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Covers All of Northampton's Towns and Communities

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Train-Car Wreck Kills Child, 5

Political Stew Begins To Brew As Three File For May Primary

Political activity in Northampton County picked up the tempo a little last week, but county chairman of the board of elections comments that "things have been unusually quiet for this time

of year prior to the primary." Bart Burgwyn filed yesterday for the office of Clerk of Court and Judge Ballard S. Gay announced that he will seek re-election as Recorder's Court

judge. Both are subject to the Democratic primary in May.

By filing for the clerk's position, Burgwyn verified rumors and statements that have circulated around the county for nearly a month that he would seek the position of Mrs. Reba Long, who will retire December 1, 1966. In other political developments in the area, W. H. S. Burgwyn, Jr., has filed for re-election as Third District solicitor. Burgwyn has served two four year terms and was unopposed four years ago. The Third District is composed of Hertford, Bertie, Northampton, Halifax, Warren, Vance and Granville Counties.

Burgwyn is the son of Emergency Superior Court Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, Sr. Judge Gay has served as county Recorder's Court judge since 1954 and says that in seeking re-election he "plans to serve the people of the county to the best of his ability through the knowledge and ability gained over the years."

Bart Burgwyn is the brother of former court clerk, George P. Burgwyn, who held the office for 16 years.

A Northampton County native who boasts of never voting or paying taxes in any county other than Northampton, was born in Jackson and is a graduate of Jackson High School.

Bart Burgwyn brings the number to three persons seeking the Clerk of Court position.

R. Jennings White of Conway and Floyd Price of Jackson filed for the upcoming primary early in February.

Bart Burgwyn attended William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., and has studied Negotiable Instrumental Law, American Institute of Banking and Chamber of Commerce Management at the University of North Carolina.

He worked for a total of four years with the Bank of Northampton and Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. of Raleigh.

Bart Burgwyn is one of the organizers and first secretary-treasurer of Weldon Production Credit Association, which later developed into the present Roanoke-Chowan Production Credit Association.

Prior to entering the war in 1942, he was supervisor of delinquent tax division of the North Carolina Unemployment Compensation Commission in Raleigh.

A veteran of World War II, Bart (See POLITICAL, Page 7)



TRAIN LEAVES MARK—This is the 1965 Ford driven by Mrs. Hazel Long that was struck by a Seaboard train Wednesday near Potocasi. The car is shown some 54 feet from the point of impact.

Six Others, Teacher Injured; One Critical

POTOCASI — A train-car wreck at a Seaboard crossing outside Potocasi took the life of a five-year-old girl and injured six other kindergarten-age children and a kindergarten teacher Wednesday.

Gloria Coggins, daughter and only child of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Coggins of Conway, is the dead girl.

Amy Sutton, 5, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Sutton of Milwaukee, was the most critically injured with severe head injuries and a fractured thigh. She is listed as in "satisfactory" condition at King's Daughters Children's Hospital in Norfolk this morning.

Others injured include Charlie Fleetwood, 5, son of Dr. and Mrs. Joe Fleetwood of Conway; Barry Jackson Britt, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Britt of Milwaukee; Richard Thomas Bradley, Jr., 5, of Conway and Carl Britt, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Russell Britt of Milwaukee.

The extent of the injured was described as follows:

Richard Thomas Bradley, Jr., fractured left leg; Carl Britt, bruises of the face and upper extremities; Barry Jackson Britt, facial cuts, bruises and possible broken arm; Charlie Fleetwood, fractured leg and shoulder and bruises of upper extremities; Mrs. Hazel M. Long, broken right shoulder, facial cuts and bruises of the lower extremities.

It has been reported by reliable sources that Guy Revelle, chairman of the Northampton County Board of Commissioners, after getting telephone approval from all members of the board, has sent a telegram to Governor Dan Moore requesting that the state aid the county in obtaining a blinker-light for the railroad crossing at Potocasi.

A seventh child riding in the vehicle was slightly injured but did not require hospitalization. Dr. Fleetwood and Dr. John Stanley, who rushed to the scene upon hearing of the wreck, treated Phillip Horne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alex Horne, for lacerations of the hands and face but he was not in need of hospital care.

According to investigating officer, State Patrolman Glenn Swanson, the train was traveling south at a speed estimated by the engineer, H. L. Brown of Windell, to be about 25 miles per hour.

Brown said, according to Swanson, that he did not see the 1965 auto being driven by Mrs. Long until the vehicle was already on the tracks.

The engineer further stated that Mrs. Long seemed to be "going the speed limit." According to the engineer's statement to the investigating officer, the train's whistle was blowing prior to reaching the crossing.

The impact knocked the car 54 feet and the vehicle caught fire after coming to rest, entangled in a fence that runs alongside the tracks.

Workers from Virginia Electric and Power Company, who were working near the scene of the wreck, and crewmen from the train quickly extinguished the flames and possibly prevented further injury or death to passengers still in the vehicle, according to the investigating officers.

Conductor on the train, which included 15 cars plus the engine, John W. Raffield of Raleigh, said that he "was on the opposite side of the train and didn't see the impact."

On numerous occasions the crossing has been discussed by members of the county board but no action was created by the talks.

Ambulances were rushed to the scene of the accident by the Woodland Rescue Squad, Baugham & (See WRECK, Page 8)



NOT RUNNING—J. Raynor Woodard told Your Home Newspaper yesterday that he would not seek re-election to the North Carolina General Assembly. Here Woodard is shown at the grocery store, which he owns and operates in Conway with his brother, as a partner. Woodard said he would devote more time to his business at the store and on a large farm he and his brother own near Conway.

Woodard Not To Seek Re-Election To House

J. Raynor Woodard announced Wednesday that he would not seek re-election as representative to the North Carolina General Assembly. He has represented Northampton County for the past nine sessions and also served during four special sessions.

In making his plans public, Woodard stated, "I wish to announce that I will not be a candidate for re-nomination to the House of Representatives, subject to the May (Democratic) Primary. It is for personal reasons only that I have arrived at this decision."

In making his immediate plans known, Woodard did not close the door to possible future political activity by stating, "This decision does not mean that I am withdrawing from active politics."

He further stated to "Your Home Newspaper," "I will always be interested in the political life of my county and state." While serving in the state office, Woodard served as chairman of five legislative committees and according to the well-known Northampton politician, "served on all major committees."

Medicare Meetings Scheduled

Bill McClure, field representative for the Rocky Mount district Social Security Office, says that representatives of his office will be on hand in two Northampton County towns in early March to receive applications for Medicare benefits.

According to McClure the representatives will be at Seaboard Elementary School Gymnasium Monday March 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and at the Women's Club Building in Conway Wednesday March 9 from 1 to 5 p.m.

McClure says that "representatives will be on hand at both meetings to help persons 65 and over enroll for Medicare benefits."

In urging all interested persons to attend the meetings, McClure stressed the point that "March 31 is the deadline for enrollment for the supplemental medical insurance phase of the Medicare program."



FILES FOR CLERK—Bart Burgwyn (left), files for Clerk of Court of Northampton County Tuesday by entering his application with elections chairman Russell Johnson, Jr., of Conway.

Burgwyn paid his \$66 filing fee in \$1 bills which he brought to the office in a paper bag. He said the money was donated by friends who encouraged him to seek the office.

Total County Farm Income Up; Cotton Yield Takes Big Drop

Total farm income for 1965 in Northampton County showed an increase of almost one-half-million dollars in spite of a large drop in cotton lint returns.

The county produced and sold \$23,025,337 in farm products in 1965 as compared to \$22,612,660 in 1964.

The gain was registered in spite of a large drop in funds received from cotton. In 1964, cotton lint brought \$5,897,710 and in 1965 the total crop brought only \$3,566,400 for a drop of over \$2 million.

A large increase in peanuts was prominent in off-setting the decline suffered in monies received from cotton lint.

Peanut sales from the county \$9,039,016 for a gain of almost \$2-million over 1964's figure of \$7,970,500.

County farm agent B. H. Harrell said, however, that the drop in cotton funds received was more deteriorating to the county economy than the figures showed.

According to Harrell, "one must consider the fact that the farmer's original investment,

plus his possible income on the crop must be considered."

Harrell compared the drop in cotton funds in the county to the loss of better than \$2-million a

Short Session Held In Recorder's Court

Only 17 cases were heard in Northampton County Recorder's Court in an unusually short court session Wednesday by Judge Ballard S. Gay.

A great majority of the cases heard by Gay were traffic violations.

One active sentence was handed down by Judge Ballard, when he found William Ivey Faison, 21, guilty of larceny and sentenced the young man to 12 months.

In another case, a young man was held over for the April session of superior court for assault with a deadly weapon and armed robbery charges.

James Jones of Gumberry was bond over under \$1000 bond on each case when Judge Ballard ruled probable cause in the case charged against Jones by Jasper Grant.

Jones allegedly attacked Grant and robbed the older man of \$22. According to Grant's testimony, Jones attacked him with a knife and twice threw him into creeks.

In other cases heard during the regular court session the following verdicts were handed down by Judge Ballard:

Richard Willford, 51, of Ahoskie, speeding 60 mph in 45 mph zone. Prayer for judgement continued upon payment of court costs.

William Nathaniel Cook, 44, of Roanoke Rapids, falling to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Not guilty.

Norwood Saunders Keel, 34, of Virginia Beach, Va.; speeding too fast for conditions. Forfeited bond of \$50.

Horace Wilton Stone, 48, of Lumberton; speeding 70 mph in 60 in 45 mph zone. Prayer for judgement upon payment of court costs.

Darwood Waters, 23, Gaston; assault. Pleaded not guilty. Found guilty and ordered to pay court

1,489 Eating Food Stamp Purchases

JACKSON — More than 1,000 Northampton persons participated in the food stamp program during the month of January. A total of 255 families used the stamps to purchase food. This represents food for 1,489 people.

Participating families put up money in the amount of \$8,370 and received a bonus in food stamps amounting to \$10,318 giving them food buying power of \$18,688.

year industry to a more industry-minded county.

The largest swarm of boll weavils to hit the eastern part of North Carolina in over a dec-

ade was blamed for a great deal of the loss in cotton production.

However, Harrell says that a great majority of the loss could have been prevented if the farmers would have followed "a steady insecticide and production program."

"In times such as this need for a farmer to follow regular programs to assure themselves of the highest yield and best quality, Harrell points to the fact that many county farmers

"plowed their cotton into the ground last year, others who followed an insecticide and production program."

Claude Gaston, Garysburg; No operator's license. Forfeited bond of \$46.25.

Timothy L. Butcher, Roanoke Rapids; no operators license. Forfeited bond of \$46.25.

Wiley L. Lynch, Gaston; No operators license. Forfeited bond of \$46.25.

Shelton Scott, Garysburg; Allowing unlicensed person to operate his car on highway. Forfeited bond of \$46.25.

William McKenley Green, Garysburg; Speeding 50 mph in 35 mph zone. \$10 and court cost.

Beth Manning Daugherty, 18, Margarettsville; Speeding 70 mph in 60 mph zone. \$10 and court cost.

Roger A. Gottard, Torontot, Ontario; Speeding 72 mph in 60 mph zone. Forfeited bond of \$21.25.

Woodrow Sanders, Jr., 53, Speeding 72 mph in 60 mph zone. Forfeited bond of \$21.25.

Questioned on the status of his bill at noon Thursday, Sen. W. V. (See SURVEY, Page 8)



POINT OF ACCIDENT — This is the railroad track-highway intersection at which a 1965 Ford driven by Mrs. Hazel Long and a Seaboard train collided just east of Potocasi Wednesday. The crossing has long been a subject of discussion by the people of Potocasi and neighboring Northampton County communities. Several accidents at the crossing in recent months have led many to think that a red flashing light is

needed to warn motorists of approaching trains. Currently the crossing is marked by black on yellow signs approximately 24 inches in diameter, posted one-tenth of a mile in each direction approaching the track. There is also white lettering signs of an estimated 60 inches in height as you approach the tracks and the tracks themselves are bordered by traditional black on white crossed railroad signs.