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## Insurance Group In Martin County Has A Good Year

### Elect Geo. C. Griffin To the Office of Secretary And Treasurer

Meeting in annual session at the courthouse last Saturday, Martin County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association policy holders heard a very favorable report on their organization, elected new officers and lined up their business program for the new year. The meeting was held at 7:30 and more than 100 policyholders came in from all parts of the county to participate in the business program.

Calling the group to order, President Sylvester Peel asked Rev. W. B. Harrington to open the meeting with a prayer. After the minutes were read by Acting Secretary Roy Coltrain and approved by the group, President Peel briefly reviewed the work of the organization, declaring that the association was prepared to take care of any loss, that a steady growth had been maintained throughout the year, and that the affairs of the organization were in excellent condition.

Turning its attention to the annual election of officers, the meeting at the suggestion of Sam T. Everett and seconded by W. B. Harrington, re-elected Mr. Sylvester Peel president of the association by acclamation. Mr. Peel has ably served the association as its head for seven years. Joseph S. Griffin, who still maintains that the office is of little importance, was re-elected vice president, the election being by acclamation following the nomination by S. T. Everett.

Sensing the absence of a faithful secretary-treasurer, James L. Coltrain who had ably served the organization for 28 years, the meeting quietly went about the task of nominating and electing a successor. C. C. Coltrain, in a fitting talk, offered the name of Tom Roberson, well-known farmer of Farm Life. The nomination was seconded by S. T. Everett, Joseph S. Griffin nominated George C. Griffin, another well-known farmer and member of the Martin County Board of Education from Griffins Township. A second to the nomination was given by J. C. Gurkin. A close vote followed, the group casting 32 for Mr. Griffin and 27 for Mr. Roberson, several withholding their votes. Short and appropriate remarks were offered by the officers, each pledging his best efforts in handling the trust and promoting the interest of the organization.

The meeting named the following directors: S. T. Woolard, W. M. Green, S. T. Everett, Joshua L. Coltrain, Joseph S. Griffin, W. B. Harrington and LeRoy Taylor. The following township supervisors were named: Jamesville: C. B. Fagan, F. C. Stallings and Ben F. Lilley; Williams: W. W. Griffin and Walter J. Gardner; Griffins: J. J. Manning, L. H. Roberson and P. J. Peeler; Bear Grass: Joseph S. Griffin, Edmond Harris, and Calvin Ayers; Williamson: James Bowen, W. S. Peel and M. A. Price; Cross Roads: J. A. Ausborn, Henry D. Peel and Henry Peeler; Poplar Point: W. S. White and LeRoy Taylor; Hamilton: Ed Purvis, T. B. Slade and W. S. Rhodes; Goose Nest: W. R. Everett, R. A. Haislip and W. G. Keel.

Calling for a \$10,000 treasurer's bond, the meeting accepted the sureties offered by Messrs. S. C. Griffin and J. C. Gurkin. S. T. Everett was named a delegate to the state meeting to be held in Raleigh the latter part of this month, and President Sylvester Peel was named an alternate.

The meeting ruled that all delinquent members should be reinstated when assessments are met within a reasonable time after they are due.

Paying a fitting tribute to the memory of James L. Coltrain, Rev. W. B. Harrington made a motion that resolutions of respect be prepared. The meeting named Mr. Harrington.

## Six County Boys Enter CCC Camps

Six Martin County boys left here yesterday for Civilian Conservation Corps camps, the office of the county welfare department stating that two openings in the ranks could not be filled. It was the first time since the New Deal agency was established that this county could not meet its quota. Briefly stated and with some few exceptions, of course, there is no excuse for any Martin County youth of acceptable age to be walking around declaring he can't find something to do, for the Civilian Conservation Corps offers them splendid training and fair pay.

The names of the boys leaving yesterday for Washington to enter the Civilian Conservation Corps are, J. Earl Hale, of Williamson R.F.D. 3; William Pate, of Williamson R.F.D. 2; Herman Andrew Dickerson and William Lawrence Beacham, both of Williamson R.F.D. 2, all white; and Johnnie Gray Mayo, of Williamson R.F.D. 1, and Hubert Nelson, of Parmele, both colored.

## Series of Robberies Solved by Officers

### INCREASE

Continuing their test listings, Martin County's property assessors, working in a group, last week completed their survey in five townships. Late reports from the group and from one of the township boards point to an increase in values.

One report stated that certain timberlands on County Commissioner R. L. Perry's farm had been valued at \$50 an acre, or about \$15 higher than the values recorded in the first three test listings. Starting their work in this district yesterday, the Williamson Township Board of Assessors reported unofficially a gain of 10 per cent in listings handled on 22 farms.

The board of assessors, working as a group, are scheduled to complete their work in the county tomorrow, starting at Robersonville at 8:30 o'clock.

## Respected Citizen Dies At Her Home In County Monday

### Funeral Services at Everetts This Afternoon For Mrs. Dora Clark

Mrs. Dora Britton Clark, highly respected citizen of this county, died at her home in Cross Roads Township yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering with diabetes, Mrs. Clark was taken worse on Christmas day, her condition becoming gradually worse until the end. Seventy years old last November, she was unusually active for her advanced age and despite failing health until her last illness.

The daughter of the late Mack and Bessie Dudley Britton, Mrs. Clark was born in Cross Roads Township where she spent her entire life, living peacefully with her neighbors and leading a friendly and Christian-like life. She was a good woman, a large number of friends and acquaintances holding her in the highest esteem. She had been a devoted member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Bear Grass, for a long number of years.

In early life she was married to James L. Clark, who died in April, 1933. Two children, born to the union, preceded their parents in death. Following the death of Mr. Clark she managed her farm, and found pleasure and comfort in the care and handling of the simple duties there. She held the respect of both the old and the young. She walked humbly before her Maker, gaining much happiness in her simple but beautiful way of life even in her advanced years.

She leaves one brother, W. H. Britton, of Cross Roads Township.

Funeral services are being conducted from the Christian Church in Everetts at her request this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

## Patriotic Streak Found In Negroes

Young colored men in this county are bubbling over with patriotism according to a recent report coming from the draft board office. Thirty young men have already volunteered their services. Draft Board Clerk Marion Cobb said today.

Colored young men were slow to show their colors for home and country but after James Earl Hyman and Walter Louis (Lightnin') White volunteered and were inducted into service others flocked to the colors. Apparently getting together over the week-end for a discussion of the situation, groups would report and offer their services the following Monday morning. The names of the volunteers:

James Earl Hyman, inducted; Walter Louis White, inducted; James Oliver Andrews, Daniel Williams, John Slade, Charlie Ben Williams, James Edward Woolard, Henry Howell, Jr., James Curtis Brown, Leo Butler, Bonnie Lee Peeler, Lee Andrew Griffin, James Davis, William Cleve Bell, James Morris Balance, James Ollie Purvis, Wesley Moore, Harry Bell, Jessie Walston, Eugene White, Frank Williams, John Dee Gainer, Robert Lee Patterson, Benson Swanner, Willie James Roberson, Columbus James, Samuel David Slade, William Louis Reddick, Herbert Louis Peeler, Arthur McIntyre.

Four of the above group are scheduled to leave for camp on the 27th of this month. A large reserve will be left, and it is believed that few men will have to be drafted from the colored registration this year.

## Crime Ring About Broken In Section Over the Week-end

### Several Arrested in Connection with Robbery Jamesville Liquor Store

The main spring in an active and far-reaching crime ring operating in this section of the State during recent weeks was believed to have been sprung if not broken with and following the arrest of Steve Cromwell, daring criminal and escaped convict. In a round-up of alleged criminals from Norfolk to Fayetteville, at least two persons involved in the robbery of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board store at Jamesville were arrested. Cromwell, critically shot while attempting to rob the Norfolk-Southern station at Belhaven early last Saturday morning, is said to have admitted the robbery of the Log Cabin filling station on the Hamilton Road twice in recent weeks. Cromwell, admitting the robbery of the Creswell liquor store in Washington County a few days before Christmas, denied having a part in the Jamesville store robbery.

However, in a direct statement to Roy Peel, Martin County jailer, Cromwell explained that he knew about the robbery, knew how much liquor was stolen and other details. The robberies in this county, including those at the Log Cabin station and the Jamesville store, were solved when Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Jailer Roy Peel talked with Cromwell on what may prove his death bed in a Washington hospital where he was carried after he was shot in the stomach and legs with a shotgun in the hands of a deputy sheriff in Belhaven. Cromwell denied any connection with the series of robberies reported in Parmele, Everetts and Williamson during the holiday season. Apparently operating in two states, it is believed with Norfolk as their possible headquarters. Cromwell, talking freely with Jailer Roy Peel who befriended him during a long stay in the Martin County jail two or three years ago, stated that he was not in the county on the night of December 12 when \$200 worth of liquor was stolen from the Jamesville store. "I went to Norfolk that night to steal an automobile," Cromwell was quoted as saying.

Jack Caison, 31, of Norfolk, and Dennis Gray Woolard, 28, of Beaufort County, arrested along with a woman, Billie Hammons, of Virginia, in Fayetteville last Saturday night, are believed to be implicated with the Jamesville store robbery. Caison was jailed here Sunday but was later transferred as officers continued to close in on the ring. Bug Veachee, also implicated in the robberies allegedly handled by the ring, was arrested in Norfolk where it is believed much of the stolen liquor and other stolen properties were stored for distribution to retailers.

Officers are releasing very little information in connection with the ring, and it is not known whether there were more than five or six implicated. It was learned, however, that the officers from several counties in two states, the State Bureau of Investigation and members of the Highway Patrol are working on the case. Soon after Cromwell was trapped and shot at Belhaven, patrolmen were instructed to block all highways in this section. The robbers moved south, however, and were arrested at Fayetteville.

No hearings have been scheduled in the case, but normal charges of robbery will be brought against at least two of those now in jail by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, it was learned from the officer today. Late reports state that three other men, including two Willoughby brothers, had been arrested for investigation in connection with recent robberies in this section of the State.

## Extensive Plans For Inauguration

Extensive plans are being advanced for the inauguration of J. Melville Broughton as Governor of North Carolina in Raleigh on Thursday of this week. The city is making plans for entertaining 50,000 people that day.

The houses of the legislature will meet that morning in their respective chambers and then enter the march from the governor's mansion to Memorial Auditorium where a joint session of the assembly will be held at noon and where the inaugural exercises will be held.

Soldiers, army and high school bands will feature the parade. Messrs. Hugh G. Horton and Clarence Griffin, with definite instructions to work for better secondary roads in this county, left this morning for Raleigh to begin their work as members of the legislature.

## Deeper Mystery Surrounds Grave Balkan Situation

### British Score New Gains in Fight Against Italians In Africa

The war situation centering around glorious Greek victories during the past few weeks, is taking on a grave outlook and the mystery of developments there continues to grow deeper. With conflicting reports coming out of the powder keg territory, no one seems to know which way the wind will blow during the next few days or weeks.

It is apparent that Germany is already aiding the embattled Italians in their fight against the Greeks in Albania, but there is some talk of a new attack which may or may not be directed first against Bulgaria and then against Greece and later possibly against Turkey. One report states that Russia has agreed to the passage of German troops through Rumania. Other reports state that Russia and Turkey will offer opposition to such a move. If Turkey and Russia do offer opposition, it is believed another turning point will have been reached in the conflict.

Rome and Berlin authorities were to have met in Rome today possibly for mapping future plans of attack. No word from the meeting has been received. Unconfirmed reports declare that German forces have already entered Bulgaria under the pretext that Bulgaria wanted the Nazis to train Bulgarian fighters. Under such a pretext, it isn't likely that Turkey will offer opposition, but the move is toward a final showdown.

Should Britain be routed from Greece by those German forces now entering Bulgaria she will likely be attacked at Alexandria, and other objectives including Cairo and other Mediterranean areas would be targets of the Germans. Britain could possibly defend itself in the Mediterranean even in that event, but the possible loss of Greek bases would offer a problem in combating Nazi planes.

In Libya today, the Italians evacuated an air base, leaving four planes. Others were destroyed, and the British are well advanced in a big push against Tobruk, second important Italian base in Libya. The capture of Bardia last week-end pushed the total number of Italians captured to almost 100,000 in Africa. In their war the Greeks are scoring additional successes, one report stating that the gallant warriors were "mopping up" as they went. British ships pounded again the port of Valona today, but the relentless advance of the Greeks is facing increased opposition by the Germans possibly by tomorrow.

London today reported its second longest day-light air raid of the war, but no great damage was reported in the four sections of the city.

(Continued on page six)

## Young Men Leave For Army Service

Sixteen Martin County white men left here this morning for Fort Bragg where they will enter the army. Traveling by special bus, the county young men were joined here by others from Perquimans, Chowan, Tyrrell and Washington. Loaded to capacity, the special bus moved out at 11 o'clock with only one stop on its schedule before reaching Fort Bragg. The boys had dinner in Wilson.

The young men were traveling light, none carrying a suitcase and only two or three wearing an overcoat.

The group, made up entirely of volunteers, was given a farewell by the draft board including R. H. Goodman, chairman; Dr. Jesse Ward and J. H. Ayers, members; Wheeler Martin, appeal officer, and Marion Cobb, board clerk.

Names of the boys leaving the county this morning follow: Heber Reddick Taylor, Charles Elbert Bullock, William Jesse Roberson, Marvin Theodore Roberson, Robert Claborn Harris, James Oliver Wynn, View Vister Nicholson, Paul Cleveland VanLandingham, Dennis Harding Whitehard, Nathan Hedrick Mobley, Claude Elmer Jenkins, Jr., John David Warren, Joseph Elmer Griffin, Grover Ramon Moore, Julian Albert Roebuck, Hildreth Rogerson.

## COMMITTEE

Losing sight of the needs of the valiant Greeks during the Christmas holidays, local people this week formed a relief committee and renewed appeals for cash contributions. Prior to the holidays, a total of \$10.75 had been contributed to the Greek Relief Fund locally.

Rev. John W. Hardy, L. T. Fowden, W. C. Manning and George Stetsos have been named on the committee to promote a continuation of the relief drive. Donations will be received by the banks, members of this committee or The Enterprise and duly acknowledged.

## Board of Commissioners Asking Of North Carolina Legislature A New Deal For Secondary Roads

### City Board Orders Foreclosure Of Property for Past Due Taxes

Holding their first meeting of the calendar year last night, the local town board of commissioners ordered foreclosure proceedings instituted against all properties for taxes due and unpaid for certain years. No specific years were mentioned in the order which will likely be limited to taxes considerably in arrears. The amount of such taxes was described as being "not very large."

Very little business was placed before the board for consideration at the session last night. H. M. Burras was named list-taker, but no amount for the service to be rendered was stipulated at the meeting. A claim for damages alleged to have resulted when her funeral car struck a protruding manhole was denied Bessie Slade, an investigation revealing that a spring was broken on the car, that the machine would have passed over the object had it been in repair.

## Gymnasium Projects Approved By Board

### Recreation Houses For Farm Life and Bear Grass School

### Patrons Offer Free Lumber And Ask For WPA Help To Handle Projects

Projects calling for the construction of gymnasiums at Farm Life and Bear Grass were tentatively approved by the Martin County Board of Education in regular session here yesterday. Prospects for the two projects are considered good, but no immediate action is to be expected, according to a report coming from the office of the board late yesterday.

Appearing before the regular meeting of the board, delegations from the two communities ably presented their claims. Their appeals were well received, Member John Eubanks stating that if the people of those communities were interested enough to appear before the board and make liberal offers in support of the projects, "I am going to make a motion that we approve the proposed building program and urge the full cooperation of the board in advancing the projects."

Headed by H. U. Peel, T. O. Hickman, Sam Mobley, Henry White, J. D. Wynn, Joseph S. Griffin, Edmond Harris and others, the Bear Grass delegation pointed out to the board that enough lumber or approximately 75,000 feet had already been pledged by the school district patrons. "We will offer enough extra timber to pay the mill man for sawing," one of the spokesmen explained. The Farm Life delegation, headed by P. E. Getzinger, Russell Martin and Frank Lilley, stated that 20,000 feet of lumber had already been offered by the patrons of the district and that the amount could be boosted to meet the necessary needs.

The projects were approved subject to a working agreement with the Works Progress Administration. Few new contracts are possible with the WPA at the present time, but the board is making plans to carry the proposals before the organization as soon as the new fiscal year opens. The projects will not cost the county any large amount of money since the patrons have agreed to furnish the lumber.

Four of the six high schools in the county now have gymnasiums. The proposed projects call for the construction of buildings similar to those at Jamesville and Oak City which cost approximately \$7,000. The buildings are 50 by 80 feet. The board, in session less than two hours, studied reports coming from the vocational departments in the county schools and made certain recommendations. No other business was discussed. Messrs. J. D. Woolard, George C. Griffin, H. C. Norman, Leslie Hardison and John Eubanks were present for the meeting.

## Woman's Club To Hold Its Regular Meeting Tomorrow

Members of the Senior Woman's Club will meet tomorrow afternoon at 3:30. This is the first meeting of the new year and all members are urged to attend. Due to the fact that there is no active P.T.A. in Williamson, this club is working on a great many projects ordinarily handled by the P.T.A., and the cooperation of the people here is requested.

## Condition Of Roads Much Worse Today Than 10 Years Ago

### Urge Horton and Griffin To Work For Increased Allotments

Declaring that the present condition of the secondary road system in Martin County is much worse today than it was ten years ago, the Martin County Commissioners in regular session here yesterday through Representative Clarence W. Griffin and Senator Hugh G. Horton made ready an appeal to the North Carolina legislature for a new deal in the road program. It was pointed out in the meeting that while the commissioners are interested in all types of legislation as it affects the public, they were particularly interested in the road problem as it relates to the secondary road system in this county. Speaking for the board, Chairman Robert Lee Perry instructed the representative and senator to do all in their power to have the situation improved. "If there is anything we can do down here to get more deserving recognition, let us know," Mr. Perry told the law-makers, adding that he or his board would go to Raleigh or do anything to get the people in the strictly rural sections out of the mud.

Members of the board were reluctant to criticize the present highway set-up of its administrators, but they frankly expressed the opinion that this county had not had a fair deal for its secondary road system. It was pointed out that the condition of the roads in this county today is much worse than it was in 1931 when the State took them over and gobbled up the last bit of gasoline revenue. Commissioner Joshua L. Coltrain touched on a sore subject with the rural citizens of the county when he said that it was necessary in many cases for travelers to back their cars a quarter and even an half a mile to make possible a passing on the razor-back tater ridges in this county.

"You don't have to read the signs to tell you when you go out of Martin County," Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen declared, explaining that the roads in other counties were in far better condition than those in this county.

The Martin County commissioners have pleaded time and again with highway authorities for consideration. They have tried to help their constituency in every way possible, but their pleas have virtually been ignored. They are now directing their attention to other sources in an effort to get something done and to learn more about this road-building and road-maintenance business.

"We can't understand how the State Highway and Public Works Commission can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in a lake bottom, millions in bridging sounds and added millions on mountain tops and can't spend a few thousand in getting our people out of the mud," Commissioner C. Abram Roberson declared in the meeting yesterday. Mr. Roberson turned to Griffin and Horton during the meeting and urged them to support a bill that would give the secondary road system increased appropriations.

Messrs. Horton and Griffin, pledging their best efforts in remedying the bad situation as it exists today, told the board that they would study legislation, report their findings and keep in close touch with the county officials and do everything in their power to improve the situation.

## Constable Loses First Prisoner

Charlie R. Moore, recently elected constable of Williamson Township, lost his first prisoner here yesterday.

Sam Williams, local colored man, was facing the county court when he asked permission to go up town in search of a bond. The young constable agreed to accommodate the man and accompanied him to D. Gray's home on Smithwick Street. "Have a seat, Mr. Constable, while I talk with a member of the household," Williams was said to have told Moore when they reached the Grays' living room. That the constable might make the best of his wait, Williams was said to have handed him a detective magazine. After studying the book and getting the low-down on crime, the constable, after about thirty minutes, learned that his prisoner had gone. Some one told him that Williams went out the back door a short time after he entered the front.

Williams, charged with issuing worthless checks, had not been arrested at noon today.