

Harrison Appointed New Board Member

John H. Edwards Elected Chairman Of County Board

Officials Had Little New Business On Calendar For Monday Session

Appointed to fill the position made vacant by the death of Robert L. Perry last week, William M. Harrison, Bear Grass Township farmer, yesterday entered upon his new duties as a member of the Martin County Board of Commissioners. Marked silence prevailed as the officials gathered for their first meeting following Mr. Perry's death, and more than one of the old commissioners who had served for years with Mr. Perry turned his head from the empty chair as the new appointee subscribed to the oath of office administered by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne at 9:45 o'clock.

The appointment, resting between Griffins and Bear Grass Township, went to Mr. Harrison after the clerk had heard several delegations from both townships last Friday. There were several potential candidates in Griffins, but the Bear Grass delegations were unanimous in supporting the appointee. The clerk, making the appointment Saturday, reasoned that even though Bear Grass had been represented directly on the board for more than twelve years, the position was filled only last year by the voters, and that the people make their own choice in the elections next year.

The installation ceremony, witnessed by only three or four spectators, was quite brief. Commissioner C. Abram Roberson, acting as temporary chairman, offered words as chairman, explaining that Mr. Edwards lived in Williamston, that he could be contacted by the county officials from time to time as matters presented themselves without much trouble. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joshua L. Coltrain, and the board's reorganization was effected unananimously and in a matter of a few minutes. The new chairman expressed his appreciation for the confidence expressed, and pledged his best efforts in handling the new assignment.

There was very little business scheduled for consideration, and the new commissioner hardly got a sample of the headaches the board is called upon from time to time to cure.

The Edgecombe Bank and Trust Company of Oak City was designated as a county depository. J. Sam Getsinger was reappointed county accountant for the ensuing two years.

A committee was named to in-

PAYMENTS

To date, 1,579 Martin County farmers, participating in the 1946 soil conservation program, have received a total of \$37,312.67, the Triple A office in the agricultural building announcing that 300 applications for payments are still pending. It was pointed out that 948 contracts or worksheets had already been cleared, that possibly forty or fifty are still awaiting farmer signatures in the county office.

Reliable reports indicate that a comparatively small number of farmers in this county are qualifying for 1947 payments under the soil-building program.

Miniature Peanut Mill Constructed In Local Factory

Unit Designed Especially For Shelling Seed Peanuts

After experimenting for several seasons with various types of mechanical shellers designed to shell farmers' seed peanuts, Larry Bullock, superintendent of the Williamston Peanut Company plant here, started working months ago to develop a nearly perfect machine for the task.

The old problem of handling small, medium and large size peanuts had to be solved, the builder recognized at the beginning. Proper shelling without cracking was his next problem. His last inspection, to eliminate faulty seed.

With these principles in mind, Mr. Bullock started work on his plans, and when finished they called for a modern and complete mill but one of reduced proportions. Starting with a dump hopper, he built an elevator to deliver the farmers' stock to screens where they were to be cleaned and the foreign substance removed. He installed graders and right there he solved his first big problem. Medium-size peanuts were diverted to the right size shellers and the large ones were turned into a larger sheller. The grading operation for size reduces the number of splits or damaged peanuts to a minimum.

After the shelling the shrivel kernels are removed by mechanical grading. To eliminate any damaged kernels and any foreign matter that escaped the mechanical separators, Mr. Bullock provided a conveyor belt, beside which human hands work to give the farmer a guaranteed seed. To make the little mill complete, Mr. Bullock installed a mill hammer to crush the hulls and other waste matter.

The miniature unit is geared to handle one bag of farmer's stock peanuts in the shell, the farmer unloads them at the hopper and by the time he drives to another door, the shelled seed are there.

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Firemen Answer Two Calls Sunday

Spreading from a cinder dump and firing a pile of peanut hulls, fire threatened the large plant of the Dixie Peanut Company here last Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. However, there was more smoke than fire and very little damage was done. Burning into the boiler room, the fire got hot enough to place the automatic sprinkler system in operation.

Firemen laid two lines of hose, one around each end of the building and soon had the fire under control.

Returning to the station the volunteers were called to the old Harrell farm on the McCaskey Road, a short distance off Highway 125, where a large two-story tenant house belonging to the Griffin Brothers was burning. The house, occupied by Harrison Land and his family, had burned down, and firemen could render little aid. A wind from the southwest kept the fire from spreading to a large barn just to the side of the house. Woods across the road in front of the house were fired, but the fire was checked before it burned a very large acreage. No estimate on the property loss could be had immediately.

Dog Vaccinations Show A Big Gain

Reporting yesterday on the campaign against rabies in this county, Dr. W. F. Coppage stated that more dogs are being vaccinated this year than ever before. While it is possible that the dog count has been increased, it is apparent that the drive this year is more thorough than heretofore. During the first four days of the drive, 674 dogs were immunized against rabies, including 104 at Dardens, 209 at Jamesville, 76 at No. 90 station, 131 at Manning and Gurkin's store, 63 at J. Easton Lilley's and 91 at Cross Roads. A schedule for remaining clinics has been publicized.

When the campaign is ended, a house-to-house check will be made. Dogs that have not been vaccinated will be impounded and destroyed.

Dies In Hospital Last Evening Of Accidental Burns

Funeral In Church Here for Mrs. R. W. Bondurant Wednesday Afternoon

Accidentally burned in her home here shortly after four o'clock yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Rush W. Bondurant died in the local hospital at 9:00 o'clock last evening without regaining consciousness. She was home alone at the time and just how she was burned is not known. Visiting in the Bondurant home, neighbors had just left a short while before. After the departure of her visitors, Mrs. Bondurant went to the kitchen and prepared rolls for the evening meal. She returned to the living room and sat down in an easy chair and lighted a cigarette. She apparently fell asleep and the cigarette fired her clothing and the chair. She got up, ran and opened the front door and then started back into the living room. It is believed that she suffered a heart attack and fell unconscious to the floor. A neighbor, Mrs. Mayo Modlin, across the street saw smoke coming out the front door and she called the Goffs next door and the Rev. Mr. Goff and others rushed there to find most of her clothing burned away. She was removed to the hospital immediately, the attending physician finding that she had suffered third degree burns on nearly two-thirds of her body.

The daughter of the late W. T. and Nannie Virginia Swinson Coburn of this county, Mrs. Bondurant was born in Norfolk on January 11, 1901. The former Miss Gladys Coburn, she was married to Mr. Bondurant on December 26, 1921, and located in Williamston in 1928, making her home here since that time.

Mrs. Bondurant is remembered here as a real friend to everyone, her goodness reaching out to creed, color or station in life. She willingly accepted individual sacrifices that she might help others, working always to make life a little brighter and a little easier for those she knew. News of her untimely passing came as a shock to the community.

Surviving besides Mr. Bondurant are a son, Rush Bondurant, Jr.; a sister, Mrs. Henry W. Divers of Norfolk; a brother, J. W. Coburn of Baltimore, and a niece and a nephew, also of Baltimore.

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Offers Patrolman Chance In Movies

The North Carolina Highway Patrol might lose a good patrolman and the movies gain a new star ere long, according to John G. Bragaw. The story, appearing in the Washington Daily News and its local centering, featured Titus Martin, former Jamesville young man, reads as follows:

A few days ago Patrolman T. M. Martin, of the local highway patrol detachment, stopped a speeding automobile near the city of Washington.

That's just a part of the day's work for the local highway patrolman but what happened next is really something.

The driver of the big automobile, either on his way to Florida or back from the sunny southland, took the officer right off his feet when he offered him a try-out in the movies.

"You're the best looking officer I ever saw," the man is reported to have told the highway patrolman.

Whether the movie man got off with a warning and whether Patrolman Martin plans to face the movie camera is something of a mystery.

That is the story as it was given to me. I always try to be fair about such things so I interviewed Mr. Martin before letting it get into this column. The fellows were saying that he stood on his unflinching Southern courtesy and told the man just to drive along and it would be all right. Mr. Martin, though, says the movie offer was not made until after the fine had been paid.

The speedster was one of the executives of Columbia Pictures. Gentlemen of the jury, take the case.

Large Crowds Present For The Easter Services Here

Places of religious worship were filled to overflowing here during the Easter season when the faithful were joined by hundreds making their annual pilgrimage to the various shrines for the special services. The several Sunday schools reported record attendance figures and all seats were just about filled in every church for the morning services. The sunrise service in Woodlawn Cemetery here attracted its greatest number since it was instituted several years ago.

Religious leaders in other parts of the county reported record crowds for the worship services. Throngs were also present for services throughout the nation, the Moravian service in Winston-Salem attracting an estimated 45,000 people Easter morning.

Flowers and wearing apparel made the greatest showing since the war, the ladies' corsages including orchids in some few cases. The Easter season, no doubt, reached a new high in concentrated effort and in attendance figures, the schedule of services demanding a great deal of religious leaders.

The period was not marred by serious accident in this county even though traffic was unusually heavy. Yesterday was observed as a mixed holiday locally and large numbers went fishing. Nearly all heavy industry and most of the stores suspended activities for the day.

Basket Factory Fire Loss About \$65,000

Warehouse Packed With Baskets And Dry Kiln Burned

WEST END CHURCH

The foundation for the West End Baptist Church was laid last Thursday afternoon following a brief but appropriate ceremony. The contractors and workmen moved in immediately and construction is well under way at the present time with the possibility that the structure will be completed by early May.

Mrs. Bettie Hardy, 77 years old and the oldest member, laid the first brick at 1:00 o'clock that afternoon. She was followed by Mrs. Tom Phelps, Mrs. David Keel, Mrs. Dennis Hardy, Mrs. J. S. Parham and Mr. and Mrs. Exum Ward, Sr.

Town Board In Short Meeting Monday Evening

Father Presents Board with Sizable Bill For His Son's Funeral

Meeting in regular session here last evening, the local board of town commissioners had very little business other than that of a routine nature and that was handled in a very short time.

Several matters were discussed briefly, but action was delayed in those cases until next month, the officials pointing out that a primary election will have been held during the meantime. Included in the discussions was the police department and some alleged irregularities. It was fairly definitely stated that some action is to be expected in department activities shortly.

Tom Stokes, father of Tom Stokes who was fatally shot by a town officer acting in self defense several weeks ago, presented the town with a funeral bill in the sum of \$285, the itemized bill listing flowers at \$15, casket at \$150 and \$35 for time lost. While the board denied legal obligation, it expressed a willingness to accept the bill.

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Wreck Car Here On River Bridge

No one was hurt but considerable damage was done to the 1946 Ford coupe belonging to George H. Vaught when Miles Lewis Hall, Jr., ran it into a barricade on the river bridge here at 4:00 o'clock last Thursday morning. Hall, Vaught and David Nicholson, three Princeton students, were traveling south to spend Easter. Hall told Patrolman Saunders that he did not see the warning lights in time to avoid the crash.

Nicholson and Vaught are from Akron, Ohio, and they were en route to Hall's home in Coral Gables, Fla. They borrowed a car from a relative in Durham and continued the trip, leaving the coupe here for about \$300 worth of repairs.

County Board Of Education Holds Two-day Meeting

Williamston Group Asks Adequate Facilities and Enlarged Committee

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County Board of Education listened to two delegations, handled a few routine duties and delayed action until today on several major problems, including local school committee appointments. Just what the board will do today in meeting those problems is problematical, but there is a possibility that a go-slow policy will be continued.

Following the end of the war, the education board advanced an improvement program on a county-wide scale, including new buildings or enlargements for nearly every school. The program was virtually abandoned when a test case was made at Everetts where steps were taken to replace the building destroyed by fire. The costs were three to four times in excess of the estimates. The Everetts school has been conducted since that time in churches.

Meeting with Architect E. G. Flannagan of Henderson today, the board is studying revised plans for the Everetts building and will shortly send up another trial balloon to determine a trend in building costs. If the costs are still considered extremely high, it is quite likely that the county-wide program will again be delayed, leaving the schools to operate as best they can until a more opportune time presents itself for executing the program.

One official was quoted as saying that he did not think it advisable to go into debt on a big scale when tobacco is selling for 45 cents and cotton 30 cents a pound and have to pay it back with 30-cent interest.

Another problem carried over from the Monday meeting is centered in the burned-out Jamesville colored school. Some action has to be taken in that case soon if the children there are to be housed next year. To aggravate the problem, attendance is dropping rapidly, making it difficult to reach a decision. The superintendent and Board Member F. W. Holliday were instructed to search around for a site. A delegation, headed by George Cordon and numbering a dozen or more, appeared before the meeting and pleaded for consideration.

At the meeting Monday, the board moved to continue its same organization for the next two years with J. D. Woolard as chairman. J. C. Manning was reelected superintendent of county schools for another term, and he was instructed to draft an agreement.

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Winberry Funeral Sunday Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted in the Skewarkey Primitive Baptist Church near here last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Minnie Winberry who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sam Bunting, near Oak City last Saturday morning at 7:15 o'clock. Elder B. S. Cowin, the pastor, officiated, and burial was in the cemetery there. She had been in declining health for a year or more and her condition had been critical following a stroke suffered about two weeks ago.

The daughter of the late James Asa and Della Price Leggett, she was born in this county 66 years ago.

Following her marriage to Station Bland she made her home in Ayden, returning to this county thirty years ago. Three children, John Bland of Bear Grass Township, James Bland of Williams Township and Mrs. Edward Pritchett of Hamilton, survive that union. Her second marriage was to Jesse Winberry who survives with a daughter, Mrs. Sam Bunting. She also leaves a brother, James Leggett of Roanoke Rapids.

Mrs. Winberry was a member of the church at Skewarkey for several years.

Robber Enters Business Here

Breaking into the Blue Star Cleaners' place of business of Washington Street some time during last Saturday night, robbers carried away several suits of clothes, one or two coats and a sport jacket, leaving his own sport jacket in exchange.

Believed to have been a local operator, the robber broke a side window and entered the building. The robbery was discovered about 5:00 o'clock that morning by Officers Ballard and Keisler. County officers were called and blood hounds from the prison camp near here were placed on the trail which ended at the railroad. No lead has been established in the case, as far as it could be learned.

Eighteen In Race for Town Board, Mayor

Fourteen Out For Commissioner and Others for Mayor

Right at 740 new names were added to the municipal registration books here during the three Saturdays the books were open, Registrar John E. Pope announced following the close of the registration period last Saturday. The additions boost the total number of eligible voters to an estimated 1,250. The new registrants include about twenty-five colored citizens.

It is estimated by some that the vote in the primary election next Monday will range between 600 and 1,000, the number depending on campaign developments between now and then.

Williamston's municipal political picture was given more or less definite form late last Friday afternoon when several candidates entered the race for places on the local board of town commissioners and for mayor, one beating the filing deadline by a mere five minutes.

Hemer Barnhill, part owner and operator of the B. and W. Tire Rebuilding Service here, was the last to file for one of the five places on the board of commissioners, his candidacy boosting the total number in that contest to fourteen.

C. D. Carstarphen, business man and representative of the Lawrence Bonded Warehouse Company, filed for mayor Friday afternoon. S. H. Grimes, local insurance company representative, filed for the mayor's job at 5:55 that afternoon, boosting the number of candidates in that contest to four.

The line-up, as it now stands, includes eighteen candidates in the field for town commissioners and mayor, as follows:

For commissioners: John Hatton Gurganus, K. D. Worrell, Ben D. Courtney, N. C. Green, G. H. Harrison, V. D. Godwin, L. P. Lindsley, Roy T. Griffin, A. J. Manning, Dillon Cobb, H. Leman Barnhill, David Moore, George A. ...

For mayor: John L. Hassell, Robert Cowen, C. D. Carstarphen, and S. Harcum Grimes.

The time is short for a campaign, and it isn't likely now that any burning issues will be injected into the contest. However, public appeals as well as those by mail and in person are expected before the campaign is closed.

General Assembly In Final Session Late On Saturday

Legislature Blows Good And Bad During Eighty-Eight Days

North Carolina's General Assembly completed an hectic 88-day session shortly after 10:00 o'clock last Saturday night after blowing first good and then bad, accomplishing much and leaving much unaccomplished. The value of the legislative acts and actions is to be determined as the more than 1,000 laws and resolutions are reduced to practical application. With the exception of one or two accomplishments, most of them delayed for years until an aroused public rose up to demand their passage.

Low-paid state employees, and to see that other shameful conditions were remedied.

That the Legislature muddled through much of its work is evidenced in the uncertain status of some of the laws passed. The alcoholic beverages laws are not quite clear, and the exact meaning of any number of other laws is yet to be determined. One legislator is quoted as saying that a county may upon the request of 15 percent of its voters, call for a referendum on beer and wine sales, that if the county votes dry, an incorporated town of 1,000 or more may call a referendum of its own. It was also reported that a county may vote on the liquor question, that if the vote is dry, no town or city may call a referendum of its own; yet, several towns and cities in the State are empowered to hold liquor referendums.

In one of the most progressive steps, the Assembly moved to improve the health of North Carolina, proposing among other things, more hospitals, medical centers, doctors and a medical school at Chapel Hill.

While the law makers acted to relieve the deplorable conditions existing in the State's institutions, they hardly met the existing needs. But the group possibly did more in the line of Christianity than any half dozen similar bodies ahead of it.

Possibly well meant and only ...

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Capture Seventh Convict Escapee

Chester Marsh, one of eight convicts who sawed their way out of the high-way prison camp near here last November 4, was recaptured by FBI agents in Norfolk a few days ago. His arrest leaves only one of the eight, Albert Bowser, at large.

Marsh, convicted of an assault with intent to commit rape and sentenced in the Guilford County Superior Court to serve fourteen years in prison was admitted to Raleigh, reports reaching here stating that he has been or will be transferred to the rock quarries. When arrested, Marsh was working at an ice plant in Norfolk.

Since breaking out of camp near here, Bowser is believed to have killed a 72-year-old colored man in England. Since Virginia. At the time he escaped from the camp in this county, Bowser, sentenced in Halifax County, was serving a 15-year term for an assault with an intent to commit rape.

Several of those escaping last November 4 have been returned to the camp here and are now in shackles. One, Otis Ragland, died in the State Prison gas chamber.

Telephone Strike Little Felt Here

The telephone strike, tying up most of the nation's telephonic communications, was hardly noticeable here, according to unofficial reports. No strike was called in the Carolina system, and operations were not interrupted in Virginia.

Long distance calls were handled, more or less, in emergencies west of Rocky Mount and to other states with the exception of Virginia. A few calls were cleared through here to New York the first day of the strike yesterday.

Since a bulk of the long distance messages handled by the local exchange is limited to this section, the strike did not make itself felt very much.

Limits Modified For Clerk-Carrier Position

Any person residing in Martin County may now apply for examination for appointment as substitute clerk-carrier in the post office at Williamston, the Civil Service Commission has announced. First announcement of the examination had limited applicants to bona fide patrons of the post office here.

Applications will be accepted through the close of business on April 23, 1947, at the office of the Director, Fourth U. S. Civil Service Region, Nissen Building, Winston-Salem 3, North Carolina.