

County Delegates Report On State Farm Convention

Production of Food No. 1 Task In Maintaining Peace, Delegates Told

Members of the Martin County Farm Bureau, meeting in the county courthouse last Friday night, heard an interesting and detailed report on the state organization's annual convention held in Asheville early last month.

Designated by the others to make the report, Delegate Chas. L. Daniel said that the convention was frankly told that the production of food is the No. 1 task in maintaining the task of the world. "Our big task now is to feed the hungry, to help our neighbors across the sea get on their feet," Mr. Daniel reported, adding that "if they are not cared for they will follow crackpots."

Experts, according to Mr. Daniel, declared that tobacco farmers should be interested in cotton, that if cotton prices drop too low, cotton farmers will want to plant tobacco. They pointed out that cotton faces many obstacles offered by substitutes, but that cotton's future is not altogether dark because new uses for cotton are being found. "Fire resistant materials and other articles are now being made from cotton," he quoted the experts as saying.

The meeting pointed out the danger of an overproduction in tobacco and heard Congressman Folger praise the work of the organization and its secretary, Flake Shaw, the delegate said.

The farm leaders, numbering about 1,200, were urged to help keep things on an even keel, that price extremes can mean trouble.

Dr. Shiskin, representing organized labor, addressed the Asheville meeting. "He reviewed interdependence of farmers and wage earners, pointing out that when the workingman has purchasing power, farmers get a good price for their products and there is prosperity for all," Mr. Daniel reported.

President Wasson of the National Association of Manufacturers spoke for the industrialists. Mr. Daniel said that he made a bitter speech, that he went to the extreme, and showed the attitude of industrialists against labor.

J. M. Broughton, former governor, summarized the talks of both men, picking out the good points made by each.

The maintenance of crop quotas was pointed out by Allen Kline, vice president of the American Farm Bureau, as a big problem to handle. "When quotas are reduced, the farmers plant the acreage taken out of production to soil building crops and when they use the land again, production is increased sometimes as much as a third," the delegate quoted the speaker.

The uncertainty of farming and the quick price changes in farm commodities were pointed out. The meeting was also warned by the New York State Secretary of agriculture, that tobacco quotas might be undermined. "He told us we had better watch out," Mr. Daniel quoted him as saying.

Flake Shaw, state Farm Bureau secretary, reviewed the work handled by the organization in the past year, the record showing that much had been accomplished. "The state organization now has 62,000 members and the goal for 1947 is 100,000," Mr. Daniel concluded.

Alleged Robber Given Hearing

Glenn Albert Chase, young white man charged with breaking into the Woolard Hardware Company and Pittman's stores here last Tuesday night, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace Jas. S. Ayers last Saturday morning. Unable to raise bond in the sum of \$1,750, Chase was returned to jail to await trial in the superior court during the week of March 17.

Chase pleaded guilty of breaking into the two stores, but continued to deny any part in sixteen previous robberies reported here since the early part of last December.

Plans Are Made For First Town Primary

BRIDGE WORK

Despite high waters some weeks ago and freezing weather for quite a while, construction forces have continued to make progress on the river bridge here. The bridge approaches will be opened to two-way traffic this week, possibly tomorrow, and plans are being made to pour the cap on the center pier for the steel bridge across the stream. Special arrangements have been made for pouring the pier in the middle of the river, a job that will take about twelve or fourteen hours.

Reports state that contractors have been unable to get creosote piling, that the shortage may delay the bridge work for a while.

Big Lumber Plant Damaged By Fire Here Last Friday

Volunteer Firemen Work In Freezing Weather For Two Hours

Fire, its origin not definitely known, wrecked the boiler room, destroyed a costly blower and damaged a lumber shed at the large plant of the Williamston Lumber Company here shortly after midnight last Friday. Unofficial estimates made shortly after the fire placed the damage at about \$2,000.

Messrs. Speight and Quayle, owners and operators of the plant, immediately started repairs and operations will be restored shortly.

Leaving the boiler room, the fireman was making ready to run a truck load of slab wood into the room when, according to reports, he saw a flash. The fire spread rapidly through the dry sawdust and was burning through the top of the structure when Mr. W. C. Windley, working in the Dixie Peanut Company offices across the highway, saw it and telephoned the fire department. Before they could reach the plant most of the boiler room structure was in flames and burning high into the air. Firemen were greatly hampered when they found it necessary to pull a hose line from the highway across the mill yard, over railroad tracks, logs and lumber. There was some delay, but the water was turned on in time to check the fire's spread to other parts of the big plant. The entire mill, including planing mill, dry kilns, sheds, and saw mill, was threatened and had the fire gained much more headway there is a possibility firemen would have been unable to check it.

The town's pieces of fire fighting equipment was carried there and approximately 1,500 feet of hose was laid.

Ice was formed on the sides of buildings and on the hats and clothing of the volunteers who battled the fire for about two hours.

A fifth alarm of the week was sounded last night.

Lindsley Making Business Change

Recently appointed dealers for Wilson sporting goods and the Admiral-Carrier lines of refrigeration, radios, air conditioning and food freezing, the Lindsley Ice Company is liquidating its entire stock of groceries and will shortly remodel the store to make room for the new lines, it was announced this week by Mr. Lyn Taylor, the firm's sales manager. It was also announced that Mr. J. Edwin Getsinger of Plymouth has been added to the sales staff, that he entered upon his new duties yesterday morning.

"We plan to carry a complete line of sporting goods and athletic equipment and also an extensive line of electrical appliances and other equipment," Mr. Taylor said.

Schedule Primary For Town Officers 14th of Next Month

J. E. Pope Named Registrar; Books To Open March 22

Machinery for holding Williamston's first municipal primary was set up by the town commissioners in regular session last night, the authorities limiting their other activities to the issuance of two beer licenses and an order calling for additional repairs to the town's deep well near the courthouse.

John E. Pope was named registrar for the primary election and Reginald Simpson and J. T. Price were named judges of election. In accordance with a new law recently passed in the state legislature the registration books are to be opened on March 22, remain open for three Saturdays for the registration of electors and a fourth Saturday for challenges. Candidates for the office of mayor and commissioner are to file with the clerk on or before April 4, the primary to follow ten days later on April 14.

No new registration was ordered, but the officials were of the opinion that the books should be revised and brought up to date.

Beer licenses were issued to Frances G. Early and Eugene Barnes, the first to operate in the building recently known as Hollywood Inn, and the other applicant to maintain a business on East Main Street.

It was revealed at the meeting that an order for street signs had been confirmed and that delivery was tentatively promised in late spring or early summer.

More trouble is being experienced with the town's deep well near the courthouse. The pump was recently repaired at a cost of approximately \$450, and now the casing is giving trouble. The salt in the water apparently has been lifting large quantities of sand and mud from the well. Unofficial estimates place the cost of needed repairs now at about \$2,500. The town board ordered the work done as soon as possible. It was explained that the two wells at Skewarkey are furnishing just about enough water for normal consumption, that the courthouse well is needed for emergencies.

Messrs. L. P. Lindsley, mayor pro tem, and N. C. Green and R. T. Griffin were present for the meeting last evening.

Organize County Baseball League

Approximately 100 interested citizens meeting in the Everett school Monday evening perfected the organization of a Martin County baseball league, and tentatively made plans for launching the season in early April. Other arrangements for the game along with the adoption of by-laws will be handled at a second meeting to be held in Everett's next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock.

Bill Spivey was named at the meeting to head the league as president, and H. B. Gaylord of Jameville was elected secretary-treasurer.

There are eight entries in the league as follows with the names of the managers: Williamston, K. P. Lindsley and Joe David Throver; Hassell, John House; Bear Grass, Irving Terry; Hamilton, Frank Everett; Robersonville, David Grimes, Jr.; Cross Roads, Herbert Roebuck; Everett, Alton Keel; and Jameville, its manager to be announced.

Opens New Cafe On Washington Street

Mr. B. L. Conway opened a new cafe on Washington Street next to the Pope insurance office last Saturday morning. A new building was just recently completed for the business which operates under the name of Barney's Grill.

Prominent County Farmer Passes At His Home Monday

Funeral Wednesday Afternoon for Lester Everett Near Robersonville

Lester Everett, well known county citizen and a leading farmer, died at his home near Robersonville Monday evening at 6:00 o'clock following an illness of only a few days. Mr. Everett, apparently in about his usual health and after a fairly active day last Saturday, suffered an attack that evening, and his condition was regarded as critical. However, he seemed to be getting along very well until about 2:00 o'clock Monday afternoon when he suffered a second attack with his heart and the end came gradually a few hours later.

The son of the late William H. and Mollie Purvis Everett, he was born near Robersonville 67 years ago, choosing to live in the community of his birth all his life. Mr. Everett was one of the county's most substantial farmers, a splendid citizen and Christian leader. He was a devoted husband and thoughtful father, and a man who was held in high esteem by everyone who knew him. His work figured prominently in the success the Martin County Farm Bureau achieved during recent years, and he was at the front in all worthy causes and undertakings.

He was married to Miss Minnie R. Roberson of the home community, and she survives with two children, a son, Willie B. Everett, and a daughter, Mrs. William Warren Taylor, both of Robersonville; two brothers, N. C. Everett of Robersonville and Willie Everett of Norfolk, Va.; four sisters, Mrs. J. A. Cofield and Mrs. Thelma Meadows, both of Robersonville, Mrs. Lector Mayo and Mrs. Willie Barnhill, both of Bethel; and three grandchildren. Funeral services will be conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elder A. B. Denson of Rocky Mount, and burial will follow in the Robersonville cemetery.

School Girl Hit By Auto Friday

Lillie Mae Smith, 14-year-old colored school girl, was painfully but not seriously hurt when she was struck by a car on East Main Street shortly before 4:00 o'clock last Friday afternoon.

John Whitley, local boy, was driving east on the street when the girl started to cross over from the right to the left side. Whitley, applying his brakes, swerved his car to the left, striking the victim and knocking her several feet. She landed on the left shoulder and immediately started crawling away.

She was removed to a local doctor's office where x-rays revealed no broken bones. She was bruised and scratched on her legs and knees and about the head.

County Girl Passes Nurse Board Exams

Miss Ruby Evaline Roberson, daughter of Mrs. Ann Eliza Roberson of this county and the late James E. Roberson, successfully passed the State Board of Nurse Examiners examination recently at Winston-Salem. The examination was rated one of the most difficult ever offered.

Miss Roberson, a graduate of Farm Life High School, took her training in the school of nursing at Park View Hospital, Rocky Mount, where she will continue her work, it was announced.

ROUND-UP

County and local officers rounded up and jailed ten alleged violators over the week-end. Two were booked for assaults, five for drunkenness, two for disorderly conduct and one for drunken driving. Several others were detained briefly while bonds were arranged.

One of the ten was white and the ages of the group ranged from 22 to 65 years.

Martin County Farm Bureau To Support Tobacco Export Plan

Red Cross Drive Off To A Good Start In The County

With arrangements completed in most of the districts last week-end, the annual Red Cross fund drive was said to have gotten off to a good start in the chapter yesterday and today. Chairman Claude B. Clark, Jr., stated that a quick drive had been planned, that several of the canvassers are already nearing the completion of the canvass. Others plan to finish the task by the latter part of this week and the chairman is anxious to have the drive go over the top by the early part of next week.

Special gift solicitations have already been completed in Williamston, and many workers are busy at the present time extending the canvass to every business firm and home.

Co-Chairman V. J. Spivey announced yesterday that Mrs. John Gurkin, Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt Edwards, M. A. Price, J. W. Bland,

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Hardy, C. D. Bullock, Mrs. C. E. Jenkins and David Moore had agreed to help with the canvass in their respective sections of the district. The following are handling the canvass in Williamston's business areas: Ernest Mears, Exum Ward, Jr., John H. Gurganus, Noah Hardison, Reg Simpson, Mrs. Kathleen Price Sherman, Mrs. J. E. King, K. D. Worrell, Mrs. E. S. Peel, Mrs. Joel Muse, Mrs. Tom Skinner, Mrs. Vernon Bunting, Mrs. John A. Manning, Mrs. Leeman Barnhill, Mrs. V. J. Spivey, Miss Mary Carstarphen, Mrs. Titus Critcher, Clarence Griffin, Miss Edna Barnhill, Miss Mary Taylor, Mrs. Bill Howell, Mrs. Chas. Mobley, Mrs. John Hardy and Bill Howell.

Mrs. LeRoy Harrison and Mrs. Pete Mendenhall have agreed to handle the canvass in Bear Grass where \$225 is sought.

Dangerously Shot by Policeman Roebuck

HOG MARKET

Receipts on the local hog market broke all records last week when 1,237 porkers weighing a little over a quarter million pounds passed through the pens of the Roberson Slaughter House, Miss Grace Whitley, secretary-treasurer, announced.

Averaging 27 cents a pound, the 1,237 hogs sold for \$65,851.91. Deliveries were made to the pens by farmers in several counties, Bertie possibly making more than any other one county.

Miss Hattie Clark Dies In Hospital

Miss Hattie Clark, well known woman and a life-long resident of Cross Roads Township, died in the local hospital last Saturday morning at 7:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for several years, but her condition was not considered serious until the latter part of the week when she was removed to the hospital. Miss Clark had lost one eye in an operation and her sight in the other one was greatly impaired for a long time. Heart trouble and the infirmities of age resulted in death.

The daughter of the late Daniel and Celia Mobley Clark, she was born in Cross Roads 78 years ago on February 20, 1869. Miss Clark, the last member of her immediate family, moved to Everetts about twenty years ago and had made her home there since that time. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Bear Grass for a number of years and had many friends in her native and adopted communities.

Surviving are three nephews, C. B. Clark of Williamston and L. A. and Hubert Clark of Everetts, and two nieces, Mrs. W. B. Roberson of Portsmouth and Mrs. Sybil Boyd of Everetts.

Funeral services were conducted in the Everetts Christian Church Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment was in the Clark family cemetery on the old farm near Everetts.

Former Local Resident Leaves Filling Station

Bruce Holloman, a resident of Williamston for a number of years but employed for quite some time in Greensboro, leased the Central Filling Station here last week and immediately assumed its operation.

Mr. Doug Walker, Greensboro, young man, is associated with Mr. Holloman in the operation of the business.

Refused To Heed Warning Shots In Attacking Officer

Policeman Picks Up Victim And Places Him In Hospital Here

Tom Stokes, Jr., strapping young colored man, was critically shot at 1:30 o'clock here yesterday afternoon by Policeman John Roebuck when he advanced on the officer with an open knife. His liver pierced by a .38 calibre pistol bullet, Stokes fell to the ground, still clinging to his knife. He was picked up and placed in the police car and carried to the local hospital where his condition was described as "fair" this morning.

Said to have created a disturbance in the Cotton Club on Washington Street here, Stokes threatened to beat the owner-proprietor. On duty at the police station at the time, the officer answered the call and went to the club alone. He reasoned with Stokes who was reported to have been drinking, and the officer finally succeeded in getting him out of the building, but not until after Stokes had cursed and abused him. Once outside the building, the officer tried to coax Stokes into the police car, and took hold of his arm. Stokes jerked loose, backed back, pulled out his knife and started for the officer who reached for his pistol and fired two warning shots over Stokes' head. Stokes did not heed the warning shots, and when he continued the charge the officer fired into him at close range.

In the direct letter appeals, the Farm Bureau is asking the farmers to make their contributions without delay to representatives in their respective communities. Then men tentatively designated to receive the contributions are: Carl Griffin, Jameville; Chas. L. (Continued on page eight)

Robbers Try To Open Door To Storage House

Using a pry tool and possibly an axe, a robber tried to force his way into Lindsley Ice Company's warehouse in the Union Storage building sometime during the week-end. The attempt was discovered Monday morning, Mr. Lindsley stating that someone had battered the lock badly and ripped a brick from around the lock, but could not get the door open.

Kills Large Supply Of Meat At Home Tuesday

Farmer George Griffin packed a plentiful supply of meat at his home in Griffins Township last Tuesday. More than 100 neighbors and other friends were there to help handle the task and by early afternoon the 29 pigs weighing over 5,000 pounds, were packed away.

Growers Asked To Give At Rate Of 10 Cents An Acre

Township Representatives To Receive Assessments In Next Few Days

Meeting in the county courthouse last Friday evening between forty and fifty leading farmers and members of the Martin County Farm Bureau unanimously endorsed a movement designed to maintain and, if possible, increase the exportation of leaf tobacco. A leader to head the movement, J. B. Hutson, has been contacted, and the proposed organization tentatively identified as Tobacco Associates, will start functioning as soon as and if the support is forthcoming.

The tobacco farmers in five states are being asked to raise \$50,000 and merchants, tobacco warehousemen and dealers, fertilizer manufacturers and bankers are to match that amount. Unofficial reports state that the merchants and other groups have pledged their quotas and that most of the money already is in hand, leaving the movement to the rate of the farmers, who, it is believed, will meet the challenge.

At the meeting in this county last Friday night, the plan was discussed at length and had the backing of the meeting which was attended mostly by farmers.

It was decided to address direct letter appeals to every grower in the county, a plan which is being followed in all the other tobacco counties. Each grower is being assessed at the rate of ten cents per acre, but larger contributions will be welcomed. The farmers of this county are being asked to raise right at \$1,100. Merchants in Williamston and Robersonville last Friday pledged to raise approximately \$300 each, a late report stating that that amount had virtually been raised. The fertilizer people are raising another several hundred dollars, and warehousemen are raising a goodly amount.

Those acquainted with prevailing conditions and who have studied the outlook for eastern Carolina tobacco are offering the proposal a vigorous support. It was pointed out that Britain is proposing to curtail its tobacco purchases to around \$67,000,000, that the Stabilization Corporation has around fifty million pounds of tobacco on hand, that the two problems are almost directly pointed at flue cured tobacco growers, that tobacco farmers unless something is done will feel the full force of the blow.

The prevailing conditions offer a serious problem, and while the movement may not solve that problem, it is considered very likely that much can be done to help save the tobacco producing areas.

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Local Laundry Is Sold To New Firm

Mr. Forrest L. Newton, formerly of Oxford, and Bruce Pearce of Raleigh, recently purchased the Laundry here from Jack Manning and Dan Sharpe, the transfer to the new owners taking place Monday morning.

Mr. Newton, who made his home in Washington, D. C., for the past 14 years, and Mrs. Newton are now making their home at West End in the residence formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Miller.

Mr. Pearce is a native of Raleigh and has been engaged in the laundry business for 15 years.

Mr. Newton stated yesterday that they would continue the dry cleaning department in connection with the laundry.

Dog Vaccinations Ordered By Board Of Commissioners

County Officials In Session Most of Morning Handling Routine Work

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County commissioners ordered a county-wide vaccination of all dogs and completed the handling of routine matters about noon.

The dog vaccinations will be handled somewhat differently this year from the plan followed in past years. The vaccinations will be handled free of cost to the dog owner, the county to pay the inspector, Dr. Coppage, 75 cents for each vaccination. The doctor is to furnish the vaccine and accept other costs. Dogs will be listed for taxation on the regular tax books at the rate of \$1 each for male and female dogs. After the clinics are held beginning in early April, a house-to-house check will be made. In those cases where dogs have not been vaccinated they are to be vaccinated or destroyed. The sheriff's office will cooperate in making the check, it was learned.

A small delegation, headed by H. L. Barnhill and Gordon Bailey, asked the board to include a road in Cross Roads Township in the state system. The road begins on west side of Everett-Cross Roads road at E. A. Clark's old home, and runs thence via George Keel's Walter Beach's and others back to the said road at old Barnhill place, a distance of 1 1/2 miles.

The commissioners were also asked to recommend the inclusion of a road in Williamston Township in the state system. The road runs from the old Williamston-Greenville highway at the old John M. Bowen home northerly via Jesse Williams', Reubin Rogers' and Norman Bowen's to Paul Bailey farm, a distance of 1 1/2 miles.

Dr. John D. Biggs was appointed a member of the Beaufort-Hyde and Martin library board. Other members of the board for this county are Rev. John L. Goff and Mr. Chas. Gray.

Tax relief orders were recommended for the following: Lucy Cordon, Jameville; J. T. and H. O. Daniel, Robersonville; Millie and Mary Dugger, Robersonville; A. T. Crawford estate, Williamston, and Geo. Williams, Williamston. The properties were listed in error over a period of ten to fifteen years.

Making his monthly report, Tax Collector M. L. Peel said that \$185,642.89 of the 1946 tax levy had been collected, leaving a balance due and unpaid in the sum of \$20,475.95. All but \$2,538.85 of the 1945 levy has been collected.

Merchants Donate To Tobacco Fund

To promote the exportation of leaf tobacco, Williamston merchants last week-end contributed nearly \$300 to the fund for Tobacco Associates.

Explaining the movement to representative merchants and other local business men, Mr. Judson Blount of Greenville last Friday stated that eastern Carolina merchants were contributing \$5,000 to the fund, that fertilizer dealers, warehousemen, tobacco dealers were raising \$45,000 while the farmers of five states are being asked to contribute \$50,000.

"The tobacco farmer and business interests dependent to a large extent on him do not face a very encouraging situation, and we must act to soften the blow," Mr. Blount said, adding that J. B. Hutson had been contacted and that likely he would head the new organization to work for the continuance of tobacco exports.

Young County Girl Earns Scholastic Honor

Miss Emma Lou Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Taylor, recently earned a high scholastic rating at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where she is a senior this year. She was placed on the dean's list.