

Sidelights On The Inaugural Program In Washington City

Local People Report a Great Time During History-Making Event

A crowd numbering well into the hundreds of thousands according to some estimates, invaded Washington last week for the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President for the history-making third term. Described as the most impressive and spectacular in all American history, the event will hardly have an equal, certainly not in this or immediate generations to come. The official program moved in strict accordance with schedule. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Wallace subscribing to the oaths of office at set times, the President highlighting the inauguration with a brief but timely and impressive speech.

It was on the sidelines that the oddities and freaks in the news were reported. Several people barely escaped with their lives in the mad rush that converged on the route followed by the President in his ride from the White House to the Capitol. It was reported that 250 people received first-aid treatment and that several were critically hurt in mishaps taking place near the scene of activities. Most of those receiving first-aid treatment fainted, but several were badly hurt in falls from trees and barrels and boxes. A young woman received a skull fracture for allegedly pushing for a place of vantage in the line of spectators. Special police from New York, Philadelphia and other cities were imported to help keep order, but when the program got fully underway, attention of the police was narrowed down to the task of keeping the parade lanes open. The spectators then went to work and during a very short time they collected rubbish, boxes, barrels and other material to help them better see the parade. More than 100 truckloads—112 to be exact—of rubbish were moved from the scene following the parades.

A small fire in the House side of the Capitol attracted little attention in competition with the inaugural program that morning.

Seats of vantage sold as high as \$25 in office windows, and those in the open sold for \$2 and \$4, sheltered seats averaging around \$6 each.

The inaugural program was officially opened Sunday evening at formal dinners, planned for the Presidential electors and notables. Champagne was as free as water at one of the dinners which lasted as long as five hours and which attracted movie stars, governors and ranking officials from over the nation.

Local people, a dozen or more, braving the cold to make the trip, were greatly impressed with the program which was marked by its military aspects and the serious problems of national defense.

The trek to the Capitol started before 8 a. m. It was the first rally point for spectators who did not have the good fortune of possessing reserved seats. By 10 a. m., 10,000 chilled spectators, carrying lunch boxes, bags, blankets and extra overcoats, milled about the plaza before the east entrance of the Capitol where the inaugural platform was erected.

By noon the parade route near the

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Officer Inspects Draft Board Office

Army Lieutenant Yarnell was highly complimentary in his praise of the Martin County Draft Board office following an inspection here Wednesday. The records were found in perfect order, and the work of the board was found in perfect accord with the aims and purposes of the Selective Service Act. No signs of favoritism or irregularities were found in a check made to determine the order men are to report for service, the inspection officer declaring everything was in order.

Members of the draft board including J. H. Ayers, Jesse Ward, Ray Goodmon, Appeal Officer Wheeler Martin and Examining Physician Jim Rhodes were present for the meeting which was reduced to an informal discussion of draft board problems following a minute inspection of the records.

The draft board is reporting very little activity at the present time. More than 800 questionnaires have been placed in the mails, and it is the opinion of the board that sufficient men have been classified to fill the quotas for the next two months. The next call is expected on or about February 17 in this State, meaning that the Martin County board will get its official call not later than the 25th. Ordinarily ten days are allowed to complete the quota lists, meaning that few if any men will leave this county during the month of February.

The county's January quota will be completed next Monday when four colored men, Charlie Ben Williams, of Williamston R.F.D. 1; John Slade, formerly of Williamston but now of 110 Green Street, Greenville; Daniel Williams and James Oliver Andrews, both of Williamston, leave for camp.

Solons Study New Budget



Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi (left), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Senator James Byrnes of South Carolina, chairman of the Senate Audit and Control Committee, are shown in Washington studying the new \$17,485,528,049 federal budget, which allots \$10,811,314,600 to defense.

Unemployment at New Low Point in County

SHAW TO SPEAK

Martin County farmers will get their first peek into the agricultural situation next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock when R. Flake Shaw, North Carolina Farm Bureau president and ranking State farmer and citizen, addresses a meeting of the Martin Farm Bureau in the Agricultural building. All farmers are invited and urged to attend, and a special invitation is extended to business and professional men.

It is understood that proposed farm legislation, the agricultural outlook and other matters of prime importance to this entire section will be discussed at the meeting.

Increased Demand For Peanut Goods Reported Locally

Suffolk Planning Climax To National Peanut Week Next Tuesday

While the heart of the peanut-producing company is taking little part in the event except for a few limited displays in local store windows, National Peanut Week is commanding much attention in other sections of the country at this time. The importance of the movement has been well demonstrated by an increased demand for cleaned goods, unofficial reports stating that additional orders have been filed with the cleaners for deliveries either in connection with or as a result of the nation-wide drive to up the consumption of the nutritional food.

The peanut was displayed here in dime store windows yesterday in limited form, the merchants offering the goober in salted form or in appetizing candies. Not a single jar of peanut butter was seen in the displays, and not a single suggestion was offered that would credit the lowly goober with its importance in the chemical world. Possibly 300 or more products are derived from the peanut, but still the general belief is that the peanut is something for excited fans to munch on during a baseball game or at the circus.

While eastern North Carolina, the greatest peanut producing area in the country, sleeps peacefully through National Peanut Week, the town of Suffolk is planning a national festival in a big way. From the great peanut-consuming centers such as Chicago, the peanut will be acclaimed by millions.

Since P. T. Barnum's circus gave it its first real national publicity many new products have been made from the peanut. In his laboratory at Tuskegee University, Dr. George

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GREEK FUND

Interest in the embattled Greeks in Albania and the needy civilians who back home are encouraging their warriors on against the Wops, showed a revival here during the past week-end when increased donations were made available for the relief of the hard-pressed people. This county, however, is lagging in its answer to the needy calls from across the sea.

Donations are acknowledged as follows:

Mrs. E. T. Walker	\$ 1.00
Wheeler Gardner	5.00
Enterprise	5.00
Previously Reported	56.00
	\$67.00

Strong Opposition Offered Program Of Aid To Britain

One-time Idol of the People Hopes Neither Side Will Win War

The President's proposed program of aid to Britain, China and Greece as embodied in the lease-lend bill is meeting with a stiffening opposition before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington. While it is fairly certain that a program of aid will be maintained, the committee hearings are bringing out some strange opinions from strange-acting figures in American life.

Charles A. Lindbergh, one-time idol of the people, stated yesterday that he hoped neither side would win the war, that he was strongly opposed to the lease-lend bill. On and on the daring flier went to attack the bill and criticize the United States even in the face of such counter-evidence as offered by Messrs. Hull, Stimson, Knox and others who are acquainted with all the facts. Lindbergh publicly would overlook Germany's barbarian and dastardly acts and sue for peace while privately he did not approve of all the things done by the barbarian crew.

Hugh Johnson, self-appointed critic and an over-inflated gas bag of the first order, opposed the proposed bill at the hearing yesterday and declared that the United States would be at war within thirty or ninety days.

An end to the public hearings on the House of Representatives Bill 1776 is expected late tomorrow, observers stating that much fiddling is being done while Britain, Greece and China burn and while the fate of Democracy and all that Democracy stands for hangs in the balance.

Mr. Lindbergh declares that America's efforts are being wasted in the effort to help Britain. He admits that an invasion of South America is possible and some think it is quite likely if Britain falls. But Lindbergh declares that the United States could turn back an invasion attempt. He has a slow-acting contempt to depend upon, but he does not take into consideration the apparent strength of Nazism already in these United States and in the republics to the South.

Disgruntled when they learned that ranking Army and Naval officials would not be called before the committee, the Republicans walked out of a meeting this morning and refused to participate further in the hearings. The bill will likely be debated in the House next week.

During the past few days virtual peace has been enjoyed by England in the air, but things have been happening in Africa where Tobruk, strong Italian base, was captured by British forces aided by General De Gaulle's free French forces. The drive continues in Africa, late dispatches stating that the British have advanced more than 100 miles beyond the captured base.

The Greeks, suffering heavy losses in Italian counter attacks, continue

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School Club Favors Nine Months' Term

The Martin County Schoolmasters Club, an organization of men teachers of the county, held the fourth meeting of the school year at Farm Life last night. Representatives of all county schools were present for the two-hour session. J. T. Uzzle, of Jamesville, president, presided over the group which approved plans for entertaining all teachers in the county at an oyster roast in Williamston on February 13, and completed arrangements for the holding of a county-wide basketball tournament in February. After a discussion led by Superintendent J. C. Manning, it was decided that a county-wide high school day should be held at Robersonville in the spring. The program for this day will include the field events held last year and also literary, dramatic and musical events.

Discussion of the North Carolina pageants begun at the first meeting were concluded when the first week in April was set as the time for holding North Carolina pageants throughout the schools of Martin County. After discussing the proposed legislation for a ninth month, the entire group went on record as favoring a ninth month of schooling for all the children of North Carolina.

AIR MANEUVERS

Plans are being formulated by Army officials for a second air maneuver in this section of the State during next month, according to unofficial information reaching here today. Aircraft observers will be named and will be asked to handle a work similar to that in the 1938 maneuvers. Complete details of the anti-aircraft net have not been revealed and it could not be learned whether a "black-out" would again be asked. The last maneuvers were interrupted by unfavorable weather, but a few planes were sighted over this county by the special observers.

Preliminary Reports Point To Variation In Values Placed On Real Estate By Tax Assessors

Work Progressing Slowly on Roanoke River Fill Project

Commenting after making an informal survey yesterday afternoon, Mayor John L. Hassell stated that in his opinion very poor progress was being made in repairing and rebuilding the Roanoke River fill damaged by high waters last August.

Contracts for the construction of four bridges and widening and building higher the dirt fill were let last October. A slow start was entered in the records, and today, nearly three months after work was started, the fill project is hardly half completed and less than a dozen piling on a second bridge have been driven. The contracts called for the completion of the fill within 71 working days and the four bridges were to be ready for use within 121 working days.

It has been pointed out that weather conditions have not been very

favorable, but most observers are of the opinion that the work was allowed to drag when the weather was favorable. This week the fill contractors shipped from the project a big shovel, and yesterday only 14 trucks were dumping dirt on the fill. Few independent truck operators have remained on the job longer than a week or two at the time, and many machinery units have been in bad repair several days when weather conditions were favorable for a rush schedule.

There is a possibility of spring floods interrupting the work, but during the meantime business establishments geared to a normal flow of traffic continue to hang on, hoping the route will be reopened to all traffic before the final curtain is drawn between them and a livelihood.

Values On Cleared Land Vary As Much As \$20.00 In County

Semi-Official Warning Points To Penalty For All Late Property Listings

Preliminary reports holding a semi-official rating are pointing to a marked variation in property values as determined by some assessors and compared with values in other townships. It was learned yesterday that the highest value placed on No. 1 land in one district was \$37 an acre. This value is said to compare with a value of \$59 an acre assessed by a different board of assessors in another township.

Commenting on the marked variation, tax authorities and a representative of the county board of commissioners stated that base values determined by the several boards of assessors would be studied and that values would be equalized either by a horizontal increase or by a blanket reduction. It is generally believed that each township has some land that should possibly carry a corresponding top value with land in the county, as a whole, location and other factors being considered. In the particular township where the highest value for cleared land was assessed at the rate of \$37 per acre, the assessors have not yet completed their work, but the report stated that the task would likely be completed by the latter part of next week. While the particular township apparently has no wide range in values, it is possible that its average will even exceed the average assessments in other townships.

It is significant, however, at this point to note the unofficial plans of the county authorities as they were pointed out yesterday by County Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes. According to the tax head, the commissioners will likely compare values by townships and effect equal listings by ordering horizontal increases or decreases, as the case merits.

Commenting on the work in the county, as a whole, Tax Supervisor Grimes is now fairly confident that the real estate assessment will show a gain of ten per cent or more. Only one township, Poplar Point, has been assessed in its entirety, but the figures have not been tabulated and the percentage variation in the new list as compared with the old one is not yet known. However, a gain is fairly certain there, according to a member of the board of assessors. Land values there are said to have averaged \$38 per acre in the recent listing.

Hamilton's board of assessors has almost completed its work, and the assessors are making progress in all of the other districts. However, it is hardly likely that the work will be completed in Williamston before the first week in or about the middle of February. In Jamesville Township, O. W. Hamilton was appointed to complete the listing of personal properties while R. C. Stallings devoted his time with the other

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Postal Receipts Reach Record Figure Locally

Postmaster Fowden Reports Increase In Business Last Year

Stamp Sales For the Period Are Slightly Over \$22,000 Mark

Rounding out their first full calendar year in their new home on East Main Street, Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden and his postal workers chalked up an all-time record for the sale of postage stamps in 1940, according to a review of the office activities released this week by Assistant Postmaster F. E. Wynne. Selling \$22,010.11 worth of stamps, the office recorded an increase in its receipts of slightly more than \$1,000 during the period over the 1939 figure which was an all-time record until the new figures were entered in the books.

"It takes a lot of one-, two- and three-cent stamps to add up to that much money," the postmaster explained. Close behind the explanation came the declaration that it required a whale of a lot of work to handle the thousands of pieces of mail fed back into the office with the stamps affixed. In the way of comment and accepting little credit himself, the postmaster stated that he was more than pleased with the business handled by the office during 1940. "We aren't in a defense center, and we have had no mushroom growth, but our gain will command respect along with any of them," the postmaster said. "Our stamp sales point to a normal and steady growth, and a substantial and steady growth is to be desired rather than that of the mushroom type," the postal official added.

There were comparatively dull business periods for the office during the year, but in the main, the office maintained a fairly steady gain until the Christmas holiday season. In one week just before Christmas, the office handled more than 53,000 cards and letters, not to mention several thousand packages, papers and other postal items. These figures include out-going mails. No count record is kept on in-coming mails, but the office remembers one of the rushes in its history.

Comparative records show that the office last year more than doubled its business reported in 1932.

A peak in the postal business was reached during the last quarter when

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GAINING MOMENTUM

The drive against infantile paralysis is gaining momentum as final plans are being drafted for the President's birthday ball here next Tuesday night. Dr. E. T. Walker, chairman of the movement in this county, said today.

Incomplete reports from the "March of Dimes" are described as encouraging, and the coin collectors will be retained in public places until February 10 for added contributions.

Mrs. John L. Oakley Passes At Her Home Near Robersonville

Burial Will Take Place in the Williamston Cemetery Tomorrow

Mrs. Mattie Mallory Oakley, highly respected county resident, died at her home near Robersonville, yesterday morning at 11:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. The daughter of the late Sidney and Lula York Mallory, she was born in Granville County 62 years ago.

In early womanhood she was married to John L. Oakley who came to this county as a pioneer in tobacco culture. The family made its home in the Williamston and Everetts communities for a number of years, Mrs. Oakley moving to Robersonville to live some time after the death of her husband in 1918. She was a member of the Christian Church for a long number of years, and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. Neighboring and kind, she was devoted to her family and had many friends in her native and adopted communities.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. W. D. Frazier, of Rocky Mount, and seven sons, A. L. and W. N. Oakley, of the Robersonville community; T. U. A. C. and J. H. Oakley, of Durham; R. S. Oakley, of Union, N. J.; and H. C. Oakley, of Williamston. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. G. L. Keel, of Everetts, and two brothers, Will S. and J. B. Mallory, both of Oak City.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Robersonville Christian Church where she worshipped regularly during her residence in that community. Interment will follow in the family plot in the cemetery here.

Added Influenza Cases Reported

While the influenza epidemic is gradually declining in this section, new cases are being reported from day to day, and with unfavorable weather prevailing a second flare-up is feared.

There has been a gradual decline in the number of absences attributable to influenza in the schools since last Friday, but there was a slight increase today in the number of children detained at home, authorities said.

Only one or two deaths in the county have been directly traceable to influenza so far, but reports state that several persons are seriously ill following attacks.

A moderate change for the better in the influenza situation is being reported over the state.

FISHIN' AGAIN

Calvin Ayers, one of Martin County's three champion fishermen, is back on the lake after giving the little fishes several months of rest. Readily admitting that he had rather fish than eat or most anything else for that matter, the country fisherman has already arranged his work schedule to avoid a conflict with his fishing.

It has been said upon good authority—his brother, State, of Everetts, to tell the truth, that Calvin had fished in Mattamuskeet so much, so long and so hard that he had actually worn holes in the water. But one thing is certain and that is he generally brings home the fish.

Warehouse Firm Declares Dividend

Meeting in annual session here Wednesday afternoon, stockholders of the Roanoke Tobacco Warehouse Company declared a four per cent dividend, re-elected all of its old officers and discussed a general repair plan for the properties on Washington Street.

Nearly 700 of the 1,100 shares of stock were represented at the meeting, but the number of stockholders in attendance was small. Starting out with approximately 300, the company now has only about 125 stockholders, two or three of whom own large blocks of stock.

Commenting on the company's investment features, President Henry D. Peel stated after the meeting that the property had paid dividend totaling nearly 150 per cent, that the new dividend is one per cent larger than the one declared a year ago.

Officers of the company are, Henry D. Peel, president; S. C. Griffin, vice president, and John R. Peel, secretary and treasurer. Directors are, Joseph S. Griffin, S. C. Griffin, Henry D. Peel, J. C. Gurkin, K. B. Crawford and R. T. Griffin.

An estimate on the cost for handling needed repairs to the properties has been called for, but details of the plans are not yet available. It is understood that extensive repairs will be made to the front of the large building.

The property was leased last year to S. C. Griffin for three years, but plans for its operation during the coming season have not been officially announced.