

County Council In Meeting Here

Law Makers Address Small But Interested Group Wednesday Night

All but forgotten by parents and teachers, the Martin County P. T. A. Council went ahead with a scheduled meeting in the grammar school auditorium here Wednesday evening, and although few in number the group of about twenty parents heard the county's lawmakers in two timely talks and interestingly discussed current school problems.

Ably presiding over the meeting, Mrs. W. C. Wynne, the president, led the invocation and outlined the aims and work of the P. T. A. She pointed out that Bear Grass and Everetts were the only two associations in this county holding charters, that they had submitted their reports to the State organization on time.

Introducing the speakers of the evening, Superintendent of County Schools J. C. Manning declared that if there were no P. T. A. associations there would be a difference in the schools, that the schools need active and strong associations. He also said that officials look to the P. T. A. for suggestions and aid, and expressed the hope that something big will grow out of the small beginning, the school man referring to the faithful number in attendance upon the meeting.

Speaking on "What the Community Expects of the Schools," Senator Hugh G. Horton said, "I have the highest admiration and respect for the noble profession of teaching and the operation of schools. I think it affords the greatest possible opportunity, next to the church, for service to humanity."

"The school is the hope of greater enlightenment and upon it we depend for a diffusion of knowledge, freedom and liberties under our constitution. The public school system in our State and Nation is our greatest gift to the civilization of mankind."

The public recognizes the school as its most important business, and also that the higher the civilization of a country and the more complex its life, the broader and higher and more universal must be the education of the people in order to maintain that civilization.

"In a low state of civilization education as we have developed it today was not necessary, but under our modern system of living it is highly necessary. Therefore, we feel it highly important for the schools to understand the

Plans Complete For Farm Meet

Plans for the annual Martin County Farm Bureau meeting and barbecue were announced last night by President Chas. L. Daniel following a meeting of the committee on arrangements Wednesday evening.

Former Governor J. M. Broughton will address the farmers and other members of the organization in the high school auditorium Friday night.

A very short program has been planned, and the committee plans to have the meeting adhere to a strict time schedule.

The supper will be served in the gymnasium at 5:30 o'clock, and the committee explains that an ample supply of barbecue—approximately 2,500 pounds—is being prepared along with some good Griffins Township cornbread and the fixings. Two rolls of wire are being stretched across the ball field, and the Farm Bureau patrons will be served in orderly fashion but rapidly and continue out the gym door to the prepared tables in the field. "We are doing everything possible to avoid congestion and make the event worthwhile and enjoyable," President Daniel said.

The meeting is being held in conjunction with the fat stock show, the committee pointing out that the show sale will have been completed in time for the visitors to attend the meeting at the high school.

Over 2,000 are expected here for the show and meeting.

Prize Hogs-Cattle To Show

With tender affection, an affection that is evidenced by a youngster for his pet, Martin County 4-H club members started early Thursday morning delivering their prize winning beef calves and pigs here for the county's fourth annual fat stock show. Wesley Cratt, young 4-H Bear Grass Club member, led the procession to the Planters Warehouse where the show is being held beginning at 10 o'clock Friday morning and where the prize meat will be sold at 3:00 o'clock p. m. The youngster has a pretty Hereford steer, and he thinks so much of the animal that there is some doubt if he really wants to sell him. By early Thursday afternoon most of the 42 beef calves expected for the show had been delivered, and the youthful owners, including several girls, were holding a close watch over their entries.

While all the entries had not

been delivered, enough had entered the warehouse to prove that Judge I. M. Case of the State Extension Service is going to have a difficult time in picking the grand and reserve champions. It was also quite evident that the quality of the entries is improved over that noted at the show last year, and prospects are bright for a great show. The club members, hoping to win top positions, are hoping for a 80-cent price for the first prize winner and an over-all average of around 25 or 26 cents for the lot.

Bennie Ray Hopkins was the first to make a delivery to the swine department. Starting out with a small Poland-China pig eight months ago, the youth is showing a 310-pound hog and he is a beauty. Jack Kelly, Extension swine specialist, is to judge the 30 hogs expected for the show Friday.

Cancer Fund Drive About Two-Thirds Finished in County

Several Townships Go Over The Top During the Past Week

Goose Nest township exceeded its quota in the 1947 Cancer Drive by 60 percent, raising \$159.93 on a \$100.00 quota. N. Lawrence Hyman capably served as township chairman and did a splendid job. The schools of Oak City cooperated by raising about a third of the total, the white school pupils contributing \$48.99, while the colored school people donated \$4.25. Contributions in the coin collectors amounted to \$10.44. Serving as a canvasser, E. U. Smith collected \$10.00.

Another township to exceed its quota was Bear Grass, where Mr. and Mrs. Irving Terry served as co-chairmen. Assigned a quota of \$75.00, the Terrys and Mrs. Ella Wynne canvassed and solicited the people of that community in the amount of \$73.65. The coin collector at Harrison and Col-train's store picked up \$2.25 to help carry the township over by a small margin.

In Poplar Point township, a willing but mighty busy chairman, Mrs. Ben H. James, collected \$13.30 of the \$35.00 quota, along with some collected in the coin can at Ernest White's store. Accepting the chairmanship despite the fact that she is teaching school in another part of the county plus a sizeable amount of household duties, the chairman explained that she simply did not have the time to contact many people in her community, and that if there are people that have not contributed, if they will do so to her or the county chairman, it will be applied on the Poplar Point quota.

A late report from Mr. Leroy Everett, chairman of the Hamilton end of Hamilton township, revealed that so far, \$38.40 had been raised in that community.

According to county chairman Wheeler Manning, approximately

New Members for Hamilton Board

In a comparatively quiet election, Hamilton citizens named five new members to their official family last Tuesday.

Frank Everett, World War II veteran, succeeded Henry S. Johnson, Jr., as mayor. LeRoy Everett, father, and Hilton Everett, brother of the new mayor, and Joe Cherry and George Haislip are the new commissioners. D. G. Matthews succeeded himself as a member of the board.

Legionnaires Announce An Important Meeting

An important meeting of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will be held in the Legion Hut here next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock. Commander John Hardy announced yesterday.

In addition to other business, officers will be elected for the new year.

FISHING

Seine fishing is nearing the close of one of the most successful seasons on the Roanoke in a goodly number of years. Operations have been halted several days at the Jamesville plant, and the owner plans one more trial on Friday of this week. If the catches continue small, he plans to hang the seine up without delay, reports reaching here Thursday noon stated.

There have been days in past years when the fishery caught as many herring as have been caught during this season, to date.

Accounts Cleared From Tax Books In Martin County

Few Accounts Had Been Brought Over From De- pression Period

Accounts, hanging fire for as long as eighteen years in some instances, were finally removed from the county tax books at the direction of the board of commissioners in recent meeting. It was pointed out following an audit and investigation by the county attorney that nearly all of the property against which tax claims were held, had been listed in error or doubly listed. Hundreds of unpaid accounts were brought over from the depression period but, after long months most of them were settled by cash payment, leaving a few to be removed by direct order from the commissioners where errors were found.

Most of the errors found in the current listings are being corrected almost immediately and collections are nearing the maximum. However, the depression, striking in 1929, messed up the collections for several years and hundreds of accounts became delinquent.

Orders, relieving the property owners of taxes doubly listed or placed on the books in error, were issued by the commissioners recently in the following cases:

Cottie L. Hodges, Griffins Township, for the years 1929, 1931, 1932 and 1934.
Thomas A. Corey, Griffins, 1929-37.
Will M. Andrews, Robersonville, 1938-39.
Sebron Brown, 1930.
Dossie Hyman, Robersonville, 1930-36.
M. U. Hodges, Griffins Township, 1931-34.
Columbus Boston, 1931-39.
L. Boston, Jamesville Township, 1938-39.
Margaret Ebron and Ransom Price, 1932 and 1933.

Current relief orders were issued to the following:
1946—Levi Ausborn, Jamesville, \$156; Marina Sanders, Jamesville, 81 cents; H. J. Haislip, Goose Nest, \$9.93.
1945—James Elbert Beach, Cross Roads, \$2; Charlie Warren, Goose Nest, \$19.54.
1944—James R. Cherry, Bear Grass, \$2.

In Duke Hospital After Operation

Funeral For Prominent Hamilton Business Man Friday Afternoon

Asa Johnson, prominent county business man and influential citizen of Hamilton, Wednesday morning at 8:25 o'clock following an operation performed last Monday. In declining health for a few weeks, Mr. Johnson entered the hospital the 18th of last month for treatment. His condition was not considered serious until the operation and from that time there was little hope held for his recovery.

The son of the late Asa and Mollie Harrell Johnson, he was born in Hamilton 66 years ago the 31st of this month. At an early age he entered the mercantile business in his home town and was one of its oldest merchants. From a modest beginning, he built up a large patronage, maintaining the confidence of his customers down through the years and gaining recognition as an influential citizen and business leader. While his activities were limited mainly to his business operations, his counsel and opinions were widely sought by persons in all walks of life, and by his acts he proved himself a friend to his fellowman. Preferring to play the role of a quiet and humble citizen, Mr. Johnson, nevertheless, liberally supported the church and other worthy causes, and he was a great lover of sports and clean sportsmanship.

He was married to Miss Susie Woodard of Scotland Neck about thirty years ago, and she survives with two daughters, Mrs. Gilbert Myster of Cherry Point and Miss Helen Johnson of Hamilton and Williamston. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. W. A. Harrell, of Kingston.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home in Hamilton Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. Sidney Boone, Robersonville minister and pastor of the Hamilton Methodist Church, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Robersonville Christian Church. Interment will be in the Hamilton cemetery.

Buy Interest In Warehouse Here

Purchasing an interest in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here from Bob Edmondson, Messrs. Urbin and J. Rossell Rogers, well-known county farmers and prominent citizens, will enter the market this coming season as operators.

No official announcement has been made, but it is understood the young men will form a partnership with Messrs. Carlyle Langley, Johnny Gurkin and Edward Corey for the operation of the Roanoke-Dixie and Planters warehouses.

BAND CLUB PLANNED

A meeting of the parents of members of the local school band is scheduled for Monday night to organize a band club for the coming scholastic year.

Few Voted Last Tuesday In Listless Municipal Election

Williamston's town politics were settled for another two years last Tuesday when one hundred and twelve citizens visited the polls in the town hall and elected the April 14 primary nominees. The election was a listless one, the vote count falling nearly 800 below the number cast in the primary. The election, recognized more or less, as a mere formality in these parts, attracted very little attention, one report declaring that all the nominees did not receive support even from immediate relatives and friends.

A spark of interest was created early in the morning, but it soon faded away when it was well established that no independent ticket had been offered. There was a few write-in votes, but for the most part, the vote was a straight one. Registrar

In Welfare Costs For the New Year

Preliminary Estimate Calls For Over \$100,000 In Next Fiscal Year

The 1947-48 Martin County Welfare Department budget, as approved by the board of commissioners in a recent meeting calls for a total expenditure of \$106,504.25 during the 1947-48 fiscal year, according to an estimate submitted by Miss Mary Taylor, department superintendent, this week.

The budget calls for an increase of \$32,504 over the figures appropriated a year ago, most of the increase being borne by the state and federal governments. While most of the gain is going to increase the old age pensions and add new pensioners to the list, costs zoomed upward in nearly every department. Approximately \$66,600 is being earmarked for the payment of pensioners to the aged as compared with \$44,700 paid or is being paid in the current fiscal year to the aged. Martin County is increasing its appropriation to the aged by \$4,560, and the state-federal governments are increasing their allotments from \$35,760 to \$53,100.

Aid to dependent children is being increased from \$19,200 to \$25,920, the county to share in the increased cost to the extent of \$1,020 or pay \$4,860 of the total bill. Aid to the blind remains about the same at around \$1,000 cost to the county. General relief, financed by the county alone, calls for \$8,050, or the same amount appropriated a year ago. Outside poor is to receive around \$3,000 of that amount, and \$5,000 of it will go for hospitalization. Miscellaneous costs are placed at \$50.

Administration costs, running right at 11 percent of the grand total, have been increased by \$2,270.00, and now stand at \$11,670.00. The state and federal governments pay \$4,150 of the administration costs, leaving the county to pay \$7,520. The superintendent's new salary is being increased from \$2,520 to \$2,760. One case worker's salary is being increased from \$1,500 to \$1,800. A second case worker's salary is being upped from \$890 to \$1,030.

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TESTS

Speaking briefly at a meeting of the Martin County P. T. A. Council Wednesday evening, County Superintendent J. C. Manning pointed out that pupils in the first three grades in the county schools are as good as those anywhere, according to reports coming from the standard achievement tests recently given in the county school system. Beginning with the fourth grade, the trend is downward, the school man said, explaining that absences are believed to have more to do with the poorer showing in the grades including and above the fourth.

Plan To Advertise Local Leaf Market

Tobaccoists And Jaycees Discussed Plans At Meeting

Faults Frankly Aired After Friendly Fashion By Both Groups

At their regular May meeting, Williamston's Jaycees launched a drive for a bigger and better tobacco market for the town. Inviting the warehousemen, the Jaycees frankly discussed the present status of the market following the submission of a report by a special committee. Faults and shortcomings were freely discussed but in a most friendly and constructive way, and it was the consensus of opinion that the first major step in building a bigger and better market here was taken.

The warehousemen asked no quarter, admitting their faults and pledging a stronger cooperation in the future. It seems that the town and market have grown apart, but the friendly spirit advanced at the organization's meeting virtually assured a closer cooperation and marked progress in the future. A liaison committee will be named by the market operators and the town, in general, and a definite advertising program and other details will be worked out within a short time.

The report prepared by the special committee was submitted as follows:

In fulfilling this assignment, the committee operated under the presumption that we were supposed to report to this club the things or things which have stunted the growth of the Williamston Tobacco Market. No one can deny the fact that the Williamston Market is not on the march and no one can deny that it should be growing, because markets all around us are growing. Have you ever stood on Mrs. Dunning's corner and watched the tobacco from across the river pass through Williamston, and have you ever stood at Jack Daniel's Filling Station and watched the tobacco from the lower counties turn to the left instead of the right? Why shouldn't that tobacco stop in Williamston?

The overall reason for the condition of this market is that the tobacco growers in the surrounding sections as well as outstanding people in our own town have not had it called to their attention sufficiently that we still have warehouses and a tobacco market in Williamston. When a farmer sits in his packhouse grading a barn of tobacco, it naturally runs through his mind: "Where shall I sell this stuff?" Our problem is to put the Williamston Market on that man's mind.

Now, who is to blame for this situation? In finding the answer to this question, the members of this committee have contacted people from every section and every profession, including the tobaccoists themselves. We got the answer that the citizens of the Town of Williamston in general had no interest in their tobacco market and this in itself is an

that the merchant of the Town of Williamston are not taking any pride in the market and are not concerned particularly with its welfare and growth. We got the answer that there are no so called "wheel horses" in Williamston capable of putting the market on the map. We got the answer that practically all the warehousemen in Williamston are engaged in business ventures other than their warehouses and don't have the time to promote the market. In other words, before and after sales, they are men of professions other than tobaccoists; that they are not cooperating, and further, that there is no friendly competition between them.

It is not within this committee's or this club's province to say which of these accusations are true or untrue, but we are reporting what other people are saying about us.

What can be done about this situation? The same people who offered criticism which has already been outlined, offered suggestions.

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URGENT CALL

Local people are again urged to support the drive for old clothes this week-end. Receptacles for old clothing will be placed at the doors of the several churches during the period, and it is hoped that they will be filled to overflowing. Heavy deliveries are expected during the Sunday school and church hours.

Heading the drive as president of the local ministerial association, Rev. B. T. Hurley stated that they hoped to collect at least one pound of clothing per person or approximately 5,000 pounds.

Boyd, Candidate For Governor, In The Local Court

Loses Damage Suit but May Bring Slander Charge Against Capt. Jones

Alleging he was damaged in the sum of \$200, Olla Ray Boyd, candidate for governor, went into the local courts a few days ago to push his claim. After hearing the evidence, Justice of the Peace R. T. Johnson non-suited the case, and Boyd, a resident of Pinetown, appealed to the higher courts.

According to reports, Boyd said he suffered damages when members of the highway patrol stopped his car and a mechanic from the Williamston patrol station garage ruled that it was not in mechanical condition for safe operation on the highways. The suit was brought against H. J. Silverthorne, mechanic at the garage. According to the report, Silverthorne did not make the inspection, that the late Hubert Smith handled the job.

Regardless of who made the inspection it was the opinion of the trial justice that there were no grounds for suit, and the case was thrown out.

At the conclusion of the case trial, Captain Lester Jones, called here from Greenville as a witness, asked if a bond should not be required of Boyd, intimating that the matter was such a trivial one that appearance of the party to the suit should be made fairly certain at the next trial.

Advised that no bond was in order in such a case, the district patrol head was said to have suggested that papers were in order for the removal of the plaintiff to Dix Hill Hospital. Boyd was said to have turned and walked out of the trial justice's office, saying nothing as he went.

According to reports, the Pinetown candidate strongly indicated that he planned to bring suit for slander. As far as it could be learned he was unable to do so because he was not returned to Beaufort County where he plans to institute the

Jurymen Drawn For June Court

Twenty Martin County citizens were drawn recently by the county commissioners for jury duty during the one-week term of the Martin Superior Court next month.

Names of the men drawn for duty follow:

Williams—Floyd Moore, William Howard Tyre, and J. F. Hopkins.

Griffins—Virgil Lilley and Marion F. Hodges.

Williamston—Jesse Jones, L. D. Lambert, G. E. Hines and W. J. Miller.

Cross Roads—Toba Bowen and Silas Leggett.

Robersonville—James H. Gray, H. A. Johnson and R. T. McClaren.

Hamilton—E. T. Stephenson, James Moore, G. W. Ayers, J. L. Coffield and H. L. Hopkins.

Goose Nest—G. E. Bryant.

Judge J. C. Smith Had Eleven Cases In Short Session

Fines Imposed Amounted To Only \$70; Several Got Jail Sentences

The Martin County Recorder's Court leaped and landed right in the middle of a depraved last Monday when fines and forfeitures amounted to only \$70, an amount about \$500 below the average reported over a period of months. Possibly the drop in fines represents only a recession and not a depression.

Judge J. C. Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson handled eleven cases during the comparatively short session last Monday. While the court was a bit short on fines it was fairly long on jail and road sentences, several defendants drawing time. A comparatively small crowd was present for the proceedings which were completed before the noon day meal.

Proceedings:

Pleading not guilty, Benjamin Edwards was adjudged guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and he was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

Attacking C. B. Fagan on April 21 with a knife and inflicting several wounds on his victim's back and shoulders, Walter Nobles, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, pleaded not guilty. The action was continued under prayer for judgment until the first Monday in next September.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jesse Whitley, colored, pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty of a simple assault, he was sentenced to the roads for thirty days.

Pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Thurman James was found guilty and was sentenced to jail for a day, fined \$25, taxed with the cost and directed to pay the prosecuting witness's \$23 doctor's bill.

Charged with disorderly conduct and an assault, Fred Fraley had his case continued until June 8, 1947.

A continuance was allowed in the case charging Amanda Biggs and Chelsa Mae Biggs with an assault. The case is slated for trial next Monday.

W. V. Ormond, Biggs School principal, was adjudged not guilty in the case charging him with the malicious whipping of a school child. The state appealed to the superior court.

The case charging John Thomas

Bond Refused In Burglary Case

Jacklon Gary Nicholson, young white man charged with breaking into the dwelling of Mrs. Della Cowen here late Monday night while persons were sleeping there, with a view to commit a felony, was denied bond by Justice John L. Hassell at a hearing held Wednesday evening. It was unofficially noted that defense attorneys had been heard, but the defendant's counsel maintained that the young man was drinking,

way into a bed room where persons were sleeping, he did not do so with intent to commit a felony.

A rather extensive traveler, Nicholson, formerly of this county, returned here Monday and late that night went to the Cowen boarding house where he had been afforded board and lodging on previous occasions. It was pointed out that he joined Howard Cherry, a boarder, at a late meal in the kitchen where he removed his shoes. Wandering into the main part of the house, he pushed open the bedroom door, walked in and sat down in a chair. Later, according to evidence offered by Elizabeth Davenport Cowen, he stretched himself out on the floor near the bed, but did not stay there long before he got up and went out. Mrs. Cowen, sleeping most of that time, did not see him until he was in the hall. She recognized the man and called police. Leaving the house barefooted, Nicholson eluded officers until about 6:00 o'clock Tuesday morning when he was arrested near here.