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## COUNTY TO HAVE BUT ONE OFFICER FOR FEW HOURS

All Terms Expire at Midnight Sunday Except Clerk of Court

From Sunday midnight until the oaths of office are administered 9 or 10 hours later, Martin County will have only one officer, technically speaking. The terms of office for all county officers, with one exception, that of the clerk of court, expire at midnight, December 5, automatically throwing out the sheriff, register of deeds, treasurer, coroner, judge and commissioners for several hours, or until they take the oaths of office on the morning of the seventh.

Now, if there was a "hot" taxpayers' league in the county, action might be taken to "dock" the pay of the boys, but the few hours off duty will not amount to much, and nothing will be done about "pay-docking," to be sure.

Just what the officers can do when technically reduced to plain Mr. Citizen is not definitely known. It is a fact that the sheriff cannot legally serve a civil paper from midnight Sunday until he subscribes to the oath of office the following morning. Criminals can be run down during the particular period by the officer only after being so directed by a justice of the peace.

The present board of commissioners will not meet as such next Monday in strict interpretation of the law, it is understood. However, as citizens they will meet more out of sympathy for their successors and to render what aid they can in starting the new officers off right.

The whole matter could be cleared up by the present commissioners and other officers coming down just before midnight and turning the government over to the new officers just as they subscribe to the oath of office at the stroke of 12. It has always been the custom to give the people a rest during the hours from midnight until about 10 the next morning once every two years, and there is no reason now to alter this fine old custom.

## Mrs. Whitehurst Dies in Oak City

Mrs. Daisy Whitehurst, wife of J. S. Whitehurst, died at her home in Oak City yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock from an illness of about one year's duration. Mrs. Whitehurst, a native of Edgecombe County, was 46 years old.

She married Mr. Whitehurst nine years ago, and moved to this county four years ago to make her home in Oak City. Her mother lives in Tarboro, and she also leaves one brother, Chas. Tripp, of Roanoke Rapids, and one sister, Mrs. Stella Taylor, of Tarboro, and eight step-children, Lonnie, Jessie, Joseph, Mary and Gladys Whitehurst, Mrs. Bessie Carlisle and Mrs. Francis Whitehead, all of Leggetts, and Mrs. Flossie Willard, of Kinston.

Funeral services are being conducted at 1 o'clock this afternoon at the home by her pastor, Rev. Fred Hardy, of Washington. Interment will follow in the Pitt Cemetery in Pitt County.

## Final Rites Today For Mrs. Newman

Mrs. Minerva Newman, widow of Samuel Newman, late of Jamesville Township, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. S. Hardison, on Simmons Avenue here yesterday morning at 5 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Mrs. Newman had been afflicted by blindness for years.

Mrs. Newman lived all her life in Jamesville until about five years ago when she moved here to make her home with her daughter.

One son, Frank Newman, of Williamston, and two daughters, Mrs. Lizzie Hardison, of Williamston, and Mrs. Cynthia Simpson, of Dardens, survive. She also leaves 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Cedar Branch Baptist Church by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment will follow in the churchyard there.

## Colored Farmer Loses \$228, Fruits of Year's Work, Here

Tragedy overtook John Cromwell, colored farmer living near here, yesterday when he lost \$228 in cash on the local Main Street between the Branch Banking & Trust Company and the Atlantic Hotel corner.

Selling his crop of peanut, the farmer cashed his check at the bank and started to settle all his outstanding debts, knowing that there would be a little left to buy a few things for his home this Christmas. With tears in his eyes and his nerves

shattered, the farmer reported the calamity, urging that an appeal be made for the return of his fortune.

It is quite apparent that regardless of who the finder may be, he can have not greater need for it than Cromwell himself has.

His money lost, and with prospects of the bleakest kind awaiting him this joyous season, Cromwell still possesses a hope in his mind that the finder will remember him in this, his trying hour. Cromwell has ten children.

## County Officers Begin Terms Next Monday

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The Christmas spirit breaks forth in a big way here this evening when the several hundred vari-colored lights are turned on in the business districts. Workmen completed the installation of the lighting decoration this afternoon, and from now until about the first of the year, the glowing lights will add to the cheerfulness in Williamston's business centers.

Public and private decorations are being planned on a rather extensive scale here this year. The City Hall and Courthouse "gangs" are said to be anxiously watching any step the other may take, and some interesting competition with bright effects is expected between now and Christmas.

## SWINE-BREEDING TO BE TOPIC AT FARMERS' MEET

H. W. Taylor, Swine Specialist, Speaker at Watts Theatre on 9th

Large numbers of Martin County farmers are expected to attend a meeting in the Watts Theatre, Williamston, next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock for a study of swine-raising methods, including management of brood sows, feeding and pasturage, it was announced this week by County Agent Thomas B. Brandon. The school, lasting for a comparatively short time, is being scheduled by the county agent's office in cooperation with the State Extension service, and farmers will find it very profitable to attend.

H. W. Taylor, extension swine specialist, the man who bought thousands of feeder pigs in the drought areas of the west several weeks ago, will conduct the meeting. Interesting discussions are planned, the agent said.

A main feature of the program will be a moving picture showing "How to Grow Thrifty Pigs." No admission fee is asked, and a special invitation is extended every farmer in the county to attend.

Tests have proven that best results in hog raising are obtained when the farmer maintains his own brood sows, County Agent Brandon said. "And the meeting in the Watts Theatre will deal mostly with that phase of hog raising," he added.

## Red Cross Drive Far From Quota \$5,000 Paid Members Of Christmas Club

Conducting a Christmas savings club during the past twelve months, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company here is paying out approximately \$5,000 to its club members this week, Cashier D. V. Clayton stating that the amount was distributed to 75 local people.

It is needless to say that the \$5,000 will come in quite handy, no doubt, for those who had enough foresight 12 months ago to expect that another Christmas was coming and who had the courage to place aside a small amount each week.

The bank will conduct another club for the 1937 Christmas, and Mr. Clayton is expecting all of his old members back and a number in increase of about 100 percent. Savings are accepted each week, starting now, and will be returned to the thrifty early next December.

## FARMERS AND BANKERS MEET HERE ON DEC. 9

Dr. Dan H. Otis, of Madison, Wis., Will Be Main Speaker at Meet

Farmers and bankers of this section will hold a joint meeting in the Woman's Club Hall here next Wednesday evening at 6:30 o'clock, it was announced today by C. D. Carstaphen, cashier of the Branch Banking & Trust Company. The meeting, arranged by the agricultural committee of the bankers' association, will promote a better understanding between banking and stress the need for more Grade A farmers in this section.

Dr. Dan H. Otis, of Madison, Wis., will be main speaker at the meeting. He is director of the American bankers' agricultural commission, and his address is looked forward to with much interest by leading farmers and bankers alike. Young Tar Heel farmers will also have parts on the program, it was announced.

The club hall will accommodate only a limited number of guests, and those farmers of this county who desire to attend the meeting are directed to any one of the four banks and make reservations. Any farmer is invited to attend, but reservations must be made not later than next Monday, it was explained.

"The member of the bankers' agricultural committee will make a special effort to get the farmers in their districts to fill out questionnaires by which they can be qualified either as Grade A or Grade B farmers," T. B. Thigpen, chairman of the committee, said. "This year the questionnaires show the grade value of each question so that the farmers themselves can tell whether they will qualify for a rating of 75 to 90 so as to entitle them to Grade B, or from 90 to 100 to qualify them as Grade A farmers," he added.

While Martin County probably has a number of farmers eligible for high ratings, few have ever qualified. The meeting is expected to create more interest in farmer ratings and promote agriculture in general.

The meeting here next Wednesday evening is one of the two being sponsored by the bankers' association in this section of the state this year.

## Weldon Man Finds Honest Man Here

"Eureka," shouted Archimedes, the Greek of olden times, meaning he had found a method of determining the purity of gold. And now Thurman E. Williams, Weldon man, is shouting "Eureka," meaning he has found an honest man in this day and time. Surely there are millions of honest men, but Mr. Williams, implement salesman, found one without intentionally hunting for him.

Recently the salesman lost a pocketbook in Williamston containing \$100 cash and valuable papers, "and a few days later it was returned by Mr. Jack Daniel," Williams writes. "I appreciate very much this man's honesty and think he deserves recognition," he continued.

"I lost the pocketbook Thanksgiving Day, and it was sent to my address, which was printed on an identification card, by Mr. Daniel. And he refused to accept any cash reward for finding and returning the pocketbook," Williams said in expressing the hope that such an honest act would be given public recognition.

## Critically Hurt in Car-Truck Crash

William A. Jackson, 43-year-old white man of Plymouth, was critically injured in an automobile-truck wreck near Dardens Wednesday noon, reports from a Rocky Mt. hospital, where he was entered, stating that it had been found necessary to amputate his left arm and that his condition today was very grave. Jackson was driving toward Williamston, when his car and a bottle-drink truck, driven by Bill Davenport, young white man of Washington, collided. Davenport escaped with minor injuries. The Jackson car was demolished. Following an investigation, the driver of the truck was exonerated of blame, it was learned here today.

## County Board Will Perfect Its Organization at Meet Monday

Holding their last meeting next Monday morning, the present Martin County Board of Commissioners will review current bills, handle any continued matters, and turn the duties of office over to their successors, who will immediately go into session to dispatch business on the calendar.

Other than perfecting an organization and the handling of routine matters, the new officers have very little work scheduled for consideration at their first meeting, J. Sam Getsinger, clerk to the board, said today.

The first official act of the new officers will be the selection of their chairman, Commissioner J. E. Pope,

who succeeds himself as a member of the board, is in line for that position and he is almost certain to continue as the board's presiding officer. With the exception of about one month in 1930, Mr. Pope has been a member or chairman of the board since 1926.

Appointments will probably be considered after the board perfects its organization, present indications pointing to those of E. S. Peel as county attorney; W. Hubert Coburn as county prosecutor; and John W. Bland as county home superintendent. Other employees of the county appointed by the commissioners do not complete their terms at this time, it is understood.

## Old Toy Will Admit Children To Movies

### Eight Local Firms Cooperating To Put On Show This Year

Tickets Limited To 600; To Start Receiving Toys Next Monday

Cooperating in the Christmas Cheer campaign, the management of the Watts Theatre and several Williamston business houses will give a special show for all the kiddies of this community on Saturday morning of next week, December 12, at 10 o'clock. No cash admission will be charged, but each child attending will be required to present a ticket showing that he has contributed a discarded toy for distribution among the needy children of the community the day before Christmas. No established rule is set up as to the value of the toy, but those in charge trust the children will take into consideration the aim of the movement and donate accordingly.

The show has two purposes, one is to entertain all the children of the community, the other is to make possible some measure of happiness for those who are not able to pay their way into a show at any time and who face the day of days barehanded, and in some cases even barefooted.

The children are asked to look around their homes and find some toy they are tired of and carry it either to Margolis Brothers' store, Davis' Pharmacy, Frank's Sanitary Grocery Store, or The Enterprise office. A special ticket to the big toy show will be given in return. All children are directed to either one of the four places of business mentioned, carry their toys and get tickets early. Toys will be accepted for the tickets beginning next Monday. Only a capacity house will be admitted.

Mr. Watts is booking an extra special program for the occasion, and children are urged to make their plans now to attend the show on Saturday morning, December 12, at 10 o'clock.

The sponsors of the show, in addition to the firms mentioned, are Central Service Station, K. B. Crawford, Insurance; Virginia Electric & Power Company. Tickets can be secured only at Margolis Brothers, Davis Pharmacy and Frank's Sanitary Grocery and Enterprise office.

Come on, little folks, and let's make the Christmas Joy campaign a great success for the needy of the community this Christmas.

## Aged Negro Struck By Car Near Here

Abner Bennett, paralytic, and the county's No. 1 beggar, was struck and knocked down by an automobile on Washington Street near the Columbian Peanut Co. plant here last Wednesday about 6 o'clock. The old colored man, preferring to beg for a living rather than enter the county home, was not badly hurt, Patrolman W. S. Hunt said following an investigation of the accident. Bennett, his day of work over, was on his way to the home of a friend to spend the night when he hobbled into the middle of the road and into the path of a car driven by Mrs. N. M. Mobley, of Beaufort County.

## PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

\$51,000 Damage Suit Growing Out of Auto Wreck Now Being Tried

After spending the greater part of three days hearing the case of C. M. Minton against the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company, the Martin County Superior court finally started its wheels turning rapidly and disposed of eleven cases yesterday. Today the court is working on the \$51,000 damage suit brought by Misses Helen Johnson, Louise Council and Cordel Daniel against W. B. Kiker and L. C. Yount, of Rockingham County. The case is expected to last a greater part of the day, Judge A. D. Folger, presiding, stating that adjournment for the term would be in order following the disposal of the action.

Misses Johnson and Council were critically hurt and Miss Daniel badly injured when the Ford coupe, driven by Miss Johnson, was claimed to have been turned over as a result of the carelessness of B. C. Kirk, driver of the truck belonging to the defendants. The plaintiffs contend that they started to pass the defendants' truck and just as the right rear wheel of the car was about the left front wheel of the truck Kirk turned his machine to the left catching the truck bumper under the car fender and causing the coupe to turn over. The accident took place on the fifth of last January, near Hobgood. Misses Council and Johnson are asking \$25,000 each and Miss Daniel, \$1,000. Attorney H. G. Horton is representing Miss Council and Attorney Elbert Peel is representing Misses Johnson and Daniel. Albion Dunn is defense attorney.

The verdict in the Minton versus lumber company case favored the defendant, the court declaring the company of timber rights on certain Barber property in Williams Township. An appeal to the higher court is considered likely, but as far as it could be learned today no notice had been filed.

A \$1,000 judgment was rendered the plaintiffs Garland, Russell and Claiborn Godard and Leroy Pitt and Robt. Harris against R. S. Edmondson, Edgar Edmondson and W. W. Taylor, Russell and Claiborn Godard and Robt. Harris were awarded \$100 each, LeRoy Pitt, \$500, and Garland Godard, \$200. The

(Continued on back page)

## To Start Wednesday Taking Applications For Soil Payments

Applications Will Be Received at All Towns In County

Applications for soil conservation payments will be received in this county starting next Wednesday, according to official announcement made this morning by Mr. T. B. Slade in the office of the county agent.

Present plans call for a whirlwind sign-up for the money due under the soil conservation program, the authorities arranging convenient stations over the county for the program participants to apply for the payments. Cards will be mailed directly next Monday to all work sheet signers, directing them to their nearest station. The cards will carry the name of every farmer who must sign the application before payment is made, Mr. Slade said.

Applications will be received at Robersonville, Everetts, Jamesville, Hamilton and Oak City during two days, after which time applications will be handled in the office of the county agent. Applications from farmers in Poplar Point, Bear Grass, Williams, Griffins and Williamston Townships will be received in the office of the agent here.

All work sheet signers are urged to apply for the payments as directed on the notification cards, the authorities pointing out that a complete sign-up rapidly effected will hasten the delivery of checks. Just when the money can be expected, the office was unable to say.

Applications have been delayed by a shortage of necessary forms, but arrangements are now complete for handling them, and the task should be nearly completed by the end of next week.

### 17 SHOPPING DAYS

Christmas shopping in Williamston stores is already under way on a very noticeable scale, thoughtful purchasers taking precaution to avoid the last-minute rush. Local stores have made extensive arrangements for the advantage of their patrons this holiday season. The town is fast taking on its Santa Claus attire, and the stage is all set for the one great season of all the year.

To complete the task, to make every purchase you intend to make, there are only 17 more shopping days to do it in. Remember the home merchants first this Christmas season.

## REGISTER DEEDS GROUP IN MEET HERE THIS WEEK

Officers From 11 Counties Attend Session Held Last Tuesday

Run-of-the-mill problems faced almost daily in registers of deeds' offices were discussed in a one-day meeting of registers held in the courthouse here Tuesday of this week. J. Sam Getsinger, Martin County register of deeds, was host to the meeting, which was attended by registers from 11 counties. Dilard S. Gardner, of the Institute of Government, led the discussions, which proved both interesting and instructive.

Statutes in connection with the office and duties of registers of deeds were reviewed, and systems for keeping records in the various offices were studied, Mr. Getsinger explaining that the records in this county were kept under one of the best recognized systems in the state.

Experiences were exchanged, one happening causing considerable laughter, according to reports from the meeting. A colored couple in a county not so far away applied for a marriage license. The register of deeds was out of town, but the fee was left with the understanding that the hook-up credentials would be mailed following his return. A chattel mortgage was prepared for mailing about the same time, the marriage license going to the owner of the chattel mortgage, and the mortgage going to the prospective groom. An old colored preacher, paying little attention to the papers, proceeded with the ceremony, had the witnesses sign on some dotted lines. Returning the paper to the office for recording, as all marrying parsons are required to do, the old minister asked if the license form had not been changed. The error was soon corrected, and instead of holding his wife as a chattel the groom maintained possession of his bride with only the strings of pure and simple matrimony.

Names of the registers attending the meeting are: J. C. Gaskins, of Pitt; J. C. Spence, of Pasquotank; Miss M. B. Bunn, of Edgecombe; W. Sanford Gregory, of Currituck; L. S. Mizelle, of Bertie; D. B. Spencer, of Pamlico; Mrs. Mary S. Cahoon, of Washington; H. V. Bateman, of Gates; I. W. Davis, of Carteret; M. L. Bunch, of Chowan; and Joseph C. Powell, of Warren.