

Plans Go Forward For Annual Stock Show On April 26

Thirty-six Club Boys and Girls Are Making Entries For Largest Show

By C. J. Goodman
Assistant County Agent
Martin County Third Annual Fat Stock Show has been set for April 26. Forty one baby beef calves are now on feed and they are progressing nicely. The 4-H Club boys and girls are spending much time in fitting and training their steers, each expecting to have the Grand Champion. Johnny Gurkin, Jr., produced the Grand Champion in 1945 which sold for 80c per pound.

The 4-H baby beef club has grown from four the first year, 1944, fifteen in 1945, to forty one, 1946. Each club member is visited each month by the assistant county agent. They receive instructions in feeding, care and management during these visits. Approximately \$275.00 will be given in prizes at the Fat Stock Show. A portion of this prize money will be used in the swine department. Each 4-H Club boy is encouraged to enter a pen of three fat hogs or an individual hog.

The Civic Clubs and the Farm Bureau will again sponsor the Fat Stock Show. The Civic Clubs in the county are: Rotary Club Robersonville, Luritan Club, Oak City, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs in Williamston.

The following 4-H Club members will enter baby beef steers in the Fat Stock Show. Eight members are girls: Billy Knowles, RFD 1, Jamesville; Ross Knowles, RFD 1, Jamesville; Peggy Joyce Gurganus, RFD 3, Williamston; Mildred Gurganus, RFD 3, Williamston; Jack Woolard, RFD 2, Williamston; Jack Williamson, RFD 2, Williamston; Mayhue Bailey, RFD 2, Williamston; Ira Rogerson, Jr., RFD 2, Williamston; Ben Simon Cowan, RFD 2, Williamston; Raymond Bennett, RFD 2, Williamston; Howard Bennett, RFD 2, Williamston; Noah Bennett, RFD 2, Williamston; John Walden Lilley (2), RFD 2, Williamston; Bobby Lilley, RFD 1, Jamesville; Ben Bunting, RFD 2, Williamston; Eugene Andrews, RFD 1, Williamston; Free Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston; George Ayers, Jr., (2), RFD 1, Oak City.

Paul Stevenson, RFD 1, Oak City; Doris Stevenson, RFD 1, Oak City; William Hackney High, Oak City; James Rogerson, RFD 2, Williamston; Edith Rogerson, RFD 2, Williamston; Billy Bailey, RFD 2, Williamston; Horace Ray, Jr., Williamston; Roddy Everett, Williamston; Priscilla Roberson, RFD 3, Williamston; Robert Price, RFD 3, Williamston; Henry Gray Corey, RFD 2, Williamston; Jack Roebuck, RFD 1, Robersonville; Furney James, RFD 1, Robersonville; Thomas James, RFD 1, Robersonville; Jimmy Peel, Williamston; Lynette Haislip, RFD 1, Oak City; Ruth Haislip, RFD 1, Oak City, and Clayton Savage, RFD 2, Williamston.

The Farm Bureau will have their annual picnic following the sale on April 26th.

The judge of the Fat Stock Show will be Dr. J. E. Foster, in charge of beef cattle and sheep research of the N. C. State College. Mr. L. I. Case, in charge of animal husbandry extension, Mr. Howard Stamey, Animal husbandry extension specialist, and Mr. Jack Kelly, animal husbandry extension specialist, will be present to assist with the show and sale of hogs and steers.

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Flees From Sheriff And His Conscience

Facing on charge and, as far as it could be learned, not wanted for any law violation, Thomas Purvis, young colored man, took no chances and fled at full speed across a quarter-mile field to the woods last Tuesday when he saw Sheriff C. B. Roebuck traveling in his direction. The young man and his brother, Clarence, were on a wagon spreading manure on a farm near Hamilton when the officer went to serve a warrant on Clarence Purvis for alleged non-support. Recognizing the officer, Thomas, saying nothing to his brother, jumped off the wagon and set a rapid pace which was maintained all the way to the woods. He had not been heard from late Wednesday, Sheriff Roebuck said.

"Why is he running?" the officer asked Clarence. "I don't know, sir," Clarence answered. "I don't want him, but I have a warrant for you," the officer explained. "Yes, sir, and it would have been me going across this field if Bud had not left so quickly with these young mules," Clarence, now under \$100 bond, admitted.

Thomas Purvis recently returned from the Norfolk area, and while he thought he was running from the sheriff, the sheriff believes Thomas was running from his conscience.

Ninety-six quail were shipped into the county Wednesday for distribution. They were hatched and raised on the state farm near Fayetteville and were "planted" by District Game Warden W. O. Abbit.

Completing Plans for Annual Red Cross Drive In Chapter

Plans for conducting the annual Red Cross fund drive in the chapter are being completed today by the chapter chairman, Jas. C. Maning, and the drive chairman, V. J. Spivey. Quotas for the five townships in the five townships comprising the chapter have been tentatively fixed, and the chairmen are contacting leaders in the various districts today.

At a meeting last Friday evening in the courthouse, colored citizen leaders, including school teachers, preachers and others, agreed to appeal for \$675 as their part in the new fund drive, leaving approximately \$3,000 to be raised among the white populations in the five townships as follows, Jamesville, \$375; Williams, \$75; Griffins, \$350; Bear Grass, \$350; and Williamston, \$1,775.00. The over-all quota for this chapter is \$3,600. The second chapter in the county with headquarters in Robersonville is asking for \$2,000 in the townships of Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest.

SAFETY MEASURE

In an effort to promote safety on the highways, patrolmen and local law enforcement officers recently distributed several hundred copies of the special article, "And Sudden Death," which appeared for the first time in 1935 and which was published a second time last December. Written by J. C. Furnas, the article was placed in the hands of high school seniors and distributed to motorists on the highways and streets with an appeal urging all to read carefully and act accordingly.

A few copies are still in the hands of patrolmen and may be had upon request.

Ejection Cases In The County Court

Five ejection cases, reflecting the serious housing shortage in this section, have been placed on the docket for consideration in the Martin County Recorder's Court. It is understood that in most cases, the defendants are willing to move, but they can't find a shelter to cover their heads. Several other ejection cases are pending in the courts, it is understood.

Idle last Monday because several lawyers and court officials were out of town, the county court resumes its work next Monday with a fairly large docket.

Up until early yesterday about two dozen cases had been placed on the docket and others are almost certain to find their way in time for consideration at the session next Monday. Several of the cases originated in the Oak City area where a little crime wave was said to have struck during the past week-end.

In addition to the ejection cases, defendants are charged with non-support, drunkenness and disorderly conduct, bastardy, disorderly conduct and assaults in various degrees. A property line dispute is also tentatively scheduled to be heard at the session.

Minor Car Accident Reported In County

No one was hurt and no great property damage resulted in a high way accident on the edge of Gold Point early last Monday evening. William LeRoy Beach, just recently discharged from the Navy, started to drive his 1941 Pontiac past a quarter mile on the Gold Point-Robersonville Highway and crashed into a William Thomas Andrews who was driving his 1941 Chevrolet into Gold Point.

Investigating the wreck, Patrolman W. E. Saunders estimated the damage to the Beach car at \$150 and that to the Andrews car at \$50.

Former Local Minister Returns From The Pacific

Rev. James H. Smith, former pastor of the local Baptist church, recently returned from the Pacific theater where he served about nine months in the service as a chaplain. Expecting his discharge shortly, the minister is now with his family, on RFD 1, Marion, N. C.

WILD LIFE CLUB

Ross O. Stevens, executive secretary of the North Carolina Wild Life Federation, will address a meeting of the Martin County club in the county courthouse here next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Officers for the new year will be elected at that time, and all hunters and fishermen are invited to attend.

Shangri-La Airman Evades Capture In Homeland Of Japs

Seaman J. S. Whitehurst, 21, of the U. S. Navy, is being held in a Japanese prison camp in the Japanese homeland of Kokkaido for sixty-eight days. Following a detailed account of the part played by the aircraft carrier, "Shangri-La," Seaman James S. Whitehurst, Martin County young man, submits the following story about a friend who eluded capture in the Jap homeland island of Kokkaido for sixty-eight days:

"One of the war's most amazing tales of ingenuity, high courage, daring and just plain will-to-live came to light when Oliver Rasmussen, ARM 1/c, returned to the Shangri-La after eluding capture on the Japanese homeland for 68 days. "Reported missing in action and definitely given up for lost when on July 14 the Helldiver in which he was rear-seat gunner failed to return, Rasmussen came back from the dead to collect his most important possession: a one-way ticket to the states by plane, priority 2."

"But before it left Rasmussen's story, that of a modern Robinson Crusoe, had been witnessed to the states by every major news agency and he had recounted most of his experiences to the Shangri-La crew. "Rasmussen's odyssey began back one of those overcast strike-day mornings in mid-July when the whole air group was up for an all-out blow against Hokkaido.

"Low clouds forced the pilot, Lt. (jg) Howard Eagleston, to fly low and while in the overcast the plane struck a mountainside. Rasmussen was knocked unconscious momentarily and Eagleston was killed instantly. "Dazed and suffering from shock, Rasmussen tried unsuccessfully to extricate his first-aid kit from the wreckage, and then stumbled back into the hills away from the plane to avoid capture. He carried nothing but the clothes on his back, a small pack and no food. He had only a vague idea of his location; he knew only that he was in northern Japan and that it would be a good idea if he didn't get caught.

"Then started days of wandering through the rugged countryside of Hokkaido, living off the land, dodging Jap surveying parties and trying to reach the coastline. "He finally found the coast on July 31 and had his first real nourishment in two weeks. He found a farmhouse and noticed a cow staked nearby. That night, weak from hunger, he crept up, milked the cow and gorged himself on fresh milk. "This, Rasmussen decided, was the place to wait for the allied rescue planes. So every night for nine days he helped himself from the farmer's one-cow dairy and began to get his strength back. It would have gone on longer, Rasmussen said, but the Jap eventually turned the cow loose because it wasn't producing.

"That Jap was sure fouled up, but he never got wise that I was the guy getting all the milk," he said. "His best supply of food gone, he wandered back into the mountains after first successfully trying to launch a small fishing boat through the breakers.

"Eventually he discovered a small railroad shack for living quarters and for nearly a week lived on raw onions, raw frogs' legs, eggs from bird nests and uncoked rice. But on the 16th of August a Jap workman discovered him and he was forced to pull up stakes in a hurry, leaving behind two possessions worth their weight in gold by then: 20 pounds of raw rice and a bit of saki he found. "For the next week Rasmussen said he would no more than get comfortably settled in some hideaway than the Japs would get too close and he was forced to move on.

"But the cows of Japan came to his rescue again. He found lumber and built a little shack in a wooded spot, yet strategically located among five farms. During the evening he noticed the farmers putting their milk in containers in the river to keep it cool. That was enough for him. "I only took the cream off the top and put the container back so

More County Youths Enter The Services

Five Martin County young white men were called Wednesday to Fort Bragg for final induction into the armed services.

Four of the five answered the call this week, but the fifth one, Simon Lilley, Jr., RFD 1, Williamston, volunteered and entered the Army Air Corps on the ninth of this month. All five of the young men come from the farm, and their ages range from 18 to 21 years.

Names and addresses of the four young men leaving Wednesday follow: Naaman Knox, RFD 2, Robersonville; Jerry Saunders Raynor, RFD 3, Williamston.

Alton Dean Andrews, RFD 2, Robersonville, and RFD 3, Bethel. Vernon McNeal Coffield, RFD 1, Palmyra.

The call was the first to be answered entirely by boys from farms in this county.

Layman's Day Program In Methodist Church Sunday

June Rose, superintendent of the Greenville schools, will speak in the Methodist church here Sunday morning, featuring a Layman's Day program in the church, Pastor B. T. Hurley announces.

Sixth Month Pay For County School Teachers

Most of the Martin County school teachers and other school employees are receiving their sixth month pay checks today. Approximately \$35,000 is being distributed.

Observe Golden Wedding Anniversary Last Tuesday

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Roberson observed their golden wedding anniversary at their home on Park Street here last Tuesday. No formal reception was planned, but a few friends visited them during the day and quite a number of anniversary cards were delivered to the couple that day.

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Seaman J. S. Whitehurst Submits Thrilling Story About A Friend

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THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists on Martin County highways really aggravated the accident record during the eighth week of the current year, adding another mark to the death figure and materially boosting the injured count and property loss. The record so far this year is far worse than it was a year ago, and is rapidly becoming worse as time marches on.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding week, second, by month, and third, for each year to the present time.

Accident: In'd Killed Dam'g

1946 - 3 5 1 \$1,250
1945 - 3 1 0 455

Comparisons To Date

1946 - 19 13 2 4,800
1945 - 8 2 0 930

County Liquor Sales Establish New Record

Total of \$2,555,128.40 Is Spent For Liquor Since Stores Opened

Pushing on toward the quarter million dollar figure, legal liquor sales in this county last quarter broke all previous records. Placed at \$2,555,128.40, the sales last quarter were \$45,145.40 more than those reported for the months of October, November and December, 1944, and were the first to go over the \$200,000 mark for any period since the stores were opened in July, 1945. The figures mounted despite rationing and stock shortages.

From the time the legal county stores were opened in July, 1935, up to the first of this year, liquor sales amounted to \$2,555,128.40. The sales gradually increased quarter by quarter during the first few years the stores were in operation, but in more recent times the amount of money spent for liquor in the stores is six times greater than in the corresponding period in 1935.

It is estimated that beer and wine sales, plus the bootleg business in white lightning, will boost the total spent for alcoholic beverages in the county last quarter to possibly \$400,000 or more, an amount almost twice as great as the entire tax levy for all of 1945.

A review of the audit just recently released by the certified public accountants shows that of the \$2,555,128.40 spent in the stores, \$164,829.61, or nearly two-thirds, was sent out of the State to the distillers. Of the \$52,842.04 gross profits, \$5,216.10 went for operating expenses, leaving a net profit plus discounts of \$48,249.98.

The \$48,249.98 profits for last quarter were divided, as follows: Martin County, \$21,423.98; State of North Carolina, \$18,494.46; Town of Williamston, \$2,833.60; Town of Robersonville, \$1,474.38; Town of Oak City, \$585.45; Town of Jamesville, \$462.56. The ABC board set aside \$2,975.55 of the profits for law enforcement.

The Martin County ABC Board now has assets in the sum of \$123,215.42—\$92,776.93 in cash, \$30,424.78 in inventories, and \$13.71 in fixed assets. The board has accounts payable in the sum of \$47,006.27—\$39,306.64 due distillers, \$7,303.83 in accrued taxes and \$895.80 in accrued expenses. The system owes in undistributed profits, \$37,240.45 to the county treasurer, \$4,955.41 to the Town of Williamston, \$2,563.66 to the Town of Robersonville, \$983.53 to the Town of Oak City and \$807.51 to the Town of Jamesville. The reserve for law enforcement now stands at \$17,658.59 and the surplus amounts to \$12,000.00.

Expenses were listed as follows: salaries and wages, \$2,850.74; rent, \$306.00; supplies, \$10.82; heat, water, and lights, \$47.81; repairs, \$54.00; unclassified, \$22.60; cash, over-und-er, \$2.80; administrative and general, \$1,922.17, a total of \$5,216.94.

Net profit from operations for the fourth quarter in 1944 and the corresponding period in 1945 is shown, by stores, as follows:

	1944	1945
Williamston	\$21,472.58	\$25,275.35
Robersonville	11,751.51	13,382.69
Oak City	4,161.43	5,330.46
Jamesville	4,093.90	4,261.48
	\$41,479.42	\$48,249.98

Total sales for the two quarters under comparison follow, by stores:

	1944	1945
Williamston	\$8,088.10	\$112,649.05
Robersonville	49,015.15	60,916.75
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	\$172,526.25	\$217,671.65

A review of legal liquor sales and profits, by quarters, from the time

(Continued on page six)

Pulpwood Price Is Increased By OPA

The North Carolina Pulp Company reports an announcement from the O. P. A. of an increase of ceiling price on pulpwood of \$1.40 per cord of 128 cubic feet to be paid to the producers. This increase is based on pulpwood loaded on cars and barges. This increases the price of pulpwood from \$7.60 to \$9.00 per cord of 128 cubic feet. This results in a price of \$11.25 per unit of 160 cubic feet.

River Falling Slowly After Reaching Crest Last Monday

Reaching a crest of 11.6 feet last Monday, Roanoke River at this point is falling gradually. Hugh Sprull, bridgekeeper, said yesterday that water was dropped in the stream on three-tenths of a foot from Monday until Wednesday, and it was pointed out that a fairly heavy rain fell Tuesday night and that possibly the flood stage would be maintained a few days longer.

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Property Damaged By Wind In County

High winds, approximating tornado force, damaged several buildings and swept covers from tobacco beds in the Henry Modlin section of Jamesville Township last Tuesday evening, according to reports reaching here.

APPLICATION

The first application filed in this county for a GI building loan was handled yesterday by the Martin County Building and Loan Association. Filed by Raymond Cherry, Jr., local young man, the application was for a loan of \$10,000 maximum and carries priorities for the purchase of materials. The young man has a lot on Williams Street where he plans to build his home.

Increased Tobacco Acreage Indicated In New Farm Plans

Seventy Percent of the Farmers In County Have Signed Plans

According to an incomplete and hurried review of farm plans submitted by an estimated seventy percent of Martin County farmers, most of the tobacco growers will increase their tobacco acreage this year to absorb most of the extra ten percent allotment allowed by an order coming from Clinton P. Anderson, the nation's Secretary of Agriculture. Troubled greatly by labor shortages last harvest season, a few farmers declared in their 1946 plans that they planned to decrease their acreages to the crop this year. They are so few in number, however, that they can be counted almost on one's hands and certainly on one's hands and toes. A small number plan to hold to their 1945 acreages, but the majority plan to increase from one to ten percent, most of them making preparations to go to the limit.

No accurate report can be had on the general farm program in the county at this time, for it is impossible to make a complete study until all the plans are prepared. One township, Williams, had not submitted any of its plans late Wednesday. However, a preliminary study of the plans signed and submitted to the office of the county agent show in addition to the facts about the 1946 tobacco acreage that possibly cotton plantings will be increased. If the cotton acreage is increased, it will be the first time that a gradual reduction recorded in the crop acreage over a period of several years will have been checked.

The increase predicted in the tobacco and cotton acreages will be made at the expense of peanuts, according to the best information available at this time. Slight variations are to be expected in acreages planted to other crops, but present indications point to increases for tobacco and cotton and a decrease in peanuts.

County Man Tries To Shoot Way Out

Sentenced in this county last September to serve two years for the larceny of an automobile in Robersonville in July, 1944, Frank Beach, a native of this county, attempted to shoot his way out of a prison camp in western North Carolina a few days ago. Snatching a gun and ammunition, Beach, 29, held up several guards, but another guard moved in and shot him down. Shot in the leg, Beach was removed to a hospital.

Jesse Griffin, sentenced in this county in the fall of 1944 to serve from 15 to 20 years for manslaughter, continues at large following his escape from a Durham prison camp on the 3rd of this month.