

PRICES 4 TO 5 CENTS UP OVER LAST YEAR

Average Here Over 10 Cents; May Go To 11 or 12; Every One Pleased

TOWN TAX RATE FIXED AT \$2.10 MONDAY NIGHT

Small Break With Fair Quality Here

WATER RATE IS LOWERED; TAX PER \$100 IS SAME

Unable to Reduce Rate in Face of Property Losses and Debt Increase

Williamston's 1932 tax rate was tentatively set at \$2.10 by the board of commissioners at their regular meeting held last night, the levy remaining unchanged from last year. While there is no actual reduction reflected in the rate itself, various economies were effected to offset a loss of \$800 on a \$40,000 decrease in property valuation, a \$1,000 increase in payments on bonded indebtedness, and an expected drop of \$800 in water revenue as a result of a 25-cent reduction in the minimum water rate. In other words, the board could have dropped the rate 15 cents on the \$100 property valuation had the valuation remained the same, and had there been no increase in bonded maturities and the water rate been allowed to remain unchanged.

The minimum water rate was decreased from \$1.75 to \$1.50 per month by the board after discussion and comparison of the local rate with those of other towns in this section. The new rate here places Williamston in the group of towns with the lowest rates. The schedule of prices for users of more than the minimum amount, 3,000 gallons, will remain the same as heretofore.

The tentative budget appears in condensed form in this paper today, the report in detail being on file at the office of the mayor for public inspection. Another copy of the budget is being forwarded to the local government commission in Raleigh this week for inspection, and upon its return the rate will be definitely determined.

Completing the review of the budget the commissioners ordered that the delinquent tax list be advertised the first of October for sale in November, advertising and sales having been delayed as long as it is possible to do so under the law.

After inspecting the monthly bills and discussing a proposed ordinance for the handling of cows, the board adjourned.

WOMEN RETURN FROM RALEIGH

Twenty-eight Martin Club Members Attend Meet in Raleigh

By Miss L. E. SLEEPER

Twenty-eight women, representing six of the home demonstration clubs in the county returned from Raleigh last Friday. The women reported having the very best time ever and for the least expense. Many of the women spent less than \$2 during the week and enjoyed tours, and most everything included on the program. Tuesday afternoon the women were taken to Chapel Hill, where President Graham welcomed them. A concert was given from the singing tower, and a tour was conducted over the campus, after which the groups journeyed to Duke University, where a concert on the organ was afforded them in the very beautiful chapel. A tour over the campus and through the famous hospital made the trip worth while.

The cost of the trip to Martin County women was made for 10 cents each, and this was made possible by the action and splendid cooperation of the Martin County School Board when the school truck was granted for the short course. The women received much valuable instruction during the week and returned filled with ideas and desires to improve the home, make use of the things on hand, and plan ahead for next year, so as to be ready to go again.

Mrs. W. D. Hyman was the only graduate from the Martin County group this year. Next year there should be many. We were glad to have our Mrs. T. M. Woodburn appointed treasurer of the state organization.

Consider Receiving Bids for Two County Road Projects

According to information received here this week, the State Highway Commission is considering completing the surfacing of Highway Route 125 from the Everett farm, 5 1-2 miles from here, to Hobgood. It was announced last week that low bids on the project would be considered by the commission at its next letting, the report failing to state that the contract would actually be let.

The report was a bit conflicting in that the mileage mentioned therein was much greater than

the distance from the Everett farm to Hobgood, not including that portion of the road from Hamilton to Oak City, which is already surfaced. It could not be learned when the next meeting of the commission would be held, or just when low bids on the project would be considered.

It is almost certain that the road will be given next consideration, and that once the work is started many of those applying for jobs in this county will be given an opportunity to work.

Young Tobacconist Shoots Self Sunday

SCHOOL OPENS AT JAMESVILLE NEXT MONDAY

Faculty for the New Term Announced This Week By Principal Pollock

Jamesville.—The Jamesville School will open Monday, September 12th. Teachers are expected to arrive Saturday about noon for the first teacher's meeting to be held that afternoon at 4:30. Unusual care has been exercised by the committee and the principal in the selection of a corps of teachers, and the outlook for a successful year is one of the best ever.

All children are urgently requested to bring all textbooks which will be used this year, as second-hand books will be used just as much as possible. The book question is being given much attention, and the cooperation of the public is solicited to assist the school to put into use all possible old books, thus saving half the cost of textbooks.

Everything is in readiness for the opening. The teachers for the year are as follows:

- Grade 1 B, Miss Opal Brown, of Jamesville.
- Grade 1 A, Miss Emily Smithwick, Windsor.
- Grade 2, Miss Fannie Latham Martin, Jamesville.
- Grade 3, Mrs. Varo H. Davenport, Jamesville.
- Grade 4, Miss Ruth Modlin, Jamesville.
- Grade 5, Miss Louise Roebuck, Robersonville.
- Grade 6, Miss Blanche Mizell, of Jamesville.
- Grade 7, Miss Rachel Godwin, of Conetoc.
- Science, Mr. J. T. Uzzle, Wilson Mills.
- English, Miss Annie V. Horner, of Hope Mills.
- French and Math, Miss Rosalyn Satterwhite, Henderson.
- Agriculture, W. T. Overby.
- Music, Miss Annie E. Glasgow.
- History and Principal, A. L. Pollock.

Bear Grass Plays Bethel Team Here Tomorrow

During the past week Bear Grass defeated Stokes, 20 to 1, and Everetts 18 to 3. Garganus pitched against Stokes for 5 innings, Terry for 1 inning, and Peel for 1 inning. Stalls pitched against Everetts. Cook caught both games.

Wednesday Bear Grass will play the strong Bethel team on the Williamston diamond. Bethel has won two out of three games played so far. Bear Grass hopes to even the score Wednesday. Admission will be 5 and 10 cents.

County and Home Agents In Raleigh for This Week

The county and home agents are in Raleigh this week attending the annual agents' meeting.

LIVES 11 HOURS BUT REFUSES TO EXPLAIN ACTION

J. Whitman Booles Died Before Relatives Could Reach Him Sunday

James Whitman Booles, young tobacconist, of Taylorsville, Ky., died in a Washington hospital late Sunday afternoon from a bullet wound inflicted by himself at the home of W. C. Manning, jr., here about 6:30 o'clock that morning. In a conscious state up until a short while before he died, the man maintained a stubborn silence carrying to the grave the underlying cause for the tragic act, and not until the end was near did he express any desire to live. It was too late to express regret for the act and a hope to live then, for the wound had all but sapped the very life out of him.

Entering just below his heart, the bullet plowed diagonally through the body and came out through the backbone, paralyzing the left side of his body. The ball continued on and tore a sizeable hole in the bathroom wall, lodging in the wall of an adjoining linen closet.

Just a few minutes before he shot himself, he wrote a short note asking that his wife and mother be notified and expressing a wish that his body be buried in the cemetery at Taylorsville, Ky. No motive for the act was even mentioned in the note, and all through the long hours Sunday as he lay at death's door, he offered no reason for it, leaving his friends, his wife and aged parents at a loss as to why he should snuff out what was considered a happy life.

The tragedy stirred the community and section more than any other one in many months, and every one did all they could to save his life. A last effort was made to save his life when a blood transfusion was given him.

(Continued on the back page)

Fire Destroys Buildings In Oak City Early Today

Fire of undetermined origin early today destroyed the garage, woodshed and a brooder belonging to Mr. J. H. Ayers at Oak City. When discovered, the fire was burning out the top of the wood house, and only by hard work of bucket brigades was the Ayers home saved. The dwelling caught fire several times, but the fighters got the blaze out each time. Considerable damage was done to the home, it was reported.

A small amount of insurance was carried on the home, but not was carried on the buildings that burned, it was stated.

School Principals of the County Meeting Today

Principals of the several Martin County schools are meeting here this afternoon, preparatory to opening the schools next Monday. Routine matters are being handled, it is understood.

AGENT ADVISES PLOWING UNDER TOBACCO STALKS

Says Practice Will Help Much In Keeping Down Number of Insects

By T. B. BRANDON

Tobacco growers should plow under or destroy tobacco stalks just as soon as harvesting is finished. Tobacco stalks which are left in the field for second growth after harvest serve as food and breeding ground for millions of insects which go into winter quarters healthy and well fed, coming out the next year to cause tremendous damage. If the entire neighborhood would cooperate in this program, tobacco insect damage could be reduced tremendously. This is the most important control measure and the cheapest for tobacco insect pests, the growers all over the state should by all means put this into practice. This is a good farm measure and is cheap. Those who carry out this program will notice results the first year. If entire communities will cooperate in carrying this out, tobacco insect pest damage will be reduced to a minimum.

In addition to destroying insects, the plowing under of the stalks will aid materially in getting the land in condition for planting winter cover crops, a practice which should be put into use on every farm.

REPORT IS MADE BY FARM AGENT FOR PAST MONTH

Farmers Preparing Curing Houses for Handling New Crop

Although the dry season is about to threaten the sweet potato crop in this section, County Farm agent T. B. Brandon is assisting many growers in the county in preparing for curing the crop this coming season. His report, submitted to the county commissioners at their regular meeting Monday, states that many curing-houses were inspected and treated. The sweet potato production in this county can hardly be determined just now, but with a favorable season, it is believed the crop will be on considerable size.

The agent's report, in detail: 22 days spent in field work, 7 days spent in office work, 180 office conferences; 187 telephone calls; 176 letters written, 65 farms visited during the month, 1,240 miles traveled on official duties, 546 hogs treated during the month.

Some time was devoted to the pasture work. The rains have improved the pastures considerably and carpet grass, dallis grass, and japan clover look good at present. Thirty-two pastures were inspected by the agent. Twenty-two farmers started feeding hogs this month. These farmers are feeding hogs on sweet potatoes, corn, and soy beans.

BARNHILL CASE IS CONTINUED

Aged Man Will Be Tried For Second Degree Murder

The case charging T. H. Barnhill with murder was continued in the Pitt County Superior Court last week until October, when he is scheduled to be tried on a second-degree murder or manslaughter charge. He was indicted and charged with first-degree murder by a Pitt grand jury earlier in the week. Preparations were made to have a special venire of 100 citizens summoned in the case, but last minute developments made that unnecessary.

His bond was reduced from \$10,000 to \$2,500, which he raised to gain his liberty until the next term of Pitt County Superior Court convening in Greenville next month.

COURT MONDAY

The next week session of the Martin County Recorder's Court will convene Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock instead of Tuesday morning at that hour, it was announced today by Judge Jos. W. Bailey.

The change in the day for holding the court was made when it was found that the presiding officer would be out of the county that day. Litigants and witnesses are asked to note the change in the schedule.

ASK PARENTS TO ATTEND OPENING OAK CITY SCHOOL

Children Asked To Bring Books With Them for Exchange or Sale

Oak City.—A 100 per cent attendance is being urged upon the opening of the Oak City schools next Monday. Principal H. M. Ainsley announced here today. While the school man did not predict the size of the first-day enrollment, it is understood that equally as many children and probably a few more will report for instruction next Monday than there on opening day last term.

In an effort to provide books for all children, the principal is requesting all pupils to bring second-hand books to his office, where they can be checked and sold in the school.

While the general opening announcements will be made in the auditorium at 10:30 that morning, Mr. Ainsley did say that all patrons are cordially invited and urged to be present for the opening and spend the day with the children. Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville, will conduct the devotional, it was stated.

The music department of the school, including piano and public school music, will be in charge of Miss Christine Piland, local talent with special musical ability and conservatory training. The school is very fortunate to secure the services of Miss Piland, and the parents will be glad to know that school children will have the benefit of music instruction. Miss Piland is conducting the music department independent of county or district funds.

DIES AT HOME IN GOLD POINT

Funeral for Robt. Roebuck, 84 Years Old, Was Held Sunday Afternoon

Robert Roebuck died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Bell, in Gold Point, Saturday night at the age of 84 years. He was the last member of a family of nine children. A sister, Marcella Roebuck, died August 1 last year at the age of 87. Of the nine children, one was killed, while a young man, in the Civil War, and one other died when young. The other seven all lived to be above 79 years old.

The burial was in the Roebuck burying ground near Gold Point Sunday. The funeral was held at the Gold Point Christian church by Rev. Jack Purvis. Mr. Roebuck had lived a useful, simple and unselfish Christian life for more than two-thirds of a century. Only one child, Mrs. Bell, survives, a number of grandchildren, and a score of great-grandchildren.

Former Tobacco Buyer Kills Self in Georgia

Cotton Poindexter, buyer for the American Tobacco Company on the local market several years ago, killed himself in a Georgia hotel last week. No cause was given for the act, the young man leaving a note requesting that he be buried in Arlington cemetery. He said he was a wounded war veteran and thought he ought to have a place there. The body was shipped to Wilson for burial, it is understood.

While representing the American here, Mr. Poindexter made many friends among local people and was well liked as a tobacco man.

REGULAR MEET COUNTY BOARD HELD MONDAY

County Paid Off \$40,000 of Its Bonded Indebtedness During Past Year

Martin County reduced its bonded indebtedness last year by \$40,000—County debts, \$21,000, and county school debts, \$19,200—it was announced following a meeting of the Martin County commissioners here Monday. The announcement came after a long review was made of the county audit recently completed by the Perkins Auditing Company. The report, showing the county finances to be far above the general average in the state, was accepted. The record made last year is said to be one of the main steps a county can take in reducing its tax rate as the prompt payment of inescapable obligations cuts out interest charges that naturally increase when principal and interest are allowed to accumulate.

The day was an unusual one for the members of the board, for they had less work and fewer complaints than at any meeting held in recent months.

Only four new pleas for help were presented the body for consideration. Caroline Griffin, Hamilton Township; Amanda Best, Hamilton Township; Rose Howard, Goose Nest; and Fannie Williams, each having been allowed \$1.50 monthly. The allowance to George Keys, of Jamesville Township, was increased from \$1.50 to \$2 a month.

A new schedule of rates was made for the collection of delinquent taxes, the collector to receive only one-half the legal penalties allowed on taxes from the time sales are made until the suits of foreclosures are completed. The new schedule will apply for 1932 taxes, it is understood.

MARTINS CLOSE SEASON WITH GOOD RECORD

Through and Through the Season Just Closed Was Very Successful One

Through and through, out and out, Williamston and the county as a whole—especially Jamesville and Robersonville—completed one of the best amateur baseball seasons here in years, the team and its managers reflecting credit to the game that encourages good sportsmanship and an enjoyable sport.

Coming here with little hopes of any great pecuniary reward, the players entered into the sport with a sincere determination and throughout the season they played hard, winning both halves and the championship pennant in the Albemarle League. The young men coming from other sections entered here today into the activities of the community as regular citizens and they were good citizens. While the expense of maintaining the team might have taxed the community, the sport offered a fair return, giving a change of conversational subjects and offering a sport that attracted fair-sized and real often, large crowds to the diamond.

Under the management of V. J. Spivey and E. P. Cunningham, the organization cleared all accounts and balanced the books without a loss to anybody.

It isn't known whether the boys will return or not, but it is certain that Latham, catcher; Taylor, first base; Howard Brown, second base; Ears, shortstop; Jimmie Brown, third base; Coffield, right field; Howard Gaylord and Whitehurst, centerfield; Onward Gaylord, left field; and Cherry, Her-ring and Kugler, pitchers, cooperated to make a good team, and one that furnished much worth-while entertainment for many during the past several weeks.

A farewell supper was given the boys this week, and several of them left immediately thereafter for their homes or to enter college here and there throughout the state.

BELT MARKETS AVERAGE ABOUT 10 CENTS TODAY

Skinner, American, Export Are Principal Buyers on Local Market Today

Comparatively small sales were reported on all the tobacco markets opening in the Eastern Brigh Belt this morning, the late season finding many farmers still busy harvesting the crop. And the crowds attending the first sales were said to be much smaller than in years.

During the first hour and a half after the sales were started on the local floors this morning, 10,576 pounds of the golden weed had been sold for \$1,076.00, a resulting average of a fraction over 10 cents, actual figures. While the prices were said not to be high by many farmers, it was almost unanimously agreed that the common or inferior grades were selling as much as twice as high and probably more, than they did last season with the better quality grades commanding about the same price as they sold for last year. Anyway, a spirit of optimism was general throughout the market, few farmers registering outspoken complaints and no one turning a tag as far as it could be learned when the first authentic figures were turned in for tabulation.

Poundage estimates varied considerably on the market today, the guesses ranging from 75,000 to 100,000 pounds; the general average or estimate resting around the 85,000 pound mark. But even then the break was larger than was first anticipated as many farmers have not finished harvesting the crop and haven't prepared a pound for the markets.

Quality of the offerings was described as fair to good, the prices ranging from 2 1/2 to 61 cents on the first sale where the quality was said to be slightly inferior to that on the floors of the other two houses. It is believed the average will climb before the sales are completed with the indication that at least a 11-cent and possibly a 11 and one-half cent price point would be reached.

Spirited selling and bidding featured the sales here today. The sales leaders were unusually active and the buyers seemed to want the tobacco, and competition was keen when bidding was turned to the inferior grades. Skinner and Company, Export and American were buying heavily of certain grades while the houses were leading in prices for the top-most grades. Other companies were interested in the offerings and bought much of certain types.

Last year the opening average was about \$6.84, and before the sales are completed today, it is believed that figure will have passed by four or five cents. The break today is estimated at about one-half the size of the one opening day last year.

The market was formally opened here today by Mayor R. L. Coburn who extended a cordial welcome to the growers and visitors. Rev. Chas. H. Dickey offered a short prayer, and the sing-song of the auctioneer was then soon underway.

Selling on the local market this morning, E. T. Smith and Brother, of Goose Nest Township expressed themselves as being well pleased with the average received. They sold lugs, as follows: 134 pounds at 20 cents; 104 pounds at 24 cents; 98 pounds at 30 cents; 112 pounds at 45 cents; 472 pounds sold for \$146.20, or a little better than a 30-cent average. The clear check was \$140.95.

It was admitted that the two farmers had some mighty good tobacco. The Robersonville market reported around 90,000 pounds on sale today, and an average of around 10 1/2 cents, according to early estimates. No tags were turned and smiles were numerous. Greenville reported around 650,000 pounds on its floors today, early sales indicating that the market would average around 10 cents. Farnville reported around 250,000 pounds on its floors and an indicated average of about 10 cents also.