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Court Clerk Will Pick New Member For County Board

Appointment Limited To The Griffins-Bear Grass District of County

Out of respect for the memory of Robert Lee Perry, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners since 1940, Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne is not expected to appoint a commissioner before sometime Saturday of this week. The announcement of the appointment then will have to await acceptance by the appointee. It is likely, however, that the position made vacant on the board by Mr. Perry's death early last Tuesday evening will be properly filled in time for the reorganization meeting at the regular session of the board next Monday morning.

The appointment is limited to the Griffins-Bear Grass district, and it is not certain in which of the two townships the selection will be centered. It has been pointed out that Bear Grass has had representation on the board for more than twelve years without interruption. At the same time, however, Griffins is represented on the county board of education, but heretofore there has been no objection to two persons in the same township holding membership, one on the education board and the other on the board of commissioners.

Asked about the appointment of a board member, Clerk Wynne said that he was still giving it study. Several names, including that of Oscar Roberson of Griffins, have been mentioned, but so far as it could be learned no formal campaign has been launched in behalf of any person or candidate.

Mr. Perry's unexpected death also calls for a reorganization of the board. It is likely that one of the four old members will be chosen to fill the chairman's seat. As far as it could be learned no one has even offered to bid for the place, and it is almost certain that the position will be filled advantageously and most amicably. The commissioners with no heavy schedule of duties before them are scheduled to meet at 9:30 next Monday morning when the new commissioner is expected to subscribe to the oath of office and enter upon his new duties.

Baseball Meeting Friday At 8 P. M.

A general athletic program for this community will be discussed at a public meeting in the local high school auditorium Friday night, April 4, at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced yesterday. Important topics will be discussed, the leader explaining that now is a good time to provide a good, clean recreation program for the youth and older people in this community.

W. E. Dunn is scheduled to preside over the meeting. Youngsters interested in play and others interested in the various sports and a solid recreational program are invited and urged to attend. A general call has been issued to all interested persons to meet at the high school field Saturday morning and give a lift with the fence construction. The players and other interested parties are "planting" the fence posts Friday and making ready for a rapid-fire construction program Saturday. One does not have to be a full-fledged carpenter to help.

Williamston has been chosen by the National Baseball Congress as the site for the eastern North Carolina District semi-pro tournament, and the field must be fenced to accommodate it.

The exact location of the fence, in doubt for several days, will be agreeably determined, it was stated, in time for the workers when they report Saturday.

WRECK VICTIMS IMPROVING

Injured in an automobile accident last Monday afternoon Undertaker S. R. Biggs and Preacher John Goff are improving. While hardly able to be out, Mr. Biggs is out handling his duties, and the minister plans to be out and back in his pulpit shortly.

Chairman of County Board Died Tuesday

FUNERAL THURSDAY



Robert Lee Perry, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners and a well-known farmer, died at his home near here last Tuesday evening. Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon.

Funeral Thursday At Macedonia For Robert Lee Perry

Prominent Farmer Had Aply Served County Since 1934

Robert Lee Perry, prominent farmer and chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, died suddenly at his home in Bear Grass Township, shortly after six o'clock last Tuesday evening. Suffering a heart attack while working on his farm the day before, he was forced to his bed but was thought to be getting along very well until late yesterday when he suffered a second attack and died before medical aid could reach him. Mr. Perry had been troubled with asthma and had received medical treatment at intervals during the past several years, but he seldom complained and was believed to be getting along very well. His death, coming unexpectedly and even before it was generally known he was sick, was a shock to relatives and his many friends throughout this section.

The son of the late Simon S. and Glendora Woolard Perry, he was born in Bear Grass Township 57 years ago on last October 2. He attended the schools in his community and in early manhood was married to Miss Armanda Peel.

Mr. Perry was recognized as one of this section's most progressive and successful farmers, employing scientific practices in his operations and early recognizing the value of conservation methods for his land and timber holdings. He ranked high as a citizen in his community and county, taking a special interest in all programs advanced for the uplift of his fellowman and for the good of his community and section. A member of the church at Macedonia for many years, he was active in its support and largely financed the construction of the present brick building there. The teachings of the church were exemplified in his daily walk through life.

Surviving besides Mr. Hodges are one son, William P. Hodges, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner of Raleigh; a sister, Mrs. Nan Bailey, of Everetts, and two grandchildren. Funeral services will be conducted in the Memorial Baptist Church here Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by her pastor, Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, assisted by Rev. John W. Hardy, Rev. B. T. Hurley and Rev. John L. Goff, and interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

(Continued on page eight)

Sunrise Service Sunday Morning

A sunrise service in Woodlawn Cemetery will be held again this year, the worship event being one of the features in a series of religious services scheduled by the several churches. The union service will be held at 5:45 a. m. on Sunday morning. Hundreds have attended the service in past years and a large crowd is expected next Sunday. If the weather is unfavorable for the outdoor service it will be held in the Baptist church.

Union morning services in the theater have been well attended this week except for Wednesday when high school pupils were unable to attend on account of rain. A minister was dispatched to the school for services there. The evening services held in one of the several participating churches have been well attended also.

A special feature in the pre-Easter program is scheduled in the Methodist church Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock when the combined choirs will sing.

SPEAKER

Robert Lee Humber, recognized authority on world affairs, will speak in the local high school auditorium next Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock. He will speak on "International Relations," a timely topic of vital interest to all the people. His address is being sponsored by the international relations department of the local Woman's Club, and the public is cordially invited to hear him.

Mrs. W. J. Hodges Died In Hospital Thursday Morning

Highly Respected Citizen Had Been In Declining Health Several Years

Mrs. W. J. Hodges, highly respected local citizen, died in a hospital here Thursday morning shortly after 9:00 o'clock, the victim of a heart attack. She had been in declining health for several years, but was getting along as well as usual until last Friday. She was removed to the hospital a short time later for treatment. Although her condition was regarded as serious, she was resting well up until about 9:00 o'clock when she suffered the attack, death coming peacefully a few minutes later.

The former Miss Deborah Parker, she was born in Martin County near Oak City on April 20, 1877, the daughter of the late Joseph and Martha Parker Everett. Orphaned when quite young, she went to live with an uncle near Robersonville, later going to the home of another uncle, the late Elisha Everett, near Williamston, where she made her home until married to William Joshua Hodges on November 17, 1903. Prior to her marriage she studied nursing for about a year in a Norfolk hospital but abandoned her courses on account of her health.

Affectionately known as "Miss Debbie," Mrs. Hodges was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was a devoted wife, a thoughtful mother and a good friend. Her walk through life was marked by Christian character, and the examples she set in her daily living were always worthy of others following. Mrs. Hodges affiliated with the Baptist church in Hamilton in her early life. Following her marriage she moved her membership to the church here, and few members were ever more faithful in its service.

Surviving besides Mr. Hodges are one son, William P. Hodges, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner of Raleigh; a sister, Mrs. Nan Bailey, of Everetts, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Memorial Baptist Church here Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by her pastor, Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, assisted by Rev. John W. Hardy, Rev. B. T. Hurley and Rev. John L. Goff, and interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Community Choir Program Friday

The Community Choir of Williamston will present Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ," on Good Friday night at 8:00 in the climax of Passion Week Services here. The program will be held at the Methodist Church. Dubois wrote the cantata in 1867 while he held the position of organist at Sainte Clothilde church in Paris and it was at this church that it was first performed. With the possible exception of Stainer's Crucifixion, this great work has become the most popular of all Lenten Cantatas.

Featured soloists in the cantata include Mrs. Helen Wynne, Mrs. Tom Skinner, Miss Frances Jarman, Mrs. Vella Wynne, Miss Marjorie Grey Dunn, Mrs. Nell Ward, Mr. Bernard Hurley, Mr. John Goff, Jr., and Mr. H. L. Swain. The choir is sponsored by the Williamston Kiwanis Club and is directed by Russell Roebuck. Mrs. W. K. Parker will be the organist.

War Vets Filing Benefit Claims

After dropping last November to the lowest level since the war, veterans' claims for unemployment and self-employed benefits started increasing in recent months. More than 13,000 claims were filed each week, on an average last month when the payments exceeded a million dollars for the unemployed. The number of self-employed seeking help under the GI Bill of Rights jumped to 12,188 in February and called for an expenditure of \$1,161,970.

Fines In Sum Of \$750.00 Collected In Court Monday

Court Will Observe Easter Monday, April 7, As A Holiday

Idle for two weeks while the superior court was in session, Judge J. C. Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson worked long and hard clearing the docket in the county recorder's court last Monday. Thirty-seven cases were called during the sessions which lasted until late afternoon. The court room was almost filled with defendants, spectators and witnesses during the early part of the day.

Fines, amounting to \$750, were imposed and collected and several defendants were sentenced to the county jail for non-support. It was announced that the court will observe next Monday as a holiday.

Appearing in court for further orders in the case charging him with bastardy, Kenneth Harrell was directed to pay \$72 to Effie Edmondson for the support of his child, and the action was continued for three years under prayer.

Charged with non-support, David Rix Harrell was directed to pay \$35 a month for the support of his two children, the defense pointing out that a hospital bill had been accepted. The defendant, under \$300 bond, is to reappear before the court on the first Monday in October, 1947.

The case charging Whit Moore Donald and John Earl Edmonds with larceny was continued until June 3.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging them with an affray, George Barber was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly and Pearl Smith was adjudged guilty of simple assault. He was fined \$25 and taxed with one-half the cost and she was sentenced to jail for two days and fined \$10 with one-half the costs added.

A continuance until April 14 was allowed in the case charging George Bonds with an assault on a female.

Adjudged guilty of assaulting a female, R. B. Spruill was sentenced to jail for five days and fined \$25, with the costs to be added.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with an assault, Joe Bullock was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

The case charging Russell Sherrod with an assault with a deadly weapon was continued until April 14.

Pleading not guilty, Goldie Williams was adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was (Continued on page five)

Justice Hassell Back On The Job

Inactive since the Christmas holidays, Justice John L. Hassell returned to his job this week and handled several cases in a single session of his court.

Noah S. Nichols, charged with entering the home of Clarence Bowen and the smokehouse of Willie Bowen on Watts Lane and carry away a small quantity of meat and lard, was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100.

John Henry White, drunk and down, was required to pay \$10 fine and costs.

Joe Henry Grandy, drunk and disorderly, was taxed \$14.50. Thomas Lee Hawkins, charged with assaulting a female, was bound over to the county court under \$100 bond.

Garfield Speller, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, and Lester Speller with drunken driving, were bound over to the county court under \$100 bond each.

Going before Justice J. S. Ayers, Sam Roberson, charged with being drunk and down, was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the justice suspending the sentence upon the payment of a \$5 fine and costs.

Charged with reckless driving and running over a cow, James Taylor Whitley was bound over to the county court under \$100 bond by Justice R. T. Johnson Wednesday night.

Thirteen Enter Race For Places On Board

H. Leman Barnhill, G. A. Harris And David Moore File

Estimated Four Hundred Here Have Not Registered For Primary

Three more candidates—George A. Harris, hardware store owner-operator; David Moore, store operator, and H. Leman Barnhill, farmer-warehouseman—entered the race for places on Williamston's Town Board of Commissioners since Tuesday of this week to boost the number in the field to thirteen for commissioner and two for mayor.

In addition to the three candidates filing for commissioner since Tuesday, ten had already entered the race, including the five old board members, G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green, L. P. Lindsley, V. D. Godwin and Roy T. Griffin, and five new candidates, John Hatton Gurganus, K. D. Worrell, Dillon Cobb, Ben D. Courtney and Asa J. Manning. The field of candidates for mayor remains unchanged with John L. Hassell, the incumbent, and Robert Cowen, local attorney, in the race.

In addition to the thirteen filing for places on the board of commissioners, Homer Barnhill, operator of the B. and W. Tire Rebuilders here, announced his candidacy Thursday morning, but he had not filed his candidacy up until noon. At least two are considering running for the mayor's job in addition to those already filed for the position. C. D. Carstarphen and S. H. Grimes are planning on entering the race, but up until Thursday noon neither had reached a definite decision. J. Paul Simpson has been mentioned as a possible candidate for mayor but he has made no announcement.

The time for filing ends at 6:00 p. m. on Friday, April 14. It is believed that some are jockeying for positions in the race for commissioners and mayor, but the time is short for such action.

After the books for filing are closed Friday evening of this week at 6:00 o'clock, the registration will be officially ended the following evening, Saturday, April 5, at 6:00 o'clock. According to an official report, approximately 400 new names have been added to the eligible elector list since the registration books were opened on March 22. It was reliably learned Thursday morning that approximately 400 other persons are eligible to register but have not registered so far. The registration through last Saturday was estimated to be 2,200 names and right at 400 persons' names could not be found on the registration books. A special notice is being mailed to those individuals, inviting them to register. Under the heading, "Important Notice To All Voters," and without signature, the appeal reads, as follows:

"We find by the registration book that you have not registered for the city primary. "At long last you have the privilege of voting in your own municipal election, but in order to exercise this right to vote it becomes necessary that you register.

"We have succeeded in giving you a chance to voice your own opinion.

MIXED HOLIDAY

A mixed holiday is fairly certain here next Monday, unofficial reports stating that quite a few stores are planning to close for the day while others plan to remain open. The schools, unemployment offices, county recorder's court, liquor stores, will observe the day as a holiday. County offices, the post office and others, will remain open and the commissioners and members of the board of education will meet as usual.

Will Name School Committeemen at Meeting Monday

Reports Indicate Several In The Districts Plan To Resign

Meeting in regular session next Monday, the Martin County Board of Education will name committeemen for the several local school districts. Reports, so far unconfirmed, indicate that several of the committeemen in various parts of the county are planning on resigning from the positions, some explaining that private duties make it difficult for them to give as much as is considered necessary to the task. There are few candidates for the positions, and members of the board will gladly consider recommendations or applications direct. Members of the county board are, Messrs. F. W. Holliday, Jamesville; George C. Griffin, Griffins; J. D. Woolard, Williamston; H. C. Norman, Robersonville; and Ernest Edmondson, Hassell.

Several of the local district committees resigned following their appointment in April, 1945. The following are serving at the present time:

Jamesville: J. C. Kirkman, J. A. Gardner and Elmer Modlin.

Farm Life: P. E. Getsinger, A. J. Hardison and B. F. Lilley.

Bear Grass: E. C. Harrison, Kneezier Harrison and Chesley Jones.

Williamston: R. L. Coburn, Ray H. Goodman and C. B. Clark.

Robersonville: W. H. Gray, I. M. Little, N. C. Everett, J. M. Dixon and H. L. Roebuck. Serving on the Robersonville District sub-committee are, H. L. Roebuck, Garland Forbes and Herman Williams.

The sub-committee at Gold Point was left idle when the school there was consolidated with the one in Robersonville at the beginning of the current term. Oak City: J. A. Everett, Dr. E. E. Pittman, Francis Worsley, E. R. Edmondson and G. A. Oglesby. The Oak City sub-committee at Hamilton is composed of L. R. Everett, H. S. Johnson, Jr., and Clayton House, and the sub-committee at Hassell includes George Ayers, Woodrow Purvis and A. E. Purvis.

As many as five members are allowed for each district committee, but in those areas where there is only one school, the membership customarily has been limited to three persons.

Makes Semi-Final Red Cross Report

A semi-final report released Thursday of this week by Chairman Claude B. Clark, Jr., places the annual Red Cross Fund Drive at \$61,634 over the goal assigned by the Martin County Chapter, the white going over the top with \$561.54 to spare, and the colored citizens raising \$55.04 in excess of their quota.

Nine of the sixteen districts met or exceeded their quotas. Five of the remaining seven barely missed their goals, and two districts have not yet reported. Two canvassers in Williamston are yet to report.

The report shows the drive as of Thursday morning as follows:

Quota	Raised
Jamesville	225.00 216.25
Williams	40.00 31.39
Griffins	225.00 269.05
Bear Grass	225.00 198.50
Williamston	1,335.00 1,866.35
Colored schools and districts:	
Dardens	50.00 50.00
Jamesville	30.00 31.55
Williams	27.50 45.01
Coreys	12.50 00.00
Poplar Point	12.50 12.50
Bear Grass	12.50 7.60
Biggs	25.00 32.00
Rogers (Woolard)	40.00 46.38
Burroughs	25.00 00.00
Smithwick	15.00 18.00
Williamston	200.00 262.20
	\$2,500.00 \$3,116.58

SEINE FISHING

Seine fishing at Jamesville was started Thursday morning, first reports reaching here stating that the initial catches were very small.