show will consist of the fair picture and two reels under the name of the "Pay Off" and three reels entitled "The Beneficent Republic." The show will run approximately one hour.

If any of the schools of the county which are at the present time not included in this schedule would like to have this picture shown to their pupils, please advise Rev. Z. T. Piephoff.

Following is the tentative schedule: Jamesville school, Monday, the 5th, at 1:30 p. m.; Oak City, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 10 a. m.; Williamston Colored school, Wednesday at 1:30 p. m.; Williamston High School, Thursday, Feb. 8, at 9:45 a. m. and the Bear Grass school, Friday at 9:30 a. m.

Low Mercury Readings Are Reported Locally

With no official readings available, local weather observers have reported varied accounts on the cold weather front during the past week. The mercury has ranged well below the 10-degree mark several mornings, one report stating that a reading was recorded just a fraction of a degree above zero at one point in the rural section, near here. Several others said their thermometers recorded readings as low as seven and eight degrees.

There was little difference in the readings recorded here this morning and last Saturday. Seldom has the mercury traveled higher than 40 degrees during the period.

Short Docket in the County Recorders Court On Monday

Judge H. O. Peel Handles Five Cases and Adjoins Court Before Noon

A short and uneventful docket marked the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Judge H. O. Peel called five cases and adjourned the court before noon. Solicitor Don E. Johnson prosecuted the docket which was recognized as one of the smallest ever before the court in the month of January. Proceedings in the court are, as follows:

Charged with larceny and receiving, Albert Stone pleaded not guilty. At the conclusion of the State's evidence, the defense advanced a motion for non-suit which was granted by the court.

The case charging Oliver Whaley with non-support was not pressed with leave.

Charged with bastardy, William Gurkin failed to answer when called, and the court directed that papers be issued for his arrest.

Aaron Lamier, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged guilty over his plea maintaining his innocence and Judge Peel sentenced him to the jail for a term of sixty days to be assigned to the roads.

Brought into court under a capias for failure to appear for judgment, Bennie James Little, charged with non-support, was directed to pay \$5 a month during the next twelve months for the use and benefit of his child. He was also directed to pay the costs of the case and reappear at the end of twelve months for further judgment. Bond was required in the sum of \$85.

Henry Ball Dies Suddenly Tuesday

Henry Ball, about 62 years of age, died at his home in Cross Roads Township some time during last Monday night. He was found dead in bed early Tuesday morning by Mrs. Ball who detected the coldness of his body and summoned neighbors. He apparently died from an heart attack.

For years bridgekeeper at Washington, he moved to this county about three years ago and lived near his daughter in Cross Roads Township. He first married a Miss Osborne of this county and three children survive that union. Their names are, Mrs. Earl Mobley, of Cross Roads; Mrs. Charles Whitehurst, of Beaufort County, and Joe Ball, of Florida. Some time after the death of his first wife, he married again, his second wife surviving him.

Funeral services were conducted from the home of his daughter Wednesday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Interment was in the Osborne cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Open Forums To Be Held Weekly By Farm Bureau

Recognizing the value of a fuller understanding of the national program and of agricultural problems confronting the individual farmer, the Martin County Farm Bureau Federation this week planned a series of weekly forums for minute discussions of the program and the multitudinous problems facing the farmer. Similar forums are being held in numerous states to a marked advantage, one report stating that as many as 1,500 farmers on an average are attending the meetings in some centers.

"These meetings have meant thousands of extra dollars to our farmers down in my county in Alabama," John Ford, farm agent, said at a meeting here this week.

The first of the weekly meetings will be held in the agricultural building next Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. The meetings will last for only one hour, starting promptly at 7 and ending at 8 o'clock.

Weather Interrupts School Schedules

All Martin County schools were closed by frigid weather conditions Wednesday, local committeemen in several districts holding hurried meetings to order a three-day holiday. Four plants, Williamston, Jamesville, Farm Life and Bear Grass, reporting no sizable snowfall, were quick to reopen, reports from the office of the county superintendent stating that the attendance figures yesterday ranged from 76 to 90 per cent of the enrollment lists.

No complete reports on attendance figures are available for today's session.

Trucks serving the four schools operated on schedule yesterday with one exception. Delayed schedules are anticipated just as soon as the weather "breaks" and leaves the roads filled with mud and water.

Colored schools, located in walking distances of their pupils, continue to operate, meager reports maintaining that the attendance figures are considerably below normal.

All schools plan to resume activities next Monday, the office of the superintendent announced this morning.

E. Y. Floyd Speaks To Farm Committeemen

BIRTHDAY BALL

Chairman Pete Fowden this morning announced arrangements complete for holding the President's Birthday Ball in the high school gymnasium here to night. Reports from the advance ticket sale are encouraging, and the chairman is expecting an unusually large crowd.

The gym will be heated for the event which gets underway at 10 o'clock and runs until 2 tomorrow morning. Paul Moore and his State College orchestra will play for the dance.

Proceeds will go into a united fund for the prevention of infantile paralysis.

Lions Club Holds Interesting Meet

The local Lions club held an interesting meeting last night at the Woman's club. Some twenty-five Lions and visitors were present for the regular supper get-together.

The meeting was presided over by the president, Mr. Charles Leonard. The entertainment program consisted of songs, music and an acrobatic act by three members of the cast of the showboat now anchored in the Roanoke River near the Standard Fertilizer Plant.

Talks were made by Mr. Irving Margolis and Mr. Leonard. Special emphasis was given the work among the blind people and children with defective eyes. This work is one of the main projects of the local Lions Club, and it has done outstanding work along this line. The local club is an auxiliary of the Lions International.

Advises Farmers to Produce Domestic Types Of Tobacco

Stresses Value of Adopting Practices Suitable To This Section

Basing his remarks on the present outlook for tobacco next fall, E. Y. Floyd, Agricultural Adjustment Act administrator in this State, advised farmers to lean toward the domestic types of leaf in carrying out their farm program this year. It is apparent, judging from Floyd's statements, that the production of domestic types of tobacco offers the greatest hope for the farmer this fall.

But that was not the backbone of the advice advanced by the farm specialist who stressed the value of making our own living, seeing that every tenant has a farm and adopting those farm practices that are best suited to the individual farmer and to the county and section, as a whole.

Extending his remarks in connection with the production of domestic types of tobacco, Floyd stated that normal home consumption calls for around 375 to 400 million pounds of tobacco. Without the huge surplus stocks now on hand, the British embargo would not be hanging as a sword over the head of eastern North Carolina farmers.

While no farmer can set out to produce a type of tobacco with any degree of certainty, the farm leader pointed out such practices as proper fertilization and spacing of plants. "The plants should be spaced from 22 to 24 inches apart in rows ranging from three feet and nine inches

(Continued on page six)