

Tobacco Growers To Vote Next Saturday

Voting Hours Set From 6:30 To 6:30 In Ten Districts

Poll Holders Agree to Take Vote Count Without Pay In This County

Approximately 3,000 Martin County tobacco farmers are being urged to join thousands of others in several states in a referendum next Saturday to determine if they should be assessed at the rate of not more than ten cents per acre to support an export program for surplus flue-cured tobacco.

The referendum was authorized by the last session of the North Carolina legislature, and provides for the expenditure of the money by a non-profit organization known as Tobacco Associates, Inc. The head of the organization, J. B. Hutson, is now in Europe studying foreign market conditions and an office has been opened in Raleigh.

All tobacco farmers engaged in the production of the crop, including tenants, are eligible to vote in the referendum, but no one, regardless of how many farms he operates, may vote more than once.

The polls will be open from 6:30 a. m. and close at 6:30 p. m. on Saturday, July 12, and the poll holders are serving without any cash reward.

It will require at least a two-thirds favorable vote to put the program into effect, and farmers must cast their votes in their respective communities.

The ballot asks the question: "Are you for or against an annual assessment of 10 cents per acre on the tobacco acreage planted for a three-year period (1947, 1948 and 1949)? This assessment is to support an organization for maintaining, developing and expanding export outlets for flue-cured tobacco." The ballot has squares for the farmer to vote "For" or "Against" the proposal.

Arrangements have been made for casting the vote in this county in ten districts as follows:

Jamesville: Town House, Herbert Sexton and Leo Gardner, poll holders.

Williams: County House, R. J. Hardison and O. S. Green, poll holders.

Griffins: Manning's Store (Piney Grove), Geo. C. Griffin, poll holder.

Bear Grass: Rogers Supply Store, T. L. Roberson, poll holder.

Williamston and Poplar Point: Agricultural Building.

Cross Roads: Everetts, Garland Cross Roads: Everetts, Garland Forbes, poll holder.

Robersonville: Masonic Hall, R. S. Everett and Cecil Powell, poll holders.

Hamilton: Slade-Rhodes' Store, J. B. Everett, poll holder.

Hassell: Edmondson's Store, D. R. Edmondson, poll holder.

Goose Nest: J. H. Ayers Store, H. A. Early and M. E. Hyman, poll holders.

The poll holders, interested in the proposal and believing everything possible must be done to maintain the export of tobacco, are serving without charge. The farmers of the county are urged to get busy and vote on Saturday of this week.

State College Club In Meeting

The Martin County State College Club met Wednesday night June 25 at the "Switch" in Williamston. Coach Anderson of the college and "Pop" Taylor, general secretary, were present for the meeting. The club was shown a motion picture of the State-St. Johns basketball game. Officers for the new year were elected as follows: Pres. V. B. Hairr; Vice President, D. W. Brady; Secretary and Treasurer, J. C. Eubanks, and reporter Bruce Whitley. The next meeting of the club will be held in September.

ROUND-UP

Although the July holiday week-end was unusually quiet here, state, county and local police were kept busy rounding up alleged violators. Fifteen persons were arrested and temporarily detained in the county jail, the number including ten drunks. Each one of the remaining five was charged with breaking and entering, larceny, assault with a deadly weapon and disposing of mortgaged property. One was taken into custody on an old charge. Four of the fifteen were white and the ages of the group ranged from 21 to 60 years.

Holiday Quietly Observed Locally

The long July 4 week-end holiday was observed very quietly and without serious incident in this immediate section. No one was hurt and only a minor highway accident was reported. A few firecrackers were heard late that evening, but it could not be ascertained if the firing of the crackers was in celebration of the Glorious Fourth or just merely marked the passing of fireworks from the local scene in accordance with State law.

There was unusually heavy late last Thursday night and late Sunday night. Many Carolinians, living in Virginia, turned homeward for the holiday and literally cluttered the highways with the aid of North Carolinians who were heading for the beaches and the fishing places.

Narline Yarrell, colored farmer of Williams Township, turned over his car and a load of cucumbers at the bridge detour on this side of the river last Friday about noon. Yarrell, taking his young boy on the first trip to the pickle factory in Windsor, said that the boy asked him about the new bridge. "I pointed at something, and the next thing I knew the car was on its side down the embankment," Yarrell said. Damage to the machine was estimated at about \$200 by Patrolman W. E. Saunders who made the investigation.

Hog Thieves Are Active In County

Striking for the second time in as many weeks, thieves, raided Farmer C. B. Clark's hog pen on the Williamston-Everetts Highway late last Friday night and carried away four pigs.

Apparently using an axe, the thieves would knock a pig in the head, drag him down the road and bleed him. Throwing the dead pig to the side of the road and out of sight of travelers on the highway, the thieves would go back for another, continuing the practice until they had four pigs, three weighing about 125 pounds each and the fourth weighing about 80 pounds.

County officers spent much time working on the case, but have been unable so far to establish a lead.

Two weeks previously, thieves raided the hog pen of Frank Little not so far from the Clark farm and brutally maimed up several of his hogs. A week ago, thieves raided a pen in the Bethel section, employing tactics similar to those reported at the Clark pen.

Officers believe the thieves are operating from a base outside the county.

Respected Colored Citizen Died Sunday

Lizzie Brown, respected colored citizen, died at her home on the Van Taylor farm in Poplar Point Sunday morning at 4:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for a long time. Seventy-four years old, she lived all her life on the Taylor farm.

Proposing Radio System For Town, County Officers

County Commissioners In Short Regular Meeting On Monday

A two-way radio system for Martin County officers and the police of the several towns in the county was explained in detail by a representative of the Link Radio before the regular meeting of the Martin County Commissioners Monday morning. The representative, W. T. Neill, of Charlotte, stated that the system could be installed for approximately \$2,828, the cost including the equipment for three of the county officers' cars. He explained that cars could be equipped with the radio sets for town officers at an additional cost of \$491.

Making a brief study of the law enforcement agencies in the county and the several towns, the representative explained that a radio tower or sending equipment could be located on top of the county courthouse, and the possibly a control center could be located in Williamston's town hall where there is a 24-hour service.

The commissioners listened to the explanation with interest but deferred action until the proposal can be studied with the officials of the various towns.

Very little business was scheduled for the regular meeting and the commissioners handled their routine duties, including the inspection of various reports from the department heads and the approval of current bills, and adjourned before the lunch hour.

A petition calling for the inclusion of a road in Griffins Township in the state system was received from Rev. W. B. Harrington. The road starts at the residence of Jas. A. Roberson at the intersection of Highway 171 and the Holly Springs Road and runs to the gate of Pa. J. Harrington, a distance of 1 1/4 miles. The board recommended that the road be added to the state system.

Submitting his monthly report, Tax Collector M. Luther Peel pointed out that \$199,888.23 of the 1946 fiscal year taxes had been collected, leaving an unpaid balance of \$6,552.62. The collector also reported that \$167,288.79 of the 1945 fiscal year taxes had been collected, leaving a balance of \$2,099.73. For the year 1944, \$193,264.04 has been collected, leaving \$1,097.47 unpaid.

Plans were completed for continuing the forest fire protection in the county for another year when County Forest Fire Warden Marvin Leggett submitted contracts calling for a county appropriation of \$2,200 for the next twelve months. The North Carolina Forestry Division of the State Department of Conservation and Development agreed, according to the terms of the contract, to accept the remainder of the cost of the service, or about \$4,000.

Community Sing Held In Hamilton

The Fifth Sunday Community Sing held in Hamilton on June 29 was a big success, according to a report released last week-end by Rev. E. R. Stewart, Hamilton Baptist minister and promoter of the event. Held at the Baptist church there, the program lasted for ninety minutes.

The devotional service was led by the Rev. Mr. Stewart and Rev. Sidney Boone, Methodist minister, led the group in prayer.

Quite a few old hymns were sung and special numbers were rendered by individuals and groups, as follows: Oak City Trio, Murray Liverman, H. M. Peel, Jr., Robersonville Baptist Church Sextet, the Hamilton Choir, Miss Mary Ann Taylor, Mrs. E. R. Stewart and Mrs. Leroy Everett, Miss Rebecca Haislip, Rev. Sidney Boone, Miss Celia Stokes, Mrs. Louis Minton of Capehart's Church, the Bear Grass Trio, Miss Murldeon White, Mrs. Mack Beach.

An invitation from the Everetts Baptist Church was received and the next community sing will be held there on August 29.

The event was the first of its kind advanced on a large scale in this county.

Place Material On Lot For Big Addition To Warehouse

Material is being placed on the lot for the construction of a big addition to the Roanoke-Dixie Tobacco Warehouse here, representatives of the firm announcing that builders are to start work on the structure immediately.

Providing approximately 16,160 feet of additional floor space, the addition will cost \$25,000, it was estimated. No contract was let for the construction. The new structure will be joined to the rear of the present warehouse and will be of fireproof construction, it was learned. Material, including sand, brick, rock and heavy timbers were placed on the lot a few days ago and an order for 12-inch cement blocks of which the walls will be constructed, is to be filled sometime this week or the

early part of next.

With the completion of the addition, the Roanoke-Dixie house will have approximately 51,160 square feet of floor space and rank along with the largest houses in this immediate section.

"Our plans call for the completion of the addition in time for the opening, the 25th of next month," Mr. Johnny Gurkin, a member of the firm said yesterday.

New life was added to the firm some weeks ago when Messrs. Urbin and J. Rossell Rogers purchased an interest in the house from Bob Edmondson who continues quite ill in a Tarboro hospital. The operating firm includes Messrs. J. Edward Corey, Johnny Gurkin, Carlyle Langley and the Rogers brothers.

John D. Coltrain Died On Saturday At Home Here

Funeral Service Conducted Sunday Afternoon By Rev. B. T. Hurley

John Dawson Coltrain, retired farmer-merchant, died at his home here on Pine Street last Saturday morning at 9:50 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered on Friday the week before. He had been in declining health for four years and his condition had been critical since the stroke.

The son of the late John Washington Coltrain and Nancy Jane Griffin Coltrain, he was born in Jamesville on December 19, 1872. He was employed by the old Dennis Simmons Lumber Company at its Astoria plant for a number of years. Mr. Coltrain was married to Miss Myrtle Louvenia Griffin of Jamesville on February 3, 1901, and the family moved to this section thirty-one years ago where he engaged in farming for a number of years before he entered the retail grocery business. Failing health forced his retirement in 1940, and he had not been very active since that time; he was a member of the local Christian church for a number of years.

Surviving are his widow; three sons, Grover Coltrain of Washington, D. C., Moses Coltrain, a member of the U. S. Merchant Marine, and Johnny Coltrain of New York City; three daughters, Mrs. E. G. Anderson of Chicago, Mrs. Thurman Nicholson and Mrs. Woolard Harrison, both of Williamston; three sisters, Mrs. Alexander Lilley of Williamston, Mrs. Della Perkins of Stokes, and Mrs. Aggie Mobley of Bear Grass; two brothers, Ira T. Coltrain of Jamesville, and James Horton Coltrain of Williams Township. A son, Dennis Robus Coltrain, was lost at sea during the early months of World War II, and another son, Roosevelt Coltrain, lost his life a few months ago in an automobile accident in Maryland.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister, in the absence of his pastor. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Few Farmers Barn Tobacco

While it will be week after next and possibly the week of July 28 before the task gets under way on any appreciable scale, several Martin County farmers are harvesting tobacco this week.

Farmer David Gurganus pulled some right fair quality leaf from about five acres on the C. B. Clark farm near Williamston on Monday, and Farmer Hopkins harvested a small barn in Williams Township, the two following closely behind Farmer E. C. Harrison who apparently led the way when he harvested a barn in Bear Grass last Saturday.

There are some fairly good tobacco crops in the county, but, as a whole, the crop is very poor and production is certain to fall considerably behind that reported last season.

Tobacco Boosters Advance Program For Local Market

Goodly Number At Meeting In Courthouse Last Thursday Evening

Meeting in the courthouse here last Thursday evening, a goodly number of local citizens, including warehousemen, business and professional men, advanced a tentative program for advertising the local tobacco market. It was announced that John A. Manning, well known farmer, business man and peanut buyer-manufacturer, will head the market as sales supervisor and he drew assignments on the committees appointed by Chairman Elbert S. Peel.

A special committee, headed by the supervisor, reported that five market signs had been prepared, that sites would be found and the signs placed within a few days.

The radio program committee reported that the market was on the air five days each week at 12:20 o'clock and each Sunday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock when the Bear Grass singers appeared on the program. It was estimated that the radio program would cost approximately \$900.

A drive is well under way to have all business and professional men to stamp the words, "Sell your tobacco in Williamston," on all their correspondence regardless of destination. Newspaper advertisers are also being asked to have the same words included in their advertisements and have them repeated over their radio programs. A committee composed of John A. Manning, A. J. Manning, N. K. Harrison and Ben Courtney, was named to contact the advertisers.

A committee, composed of Robt. Cowen, chairman, Tom Parker, John A. Manning, John Hatton Gurganus and Rossell Rogers, was named to investigate the possibility of making booster trips in this and adjoining counties later in the summer. The group will contact the local high school band and discuss other possibilities before reporting to a meeting of the boosters tentatively scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 24.

It was pointed out at the meeting that not extensive drive for booster contributions would be made to support the program this year, that while some cash is needed, the main motive advanced by the boosters was to get all the people of Williamston talking the Williamston Tobacco Market. The spirit expressed at the meeting last Thursday evening points to a better and larger tobacco market for the town this coming season.

AMVETS Plan To Buy An Iron Lung

At a special AMVETS meeting held last night at Roberson's Cafe, it was unanimously agreed that an infant's iron lung should be purchased and turned over to the Martin County Chapter, Infantile Paralysis Prevention. It was decided also that 100 percent of the proceeds allocated to AMVETS from the Dixiana Revue, an all white black face minstrel, to be presented here at 8 o'clock Saturday night, July 12, at the Slade show grounds, will be the initial contribution to the fund for the lung.

After talking with Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State Health Officer, and Dr. Philip Randolph, State chairman of Infantile Paralysis prevention, AMVETS' representative was advised that there was only one such lung in the state, located in Durham, and that the need of another was great. Dr. J. T. Llewellyn, president of the Martin County Chapter, Infantile Paralysis Prevention, further advocated the purchase of the lung.

Tickets for the Dixiana Revue will be on sale at the Roanoke Chevrolet Company, the Sheriff's office, Roberson's Cafe, Southern Drive In, Western Union Office, Barney's Grill, Central Cafe and Williamston-Hardware. The minstrel will appear one night only in Williamston.

Harvey Baggett was named chairman of the fund raising campaign.

Name Dan Sharpe To Treasurer-Clerk Job

FIRST CURING

Ripening rapidly almost overnight, a comparatively small amount of tobacco was pulled by Farmer E. C. Harrison from one of his fields in the Bear Grass Community last Saturday. As far as it can be learned, Mr. Harrison is the first Martin County farmer to start the 1947 tobacco harvest. He is harvesting a second barn today from another field.

Reports state that the quality of the tobacco harvest last Saturday is very good and curing all right.

Former Resident Died Last Friday

Alexander Hayward (Bob) Swain, former operator of the George Reynolds Hotel here, died at his home in Dunn last Friday afternoon. A victim of arthritis, he had been a semi-invalid for years and his condition had been critical for about a week.

The son of the late Hayward Swain and wife, he was born in Washington County 54 years ago. Following his graduation from A. C. College in Wilson in 1912 he was employed in Dunn and was married to Miss Grace Holliday and later located in Plymouth where they operated a hotel for a long number of years. In 1933, Mr. and Mrs. Swain located in Williamston and operated the George Reynolds Hotel here for ten years. Leaving here they made their home in Roper a short time before locating in Dunn in 1944 where Mrs. Swain served as executive secretary of the Red Cross.

Mr. Swain made many friends during his stay here and was held in high esteem as a hotel proprietor and citizen.

Surviving besides his widow are two sisters, Mrs. Ralph S. Smith and Miss Bertie Swain of Maceys; a brother, Swain of Roper.

Funeral services were conducted last Saturday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock in Dunn's Hood Memorial Christian Church and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery there. Dr. George F. Cuthrell, pastor, conducted the last rites.

Sends Case To County's Court

The case charging Miss Grace Whitley with an assault with a deadly weapon was sent to the county court for trial next Monday by Justice Robert Cowen in his court here yesterday morning. No probable cause of an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill was found, the finding automatically throwing the case out of the superior court.

The defendant is alleged to have assaulted Mrs. Woodrow Ray with a pistol at the Slaughter House cafe last Saturday night about 10:30 o'clock. A shot was fired into the floor, but the state witnesses at the preliminary hearing were quoted as saying that the defendant did not point the pistol at anyone.

In the case charging Mrs. Ray with trespassing, Justice Cowen found no probable cause of guilt and the prosecution announced that it would carry it to the higher courts.

Few details of the charges and counter charges were revealed at the preliminary hearing.

Local Attorney Home From Durham Hospital

After undergoing treatment for arthritis in Duke hospital for several weeks, Mr. Wheeler Martin, local attorney, returned home last Saturday afternoon. While no full recovery was effected, his condition is much improved and he is able to be up and out most of the time. He was accompanied home by Mrs. Martin.

Committee Named To Make Survey For Town Zoning

Board Accepts Proportionate Cost For County-Town Police Radio

Dan Sharpe, former partner and co-operator of the local laundry, was named to head the newly combined offices of town treasurer and clerk by the local commissioners in their regular meeting last evening, the job to carry a weekly salary of \$47.50. A graduate of High Point College and having a three-year service record in the armed forces during World War II, Mr. Sharpe is now employed as auditor for a mail order firm in Greensboro, but it is believed he will be able to sever his connections there and enter upon his newly assigned duties here within a short time. There were six applications placed before the meeting last evening, the commissioners at a special meeting a week ago having decided to combine the two offices.

Appearing before the officials, Building Inspector G. P. Hall reviewed construction activities in the town during the first six months of this year, explained the fire and restricted building districts and pointed out that zones were necessary if building rules and regulations are to be properly enforced. The board discussed the zoning problem and Mayor Robt. Cowen named Commissioners G. H. Harrison and K. D. Worrell and Inspector G. P. Hall to study the problem and report their findings and recommendations at a later meeting.

Recognizing the problems of enforcing the fire code and other regulations controlling construction, Mayor Cowen expressed his appreciation to the inspector for the work handled and urged him to continue in that position.

After hearing a discussion of the proposal, the board agreed to accept its proportionate part of the cost of maintaining a fire and restricted building districts and those in the several towns of the county. In addition to maintaining certain equipment, the town agreed to provide a 24-hour operating service for the system. Mr. C. D. Cavenaugh, radio technician, explained the system and pointed out its value and the board conferred with John H. Edwards, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, who pointed out that the county had discussed the system at a meeting of his group earlier in the day.

The board ordered an alleyway cleared, leading off Washington Street to the W. I. Skinner Tobacco Company plant.

A petition for water and sewer lines on North Elm Street was received, but it was pointed out that proper equipment for such a project is not yet available.

Hardly before new street signs were located here the post office department, looking forward to extending its local delivery service.

Club Women To See Lost Colony

Fifty or more Martin County home demonstration club women are planning a tour of Roanoke Island this week-end, Miss Elizabeth Parker, home agent, announced. Traveling by special bus, the group plans to leave Saturday and return Sunday after seeing the Lost Colony.

Miss Parker stated that those who are planning to make the trip and have not submitted their \$3 reservation fee should attend to that detail immediately. The agent also pointed out that there is still room for others, but that they must act quickly.

Those planning to make the trip are being asked to meet at the agricultural building in Williamston and be ready to leave Saturday at noon.