

To Retire After Forty-Two Years In School Room

Principal H. M. Ainsley Is Planning To Enjoy Well-Earned Rest

Completing his forty-second year in the teaching profession, Principal H. M. Ainsley a short time ago tendered his resignation as head of the Oak City School, and plans to enjoy a well-earned rest. His resignation, marking the close of many years of faithful and devoted service, was received with reluctance, but the school man insisted he had run his course, that he had done his best and that it was time to turn the task over to younger workers.

Mr. Ainsley's school career began in the fall of 1889 when he entered the Washington County public schools. Finishing the Creswell Academy in the spring of 1901, he taught school during the following term, receiving a salary of \$30 per month. The salary was quite small, but the school man pointed out that board and room cost only \$5 a month.

Drawing on his savings set aside during his first year as a teacher in the Washington County schools, he entered Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, as a charter member in the fall of 1902. Completing his college work, Mr. Ainsley taught in the schools of Pamlico, Pitt, Henderson and Bertie Counties before locating in Oak City in 1923. During the nearly quarter of century that followed, hundreds of young men and women were graduated under his supervision, the school man lending a fatherly and Christian influence in preparing each one of them for life's work.

No man could have given of his time and interest in greater measure than Mr. Ainsley gave during the nearly half century he spent teaching and training the youth placed under his care. His work has been most effective in Oak City where he willingly and effectively took a leading part in all worthy undertakings, both inside and outside the school. In all his years spent in the school room he was never absent on account of personal illness, and he doesn't recall being tardy even once.

While the professor has no definite plans for the future, it is fairly apparent that he is considering an invitation to go to Ahoskie and be near his children, Ira and Mary Katherine.

It is fairly apparent that Mr. Ainsley is finding it difficult to bring his school career to a close, but surely he can find much satisfaction when he reviews his record with the full knowledge that he kept the faith, fought a good fight and accomplished those things that will live in the acts of others across the years.

Announcing his resignation, the school man expressed his appreciation in a most cordial manner to everyone who had cooperated with him in the operation of the Oak City School. "We made mistakes and we had our problems, but with the loyal support given by a gracious people, the county superintendent, board of education and local committee, we managed to solve them and carry on," he said. "Never in all my experience have I had so much cooperation."

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Training Union Meet in Tarboro

The Regional Convention of region number two of the Baptist Training Union of North Carolina will meet in the Tarboro Baptist church on April 25-26. The program will begin with quiet music on Friday afternoon at 2:55 o'clock and will close on Saturday afternoon at 3:00. Lodging and breakfast will be furnished by the host church for those who live at such a distance that they will not be able to go home for the night and return in time for the Saturday morning meeting.

Among the interesting items on the program there will be: the Hymn Festival, the Adult Bible Reading Tournament, the Young People's Better Speakers' contest, the Intermediate Sword Drill, and the Junior Memory Work Tournament. Region number two includes all the churches of the Roanoke, Neuse and Atlantic associations.

Burned To Death In Hunting Lodge Fire

W. Robert Bowers Funeral Held In Bethel On Sunday



After forty-two years in the teaching profession, Principal H. M. Ainsley is retiring at the close of the current term to enjoy a well-earned rest. Twenty-four of the forty-two years were spent in Oak City.

Native Of County Dies In Halifax

Mrs. Norma Cloman Kitchin, native of this county, died at her home in Scotland Neck Sunday morning following a long period of declining health.

The daughter of the late John Benjamin and Fannie Staton Cloman, she was born in Hamilton about 70 years ago. Following the completion of her education, she taught music in the Raleigh schools a short time before she was married to John Arrington Kitchin and located in Scotland Neck. She was a member of a family for many years prominent in the affairs of this and Edgecombe County.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock by Rev. Gray Temple, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, and interment was in the Episcopal cemetery.

Surviving are two sons, William A. and John Cloman Kitchin, of Scotland Neck, a daughter, Miss Kate Parks Kitchin of Rocky Mount and Scotland Neck; a brother, John B. Cloman of Tampa, Fla., and a sister, Mrs. Frank L. Gladstone of Chicago.

Church Fire Loss Large In Nation

Damage caused by fire to churches in the United States during the past year will run as much as 20 percent above the \$4,800,000 loss suffered by edifices of thirty-odd denominations in the previous year, according to estimates made by Warren Y. Kimball, fire record executive of the National Fire Protection Association. In 1945 there were 2,400 church fires in the United States, and the association's records now indicate there were probably at least four hundred more fires in churches during the past year.

At the same time, an even greater proportionate loss was reported by industrial and residential property owners during the period.

Lions Club Plans Its Annual Banquet, Dance

The local Lions club will celebrate its tenth anniversary by observing its annual ladies and charter night banquet and dance here Thursday evening.

The banquet is being held at the Woman's Club at 7:30 while the dance will take place at the high school gym where Hal Thurston and his orchestra will provide the music.

The local Lions Club was chartered in April, 1937, and all charter members still in the club will be recognized. Wives of club members will attend, along with Lions and Lionesses of clubs in neighboring towns.

Prominent County Farmer Passes At Home In Griffins

Funeral Monday Afternoon In Hayes Swamp Church For Ephraim Peel

Ephraim Peel, well-known county citizen and prominent farmer, died at his home in Griffins Township Sunday morning at 7:45 o'clock following a long period of declining health. In addition to a complication of ailments, Mr. Peel fell and broke his hip several years ago and he had not been very active since that time. However, he was able to be up much of the time until a short time ago when he suffered an attack of pneumonia which was given as the immediate cause of his death.

The son of the late Noah and Millie Roberson Peel, he was born in Griffins Township on June 28, 1871, living and farming there all his life. He was a self-educated man and kept himself well posted on the affairs of his county, state and nation. A leader in his community for many years, Mr. Peel was unusually active in political affairs, and the Democratic party never had a more loyal supporter.

He was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Hayes Swamp for a number of years, and his pastor Elder B. S. Cowin, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers and E. C. Stone, County ministers, conducted the funeral service there yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Burial was in the Tice Cemetery in Griffins Township.

Mr. Peel in early manhood was married to Miss Lydia Margaret Roberson and she survives with three children, two daughters, Mrs. N. R. Peel and Mrs. Elbert Griffin of Griffins Township, and a son, George M. Peel, of Williamston; two brothers, Messrs. Sylvester and Pleny Peel, of Griffins Township, and nine grandchildren.

New Attorney To Hang Out Shingle

Sworn in by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn in the superior court here yesterday morning, Edgar Jarvis Gurganus is planning to hang out his shingle for the practice of law here early next month.

A son of Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus and the late George N. Gurganus, the young man was graduated from the Wake Forest Law School in January, 1943. He successfully encountered the state bar examination the following month and in March of the same year entered the armed forces. Honorably discharged from the service in March of last year, he was employed in the legal department of the Office of Price Administration in Raleigh and is leaving that position to come here and practice with Attorney B. A. Critcher.

Partly working his way through college, the young man made a splendid record in his studies while at Wake Forest.

The young man's entry into the legal profession, boosts the number of county attorneys to an even dozen, ten of whom are in Williamston.

Domestic Trouble Leads To Attack

S. T. Jackson, young colored man, attacked his wife and several others at his home in lower Cross Roads Township last Sunday night. Using a 40-inch gun, Jackson fired the weapon to frighten the group. Arresting Officers Murray Holloman and Whit Saunders said. No one was hurt. Angered when her husband started coming home late, the wife packed her suit case and was making ready to return to her mother's home Sunday. Jackson declares he resorted to force to frighten her out of the move.

Woman's Council Plans Bingo Party at Everetts

The Woman's Council of the Everetts Christian Church will sponsor a bingo party in the Everetts school auditorium Friday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Short Session Of Superior Court Is Held On Monday

Tribunal Likely To Adjourn For The Term This Afternoon

Opening yesterday what was first scheduled to be a two-week term, the Martin County Superior Court milled out seven divorces and recognized one or two compromise settlements and recessed until today, the tribunal holding forth hardly more than an hour and a half. The second week of the scheduled two-week term was called off some time ago, and it now looks as if the court will adjourn for the term some time late today.

Very few spectators were attracted to the old hall of justice by the calendar and very little interest was shown in the proceedings.

Four of the seven divorces granted Monday went to colored couples, attorneys in other cases choosing, for one cause or another, to carry them over for trial at a later term. Divorces, all based on grounds of two-year separation, were granted in the following cases:

Mildred Swanner against J. D. Swanner, Virginia W. Mizelle against Elmer T. Mizelle, Grace Charlotte Nooney against James Henry Nooney, Frank Johnson against Annie J. Johnson, Robert H. Taylor against Margaret A. Taylor, Ruth Everett Barrow against Shredrick Barrow.

In the case of William Little and wife against William Reddick and Mercedes Spruill, it was pointed out that the issues had been settled, the litigants having agreed to the location of a boundary line on property in the Bear Trap Mill section.

In the case of Lilley against Lilley, it was learned that an agreement had been reached, that the case would not be for trial. A judgment was not filed immediately in the case, however.

Cancer Drive Is Gaining Support

Starting only last week, the drive for funds to support the National Cancer Fund is rapidly gaining support in this county, according to a preliminary report released by Chairman Wheeler M. Manning.

"We have not had time to hear from all the district chairmen, but scattering reports clearly indicate that the public is anxious to do its part in supporting the movement," the chairman said.

District Chairman W. B. Harrington said last week-end that the drive is going well in his township, that they were certain to go over the top within a short time.

Painfully Injured In Capital Wreck

Mrs. Darrell M. Price, just a short time in this country from Europe, was painfully injured in a taxi-street car accident in Washington, D. C., the early part of last week. No bones were broken, but Mrs. Price, the former Miss Anna Maidari of Bari, Italy, was badly bruised and suffered severe shock. Her husband, Captain Price, was with her in the taxi at the time the taxi struck the street car but he was not hurt.

After a stay of several days in a Washington hospital, Mrs. Price was able to accompany her husband to their home here on West Main Street.

Wildlife Club Will Hold Meet Wednesday

Some timely and important business will be placed before a meeting of the Martin County Wildlife Club in the county courthouse Wednesday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, an official of the organization announces.

In addition to the special business, the club is to elect officers for the coming year. "We must continue active and have a part in administering game and fish regulations," the officer said. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

County Ball League Off To A Good Start

Indications Point To Keen Rivalry For Top Position

Few Heated Arguments Are Reported To Prove Interest In Game

Offering a brand of ball far better than many really expected and not so very different from that seen in the higher-up leagues, the Martin County Baseball League clubs opened the current season with a bang last Sunday, the initial contests attracting an estimated 1,500 earnest rooters.

Oak City, Bear Grass, Everetts and Robersonville took the lead, but in most instances it was no easy task. The opposition displayed enough strength to convince fans that anything can happen.

The opening day offered its upsets. For instance, Hassell, cramped for space and with limited territory to draw from for its players, almost scared the pants off Bear Grass. Reports reaching here stated that Hassell had Bear Grass 2 to 0 in the seventh, that Rawls came up with a homer to put Bear Grass in line for a 5-3 victory.

Cross Roads, also cornered so to speak, offered Everetts some keen competition. In fact, most of the winners had to struggle for their victories.

There was some difference of opinion when it came to umpiring, but reliable reports state that the recruits did a pretty good job, that if they were any better they would be signed up in the professional circuits. Umpire McCracken found it expedient to oust a Williamston player in the game here Sunday afternoon with Oak City, and there was a "little" trouble over in Hamilton. But, as one fan pointed out, the objections were based on interest and not at all on malice.

Judging from the preliminary reports, the prospects are bright for a successful season. While the arrangements place a mighty heavy burden on the players, they are making possible some useful entertainment. Reports say that while the players feel they are entitled to some pecuniary consideration, they are also playing for fun. In that spirit they can expect a loyal support, for, after all, there is more fun and real pleasure for the fans when they can see home talent in operation.

There were some few errors made, to be sure, but reports from every club declare that the players showed up well, that the league is pretty well organized and has the appearance of a going concern. The various plants have not been completed in their entirety, but work continues and most of them will be put in shape within a short time.

The various managers are cooperating among themselves and with the league officials, and if sufficient support is extended by the fans to maintain player morale, this section will have solved its baseball problem very satisfactorily.

BLUE MOLD

Striking over the week-end, blue mold is said to be doing extensive damage to tobacco plants in this county. So far the mold is confined to relatively small areas, but it is proving disastrous, according to reports reaching here this week.

Visiting his plant beds on a farm near Everetts, Farmer L. A. Clark stated that although his plants were no larger than a 25-cent piece, the mold had attacked them and it looked as if it was leaving the ground clean.

A few farmers are using fumigate to ward off the mold, but the chemical is not available and the plant situation is considered not at all favorable.

Reporting on his plants, Elder A. B. Ayers said yesterday that some were several inches across and were thriving.

ATTORNEY



Edgar Jarvis Gurganus, local young man, was sworn in before Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn in the superior court here yesterday morning to practice in the state courts. His law career interrupted by the war, the former soldier repeated the oath without shaking.

Aged County Man Died Last Friday

Timothy W. Roberson, a prominent farmer and one of the county's oldest citizens, died at his home near Robersonville last Friday following a long period of declining health.

Ninety-two years old, Mr. Roberson, despite declining health, was unusually active up until a short time ago, enjoying digging in his garden and handling minor tasks for recreation. The son of the late Henry B. and Gatsy Rogers Roberson, he spent all his life farming at the old home where he was born. Mr. Roberson was highly respected as a true Southern Christian gentleman and neighbor, and was one of the section's most beloved citizens.

On March 2, 1879, he was married to Miss Harriett Ann Everett who died on December 14, 1908.

Surviving are three sons, Messrs. W. Eli, Henry B. and Marcellus Roberson, all of Robersonville; seventeen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren, and a brother, Mr. Arch Roberson, who will be 81 next month.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by his pastor, Elder B. S. Cowin, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers, and Rev. J. R. Everett, Robersonville Baptist minister. Interment was in the Everett family cemetery near Robersonville.

Glee Clubs Well Received Here

Two college glee clubs, appearing in the local high school auditorium last Saturday and Sunday evenings, were well received by fairly large audiences, including quite a few visitors from the neighboring towns and communities.

The Wake Forest Glee Club and Little Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club, held the stage Saturday night. The approximately sixty singers were special guests in local homes over night, the group leaving for Northampton and Bertie Counties the following morning. The Atlantic Christian College Glee Club appeared in a program Sunday evening, the group including three local boys and girls. The Wilson group, numbering about sixty, were special guests of the Women's Auxiliaries at supper in the gymnasium that evening.

Oak City High School Alumni Plan Meeting

Meeting in the high school auditorium on Thursday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, alumni of the Oak City High School will make final plans for a big banquet scheduled for Friday, May 9, an officer of the association announced yesterday.

All alumni are invited to attend the special meeting and advance suggestions for the big event to be held on May 9.

Jaycees Plan To Promote Tobacco Market This Year

Warehousemen Will Be Invited To Meet With The Organization Soon

Holding their regular dinner meeting at the high school home economics department last Friday evening, members of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce heard Elbert S. Peel, local attorney, appeal for the group's support of a drive to enlarge and build up the local tobacco market. The speaker briefly reviewed the history of the local market since it was formed shortly after the turn of the century. Mr. Peel also cited the splendid progress of smaller markets that have outgrown the Williamston market within the past few years, naming Washington, Tarboro, Askie, and Smithfield as examples.

Some suggestions in the way of advertising were pointed out by Mr. Peel, such as each local merchant using the radio for advertising putting in a short line about the Williamston Tobacco Market, also having each local citizen have his business stationery imprinted with a slogan or boost for the market and other plans to make the various individuals tobacco market conscious.

It was moved and seconded that the local tobacco warehousemen be invited to attend the next meeting of the club, where they will be given an opportunity to express their plans, and also their opinions.

In the absence of President Mears, the meeting was presided over by vice president Exum Ward, Jr. James Williams led the singing and T. F. Davenport pronounced the invocation.

Jaycee Treasurer Jas. Bullock reported a profit of \$54.75 on the Spring dance recently held and that a check in the amount of \$428.09 had been mailed to the high school band, representing the net profit from the raffle recently conducted by the Jaycees for the benefit of the band. A letter of appreciation from Director Jack Butler was read to the members.

Jaycee Jesse Sumner reported on plans for the forthcoming Fat Stock Show being held on May 9th, which the Jaycees are helping sponsor. Sumner stated that 42 steers would be entered by the contestants, along with about 20 nice pigs.

It was voted that the club donate \$10.00 to the Crippled Children Drive, and the group favored giving the club directors authority as to the amount the club is to contribute on the stands for the local ball park.

Guests present were Wendell Peel of Williamston and Ray Maneri of Wake Forest, along with Jaycee "Old-Timer" J. D. Page, local man.

Club Members On Kiwanis Program

At the regular meeting of the Kiwanis Club Thursday evening two members of the Williamston Senior 4-H Club presented a program in connection with National 4-H Club Week. Mary Lou Coltrain gave a talk on "What 4-H Means to a Boy and Girl." Mary Lou pointed out that not only did club members learn to raise better livestock crops and to cook and sew—but they learned to live. In addition she cited some ways in which club members had received spiritual guidance.

Ben Bunting, president of the Williamston 4-H, cited the accomplishments made by club members in the various contests held last year and also some of the activities that the members took part in in addition to the projects.

Purchases Half Interest In Central Cafe Here

After vacationing for quite a few months, George Sfetsos chose to reenter the cafe business and recently purchased half interest in the cafe which he established and operated for a number of years.

He and Philip Tomis are now operating the cafe jointly.