

Fourteen Players Report For Places On Baseball Team

Fairly Complete Squad to Start Spring Training Tomorrow

Every stranger in town isn't a ball player, but about one out of every two is a candidate for positions on the local team. Skipper Art Hauger stating today that nearly every cabbage express truck, bus and train were bringing him promising young players. And more are to follow, the skipper stating that ten team candidates were riding the rails and busses at the present time with the understanding that they are to report tomorrow for the first scheduled spring training.

Ace Villepique, centerfielder of last year, is returning with the guarantee that he will be in the top playing bracket this season. "I had an off-season last year, and I am sure I can make you a valuable player this season," Villepique wrote the local club officials.

Brice McCay and Joe Barnes arrived last week from Oneonta, Ala. They were followed by Messrs. Carlton and Lant, of Palm Beach, on Saturday. Louie Grahovac, Sam Turkulya and Nick Bubash, of Thornton, Ill., wandered into town Sunday bidding for places in the infield. Jim Bradshaw and Pyron, additional candidates for infield positions were in Monday from Washington City. Steve Lakatos is glad to be back from Detroit, the last-year second baseman stating that the 36-hour trip was unusually tiresome.

Harold Fitzgerald, pitcher from Nashville, Tenn.; Rex Dilbeck from out in Arkansas, and Thomas Tice, Martin County youth, are the only candidates in for mound duty. "They look pretty good," observers said following a pre-scheduled practice yesterday afternoon.

Todd Poynter, accompanied by Mrs. Poynter, is the first of two catchers under contract to report. They came in over the week-end from Mountain Home, Ark.

Art Hauger isn't saying much about the line-up, but he seems to be very well pleased with the early arrivals. He leaves Friday for a few days in Durham to assist in a school there, but will return Sunday to run his team against the Norfolk Tars at 3 o'clock. Corbett, former short-stop here, will be in the visitors' lineup, and large crowds are expected to turn out to see him and give the Martins the once over.

The Martins will follow an intensive practice schedule during the next few weeks in preparation for the opening in Tarboro on the 26th of April.

Young Democrats in Big District Rally Here

Organization For Fourteen Counties Perfected Friday

Young Group Now Has an Active State-Wide Organization

Attending a big rally here last Friday evening, nearly 100 young Democrats from nine of the fourteen counties in the First Congressional district assured their leaders that the Banner of Democracy would be held high in this section, that action would be taken within a few days to unify the young politicians and make state-wide the organization that is fast growing in importance throughout the state.

Presided over by Bryan Grimes, Jr., of Washington, the meeting heard from young Democrats in the several counties, each of the representatives pointing out that organization activities had been underway for some time or were contemplated in the near future. It was apparent from the reports heard, that a strong organization will follow in this district, that young First District Democrats will take an added interest in political affairs along with those in the ten other districts.

George Henneley, leader in the State organization of young Democrats, from Thomasville, briefly addressed the meeting and pointed out the need for Democratic votes in the east to offset Republican votes in the west. "Organize your clubs

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Martin Farmers Will Start Setting Tobacco This Week

Their plants several weeks advanced, a few Martin County farmers are completing arrangements to start transplanting a new tobacco crop this week, reports stating that the plants will be too large if held in the beds another week. It is quite apparent that transplanting season, if the blue mold does not interrupt the activities, will be completed in record time. However, blue mold is almost certain to influence the transplanting schedule and possibly effect a shortage of plants before the season is spent.

The transplantings, scheduled to get underway the latter part of this week, are the earliest on record. Farmer Joshua L. Coltrain from over in the Williams district says he once transplanted a crop on April 17 that he made fair tobacco.

Tobacco allotments for the individual farmers are being placed in the mails today and tomorrow, and those growers who are ready to start transplanting will not be delayed.

Blue mold is being reported in all sections of the county, the damage apparently being greater in some communities than in others. Some farmers state that their plant beds look as if a fire had burned them. Others maintain that the damage is light so far.

The office of the county agent points out that cotton allotments will be determined just as soon as certain amendments to the farm program can be worked out. Farmers in the county will be ready to start their cotton planting week after next, reports state that corn is being planted on a large scale already.

The opening of Williamston's public library scheduled for next Friday evening, has been delayed, Mrs. James Cooke, librarian, announced today. Arrangements had been made for the use of the Legion Post but that evening, and the library group willingly postponed the formal opening until next Monday.

A formal program will be arranged and announced the latter part of this week, the leaders explaining that the hours will not conflict with religious services.

The local volunteer fire company was called out for the first time in more than a month yesterday morning when fire, starting from a spark, threatened the home of Miles Rogers, colored, on South Sycamore street. Fanned by a strong wind, the fire was spreading rapidly when the fire-fighting apparatus was carried to the scene, but damage, estimated at \$25, was confined to the kitchen roof.

It was the twelfth call recorded in the fire department's records so far this year. During the first three months of last year, the company had ten calls.

Fire destroys truck and cargo last Saturday.

Fire destroyed the large GMC truck of J. A. Manning and wrecked a cargo of 125 bags of fertilizer near Norfolk early last Saturday morning. Trailer Modlin, operator of the truck, stated that the truck went out of control and plunged into a ditch when a front tire blew out, the machine catching fire when the semi-trailer struck the cab. Modlin was not badly hurt. Insurance partially covered the truck and cargo loss.

Home after long stay in a Durham hospital.

Jimmie Coltrain, the one-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Coltrain, returned to his home in Griffiths Township last week-end after a stay of three months in a hospital. The little fellow, critically ill for weeks, is much improved and is now expected to recover.

Repairs.

Williamston principal streets, badly worn during the past sixteen years, are receiving a new surface this week. Superintendent Lov stating today that the special highway maintenance force would complete the work in the business districts tomorrow or early Thursday.

Last fall, maintenance forces resurfaced Highway 17 to the Beaufort County line, but delayed work on the thoroughfare through town.

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Elections Board In Meet Saturday

Will Not Make Two Precincts in Williamston At This Time

The re-organization of the Martin County Election Board was effected at a meeting of the group here last Saturday with Mr. Sylvester Peel continuing as chairman and Mr. Joe Winslow as secretary. Plans were made for a second meeting on April 16 when registrars and judges of election for the twelve precincts will be appointed.

Applications for the various precinct posts are being received by Mr. Peel already, and in addition to those the county Democratic executive committee is scheduled to recommend appointments.

No action in connection with dividing Williamston precinct into two is expected for the June primary. But if there is any indication for a big vote next November, the county election board is likely to give the matter consideration prior to that time.

The appointments to the precinct positions for the June primary will be limited to Democrats, the chairman stating that Republicans where available, will supplant one democrat in each precinct for service in the November election.

Preaches First In Series Of Sermons

Dr. William R. Burrell, pastor of the Biltmore Baptist church, delivered the first in a series of pre-Easter services in the Baptist church here last evening, a large and appreciative congregation hearing the minister who served the community for a long period about fifteen years ago.

Using as his text, "For You, Therefore, that Believe is the Preciousness," the visiting minister said he was particularly interested in three classes of people, the deacons, Sunday school officers and teachers and the B. T. U. leaders. These are the groups that keep or should keep the church growing, he declared.

Continuing he said: "Jesus Christ is God's yardstick, and He is measuring us by that yardstick. God never numbers a church or community. He weighs them. The present-day sifting and weighing make Him more precious to us. He is the fountain head of all life, light, wisdom and the sciences especially the science of living."

Dr. Burrell will continue his special preaching mission here through Friday of next week each evening at 7:45 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. James H. Smith, announcing that a day service is being planned for next week. The public is cordially invited to attend the services.

Board of Education In Meeting Monday

Meeting in special session here yesterday, the Martin County Board of Education heard petitions for the construction of gymnasiums at Jamesville and Oak City, approved the sale of several abandoned pieces of school property and cleared its routine work calendar in record time. All board members, Messrs. J. F. Martin and E. H. Ange, of Jamesville; George C. Griffin, of Griffiths; J. W. Eubanks, of Hassell, and J. D. Woolard, chairman, were present for the meeting.

Following the discussion of plans for the construction of two gymnasiums, the board voted four to one in favor of the projects, pointing out that the communities of Oak City and Jamesville were without any recreational facilities. It was also pointed out that the addition of the two proposed buildings would round out a fairly complete program for all the schools.

Dope Peddler Forges Names To Prescriptions

Operating under the name of J. G. Weekes, a white man, thought to be a member of a dope ring, was arrested in Raleigh yesterday where he is being held for the alleged forgery of a local doctor's name to prescriptions calling for morphine.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is in Raleigh this afternoon investigating the alleged forgery and it is likely the case will be turned over to federal authorities.

Stealing a number of prescription forms from the local doctor's office, the peddler is understood to have forged the name of the doctor and had prescriptions filled for dope in several towns during the past few days.

County Jail Receives Nine Persons During Week-End

Nine persons were jailed in this county during the past week-end, the number of arrests equalling the record of a week before. Seven of those jailed were booked on disorderly counts.

Former Local Citizen Dies In Washington

Ira Willard, former local citizen and founder of the shoe shop here bearing his name, died at his home in Washington yesterday afternoon from a heart attack. Attacked by a robber two or three years ago, Mr. Willard was badly wounded and had been in feeble health since that time. He was 36 years old. Funeral services are being held in Washington this afternoon.

Besides his wife, he leaves his mother, Mrs. S. L. Willard, of Washington; a son, Ivan Willard and a step-daughter, Miss Helen Jones; two sisters, Mrs. A. C. Cutter of Washington; Marvin Leggett, of Washington; and three brothers, Guy Willard, of Perry Point, Md.; Wilmer Willard, of Washington, and Otho Willard, of Williamston.

Mr. Willard left here about seven years ago and founded a shoe repair shop in Washington.

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Defer Action on Two Gymnasium Projects

Plans Delayed When Placed Before Board Of Commissioners

Sponsors Are Hopeful That Board Will Reconsider at Special Session

Plans for the proposed construction of two school gymnasiums at Oak City and Jamesville struck a snag here yesterday when the Martin County commissioners deferred action on appropriating \$3,000 to supplement funds raised in the community and through the Works Progress Administration. Sponsors, advised that the requests had not met with outright defeat, are hopeful that a special session of the authorities can be arranged for the near future when the plans will receive further consideration.

Presented first to the Martin County Board of Education by Principal H. M. Ainsley, of Oak City, and Principal J. T. Uzzle, of Jamesville, the plans were given a four-to-one approval by that group, unofficial reports stating that the action would probably have been unanimous had there not been the possibility of other calls for aid in financing similar buildings in at least two other communities. The plans for the two buildings now being proposed are said to have encountered similar opposition by members of the board of commissioners.

No definite stand for or against the proposed projects was taken, and it is understood that the sponsors in the two communities, are hopeful the authorities will willingly meet in special session and give the proposals favorable consideration.

It was pointed out at a joint meeting of the boards that several hundred dollars had been raised in cash at Jamesville and that 50,000 feet of lumber had been pledged at Oak City, that a \$1,500 supplement from the county would make each of the projects possible. Authorities explained that the \$3,000 appropriation would increase the 1938 tax rate by about two and one-half and not over three cents. This extra levy would be necessary for only one year. Representatives from Jamesville told the board that the sponsors there had raised \$369.50 in cash, that the people there and in Oak City were strongly in favor of the proposed projects.

Each of the buildings will cost approximately \$6,500, the county appropriating \$1,500, leaving \$4,000 to be raised in each of the two communities and the Works Progress unit.

The plans have been placed before the WPA offices in Williamston, and it is almost certain they will receive favorable consideration when and just as soon as the county offers its cooperation.

Kiwanis And Lions Clubs Play Friday

An old feud will be renewed next Friday at 4 p. m. when the Lions and Kiwanians test their skill and endurance in a game of baseball. Several old men who hold places in baseball's hall of fame will emerge from retirement to cavort about the playing field. Manager Spivey and Gus Harrison, chairman of the board of strategy, plan to use Grimes, Cobb, Spencer, and Green in one infield combination and Goodmon, Cobb, Bobbitt and Simpson in another. Sheriff Roebuck, Bill Manning, Preacher Smith, Tubby Mercer and James Manning will roam the outer garden. Piephoff and Crockett, pitchers, and Spivey and Hunt, catchers, complete the squad.

The Lions will start the following line-up: Clayton, lb; Flip Peelle, 2b; Fred Taylor, ss; Kenneth Lindsley, 3b; Hayman, cf; Trahey, rf; Margolis, lf. Batteries, Modlin and Ward. Reserve batteries: Worrell and Hopkins. Reserve fielders include Bonduant, Edwards, Courtney, Darden and Fronberger.

Local physicians are looking forward to a busy day Saturday.

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COMMITTEE

Without remuneration or hope of individual reward, ten local citizens have accepted places on a recreational executive committee. They are charged with a tremendous task, a task that can be made to mean much to the youth of this community, and a task that is deserving of the support of everyone.

The names of the committee members are: Mrs. R. H. Goodmon, Mrs. John A. Ward and Mrs. D. N. Hix, temporary chairmen, representing the Senior Woman's club; Mrs. Ben Eaton, Junior Woman's Club; Mrs. E. F. Cunningham, parents-teachers; Bill Spivey, Kiwanis; Irving Margolis, Lions; H. G. Horton, Legion post; C. B. Clark, Masons, and Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, ministerial association.

County Board In Meeting Monday

The Martin County Board of Commissioners held one of their shortest sessions in many months here yesterday, Chairman J. E. Pope adjourning the meeting at noon.

Very little new business was scheduled for consideration, and the authorities handled routine affairs in record time. Reports from the various county agencies were presented by the department heads and reviewed by the commissioners. All members were present except Commissioner C. C. Fleming who was held at home by urgent business at his fisheries.

Jasper Bennett was exempted of county taxes to sell certain health products.

Paul J. Holliday was named constable for Jamesville Township, the new appointee to serve the unexpired term made vacant by the resignation of George Beck.

An agreement was made to lease the town the unused lot back of the old jail house, the petitioners pointing out that plans were underway to develop a recreational center on the property between Watts and Biggs streets.

The proposal to appropriate \$3,000 for the construction of two gymnasiums at Oak City and Jamesville was discussed, the commissioners deferring action for the present.

Commissioner Perry, drawn for jury service in the federal court was excused by Judge Meekins so he could attend the meeting.

Martin Farmers Plant Large Cucumber Crop

QUICK ACTION

Granted divorces in the recent term of Martin County Superior Court, at least four parties to the divorce actions have already jumped back into the sea of matrimony. One of the duplicating events was said to have followed a few hours after the final decree was entered in the court records. Unofficial reports state that one of the divorcees was marrying for a fourth time, and all so suddenly.

Several Hundred Acres Now Under Liberal Contract

Anticipating reductions in tobacco and cotton plantings, more than 125 Martin County farmers have entered into contracts with a Brooklyn packing company for the production of cucumbers this season. Contracts have been placed by C. N. Johnson, representative of the firm, in Hassell, Dardens, Bear Grass, Williamston, Poplar Point and Hamilton communities. Nearly 200 acres are covered by the Brooklyn firm contracts, reports stating that possibly more than 100 other farmers are contracting with packing plants in other centers. No accurate estimate on the number of contracts placed in the county is available, but it is thought that around 250 growers will plant around four or five hundred acres this year.

Shipping Center Will Be Maintained Here in June and July

Williamston has been elected as a shipping center for those contractors signed under the Brooklyn firm agreements, Mr. Johnson, the representative, explaining that a grading station would be maintained at this point beginning about June 10 and continuing during the early part of July. Shipments will be made in refrigerator cars as rapidly as the cucumbers are delivered.

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Town Authorities In Regular Session Here Last Night

Order More Sidewalks and Hear Committee on Recreation

Meeting in regular session last evening, the local board of town commissioners spent considerable time discussing new business and handling routine affairs, including a review of current bills running well over \$1,000. After listening to a special committee present plans for a recreational center, the board members deferred action pending the preparation of complete cost figures on the proposed program.

A petition, carrying the names of eight property owners and asking the paving of a sidewalk on the north side of Grace Street from Smithwick to Houghton Street, was received. The board approved an appropriation for the project, the superintendent of streets explaining that construction work would possibly be started within the next month. Paving of about 200 feet of sidewalk on the east side of Park street was also ordered by the board.

The purchase of new tires to replace the 10-year-old ones on the fire truck was ordered. It is estimated the new tires will cost close to \$400.

Hope for extending Smithwick street straight into Marshall avenue was virtually abandoned when the commissioners received a report of the superior court allowing Property Owner Cherry \$750 for a 42-foot right-of-way. Considering the amount too great, the commissioners directed the superintendent of streets to repair the old boardwalk on the old street. "The owner doesn't want to sell for less than \$5,000, and we don't want to pay \$750. It is one of those lawsuits in which neither party was satisfied," Mayor J. L. Hassell commented during the last night meeting.

Urgent needs for increasing the town's water supply were given serious consideration after these many years. The demand is increasing too rapidly for the present system, and there isn't much time left to handle the situation, it was pointed out.

It is now planned to get cost estimates for sinking an additional deep well and increasing the pumping equipment, and carry the financial problem to the State Local Government Commission in Raleigh along with that for a recreational center that is now being seriously considered. No mention of a bond issue was mentioned at the meeting, the treasurer pointing out, however, that the town's finances were in the best shape they had been in during recent years.

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