

Martin Voters Are Little Interested In State Politics

Preliminary Survey Indicates Broughton Holds Marginal Lead In County

With little activity on the home front, Martin County voters are manifesting little interest in politics these days. Indifference is noticed along the political front, reports stating that the old-time political leaders are talking little and doing less in the interest of the candidates than at any time in recent years.

While there'll be a general distribution of the votes among the six candidates, early reports indicate that J. M. Broughton, Raleigh attorney, is holding an advantage at the present time. Paul Grady, of Kenly, will make a fair showing in some sections of the county, and Lee Gravely will, in all probability, share a fair portion of the vote. The other three candidates, A. J. Maxwell, head of the State Department of Revenue; Tom Cooper, of Wilmington; and W. P. Horton, of Pittsboro, will get a scattering vote according to the present outlook.

But Martin County folks are slow to commit themselves. They are open to more facts, and the strength the candidates poll in the various precincts depends upon a turn of events from now until the primary on May 25.

Cooper's candidacy is not taken very seriously by eighteen men questioned here during the past few days. Maxwell's announced platform to improve the present highway system by the expenditure of fifty million dollars more increasing taxes or floating more bonds is a bit puzzling to some. While none of the group questioned about their political views voiced a strict opposition to Maxwell's candidacy, they did say that it was a bit unfortunate for the head of the state taxing system to go before the people. Horton has no political enemies, but at the same time he has no strong friends in this county to actively support his candidacy.

Broughton made a rather strong impression upon the minds of a large number of voters in this county last spring when he addressed the graduates of the Farm Life and Bear Grass high schools. It was admitted at that time and even before he formally announced his candidacy that he gained a number of votes. Whether he can hold those votes under the cross fire of the campaign remains to be seen.

Even though Willis Smith, Raleigh attorney, definitely decided not to enter the race, the large number of candidates already in the field has tracked attention from the contests for lieutenant-governor, and the names of the several candidates for the secondary office have almost been forgotten.

Locally, the political field continues quiet for the most part, but reports indicate there is something brewing.

Limited to a big scrap within the Democratic family in past years, the primary this year will be shared with the Republicans. So far only one candidate, Dr. Forest Witten, of Salisbury, has dared enter the race. The Salisbury man announced his candidacy for governor on the Republican ticket.

Dr. Witten seeks the G. O. P. nomination on a platform which asks elimination of the State sales tax, lower taxes on automobiles and their operation, revision of election laws, a State referendum on liquor stores, and a civil service law for State employees.

Tax Collections Soar In January

Tax monies flowed into the county treasury in a near-record fashion last month, the collector, Charles B. Roebuck, reported receipts in the amount of \$42,123.07 for the period. The unusually large collections for the month placed the collector nearer his goal this year than he was at the same time in 1939. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company contributed a sizable portion of the amount, but there were quite a few other property owners who squared off their tax accounts to escape the one per cent penalty that went into effect on February 2.

A busy month for the sheriff and his office is reflected in the monthly report submitted by the high officer for last month to commissioners in their regular February meeting last Monday. The report follows:

- Taxes collected, \$42,123.07;
- Warrants served, 3;
- Capias served, 2;
- Subpoenas summoned, 33;
- Civil papers served, 25-116 copies;
- Claim and delivery papers served, 2-6 copies;
- Executions served, 6;
- Ejectment proceedings, 12;
- Investigations, 10;
- Miles traveled, 3 cars, 3,794;
- Beer destroyed, 5250 gallons;
- Stills destroyed (complete), 9;
- Stills destroyed (partial), 4;
- Number of arrests by enforcement officer, 2;
- Number of convictions by enforcement officer, 4;
- Number of arrests on county jail record, 99.

Schools, Closed For Several Days, Are Reopened in County

Closed on account of the bad road conditions, several of the ten county white schools are reopening tomorrow following a seven-day holiday. One of the schools, Bear Grass, closed since last Wednesday reopened today, reports reaching here stating that attendance figures were nearly up to normal and that the bus schedules were maintained with one or two exceptions. One bus in the Bear Grass district was forced to run around several places in the road that were impassable, but with favorable weather during the next day or two a normal operating schedule can be maintained here.

The Farm Life, Oak City, Hassell and Jamesville schools will reopen tomorrow. However, normal operating schedules throughout these districts will hardly be possible during

the next several days. In the five white schools, Williamston, Everetts, Robersonville, Gold Point and Hamilton, where schedules were maintained despite the bad condition of the roads, attendance figures have been near normal. Bus schedules have been maintained in the districts with difficulty, however.

Commenting on the road conditions, school authorities stated that in every way possible to keep the routes open to traffic, that special forces had been assigned to repair places where traffic bogged down.

While several schools in the county have lost no more than one day on account of weather and road conditions, other have been idle for as many as eight days in recent weeks.

Sanitation Here Is in Deplorable Condition

First Application For Seed and Feed Loans Is Received

The seed-feed loan office—the poor farmer's lending agency—opened in the agricultural building last Saturday. W. B. Watts, the manager, handling six applications the first day. During the next few weeks the office will be open each week and farmers planning to float loans with the agency are directed to file their applications without delay.

Designed mainly to make available credit to those farmers who are unable to get credit elsewhere, the seed-feed loan agency advanced approximately \$16,511 to farmers in this county last year. It is possible the number of applications will be increased this year.

Offer Suggestions For the Profitable Growing Of Cotton

Martin Farmers Are Planning To Increase Acreage This Year

Planting considerably below their allotment during the past few years Martin farmers are planning to advance their cotton acreage up to a point near the 1940 allotment. Coker's, down in South Carolina, just recently released some valuable suggestions for growing cotton profitably under soil weevil conditions.

The suggestions and recommendations follow:

1. Select your most fertile, warmest, and best drained soil that experience has shown will grow cotton off fastest after it comes up.
2. Indications from more than 5,000 South Carolina Five-Acre Contest records show that the highest yields are made from narrow rows, the width depending upon soil types and varieties.
3. Use liberal amounts of a well balanced fertilizer under cotton and side-dress with additional amounts of ammonia and potash. This should be adjusted to suit soil and weather conditions.
4. Follow fertilizer distributor with a small plow to thoroughly mix fertilizer with soil.
5. Use a variety that fruits early and produces a good staple. If soil is infested with wilt by all means plant a suitable wilt resistant variety.
6. Use plenty of seed of known vitality and treat with Ceresan before planting. You cannot make a crop unless you get a good stand. Plant as early as conditions and experience warrant.
7. Where drop seed planter is used leave 2- to 3 stalks per hill. When drilled, leave an average of 2 stalks.

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FARM FORUM

Attracting increased interest, the weekly farm bureau forums in the county agricultural building are now recognized as a permanent feature in an improved farming program for Martin farmers.

Despite unfavorable road conditions, a fair attendance was reported at the meeting last week, and more farmers are expected for the session Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Last week the farmers heard an interesting discussion on several important farm topics, and while no fixed program has been announced for the meeting this week it is certain that the farmers will find the discussions interesting and valuable.

Less Than Half Of Homes Have Water-Sewer Connections

Conditions Will Be Discussed At Special Meeting of Commissioners

Possible additions to Williamston's badly out-grown water and sewer systems will be considered at a special meeting of the town commissioners here this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Local and State Board of Health representatives, private and Works Progress Administration engineers are scheduled to meet with the commissioners for a discussion of the system which, in its final analysis, is deplorable.

While the meeting tonight is expected to consider present and future demands of the town's water-sewer systems, the health authorities will offer a review of the town's sanitation.

Exact cost figures for extending the water and sewer lines are not available, but they will be based on a survey made about four years ago. Just what can be done to relieve the existing conditions remain to be seen.

For several years town authorities have recognized the need for an added water supply, paying no great attention to the urgent need for an expanded sewer system. A recent survey by the health department presents a problem possibly as baffling within itself as the dwindling water supply offers.

The glaring feature of the health department survey centers on outdoor privies. There are 415 of them within the incorporated limits of the town, the report adding that possibly 300 of the number will pass crude sanitary requirements. The others range from a boarded box without top to a one-sided structure in a fence corner.

Another glaring feature of the report and one that can be recognized as a black mark against the town and the health department is the large number of homes and business houses where water and sewer lines are available and yet no connections have been made. It is possible to add 77 connections without extending either the water or sewer lines, the report points out.

According to town records there are now around 530 water and sewer connections in the system, but not all of that number have sewer connections. It is evident from the figures carried in the report that hardly 50 per cent of the homes and business houses are served by the system.

It is estimated that nearly 13,300 feet of sewage disposal lines are necessary before a 100 per cent effective system can be effected. It is possible that one-half or two-thirds of that footage could be laid in certain sections so as to increase the facilities to more than 300 potential customers.

Farm Loan Group to Hold Meeting Here

Members of the Williamston National Farm Loan Association will hold their annual meeting on Thursday morning, February 15, at ten o'clock in the agricultural building in Williamston, it was announced by Mr. Thomas B. Slade, Jr., president.

At this meeting complete and detailed reports of the association's operations for the past year will be made by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. W. G. Stancill, and the other officers. The meeting will also provide the members with an opportunity to elect two directors for the ensuing year.

Presiding at the meeting will be Mr. Slade, who is also a member of the board of directors. Other members of the board are Messrs. C. L. Daniels, W. A. Manning, G. W. Taylor and D. O. Bowen.

Mr. Slade said that it was hoped that every member of the association would be present at the annual meeting.

Several Are Hurt In Series Of Auto Wrecks In County

Child Not Badly Hurt In Fall From Fast-Running Car Sunday

Several persons were hurt but none seriously in a series of highway accidents reported in this county Sunday evening and night. Two of the accidents were reported in this vicinity, one near Dardens. Two or three days earlier little John Curtis Roberson suffered a broken thigh when he darted into the path of a car on Grimes Street in Robersonville. The child is getting along very well.

After a fairly long period of little activity, Patrolman Whit Saunders was called to work early last Sunday evening when Aaron Biggs, Dardens colored man, was said to have imbibed too freely of the spirits and toppled out of his buggy on the highway near his home. As far as it could be learned he was not badly hurt.

Little Sara Everett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Everett, narrowly escaped with her life when she accidentally opened the car door and fell to the highway while the machine was running around 45 miles an hour. It is thought she held on to the door for a second or two for when Mr. Everett stopped the car she was found lying beside it. About four years old, the little girl was wearing a snow suit and cap, reports stating that they were ripped to pieces. Removed to the hos-

pital here, she was found to have suffered no broken bones but her little body was painfully bruised and badly skinned in a number of places.

Late that night the cars of A. Batchelor, local mechanic, and of Nathaniel Boston, colored farmer of Bear Grass, crashed on U. S. Highway 17 near the Old Mill Inn. Several were bruised and scratched but none was badly hurt. The three-months-old daughter of the Boston was thrown out of the car to the ground about 12 or 15 feet away, but no bones were broken. The left front wheel on each car was knocked under the bodies and the left side of the Boston car was badly torn.

Boston, traveling toward Washington with his wife, Geneva, and four children, stated that he had driven partly off the hard surface when the other car plowed into him at a rapid speed. The car, an old model Pontiac, driven by Batchelor, swerved after striking the Ford and turned over two or three times. The Ford was knocked partly around and down a six-foot embankment.

Both machines were wrecked beyond repair, unofficial estimates placing the damage at \$250.

Foreign Tobacco Outlook Brighter

Reliable reports coming from Washington during the past few days indicate that the foreign outlook for Bright Belt tobacco is more encouraging. While there is no definite assurance that Great Britain will lift the embargo recently announced, reports from the State Department clearly indicate that "substantial progress is being made in the negotiations with Great Britain relative to the embargo on tobacco imports."

Secretary Hull today expressed himself as well satisfied with the progress thus far made in a situation that appeared all but hopeless a few days ago. For one thing Great Britain is beginning to feel the loss of import duties, which leads to the hope that the restrictions will be removed or greatly modified.

Claude T. Hall, Wooddale, N. C., chairman of the flue-cured tobacco advisory committee, conferred with agriculture department officials, and Representative Cooley, relative to changes which flue-cured growers hope will be made in the tobacco law, placing production control among other things on a three-year basis. Hall said:

"Due to the drastic cut in tobacco acreage this year (as a result of overproduction last year and the recent embargo on tobacco to England) some growers are tempted to take a chance on overplanting their allotted acreage. I am taking this occasion to warn and advise the growers (for their own good) of three outstanding detrimental results of overplanting."

"1. Every acre will be carefully checked for overplanting and if found the grower will pay a 10-cent per pound penalty for the excess."

"2. If he overplants he loses his benefit payment. This added to his penalty plus fertilizer and labor will run his cost beyond the price that is now in prospect for the next crop of tobacco."

"3. It will add greatly to the now very great surplus hanging over the market, which in turn will keep our market down and will necessitate downward further adjustments of acreage and production."

Firemen Are Called Out Here Yesterday Afternoon

Local volunteer firemen were called out at 12:45 yesterday afternoon when a grass and broom straw fire, swept by a strong wind, threatened west fences and out-buildings just off West Main Street. No damage was done.

Series of Robberies Reported in County

Goods Valued At About \$600 Stolen Last Friday Night

Attempt To Open Safe of the Chas. H. Jenkins Company Here Fails

Robbers and prowlers were active in this county last week-end when two business houses and a private home were entered.

A sizable haul was made in the Johnson-Matthews store at Hamilton some time during last Friday night or early Saturday morning. Mr. Henry Johnson, operator, stating that goods valued at about \$600 were stolen. The robbers, using an iron crowbar, tore open the front door of the store. Once inside they showed no favorite merchandise selections, but the raids were heavy on cigars, ettes, cigars and snuff. Unable to list all the items, Mr. Johnson told Sheriff C. B. Roebuck that the following list is missing, four automobile tires, twelve pairs of shoes, 25 cartons of cigarettes, three cases of smoking tobacco, six boxes of cigars, a case of three dozen pocket knives, ten boxes of penny candy, five dozen flashlight batteries and five flash-

lights, two cases of stuff, a box of gambells, four lanterns, six horse collars, six boxes of chewing gum, a quantity of matches, ladies' underwear, men's pants and three lumber-jackets.

No attempt to rob the safe or tear open the money drawers was reported. The robbery was not discovered until early Saturday morning when the owner started to open the doors for regular business.

Called early Saturday morning, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck has been working night and day on the case since that time. No definite clue has been established, but the officer is of the opinion that it was not a local job. Two suspicious characters, driving a New York car, were seen in Hamilton during the week, and they were reported to have bought gasoline in Oak City on the night of the robbery.

Early last Friday night while the family was out, a prowler entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sam Getsinger on South Haughton Street here. He cut through the back screen door, but retreated to a window when he found the back door locked. Tearing a hole in the window screen, he entered the kitchen, lowered all the window shades and turned off the ice box. A jar of preserves, some bread and a ham bone were missed

the following morning. The intruder took and carried away the back door key, Mr. Getsinger stating that probably the man found so little to eat that he was going to make another trip and bring some groceries with him. No other articles were missing from the home, and it is thought that the intruder limited his activities to the kitchen.

Late last Saturday night a robber forced an entrance through a window in the Chas. H. Jenkins garage building on Washington Street and centered his attention on the iron safe. He succeeded in tearing off the door handle, but he was unable to pry the door open. Albert Wilson, a colored man, was passing the building and happened to see the man. Police were notified but before they could reach the building the man had escaped. Tools, gathered from nearly every part of the garage, were found scattered around the safe. Officers, working on the case, are hopeful a clue can be established through fingerprints.

The robbery situation in the county last week-end was aggravated last night when someone tore into and robbed a filling station in Oak City. Few details could be had in connection with the latest robbery, but first reports indicated that the robbers centered their attention on cigarettes and the coin box in a slot machine.

Sheriff Roebuck has already contacted officers in several counties in an effort to run down the robbers and check the little crime wave.

Rural Home Burned Early Last Evening

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the home of Plum Williams, respected colored farmer, near here on the Washington Road early last night. Williams brought his wife here for medical attention and was in a doctor's office when the fire started. No other members of the family were at home and the fire burned unchecked, destroying every piece of furniture.

Williams stated that he had no idea how the fire started. Asked if he thought it started from a stove, he said that he did not know.

Estimating his loss at about \$4,000, Williams stated that he carried only \$1,500 insurance on the large two-story home.

Attracted by the bright light, quite a number of local people went to the fire, but all they could do was stand by and watch the structure go up in smoke.

The Record Speaks . . .

Martin County barely missed the gruesome task of counting the dead of its highways last week when several drivers broke into the accident column in a big way. Seven persons were injured in four accidents, but fortunately the victims escaped with their lives. Children, ranging in age from three months to four years, were thrown, rolled and knocked around, but the most serious injury was a broken thigh.

To date, Martin County motorists have no deaths charged to them. Surely the events of last week should be sufficient warning to apply the rules of safety first.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Sixth Week Comparison			Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge		
1940	1939	1938	1940	1939	1938
4	7	0	\$250	0	50
14	13	0	\$1325	0	650
1	3	0			

Comparison To Date

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Trade Agreements Are Made Political Issue By Congress

By mutual consent of both parties, the heavy political oratory is expected to center on reciprocal trade agreements at this session of Congress. A continuous and heavy drum-barrage is expected to continue throughout this pre-election session, to be interrupted only if farm pressure for the income certificate plan or for other changes in present programs forces a revision of plans.

The farmers of the United States get 93 per cent of their income from the domestic market and only 7 per cent from the world market. Yet, paradoxically enough, Congress is now devoting 93 per cent or more of its farm oratory to reciprocal trade agreements and 7 per cent or less to domestic problems.

The Republican chieftains are still unable to formulate an agricultural program, though four separate committees have been working on this task. In the Democratic camp, Wallace has endorsed the income certificate plan, originated and developed by the National Farmers Union, but the rest of the party's high command has yet to reach a decision.

Comparison of U. S. exports to Trade Agreement countries and other countries follows (in millions of dollars):

	Aver. 1934-35	Aver. 1938-39
T. A. Countries	\$ 694	\$1,114
Other Countries	897	1,162

Totals \$2,011 \$2,818
—December, 1939 not yet available; hence all figures are for first 11 months of each year.

A glance at the figures on foreign trade shows the complete absence of any basis for statements charging the trade agreements with ruining our foreign trade. Moreover, no factual basis can be found for the charge that the trade agreements have caused a flood of farm imports.

After the drought of 1936, our farm imports continued to decline and are now down to the level which prevailed in 1934 and 1935 before the trade agreements program had got underway.

Despite the charge that heavy cattle imports have resulted from the agreements, a check-up shows that cattle imports amount to only one per cent of our annual slaughter.

In fact, they cannot amount to more than 1-2 per cent of the U. S. domestic slaughter since a quota is placed on the number admissible.

Return to "Log-Rolling"
No evidence has been attempted by any Congressional debater to show that the earlier log-rolling

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LATE CROP

A late tobacco crop is being predicted in this county by farmers who point out that the delayed planting of seed beds is subject to check-transplanting until after the middle of May, as a whole.

Idle on account of unfavorable weather and frozen grass, Martin farmers are now rapidly preparing their tobacco seed beds, reports stating that a large percentage of the beds will have been planted by the end of this week, weather conditions permitting.

Number Of Prizes Will Be Offered At Bridge Tourney

Event Will Be Held in the Woman's Club Hall Here Tomorrow Night

By MRS. J. B. TAYLOR

The Williamston merchants have cooperated splendidly with the Parent-Teacher Association in preparing for the bridge tournament to be held at the Woman's Club tomorrow evening. The various prizes donated will make it profitable as well as enjoyable for both men and women to attend.

Play will begin promptly at 8:30 o'clock. Players will be furnished cards, tallies and other necessary facilities. Tickets may be secured in advance from Mrs. J. B. Taylor at twenty-five cents per person, or they may be purchased at the door Wednesday night. Proceeds will be used for general improvement of the lunchrooms, not merely for free lunches.

The ticket committee is as follows: Mrs. John Ward, Miss Mildred Taylor, Miss Nancy Glover, Mrs. J. Sam Getsinger, Miss Ruth Ward, Mrs. W. K. Parker, Mrs. John Ward, Mrs. J. D. Wooldard, Miss Mary Benson, Miss Kathryn McWhorter, Miss Dorcas Knowles, Mrs. Charlie Godwin, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, Mrs. Daisy Pope.

The following contributions have been made: First prize, a three-way floor lamp; Taylor Electric Co., electric percolator; Economy Auto Supply Co., electric iron; Pelee's Jewelry, one china vase; Davis Pharmacy, one bowl of candy; Barnhill Bros., one five-piece bridge set; Wooldard Hardware, one pyrex dish; Wooldard Furniture, one card table; Soda Shop, one box candy; Clark's Drug Store, one box of bath powder; Western Auto, one steering wheel cover; Margolis Bros., one guest towel; Israel's, six men's handkerchiefs; M. and W. Grocery, carton of cigarettes; Darden's Dept. Store, one-half dozen Maderia napkins; B. F. Perry, one bath mat; Williamson Hardware, one pyrex dish; Farmers Supply Co., water pitcher and eight glasses; Pender's, five pounds sugar; J. C. Leggett, one bottle toilet water; Bargain Place, one necktie; Pittman's Cleaners, one necktie; P. P. Peeler, one tube of toothpaste; Ann's Variety, one chair set; Belk-Tyler's, one pair pillow cases; Modern Beauty Parlor, one finger wave and shampoo; Carolina Beauty Parlor, one finger wave and shampoo; Edgewood Dairy, Milk \$1.00; Red's Service Station, 5 gallons gas; Welcome Inn, good for one meal; Roanoke Chevrolet Co., Inc., one lubrication; City Market, four pounds beef roast; Sinclair Service Station, washing and greasing; Willard's Shoe Shop, \$1.00 in work; George Reynolds Hotel, one 50c meal; Central Cafe, one 50c meal; City Beauty Parlor, shampoo and finger wave; Marco Esso Service, five gallons of Esso gas; Central Service Station, one washing and greasing; Texas Service Station, one washing and greasing; Larry's Laundry, \$1.50 in laundry; Williamson Beauty Parlor, one finger wave; Pickwick, \$1.00 billiards; Moore Grocery, \$1.00 in trade; Martin Supply Co., 1 copper tea kettle; B. S. Courtney, two boudoir lamps; Woman's Club, use of the building; Enterprise, year's subscription; and Mrs. Kate York, flowers.

Ministers Perfect Local Association

Meeting in the Baptist church yesterday morning, the several local ministers perfected the Williamston Ministerial Association with Rev. John L. Goff, Christian minister, as its president. Rev. S. J. Starnes, pastor of the Methodist church, was elected vice president, and Rev. John W. Hardy, Episcopal church rector, was made secretary and treasurer.

Scheduled to hold regular monthly meetings on each first Monday their association will discuss various religious plans and work for a closer coordination in the advancement of religious activities.

At the meeting yesterday, the ministers were assigned a schedule for conducting the religious exercises in the local schools during the remainder of the term, and the commencement speaker was chosen by the ministerial group will submit to Enterprise readers a weekly religious column, each minister handling a monthly assignment.

Plans were tentatively advanced for a concerted program of religious activities during Holy Week, the group announcing that noon-day services would be held at some central point during the period.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. J. H. Smith and was closed with a prayer by Rev. S. J. Starnes.

Little Damage Results In Main Street Wreck Here

No one was hurt and very little damage resulted early last evening when a New York car bumped into Jim Manning's Pontiac on East Main Street. Jim stopped to pick up two hitch-hikers, and the New Yorker, sailing through at a fairly rapid clip, bumped into the rear of his car. Damage to the New York car was estimated at \$10.