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COMPLETE PLANS FOR BALLOT ON BANKHEAD ACT

Vote on Important Law in Nation on Friday of Next Week

Arrangements for holding the referendum on the Bankhead Cotton Control Act in this county were announced complete today by Assistant Agent T. B. Slade. Registrations have been compiled for use in the election, and they will be delivered at the direction of the county cotton committee within the next few days. Ballots are also ready for distribution, and interest now centers in the task of getting out a large and favorable vote on Friday of next week.

Pollholders and places of holding the referendum in the various communities of this county will be announced within the next day or two. In the meantime, the attention of the farmers is urgently called to the importance of voting and favoring the continuance of the Bankhead law. It is reasonably believed that defeat of the act will cause cotton prices to drop back to 1931 and 1932 levels, and the failure of the act's passage will cause a depressing effect upon tobacco and other farm commodity prices. In short, tobacco farmers eligible to vote in the cotton referendum should do so if they desire the tobacco program continued successfully. All cotton farmers are urged to make special efforts and plans to vote on Friday of next week, for failure to do so may cause a return to 10-cent tobacco, 1-cent peanuts, and 5-cent cotton.

NEW CLERK OF COURT IN OFFICE

L. B. Wynne's First Official Act Was Administering Oaths of Office

Taking the oath of office at 9:15 yesterday morning before Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell, L. Bruce Wynne immediately entered upon his duties as clerk of the Martin County Superior Court. His first official act was to administer the oath of office to J. Sam Getsinger, register of deeds. A few minutes later the clerk administered the oaths of office to the other officers, including Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Treasurer C. A. Harrison, Recorder H. O. Peel, Coroner S. R. Biggs, and Commissioners J. E. Pope, V. G. Taylor, Joshua L. Coltrain, C. C. Fleming, and Robert Lee Perry.

VACCINATES 8,154 HOGS PAST YEAR

Calls Answered from 392 Breeders by Martin County Agent

Tom Brandon, county agent, is believed to have established a record in the number of hogs vaccinated during the past twelve months in this, a comparatively small meat-producing section. During the period from December 1, 1933, to November 30, 1934, the agent vaccinated 8,154 hogs against cholera. The record of vaccinations is given added weight when the number of farmers asking the service is considered, the agent stating in his annual report that there were 392 breeders who had their swine treated against the disease.

Rogers Named Assistant Supervisor of the Census

Urbis Rogers, Martin County Man, Has Been Appointed Assistant Supervisor for the Fifth District Farm Census, Which Gets Under Way Throughout the Nation the First of Next Year.

Urbis Rogers, Martin County man, has been appointed assistant supervisor for the fifth district farm census, which gets under way throughout the nation the first of next year. D. W. Lupton, of Pantego, will supervise the work in this and other counties in the district. Headquarters will be located in Washington.

Roanoke Expected To Go Two Feet Over Its Banks

Reaching its crest in Weldon yesterday, the Roanoke River is expected to overflow its banks at this point this week. The 12 or 13 foot rise expected here will probably reach its crest here next Sunday, overflowing the banks by about two feet, according to reports released today by Hugh Spruill, following advices received from the weather bureau at Raleigh.

Only 17 More Days for Gift Shopping, Merchants Warn

While preparations for Christmas have been underway for some time, shopping for the holiday season is becoming more pronounced each day in Williamston stores, and indications become more promising daily for one of the busiest seasons here in years. Only 17 more shopping days remain, and while that is plenty of time to shop in, many will find themselves pushed if they wait until 16-3 of them are spent before starting the Christmas shopping task. In short the exacting shopper will find it to his advantage to shop early, avoid the rush and mail packages early. Santa Claus is breaking forth in all his glory at Williamston stores this season, and certainly,

with all the Christmas goods on display and with as much money poured into this section recently, there need be no empty stockings in these parts 20 days from now. Make your plans to visit Williamston's merchants; you'll find one of the largest assortments of useful gifts, candies, toys, vehicles and many other articles seen here in many, many years. The Christmas lights will go on Saturday night of this week, and plans are going forward for a gala holiday season here this year. Nearly 2,000 vari-colored lights are being placed on the streets in the business sections today, with the possibility that they might be lighted before Saturday.

Man Kills Himself In Parmele Sunday

RED CROSS

While the reports are not yet complete, early returns from the Red Cross membership campaign indicate this county surpassed its record of last year. County Chairman Harry A. Biggs offered reports from Farm Life, Oak City, Everetts, and Williamston, showing receipts of \$97.25. The Williamston schools later reported \$26.30, increasing the total to \$123.55. Jamesville and Hamilton and several canvassers in Williamston are yet to report, Mr. Biggs stated.

GOOSE NEST MAN DIES RESULT OF AUTO ACCIDENT

J. H. Etheridge, a Leading Farmer, Buried at Oak City Last Thursday

John H. Etheridge, one of the leading farmers and most highly respected citizens of Goose Nest Township, died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Wednesday from injuries received in an automobile accident the day before. Mr. Etheridge was fatally hurt when the Chrysler car, driven by Herman Manning, turned over on Highway 125 between Oak City and Scotland Neck. A tire blew out, causing the wreck, it was stated. According to other reports coming from eye-witnesses, the steering wheel appeared to have suddenly locked and Mr. Etheridge grabbed the driver, causing him to lose control of the car. It turned over twice and landed on its top, breaking several of Mr. Etheridge's ribs and cutting him about the head. The driver, injured about the arm and shoulder, was not seriously hurt.

Edenton School Teachers Recovering from Injuries

Miss Madge Pettus, Edenton school teacher, injured in a car wreck near Robersonville last Friday morning, is recovering, late reports from her bedside indicated today. Miss Pettus, bidding with Mrs. Emily Badham and others, suffered a broken arm and collar bone. Mrs. Badham suffered several broken ribs and other injuries, but she was able to return to the home of her sister, Mrs. S. R. Biggs, here, for treatment, and to continue later to her home in Edenton.

Occupants Escape Injury When Automobiles Crash

The radiator of Mr. W. E. Old's Hudson car was smashed and the front part of George Martin's new Ford was considerably damaged last Saturday afternoon when the two machines crashed at a street intersection in Jamesville. No one was hurt.

RETIRING BOARD MEMBER SERVED COUNTY 8 YEARS

T. C. Griffin Served County as Chairman During Four Hectic Years

Completing eight years of service, four as chairman of the board, for Martin County, Commissioner T. C. Griffin yesterday completed his last official act of the period that has been marked for its perplexing problems and unusual demands of a people experiencing one of the worst depressions in many years. Through it all, the board chairman efficiently guided the board to make one of the best records heard of throughout this state.

Just before presiding over the last meeting of his four terms, Mr. Griffin said Monday he had worried night and day, trying to do the most advantageous things for his people and county, that many new gray hairs had sprouted from his head during the past four years in handling the duties assigned him by the office.

Taking over the chairmanship following the 1929 crash, Mr. Griffin has been between the "devil and the deep blue sea," so to speak. Depressed property owners clamored loud and strong for tax reductions on the one hand, and the needy pitifully appealed for succor on the other hand. Property owners, forming groups, demanded action in public meetings. County bondholders in all parts of the county demanded payment of their holdings. Land values dropped and personal property became almost extinct in many instances, all forming a dark route for the chairman and his board members to follow.

It was a difficult task, but through it all Martin County emerged successful over what appeared helpless defeat at times. The county tax rate has been reduced from a high of \$1.60 to \$1.25 for the year 1934. The demands of the property owners have been willingly heard, and the pleas of the less fortunate were heard with compassion. And without doubt the period has been one of the most trying for a board and its chairman of any on record in this county.

During seven years of Mr. Griffin's service, Mr. Henry S. Everett, of Robersonville, has been closely associated with the chairman in his duties. Mr. Everett retired from active service on the board yesterday, neither of the two men having entered the campaign last summer to succeed themselves as members of the board. They have turned their duties over to Messrs. C. C. Fleming, of Jamesville, and Robert Lee Perry, of Bear Grass, and today return strictly to private life none the richer but far wiser in county government duties.

Following a short session of the old board, the new county officials accepted the reins of government, the body electing John E. Pope, of Williamston, to the chairmanship. Mr. Pope has been a member of the board for a number of years and is well acquainted with the county government and its functions.

PEANUT MARKET SOME STRONGER

Little Change in the Price But Demand Said To Be Greater

The local peanut market appeared some stronger this week, probably as a result of bad weather last week that forced a period of inactivity on marketing operations. No marked advance in prices was reported, however, the market merely becoming more steady with the demand stronger. The market continues around the 3-cent price.

Mr. Tom Harrell, County Man, Hurt in Car Wreck

Mr. Tom Harrell, Martin County man, and his brother, Mr. J. H. Harrell, of Black Mountain, were painfully but not seriously hurt last Wednesday when the steering apparatus on their car went out of order, causing the machine to run off a 30-foot embankment near Morganton. It was first thought that Mr. Tom had suffered a fracture of the cerebral vertebra, but his condition proved not so serious, and he and his brother are expected to be able to leave the hospital in Morganton tomorrow.

Baby Dies at the Home of Parents Here Wednesday

Annie Geneva, six-weeks-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Moore, died at the home of her parents here last Wednesday following a short illness. Funeral services were held in the Pentecostal Holiness church by Rev. Tom Harris Thursday afternoon. Interment was in the cemetery here.

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Smithwick, Mrs. Frank Jordan, Mr. C. C. Fleming, Miss Thelma Brown and Mrs. Hooten were among those attending the Smithwick-Moore wedding in Hamilton last Saturday from this county.

Bank of Hamilton Is Robbed Of Over \$2,500 During Night

COMMISSIONERS HOLD REGULAR MEET MONDAY

Working Organization Is Effected by New Board: J. E. Pope Chairman

In a short session held here yesterday morning, the old board of Martin County commissioners completed its work and cleared the desk for the new board, an answer to a relief plea and the issuance of a tax relief order constituting the last official acts of the old body.

Taking their oaths of office, the new board members, Messrs. C. C. Fleming, Joshua L. Coltrain, Robert Lee Perry, John E. Pope and Van G. Taylor, immediately started their term, first giving their attention to the perfecting of an organization. Mr. John E. Pope, of Williamston, was elected chairman.

John W. Bland was re-elected superintendent of the county home, and W. H. Coburn was appointed solicitor of the county court. E. S. Peel was reappointed county attorney. Bonds of the various officers were approved in the following amounts: L. B. Wynne, clerk of court, \$10,000; J. Sam Getsinger, register of deeds, \$5,000 and accountant, \$5,000; C. B. Roebuck, sheriff, \$5,000 and tax collector, \$25,000; C. A. Harrison, treasurer, \$40,000; S. H. Grimes, collector delinquent taxes, \$15,000.

The remainder of the meeting time, or nearly all of it, was devoted to hearing pleas from the less fortunate and requests for tax relief orders. Cleve Parker's monthly allowance was increased from \$3 to \$4 in Williamston. L. H. Matthews, was veteran drawing compensation, was relieved of poll tax in Robersonville. Bill Whitley and wife were allowed \$4.50 a month in Williamston Township. The board ordered that all county patients entering hospitals for treatment must have signed orders to do so from the authorities. S. T. Woolard, Robersonville, was allowed \$3 monthly by the old board.

WAVELETS WIN OVER LEWISTON

Playing in Sea of Mud, the Locals Win Second in Three-Game Series

Playing their third game of the season last Friday afternoon at Lewiston, Coach James Peters' Wavelets made it two straight victories over the Bertie eleven. The young lads chalked up a 14-to-0 win. Lewiston won the first game from the Wavelets played there several weeks ago.

Playing in a field of mud, the two teams were scoreless at the half. On the first play in the third quarter, Roberson picked up the kick-off from his own team and skidded across for the first touchdown. Cone, plowing deep and earnestly in the mud, bucked the line for the extra point. In the final period Thad Harrison intercepted a pass and ran for the second touchdown, Roberson bucking the line for the point.

Frank Pittman Is Slightly Hurt In Auto Accident

Hardly recovered from injuries received in an automobile wreck near Edenton several months ago, Frank Pittman, genial employee of the Virginia Electric and Power Company here, figured in a second auto accident last Saturday near Weldon.

Neither Mr. Pittman nor his sister was very badly hurt, it was said. Frank was able to return to work yesterday. The car, driven by Mr. Pittman, skidded on the wet pavement and turned over.

Kader Whitehurst Buys Parmele School Site for \$405

The old Parmele school building site was sold today to Kader Whitehurst for \$405, a price less by \$395 than the figure offered a month ago for the site and building before the latter was burned. There are about two acres in the site, and it is understood a filling station will be built by or for Sinclair gas and oils.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

Mrs. L. B. Harrison, head of the Woman's Club welfare department will again head the sale of Christmas seals in this community this season, it was announced yesterday. The little stickers will be handled by canvassers and at convenient places for sale, it is understood.

Through the sale of seals, a splendid work has been made possible in this state and nation against tuberculosis. Seventy-five per cent of the receipts remain at home for use by tubercular victims, the remaining amount going to state and national organizations, where treatment is afforded those unable to pay and to maintain research work in hospitals and universities.

JAS. F. PURVIS, HASSELLS MAN, DIED MONDAY

Last Rites Are Being Held In Hassell by Rev. J. M. Perry This Afternoon

James F. Purvis, prominent county citizen, died at his home in Hassell yesterday morning about 5 o'clock from apoplexy. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about two months, Mr. Purvis was forced to his bed, the end coming gradually. Prior to that time he was very active, but had retired from business life several years before.

The son of the late Calvin and Nancy Johnson Purvis, he was born near Hassell 63 years ago. He spent a greater part of his life on the farm, enjoying success in his activities. About ten years ago he moved to Hassell and entered the mercantile business, retiring a few years ago from active business life. Showing a great interest in the welfare of his community and its citizens, Mr. Purvis was active for many years as a supporter of the public schools and religious work. He served as a member of the school board there and was identified with many of the progressive moves in the Hassell section. He had never married.

One brother, Mr. A. L. Purvis, of Hassell, and one sister, Mrs. A. S. Roberson, of Robersonville survive.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Robersonville Christian church. Interment will follow in the family burial plot on the home farm, one mile from Hassell.

Cannot Reduce Number of Tenants Under Contracts

Under the terms of their tobacco contracts, landlords must maintain the same number of tenants on their farms next year, it was pointed out by Assistant Agent M. L. Barnes this week. Landlords remember this was one of the requirements found in the contract this year, Mr. Barnes stating that this provision would again be in effect for 1935.

According to unofficial reports heard here, a number of farmers were of the opinion the tenant-retaining clause was operative for 1934 only. A close inspection of the agreement will show that the tenant provision also applies for 1935.

Griffins Township Reports Unusual Wild Turkey Hunt

The hunting story of the season bobbed up in Griffins Township a few days ago, according to meager reports reaching here yesterday. Locating a roost in the woods there, a group of hunters made elaborate arrangements to hunt wild turkey. Getting up before daybreak, the hunters went to the scene to await light and trap the turkeys then and there. Probably the wild turkeys got wind of the hunt and vacated, turning the roost over to South Carolina buzzards, several of which were killed before their identity was determined.

Local Woman's Club To Meet Thursday Afternoon

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamston Woman's Club will be held Thursday afternoon, December 6, at 3:30 o'clock. Miss Steeper, of the American Home Department, will have charge of the program. It is earnestly hoped that all members will try their best to be present for this worth-while meeting.—Reported.

USE ACETYLENE TORCH TO OPEN VAULT AND SAFE

Robbers Leave No Clue for Officers To Work On; Experts Are Called

Going into Hamilton about two o'clock this morning, three or more robbers broke into the Bank of Hamilton and carried away, according to early estimates furnished by bank officials, between \$2,500 and \$3,000 in cash. The robbery was not discovered until this morning, and while officers entered the case immediately no developments had been reported at noon today. Finger print experts were called in an effort to establish a clue to the identity of the yegman. Bank authorities and officers were without any clue whatever when they started work this morning, but it was hoped some information could be gained from a search for fingerprints. No tools were left and tracks of the robbers and tracks of the car wheels were obliterated by a rain falling early today. It is believed that the robbers were experts in the business.

Forcing an entrance to the postoffice, the robbers then tore through a partition to enter the bank. Using an acetylene torch, the robbers burned the hinges and lock from the bank vault door, and lowered the door to the floor. Once inside the vault, the robbers burned a hole through the top of the safe and pulled out the cash, books and other papers. The books were slightly burned by the torch fire on their edges, but the records were not impaired, it was stated. A goodly number of pennies were left in the floor with the books, the robbers taking away the cash in larger denominations. In burning into the safe, the robbers almost set fire to the bank, but they used a bucket of water to stop the blaze, it was said.

Reports indicated the vault door and inside safe were damaged beyond repair, but the loss to property was covered by insurance and the bank had burglar insurance to prevent any loss to the institution or its patrons.

An entrance was forced to the office of Mr. R. W. Salisbury right next to the bank, but no damage was done by the robbers there.

The robbery was effected without waking a resident of the town, and nothing was known of the yegmen's visit until the regular routine of business activity was started in the town at the usual time today. It was reported that an automobile was heard entering the town about 2 o'clock, but the noise caused no concern.

During the past several years, the bank has been on the "spot," one robbery having been narrowly averted when "Tisk" Proctor and his gang went to the town about two years ago. Proctor was driven away, and later arrested. The bank is said to have held its cash on hand to a minimum or just enough to adequately serve its patrons. The amount on hand at the time of the robbery was at a minimum as much of the cash had been paid out last Saturday and a new shipment was not expected until later this week.

TOWN BOARD IN REGULAR MEET

Will Urge Local Owners To Leave Cars Home During Holidays

A short and uneventful session marked the regular monthly meeting of the local town commissioners last evening. Current bills were reviewed and approved, and one or two minor business problems were discussed, but no action was taken.

In anticipation of congested parking conditions during the next few weeks, the commissioners are directing a request to all town car owners to leave their machines at home during the busy season, affording visitors an extra advantage in finding parking places. Similar requests in the past have met with approval on the part of local car owners, and no exception to the rule is looked for this holiday season.

Junior Council To Observe Ladies' Night Thursday

Entertaining their wives and friends, members of the local Junior Order Council will serve a turkey supper in the legion hall here Thursday evening of this week at 7 o'clock, it was announced today. Charles F. Tankersley, Jr., state councillor of Henderson, will be a special guest. Plans are being made to entertain more than 100 members and guests. Mayor J. L. Hassell will be master of ceremonies.