

Several Hundred Dollars Donated To Tobacco Fund

J. B. Hutson Offered Job As Head of Tobacco Associates

While no complete report could be had here immediately, it was estimated today that Martin County farmers had contributed several hundred dollars to Tobacco Associates, Inc., a newly created organization to boost the exports of flue-cured tobacco. Up until late yesterday 42 farmers, professional and business men had contributed \$85.95 locally most of them making the donations without being solicited. The contributions ranged from \$1 to \$11, or on the approximate basis of ten cents per acre with a dollar as a minimum.

In addition to that amount local business firms have raised several hundred dollars as their share of the cost in financing the plan designed to increase or, at least, maintain the exportation of tobacco. The farmers of this county are being asked to raise approximately \$1,100. That amount has been pledged and canvassers are working throughout the county, hoping to meet the obligation by the latter part of this week.

During the meantime, farm leaders and others are going ahead with the plan. Meeting in Raleigh last Saturday tobacco growers, warehousemen and manufacturers, united as Tobacco Associates, Inc., launched their program to keep world markets open to American leaf by offering the post as agency president to J. B. Hutson, former assistant secretary of the United Nations and one-time head of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Elected in an organizational meeting of the new tobacco-promoting group, Hutson informed the directors that he would waive acceptance pending the outcome of earlier commitments, and would return an answer within the month. Long associated with farm and tobacco programs, Hutson recently resigned from his UN office.

Tobacco Associates, Inc., was chartered in North Carolina as a non-profit corporation to work with State and Federal agencies in promoting tobacco research and developing new domestic and export markets. A fund of \$100,000 has been pledged to finance the first year of operation.

Other officers elected at the meeting were Former Governor J. M. Broughton of Raleigh, general counsel; E. Y. Floyd of Raleigh, executive secretary of the N. C. Va. Plant Food Institute and former N. C. State AAA director, as secretary and Mrs. Irby Walker of Greensboro, secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, as treasurer.

Named as members of the board of directors were J. H. Vaughn of Nash County, chairman; P. N. Taylor of White

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Attorney Wheeler Martin Is Expected Home Soon

His condition much improved, Attorney Wheeler Martin, receiving treatment in a Rocky Mount hospital since last December 26 for a heart ailment, is expected home very shortly. Able to be up and enjoy short rides, he tentatively planned yesterday to return home today, but definite permission had not been granted by his doctor early this morning.

ROUND-UP

Although local and county officers had a dull week-end, they were fairly busy rounding up alleged law violators earlier in the week. Nine persons were arrested and jailed, including four drunks, one drunken driver, two for fornication and adultery, one of whom was a 60-year-old white man and the other a 44-year-old colored woman, one for disorderly conduct and one for interfering with officers in the performance of their duties.

Five of the nine arrested and jailed were white and the ages of the group ranged from 21 to 60 years.

See Large Gain In County Tax Values For This Year

An increase of more than one and one-half million dollars in 1947 county property listings was reflected in preliminary reports submitted to County Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel by five of the ten list-takers during the past few days. "Possibly the increase will climb to one and three-quarter million dollars," the supervisor said, explaining that Griffins, Bear Grass, Williams, Cross Roads and Hamilton had not yet reported their listings.

Williamston Township with a fairly large volume of new construction, reported an increase of \$665,000 in its listings. Robersonville reported a gain of \$380,000, mostly in personal property values. Poplar Point had an increase of \$20,000. Goose Nest reported

Red Cross Drive Is One-Half Completed

OVER THE TOP

Assigned a quota of \$25, the colored citizens of the Biggs School District were the first in the Martin County Chapter to reach the goal and go over the top in the 1947 Red Cross fund drive.

Carrying the appeal to their parents, the Biggs School children did a good job in meeting the challenge, Principal W. V. Ormond announcing last Friday that they raised \$29, that possibly a few more dollars would be added to the amount this week.

Holloman Infant Dies In Hospital

Gary Wilson, six-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Holloman, died in the local hospital yesterday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock of pneumonia. The victim of a severe cold, the child was removed to the hospital last Saturday from the home of his parents who recently moved here from Greensboro and who were making their home with Mr. Holloman's mother, Mrs. W. J. Smith, on West Main Street. Mrs. Holloman is the former Miss Virginia Wilson of Stokes.

Surviving besides his parents is a sister, Virginia Bruce Holloman. Since moving here with his parents just a few weeks ago, the baby had gained many admirers in his adopted neighborhood.

Funeral services are being conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock and interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery here. Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, pastor of the local Memorial Baptist Church, will conduct the last rites.

Jaycees Report Excellent Record

At the Jaycees meeting last Friday night in the George Reynolds Hotel, Wheeler Manning reported on the State Directors' meeting held recently in Greensboro. Williamston had the best delegation of any small club, he said. It was revealed at the meeting, he added, that approximately 85 percent of the Jaycees were in service and that the remaining 15 percent sponsored more projects than any other national civic organization.

A motion by Agriculture Chairman W. T. Ross to contribute \$35 to help sponsor the 4-H livestock show, was approved. Jesse Sumner explained that the money would be awarded in cash prizes to 4-H boys and girls.

The club also approved a proposal by James Bullock that chances be sold on several prizes and that the proceeds be used for purchasing essential equipment for the high school band. Jack Butler explained the need for such equipment and added that the new band will be larger and better than prior to the war.

Painfully Injured In Accident Near Here on Saturday

Motorists Escape Injury In Second Wreck Reported In The County

Miss Grace Whitley, local business woman, was painfully but not seriously injured in an automobile accident at the old fairgrounds near here last Saturday afternoon at 5:25 o'clock when her car, a 1947 Chevrolet club coupe, crashed with another driven by David Gilbert Scott, traveling salesman representing an Iowa manufacturer. Almost scalped, Miss Whitley was removed to the local hospital where ten stitches were required to close the gashes on her head.

Driving west on the highway, Scott, according to first reports released by Cpl. W. T. Simpson, investigating for the highway patrol, started to turn around at the old entrance to the fair grounds. Miss Whitley, driving in the same direction, crashed into the rear of Scott's 1941 Buick sedan.

No official estimate on the property damage could be had immediately, but Cpl. Simpson guessed that it would approximate \$400, about \$200 to each vehicle. A complete investigation could not be handled immediately.

Driving toward Hamilton on N. C. Highway 125 last Friday evening at 6:45 o'clock, Rev. E. R. Stewart, Baptist minister who recently entered upon his new duties as pastor of the Hamilton and Everetts Baptist churches, struck the rear end of a truck driven by Ben Biggs and loaded with lumber. No one was hurt and Patrolman W. E. Saunders, investigating the accident, estimated the damage to the Stewart 1939 Ford car at about \$150. The minister explained that he was meeting a car, that he did not see the truck until after it was too late to avoid the crash. No damage was done to the truck, it was reported.

Victim Of Hip Break Leaving Duke Hospital

Breaking his hip in a fall here several weeks ago and successfully undergoing an operation in Duke hospital week before last, Mr. Wilson G. Lamb, local man, is expected to leave the institution this week. One report stated that he planned to spend a short while in the home of his brother, Attorney Luke Lamb, and Mrs. Lamb in Wilson before returning to his home here.

RAINFALL

For the second time in the past sixteen years, the February rainfall fell under one inch here this year. The .84 inch fell below the average for the month during the past sixteen years by about 2.25 inches. There were five very small rains, a trace of rain and a little snow during the month.

So far this month, 1.83 inches have been reported here, including some snow, which, if it had not melted as fast as it fell, would have covered the ground to a depth of a little over one-half inch.

Pour Huge Pivot Pier For Roanoke River Bridge Here

Delayed by unfavorable conditions for several days, workers started pouring the large pivot pier for a wider span across Roanoke River here this morning shortly after 5:00 o'clock. The work was progressing according to schedule later in the morning, but it will hardly be completed before 7:00 or 8:00 o'clock this evening, representatives of the contracting firm said.

Built on the old pier and about twenty-one new concrete piling, the new pier will hold right at 208 yards of concrete. Work on the river span has been in progress for almost a year and only recently did workmen finish placing the last of about six tons of struc-

Two Dozen Cases On Calendar In Superior Court

One of Most Interesting Cases Is About a Dog With Short Tail

Without any big damage suits on the docket and with no reputations at stake, interest in the civil department of the Martin County Superior Court opening a two-week term next week will center, if there is any, on the trial of a case involving the ownership of "one brown and white spotted female dog with a short tail."

Twenty-four civil cases are on the docket, the bar association scheduling some for trial on the 18th, and the remainder the following week. One or two damage suits, all for comparatively small amounts and growing out of automobile accidents, are on the calendar for trial.

A brief review of the civil calendar follows: R. S. Critcher in his case against J. E. Williams and Ernest Winslow, is seeking to recover \$575 allegedly due on a note.

B. A. Critcher and Z. V. Bunting, executors of the M. D. Wilson estate, are suing Rebecca Hyman to recover on a \$121 note. The complaint points out that the note was due January 1, 1930, that it was secured by deed of trust. The defendant paid \$5 in October, 1932, and \$20 in February, 1936, the plaintiffs alleging that \$210 is now due.

The case of Fannie Roberson and others against Mae Roberson, administratrix of W. R. Roberson estate is again in the courts. The plaintiff's husband was accidentally killed and she was awarded a judgment by the North Carolina Industrial Commission on December 16, 1930, \$8.25 a week for 350 weeks, \$200 burial expenses and \$98 medical bill. Nothing was paid, the plaintiff alleges, even after the award was approved by the Martin County Superior Court in 1932. In October, 1940, the plaintiff asked execution of the judgment. Something happened, the plaintiff alleging that bankruptcy proceedings followed. Now, the plaintiff is asking that personal property and homestead of the defendant be sold and the amount applied on the judgment.

A boundary line dispute is involved in the case of Willie Bullock against J. D. Wynne and others. In his case against Joe M. Allsbrook, trading as City Auto Service, the plaintiff, Johnnie Brown is suing for the title to a car and asking a judgment in the sum of \$320, an amount allegedly paid in excess of a legitimate price.

Abandoned by their father and their mother having died, Vernelle Whitfield and other are suing Howard Whitfield for the partition of certain lands in Robersonville Township.

The case of B. F. Lilley who is suing by his next friend, Annie Mae Lilley, against Annie J. Holcomb, is again in the courts. A boundary line location, the plaintiff alleging that his timber had been damaged to the extent of \$1,500.

D. D. Coburn is asking \$123.66 damages as a result of the death of four hogs, allegedly killed by trains of the defendant, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. (Continued on page eight)

Twenty-Three Seek Divorces In County

Actions Based On Grounds Of Two-Year Separation

Plaintiff In Still Another Case Seeks Alimony Without Divorce

A climax in almost two dozen marriages now on the rocks is tentatively scheduled when the Martin County Superior Court opens its second week on March 24. Basing their claims on two-year separation, twenty-three plaintiffs are seeking absolute divorces. In still another case a plaintiff is asking alimony without divorce.

While most of the couples have no children, some have as many as nine, and in nearly every case the plaintiff claims he or she supports the little ones.

The number of divorce actions scheduled for trial during the second of the two-week term is not a record, but it is above the average. Several of the claimants have been denied divorces at previous sessions, but they are coming back to press their claims to marital freedom.

Tena Station is suing Joe W. Station for alimony, the plaintiff alleging that the defendant abandoned her, that he lives a life of idleness.

Elder L. Gardner is suing Lola Gardner for divorce. They were married in South Mills February 9, 1942, and separated about a year later. No children were born to the union.

Married in Toledo, Ohio, in May, 1942, George Washington Joyner and Dorothy Joyner separated in January, 1943, and he is now seeking a divorce.

Virginia Mizelle is asking the court for a divorce from Elmer Mizelle. They were married December 30, 1941, and separated October 1, 1943. The one child is supported by the plaintiff, the complaint maintains.

Separating three months after they were married on March 6, 1944, Luther Modlin is asking a divorce from Mary Modlin.

Della Whitehurst is suing William Whitehurst for a divorce. In the complaint, the plaintiff points out that they were married February 2, 1928, that nine children were born to the union before separation on June 6, 1940. All of the children except five were (Continued on page eight)

Crazy Drunk Runs Amuck In Station

James Marvin Hardison, Washington County young man just back after a stay in Philadelphia, got on a crazy drunk and ran amuck in the local police station last Saturday night. Taken into custody in a local hotel while in the company of a young woman whose name was not revealed, Hardison first claimed to be a secret agent. Going quietly to the police station, he was sitting there unconcernedly when all of a sudden he went into action.

O. K. Cowin, a visitor playing checkers with the chief of police at the time, said Hardison had the last move, explaining that checkers moved into all four corners of the room. The chief's chair was snatched from under him and splintered. Mayor Hassell's large desk was turfed on its end and most of the spectators cleared out while officers went into action. The man's hands were handcuffed behind him, but the young man continued to do battle, half crying and snorting a bit as he wiggled to and fro on the floor.

After a physician made an examination and ruled he was drunk, police picked him up bodily and removed him to the jail where he fell into a deep sleep. The following morning he declared he knew nothing of what happened the night before.

In the county court Monday he was fined \$20 and taxed with the cost by Judge Smith who turned loose a corner smile when he heard the officers tell about the Saturday night battle.

State's Assembly Has Adjournment Set For April 1

Major Legislation Is Yet To Receive Attention In Legislature

There's nothing official about it, but there is much talk about North Carolina's General Assembly ending its business and quitting about April 1, according to Senator Hugh G. Horton who was home from the capital for the week-end.

Although adjournment is unofficially slated within three weeks, the legislature has a number of major problems left on its hands for action, and there is still some doubt about how they should be handled. The anti-labor bill is before the Senate Committee today, and while he did not express himself one way or the other, Senator Horton, during his visit home, expressed some doubt as to the merits and the backing of the bill, or some of the backing that is stemming from the National Association of Manufacturers and labor baiters. Many of the lawmakers who recognize the fact that labor and management have been able to progress together in this State in the past are doubtful about the merits of the proposal which is designed primarily against the laborer and secondarily against all working-men, including the farmer. They say it is ill advised, that the same power driving to put the bill across is, in many instances, the same power that has acted to curb the farmer in his rightful claim to a fair return for his products.

According to reliable reports, legislators have been contacted by the corporate interests in this county and section, urging them to cast the die against labor. The nature of the telegraphic messages could not be learned, but one report intimated that they were sent in fairly large numbers.

The Good Health Plan is still to be handled. School teachers, apparently believing they are about to be handed a sour apple, are asking why the appropriations are not being made in keeping with a 30 percent salary increase. They explain that the actual pay will fall short of the promised increase.

They still talk about Democracy with a cap 'D' in Raleigh, but the good old little "d" democrats have told the people of North Carolina there'll be no opportunity in the next two years for them to express their views in a state-wide liquor referendum. From here it would seem that the liquor interests are a part of the legislature or are directing some of the activities there.

The people, a bit stirred up over the Party's way of conducting the Game and Fish division, finally forced a separation of that division from the Department of Conservation and Development. Now hold the reins, the Wildlife group will bear the brunt of the loss of fishermen and hunters disgruntled by a shortage of fish and birds.

Baseball League Officials Meet

Arrangements were virtually completed by a meeting of Martin County Baseball League officials in Everetts Monday evening for opening scheduled play on April 20, the group handling other matters preliminary to launching activities.

Sending no representative to the meeting, Jamesville surrendered its spot in the circuit to Oak City. Announcing he would be unable to head the league as president, Bill Spivey was succeeded by Lyn Taylor of Bear Grass.

All the teams, Bear Grass, Williamston, Cross Roads, Everetts, Robersonville, Oak City, Hassell and Hamilton deposited \$50 each as a forfeit, and the officials adopted semi-pro rules.

K. P. Lindsley, J. D. Thrower, Clyde Manning and Russell Griffin represented the local club. The season schedule is now being arranged and will be announced shortly. The league plans to play 42 games, on Wednesdays and Sundays. Several of the clubs are lining up their personnel and equipment is being purchased.

Mr. Spurgeon Clark of Elizabethtown entered the hospital here over the week-end for treatment. He was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Mary Clark, a former nurse in the hospital.

SPECIAL MEETING

Holding a special meeting on Monday, March 17, the Martin County commissioners will review property listings for 1947 at the request of the owners. Other than in those cases where new buildings were constructed and valued, there is little or no change in real property listings and very few property owners are expected to appeal from the assessments made by the list-takers and supervisor.

Since the grand jury and court will be in session that day, the commissioners, sitting as a board of equalization and review, will meet in the register of deeds office at 10 o'clock.