

Town Board Issues Call For Nominating Convention April 17

Discusses Varied Program At Regular Meeting Here Last Night

A call to life for town politics was sounded by the commissioners in regular session last night when they ordered a nominating convention held in the courthouse at 8 o'clock on the night of Thursday, April 17. The order finds quietness prevailing over the political front, but there's no telling what will follow as the biennial high spot in town politics is reached. An announcement by his honor, Mayor Hassell, is expected momentarily, but members of the board are remaining quiet. The convention is scheduled to nominate candidates for mayor, and the five positions on the board. The election machinery was set up last night with J. E. Pope as registrar, and R. T. Griffin and J. T. Price as judges of election. The registration books are to open next Saturday, and the election is to follow on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

The commissioners last night pledged the county commissioners their cooperation in rounding up dogs unlisted on the books for taxation. Possibly a dog census will be held, the authorities agreeing that all unclaimed dogs should be disposed of along with a few that turn over garbage cans and run at large.

An agreement was reached whereby the town will put up a \$400 service deposit for the lights at the ball park, the project being rated as a self-liquidating one. It was pointed out that under the arrangement, the ball club can purchase electricity at the rate of one cent a kilowatt whereas it would cost five cents under private contract.

A new parking system for the town's main street was proposed, and it is understood that a slight variation in the parking angles will be tested. It was proposed to establish parallel parking on one side of the street and leave the 45-degree angle system untouched on the other side, but a 35-degree angle for both sides will be put into practice instead.

A one-way drive for Tassel lane was ordered and the board plans to surface the lane running off Church Street between the Barnes and Crockett homes.

Bids for a deep well will be received by the commissioners at a special session tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, the board being advised that arrangements had been effected for carrying on the street and water department improvements in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration.

Plans for financing the completion of the Negro recreational center building were considered, but they will be delayed pending required action on the part of the sponsors.

Trainees Leave For Fort Bragg Today

Ten young Martin County men left here shortly before noon today for Fort Bragg where they will play their parts in the defense of the country. In the group were, Robert Bailey, Steve Elias Stevenson, Thomas LeRoy Taylor, Willis Robert Crandall, Dallas Gaylord Waters, Eddie Gurley Leggett, Ben Ollie Coburn, Gurley Thomas Mobley, William Daniel Peel and Jimmie Lindsey Dickens. All ten of the trainees reported on time to round out the first quota call for white men from this county this month.

William Ernest Davis, Charlie Vernon Whitehurst, William Edward Ross and Marion Oscar Hyman were called as replacements, but they were not needed.

Seventy-four young men from all over northeastern North Carolina left the bus terminal here this morning for Fort Bragg. They are being joined by twenty more at Wilson. The contingent, traveling in three big busses, was the largest to move through here since the first quota was filled last December.

Fifteen colored trainees are scheduled to leave the county on April 17, and they will be followed by four white trainees on the 18th.

Organize Red Cross Production Center

Perfecting its organization this week, the Martin County Chapter of the Red Cross is now making ready to launch a production unit here within the next few days. Mrs. A. R. Dunning, chairman, announced this morning. Materials for the production center have been shipped, and operations should get underway shortly, Mrs. Dunning explained.

The production unit organization is, as follows: Mrs. A. R. Dunning, chairman; Mrs. G. H. Harrison, vice chairman; knitting, Mrs. Victor Champion and Mrs. Robert Everett; sewing, Mrs. Cortez Green and Mrs. Francis Barnes; cutting, supplies and planning, Mrs. L. B. Harrison and Mrs. H. L. Swain; county sewing supervisor, Miss Lora Sleeper; junior red cross, Miss Madge Glazier; work room and equipment, Mrs. John Ward and Mrs. Ray Goodmon; packing and shipping, Mrs. Abner Brown and Mrs. C. G. Crockett.

Blue Mold Reported in Plant Beds on Martin County Farms

According to reliable but unofficial reports blue mold has made its appearance in Martin County tobacco plant beds in the Hassell-Hamilton area, the disease aggravating a situation that has already been described as serious. Their plants ranging in size hardly larger than a thin dime, farmers, questioned this week, stated that they could not tell even if the mold had attacked their plant beds. It is a little bit early for the disease in this county, many believe, but reports from Georgia and the border state that the mold is spreading rapidly. The disease was positively identified in Robeson County the middle of last week, and in Georgia where the farmers started transplanting operations last week a serious plant shortage is feared.

Reports from this county, as a whole, maintain that the plants are late and that even with favorable

weather and without blue mold attacks, transplanting will be delayed at least two weeks. Only two types of treatment have State extension workers are said to have offered their services in helping check blue mold, but as far as it could be learned this morning, the office of the county agent has not arranged demonstrations in this county. been proven effective in controlling blue mold. One is a spray treatment using a yellow copper oxide solution. However, the spray treatment is only effective as a preventive, and will not cure the disease after it has attacked the plants in a tobacco bed. The other treatment is by fumigation with either benzol or a chemical known as paradichlorobenzene, commonly called "P.D.B." It will control the disease after the plant bed has become infected.

Few Registrants Are Placed In First Class

REFERENDUM

A referendum on peanut production control will be held throughout the producing areas on Saturday, April 26, according to information received here last week-end from Mayor Parker, president of the North Carolina-Virginia Growers Peanut Cooperative.

The date for the referendum was fixed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration following a meeting with Mr. Parker and representatives of growers from other states in Atlanta last Friday afternoon. A special communication announcing the date for holding the referendum explained that with a favorable vote "pegged price will continue." Without favorable vote, "law says there can be no pegged price or diversion program."

Contagious Disease Cases Shoot Upward

The spread of contagious diseases in Martin County last month reached a new high for recent years, seriously affecting the school attendance in some sections and almost causing a shut-down of one or two school plants. As far as it can be learned, few if any deaths followed the wave of whooping cough, diphtheria, measles and a few allied diseases of a communicable nature.

Sixty contagious disease cases were reported according to the records filed with the county board of health. And strange as it may seem in the Oak City section where the authorities were said to have considered closing the schools on account of measles not a single case of the disease is included in the health department's records.

Following is the health department's March report on contagious or reportable disease: one tuberculosis case among the white population in Williamston; fifteen cases of whooping cough, five in Robersonville, six in the Williamston rural community and four in the town of Williamston, all white; thirty-seven cases of measles, Williamston, 13 white and five colored; Robersonville, 14 white; Palmyra, one colored; Everetts, four white; diphtheria, three white in Williamston rural community; three chickenpox, one white near Williamston and two colored in Jamesville; one scarlet fever near Williamston.

Old Welfare Board In Final Session

Meeting in final session here yesterday, the Martin County Welfare Board handled routine duties and made ready for the recently appointed group. Seven new old age assistance applications were approved and two others were increased. Six new aid to dependent children cases were accepted and one grant was increased. At the present time there are 204 aged persons and 162 dependent children receiving aid in the county under the welfare program.

Tendering his resignation, Rev. E. C. Shoe issued a formal statement, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity of having served as a member of the board, and pleaded for a strong cooperation in advancing the work of the department in the future.

Appointed by the county commissioners, Mr. I. Mayo Little officially enters upon his new duties as a member of the board next month. Mrs. Wheeler Martin, re-appointed by the State department, was elected chairman of the county unit for the next two years. Mr. W. Robert Everett, a third member, was re-elected by the county welfare board. The budget for the coming year was discussed subject to approval of the county commissioners.

Board Investigates Claims Of Thirteen Men To Dependency

Board Announces Classifications After Examining 825 Questionnaires

Literally swamped with work and detail, the Martin County Draft Board office last week-end announced the results of the classification of 425 registrants handled earlier in the week. One hundred and twenty-three men—43 white and 80 colored—were placed in the No. 1-A group, the list having appeared last week. Two white men were placed in Class 1-D, one white man in Class 2-A, and 277 men—147 white and 121 colored—were placed in Class 3-A. Seven white men were placed in Class 4-F. These classes represent 400 registrants, the remaining 25 questionnaires either are pending or were cleared by death or enlistments.

Willie Thompson, colored, answered the supreme draft call; a call that everyone will answer, sooner or later. Eleven men whose order numbers ranged from 400 to 825 had enlisted in the service. Final classification of thirteen others is being delayed pending an investigation of dependency claims. In the latter group, the board does not say the dependency claims are unfounded, but the answers in the questionnaires offered insufficient proof of dependency and the welfare office will be asked to check the claims.

Following is an explanation of the classes into which registrants are divided, based on answers in the questionnaires: Class No. 1—Those persons available for immediate training and service in the land or naval forces—subject, of course, to physical examinations.

Class No. 2—Those persons deferred because the public interest is best served by them staying at their regular work.

Class No. 3—Those persons deferred because others are dependant upon them for support.

Class No. 4—Those deferred from military service either by the law itself or for physical disability, or other reasons.

The classifications, effected by the draft board last week, appear as follows, excepting those in No. 1-A which appeared last issue:

White—Class 1-D
Benjamin Everett Manning, Williamston; James Davenport Walters, Jamesville, and Chester Grant Sears, Hamilton.

White—Class 2-A
William Council Haislip, Hamilton.

White—Class 3-A
Marvin Henry Leggett, Robert Clarence Barber, Richard Milton
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German Drive Into Yugoslavia Gaining On Blitzkrieg Scale

Dangerous Wedge Driven Into Yugoslavia-By Crack German Troops

Touching off a spark to produce a raging inferno of the Balkan powder keg, Germany since last Sunday morning has pushed steadily forward into Yugoslavia, late reports declaring that Hitler's crack troops had driven a dangerous wedge into the little country, and pushed on to Aegean sea to separate Greece from Turkey, her potential ally. Hitler's men were said to have driven possibly eighteen miles into Yugoslav territory. Conflicting reports are coming out of the new war arena, and while the Greeks and Yugoslavs are offering a stubborn resistance it is feared that German forces are moving slowly but steadily forward in their drive.

Two Greek forts are said to have fallen, but the others are holding firm. Advance reports state that preparations are already underway to abandon Salonika, an important port in World War No. 1. The Allies now declare that the port is of no great importance, indicating that the withdrawal of forces from that area is to be expected.

In the air a terrific battle is raging in the Balkans, over England and along the Channel ports of France. No reliable reports on the losses have been released, the Germans claiming they had destroyed nearly 200 planes since the attack was launched against Yugoslavia Sunday. British land forces are not yet in the thick of the fight, but they are said to be moving into line, and the British and Greek air forces are said to be battling the Germans in the new war zone. The Rumanian oil fields are also said to have been bombed along with strategic enemy centers in Bulgaria and Hungary. After Belgrade, Yugoslav capital, was declared an "open city," the German air forces raided it several times and wrecked large portions of it. German airmen also swept over England by the hundreds last night.

In Africa, Axis forces are scoring new gains, and it is now claimed that Derna, 160 miles south of Benghazi, has fallen. Despite delayed action by Hitler in invading Yugoslavia, supplies are still "on-the-way," to hard-pressed Greece, and it is declared that materials are moving to Yugoslavia. The question now is, will the Greeks and Yugoslavs hold out, or will it be another Dunkirk for the Allies in the Balkans. Turkey's reaction to German gains in the Balkans is anxiously awaited, and eyes are also looking to Soviet Russia.

The recent turn of events in the Balkans is bringing greater action in this country in support of the aid-to-Britain plan, and defense work is gaining momentum. Arrangements are being made by the Navy Department to effect a closer cooperation in a plan for repairing damaged British warships in American navy yards. Tension on the strike front is slackening, and key plants, including the Allis-Chalmers factories, were reopened today.

Germany is said to be moving big guns into land positions apparently in an effort to bottle up the British fleet in the Mediterranean. That and the drive in Africa coupled with the march into Yugoslavia offers a dark picture for Britain and her allies at the present time.

FARM PLANS

Final notices are being issued this week by the county agent's office to farmers advising them that if they are to participate in the 1941 soil conservation program they must sign a set of farm plans or work sheet not later than next Tuesday.

Approximately 1,500 farmers have already signed the work sheets, leaving about 100 or 150 unsigned. All but about 8 or 10 farmers in this county signed work sheets and participated to some extent, if not all, in the soil conservation program last year.

Draft Registration List Survey Shows More Than 1,000 Names Missing From Tax Books

The names of 1,076 Martin County men between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, are missing from the tax books, according to a report just released by Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen following a preliminary survey of the draft registration list in this county. That the number will be materially reduced is fairly certain when identity is definitely determined in each individual case and when changes of address made since last October are considered. But even then the list of careless or willful tax dodgers will hold to an unusually high figure.

County Commissioners Calling For Detailed Report From The Department Of Health Officer

Increased Catches Reported At Jamesville Fishery Today

Operating at a loss during the past two weeks, the commercial fishery at Jamesville yesterday reported increased catches and today the plant is gradually pushing to a normal schedule. However, the operations are not as successful so far this year as they were last.

This morning, the large seine was dipping as many as 1,000 herring, a few perch and shad from the river at a time, and indications are now pointing to larger catches from day to day until a peak is reached some time next week. The plant at Camp Point placed in operation last week has been operating with much difficulty, the report stating that trees and snags in the river there have damaged the seine repeatedly. Improved operations were reported there yesterday and today, and it is now believed that normal operations can be expected from now until the end of the season or about May 10.

Committees Named By Education Board

Group Appointment Urged By Nearly 400 Jamesville Citizens

James C. Manning Re-elected To Head County Schools For Another Term

Originating in what some describe as a hot but still friendly political stir-up in Jamesville, a petition carrying the names of 292 Jamesville district citizens partly upset a normal schedule of procedure in the regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Education here yesterday. All the details could not be had immediately, but there was an apparent move in the district to oust the Jamesville faculty in its entirety with possibly one or two exceptions. Learning of the plan a short time ago, citizens in the district started what is recognized as a counter move, and they presented a mighty strong front before the education board. Thirty-two Jamesville citizens with Messrs. W. W. Walters and Charles Gurkin and Mrs. Walter Brown and Mrs. Spencer as their chief spokesmen, appeared before the meeting in person and presented a petition carrying the names of 292 citizens. In addition to that petition, the delegation offered a supplementary support in the form of a petition carrying the names of 102 high school pupils. The main petition addressed to the county education board, reads, as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens and patrons of Jamesville school, have enjoyed the progress made by our school under your leadership. Therefore, being anxious to see our school go forward, we hereby ask you gentlemen to appoint as our school committee men that have the ability and the confidence of the people. We heartily endorse Mr. C. C. Fleming, Mr. F. W. Holliday and Mr. Elmer Modlin."

For nearly three hours, the board wrangled over the appointments for the one district, making every effort to satisfy the people and maintain a spirit of cooperation for the school which, records show, has a creditable rating in the county system. But the situation, aggravated by recent events, was badly tangled, and its solution can only be determined in the course of future events. The petitioners scored in the nomination of Mr. C. C. Fleming who only a month or two ago resigned. C.
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Delve Further Into Personal Property Listings In County

Approve Appropriation For Self-Liquidating Teacherage at Robersonville

That public health appropriations by the county may be curtailed or cut off in their entirety loomed as a strong possibility in the regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners here yesterday. With only a last October report of activities available to them, the commissioners discussed the health department freely, but limited its action to an order calling for a detailed report each first Monday showing a schedule of duties handled by the department for the preceding month. While the discussion did not reach the point where a change in the department personnel was considered advisable, it was apparent that the commissioners want to know more about health work in the county before making available additional appropriations. The work of the department was recognized, and one spokesman explained that the money had not been lost, but it was apparent that the organization could be improved possibly by a closer cooperation on the part of the department head and the board of health. Few cases connected with the department were mentioned, but it was pointed out that venereal disease clinics were mentioned, but it was pointed out that venereal disease clinics in one center had dropped from over 100 down to around 50 and that little was being done about it.

The meeting, for the most part, was free of worry for the commissioners and what was scheduled to be a comparatively short session was not adjourned until almost 6:30 in the evening. Tax problems held a place on the calendar, but little was done at the session. Asked to reconsider the \$5,000 increase in the Tar Hill Apartment property valuation, the commissioners went into executive session and studied a cost schedule and income report filed by the owner. No change was ordered, and the property remains on the books at \$23,500.

Personal property listings flared up again, and it is reasonably certain that the authorities will review schedules submitted by the Williamston Peanut Company, and it is also expected that independent dealers and buyers will be asked to submit inventories as of January 1. Detailed listings also will likely be asked of tobacco dealers.

In their tax round-up, the board ordered all church properties of an income-producing type to be placed on the tax books. Homes, stores and other types of church property of a revenue bearing nature have not been subjected to public taxation in the past. While it is possible for the authorities to go back five years and assess the properties for taxation, the commissioners decided to "hit on" to the holdings beginning this year.

A \$12,000 appropriation for the structure of a teacherage in Robersonville was approved by the commissioners at the request of the board of education. The project, rated a self-liquidating project, is to be financed through the State Literary Building fund, it was pointed out.

Planning an indoor circus, the Williamston Lions Club was granted the permission to stage the event free of county taxes.

Williamston authorities were given permission to lay an eight-inch water line across the court house property, the board granting the request with the understanding that the lawn be left in good condition by the town.

STILL CLIMBING

The amount of money released to farmers participating in the 1940 soil conservation program is still climbing to new high record figures in this county. Through last week-end, 2,313 checks representing 1,320 applications and amounting to \$114,852.30 had been received by the office of the county agent for distribution among Martin farmers. Approximately 250 applications for payments are still pending, and it is estimated that the total amount received and to be received under the 1940 program will approximate \$130,000.00, not including cotton-price adjustment payments.

Victims Of Wrecks Escape Uninjured

Automotive power was considerable of human life and limb, but it centered its attack on dumb animals and property in the county last week-end. No one was hurt, but a mule was badly broken up in an accident between Hassell and Oak City, and a filling station front, corner Pearl and Washington Streets here, was ripped from its supports. No accurate report on the damage could be had immediately, but the loss will run well over \$250.

Bennie Bryant, colored, was rounding a curve in the upper part of the county when a loose mule from the Frank Haislip farm darted into the road last Saturday night. "I was meeting another car and did not see the mule until I was right on him," Bryant said. Three of his legs were broken, the mule was later shot.

Cars driven by D. D. Bazemore and Clarence Rogers crashed at the Pearl-Washington Street intersection early Sunday evening. The Rogers car swerved and entered Pearl Street. The Bazemore car went out of control and tore into the old filling station front on the corner.

No one was hurt and very little damage resulted when a Courtney furniture truck and a car driven by a youth named Mobley crashed on the prison camp road last evening.

Library Aid Plans Discussed Monday

State plans for aiding rural library projects were discussed at length in a meeting of county citizens and Miss Marjorie Beal, of the State Library, held in the office of the county superintendent of schools here yesterday.

Formulate Plans For Peanut Vote

Plans for an educational campaign in connection with the peanut referendum to be held the last Saturday in this month will be formulated at a meeting of peanut growers in Tarboro tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock. Called at the suggestion of peanut growers who anticipate a strong opposition to production control in those areas where peanut bases have not been established, the meeting in the Tarboro high school auditorium is expected to fire the first gun in this section in behalf of the program. Representatives from all the peanut-producing counties are urged to send representatives to the meeting.

	White	Col.
Jamesville	28	31
Jamesville No. 1	33	24
Williamston	84	141
Williamston No. 1	45	51
Williamston No. 2	53	39
Williamston No. 3	81	73
Everetts	8	9
Robersonville	17	44
Robersonville No. 1	36	51
Robersonville No. 2	25	41
Parmelee	3	15
Hassell	5	8
Oak City	15	6
Palmyra No. 1	9	13
Hamilton	10	7
Hobgood No. 1	3	10
Bethel No. 1	3	0
Washington No. 1	2	0
	484	592