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County Officers To Start New Terms Here Next Monday

Elphonsa Johnson Starts First Term; Others Re-elected

Re-elected without opposition, Martin County's officers will start their new terms next Monday, the installation coming as a mere formality for the group. There'll be a lot of swearing during the early morning when the various officers subscribe to the required oaths. Justice J. L. Hassell will administer the oath of office for L. B. Wynne, clerk of court, and the clerk will then swear in the others of the official family.

Some fast work will be in order for several of the officers when they make final arrangements for starting the new terms. Elphonsa Johnson, starting his new term, will have to await his appointment by the commissioners. The commissioners will, if the technical order is followed, have to be sworn in and make the appointment. Johnson will then subscribe to the oath of office and enter upon his new duties as solicitor. The commissioners and the county court are due to meet at the same hour, 9:30. A brief delay in opening the court session will take care of the time element. However, it is possible for the commissioners to meet as an old group, make the appointment, handle old business and subscribe to the oath of office later in the day.

Register J. Sam Getsinger, elected for four years in November, 1936, will be on the sidelines watching the inaugural exercises.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, re-elected last month for the time, enters upon the first four-year term. Just how the sheriffs of the State can start a four-year term when they were nominated and elected for one half that long is not quite clear. But that's the style and Charlie Roebuck goes in for a four-year period. L. B. Wynne is starting his second four-year term Monday as clerk of court. Treasurer C. A. Harrison begins his fifth term which runs only for two years. Judge H. O. Peel continues as a member of the county's official family, the term beginning Monday being his fourth. Coroner S. R. Biggs begins his sixth term.

County Commissioner J. E. Pope, the oldest county official in point of service, begins his seventh term. It is the third term for Commissioners C. C. Fleming and R. L. Perry and second for Commissioners R. A. Haislip and C. Abram Roberson.

Hospital Partially Destroyed By Fire

Three Persons Reported To Have Lost Lives In Fire Early Today

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a portion of the Tayloe Hospital in Washington and burned to death Sue Gorham, middle-aged colored patient, this morning at 6:50 o'clock. Other patients in the old wooden structure were moved to safety, but walls checked the blaze and patients remained in the new part of the building.

Later reports coming from an unofficial source stated that three persons, two of them white, were either burned to death or lost their lives jumping from second-story windows. One patient is said to have suffered fractures of both legs in a jump from the second floor.

"It was a horrible sight," one Martin County man who was with a patient in the hospital said following his return home at noon today.

No estimate of the loss has been advanced, unofficial reports stating that costly X-ray equipment was destroyed but that most of the operating room equipment was saved.

Washington firemen, finding the fire well advanced by the time they reached the scene, brought the blaze under control three hours after it was discovered.

The Gorham woman was said to have been in a dying condition several hours before the fire started.

Stolen Car Recovered Near Here This Week

Stolen from a local street early last Monday morning, the Ford automobile belonging to Mr. C. A. Harrison was recovered last Tuesday. It was found parked in the woods just off the Hamilton Road a short distance from town.

Will Urge Board To Push Road Complaint

CHEER DRIVE

Christmas cheer in as large portion as possible will be carried to the less fortunate tots of this community this year, the local Kiwanis club at its meeting last night formulating plans for sponsoring the movement.

A drive for old toys, clothing and other articles will be extended throughout the town next Wednesday, the sponsors directing an earnest appeal to everyone to liberally support the Christmas joy movement.

Secretary Wallace Speaks In Raleigh To 2,000 Farmers

Urges A Planned Program And Not Control By Low Prices

Speaking in Raleigh yesterday morning, Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, urged more than 2,000 farmers to support a planned economic program and not depend on low prices to bring about control.

Pointing out that cash income from flue-cured tobacco during five years of control averaged \$167,000,000 a year, or \$34,000,000 more than the best average for any preceding five years, the Secretary attributed the higher return to increased consumption of cigarettes and to AAA programs.

Declaring that even when prices are high, the farmer gets only a cent and a half for the tobacco in a 15-cent package of cigarettes, Wallace said, "Price has very little effect on demand, but supply has a very great effect on price. In the past, tobacco manufacturers were able to lower prices to force production control."

"It is within your power to contribute maintaining good prices by stabilizing production and marketing. The question is: Will you do it or will you let the market do it for you, by means of low prices?"

That question, he said, will be decided December 10, when cotton and flue-cured tobacco growers vote on marketing quotas for 1939.

Danger of Increase

"If quotas fail to carry," Wallace predicted, "the percentage increase in flue-cured tobacco acreage is likely to be much greater than for cotton, probably five times as great. The price of cotton is so low that some growers would stay within their acreage allotments regardless of quotas. But the price of flue-cured tobacco has been so favorable that, even with the program, the pressure for increased acreage and poundage allotments has been very strong. It is this pressure for increased allotments, resulting from favorable price that is responsible for criticism of the tobacco program."

"The tobacco program is criticized because prices are good. The cotton program is criticized because prices are bad."

In the face of desire by cotton, peanut and other growers to go in to tobacco production, he said, North Carolina should protect its share of the national tobacco crop by enforcing control.

Consequently, he added, "the flue-cured producers have a direct and vital interest in the success of the cotton program, the peanut program and other farm programs."

Any subsidy to increase exports, the secretary said, would be "firing the first shot in an unprofitable trade war" to see which nation could out-dump the other.

Native Gains Ranking Promotion In The Navy

Donald Clark Godwin, Frank of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ben Frank Godwin, of Williamston, gained a high ranking promotion in the navy this week when he was elevated from commander to captain, one of the highest places ever attained in the navy by a Martin County man.

Captain Godwin was graduated from Annapolis in 1911 and has served various stations throughout the world. Completing his duties as commander in the Academy last June he went on the U. S. S. Mississippi as executive officer with headquarters on the West Coast.

Start Survey On Secondary Road in Griffins Township

Reply to First Complaint Is Said To Have Been Unsatisfactory

Receiving two weeks ago what they considered a very unsatisfactory reply to appeals for improved roads in the outlying districts of the county, delegations from the Hassell and Bear Grass communities are planning to appear before the Martin County Board of Commissioners here next Monday and urge the authorities to appeal again direct to the highway commission in Raleigh. Plans to urge the Martin officials to follow up the complaint filed with Chairman Dunlap of the State Commission, the middle of last month were advanced about the time a survey of nine miles of secondary road was started by highway forces in Bear Grass and Griffins Townships this week.

In his letter to Chairman Dunlap last month, J. E. Pope, chairman of the Martin Board of Commissioners, asked that a representative be sent to the county for a discussion of the road problems that have been placed before the local authorities by citizens from all sections of the county for month after month since the State took over the secondary roads. No assurance was given in a letter to Mr. Pope from Division Engineer J. G. Gardner that a representative would come here for a frank discussion of the road problems. Mr. Gardner, to whom Mr. Pope's letter was directed by Chairman Dunlap for attention, did point out that Martin County "has received its pro rata share of all maintenance and betterment funds." Continuing, Mr. Gardner said in his letter, "I do not like to mention unpleasant things but to illustrate the point I am making I would call your attention to the fact that at least one Township and possibly more, in Martin County stopped all road work as soon as the road act was passed in 1931 and no road work was done on these roads until the State took them over on July 1." Mr. Gardner added, "You can imagine what condition they were in."

Highway authorities have assured the county board chairman that they will do everything they possibly can to widen the "later" ridges and cut back the bushes that almost overlap along the paths in some parts of the county.

It is apparent that Martin County people are disappointed with the present secondary road program and that they will stick in the fight for the improvement program.

Survey Underway

Headed by Engineer Cooke, a survey of the Farm Life road project was started this week, and while the completion of the proposed program will greatly relieve one of the black spots on the highway map, it will not remedy in its entirety the secondary road problem in Griffins Township. Citizens of that territory, while they want their roads widened and improved, are more interested in getting an all-weather outlet first.

Engineer Cook and his assistants, Messrs. L. M. Phelps, of Mebane; A. B. Hailey, Rex Stephenson and R. W. Saunders, all of Raleigh, plan to complete the survey within two or three weeks, and it is understood that the project will be included in the list to be let to contract within the next several weeks.

Carry Control Drive Into Williams District

The campaign for the passage of a crop control program continues in full swing in this county. Wednesday evening, the campaigners were greeted by a packed house in Williams Township. Mr. Charles Daniel, championing the program, said that control is the farmers' only salvation and if the farmers want to go back down the hill just kill the program.

Agent T. B. Brandon explained the changes in the program and reviewed the allotments.

This evening a meeting is being held in Jamesville, and next Monday meetings will be held in Bear Grass and Farm Life at 7:30 o'clock.

Markets Continue Strong For Two Crops In County

Peanuts and Sweet Potatoes Moving in Large Quantities

Considerable activity was seen on the peanut and sweet potato markets here yesterday and today as shipments moved in fairly large volume to the cleaners and northern markets.

Peanut deliveries are keeping buyers going as many as eighteen hours each day, and shipments are at a high peak for this season of the year. Estimates indicate that at least 75 per cent of the crop has moved out of the farmer's hands, and it is expected that 90 or 95 per cent of the current year production will have moved to market by the end of this month.

Prices for the goobers continue strong with the better grades showing a gradual gain. At the present time, the main bulk of the sales are being made at three and one-half cents, but offers of four cents a pound for fancy jumbos have been reliably reported. At least one grower is said to have refused four cents a pound for his entire crop. Quotations for the inferior grades remain about the same.

With prices on the open market running ahead of government quotations, very few peanuts are being offered to the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative at this point. It has been pointed out that the cooperative is more interested in seeing the grower receive the highest possible price than it is in storing peanuts.

While it is possible the rush of deliveries now underway is likely to cause a lull in the market quotations, the outlook for a continued strong market is encouraging, according to unofficial but reliable reports heard here late yesterday.

While the peanut market is reporting heavy deliveries, the sweet potato market opened with a bang here yesterday when nearly 2,000 bushels were delivered to one packing firm. The first shipment of the sweets moved out of here yesterday for the New York market. The shipment was made by an individual grower and price quotations were not available. On the local market, farmers' potatoes are selling for 75 cents a bushel. Local packers are moving their first car today.

Last year only 26 carloads of sweet potatoes were moved from this point. Present indications are that more than 100 cars will be shipped from this point before the season ends next March or April.

The quality of the crop is good, and unless heavy deliveries congest the markets, it is believed the price will not fall below the present quotations with a possibility of an increase.

Firemen Get Early Call Wednesday Morning

Numbers of guests, attired in their night clothes, fled from their rooms in the Hotel George Reynolds here at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning when a unit in an electrical refrigerator caught fire and sent smoke throughout a greater part of the building. Unable to find the source of the smoke and thinking the fire would spread, the hotel operators called in the alarm. Members of the volunteer fire company located the fire in the refrigerator box and put it out with a handful of sand.

The smoke was not of sufficient volume to blacken the walls, and damage was confined to the refrigerator.

Raiders Wreck Two Big Stills In The County

Raiding in Bear Grass Township his week, Enforcement Officer Joseph H. Roebuck, assisted by Deputy Bill Haislip and Federal Agents Smith and Harshaw, of Elizabeth City, wrecked two large distilleries.

At the first plant the officers seized a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out five gallons of liquor and 1,800 gallons of beer. Signals were fired just as the officers entered the woods and the operators escaped leaving the plant running full blast.

The second plant had been partly dismantled before the officers reached it, the operators moving away the kettle. Approximately 1,200 gallons of beer and about five gallons of liquor were destroyed. Both plants were dynamited by the officers.

\$50,000.00 Damage Suit Against Bus Corporation Is Expected To Reach Jury Tonight or Tomorrow

PWA Considering Purchase Of \$72,000 Town Bond Issue

Facing an indifferent market, town officials are now rapidly completing arrangements for floating a \$72,000 bond issue through the Public Works Administration, Atlanta.

Local authorities stated yesterday that they believed the application for the loan would receive favorable consideration, that it would likely be possible to launch a proposed \$124,200 improvement program here during the early part of this year.

Procuring a \$52,200 grant from the PWA several weeks ago, the town authorities were directed to launch the improvement program before this time, but a misunderstanding resulted in offering the bonds for sale, and the town asked for an extension of time in which to raise its share of the project cost.

No direct answer has been received that the extension would be allowed but local authorities believe the request will receive favorable consideration.

Application for the \$72,000 loan is being forwarded to the PWA office in Atlanta today, and the commissioners are hopeful an official report on the status of the proposed project will be available during the early part of next week.

A review of the activities leading up to the application for the loan will be reviewed at the regular meeting of the commissioners next Monday evening. There'll be little other business to come before the meeting other than routine matters, Mayor J. L. Hassell said in announcing that the commissioners would be called into session at 7:30 o'clock.

County Liquor Sales Show Slight Increase

Total of \$419,695.98 Is Spent In County Since Stores Open

After experiencing in the second quarter of this year their first slump in sales, the four Martin County legal liquor stores reported that lost ground regained and increased sales last quarter over those for the corresponding period in 1937. Regular business may be experiencing a slight recession, but the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board audit for the three months of July, August and September shows that the liquor trade is more than holding its own.

During the period under discussion, the four stores—Williamston, Robersonville, Oak City and Jamesville—reported total sales of \$32,502.15 as compared with \$30,259.05 for the third quarter in 1937, bringing the total sales from the time the stores were opened in July, 1935, to the first of last month up to \$419,695.98. Profits jumped from \$2,854.43 for the third quarter, 1937, to \$7,739.45 for the corresponding quarter this year, increasing the grand total from July, 1935, to October 1, to \$89,512.54.

The legal liquor business in the county, growing from a debt-ridden unit in July, 1935, to one with \$21,121.15 assets, holds a high rank in the commercial field. The control board reported inventories valued at \$13,265.50 and cash in banks in the amount of \$6,279.54 at the close of the third quarter this year.

Gross sales increased last quarter in three stores—Williamston, Robersonville and Oak City, the unit at Williamston reporting a jump in sales from \$14,231.00 for the second quarter to \$16,960.60 last quarter. Sales at Robersonville increased from \$6,925.60 for the months of April, May, and June to \$9,588.90 for the quarter recently ended. Oak City reported an increase of about \$325, while Jamesville reported a decrease of about \$200.

The apportionment of profits afforded several political units with (Continued on page six)

Students And Teachers Contribute To Red Cross

Local students and teachers contributed a total of \$26.90 to the Junior Red Cross during the drive conducted recently in the elementary and high schools. Each of the twenty-two grade and home rooms including the commercial department is now a member of the Junior Red Cross and will receive the monthly publication of the organization.

Approximately \$115.00 has been reported collected in this chapter to date.

Board Of Education To Meet Here Next Monday

The Martin County Board of Education will hold a meeting here next Monday when the members are expected to effect a contract for a reduction in the light and power rate for schools. It is possible that the proposed construction of an addition to the colored school will be discussed.

Large Quantities Of Birds In This County

Opening yesterday, the quail season attracted large numbers of hunters to the fields in this county. Preliminary reports state that the choice game is numerous this year, but still hard to kill. One hunter reported finding three covies of quail in less than an hour.

No official report on the number of hunting licenses is available just now, but the sale is believed to be about the same or slightly more than it was last season.

Sordid Allegations Aired In Open Court By Defense Counsel

Big Suit Crowds Other Case Off Docket Since Wednesday

Thrown into the hopper early last Wednesday afternoon for an airing of sordid testimony and contradictory evidence, the \$50,000 damage suit brought by Miss Edna Lee Mizelle, 15-year-old Jamesville Township girl against the Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation and J. P. White is expected to reach the jury in the Martin County Superior Court here late this evening or tomorrow.

As the case draws to a close, it leaves a mass of evidence that would rock a Singapore dive. But large crowds, many of the number having been called as witnesses, have listened intently as trained lawyers brought out alleged facts that were startling in their nature.

Alleging in the complaint that she was doped while a passenger on a bus going to Jamesville last December and carried on to Columbia where she further alleges she was raped at the point of a pistol by J. P. White, bus driver, the star witness, Edna Lee Mizelle, took the stand at two o'clock Wednesday afternoon. The facts alleged in the complaint were reviewed as the plaintiff counsel, E. S. Peel and H. S. Ward, carefully set up the case before the court.

Turned over to the defense, the witness underwent a rapid fire of questioning by Defense Counsel W. B. Rodman, Jr., W. L. Whitley and H. G. Horton, State senator from this district. Until five o'clock, the attorney bombarded the witness with questions but she was said to have made a splendid appearance in her behalf and calmly left the stand after the three-hour-long ordeal.

The evidence offered during the afternoon brought out the alleged attack in minute detail, the defense missing no chance to bare the glaring facts. A bold question brought a bold answer, and there wasn't anything left unsaid or done that the jurymen will have to guess about. Possibly never before were bolder bits of evidence bared in the courthouse of this county for a mixed audience to hear.

Yesterday morning, the plaintiff was subjected to another barrage of questions during the greater part of an hour. She held to her story during the several hours of cross firing.

Her foster father, Mr. Leonard P. Holliday, former member of the Martin County board of commissioners, followed the girl to the stand, and he corroborated much of the evidence offered by the girl. He told how the case was brought to light, after she had tried to hide it by saying she got left in Williamston on that eventful night.

Then a parade of witnesses was started, the plaintiff counsel offering a number to prove the young girl of good character, and others were placed on the stand to prove her age. The defense, gathering in detail a life history of the young girl, contended she was born in 1921, but evidence offered in rebuttal today by the plaintiff apparently establishing the date of her birth as in September, 1922.

The plaintiff rested its case shortly before 11 o'clock, and the parade of witnesses lengthened, unofficial reports stating that a large portion of Columbia's population appeared as witnesses for the defense.

Contradictory Evidence

Questioned during a greater part of an hour, Defendant J. T. White strongly denied the allegations and told the jury that he did not know the girl. He maintained that the passenger surrendered a ticket to (Continued on page six)

Busy Day Monday For Commissioners

With a heavy schedule of routine business before them and with visits expected from citizens interested in better secondary roads, the Martin commissioners are slated to be in session quite a while here next Monday.

The commissioners are to close their work for the term, and make ready to begin anew immediately. Reorganization of the board is not expected to require much time as it is virtually agreed that J. E. Pope will succeed himself as chairman of the group.

The board is to appoint a county solicitor and attorney. Elphonsa Johnson is certain to get the solicitor appointment, following W. H. Coburn who is completing his third term in that position. It is expected the commissioners will re-appoint E. S. Peel county attorney.

Bonds for the various officers are due, and they will be inspected by the commissioners. The bonds range as high as \$50,000 for the sheriff and \$35,000 for the treasurer.

President Roosevelt To Speak In State Monday

Thousands of people from all over North Carolina will hear President Roosevelt when he speaks in Chapel Hill next Monday, a number of local people stating that they are making plans to attend.