

Plans Go Forward For Organization Of Chamber Commerce

Support Seen for Organization at Meeting Held Last Friday Evening

An able support virtually pledged the undertaking, plans for the organization of a local chamber of commerce are gaining momentum gradually but surely as the need for such a body presents itself in no uncertain terms day in and day out. To say that a live, wide-awake commerce organization has been born already is a bit forward, but a small group—a dozen or so—meeting in the courthouse auditorium last Friday evening laid the foundation for advancing and maintaining such a trade body.

Final arrangements for going ahead with the organization plans were placed in the hands of Messrs. C. B. Clark, B. S. Courtney, Charlie Bowers and Frank Margolis, a committee who is now mapping out a tentative program that is destined to bring into being a strong organization that a concerted effort might be made in advancing the welfare of this community and its people. Tentative plans call for a Dutch supper in some meeting hall here on Wednesday evening of next week, and an earnest plea is being directed not only to the business men, professional men and others, but to every person interested in the progress of this community urging them to make plans to attend the special meeting. Complete plans for the meeting will be announced the latter part of this or early next week.

It has been the practice here to entrust the affairs of a chamber of commerce into the hands of individuals, and during recent years the task has narrowed down to virtually one individual. The group of men in the meeting last Friday realize that it is unreasonable to expect one person to handle the numerous daily tasks and without any remuneration. The problems that need the concerted attention of the community have been left for one or two to solve. These problems are not generally known by the public, but in their solution nearly every citizen in the town, included members of both races, reap some reward directly or indirectly.

The organization committee, several of whom have devoted much time and borne considerable expense already, are looking to the people of Williamston for support when final plans are to be considered at the meeting of business and professional men and other interested citizens on Wednesday evening of next week.

Chicken Thieves Held In Raleigh

Edward T. Thompson and his son, James, wanted in this county for the theft of Dean Speight's car and the alleged theft of hundreds of pounds of meat and a large number of chickens, are being held in the Wake County Jail, Raleigh.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck was advised this week by the United States district attorney that the two men would be turned over to him for trial in this county next month. No arrangements have yet been made to bring the alleged thieves to this county, the officer stating that he planned to go to Raleigh shortly and discuss the case with federal authorities there. It was pointed out by the district attorney in his communication to the sheriff here that the men would have to be returned to Raleigh following the trial in this county to answer to federal charges before they could start serving sentences should they be adjudged guilty in the superior court. It was also pointed out that the next term of federal court would not be held in this section of the State before next March.

It is possible that the men will be booked for trial in other counties where they are alleged to have raided numbers of smokehouses and chicken coops. They are also alleged to have escaped from a Virginia prison, and reports state that they will be called upon by that commonwealth to return and pay the debt owed Virginia.

Said to have raided at least a dozen meat houses and chicken coops, some twice, in this county, Thompson and son, at one time residents of this county, were arrested in Georgia the latter part of last September. At the time the elder Thompson was arrested, he was driving Mr. Speight's car and wrecked it.

They were returned to this State to answer to the charge of operating a stolen car across state lines. After a several weeks' stay in Charlotte they were moved to Raleigh where they await the convenience of the courts.

Returns Home

Miss Marina Whitley is getting along very well after undergoing treatment for a hand infection in a Washington hospital. She returned to her home near here last Saturday. Her sister, Mrs. Mary Mundy, continues quite ill at her home in Wakefield, N. J.

PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH



The Piney Grove Baptist church will be dedicated to God and to the future generations in a special service Thanksgiving night, Rev. Jas. H. Smith, Baptist minister of Williamston, will deliver the dedicatory sermon and the regular pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, will make the introductory remarks and give a brief history of the church.

The Piney Grove Baptist church was first organized in 1905, but for a number of years it remained inactive. In 1933 the church was reorganized, with Mr. Harrington as its pastor. A new church was built in

1938 with the first service being held in the new building in April.

Since the reorganization in 1933 the church has been showing a gradual but steady growth. It now has a membership of 74, with prospects for an even larger growth during the next few years. Piney Grove has an active Sunday School with an average attendance of 75. Approximately 30 women of the community have organized a Missionary society and they are doing a good work in the church and community.

The public is cordially invited to attend this special service Thursday night, November 30th at 7 o'clock.

Thanksgiving To Be Observed As A General Holiday Locally

North Carolina's Thanksgiving will be observed as a general holiday here this Thursday with a single exception. Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden and his postal workers, having had their turkey last Thursday when the Democrats paused to return thanks, will continue at their posts of duty with mail deliveries in town and rural areas going forward in accordance with regular schedules.

Other than the postoffice all other business houses will follow a strict holiday schedule. County and town offices will close for the day, and the drug stores will remain open only from 9 a. m. to 12 noon. While the President's Thanksgiving was observed by quite a few last Thursday, most of those enjoying the day as a holiday will keep step with local business and close again on Thursday of this week.

A fairly complete schedule of events is being advanced locally for

the day. A union church service that morning at 10 o'clock in the Baptist church will reflect the real spirit of the day. That afternoon at 2:30 o'clock the local high school football eleven will meet the Windsor Lions here. With the opening of the quail season falling on that day, sportsmen are planning to turn to the fields and hedges in numbers.

The tobacco market is suspending sales today that out-of-town tobaccoists might get to their homes for the holiday. The town and community are making extensive plans for a day of returning thanks, and with the possible exception of a marked increase in traffic the day will be like unto Sunday.

The local schools will suspend classes tomorrow afternoon until next Monday. An all-day holiday will be observed by the library. Mrs. J. E. Cooke, librarian, announced today.

CURTAIN

The curtain was lowered shortly before noon today on local tobacco sales for the season, tobaccoists and their assistants making hurried preparations to start moving to their homes in distant states for the Thanksgiving season.

A complete report on sales for the season is not available, but it is understood that the market has handled a record poundage this year. Final figures will show that possibly more than ten and one-half million pounds have been sold.

A mixture of tobacco types was offered today, many farmers bundling together the remnants of the crop to make out a load.

Young Child Dies At Home Of Mother Sunday Evening

Little Daisy Aline Gardner, six years old, died at the home of her mother, Mrs. Florence Moore Gardner, in Williams Township Sunday at 6 o'clock p. m. following an illness of about three years' duration. Her condition had been critical since last Thursday and the end was not unexpected. Her father, Willie Gardner, died nearly two years ago.

Besides her mother she is survived by one brother, Robert Gardner, and three sisters, Mrs. Millard Holiday and Misses Annie Mae and Carrie Dell Gardner, all of Williams Township.

The last rites were conducted yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Interment was in the family plot in the Gardner Cemetery, Williams Township.

Highway Accident Record

Motor vehicle traffic ran its course in this county last week without serious accident, virtually complete reports showing that there were only two minor wrecks and that only one person was hurt during the period. The victim, a Bear Grass youth, suffered a minor lip cut when two cars crashed at a road intersection in that community.

Anticipating a heavy traffic during the North Carolina Thanksgiving period, leaders of safety movements are urging drivers to exercise a greater caution than ever. A little extra care exercised this Thanksgiving period might enable one—possibly a member of the immediate family or a good friend—to be here at Thanksgiving time, 1940.

A comparison of records for the week ending last Sunday and for the year prior to that time follows:

	Accidents	Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Week ending November 26	2	1	0	\$ 160.00
Prior Period	62	57	8	11,710.00
TOTALS	64	58	8	\$11,870.00

Red Cross Drive To Close In This Chapter Thursday

Membership Roll Call Proves Very Successful, Harry Biggs Declares

The annual Red Cross membership roll call comes to a scheduled close in the local chapter day after tomorrow, Chairman Harry A. Biggs today highly commending the local Junior Woman's club for its very successful work in handling the campaign. Under the direction of Mrs. Joseph A. Eason, representatives of the local club carried the membership total in Williamston to a new high figure, incomplete reports showing that nearly \$200 had been raised here in a very short time for the relief of suffering humanity.

Other points in the chapter, including the schools, have not filed their reports, and it is reasonable to expect that the total amount will approximate \$500.

Following is a continuation of the list of members and contributors:

White members: Irving Margolis, M. & W. Proctor Shop, Charles Peel, Roses 5 & 10, Mr. Bowden, H. C. Seawell, J. P. Simpson, Garland Coltrane, Miss Ella W. Critcher, Mrs. A. R. Dunning, Peele's Jewelry Store, Dr. V. E. Brown, J. S. Getzinger, Mrs. Mary Andrews, J. C. Eubanks, J. C. Manning, Garland Midyette, Miss Julia Daniels, T. B. Slade, J. P. Woodard, Mrs. J. E. King, W. C. Haislip, W. C. Griffin, Miss Lora Sleeper, Miss Selma Swanson, W. I. Skinner Co., Mrs. William Carstaphen, Miss Nita Pendleton, David Modlin, Gaston James, Darvin Henry, John W. Manning, Va. Electric Power Co., C. A. Smith, Miss Dollie Mae Hareum, M. S. Moore, Mrs. George Harrison, Charles Bowers, C. G. Crockett, Mrs. William Howell, Mrs. Irving Margolis, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, Frank Weaver, Miss Myrtle Daniels, John Eagles, W. J. Beach, J. R. Winslow, J. C. Crisp, William Harrison, Miss Sara Cone—Mrs. C. B. Leggett.

Mrs. Ernest Etheridge, Dr. A. J. Osteen, V. J. Spivey, Mrs. Kate York, Mrs. Henry Harrison, Mrs. Leann Barnhill, Mrs. C. G. Crockett, Frank Barnes, Miss Emelyne Evans, Mrs. W. J. Hodges, Mrs. Dean

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Blow Is Dealt To Liquor Traffic In County This Week

Illicit Liquor Business For Holiday Season Badly Interrupted

The illicit liquor business, showing an apparent new life in anticipation of the holiday trade, was dealt a heavy blow in the county yesterday when officers wrecked five distilleries and poured out approximately 4,000 gallons of beer. One alleged operator, Elmer Rodgers, colored, fell into the hands of the law. Officers referred to the raid as one equalling the activities reported back in the prohibition days.

Going into Bear Grass Township and centering their activities along the Martin-Beaufort boundary, Officer J. H. Roebuck, assisted by Roy Peel and Julian Roebuck, and officers from the A. B. C. enforcement bureau in Beaufort and Pitt Counties, located the first plant within a few hundred yards of Sweet Home church. Rodgers was captured but a companion escaped. The 100-gallon capacity tin still along with 1,700 gallons of beer and manufacturing equipment was destroyed. A sizable house cat was found at the plant, the officers stating they were not certain if the animal was a beer-lapper or a pet. Placed in the lap of Rodgers following his capture, the cat seemed very much at home. Given a hearing before U. S. Commissioner Walter Halderstad here that afternoon, Rodgers was placed under a \$500 bond for his appearance at the next term of federal court in Washington.

Continuing their raid, the officers wrecked a steam plant and poured out 600 gallons of beer not so very far from the first still site. From there they went just across the boundary line and wrecked a plant and poured out 400 gallons of beer.

Returning to this county, the raiders found a virtually new plant and wrecked it. The still was of copper and had a capacity of 100 gallons. Approximately 1,000 gallons of beer were poured out there.

A 50-gallon capacity copper kettle and 250 gallons of beer were found at a last plant raided late in the afternoon.

Today the officers are raiding in another section of the county, but no reports on their activities could be had at noon.

No Sales At Curb Market Here Tomorrow Morning

The curb market will be open on Saturday morning, December 2nd, instead of Wednesday, Nov. 29.

A Mistrial Results In \$10,000 Damage Suit

Jury Argued Case Six Hours Without Reaching Decision

Special Term of Superior Court Nearing End Here Today

The special term of Martin County Superior court convening here on Monday of last week with Judge Luther Hamilton, of Morehead City, on the bench, was reported nearing a close at noon today, the tribunal having disposed of quite a number of cases by agreement and a few by jury.

After occupying the attention of the court during the greater part of two days, the \$10,000 damage suit brought by Mitchell against Hall ended in a mistrial, the jury failing to reach a verdict. Calling the case Thursday morning, the court worked on the trial all that day, the counsel, fighting the issues vigorously on both sides, completing the argument to the jury late that afternoon. Friday morning, Judge Hamilton charged the jury for about an hour and placed the case in the hands of the jurymen at 10:45. A settlement was virtually assured at 1:00 that afternoon when the jury asked for special instructions from the judge. Waiving an opportunity to go out for lunch at that time, the jurymen told the court that they wanted to finish the case, indicating that a verdict was in the offing. Thirty minutes later, the jurymen asked for a recess. Resuming their work at 2:30, the jurymen argued until about 5:30 when the court was advised that the count stood 10 to 2 in favor of Hall. "The two men will stay here forever before they will agree," the court was advised. Judge Hamilton explained that they could not stay there forever, and a jurymen was withdrawn and a mistrial announced. The case now holds the same status as it did before the trial.

During the first week of the special term, the work of the court was featured by compromised settlements which came after a greater part of the evidence was offered in the individual actions. Only two cases reached the jury during the period.

The case of Mrs. Sallie Hadley Bunting, Z. V. Bunting and W. Sampson Hadley against Mrs. Allie Hadley Steele, George B. Steele and T. S. Hadley was compromised late Friday afternoon after evidence was heard during the several hours. The defendant, Mrs. Allie Hadley Steele, was declared owner of the two new stores built on Washington Street and adjoining the rear of the Atlantic Hotel building, and that she was the owner of one-half interest in the hotel building, that the plaintiffs are the owners of the other one-half interest in the hotel. The judgment also specifies that if the hotel property is not sold at a private sale by next May 1, to the satisfaction of all parties to the judgment, that E. S. Peel, H. G. Horton and B. A. Critcher be appointed commissioners and that they be directed to offer the property for sale at auction. The parties to the action are—

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Two Minor Automobile Crashes Are Reported

No one was hurt and little property damage resulted in two minor auto crashes in the county last Saturday and yesterday. The cars of Farmer J. D. Wynne and Warner Bailey, Jr., crashed at a road intersection in the Bear Grass section on Saturday, an occupant in the Wynne car receiving a slight cut on his lip. Carl Beacham's car was slightly damaged in a crash yesterday.

GRADUATES



Wheeler Martin, Jr., young son of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Martin, of Williamston, was commissioned a lieutenant in the army air corps at Kelly Field, the West Point of the air, San Antonio, Texas, this morning. Entering the service only last March, the young man completed the difficult course in record time. The first from Williamston to graduate at the school, he is now active in the army's reserve air corps.

Funeral For County Native Held Friday

Funeral services for Arnold Rogers, native of this county, were held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. G. Ward, near Pateolus in Pitt County last Friday afternoon at two o'clock. Burial was in the family plot in the Loggotts Cross Roads section of Beaufort County, not far from the Martin boundary. He had been in feeble health for some time.

Death coming to him last Thursday, the last rites were conducted by Rev. John L. Gott, pastor of the local Christian church.

The son of the late Simon and Sally Pierce Rogers, he was born in the Bear Grass community of this county 92 years ago. When a small lad his father died and he was bound to the Hodges family for a number of years. In early manhood he married Miss Bell Woolard, four children, Mrs. G. G. Ward, of Pitt County; Mrs. J. E. Caraway, of Washington; Mrs. J. E. Gurganus, of Greenville, and Henry A. Rogers, of Rocky Mount, surviving the union. He was married four times, his last wife preceding him to the grave just a few months ago.

During the early years of his life, he was associated with the old Greenleaf-Johnson Lumber Company and worked in many of the counties in this section of the State. About 35 years ago he bought and settled on a farm in Beaufort County where he lived until a short time ago when he moved to Pitt to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. Ward.

He leaves twenty-nine grandchildren, seventy-five great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. He also leaves a number of relatives in this county including Mr. John A. Ward, a grandson, of Williamston.

Stamp Truck To Stop Here Next Tuesday

A government truck bearing an unusual collection of postage stamps will stop here for a few hours next Tuesday. Postmaster L. T. Fowden stating that the truck would be stopped at the postoffice and that a cordial invitation is extended the general public, especially the school children, to inspect the collection.

Proclamation

For a century and a half, a day has been set aside in each succeeding November for returning thanks to the Creator. As we approach this day this year it brings to us a more significant meaning.

While in the old world is going on today war and carnage here in free America we enjoy peace and plenty.

In those lands where Dictators and War Lords drive the people to accomplish their own selfish ends, here we enjoy the blessings of liberty guaranteed to us under our great constitution.

Nature has been kind to us this year, 1939.

The growing crops, aided by the summer sunshine and gentle rains, have culminated in a bountiful autumn harvest.

I, J. L. Hassell, Mayor of Williamston, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 30th, as Thanksgiving Day and call upon all merchants and other business houses to close their places of business on this day and may every one repair to their various places of worship and render thanks to the Creator for the wonderful blessings he has bestowed upon us and pray that our great Nation may continue in the paths of peace and that throughout the long tide of time the Stars and Stripes may continue to wave over a free, happy and contented people.

J. L. HASSELL, Mayor.

Little Activity Is Reported On Local Peanut Mart Today

Few Sales at Three and One-Half Cents Reported in Some Cases

Little activity was reported on the local peanut front here today as farmers, faced by a weakening market, started making plans for storing their peanuts in government warehouses. Dropping from three and one-half cents for the best type of bunch peanuts, the price today ranged around three and one-quarter to 2.35 per pound, the jumbo type commanding three and a half cents.

The weakened market, if there is any such thing as a market, resulted in a marked reduction in daily deliveries here yesterday, unofficial reports indicating that only a few thousand bags were moved during the period and that light deliveries could be expected.

Farmer reaction to the lower price is recognized as unusual. Ordinarily the crop starts moving rapidly on a "falling" market, but with the government guaranteeing three and one-quarter cents the farmers are now planning on storing their crops with the government or holding them for market developments.

Despite the fall in the market inkings of a three and three-quarter or even four-cent market were heard today. Possibly no upward trend will be experienced in the market immediately, but a bullish trend is anticipated following the holidays. With over fifty per cent of the crop already sold, there is not a great lot of the goobers ready for the market. Fair weather during the next few days will see a renewal of harvesting activities in the fields and possible increases in sales. However, farmers declare they will patronize the government warehouses before they will take less than three and one-half cents on the open market. "We won't complain about a three and one-half cent market, but we are not going to sell for less than that amount for we can turn to the government," numbers of farmers were quoted as saying yesterday and this morning.

Despite a reported decline in the market during the latter part of last week, some sales were made yesterday at three and one-half cents. It is the general opinion that few sales will be made for less than that price except in those cases where the farmers are being virtually forced to market their peanuts by creditors.

Comparatively few peanuts have been stored in government warehouses at this point to date, but numbers of farmers yesterday and today were making tentative plans to make deliveries within the next few days if the open market continued to hold to the low level.

Legion Auxiliary To Stage Pageant

The Williamston group of the American Legion Auxiliary is sponsoring the following program, a Christmas pageant, to be given on Saturday, December 2, at three o'clock at the Legion Hut, to which the public is invited.

The Holy Birth

Prelude.
Processional, O Come All Ye Faithful.
Scripture, Luke 2:8-14.
Trio, The Lord's Prayer.
Poem, Star of Bethlehem.
Chorus, Holy Night, Silent Night; Hark the Herald Angels Sing.
Enter Shepherds.
Chorus, The First Noel.
Trio, Brahms Lullaby.
Kings Enter.
Chorus, Here's a Song in the Air; O Little Town of Bethlehem.
Recessional, Joy to the World, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. W. C. Manning.

Directed by Mrs. James Ward.
Character in the play are: Chorus, Junior Choirs of Williamston: Bina Jackson, Betsy Anderson, Faye Gurganus, Alberta Swain, Mary Kate Swain, Sammy Taylor, Al Ward, Evelyn Griffin, Kathryn Manning, Marjorie Gray Dunn, Elizabeth Parker, Margaret Starnes, Eliza Daniels, Alberta Knox, Mildred Thomas, Mildred Talley, Francis Griffin, Patsey King and Louise Griffin.
Joseph, Wheeler Manning; Madonna, Mary Ramey; Angels, Elizabeth Ward, Mary Warren, Elizabeth Whitley and Mary Elizabeth Britton; Shepherds, Buddy Wier, Jackie Browder, Charles Manning; Kings, Gordon Bennett, J. B. Taylor, Jr., and Don Johnson.

Young County Man Honor Student At Wake Forest

The name of C. P. Roebuck, Martin County young man, was listed on the mid-semester honor roll released this week by officials of Wake Forest College.

This distinction was attained by only eight per cent of the student body, or about one man out of 12. To make the honor roll a student must have an average of 90 per cent or better in his studies.