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FCX Stockholders Hold Annual Meet Here On Thursday

Contests And Big Barbecue Supper Enjoyed By 800 Persons

Approximately 800 stockholders, patrons and friends of the Martin County Farmers Cooperative Exchange held their annual meeting at the high school here last Thursday afternoon, the unusually large but most orderly group enjoying various contests, prize drawings, a big barbecue supper and a timely and forceful speech.

The program got under way about 4:30 that afternoon when a goodly number volunteered to participate in the various contests. Wining the horse shoe pitching contest, Herman Dickerson, RFD 1, Jamesville, was given a set of horse shoes and stakes and a free trip to Raleigh where he will compete in the state tournament on September 24. James Gardner, RFD 1, Williamston, holding a close second position in the contest score, received a water bag.

A rolling pin throwing contest proved that most of the housewives in this section are just mediocre "chunkers," that all this talk about the effective use of rolling pins on husbands' heads is without foundation. However, the practice is not altogether a lost art. A few landed direct blows on the contest target, but the prize, fruit jars and canning set, was won by Mrs. R. L. Bray of Belcross, Camden County. This contest attracted much attention from most of the men, but the husbands of the contestants had serious looks on their faces until the target was missed.

The outdoor contests concluded, the large crowd moved into the auditorium, almost overflowing the large room.

Mr. V. G. Taylor of Everetts was made chairman of the meeting which was opened there by a song and prayer. A. M. Fussell, manager of the local store, welcomed the group and he was later named secretary.

Mr. H. C. Forebee of Camden [illegible] sent this district on the State FCX Board of Directors, and Messrs. V. G. Taylor of Everetts, G. A. Oglesby of Hamilton, J. H. Lillard of Oak City, W. M. Hardison, RFD 3, Williamston, and T. B. Slade of Hamilton were elected directors [illegible] of the Martin County FCX Service for the coming year.

In one of the first contests held in the auditorium, Mrs. Floyd Matthews of Hertford was awarded a $5 bill for guessing within $1,000 the amount of business handled by the local store last year. Mrs. L. P. Holliday, RFD 1, Jamesville, was awarded a box of candy. The award was based on age, Mrs. Holliday, 76 years old, being the oldest mother present.

Quite a few offered guesses on the number of pennies in a jar, but Mrs. Perlie Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston, with a guess of 613 won the prize, a milk churn. There were 612 pennies in the jar.

Following General Manager M. G. Mann's address, tickets were drawn. Albert Tyre, RFD 1, Williamston, receiving a table model radio, and J. H. Coltrain, RFD 1, Robersonville, receiving a pressure cooker.

The Martin FCX Service was made available to the people of this section on January 26, 1935, about six months after the organization was first created in the State. From an humble beginning, it has enjoyed a steady growth, reports showing that the store handled a $136,042 business last year, boosting its volume since its establishment to $825,621. Its net worth is now placed at $20,601.66, and while it has rendered an able service, its future is extremely bright in this area and expansion is to be expected.

Marriage Licenses Are Issued Last Week-End

Three marriage licenses were issued in this county last week-end by Register J. Sam Getsinger to the following:

Andrew House, RFD 1, Hobgood, and Nellie P. Cooper, Scotland Neck.

Kenneth Buckley and Jean Buckland, both of Columbia, S. C.

D. C. Young, Jr., of Salisbury, N. C., and Lois Rogerson of Robersonville.

Higher Attendance Figures Urged In County Schools

As an important part of an intensive drive to improve the schools in this county, education leaders stated this week that every effort would be made to hold average daily attendance figures to a high peak during the term opening on Monday of this week. Violations of the compulsory attendance law will be checked and where necessary the defendants will be carried into the courts, it was declared.

Last year several cases were cited to the courts in this county and convictions followed. Attendance figures improved during the remainder of the term, but they did not measure up to the best expectations. "We do not wish to prosecute anyone, but we consider it of vital importance for every child in this county to attend school regularly and, if necessary, we will resort to the courts in behalf of the child's welfare," an official was quoted as saying this week. The cooperation of all parents and patrons is earnestly sought in the movement to hold attendance figures to the highest level ever reported in the schools.

The law requires all children between the ages of six and sixteen years of age to attend school regularly, provided the child becomes six years of age on or before next October 1.

Last year, 258 children—125 white and 133 colored—quit school between the fifth and eleventh grades, inclusive, in this county. In addition to that shocking number, there were quite a few girls and boys who never entered school during the term. Every effort will be made to correct what appears to be a deplorable condition.

Tobacco Markets To Close For One Week

DEPLORABLE

The general attitude toward public property has reached deplorable depths, and officials are appealing to the general public to support a movement calling for greater respect for public holdings.

While the condition is possibly no worse in the schools than in other quarters, it was pointed out that many $7.75 school desks had been damaged and mutilated by thoughtless children. The condition in the Williamston school was recently described by a furniture salesman as the worst he had seen in the entire State.

Hundreds of dollars are spent in this county each year replacing windows broken by both little and big vandals. [illegible] ill treatment of public property runs up costs, it was pointed out.

Special Fees For School Children

While the State furnishes free most of the books and materials, small fees are to be collected from each pupil for the purchase of supplementary books and instructional supplies. The schedule of fees is standard throughout the State, it was explained.

The following schedule will be followed for the collection of fees: 1st and 2nd grades, 50 cents; 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, 60 cents; 6th, 7th and 8th grades, 70 cents; high school students, $2.40 each. In addition to the above book fees, a charge of 50 cents per pupil will be made for the purchase of instructional supplies. It was pointed out that home economics, library and agriculture fees are to be fixed by the individual school. However, it was explained that the commercial course, available in most of the high schools, will carry a fee of $1 a month or $9 for the term.

The schedule of fees will be explained to the pupils on opening day and the small amounts are to be paid the following day.

Pupils Plan Own Transportation

Said to have been denied public-supported transportation to the Oak City School, high school pupils in the Hobgood district yesterday were said to be planning to furnish their own means of travel and would attend the school in this county, according to unofficial information received here Monday.

The State Board of Education had made arrangements to consolidate the Hobgood High School with the one in Scotland Neck.

After the school building was burned in Hobgood, tentative plans were made to transfer about fifteen elementary pupils to the Oak City school. The State Board is to arrange their transportation, but denied transportation to Oak City for the high school pupils in he Hobgood district.

Growers Turn To The Stabilization Plan For Relief

Closing Wednesday, August 28, Markets Reopen September 4th

Recognizing crowded conditions in redrying plants and tobacco factories and observing a general decline in prices for many types, a special flue-cured tobacco marketing committee last week-end ordered sales suspended for one week on all markets in the Bright and Border Belts and delayed opening dates for markets in other sections. The holiday will go into effect at the close of sales on Wednesday of this week and [illegible] on Thursday morning, September 5, it was announced.

According to reports reaching here, Fred S. Royster, chairman of the committee, declared that the holiday was ordered in an effort to bolster sagging prices in the two belts and to clear up near-critical conditions in many [illegible]

The markets in this belt will reopen with the same selling schedule now in effect but a reduction in the selling hours from five to four each day is expected within a short time after the reopening. During the meantime, farmers are being asked to make plans for the orderly marketing of the crop, the committee members pointing out that orderly marketing would be in the best interest of farmers, buyers, and warehousemen. They appealed for the full cooperation of all concerned.

It was fairly apparent that sagging prices prompted the sudden action, and it is believed that plans will be formulated to throw the full support of the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation behind the price schedule and check the price decrease noted from day to day since the markets opened on Monday of last week in this belt. It is possible that the plan will help return prices to the level reported on opening day, especially those offered for the inferior grades.

It was pointed out that about forty farmers joined the corporation last Friday on the Williamston market, and it is likely that others will join in large numbers if the prices continue to sag.

There is little or no red tape to the plan, warehousemen point out. If a farmer offers a pile of tobacco for sale, and the price is not up to parity as shown on the back of the government grade sheet, the farmer may join the organization by paying a $5 fee and share in the government's price support program. If the pile of tobacco is sold for fifteen cents a pound and the 90 percent of parity or "advance" price is 25 cents a pound, then the farmer is entitled to the ten-cent differential if he is a member of the organization. Payment is made at the time of sale. The government through its agents takes the to-

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Tobacco Prices Regain Part Of Losses Monday

Average Bobs Back Up To Figure Well Over $50 Hundred

After sagging to the lowest level of the season last Friday, tobacco prices on the local market showed considerable strength yesterday, observers declaring that the average for the day would range well over $50 per hundred and possibly go to $52.50 or $53 for the entire sale. It was pointed out that the medium grades had regained possibly all their losses and were averaging around 10 cents a pound higher than they did the latter part of last week.

While the top grades still ranged around 65 cents a pound, a few were taken by the buying companies at 67 cents Monday. Possibly the poor or nondescript types were some stronger, too, one report stating that few piles went for less than ten cents and that less than half dozen farmers resorted to the Flue-Cured Cooperative Stabilization Corporation plan for price support on those grades.

Approximately 300,000 pounds were on the floors, but official poundage and price figures could not be had late Monday.

Tobacco is moving in fairly rapidly for the sales scheduled for the remaining days before the holiday goes into effect at the close of sales Wednesday afternoon. The first and second sales were just about filled for Tuesday Monday afternoon, and farmers were making plans at that time for deliveries Tuesday for the sale on Wednesday.

Including Tuesday's sales the market has sold within about 100,000 pounds of the two-million mark. Last week the market sold 1,307,722 pounds for $668,450.95 or an average of $51.22. In the first five days of the 1945 selling season, the local market sold 1,274,972 pounds for an average about nine cents a pound below the current figure.

It was pointed out that the delivery of large quantities of inferior leaf [illegible] day helped pull the average down to about $48.00 per hundred. At the same time there was a noticeable sag in the price itself. Farmers, holding some of their grades over until Monday, averaged from ten to twelve cents a pound more [illegible] the second time they sold than they did last Friday, it was learned.

Forty Patients For Eye Clinic

Forty persons, mostly adults, had their eyes examined at a clinic held under the sponsorship of the county welfare department and the N. C. State Blind Commission in the Williamston Woman's club last Friday. Twenty-six of the group were fitted with glasses. Six of the others were found to have cataracts, one report stating that operations were hardly possible because of advanced age.

Dr. G. D. Thornhill, Jr., of Durham, handled the clinic, starting at 9 o'clock that morning and working until 7 p. m. with only twenty minutes for lunch. Mrs. Merle Jones represented the Blind Commission.

BLANKS

Application forms for terminal leave pay will be made available in Williamston within the next day or two, John W. Hardy, commander of the John Walton Hassell American Legion Post, announced last week-end. The blanks have been ordered and delivery has been promised this week, the post commander stating that Mr. N. K. Harrison has agreed to distribute the forms and help with their preparation. Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Jr., veterans' service officer for the county, will also help prepare the applications, it was announced.

During the meantime, the Army Recruiting station in Greenville will deliver the application form upon request from the veteran.

Review Of Effect Air Power Had In European Area

Excerpts Taken From Report of Commander To His Chiefs of Staff

The following are some pertinent excerpts on air power taken from the report of the Supreme Commander to the combined chiefs of staff on the operations in Europe of the Allied Expeditionary Force, just publicly released a short time ago:

1. "As part of our basic strategy, and in accordance with the task given to the Strategic Air Force under the Casablanca Directive in January 1943, the bombing of Germany, begun early in the war by the British Bomber Command, was intensified in May 1943 and continued with mounting strength to the end of the campaign. Neither the contemplated invasion of Europe nor the direct attack on the German industrial and economic system would be feasible until we had achieved supremacy over the German Air Force. This struggle for air supremacy, which had been going on throughout the war, was given added impetus by a new directive (known as Point-Blank in January 1943 which aimed at subjugating the enemy air force by the spring of 1944. In the event, German air might was thoroughly dominated by D-day and we were free to apply the immense strength of the Allied Air forces in the manner we wished and to launch the invasion confident that our plans could not be seriously upset by the German air force. In addition, air bombardment had disrupted the German communications system, immeasurably aiding our ground forces by impeding enemy movements."

2. "Prior to my arrival in the Theater, the Combined Chiefs of Staff had approved a combined bomber offensive plan against Germany which included the strategic bombing of critical industrial and military targets in the Reich. It had been determined that Germany's vulnerability lay [illegible] items indispensable to the German war effort: submarines, aircraft, ball bearings, oil, rubber, and communications. Of these six targets, aircraft, oil, and communications became the three which were to occupy the continuing attention of the Strategic Air Forces throughout the war. [illegible] bombing [illegible] targets were to assist materially in weakening the enemy's potentiality to resist our offensives and immeasurably to aid our ground forces in their advances."

3. "This mastery of the air was maintained throughout 1944 and 1945 by continuing attacks against production centers. But the enemy was able, through factory reconstruction and dispersal, together with the development of jet aircraft, to maintain into 1945 a fighter force of a theoretical strength by no means negligible. Nevertheless, it still was not qualitatively good and proved incompetent to perform successfully for any substantial period any of the normal missions of an air force. . . ."

4. "In addition to the strategic bombing of oil, aircraft, and communications targets, we were, during the campaign, to call upon the Strategic Air Forces for tactical support. At the time of the breakthrough in Normandy and several times later, including the Battle of the Ardennes, strategic bombers were employed in strength to attack enemy positions, supply bases immediately supporting the enemy front, and strongpoints and communication centers within the battle area. In these instances of tactical assistance, the Strategic Air Forces aided immeasurably in turning the decision of battle in our favor. . . ."

5. "While our assault forces were tossing on the dark waters of the Channel en route for France, the night bombers which were to herald our approach passed overhead. Shortly after midnight the bombing commenced, and by dawn 1,136 aircraft of RAF Bomber Command had dropped 5,853 tons of bombs on 10 selected coastal batteries lining the Bay of the Seine between Cherbourg and LeHavre. As the day broke, the bombers of the U. S. Eighth Air Force took up the attacks, 1,-

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Special Meeting Of Farm Bureau To Be Held Friday

Holding a special meeting in the county courthouse Friday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock Farm Bureau leaders will lead a discussion of the government's tobacco support price plan advanced through the Flue-Cured Cooperative Stabilization corporation. Plans will also be mapped for advancing the 1946-47 membership campaign for the Farm Bureau, President Chas. L. Daniel announced Monday morning.

President Daniel attended a recent meeting where the price stabilization plan was fully explained and discussed, and he is in a position to outline the program in detail in the event a representative of the organization finds it impossible to attend. Mr. Daniel, discussing the plan briefly, explained that the price support program applies to a farmer's crop by grades. If one grade sells above the guaranteed price it is untouched by the corporation. If another grade falls below the average, then that grade can be turned over to the corporation. The plan applies to all grades where necessary, but the corporation cannot accept wet or damaged tobacco, it was explained. These and other facts will be explained at the meeting by the president who pointed out that the Farm Bureau with the help of other organizations had done much to have the program established. It can mean millions of dollars to tobacco farmers, especially to those whose crops do not measure up in quality as a result of heavy rains during the growing season.

Appealing for a strong membership in support of the work done by the Farm Bureau, President Daniel believes over 2,000 Martin farmers will rally behind the organization for the year 1946-47.

Schools Open Term In County Thursday

Expect To Enroll Well Over 6,000 Pupils This Year

Plans Virtually Complete For Opening At 9:00 O'clock A. M.

Anticipating an enrollment well over 6,000, including both white and colored children, the several Martin County schools will open the 1946-47 term on Thursday morning of this week at 9:00 o'clock a. m. in accordance with a schedule fixed by the board of education a short time ago.

No formal exercises are being planned in any of the schools, but parents are invited to accompany those children entering school for the first time.

The first daily session, scheduled to last until 12 o'clock, noon, will be devoted mainly to the registration of pupils and room assignments. Returning on Friday [illegible] o'clock, the [illegible] will pay certain fees, receive their books and draw assignments for a full daily schedule of work the following Monday. No lunches will be served before next week when the daily sessions will last until 3:10 o'clock in the afternoon.

It is possible that one or two of the schools will operate on a short daily schedule for a while, the county board recommending that where the short schedule is observed the sessions be started at 8:00 o'clock and continued until 2 p. m.

In the Williamston school, Principal G. B. Stewart stated that the sessions beginning next week will open at 8:30 and close at 3:05 for [illegible] children in the primary and elementary schools and 3:10 for the bus children. The five-minutes in time discrepancy was planned to get as many children as possible off the school grounds before the busses arrived. The high school will be dismissed at 3:10 each afternoon. On rainy days, Principal Stewart said that parents calling for their children should try to be at the elementary school promptly at 3:05 o'clock.

Children entering the schools should be vaccinated against smallpox and diptheria and they are asked to bring certificates showing they have been immunized against the diseases.

School authorities would not comment on the size of the enrollment expected in the school this year. However, a fairly sizable increase is expected in most of the schools. Quite a few families have returned from war jobs, and the eleventh graders of last year are returning for the added

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Revival Meeting Under Way At Cross Roads

Rev. M. L. Ambrose is conducting a series of revival services at Christian Chapel (Cross Roads). The public is invited.

ROUND-UP

The round-up of alleged law violators here and in the county last week-end was unusually small considering the fact that a large shipment of liquor was distributed during the period and that it marked the close of the first marketing week of the season, not to mention the operations of a gambling joint on wheels.

Eight persons, including three white were jailed, three for drunkenness, two for assault, one for drunken driving and one for disorderly conduct. An eighth victim, breaking under the strain of the fast pace the world is traveling, was booked temporarily, pending her removal to the asylum for the insane.

Lions Supplement Salary Of Coach

Meeting in regular session last [illegible] local Lions [illegible] agreed to offer a $500 supplement to the coach's salary in an effort to promote a sports program suitable for a town this size. The matter was discussed at length after the members were advised that the existing salary schedule did not offer enough inducement to attract a coach. It is understood that the supplement will make possible a salary of about $2,200 and that the figure will attract applicants to the post which has not been filled.

Reports were submitted by various committee chairmen, one stating that the "white cane sale" would very likely exceed the quota. Most of the money raised will be turned over to the State Blind Association for the furtherance of the work throughout the State, but a portion will be used locally.

Plans for the club's Harvest Festival, scheduled for next month, are progressing rapidly, the chairman of the committee stating that the ticket sale on the new car to be given away on September 24 is up to expectations.

The Lions had as their guests, Mr. Johnson of Raleigh, and Messrs. B. G. Stewart, new school principal, and Jimmy Lomax, a newcomer to this community.

Car Wrecked In Sunday Accident

No one was hurt but considerable damage was done when Chas. C. Carson, of Oak City, lost control of his old model Chevrolet in Gold Point last Sunday night about 10 o'clock and the machine tore into a stump.

Running off the left side of the highway, the car struck the stump at about a 40-mile-per-hour clip. The left side of the machine was ripped away almost, causing damage estimated at about $300 by Patrolman W. E. Saunders who investigated the accident.

Federal Plan To Aid This State's Medical Program

Dr. Frank Graham Speaks At Farm-Home Week In Raleigh

Addressing the opening session of the 39th annual North Carolina Farm and Home Week at State College last week, President Frank P. Graham of the consolidated University of North Carolina emphasized the "primary meaning of the Medical Care and Hospital Program for the rural people" of this State.

"The proponents of this state program," he said, "have been the most active in advocating the passage of the Hill-Burton Bill which recently became law with the signature of President Truman.

"This Federal act provides federal aid to states and localities for building hospitals in reach of rural people and fits in admirably with the North Carolina program on a three-way basis of financial cooperation between the nation, the state and locality with local autonomy preserved."

President Graham said the North Carolina program is acknowledged throughout the nation to be the best now proposed by any state. "North Carolina, now at the bottom in hospital and medical facilities, plans to move up toward the front in medical and hospital care."

President Graham explained that the North Carolina plan is a six-point program with two main objectives:

"1. To provide more hospitals and rural health centers, and 2. To train in North Carolina more doctors, nurses and medical technicians for those hospitals and centers.

"On these two pillars," he said, "the program stands or falls together. The few who would undermine either pillar are striking at the foundations of the total program. Without more hospitals, rural health centers and diagnostic facilities, as far as I am concerned the heart of the program would be left out. This [illegible] has been the position of all the advocates of the program as the record clearly shows.

"Only a few of the opponents of the program speak otherwise. And there are both the obvious and desperate need for the training of more doctors, nurses and medical technicians and the obvious need for more hospitals, rural health centers and diagnostic facilities strategically available for rural people and for the scientific use of modern trained doctors and technicians.

"A few opponents of this total coordinated program are seeking to divide and conquer," President Graham said. "This six-point program for providing more hospitals and diagnostic facilities and for training more doctors and technicians accessible to the rural as well as to city people has been overwhelmingly recognized and endorsed as one undivided total program by the Governor's Medical Care Commission, by the leaders in the North Carolina Medical Society, who inaugurated this plan as the practical way of lifting North Carolina out of her low state; by 55 of the 65 county medical societies; by both Houses of the State Legislature; by the platforms of both the democratic and republican parties; by the North Carolina Good Health Association; by all the organized farm groups; by the leaders of religious, industrial and business education, the professions, women's organizations, and all the organized labor groups in our state. Part of the six-point program concerned with the expansion and location of the State Medical School was wisely referred to one group

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Joins County's Soil Conservation Staff

A. B. Pleasants of Angier this week joined the soil conservation service staff in this county and will be associated with H. E. McKnight in the special work.

After five years in the Army, more than two of which were spent with L. T. Fowden in the 30th Division, Mr. Pleasants joined the service last November, working in Harnett County until his transfer here this week. The young man attended State College.