

Officials Will Ask Revocation of Beer License Here Soon

Open Season For Brutal Attacks Reported Last Sunday

Ranking next to public nuisance No. 1, the colored beer garden operated on Washington Street by Watts and Andrew Brown (not Andy) is subject to lose its license to retail beer at the next meeting of the Martin County Commissioners, Mayor J. L. Hassell said last evening following a session of his court. Action to have the license rescinded was recommended by the Martin County grand jury for March, but the suspension order was delayed for some reason or other.

Definite steps to clean up the garden were being seriously considered today following a repeated disturbance at the gathering place for the colored population's elite beer drinkers and liquor sippers. Mayor Hassell proposes to appear before the board in person and ask that the license be rescinded.

Sunday was open season for brutal attacks among the colored population here. The first engagement was reported some time after Saturday midnight. Using a brick but apparently to save his fist, King Stator bricked Hattie Rascoe unmercifully. Repeated licks tore sizable gashes in her head and necessitated five dollars worth of medical sewing. The victim is unable to be up and a preliminary hearing has not been scheduled. The attack was reported at the woman's home down the river hill.

Bud Freeman, young colored man, invaded Brown's beer garden early Sunday evening carrying a heavy load of liquor inside and malice in his head. He directed a hefty swing at Phillip Thompson's head but the little fellow ducked to safety and the blow landed in Mattie Brown's face. A second swing met Thompson's eye and he went down. Freeman left the garden before officers could reach the scene. Returning later that night, Freeman effectively used a knife on the face of a colored woman recently from Bertie. The victims of the two attacks did not report to prosecute the case at a hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell last night, and Freeman was faced only with a charge of public drunkenness. He was fined and required to pay \$5.50, costs of handling the case.

Roberson Store Is Robbed Saturday

Gaining an entrance through a window, a robber stole approximately \$72 in cash from the Raymond Roberson grocery store on South Harrell Street here last Saturday night about 10 o'clock. No articles were missed from the stock.

Mrs. Roberson who keeps the small store in a corner of the yard, had locked the door and gone into the home for a few minutes. When she returned she discovered the theft.

John Lee Hadley, colored man who was said to have been hanging around the store, was arrested later that night in connection with the theft. He had about \$24 on his person, but he claimed he had won that amount in a "crap" game. Officers, after investigating the case, released him yesterday morning and advised him to leave town. "It is possible he robbed the little store, but we could not get ample proof for a conviction in the case," Officer J. H. Allsbrooks said.

Hadley is the same Negro who robbed B. F. Perry's store here fourteen months ago. He was sentenced to prison to serve a five-year sentence. Two years ago he was arrested in connection with a small theft in Moore's grocery, but he was released when officers were unable to obtain enough evidence to warrant a conviction. He had not been seen here since that time until about two weeks ago.

Farm Life Pupils Make Field Trip

Accompanied by their teacher, Principal Russell Martin, members of the Farm Life eighth grade civics class supplemented their book learning by visiting public offices, the superior court, radio station and a few other places of interest here yesterday. Starting out early, the professor and his ten pupils, all of them girls, did not stop for lunch. They found the activities in the courthouse, health department, radio station and printing office quite interesting.

The names of those making the trip: Misses Hazel Martin, Thelma Griffin, Dorothy Roberson, Nannie Roberson, Mildred Lilley, Josephine Hardison, Reba Faye Griffin, Georgia Dean Roberson, Evelyn Hardison and Elsie B. Lilley.

Escapes Unhurt In Auto Accident Last Sunday

George Revels, young county white man, escaped uninjured last Sunday afternoon when his car went out of control on a curve and turned over. He was driving near the home of Elder and Mrs. Stone in Griffins Township. Damage to the car was estimated at \$300.

No Great Crop Damage Is Done By Freeze Here Last Saturday

Freezing temperatures accompanied by hail, sleet and snow did no great damage to early field and garden crops in this immediate section last Saturday morning, according to a hurried survey made Sunday and yesterday among a large number of farmers. It was generally agreed, however, that tobacco transplanting already scheduled from two to three weeks behind a normal season would be further delayed as a result of the cold spell. Just now the tobacco outlook is not at all encouraging. Even with normal weather during the next few weeks and with no blue mold to interrupt them, tobacco farmers could hardly expect to start the transplanting task before the 10th or 15th of May. Blue mold has already been reported in the county, but the extent of the damage has not yet been determined.

"A few apples and peaches might drop off as a result of the freeze, but we don't believe the cold spell caused any great damage to our crops," Farmer Getsinger said. "Our bunch beans were slightly damaged, but our Irish potatoes escaped unhurt," Farmer Mayo Hardison said. Farmer V. G. Taylor is of the opinion that advanced Irish potatoes were damaged. In most cases the crop is hardly through the ground and no damage resulted. The 25 per cent of the crop above the ground is not believed greatly damaged, however. Corn is still under cover, and peanuts will not be planted before the latter part of next week.

Reports from other sections and states indicate that the crop damage will run into several millions of dollars as a result of the cold weather last week.

Superior Court Hears Lone Case and Quits

LAST MEETING

Members of the Williamston Parent-Teacher association will hold their last meeting of the current school term in the grammar grade building tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. With the election of officers for next term scheduled, the meeting tomorrow is recognized as one of the most important of the year. The fifth grade will offer a short entertainment program, and all members and other patrons of the school are urged to attend.

Belligerents Make Conflicting Claims

The status of Germany's invasion of Norway remained uncertain for the most part today as conflicting claims were heard from the belligerents. Germany while admitting that the Allies were moving troop transports to Narvik, insisted today that she still held forth at the seaport town. The Allies had maintained that they had taken the iron ore territory, and advised Norway that a huge expeditionary force was moving rapidly to her rescue.

Rumania was said to have cut off all shipments to Germany, but another report stated that guards had been placed along the Danube to guard against sabotage of German shipping on the stream.

Belgian and other small neutrals are not making any outward movement to sign up with the Allies, but are still insisting they planned to remain neutral.

Italy, in local demonstrations, is said to have voiced opposition against the Allies.

France said today that one-third of the entire German fleet had been destroyed, and that another big naval battle was in progress in the North Sea. The Royal Air force was said to have successfully attacked Norway airports held by Germans this morning.

Germany today issued a note warning the United States not to meddle in the European affairs.

As the war gained momentum in Europe, Congress today proposed to increase armament appropriations.

Extending Electric Line Into Bear Grass Township

The Virginia Electric and Power Company is adding three and one-half miles to its rural electrification system in Bear Grass Township this week. Starting at Bear Grass, the line will follow the surfaced road to the G. A. Peel home, turning at that point and continuing to the Malone home. The new addition will serve about a dozen customers, and is to be energized some time tomorrow.

Freakish Weather Sends Snow - Sleet Here Last Friday

Ole Man Winter, blowing a last breath, unbundled some freakish weather here and throughout the section last Friday night when rain, snow and sleet fell during the greater part of an hour. Starting about 10:30 that night, snow and sleet fell in quantities or until the ground and buildings were covered in spots. The mercury dropped well into the high twenties, and there were numerous signs of snow and ice the following morning well after sunrise.

It was one of the few times that snow has fallen that late in spring in this section.

More than one inch of rain fell here during Friday afternoon and night.

Weather Effects A Decrease In Church Attendance Sunday

Less Than One Out of Six On Church Roll Present In Some Cases

REV. JOHN HARDY, Rector, Church of the Advent

With the return of winter last week end the people of Williamston did not attend church in as large numbers as they did on the previous Sunday. The Presbyterians and the members of the Christian Church showed some gain in percentage but their attendance was not as great. This was caused by not having the number of membership last week and the estimation was too high. The attendance at Sunday school is still far ahead of the church attendance.

The Holiness Church is still far in the lead in percentage of Church attendance.

	Total Attendance			
	S.S.	Y.P.	A.M.	P.M.
Baptist	113	30	101	52
Methodist	92	29	81	40
Christian	138	10	135	51
Holiness	104	7	70	69
Presbyterian	27	35		
Episcopal	15	51		
Totals	489	69	473	212

The tabulation below shows the total membership of the Sunday Schools and percentage of attendance in the first and second columns respectively, and the total church memberships and percentage of attendance for the morning and evening services in columns three, four and five respectively.

	Sunday School		Church	
	Members	Present	Members	Present
Baptist	200	57	308	33
Methodist	166	56	280	31
Christian	162	85	224	60
Holiness	154	67	58	121
Presbyterian	33	82	38	92
Episcopal	25	60	143	36

Young People Hold Jamesville Meeting

The Young People's Interdenominational League of Martin County held its regular quarterly meeting in the Jamesville Christian Church Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with Mary E. Keel, president, presiding over the group.

Rev. Jack Vinson, of the Bear Grass Presbyterian Church, gave an inspiring address on the topic, "Why I Must Go Back to China." The message was a great inspiration and challenge to the young people of the county. Rev. Vinson was born in China and spent his early childhood there, and hopes to return as a missionary some time this fall. Special music was rendered by Mrs. Rossell Rogers and Mrs. E. D. Harris, and Mrs. Herman Rogerson accompanied them at the piano.

During the business session, the following officers were elected, president, Mary Elizabeth Keel, re-elected; vice president, Mildred Hardison, secretary, Patsy King, and treasurer, Charlie Harrison, re-elected. The two officers re-elected will serve until October, 1940, but the secretary and vice president will serve for a term of two years.

It was voted that the next meeting will be held in the Williamston Baptist Church on the third Sunday in July, 1940.

There was a group of 81 registered by Misses Patsy King and Annie Mae Bailey. This was the beginning of a new year for the county league and more churches were represented than at any previous meetings.

Candidates Naming Managers In County

Increased interest in the race of at least three candidates for governor is expected in this county with the announcement this week of three local managers.

Interest in the candidacy of L. Lee Gravelly, this immediate section's candidate, was boosted to a high point when Mr. Iversen Skinner was announced to manage Mr. Gravelly's campaign in Martin County.

Howard Earp has been named to head the Wilkins P. Horton forces in this county.

Elbert S. Peel has agreed to serve as field manager for J. M. Broughton in this and a few adjoining counties.

As far as it could be learned none of the other candidates has announced managerial appointments in this county.

Young Democrats To Hold Rally Next Monday Night

Young Democrats of this district will hold a big rally in Greenville next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock in the armory under the Jeffersonian banner. H. G. Horton, head of the youngsters in this county, announced today. The rally was first scheduled to be held on Friday of this week, but was postponed that day because of the election of Senator Josh Lee, of Oklahoma, might attend and address the rally.

Mr. Horton has a number of tickets for sale, and all young Democrats in the county are invited to attend the rally.

Martin Voters To Decide Seven County And District Political Contests In Primary on May 25

Warehouse Stockholders Will Hold Second Meeting Shortly

Receiving a call for the first time in several years, stockholders failed to attend a meeting of the Planters Warehouse Company in the county courthouse here last Friday afternoon. With only a minority of the stock represented, no official action was taken at the scheduled session, but the group of about half a dozen stockholders agreed to have the officers call another meeting within the near future. After discussing various matters in connection with the warehouse ownership and its operation, the small group branched off to the subject of politics. The conversation was not official, and no records were entered on the books.

Built at a cost of approximately \$20,000, the warehouse is now free of debt with the exception of a \$2,500 mortgage granted by the officers to repair damage caused by the heavy snows in the winter of 1935-1936.

According to unofficial reports there is a movement underway to offer the property for sale. No price figures have been mentioned, and no action can be taken officially until a majority of the stock is represented at an announced meeting. It is understood that the officers plan to schedule a second meeting as soon as possible.

Might Lose Fund For Improvement to River

Rights Of Way Have Not Been Provided, Warren Points Out

Contract For \$323,000 Project Has Been Pending Since First of Year

Representative Lindsay Warren stated today that there was eminent danger of an allocation of \$323,000 which he secured nearly two years ago for the improvement of Roanoke River, being withdrawn. All waterway projects in the nation require local interests to furnish free of cost to the United States necessary rights of way and suitable disposal areas for the dredged material. The Secretary of War has been ready to let the contract for Roanoke River since January 1st and it has been held up because the rights of way have not been provided.

The project was approved by Congress two years ago after it had been under investigation by the Army Engineers for several years. It provides for a channel 12 feet deep and 150 feet wide from Albemarle Sound to a point about one mile west of Plymouth and then for a channel 10 feet deep and 100 feet wide beyond Williamston to Hamilton, and then for a channel 8 feet deep and 80 feet wide from Hamilton to Palmyra. The project has been much desired by business interests and farmers and will undoubtedly aid the flood situation on the Roanoke. Mr. Warren said today that if the project was to be saved immediate action on the part of the local interests was necessary. He said that he had been assured by George H. Harrison of Williamston, and Zeb Vance Norman, of Plymouth, they would do all possible to aid in the matter.

Mrs. Kelly Lewis Died Last Friday

Mrs. Tracey Emma Lewis died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Ambrose, near Oak City, last Friday night at 10:30 o'clock. Mrs. Lewis, wife of Kelly Lewis, retired in her usual health that evening about 9 o'clock. Within an hour she got up and told members of the family that she was not feeling well and before a doctor could reach her she died while sitting in a chair of an heart attack.

Mrs. Lewis was born in Edgecombe County 49 years ago. She married 31 years ago and lived in Edgecombe until about five years ago when the family moved to Pitt County. Since about the first of January of this year she had made her home with her daughter in this county near Oak City. She was the daughter of the late Mack and Annie Owens, of Edgecombe County.

Besides her husband she is survived by the following children: Miss Daisy Lewis, Mrs. Wiley T. Webb and Miss Beulah Macclesfield, all of Macclesfield; Mrs. W. E. Ambrose and Miss Gladys Lewis both of Oak City; Mrs. B. F. Griffin, of Conetoe; Robert Lewis, of Tarboro, and Thad Lewis of Fort Davis, of Panama Canal Zone. She also leaves two brothers, Tommie Owens, of Fountain, and Rufus Owens, of Macclesfield.

She was a member of the Forbes Free Will Baptist Church in Edgecombe County for a long number of years, and was held in high esteem there and in her adopted communities. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Elder W. E. Grimes, Primitive Baptist minister of this county. Interment was in the Owens family cemetery near Macclesfield.

Thirty Persons File Before Deadline on Saturday, April 13

Twenty-one Names To Appear On Martin County Ballot

The filing time deadline last Saturday evening at 6 o'clock ended the suspense for six candidates but marked the official opening of seven district, county and township political contests in Martin County. Late entries boosted the number of contests in the district, county and township to seven with six of them claiming a major part of the attention ordinarily given political campaigns by the electorate.

Apparently unnoticed until the latter part of last week, the office of judge of the county recorder's court received dual consideration and openings on the Martin County Board of Education bobbed up as the main centers of interest right at the last minute. A race for commissioner in the Robersonville-Cross Roads district was developed within about an hour of filing time when the name of a second candidate was entered on the books. Other high spots in the last-minute filing activities were the official entries of candidacies for township constable in Williamston and Jamesville Townships.

According to an official report released yesterday by Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections, twenty-eight persons got their names on the candidates' entry book under the rules and regulations controlling the filing of candidacies.

Two others will be picked up from Hyde and Dare Counties to round out a three-cornered race for the two senate seats from this district. However, thirty names will not appear on the county ballot as candidates for several offices will be declared the party nominees since no opposition was offered their candidacies. The names of two other candidates will appear only on a township ticket, leaving twenty-one names on the County Democratic ticket to be placed before the voters of the county.

The line-up of contests follows: For State Senate, Second Senatorial District, composed of the counties of Pamlico, Hyde, Tyrrell, Dare, Washington, Beaufort and Martin; Hugh G. Horton, of Williamston; P. G. Gallop, of Swan Quarter; and D. B. Fearing, of Manteo. The candidacies of Messrs. Gallop and Fearing have not been certified to the chairman of the board in this county by the chairmen of the board in the counties of Hyde and Dare, but official reports state that the two men had met the filing regulations. Mr. Horton's candidacy is being certified to the election chairmen in the six other counties today, and the names of the three men will appear on the ballots in the seven counties in the district.

For Martin County Treasurer: Warren H. Biggs, H. M. Burras, John R. Peel, Ben Courtney, R. H. (Dick) Smith.

For Judge Martin County Recorder's Court: H. O. Peel and W. H. Coburn.

For County Commissioners: Joshua L. Coltrane and C. C. Fleming, Jamesville-Williams District; C. A. Roberson and V. G. Taylor, Robersonville District.

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Badly Injured In Accident Sunday

Hubert Smith, local State Highway Patrol mechanic, was dangerously hurt last Sunday afternoon when his foot slipped and was torn by a set screw in a boat crankshaft. Torn in two places, his foot was sewed up by a Plymouth doctor and the young man is getting along very well at this time. If the injuries do not get infected, he is expected to recover completely.

Smith with several other members of the local fire company were towing a house boat from Cashie River through the thoroughfare, near Plymouth, when he started to refuel the engine. The set screw in the crankshaft caught and tore the legs of the man's overalls and trousers off above the knee just as smooth and even as though they had been cut by a tailor's scissors. His shoe, ripped in several places, was torn from his foot, the set screws tearing his left foot in two places, one on the instep and the other near the heel.

A rope was tied around his leg to stop the blood and he was carried to the Plymouth doctor in about twenty minutes, returning to his home near here later that afternoon. The house boat was cut loose when the man hurt his foot. Purchasing the boat a few days ago, members of the local fire company plan to tow it in some time during the next few days.

SHARE EXPENSE

Candidates for public offices in this county are sharing part of the cost of registering the people and holding the elections, a preliminary report from the election board chairman stating that the office aspirants have already contributed a total of \$173.60 in the form of filing fees.

Fees were assessed at the rate of 1 per cent of the annual salary with a \$5 minimum fee. Rates were as follows: county commissioner, \$5; county solicitor, \$7.80; county judge, \$8.40; board of education, \$5; senate, \$6; house, \$6; register of deeds, \$24; treasurer, \$5; county surveyor, \$5; constable, \$5.

Williamston Native Passes In Norfolk

Sam Gurganus, member of a well-known and prominent Martin County family, died suddenly last Saturday noon in Norfolk. Suffering an heart attack last Tuesday night he entered a Norfolk hospital and was able to be out the following day. Last Saturday he was busy in his store when he suffered a second attack and died before he could be carried to a hospital.

The son of the late Eli and Sarah Mobley Gurganus, he was born in Williamston 52 years ago. He served in the army during the World War and married Miss Lucille Sharpe, of Greensboro, who survives with two children, Edna Earl and David Worth Gurganus. Following his service in the war he never returned here to make his home, but located in Richmond where he lived until about twelve years ago he and his family moved to Norfolk to make their home. Since leaving Williamston he spent a short time in the mercantile business at Kelford.

He joined the church in Richmond and was an active member in the American Legion, which organization participated in the last rites conducted in Norfolk yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock by his pastor, Interment was in a Norfolk cemetery. Besides his wife and children he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. M. G. James and Mrs. Robert Waldie, both of Norfolk, and Messrs. Roy Gurganus, of Williamston, and Durward Gurganus, of Norfolk.

Advance Plans To Check Compliance Earlier This Year

Calling twenty-five or more county supervisors here for a three-day school, agricultural authorities are making plans for an early check of compliance under the soil conservation program in this section of the State this spring and summer. John Broome, of the agricultural extension service, is instructing the men and one lady in the rules and regulations governing the new 1940 program. The school ends tomorrow, and attention will then likely be centered on the selection of county units for handling the district work.

It is possible that these plans will be advanced within the next two weeks and that actual surveys of the compliance work will get underway on or about the time some crops are planted.