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Town Authorities Hold Uneventful Meet Last Night

Delay Approval of All Accounts Until Next Regular Meeting

Holding an uneventful session last evening the local town commissioners informally discussed a number of matters but final approval was delayed in all but one or two cases. The approval of all bills was delayed until the next regular meeting.

Receiving an application from Charles R. Moore for a place on the local police force to fill the spot made vacant by the death of Officer E. Ramey, the board decided to hold its officer personnel to its present strength with Chief W. B. Daniel and Lieutenant J. H. Allbrooks on the day shift and Patrolmen John Roebuck and John S. Gurganus on the night force. Officer Gurganus, just out of a Washington hospital, is inactive at the present time, and until his return Hugh Hines has been sworn in for emergency work. Other applications have been filed, it is understood, but they were not presented before the meeting last evening.

The board waived its right to paving assessments against the Baptist Church that the religious organization might execute certain papers. It was pointed out that he action did not relieve the church of its assessment obligation. Appearing before the board and stressing the importance of mosquito control, Dr. J. S. Rhodes asked the board to consider piping waters from the storm sewers on Simmons Avenue and Smithwick Street about 250 feet from the street across his land. Property Owner H. M. Burras, explaining that he was contemplating the construction of a tenant house below the river hill, asked for a few feet of tile to fill a ditch in front of the lot. He stated that he would lay the pipe at his own expense. The requests were taken under advisement.

Explaining to the board that the PTA-WPA canning project for the local school run had exhausted all its funds, that several hundred additional jars were needed to carry on the work and save the vegetables, Professor D. N. Hix was assured that the town would make some arrangements to furnish around 500 jars. The board considered a special ordinance at the request of Fire Chief G. P. Hall, prohibiting the construction of swinging flues. The fire chief pointed out that 80 per cent of the fires in Williamston are caused by swinging or defective flues. A committee was named to study the proposed ordinance, the group expressing the stand that it was anxious to enhance the safety of property but that it did not want to impose undue hardships on anyone.

Plans were considered for paving a sidewalk on the south side of East Academy Street from the Courtney corner to a point below the new settlement on that street. Resolutions of respect for the memory of Officer E. Ramey, late member of the police force here, were ordered drawn, and the board passed an order providing the gift of a cemetery lot to the family.

Defense Taxes To Affect All Business

Some business men seem to have the impression that the suggested excess profits tax legislation will apply only to such as are engaged in industries actually associated with the national defense program. Fact is, though, that every corporation will be affected so far as their 1940 and subsequent profits may exceed such earnings as would be considered "normal." Just who is to decide where "normal" leaves off and "excess" begins is not clear at the moment. Also, many are concerned over the prospects of heavy levies on them this year although no proper notice has been given to enable them to protect themselves against payments that may have to be made. For example, part of a concern's funds may have been dissipated in payment of quarterly dividends, so that they'd have to borrow to pay the "retroactive" tax, unless credit against the latter is given for such dividend payments.

Twenty-Dollar Bill Is Divided Many Ways

A twenty-dollar bill, alleged to have been stolen from a pocketbook dropped on the porch of Willie Gilliam's home on Elm Street, was broken and divided in many ways in an effort to cover the alleged theft. Elmo Clemmons was charged with the theft and at a preliminary hearing before Justice Hassell yesterday morning he was bound over to the county court under a \$100 bond. Clemmons denied stealing the money, one report stating that he had the bill changed and that liberal amounts were passed out by a youth named Powell as hush money. The money, belonging to Leon (Rabbit) Purvis, was left in the care of the Gilliam family for safe keeping.

Building and Loan Maturing Largest Stock Series Today

Maturing the largest number of stock shares in the history of the association, the Martin County Building and Loan Association will pay out to shareholders \$50,800 today and the third week in August. The 34th series matures today, and in this series 410 shares will become paid up. This is what is commonly called 25 cent stock which matures in approximately 6 and one-third years. Ninety shares of stock will mature the latter part of August in the 40-C series. This series is comprised of 50c stock which becomes paid up in a little over three years. In the \$50,800 to be paid out, \$7,000 will represent earnings or profits to the shareholders. This interest began accumulating when the stock was first subscribed to and continued until the stock was fully paid up.

The Martin County Building and Loan Association also paid out last month \$2,674 to the owners of full paid stock. The earnings of the full paid shares are distributed semi-annually. The entire \$50,800 will not be paid out in cash. Several thousand dollars will be applied to stock and construction loans. However, approximately \$30,000 will be paid out in cash to shareholders this month.

Britain Is Patiently Awaiting Blitzkrieg

RAINS

Rains falling in this section Saturday and yesterday boosted the crop outlook generally. Its effect on tobacco could not be definitely determined, but an immediate and marked improvement was noted in the corn, cotton and peanut crop, one report stating that the rains had about checked the red spider. It is possible that the rains will materially help tobacco since the crop was in poor condition as a result of the dry season.

Officers Continue Liquor Raids Here

The illicit liquor business blossomed forth in the actions of numerous drunks here during last Saturday evening, but the jail records carry no names of the imbibers. A fight was reported on the main street near the old Harrison Brothers alley. The victim of the fight was carried to the backlots and placed on a goods box to recover. Several drunks, unaware of all the commotion, slept peacefully nearby as dozens of people went to the backlot to see the fight victim. While he was knocked out temporarily, the man was not badly hurt, it was said.

Although excitement centered in the backlot, drunks paraded the streets in numbers during the evening and until early the following morning, one report stating that another fight took place before the town finally went to sleep about 2:30 o'clock Sunday morning. Officers, working in an effort to check an apparently increasing number of drunks here, raided several retail spots earlier in the day, but no arrests were made. A gallon of white liquor was found just off Sycamore and Railroad Streets, but ownership could not be established. Making two stops at illicit liquor headquarters in the neighborhood of Railroad and Elm Street, officers learned that the illegal spirits had been poured out upon their arrival and could file no charges in that quarter.

Health Report For The Month Of July

While comparatively few contagious disease cases were reported, the county's health record for the past month is not so encouraging. There were ten communicable disease cases reported by the health department, as follows:

Two chickenpox cases among the colored population in Williamston. Four cases of tuberculosis, one among the white and three among the colored population in Robersonville Township. Four cases of whooping cough were reported on Williamston R. F. D. No. 3 and all the victims were white. The whooping cough, reaching epidemic proportions in parts of the county during the past 18 months, continues to hold on by a thread with the possibility that it will flare up again in the course of time.

A typhoid fever case, resulting in death, was unofficially reported in the county. An aged colored man in Williamston was said to have fallen victim of the fever, but it was not reported to the health office, it was learned. The victim died in a Washington hospital.

Farmer Cowboy Throws Obstinate Bull Saturday

Turning cowboy for a few minutes last Saturday evening, Farmer Herman Pat threw an obstinate steer to the ground when the animal refused to enter a stall. Grabbing the 1,000-pound steer by the horn, Cowboy Peel gave a twist of the wrist and the animal went sprawling on the ground. Regaining his footing the steer entered the stall without further delay. So quick was the twist of the wrist that the animal struck Farmer Peel on the hand with his horn tearing open the skin over a small area.

Hitler Plans To Send Planes Over In Waves Of 500

Increased Warfare Reported in Africa Between British And Italians

That Germany's promised blitzkrieg will strike the British Isles by the latter part of this week or not at all was voiced by military observers again today, one report coming from a Norwegian source indicating that the attack was likely to be staged between Thursday and Saturday, others stating that it might take place "any day now."

Other than the continued movement of large forces along the Channel, Germany has shown no outward sign that she planned to risk defeat by invading Britain. However, it was stated today that extensive practice with dive bombers was being held in Belgium possibly in preparation for the proposed attack.

The first inkling of Hitler's daring plans was heard today when it was rumored that the first phase of the attack would be handled by airplanes roaring over the Isles in waves of five hundred and at frequent intervals. While there is little outward evidence that Germany plans to launch the attack immediately, events in other fronts point to a blitzkrieg on some front. English airmen have been pounding at industrial plants and supply bases that will figure in an invasion, and there is a definite trend in this country for speeding help to England and increasing our own defense.

Little activity was reported on the European war front during the past 24 hours, but intensified warfare was reported in Africa between British and Italian forces. Italy advanced mighty claims, as usual. The increased activities in that part of the world possibly point to a drive against the Suez Canal, one report stating that the Italians were massing strong forces along the Libyan frontier facing Egypt. England today is claiming that her airplane output is about equal that of Germany but that some time would be required to offset the numerical advantage held by Hitler. It is now rumored in some quarters that the Axis powers are anticipating a long war, and that stronger efforts to blockade England and cut off her life-line to other parts of the empire will be made. Japanese and British relations are now at the breaking point, and the recent developments are causing recognized military authorities and diplomatic leaders to renew their warnings against possible attacks on this country. The drive to prepare America against any eventualities is gaining momentum, and those leaders who have studied the situation are optimistic.

Business Prospects Continue To Rise

Emerging from the heat wave that slowed retail business as the whole country sweltered, prospects for a gradual but steady pick-up are improved by the continued rising trend of unfilled orders on books of manufacturers. Backlogs are still accumulating, though at a slower pace, and assures maintenance of a high level of producing activity for several months at least. National Industrial Conference Board indexes show new orders received in June by manufacturers were 117 per cent of the 1936 average, while shipments were 111 per cent. By far the biggest increases in unfilled orders naturally have been in steel and other durable goods, with consumer goods rather slow to follow suit. In the last week or so, however, there has been a burst of forward buying in textiles which seems to indicate the improvement is broadening as effect of fatter—and numerically more—payrolls begin to be felt.

Thurman L. Price Fatally Hurt At N. C. Pulp Plant

Funeral Services Are Held For County Native Yesterday Afternoon

Thurman L. Price, 24 years old, died Sunday morning at 9 o'clock in a Rocky Mount hospital from injuries received in a fall at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county last Thursday noon. Funeral services were conducted at the home of his parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riddick in Washington County, near Plymouth, yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. R. H. Lucas, Baptist minister, assisted by Rev. Mr. Hamlin, of the Plymouth Christian Church. Interment was in the Windley Cemetery, near Plymouth.

The son of Vance Price and the late Mrs. Mattie Gardner Price, the young man was born in Jamesville Township, this county, 24 years ago next December. About two months ago he accepted a job with the Birmingham-Steel Construction Company and was employed at the pulp company plant. He was working on a tall tank when a piece of sheet metal fell and cut off three of his fingers. Stunned by the blow he fell from the tank to the ground about forty feet below. It was not thought that his injuries were serious at first as he did not lose consciousness. After first-aid treatment in a Plymouth doctor's office he was removed to the hospital where it was learned his back was broken and that he had suffered internal injuries. Death was caused by a hemorrhage of the brain.

Five weeks ago last Thursday he was married to Miss Doris Riddick, of Washington County. Following his marriage he moved from this county to a point near Plymouth where he established a home. He was a member of the church at Maple Grove, and was highly regarded in his home and adopted communities. Besides his younger wife and sisters, C. S. Price, James R. Price, Caryle Price, Marvin Price, Melvin Gray Price, Linwood O'Neal, Edwin G. Price, and Misses Shirley and Trulah Price, all of Jamesville Township. Mr. Price was the second Martin County man to lose his life while working for builders of the plant. His death was the third reported at the plant since construction work was started about three years ago.

Observers Point Out No Primary Needed To Select Nominee

No Immediate Meeting of District Committee Slated To Pick Successor

Indirect reports coming from Raleigh quote political observers as saying that no primary is needed for selecting a nominee for the seat to be vacated in late September by Lindsay C. Warren in the National House of Representatives. "There is a very definite opinion that Herbert Bonner, secretary to Mr. Warren and announced candidate for the position, would get about two-thirds of the vote anyway in a primary," the Raleigh report stated. However, reports from other sources maintain that there is a well established drive to put the issue before the people in a primary to be held some time before the general election. Just how the primary will be called is not quite clear, but it is possible for the Democrats in the district to hold an "unofficial" test of the strength of the various would-be candidates. No meeting of the District Congressional Committee has been called, and it is possible that Mr. Warren takes no action until Mr. Bonner hands in his resignation the latter part of next month.

Commenting further on the proposal to call a "rump" primary, the Raleigh report says: It is further pointed out that the primary would not be official or binding, but would serve only to advise the district executive committee of the popular will. Only the executive committee can place a name on the ticket between the dates of the legal primary and the general election. It is understood that all but one or two members of the committee are pledged to Mr. Bonner, and they are quoted as saying that they believe three out of four voters will approve his nomination. In that event, a primary would serve only to arouse some ill feeling on the part of minority candidates. Certain other politically wise folks say that a "rump" primary now would probably detract from chances of other aspirants for the office who might run in the next regular election. So all hands, except the small minority who cherish congressional ambitions, for themselves or close friends, agree that the wise course is to say no more about a primary, but to let the committee proceed.

Former County Resident Quite Ill In Virginia

Mrs. Jennie Yarell, former well-known resident of Williamston, is reported quite ill at the home of her grand-daughter, Mrs. W. P. Sweeney, in Lynchburg. Mrs. Sweeney was an overnight visitor here, leaving this morning for her home in the Virginia city.

Church Holds Big Meeting and Not A Single Member Present

Entertaining an August meeting for the first time in recent years, the Jamesville Primitive Baptist church last Sunday advanced a very successful program without a single member being in attendance. Experiencing a gradual decline in membership over a period of years, the church during several years maintained no regular worship schedule, but in recent months interested friends of the church have joined visiting ministers in holding regular services. As far as it can be learned there are only three members of the church living and they found it impossible to be present for the meeting last Sunday. Interested friends arranged the program and invited visiting ministers to participate in the services. A cordial invitation was extended the general public, and more than 200 people from this and several other counties met there Sunday for a day of good fellowship. Elders Denny, of Wilson, and Getzinger, of this county, occupied the pulpit. People of all denominations in the community prepared a delicious dinner and fed the throng with plenty to spare. It was a brilliant day in the religious life of the little community, the worship service and fellowship at the picnic tables rekindling the ties of friendship among members of all denominations.

Water and Sewer Line Project Gets Approval

WPA Allots Total Of \$33,953.00 For Line Extensions

Application For \$47,200 Loan Now Before Reconstruction Finance Group

A project for the extension of local water and sewer lines, and the addition to the town's water supply of a fourth deep well was advanced another step last week-end when President Roosevelt approved a federal allotment in the sum of \$33,953 for financing the cooperative undertaking. Estimated to cost approximately \$81,000, the proposed project now awaits action on an application placed with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for a loan of \$47,200.

Pending during the greater part of the past four or five years, the project is now expected by local officials to receive final approval within the next month or six weeks. Applying to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation some few months ago, local town authorities were advised that final approval by the Works Progress Administration would be necessary before action could be taken on the application. The corporation spokesman talked very encouragingly at that time, and it is believed that the application will receive favorable consideration.

The proposed extension program calls for the following: The laying of water lines from the intersection of Sycamore and Main Streets out Main Street to the town limits, a line from Sycamore down Wilson Street, a line from Smithwick Street down Franklin to Houghton and out Houghton to the town limit, a line from Academy Street north on Elm and east on White Street to Houghton, and a line from Houghton west on Railroad to Elm and thence south on Elm to Washington Street.

The sewer system extensions call for lines on Smithwick Street from Grace Street to the high school and thence west on Franklin to Houghton, thence on Houghton to the ravine and then down the ravine to a new disposal plant. Another line is to be run from Houghton west on Railroad Street to Elm and then on Elm to Washington Street. In addition to the water and sewer line extensions, the town proposes increasing its water supply which is rapidly diminishing. A fourth new well to be located just off Main Street and near the municipal swimming pool is being considered, the well to cost approximately \$15,000.

Victim Of Hunger Is Gaining Weight

Nora Rice, the old colored woman who was almost starved to death by her husband, Wheeler Rice, here during the past several weeks is rapidly gaining weight now that he is serving time on the roads and she is getting something to eat. Her forced-hunger period brought to an end a week ago last Friday, the old colored woman up until last Saturday had gained approximately four pounds, and her diet was necessarily light on account of her weakened condition. Rice, tasting his first punishment on the roads, was said to have been overcome by the heat while working on the roads, but he is being hardened to his task and last reports state that he is getting along very well. Sentenced to the roads for being drunk and disorderly, Rice will face a charge of cruelty upon the completion of his present sentence the latter part of this month.

County Home Inmate Dies Of Tuberculosis Monday

Fannie Little, young colored woman, died in the Martin County Home, near here, yesterday morning following a long illness. Death was caused by tuberculosis. Her death was the fifth caused by tuberculosis at the home during the past three or four months. Each of the cases, referred to the Sanatorium, was so far advanced that treatment in the institution was considered useless. The cases were ordered segregated, the welfare department removing the victims from their homes to the county home where they patiently awaited the end.

Board Of County Commissioners In Session Yesterday

J. F. Crisp Reappointed To Membership On County A. B. C. Board

Holding their shortest session possibly so far this year, the Martin County commissioners cleared their regular business calendar and adjourned before the lunch hour here yesterday. There was little new business before the board for consideration, and the routine schedule was handled in rapid order. The county's tax rate of \$1.45 per \$100—assessed property valuation was formally adopted. In addition to the general county rate of \$1.45, the board adopted the following schedule of special taxes, \$2 poll tax, special road taxes in the four districts: Williamston, 15; Cross Roads, 65; Hamilton, 35; and Goose Nest, 25. A special poll tax was adopted for Hamilton at \$1.05 and for Goose Nest at 75 cents.

Mr. Jesse F. Crisp, member of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board since that organization was created back in 1935, was reappointed, his new term to run for a three-year period. The terms of Messrs V. J. Spivey, chairman, and Irving Smith, member, do not expire at this time.

At the request of several citizens the board recommended that the road beginning at the W. M. Bowen home on the Price Road in Williamston Township, and running thence east to the home of Mrs. A. F. Taylor, via Joe Cherry's home, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, be included in the state system.

The valuation on three acres of land belonging to the Chorus Jones estate in Parmele was decreased from \$50 to \$100 for the tax years of 1939 and 1940. Harper Peel was appointed constable for Hamilton Township, the appointment being made subject to the filing of the required bond. Tax claims held against the Caesar Purvis lands in Williamston were withdrawn when it was pointed out to the board that the property had been annexed by the public for use as a colored recreational center. Jurymen were drawn for service during the two weeks' term of Martin County Superior Court which convenes the third Monday in next month.

Daring Boy Leaves School For Home

Several months ago, Arna Wallace, local youth acting possibly for the thrill to be had and little realizing the seriousness of his act, broke into the local office of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The law took its course, but his tender years and the pleadings of a good mother gained him entrance into one of the best training schools in the South. A week ago, for no good reason at all he admits, the youth who had just turned sixteen dared to leave the school and strike out for home. The first night he spent in the woods. Hopping a freight train in Concord early the next morning he went to Spartanburg. After a short stay there he hopped another freight train and traveled to Columbia. From there he went to Sumter and later came into Rocky Mount. Hopping a freight which he thought would travel into Williamston, the lad rode into Ashokic instead. Abandoning the rails after his bad guess, Wallace saw an idle bicycle in front of an Ashokic theatre early Saturday night and temporarily converted it to his own use. Using his own steam rather than that of the railroads, the youth pedaled his way into home. After a short stay here he started to Belhaven to visit a relative. A call was flashed for the youth over the Highway Radio Patrol Station and the youngster and bicycle were picked up yesterday—morning a few miles out of Washington on the Belhaven Road.

The boy admitted that he was treated well at the school, that he had no just reason to run away. He is now scheduled to return to the school.

Two Hurt In Auto Accident Saturday

Mrs. D. M. Roberson was painfully bruised—but not seriously hurt—and Charles Brown suffered severe cuts on the head in an automobile accident near Farmville last Saturday evening. The automobile, belonging to Roberson's Slaughter House here, was wrecked, one estimate placing the damage at about \$300. Mrs. Roberson, given first-aid treatment in Farmville, was able to continue to her home here. Brown, after receiving hospital treatment, was able to return to his home in Greenville yesterday. Employed by the Roberson Slaughter House in Raleigh, Mrs. Roberson and Mr. Brown were returning to their respective homes for the weekend. The car, driven by Brown at the time, skidded off the pavement, went out of control and turned over several times, it was reported.

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Miss James Resigns Post In Jamesville Schools

Miss Delores James, for several years a member of the Jamesville school faculty, resigned that position last week-end, it was learned in the office of the superintendent of schools yesterday. Miss James, whose home is in Parmele, taught the first and second grades.

Georgia Market To Open On Thursday

Attention of farmers in the tobacco belts will shift temporarily, at least, from the war front to the markets in Georgia on Thursday of this week when the first leaf sales of the season get underway on a dozen markets in that state and on two markets in Florida. Advance reports from the belt offer little information as to the quality and poundage. It is understood, however, that the poundage will be considerably less than it was a year ago and that the quality is about the same.

Last year record poundages were offered for sale on the opening days and price averages ranged around 15 cents, later reports stating that the price trend was downward and that the season was disappointing to the growers. The price last season was about 10 cents under the opening-day quotations in 1938. The large crop produced last year depressed market prices, and the huge surplus is certain to make itself felt again this year, observers declare.

Appealing To State School Authorities

Everetts citizens, interested in the re-establishment of a high school in their midst, will appear before the State School Commission in session at Raleigh on Thursday of this week to again advance their claim, Paul Bailey, recognized leader of the movement, said yesterday. At least three cars will be used in transporting the petitioners to Raleigh for the meeting. Going before the commission several weeks ago, the Everetts citizens were advised that no action to re-establish the school could be taken until adequate housing facilities were provided by the county commissioners. Returning home, the interested group then appeared before the commissioners who agreed to appropriate \$500 for partitioning the auditorium and making two classrooms.

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