

REVIEW WORK OF EDUCATIONAL BOARD SINCE 1931

Many Developments in Educational Program of County Recorded

A review of the six-year terms of Messrs. W. O. Griffin and J. T. Barnhill as members of the Martin County Board of Education reveals many activities during the period ending the first of this month. Although stripped of many official duties as the state stepped in to take almost complete charge of the educational system, the Martin Board, however, effected many developments in the educational program of the county.

In April, 1931, the board was composed of W. O. Griffin, chairman, Javan Rogers, J. A. Getsinger, J. Eason Lilley and J. T. Barnhill. The following month, J. C. Manning was made county superintendent of the schools. About that time the state swooped down to virtually complete its consolidation of white schools in the county. Eight schools were consolidated at one time, and the board spent long sessions trying to adjust the patronage, but finally Bear Grass and Macedonia accepted the inevitable, and the board turned to other tasks. A special tax election was provided, and the people turned it down by a margin of only 72 votes.

Schools were standardized and several buildings were enlarged, but a debt reaching almost one-half million dollars had to be considered, and only pressing demands were met. During the six-year period, the school debt was reduced from \$470,894 to \$402,830 on July 1, 1936. In 1931, the debt was represented as follows: Bond, \$254,000; literary loans, \$39,800; special building funds \$147,950; current expense debt, \$29,144. The 1936 debt was represented as follows: Bonds, \$236,000; literary loans, \$14,600; special building fund, \$94,950; new bonds for several new buildings, \$52,000; and current expense debt, \$5,280.

In addition to decreasing the debt by \$68,064, the board of education during the six-year terms of the Messrs. Griffin and Barnhill, called for the construction of new buildings and additions costing \$128,150, as follows: Everetts, two class rooms \$500; Biggs school (col.), \$2,350; Has sell school (col.) \$3,000; bus garage, \$4,000; Bear Grass teacherage, \$5,000; Keys school (col.), \$400; Poplar Point (col.), \$600; Bear Grass addition, \$3,000; agricultural shops at Jamesville and Oak City, \$700; Cross Roads school, \$700; Jamesville High School, \$27,000; Williamston primary unit, \$15,400; Oak City primary unit and disposal plant, \$18,500; Farm Life, addition, \$15,500; Robersonville (col.), \$23,000; and Hassell auditorium, \$1,500. The new building program added 46 classrooms to the county plants.

Home economics, agricultural and commercial courses have been made available to the high school youths of the county.

At the present time the county has one of the smoothest operating units to be found in the state system.

The personnel on the board was changed by death and resignations during the six-year period. Mr. J. W. Eubanks, of Hassell, was named by the County Democratic Executive Committee to complete the unexpired term made vacant by the death of Mr. Javan Rogers in February, 1932. The same committee named Mr. E. H. Ange, of Jamesville, to fill the position made vacant on the board by the death of Mr. J. A. Getsinger in April, 1932. After serving four years on the board, Mr. Eason Lilley withdrew two years ago and he was followed in that position by Mr. George C. Griffin, of Griffins. Messrs. Barnhill and Griffin did not enter the last June primary, and their terms ended the first of this month. The Messrs. Eubanks, Ange and Griffin filed as old members, and Mr. J. F. Martin, of Jamesville, gied as a new member. The omnibus bill included the name of Mr. J. D. Woolard, Williamston man, and he is now serving as chairman of the group.

The new board finds the white consolidation program complete, and since the consolidation of the colored schools is not expected any time soon, Messrs. Woolard, Ange, Martin, Griffin and Eubanks will have to be content in handling what are commonly known as the routine duties. Schools are growing, however, and it will not be so many years before the size of some of the plants will have to be increased.

S. Collin Peel's Condition Reported Improved Today

S. Collin Peel, ill with pneumonia since Wednesday of last week, was reported some better today, but he continues quick sick, it was stated.

Candidates for Martins Squad Work Out Daily

WORK SHEETS

More than 100 farmers who did not participate in the soil conservation program last year have signed worksheets and are planning to participate in the program this season, Mr. T. B. Slade said today. Farmers have much to gain and nothing to lose by signing work sheets, and those who have not signed are urged to do so at once. So far this year, 1,697 soil conservation checks, amounting to \$123,628.37, have been delivered to farmers in this county. The checks represent 504 applications. Approximately \$15,000 is due farmers participating in the program in the county last season.

1,000 BALES HAY BURNED HERE IN FIRE WEDNESDAY

Volunteer Firemen Called Out Three Times So Far This Week

Damage in excess of \$1,000 resulted when fire destroyed the second story of Farmer Marshall Wilson's hay barn here early last Wednesday evening. The building was burned down to the second story floor and more than 1,000 bales of hay were destroyed. Mr. Wilson stated that he believed the fire was started around 7 o'clock by children looking in the barn for small pigeons, that one of them must have struck a match and accidentally ignited the hay.

Receiving wrong directions, the fire company made a run out Washington Street and turned around and found its way to the scene by light of the fire. There is some doubt if the building could have been saved in its entirety even if the firemen had received the right directions at first, as the fire, fanned by a strong west wind, quickly spread to all parts of the second story. Firemen battled the blaze, one of the most stubborn it has been their task to handle in months, for three hours and returned the apparatus to the station at 11:50.

No insurance was carried on the property, Mr. Wilson stating that the fire destroyed nearly all the hay he had stored for use this summer. Yesterday morning at 7:20 o'clock, the local fire company was called out again when fire threatened a warehouse and a large number of farm plows and machinery back of Harrison Brothers' store. The fire, started by sparks blown from a burning trash pile near by, was gaining headway rapidly, but the firemen soon had it under control and the resulting damage was not very great, the owners stating that the loss was taken care of by insurance.

Coming ordinarily in groups of three, the company was called out yesterday afternoon for the third time in less than 24 hours. A grass fire went out of control on Pearl Street, near Roy Ward's coal and iron yard, and threatened nearby buildings. The roof of a home caught fire but was soon put out. Firemen pumped about 80 gallons of water on the fire direct from the truck in bringing it under control.

Small Bertie County Child Hurt When Struck by Car

The 3-year-old son of Hanson Roberson, Bertie colored man, was painfully but believed not seriously hurt when he darted from behind a parked automobile and was struck by a car driven by Mrs. Jodie Barnhill, local woman, on the river fill Wednesday afternoon about 4 o'clock. Given first-aid treatment here, the child was later carried to a Washington hospital, where his recovery is expected.

Second Highway Death In County This Year Reported

Death struck on the highways of this county for the second time this year when Evelyn Briley, 6-year-old colored child, was fatally hurt when struck by a car driven by a Mr. Alligood just west of Robersonville Wednesday afternoon.

According to unofficial information received here, no charges were brought against the car driver.

Six Players Arrive This Week; Series of Exhibitions Sought

Regular Line-up To Take More or Less Definite Form Next Week

Reinforced by the arrival of six additional players this week, the Martins have settled down to intensive training daily. Manager Art Hauger stating today that he was well pleased with the progress his boys are making. The student of baseball, however, reserved any and all predictions, but one gains from a conversation with the Martins' skipper the feeling that he will be ready to send an able team on the field even before the season gets underway on Thursday, May 6.

Possibly the team is taking definite form just now, but the final selections are made with the care of a trained expert and developments during the next week may bring changes. "We like to give every boy a chance," Mr. Hauger explained, and for that reason no positions will be assigned before possibly the latter part of next week.

Activities on the field so far this week are centering around the second bag, close followers of the sport declaring that Steve Lakotas has the promise of making someone a great player at that position and that he tops everything that has preceded him on the local lot. Charles Stevens looks good on first, seasoned observers of the sport say, and Bill Dick, while not so large, is showing up fine in the back-stop position. Artie Diem just in from Swea City, Iowa, will be hard to pull loose from third.

The training camp is offering the makings of a promising team, and local fans are beginning to sleep soundly at night over the prospects. No teams within the league are to meet in exhibition games, but Ray Goodmon, president of the local club, is scouting for a contest with any independent organization, Manager Hauger advising that he will be ready to take on any and all comers by the middle or even the early part of next week.

Added to the training camp personnel this week are the names of Raymond Strunk, left-hand twirler from Norwood, Mo.; Jep Grant, right-hander from Dover, Ark.; Brown Lewis, outfielder from Russellville, Ark.; Stan Hodges, outfielder from Campbellsport, Wis.; a 300 hitter; Artie Diem, third baseman from Swea City, Ia.; Paul Nimmernann, left-handed pitcher from Wisconsin; and Walter Sprangers, pitcher, from Wado, Wis. Bud Stradel, infielder, and two more pitchers, Jack Gaddy and Nick Schir, are due to start training at once, Manager Hauger said today.

Bank Boosts Use of Improved Seed Corn

Cooperating with 10 farmers last season in corn field tests, the Guaranty Bank & Trust Company is again sponsoring the distribution of recognized seed corn this season, Cashier D. V. Clayton announced this week. Any member of the institution will be glad to explain the tests and aid them in getting the seed, it was explained.

While two of the farmers participating in the tests last season reported no increases in their corn yields, eight of them increased their yields considerably, some by as much as one-third, Mr. Clayton said.

Expect Commission Appointments Soon

Appointments to the State Highway and Public Works Commission are expected probably not later than the latter part of next week. Numbers of prominent men over the State have been endorsed for the positions, but Governor Hoyer, if he has decided on the appointments, is holding them secret.

Some believe the Governor has already made up his mind as to who he will appoint. Others are of the opinion that he is still considering the candidates. Mr. G. H. Harrison, local man, has been prominently mentioned for the post of commissioner for this district. He has received a strong endorsement from many sections of the district.

SAFETY GATES AT DRAW SPAN HERE ARE RELOCATED

Present Gates Have Been Crashed by Motorists Number of Times

The location of the two gates is being changed and warning signals will be improved on the Roanoke River bridge here within the next few days as an added precaution against danger that lurks there every time the bridge is turned for the passage of river boats.

At the present time the safety gates are stationed 50 feet from the end of the draw and the warning bells are 100 feet from the gates. The new gates will be removed to a distance of 175 feet from the ends of the drawbridge, and the bells will be replaced with a siren and signal lights.

The safety gates on the bridge here have been crashed several times, but only one car continued its mad run into the river 20 feet below. Three colored persons lost their lives and a young colored boy, after going to the bottom with the death car, crawled out and lived to tell the tale.

Construction work on the new safety devices has already been started, and the installation of the equipment will be completed shortly. Hugh Spruill, bridge keeper, said today.

While the new safety devices are certain to issue sufficient warning against all danger there, it is possible for any wild driver to crash the gates and continue his mad rush right on into the stream, for the gates will be made out of light timber, it was explained.

Ladies' Night at Local Kiwanis Club

Ladies' Night was observed by the local Kiwanis Club last night, the program proving unusually entertaining. The event was largely attended, around 130 plates being served, and several artists appeared on the program for the evening.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Darst, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, was the guest speaker of the evening, and his remarks were well received. The Bishop started off in a lighter vein and kept his hearers laughing for some time, closing on a serious note as he told of his trip to Russia last year and his observations of a people trying to build a better nation without God and declaring that they were headed most surely for a decided fall.

The entertainment features were a number of violin solos by Mr. Ed Stallings, of Wilson, and a vocal solo by Miss Lidle Nixon, local music teacher.

Property Listing Work Increasing

Property listing, progressing slowly since the first of the month, is increasing daily, according to reports from several of the 10-township listers today. No accurate trend of the values is to be had at this time, the lists being too small for basing an estimate, it was stated. Tax Supervisor Stallings stated yesterday that every effort was being made to keep the values in line all over the county, that where one district lags behind, it will be necessary to increase the listings. In other words all land having the same market value will be listed alike.

In announcing the list of tax authorities a few days ago, the name of J. A. Rawls, Oak City, was left out through error, and the name of Roy Leggett in Poplar Point should have been Roy Taylor.

Farm Meeting at Farm Life To Be Held Next Week

The soil conservation meeting, scheduled in the Farm Life school last night, was postponed on account of the sudden death of Raleigh Mendenhall late yesterday afternoon, the farm agent's office announcing today that the meeting will be held next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Miss Green's Pupils In Music Recital Tonight

The music pupils of Miss Jessie Fay Green are appearing in their annual recital in the Bear Grass auditorium this evening at 8 o'clock. A large number of pupils are participating in the event, it was stated.

Colored School Closes as 18 of 28 Pupils Turn to Farm Work

Piney Woods School, a small seat of learning for the colored youth of Williams Township, closed its doors for the term yesterday, when work in the fields reduced the attendance upon the classes to a mere handful. Eighteen of the 28 pupils enrolled dropped out overnight, quitting their books to follow the plow and assist their parents in general farm work.

Reports have it that none of the pupils even thought about shedding a tear, for when the sap begins to

rise in the trees, energy reaches a low point in the school room and a change to the wide-open spaces is welcomed, even if the out-of-doors freedom calls for long hours behind a plow or a close attachment with a hoe handle.

Corn-planting time and other farm work are beginning to really compete with the knowledge dispensaries, and white schools, as well as colored, are experiencing fairly sizeable attendance decreases over the county.

PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Court Orders Recess This Morning Until Next Monday at 9:30

Ending the first week of a two-week term this morning, the Martin County Superior Court so far has cleared comparatively few cases from the crowded docket. The actions, while considered of very little importance, were marked by long chains of evidence, and hours were necessary to handle cases involving as little as \$100. Judge Cowper, presiding over his first term of court in this county, has held the tribunal in session long hours each day, and every case is given minute consideration. A divorce in Judge Cowper's court is recognized as being worth many times more than the separations granted in the divorce mills in some states.

The work in the court this week is leading up to the big cases next week. Next Monday, the Corey cases are scheduled for trial again, and other damage suits totaling \$165,000, are to follow. It is likely that several days will be spent hearing the Corey cases, leaving little or no time for work on the other suits.

Proceedings of the court not previously reported are:

C. H. Leggett was given a \$29 verdict against C. C. Rawls.

In the case of A. B. Rogerson vs. Edmond Harris, the plaintiff was given a \$1250 judgment.

The court ordered the plaintiff to pay the costs and take nothing in the case of Foreman-Blades Lumber Company against R. D. Johnson.

A deed from W. L. Hollis to Mrs. Lucy Hollis was declared valid in the case of W. L. Hollis against Joe Hollis, the court allowing the plaintiff to recover \$75 from the defendants.

Tuesday the court spent several hours listening to a motion for an injunction, Judge Cowper referring the action to another district.

Another divorce was granted Wednesday, Sarah Lewis gaining separation from Mack Lewis on the grounds of adultery.

Harrison Brothers was granted a \$1,100 judgment against S. H. Hopkins.

In the case of Standard Fertilizer Co. vs. C. B. Brown, et al, the plaintiff was given a \$190 judgment, the decision having been reached by consent.

The Standard company was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$308.61 against Emma B. Carrawan.

State Peanut Test Farm Not Definitely Located

No definite action has been taken in the proposed location of a peanut test farm in this county, according to reliable reports received here this week. It was unofficially learned a few days ago that Farmer Jim Staton has offered to give the State about 75 acres of land on the Jamesville Road for the test farm.

Kerr Scott, Commissioner of Agriculture, announced this week that no steps would be taken in locating the farm until other sections in the peanut belt had been heard from.

Little Rain Fell In This Section During March

March of this year was a dry month, compared with January, the weather station on Roanoke River here reporting only 2.24 inches during the period, and nearly an inch of that fell as snow. Less rainfall fell last month than in any March in seven years, or as far back as records go at the local station.

There were 8 recordings in March against 26 last January, the rainfall in the first month of the year exceeding 7 inches. The rainfall, 2.57 inches, was about normal for the month of February.

SEINE FISHING

Herring fishing in the Roanoke was reported improving at Jamesville yesterday, but the catches are not yet up to normal size. The seines were taking as many as a thousand herring at times yesterday, but a change in the weather last evening was said to have affected the fishing activities today.

Enforcement Officer Destroys Nine Stills In Ten-Day Period

Illicit Liquor Makers and Bootleggers Now Facing Strong Opposition

Joe H. Roebuck, recently appointed enforcement officer by the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board, has made it hot for illicit liquor manufacturers and bootleggers in this county since starting his work two weeks ago, a report for the period filed this week with the ABC board chairman shows.

The officer made 10 raids in the woods and wrecked 9 liquor plants, destroying 2,200 gallons of beer and considerable plant equipment. The raids were centered in the Free Union section of the county, but the nine investigations carried the officer into 6 of the 10 townships in the county. Three homes were searched, but the alleged handlers of the illicit liquors apparently expected a visit and gladly received the officer. One arrest was effected during the period, and only 1 gallon of liquor was confiscated.

Operating his own car at his own expense, the officer traveled 483 miles during the first two weeks.

While the illicit liquor trade is battling against heavy odds already, the officer continues his investigations and is mapping out a course of action days in advance. Local and county officers are cooperating splendidly, Officer Roebuck states.

Tuff Guys Cooking School Held Here

Sixteen male employees of the Virginia Electric & Power Company successfully passed their first courses in culinary art at a Tuff Guy's cooking school held in the company's demonstration room here last Wednesday evening. Reports from the instructors, Misses Finch and Parker, indicate that Ray Goodmon, manager of the Williamston division, and K. D. Worrell are well qualified for permanent kitchen duty and that most of the others have great possibilities in the cook room.

Each student, guided by tested recipes, contributed his part in the preparation of the meal, the rules requiring them to eat what they cooked. If they survive, and miraculously every one of the 16 is still navigating, the cooks are given a sandpaper diploma rating them as Tuff Guys.

Plumbing Firm To Move To New Location Monday

The Williamston Plumbing and Heating Company will move its office and equipment to the store building of the Episcopal church next to the Proctor Shop on Main Street next week, Mr. W. E. Dunn, manager, said today.

Alterations to the building are being completed this week, Mr. Dunn stating that when the show-room is arranged it will be one of the most complete east of Raleigh.

Preparing New Home for The County Curb Market

The office and storeroom used during the construction of the county agricultural building, is being moved to the rear of the county lot for use as headquarters by the curb market. A few alterations will be made to the building.

14-YEAR-OLD BOY KILLED IN CAVE-IN AT SAND PIT

Raleigh Mendenhall's Life Snuffed Out Yesterday Near Jamesville

Raleigh Mendenhall, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mendenhall, of Griffins Township, was fatally injured when trapped in a sand pit by falling dirt just outside the Jamesville town limits on the Farm Life Road yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Buried under 2 feet of dirt, the boy is believed to have died from internal injuries suffered from the weight of the dirt. Removed from the premature grave, the youth was said to have breathed several times, but he never regained consciousness. His left arm was broken at the wrist, and his head was bruised.

Leaving school at Farm Life yesterday afternoon, the boy met and accompanied Tilghman Coltraine to the sand pit for a load of sand. Tink the shovel he jumped into the pit and started throwing out sand. Coltraine warned him of the danger of a cave-in and advised him four times to leave the hole, the fourth warning hardly reaching the ears of the boy before nearly a ton of dirt fell and buried him. Using his hands, Coltraine soon dug down to the boy's face and then called for help. Medical aid was summoned, but the weight of the dirt apparently had caused concussions making recovery impossible.

The boy's mother was in a Washington hospital for an operation, but she returned home late last evening.

One of three children, the boy was well liked in the school and community and had many friends among all ages. Besides his parents he is survived by one brother, James Mendenhall, and one sister, Essie Mendenhall.

Funeral services were conducted in the Maple Grove church this afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Burial was in the family plot in the Hardison Mill cemetery, Griffins Township.

Mrs. Myrtie Bailey Dies at Bear Grass

Mrs. Myrtie Bailey, beloved citizen of Bear Grass, died at her home there this morning at 5:45 o'clock following a long illness. She had been in declining health for some time and had been confined to her bed for a long while.

The daughter of the late Thomas J. and Sarah A. Simpson, she was 57 years old. In early womanhood she was married to John Wiley Bailey, who died in June, 1931. She is survived by six children, Jim Bailey, of Bear Grass; Tom Bailey, of Kinston; Cushion Bailey, of Bear Grass; Mrs. Simon Whitehurst, of Beaufort County; Mrs. Leroy Ausbon, of Washington; and Miss Frances Bailey, of Bear Grass. She also leaves 10 grandchildren.

She was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist church and had many friends in her home community.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Burial will follow in the Peel cemetery.

Poultry Loadings Total 9,894 Pounds

Martin farmers sold cooperatively 9,894 pounds of poultry last week and received \$1,569.85. Including the shipment last week, the farmers have shipped 50,707 pounds of the barnyard fowls so far this season, and received a total of \$7,656.85.

Agent T. B. Brandon said today that he was planning on operating a fifth car in the county about the first week in May if the prices were considered favorable. He explained that a number of farmers had asked about the operation of another car this season, and it is thought that the extended shipping schedule will aid in the continued stabilization of the market.

Production Association Lends \$108,912 in County

The Washington Production Credit association has advanced loans to 181 farmers in the county so far this season. Averaging from \$100 to \$3,600, the loans amount to \$108,912.00, Mr. W. H. Carstarphen of the association, said today.

The number of loans and the amount of money lent are about 22 percent greater this year than last, it was pointed out.