

FARMERS STUNNED BY AAA DECISION

Commissioners Vote Installation Of Traffic Lights on Streets Here

Town Board Adopts Suggestions by Club Women's Committee

Plan Ordinance To Stop the Sale of Vegetables and Fruits From Trucks

Williamston, at the suggestion of the local Woman's Club American Citizenship and Civic Committee, planned to shed its small town clothes, dress up in big city style and throw blaring cranks into Main Street traffic by ordering four stubborn traffic or plain old nuisance signs placed on the corners of Haughton and Main, Smithwick and Main, and Watts and Main Streets and at the Atlantic Hotel corner on Washington and Main. The ever-present danger at the outlet of the narrow street next to the post office or Baltimore Street, was pointed out, but the several hundred dollars' cost for installing the nuisances at the other corners made a fifth light a thing out of the question just now. Possibly later on a few more of the dumb things can be strewn between the blocks to accommodate the safety of those wishing to cross the streets at convenient points.

The whole system is recognized as purely mechanical, and gained life on the violation of the speed laws. In other words, the lights will slow down traffic on Main Street to a standstill, while empty side streets stare the motorists in the face three-fourths of the time. Another probable result will be the encouragement of the practice of racing between intersections to "catch" a green light before it turns red.

The cost is being investigated, but whatever the cost, the authorities have ruled to have the lights installed, regardless of whether or not the killing of the three AAA's reduces traffic to the point where grass will push through the pavement on all the streets.

In further promoting safety, the club committee suggested that stop signs be placed on Church Street at the Smithwick intersection, giving traffic on the last-named street the right-of-way. The authorities approved that, and leaped ahead of the club group by ordering similar signs placed on Church Street at the Haughton intersection.

The deplorable sewer and sanitation condition existing despite the town's costly system, was mentioned by the club in its request to "Put proper sewerage on Railroad Street, between Haughton and Elm Streets, and on all other streets where needed."

The "report" carried the names of Fannie Chase Stator, chairman; Grace Moseley, vice chairman; Bonner Gurganus Hix, Annie Fagan Biggs, Vella Andrews Wynne, Carrie Alexander Rhodes, Martha Harrison Coburn, Mary Morton Andrews and Allie Hadley Rose.

Action on the request for proper sewerage facilities was delayed until such a time as the town is financially able to meet the cost.

The regular meeting of the board, lasting well over an hour, was in an agreeable mood last evening, and ordered tile placed in drain ditches crossing the lot of Mrs. Emma Thompson on West Main and the lot of D. G. Matthews on Park Street in New Town. Mrs. Thompson is building a home on the lot just this side of the late Reuben H. Harris home, and Mr. Matthews is planning the construction of one on Park Street next to the Chesson home.

A renewed effort was advanced to stop the peddling and sale of vegetables and fruits from trucks, the board directing the mayor to draft an ordinance designed to stop a practice that has proven unfair to local merchants and others in past years. The ordinance, it is understood, will be designed so as to make unlawful the display of any goods on sidewalks or streets.

The board also proposed to make the alleyway leading from the back lots to Church Street near the Crockett and Barnes home a one-way thoroughfare.

The last of the street lights allotted the town by the power company will be placed on Marshall Avenue, the board explained.

Local Patrolmen Have Made 28 Arrests for Using Old Tags

Thirteen automobile owners were arrested in this and Bertie Counties last Friday and Sunday by Patrolmen Hunt and Stewart for not displaying new 1935 license plates on their machines. Most of them were in Bertie County, and in court at Windsor Monday the alleged violators were fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the other cases handled in this county.

So far there have been 28 arrests in this section for the alleged use of

improper licenses, but the number is dwindling rapidly. Patrolman Geo. Stewart rode 145 miles on the main highways of this, Bertie and Washington Counties Sunday and did not see a single old license plate. "There may be a few old plates in those sections where the roads are not hard surfaced, and we plan to visit those areas just as soon as we can," a member of the patrol remarked. Most of the eight arrests last Sunday were made in the strictly rural sections of Bertie, it was learned.

Commissioners Take Up Relief Problems

NOW WHAT?

Approximately 1,500 new tobacco contracts are being delivered in Raleigh this week by Agents Brandon and Barnes for farmers in this county. The number represents about 99 per cent of the growers, leaving about 20 farmers who, for one reason or another, are not participating in the program, it was stated. More than half of the 20 non-participating growers are considering signing, it was pointed out, however.

Several of the growers failing to sign pointed out that apparently it would be to their disadvantage to participate in the program, and that they would risk their fate on the outside this year.

F. H. A. FIELD MAN TO BE IN COUNTY ON NEXT FRIDAY

Applicants Urged To See J. H. McMullan In the County Courthouse

Dispensing with the local office for a few days ago, Field Representative J. H. McMullan of the Federal Housing Administration will be in the county courthouse Friday of this week to see all those persons who have applied for FHA loans and those who wish to make applications, it was announced by the county chairman today. "We have not withdrawn from this territory," an official of the administration said this week, "and we are really making arrangements to do something," he added.

All those who have filed applications for loans, and it is understood that many have applied, are urged to see Mr. McMullan at the courthouse in the old grand jury room, on Friday of this week. The representative plans to be in the courthouse all that day, and possibly a part of Saturday, if necessary. Any others wishing to apply for loans are advised to file their applications at that time with Mr. McMullan.

It is understood that the housing administration is making commitments wherever they are justified, and it is hoped that the several applications filed by prospective builders in this county will receive attention shortly.

The housing situation here continues acute, reports today stating that at least two families had to surrender their homes and had no place to store their furniture or even a room to sleep in.

Plan Radio Broadcast for Local Firm Tomorrow

In cooperation with the Williams-Town Hardware company, the distributors of Benjamin Moore paints are starting a series of broadcasts over station WPTF, Raleigh, at 11:30 tomorrow morning, Mr. J. C. Anderson, manager of the local firm announced this morning.

2 YOUNG WOMEN SERIOUSLY HURT IN CAR ACCIDENT

Misses Helen Johnson and Louise Council Victims Truck-Car Wreck

Miss Helen Johnson, pretty young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson, of Oak City, lies seriously injured in a Tarboro hospital, and Miss Louise Council, daughter of Mrs. Oscar Council, also of Oak City, is in a Rocky Mount hospital with a crushed hip and head injuries, as a result of an automobile-truck wreck near Hobgood last Sunday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Miss Caudell Daniel, a third party in the car driven by Miss Johnson, was bruised and shocked, but her injuries are not serious.

Miss Johnson, sister of Miss Marjorie Johnson, who was killed in an automobile accident year before last near Gold Point, was not expected to live when she was entered in the Tarboro institution, but later reports stated that the condition had slightly improved. The nature of her injuries could not be learned.

According to reports reaching here, Miss Johnson, driving a Ford V-8 toward Hobgood, started to pass a truck traveling in the same direction. She either lost control of the car or started to turn back to her side of the road too hurriedly and the right rear fender of the car struck the left front fender of the truck. The contact threw the car sideways and directly into the path of the truck, which carried it over into a ditch on the right side of the road, the machines stopping with part of the car resting on the truck engine. The left door of the car flew open and caught Miss Johnson under it, and she remained in that position until help could be summoned from Hobgood more than a mile away. She was removed about 15 minutes later and carried to the hospital.

After first-aid treatment in the offices of Drs. Rhodes and Eason in Williamston, Miss Council was carried to a Rocky Mount hospital, where she was reported today to be getting along as well as could be expected.

Occupants of the truck, a man, woman and child whose identity could not be learned, were not hurt. The truck, loaded with furniture, was traveling from Bath to Weldon.

Very little damage was done either to the truck or the car, it was said.

White Schools of County Resume Work Thursday

Condition of Roads Might Cause Another Delay In Opening of Plants

No change in plans for reopening the white schools in this county next Thursday was being considered by authorities today, but the county superintendent pointed out that another delay would be ordered if the condition of the roads would not permit the general operation of the buses at that time. Reports from various sections of the county today indicated that some of the roads were still in bad condition, but with weather any way favorable during Wednesday and Thursday, traffic could be handled without great difficulty. At any rate, if the roads get no worse than they now are, the schools will reopen Thursday of this week, it was said.

The plants, closing for the Christmas holidays on the 20th of last month, were scheduled to reopen Monday of this week, but bad weather and the condition of the roads made a postponement advisable.

Must File Tickets for Gas Refund Before January 15

Operators of peanut pickers will find it to their advantage to send in their gasoline purchase tickets on or before the 15th of this month, as no tax refund will be made after that date, Mr. G. H. Harrison, of the Harrison Oil Company, said today. The refund runs around 5 cents a gallon on gasoline, which makes it important for peanut picker operators to get their tickets in to substantiate the claims.

Supreme Court Declares Entire Structure Invalid

Warren Says Congress Must Devise Substitute Legislation

That the downfall of the Agricultural Adjustment Act will command attention in Congress, possibly for months to come was made quite certain on Monday shortly after the ruling reached the ears of the lawmakers.

Representative Lindsay C. Warren was the first member of either branch of Congress to take the floor after the decision was known. His remarks, as officially reported, follow:

Mr. Warren: "Mr Speaker, the Supreme Court of the United States has just handed down its opinion declaring the Agricultural Adjustment Act to be unconstitutional (applause). I would like for it to be noted that the applause comes entirely from the Republican side of the House.

"This decision of the court will be

received with consternation and amazement by millions of farmers throughout the this land who have been benefited by the first constructive program that any Congress or any administration has ever proposed in their behalf (applause). It comes to them as a sickening and deadly blow.

"Regardless of court opinions, Mr. Speaker, I believe there are enough members of the present Congress, who are deeply interested in the welfare of the American farmer, that they will keep this Congress in session until Christmas, if necessary, to write upon the statute books legislation that will repair this damage. The farmers of the nation will never return to the economic salverey that existed prior to 1933. (applause)."

TIME EXTENDED FOR DELIVERING PEANUTS TO MILL

Effect AAA Ruling Will Have on Plan Cannot Be Learned Here

Peanut growers with contracts have been granted an extension of time to divert a part or all of their 1935 crop by delivering their crop to oil mills, according to advice from State agricultural authorities to the office of the county agent this week. Under the new ruling, contract growers may deliver peanuts to the oil mills as late as January 15, the previous time limit being placed on December 31.

Activities on the local markets will largely determine the amount of deliveries to the oil mills during the few remaining days that farmers will be allowed to divert any or all of their peanut crops. If the open market price ranges around 3 cents, few deliveries to the oil mills is expected. During the past few days, the local markets have been stronger, it is understood, and it is likely that the prices will hold up as long as the diversion offer remains open.

The Southern Cotton Oil Company at Hertford and Weldon; the Saponia Cotton Oil Mill at Sanford; the Farmville Cotton Oil Mill at Farmville; and several others are interested in crushing peanuts, the authorities pointing out that deliveries made to the crushers will take peanuts out of the competitive market, and should boost the open price.

Farmers planning to make deliveries to the mills will be aided by the office of the county agent in getting proper forms guaranteeing the grower \$20 a ton, the amount of the diversion payment.

Authentic reports on diversion activities by farmers in this county are not available just now, but at one time many growers were making arrangements to deliver a portion or all of their crop to the crushers.

This offer is a part of the peanut diversion plan designed to remove surplus peanuts from the normal channels of trade and divert them into the manufacture of peanut oil. The objective of this plan is to maintain a minimum price of \$62.50 a ton to growers for Virginia type peanuts of 65 per cent sound meat content, with proportionately higher prices for peanuts of higher meat content and proportionately lower prices for peanuts of lower meat content.

One Contagious Disease Case Reported in County

Health conditions in Martin County were still riding out in December, the board of health office reporting only one communicable disease case during the period. Only one case was reported the month before, it will be remembered.

One case of scarlet fever was reported last month, and that was in Williamston Township.

Bitter Denunciation Of Court Rings from Farmers in Section

Unlimited Production Can Cause 8-cent Tobacco And 5-cent Cotton

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the agency that has brought a renewed hope to depressed farmers over the nation since 1933, was declared unconstitutional in its entirety by the United States Supreme Court yesterday by a vote of six to three. The decision, while its ultimate effects are not now to be known, comes as a rebuke and slap in the face of the dirt farmer but one that brought expressions of happiness from textile interests and corporate wealth in general.

As the decision is understood here, all efforts made by the present administration have been rendered useless. The 1,500 tobacco contracts from this county are being carried to Raleigh today, but it is likely they will be brought back for the Kerr-Smith bill was not in keeping with the age-old constitution, the court ruled. The cotton act is no good, and the potato barons who have profited much at the expense of the lowly farmer now have free reign again, it is understood. State's rights have been upheld at the expense of the tillers of the soil. The action by the court likely means unlimited production and consequent 5-cent cotton and 8-cent tobacco unless something is done, agricultural leaders stated. The court ruling was so far-reaching that even the premises upon which the farmer found hope were declared invalid.

While the farmers of this little community received the news of the century with shock, few realized the seriousness of the situation. Those few were pessimistic, however, and the others did not know what to say or think when the ruling reached them. Some of those disgruntled for one cause or another with the activities of the AAA expressed themselves heartily in favor of any movement to continue the program or adopt another. A united front was evident on the streets for the present administration and hot attacks were directed against the six supreme court justices who, the farmers believe, favored the wealth of the nation rather than the masses.

Individual responses to the ruling were heard here in great numbers, and while they varied in text, all showed bitter disappointment with one or two exceptions.

"I started to buy a farm just three days ago, but the owner would not sell. Now I wouldn't give 30 cents for it," one farmer remarked.

"Apparently it is the beginning of the end," another farmer said.

"I am trying to sell everything on my farm just as fast as I can," still another farmer said when he visited the local peanut market yesterday. The market was uncertain at this point, and buyers did not know what to do. With unlimited production possible this year, a drop in peanut prices is in order, one man reasoned.

At the courthouse here, AAA employees, uncertain of their salaries, continued at their posts awaiting orders from Raleigh. Just what the outcome will be no one seems to know, for there is much confusion.

But in all there is probably some hope as expressed by Congressman Lindsay Warren when he said that he hoped Congress would stay in session until some remedy was found, even if it was until next Christmas. Probably at no time in the history of this country are the eyes of the farmer turned more eagerly to the law makers and to the administration, pleading that their rights be preserved.

Highly Respected Colored Man Dies at Home Here

Ed Johnson, aged colored man and highly respected citizen, died at his home here last Saturday night following a long illness. He suffered much with rheumatism. Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon.

HIGH WATER

The highest water in the Roanoke since December 8, 1934, is expected at this point about Sunday, the local weather station announced this morning. Warnings have been issued to owners advising them to remove any stock they may have in the lowlands at once, Hugh Spruill stating that the river would overflow its banks by three or three and one-half feet the latter part of the week. During the past 24 hours a three-inch rise in the stream was reported, Mr. Spruill stating that the river would rise possibly as much as 12 inches in that length of time about Friday or Saturday.

EDWARD JAMES DEATH SUNDAY SHOCKS FRIENDS

Funeral Services Conducted In Primitive Baptist Church Monday

Edward James, prominent county citizen, died in a Rocky Mount hospital Sunday morning at 9:15 o'clock, following a long period of declining health. He had spent some time in a Richmond hospital several weeks ago for treatment of some stomach ailment, but returned home just before Christmas, his condition reported much improved at that time. He was able to be out until a few days ago and was taken suddenly worse and entered in the hospital at Rocky Mount Saturday and died a few hours later.

Sixty-four years old, Mr. James was the son of the late Ameleck and Polly James. Born near Everett, he spent his early life on the farm, later locating in Robersonville. He had always taken an active part in public affairs, and was a vigorous advocate of the principles of the Democratic party. For many years he was connected with the State Revenue department as collector, resigning that job several years ago on account of failing health. Since that time he interested himself in the operation of his farms. He was widely known over this section for his consideration of others, and always proved himself a valuable friend to his fellowman.

Funeral services were conducted from the Primitive Baptist church in Robersonville yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin, and interment followed in the Robersonville Cemetery, the Stonewall Masonic Lodge members conducting the last rites at the grave.

Besides Mrs. James, he is survived by the following children: Mrs. Geneva Weaver, Jesse and Everett James. He also leaves three sisters, Mrs. Mary Everett, Mrs. Oscar Daniel and Mrs. Patty Faulkner, and two brothers, Messrs. W. A. James, of Williamston, and Neal James, of Everetts.