

Principal Reviews Foundations For A Real Education

Offers Startling Figures About Absences In Local Schools

Principal B. G. Stewart, one of the speakers addressing the regular monthly meeting of the parent-teacher group in the grammar school building here last Monday evening listed the foundation stones for education, and went on to cite a few startling figures in connection with absences in the local schools.

Mr. Stewart stressed the need of the right kind of environment, and went on to say that while the three R's are important the educational program must be broadened to meet greater problems. Education's foundation must be based on fundamentals, the principal explaining that character building is necessary, that one's personal conduct and one's health must be considered. "We must know and appreciate democracy, and better our personal relations, to learn how to get along with our neighbors," Stewart said. "The child should become interested in community improvement, and taught to appreciate the meaning of world citizenship and develop a greater interest in international affairs," he added.

Continuing the school man pointed out that personal economics must be given a place, that the child should be taught to be thrifty, to appreciate culture and the beauties of life. The pupil must learn how to use modern machinery and understand a few of its fundamentals.

He also stressed training in the practical arts, including the use of tools, and training should be provided in the various vocational fields.

Recreation was also cited as a prerequisite to a well balanced life. "We must learn how to use our leisure time by developing hobbies and learning to play as well as work together."

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Complete Repairs To Local Streets

Local street, badly damaged when conduits were laid for underground telephone cables the middle of last month, have been repaired. While the damage scars are quite prominent, traffic is again moving without interruption.

Travel was a problem on the streets for weeks, but a climax was reached last Tuesday afternoon when traffic filled the main street from Watts to Haughton, got wedged and remained there the greater part of an hour. A few vehicles broke over and ran on the newly laid asphalt, but apparently caused not great damage.

The attack on the streets has been committed and the wounds are healed, but many local people are still puzzled to understand why the telephone cables could not have been hung on poles in alleyways and back streets.

Equipment for switching the local telephone exchange to the dial system has been placed in the office here, but it could not be learned when mechanics would report to handle the installation and pull the cables through the newly laid conduit in the business section.

GRATIFYING

Canvassing the first returns from the direct mail appeals for contributions to the proposed \$100,000 Martin County war memorial, the finance committee of the Memorial Foundation this week announced that more than \$2,000 had been received as a result of the direct appeal. "We are greatly pleased," Mr. W. E. Dunn, a member of the committee said in describing the response so far as being "very gratifying."

The committee is urging others to cooperate in creating a fitting and lasting memorial to those men who fought and died in past wars for home and country.

Big Barge Wrecks Bridge And Blocks Traffic Here

Tearing loose from its mooring eighteen miles up the Roanoke late Tuesday night, a large barge loaded with thousands of feet of logs and belonging to the Mengel Corporation tore into the temporary river bridge here about 5:00 o'clock Wednesday morning. The structure, while stopping the loose barge, was badly damaged and engineers estimated that two days would be required to repair the bridge and restore traffic.

Barely missing the draw span, the barge crashed into the bridge approach, knocking the span almost three feet out of line. The accident was not immediately discovered, and some traffic moved over the bridge before engineers ruled the structure was unsafe.

Most of the fender guards were torn away or shattered and two of the main pilings supporting the bridge were pushed several feet out of line.

In addition to blocking high-

way travel across the Roanoke at this point, the accident held through traffic on the river at a standstill during most of Wednesday. Through highway traffic was diverted at Edenton and Washington and local traffic detoured around by Scotland Neck, but there was little visiting from one county to the other.

It was six hours after the crash that powerful tugs belonging to the Wells-Oates Lumber Co. and the Wiggins Towing Co., were dispatched from up the river to the bridge. Both of the tugs, their power combined, were barely able to pull the heavy barge free of the bridge. Previous efforts to pull the barge clear with a steam skidder failed.

With the foundation repaired, workmen were replacing the floor and guard rail at 2 o'clock Thursday, making ready to reopen the bridge to traffic within two or three hours.

Negligible Reduction In Tobacco Acreage

SMOKEHOUSE KEY

Dipping into the rushing yellow waters of the Roanoke Mr. Ira Coltrane netted the first herrings of the season at Jamesville last Tuesday. The dean of Roanoke fishermen caught nine nice size herrings, the catch equaling the finding of a key to smokehouses in this section.

No more than two or three herrings were ever dipped from the stream this early in the year, but the summer-like weather made conditions ideal for the catch.

According to all signs the 1947 fishing season promises to be a good one.

Hubert Smith Died Suddenly Tuesday At Sister's Home

Funeral Services Are Held Thursday Afternoon At 3:00 O'clock

Hubert Smith, chief mechanic for the State Highway Patrol in this district, died suddenly at the home of his sister, Mrs. Clayton Davenport, in Robersonville, Tuesday morning of a heart attack. Suffering the attack at 5:40 o'clock that morning he died forty-two minutes later. On February 28 of last year he suffered a heart attack and underwent treatment for several months. His condition improved rapidly and he returned to his duties and apparently was getting along very well up until a short time before he died.

The son of Mrs. Lizzie Ross Smith and the late A. C. (Tart) Smith, he was born in Gold Point 43 years ago last July. An able mechanic, he lived for a number of years in Williamston where he was employed by the Williamston Motor Company. In recent years he headed the Highway Patrol garage at the radio station near Williamston but made his home with his sister.

When a young man he was married to Miss Pattie Wynne of Williamston who survives with one son, Hubert Davis Smith, who has been attending a special sports school in Florida for several weeks.

Surviving besides his wife and son are his mother and sister with whom he made his home and three brothers, Roy Smith of West Point, Va., Milton Smith of Washington, and James Smith of Robersonville.

He was a member of the Junior Order for a number of years.

Funeral services were conducted at his late home in Robersonville Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. James M. Perry, and interment was in the Robersonville cemetery.

Members of the Highway Patrol and associates at the highway radio station served as active pall bearers.

Farmers Doubtful If Decrease Will Maintain Prices

No Reduction for Growers With Allotments Under 2.1 Acres

Making a token reduction in 1947 tobacco acreage allotments, agriculture department officials, farmers in this county believe, set the stage for a fairly large price drop on the markets next fall.

The reduction was placed at 2.3 percent of the 1946 crop, meaning that farmers will be allotted 7.7 more tobacco acreage this year than they planted in 1945.

After all the figuring is done and all the explanations are offered, farmers are fairly well convinced that cheaper tobacco is in sight. It has been pointed out that the British are having a heck of a time trying to maintain dollar exchange, that tobacco is not a top priority, and that lower prices are in the making to help relieve the trade block. The government is pledged to support tobacco prices at 90 percent of parity. That promise, while welcomed, can mean, in the long run, only bankruptcy. Parity last year was around 33 cents, and 90 percent of that figure does not sound very encouraging.

In reality, the 1947 crop will not be reduced 2.3 percent. The grower with an allotment of only 2.1 acres or less will not have his quota reduced. According to the schedule released this week, the following acreage reduction is to be effected: growers with allotments from 2.2 to 6.5 acres will have their quotas reduced by one-tenth of an acre, those with 6.6 to 10.8 acre allotments will be reduced by two-tenths of an acre; 10.9 to 15.2 acre reduced by three-tenths of an acre; 15.3 to 19.5 will be cut by four-tenths of an acre; and so on down the line until it reaches fifty acres which will be cut by only 1.2 acres.

According to reliable estimates the crop in this county will be reduced by about 300 acres, leaving the approximately 1,600 tobacco farmers an allotment of about 14,700 acres.

In announcing the 1947 marketing quotas, Acting Secretary of

BAND MAN

Jack Butler, popular band instructor and teacher in the local schools before he entered the armed service, is back in civilian clothes, school officials were advised here this week. Butler, just out of the service, is catching up with civilian life during a current two weeks' vacation, and plans to report here at the end of that time.

Definite plans for reorganizing a local high school band will be announced shortly.

Parents-Teachers In Meeting Here On Monday Night

Parents, School People and Pupils Have Parts In The Program

Holding their regular meeting in the grammar school last Monday evening, local parents and teachers and a pupil participated in an unusual program which stressed the responsibility of the school, the parents and the pupil. Previously the county superintendent and local principal had discussed school finances and education foundations.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$83.50, and Mrs. Herbert Taylor, presiding in the absence of the president, Hugh G. Horton, and the vice president, Mrs. J. W. Watts, announced a project committee, as follows: Mrs. D. R. Davis, Mrs. W. H. Everett, Mrs. M. M. Levin, R. L. Coburn, P. C. Holloman and J. H. Edwards. Members of the local organization were asked to attend a special meeting Thursday for the organization of a county P.-T. A. Council. Mrs. John L. Goff, chairman of the program committee, announced the speakers.

Speaking as a parent, Mrs. I. M. Margolis outlined what parents expect the schools to do for their children. Assuring the school people that parents were indeed grateful for what is being done, the speaker frankly stated that the schools have a grave responsibility, and admitted that parents often criticized certain acts before they get all the facts.

"Leaders should have interest in their work and in their pupils," Mrs. Margolis said. "The schools," she continued should guard the health of the children by having them examined, by properly heating and lighting the buildings, keeping the buildings clean, serving nutritious meals, providing adequate playground equipment and maintaining a physical education program for all the children." The speaker suggested that the schools should have an attendant in keeping the buildings clean.

Offering the teacher's position in the education program, Miss Mary Whitley cited the parent's responsibility, and urged parents to carry their problems direct to the teachers. She urged the parents to be concerned about school and their children, and asked, "Are parents glad when school starts so they will have some place to send their children? I have heard some parents say they were happy to have some place to send their children."

"Are parents interested in what is being taught their children?" she asked, adding that it should be the business of parents to know what is being taught their children and that the teachers are competent.

"Are parents concerned about their children? Is the child allowed to look upon school as a side issue? Do parents demand the child to do thorough work? How much does the child study at home?" Miss Whitley asked. "I am of the old school. I used to have to study and I believe children should study at home today."

Absences without bona-fide excuses

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Lodge Installs Officers Here

New officers were installed by Skewarkey Masonic Lodge here at a recent meeting of the organization.

George Harrison, Jr., succeeds Ben D. Courtney as master. Other officers include: Henry Griffin, senior warden; Roy L. Ward, junior warden; Paul Bailey, senior deacon; W. Clyde Manning, junior deacon; R. E. Cowan and Joseph Edmondson, stewards; J. D. Woolard, treasurer; J. C. Anderson, secretary; Ben D. Courtney, Tyler, and K. D. Worrell, historian.

Plan To Open Bank In Oak City Soon

According to unofficial information received here yesterday, the Edgecombe Bank and Trust Company is planning to open a branch in Oak City next Wednesday with a big program.

Residential Area Expanded Almost Over Night Here

Two Hundred Forty-Two Persons Living In West End; Many New Homes

Confined to farming for years and years with an occasional shift toward business undertakings, including a fair, more or less agricultural, that section lying just west of Williamston's town limits, has, almost overnight, been developed into a thriving residential community. Approximately fifty new homes have been constructed there within the past twelve or eighteen months, and the population count as of January 29, this year, stood at 242, according to a census survey conducted by "Mayor" Exum L. Ward, who pointed out that ten homes are under construction.

Operating a sandwich shop, Mr. Ward said that the population figure is increasing rapidly, that business enterprises are springing up from time to time, that there is a possibility that Williamston will be the suburb in time.

Most of the buildings in the old Martin County fair grounds have been moved away or torn down and fifteen or more new homes constructed there. Five new homes are under construction on the Martin property while still farther west the gaps are being filled in rapidly with new homes and business houses to form a solid front almost to Mickey's Inn.

A generation ago traffic moved into Williamston from the west via Skewarkey Church. Mr. Wheeler Martin granted a right-of-way across his farm, but for years the new route was thought of as a country road right up to the intersection of Sycamore Street. Now, the route is known as West Main Street. Development was slow down through the years. An occasional home was built, and then several individuals constructed homes for rent. Prior to that time the old Martin County Brick Company operated a brick kiln at what was later known as Poe's Siding. The business suspended operations more than a quarter century ago. D. M. Roberson years later established a slaughtering business there, and the area gradually developed. Filling stations were built. Grocery stores were opened. Repair shops, garages and other business projects were developed. A creosoting plant on the railroad is in the making, and plans call for the construction of other business quarters and structures, including a community church.

Less than a year ago, the fair grounds were sold to Jesse Whitley for a reported \$30,000. Building contractors moved in and the area was converted almost overnight from a scattered settlement into a thickly populated community.

Rumors about incorporation either as an independent unit or as a part of Williamston have been heard, but no official action has been taken in that direction. The people there and Williamston's citizens are content not to disturb the status quo.

The community's first census lists 242 residents as of 6 p. m., January 29, as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Banks, Walter Banks, Charles Banks, Eleanor Banks, Sadie Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Black, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bellflower, Robert Bellflower, Jimmy Bellflower, Etta Bellflower, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Brady, Dan Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Bailey, Brady, Jane Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Bailey, Julian Bailey, Bill

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Firemen Called Out Wednesday

Local volunteer firemen were called out for the first time this week when a grass fire just off Grace Street went out of control early Wednesday afternoon and threatened property. A pile of lumber back of the Dr. J. S. Rhodes home caught fire and a hedge was damaged. The property loss was negligible, firemen reported.

Two hours later the firemen were called to a grass fire on West Main Street at the underpass. No damage was done there.

County Schools Cost Little Progress Reported So Far In The Legislature

Over \$116,700 Is Paid Out Of Fund Raised In County

County, State and Federal Cooperate In Financing Education Program

Speaking to members of the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association in the grammar school auditorium last Monday evening, County Superintendent of Schools J. C. Manning stated that a total of \$482,048.49 was spent in financing public education in Martin County during the 1945-46 term. The superintendent's talk was one of several heard during the regular meeting of the organization.

Discussing the school finances, the superintendent stated that North Carolina is the only state in the union with a state-supported program. "But that program makes only minimum provisions," he explained, adding that the county is charged with the responsibility of expanding its school plant, carrying insurance on its property, employing additional teachers, supplementing a niggardly fuel supply, bettering transportation and purchasing books. In addition to that offered by the county and state, other support is derived from the federal government for the employment of vocational teachers, and financing lunch room projects and farm veterans' training. Still another source of revenue is centered in special taxation in the several districts.

North Carolina, according to the county superintendent, spent \$334,426.35 for education in Martin County during the 1945-46 term, including \$7,412.39 for the superintendent's office, \$288,845.22 for teachers salaries, \$11,746.46 for fuel, lights and water and janitors' salaries, and \$26,422.28 for transportation.

The transportation costs, the school man pointed out, amounted to exactly 5 cents a day per pupil.

Costs to the county for education that term were listed: \$1,615.61 for the board of education, \$22,397.92 for instructional services, including salaries paid to commercial teachers and one-third of the salaries paid to vocational teachers; \$1,275.74 for plant operations, \$14,585.04 for plant maintenance, \$8,781.34 for insurance and \$282.92 for special transportation. In addition to those items, other funds financed by the county include: \$65,749.59 for current expenses, \$27,244.78 for capital outlay including the purchase of a school site, and \$23,709.10 for debt service. Commenting on the debt service, the school man said that it had been reduced from right at a half million dollars to \$99,000 in recent years.

Last year the county levied at the rate of 48 cents on the \$100 property valuation for its schools. While most of the income came from ad valorem taxation, \$12,864 was received in fines and forfeitures from the various courts, \$1,500 from tuition paid by pupils in commercial classes, \$1,400 teacher rents, \$111 from the sale of property, and \$12,284 from the state for the vocational programs.

At the present time the county has \$775,000 invested in school properties.

In addition to paying one-third of the salaries received by vocational teachers, the federal government last term spent \$15,203.81 for lunch room, and at the present time is maintaining farm veterans' training program in the various agricultural departments, the superintendent said.

MEETINGS

The Boards of Commissioners for the county and town and Education will hold regular meetings here next Monday morning and evening.

Reports from the chairmen state that very little new business is scheduled for construction at any of the three sessions. A few requests for roads are to be expected by the county commissioners.

TAX LISTING

Tax listing is just about completed in most of the ten townships in the county, Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel announced Thursday afternoon.

While no extension has been allowed by the county authorities, several of the list takers plan to be in their respective offices on Saturday of this week to complete the work.

No official statement has been released, but indications point to an increase in both personal and real property values.

Judge J. C. Smith Has Twelve Cases In County's Court

Fines Imposed In Amount Of \$150 At Session Last Monday

Judge J. Calvin Smith called an even dozen cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when fines were imposed in the amount of \$150 and several defendants drew sentences on the roads. A comparatively small number of spectators attended the session which lasted hardly more than two hours.

Proceedings: The case charging David R. Harrell with non-support was continued until March 10.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with assaulting a female, Joe Taylor was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs.

Junior Warren, charged with larceny, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the court costs and on the further condition that the defendant be convicted of no criminal law violation during one year.

Charged with assaulting a female, Elton LeRoy Ruffin pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs, the court ordering the defendant confined to the county jail for 45 days.

James Turner was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs when he pleaded guilty of the indecent exposure of his person.

Judgment was suspended in the case charging Joseph Taylor with issuing a worthless check when the defendant reimbursed the prosecuting witness, Henry Jones, and paid the costs. The check was issued in the sum of \$5.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Allen Warren pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

James Bannerman, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence and was sentenced to the road for two months. He appealed to the higher courts and bond was required in the sum of \$300. Bond was not arranged immediately.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and damaging personal property, Lollie Williams pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the road for 60 days.

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Child Painfully Burned This Week

Alice Hicks, 13-year-old colored girl, was painfully and possibly seriously burned at her home here on East Main Street Wednesday morning. Removed by the welfare department to the local hospital, she was said to be getting along Thursday afternoon as well as could be expected.

Few details could be had from the welfare office, but one report stated that the girl, attired in a grass skirt, was doing the hula-hula dance in the yard and got too close to a fire around a wash pot and the dress caught fire. She was burned on the back and arms, one report saying the girl received second degree burns.

Bill Creating Local Election Primary Expected In A Few Days

Although nearing the end of its first month, North Carolina's General Assembly has accomplished little in the way of legislative enactments, but a great stage has been set for a whale of a lot of wrangling.

State employes have been assured a bonus, but a salary schedule for them is yet to be fixed.

A few minor bills and a number having to do with local political subdivision have been introduced and passed. Several bills of a state-wide nature have been offered, some of them having been aimed at drunken driving. It is proposed by some of the lawyer legislators who apparently have an eye on their chances in the courtroom, to leave it in the discretion of the trial judge whether a drunken driver's license should be revoked. Another would place drunken driving charges in the inferior courts. Still another would demand jail sentences and \$200 fines for drunken driving.

It is also proposed to shift the farm census from the tax lister to designated census takers who would be paid 10 cents by the State and 10 cents by the county for each report.

A proposal to take insurance business out of the hands of money lenders has been altered, and the measure will be left up to the law makers.

Still another law is being proposed to ban the sale of fireworks but to permit their manufacture in North Carolina.

An issue almost certain to be hotly contested was dropped in the Senate.

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March Of Dimes Nearing The Top

The March of Dimes, advanced in support of the Infantile Paralysis Fund, is rapidly moving into big money in this county. Drive Chairman L. B. Wynne announced Thursday. "The goal is in sight, and I believe we will exceed it by a comfortable margin when the canvass is completed Friday afternoon of this week," the chairman added.

Led by Biggs School which boosted its initial \$25 donation to \$41.15 this week, the colored schools have given the drive a liberal support, the chairman said. Seven colored schools, the first to report, contributed \$111.45 including the \$41.15 Biggs donation, as follows: Dardens, \$14.50; Eversetts, \$25.50; Hamilton, \$17.50; Williams, Lower, \$13.50; Bear Grass, \$5; and Poplar Point, \$4.20.

The Maple Grove Sunday School forwarded \$10 this week, and \$247.61 was collected in the Williamston theaters.

So far a total of \$1,411.13 has been raised and reported. It was pointed out that few of the larger schools have reported, that possibly the local schools would contribute \$450 or \$500.

Contributing almost \$1 each, the six pupils in the Hassell white school boosted the total raised there to \$12.00, it was reported Wednesday. The six sixth graders donated \$5.80 to the cause.

The county was assigned a quota of \$2,120 this year.

SIGHT IN THE CAMP

"It's getting to be one big sight in the camp," an observer allowed this week when he was apprised of the recent trend in accidents on sea, land and air right here in Martin County.

Automobile accidents numbers have been accepted, unfortunately, as a matter of course. But last week an airplane crashed near here in Griffins Township. Then a large log barge went out of control on the Roanoke, drifted eighteen miles down the stream in about seven hours and crashed in the temporary bridge blocking river traffic for hours and highway traffic better part of two days.