

Banks Reporting Increased Loans For Agriculture

Increased Costs and Availability of Equipment Require More Money

Reflecting the increased costs of producing crops and the availability of more farm equipment, the volume of bank credit used by North Carolina farmers is currently higher than it was a year ago, according to D. V. Clayton, cashier, Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., who represents the North Carolina Bankers Association as Martin County key banker.

"However, North Carolina farm families are probably in the strongest financial position that they have ever been," Mr. Clayton said. "Continuing high farm incomes make it possible to finance operations out of income and when credit is used, it is retired when crops are sold."

Reporting on the results of a third national survey of bank lending made by the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association, Mr. Clayton said that North Carolina farmers used only a fraction of the bank credit available to them during 1946. However, the 207 insured commercial banks which serve agriculture in this state made 187,686 loans to 75,766 farmers. These loans aggregated \$67,209,000, of which \$23,400,000 remained outstanding on January 1, 1947. Banks had at least \$199,815,000 available for additional loans to farmers if the demand existed.

During 1946, loans on farm real estate in North Carolina increased slightly. There were 6,731 farm mortgages made for a total amount of \$15,683,000; and \$15,046,000 of this volume remained outstanding on January 1, 1947. The farm mortgage debt is higher than it was a year ago, although it still remains only about one-half of the volume that existed in the comparable period following World War I.

Farm production loans classed as "other loans to farmers" were made to 67,883 farmers by North Carolina banks during 1946, in an aggregate amount of \$49,215,000. Of this amount, only \$8,213,000 was outstanding on January 1 of this year. The production loans averaged only \$725 each. The

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Negro Farmers To Tour Oxford Farm

Through the cooperation of the North Carolina Extension Service, Dr. R. R. Bennett, Tobacco Specialist, and the Oxford Tobacco Experiment station, a tour has been arranged for Martin County Negro farmers to observe the experiments being conducted with flue cured tobacco, Thursday, August 7th, 9:30 A. M. to noon.

Farmers making the trip will be able to observe different varieties of tobacco grown, cultural methods used, fertilization, curing and disease control.

Farmers interested in going should contact R. M. Edwards, Negro County Agent, Williamston, R. A. Broadnax, vocational agricultural teacher, Williamston, or Mr. A. B. Wynne, vocational agricultural teacher, Parmele. A bus will leave Williamston for the tour Thursday, August 7th, at 6:00 a. m.

SOME JOB

If one man harvested, cured, and sold North Carolina's 821,000 acres of flue-cured and burley tobacco which will be produced this year he would be employed for more than ten thousand years.

This may sound like a startling figure, but according to H. Brooks James in charge of Extension Farm Management at State College, it is estimated that the labor required for harvesting and selling the crop amounts to over 21 million hours. Figured at 40 cents an hour, this labor would be valued at approximately eight and one-half million dollars, he said.

Town Proposes New Schedule B Licenses

RESIGNS

After years of efficient and faithful service, Mrs. Louise U. James recently resigned as Williamston's town clerk. Her resignation came unexpectedly, and her successor has not been named. Treasurer Dan Sharpe is keeping the office temporarily.

Mrs. James went with the town back in 1925 when Treasurer W. T. Meadows maintained an office in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse, and, with the exception of a short period, she has held the post until her resignation. Accommodating and pleasant in her dealings with the public, she rendered an able service down through the years.

Three Minor Road Wrecks Reported Near Williamston

No One Hurt But Property Damage Is Estimated At About \$663

No one was hurt but property damage, estimated at \$663, resulted in three highway accidents reported in this county near Williamston last Friday and Saturday. The wrecks involved seven vehicles and boosted the number of accidents on the roads of this county to five for the week.

The first in the series of accidents was reported at Abbott's Mill on Highway 125 last Friday morning at 11:00 o'clock. Making the investigation, Col. T. Fearling of the Highway Patrol, said that Clifton Whitehead Outlaw, colored of Windsor, was driving toward Williamston and gave a hand signal for a turn into the mill yard. James F. Hill, Jr., 215 Hudnell Street, Washington, driving behind Outlaw applied brakes to a large oil tanker, causing it to jack-knife on the bridge. The cab, according to the corporal, turned and crashed into the trail-

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Free Parking On Smithwick Street

Work on the new parking lot, next to the local Christian Church on South Smithwick Street is progressing nicely. According to a report from Lion Hack Gaylord, chairman of the Lions Club's civic improvement committee. The Lions Club is sponsoring this project, and is getting splendid cooperation from the local City Street Department.

Most of the thick growth of honeysuckle vines and small trees have been removed, and after several small stumps are dug up, the lot will be ready for grading and leveling.

Eighteen Couples Marry Last Month In Martin County

Issuance Far Above Average But Only Four Licenses Got To Whites

Eighteen marriage licenses were issued by the office of registrar of deeds in this county last month. The issuance compares with three reported by the license bureau in the corresponding month in 1931 and is far above the average for the particular period of the year. Only four of the eighteen licenses were issued to white couples.

Licenses were issued last month as follows:

White
James A. Harden and Hazel Wynne, both of Williamston.
William R. Williams of Oak City and Selma Lilley of Williamston.
Roy H. Bland of Williamston and Edna Ward of Columbia, N. C.

Russell Warren of Williamston and Elsie Edmondson of Robertsonville.

Colored
Samuel Thomas Roberson, RFD 1, Stokes, and Pennie Elizabeth Saunders of Robertsonville.

William J. Baker and Jennie V. Knight, both of Oak City.

Ben Bennett, Jr., and Callie Rodgers, both of Williamston.

Ramond Smith, RFD 1, Jamesville, and Lillian Woolard of Jamesville.

Columbus Williams, RFD 3, Williamston, and Elnora Purvis, RFD 2, Williamston.

Gus Wilford and Ada Thorne, both of Palmyra.

George Davenport, Jr., of Williamston, and Cora Lee Manning of Everett.

Thermon Little of Robertsonville and Ida Lee Perkins of Stokes.
James O. Buffalo of Garysburg, N. C., and Florence Bunch of Williamston.

Southey J. Lacy and Doris (Continued on page eight)

Former Resident Passes In Roper

Mack Guilford Warren, for many years a resident of Martin County, died suddenly at his home 4:00 o'clock following several years of declining health.

The son of the late Lacey and Sophia Gurganus Warren, he was born in Beaufort County on August 29, 1880, and moved to this county when a young man, locating in the Gold Point section. He moved to Washington County seven years ago where he continued to farm until failing health forced his retirement. Mr. Warren was a member of the Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church near Robertsonville for about a half century.

When a young man he was married to Miss Sallie Edmondson of Gold Point and she survives with four daughters, Mrs. Gladys Bowen of Roper; Mrs. Ora Bell Rogers of Bear Grass, Mrs. Sallie Harris of Route 1, Jamesville, and Mrs. Lucy Roberson of Robertsonville; three sons, Tim L. Warren of Roper, Lacey Warren of Ahoskie, and Vernon Warren of Ayden, and a sister, Mrs. Ida Ward of near Robertsonville.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home of his sister, Mrs. Ward, Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock and interment will follow in the family cemetery near the Ward home.

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Border Markets Open Thursday

The border tobacco markets are opening the season on Thursday of this week with more warehouses and a smaller crop to be marketed. Last year, the border belt had 97 warehouses and several more have been built since that time.

Estimates point to a 17 percent reduction in the border belt. Due mostly to blue mold and climatic conditions, the crop is expected to be about 50,000,000 less than last year. The crop is estimated at 233,300,000 pounds.

The belt averaged \$50.38 last year.

Seek More Details On Proposed \$600,000 Hospital For County

Martin County Schools To Open New Term August 28

All Martin County schools, for white and colored, will open the 1947-48 term on Thursday, August 28, the board of education decided in a meeting held in the courthouse here yesterday. Very little other business was placed before the meeting for consideration, but a detailed report was submitted by the superintendent on the current building program.

Construction work is under way on three projects for colored children, it was stated, but it will be later in the term before the 4-room building at Jamesville, 6-room structure at Everetts, and a 4-room addition to the Williams school will be ready for occupancy, it was explained. The lunch room buildings at Jamesville is nearing completion, the superintendent stating that work had been delayed by a material shortage. The material is now available and the project is scheduled to be completed soon.

A small space has been added to the Williamston High School lunch room which will be located in the old manual arts building, and it should be ready for use early in the term. Two additional rooms are to be made available in the elementary building this year, one in the basement and the other in a spot where a partition was removed to throw together a cloak room and former library.

County teachers are to be notified to report on August 27 for a county-wide conference in Williamston's elementary building. The several principals will meet with their teachers on the morning of August 28 and pupils will report that afternoon at 1:00 for registration.

The schedule for the year calls for a two-day Thanksgiving holiday, and a Christmas holiday, December 19 to 31, inclusive, and a holiday on Easter Monday.

First Women Jurors Drawn In the County

Two Ladies Plan To Offer 'Valid' Excuses To Court

No Names of Colored Citizens Drawn From the Box Monday Noon

The names of Mrs. Bruce Roebuck of Robertsonville and Mrs. John Wier of Williamston were drawn from the jury box Monday noon by Master Doug Stalls for jury duty at the September term of the Martin County superior court. The first women ever drawn for jury duty in this county, both Mrs. Roebuck and Mrs. Wier stated they would offer excuses if any valid ones could be found. While they did not say they would not serve, both expressed a keen desire to be excused. Advised that her name had been drawn from the jury box, one of the ladies suggested two or three right good excuses without delay, but they'll have to be acceptable to the clerk of the court, L. Bruce Wynne. And so it remains to be seen if any member of the fair sex is to serve as a member of the jury next month.

No names of colored citizens were drawn from the box even though a goodly number of colored citizens' names were placed there when the jury list was purged a short time ago.

Names of citizens drawn for service follow, by townships:

First Week
Jamesville: E. M. Bland, M. N. Griffin, R. G. Coburn, J. M. Perry and Albert Martin.

Williams: Grady Godard.
Griffins: Nathan E. Roberson, James M. Peel, John A. Ward, Julius M. Manning and George C. Griffin.

Bear Grass: Dennis Beach, C. L. (Continued on page eight)

Harvests All Of His Tobacco Crop

Getting off to an early start, Farmer Warner Bailey harvested the last of his tobacco crop on his farm in Bear Grass Township last Wednesday. He is believed to have broken all harvest schedules in the county this season.

Handling it in five curings, Farmer Bailey stated that the quality of the crop is hardly as good as it was last year and that the crop will hardly weight 1,000 pounds to the acre. The farmer had six acres of tobacco and wind and hail damaged it to a great extent last month.

Board To Purchase Police Radio For County and Towns

County Commissioners In Regular Meeting On Monday Morning

Meeting in regular session here yesterday morning, the Martin County Commissioners discussed during half an hour the possibility of building a \$600,000 hospital for the county, but no official action was taken other than the issuance of an order directing Dr. James S. Rhodes, Sr., to make a detailed survey and submit his findings at a later meeting. Dr. Rhodes assured the board that he would be glad to contact officials of the North Carolina Good Health Association, ascertain the facts and submit them to the commissioners possibly at a special session later in the month.

While the commissioners are inclined to favor the hospital plan, they have not and will not commit themselves until the proposed project is fully explained and they are apprised of the costs, both for construction and maintenance. If the plan is considered feasible on the basis of the facts to be gained from the association officials, it will then be submitted to a vote of the people.

The federal government has virtually agreed to finance one-third of the cost, and the state government can be expected to accept about 37 percent, leaving the county to finance 29 1-2 percent of the cost. On that basis, the county is in line to get a \$600,000 hospital for approximately \$178,000. The proposed project calls for a hospital of about 100 beds.

Pitt County's commissioners are said to have already approved a hospital, and they are putting the issue before the people in an election to be held soon.

The commissioners were not in session very long, disposing of a few special matters and clearing their desk of routine business before adjourning for lunch.

Native Of County Dies In Beaufort

Samuel Bryant Peel, a native of this county, died suddenly at his home, RFD 1, Washington, last Thursday morning at 1:45 o'clock. Stricken with a heart attack, he died a few minutes later.

A son of the late James Henry Peel and Victoria Keel Peel, he was 67 years old, and lived most of his life in Beaufort County where he engaged in truck farming. He was a member of the First Christian Church in Washington.

Surviving are his widow, the former Mrs. Lena Fleming; two brothers, Vance and John Gray Peel, both of Griffins Township, and a sister, Mrs. Arthur Hardison of Kenly.

Funeral services were held at the home last Friday afternoon and burial was in Washington's Oakdale Cemetery.

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Civic Groups To Sponsor Concert

Meeting in Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne's office here last Thursday afternoon, representatives of the various civic and school organizations made tentative plans to bring the North Carolina Symphony here for a concert the latter part of next February or early March.

Mrs. W. K. Parker, representing the Woman's Club, J. W. Sumner and Wheeler Manning, the Jaycees; K. D. Worell, the Lions Club; W. H. Carstarphen and John W. Hardy, the Kiwanians; Hildreth Mobley, the Parents-Teachers; and B. G. Stewart and Jack Butler, the school, agreed to handle the arrangements with the help of their organizations and the general public. The group will meet again this week to formulate definite plans for booking the Little Symphony, Mr. Wynne said.

Opens New Market And Grocery Here

Alex Jones, local distributor here for Bamby bread and other allied bakery products of the Royal Baking Company for the past several years, opened a new store on the corner of Houghton and Warren streets here last week. The new grocery and meat market will operate under the name of Tiny Grocery Store. Constructed of brick the building is quite modern and the grocery and market are equipped with new and up-to-date fixtures. The new store will carry a complete line of staple and fancy groceries, fruits and vegetables and meats of all kinds.

Propose New Way For Harvesting Hay and Peanuts

Vines And Hay Harvested Separately Under The New Plan

A new method of harvesting peanuts and hay is being proposed by experimenters who have made practical tests down in Georgia and found them satisfactory, according to Paul J. Mitchell, Jr., director of the National Peanut Council's office of research and development. The new plan eliminates just about all hand labor, including shacking and stacking, and according to Mitchell, enhances the value of both the hay and peanuts.

Mitchell's announcement of the results of the experiments conducted at the Georgia Experiment Station follows:

"Peanut hay is removed from the ground by cutting and raking with conventional hay mowers and rakes. The results of the experiments conducted at the Georgia Experiment Station follows:

"After the hay is removed, the stubble with nuts attached is dug with a plow peanut digger. After the nuts are loosened from the soil, the stubble with nuts attached is raked into piles with a hay rake. This stubble is then deposited on crude racks built one and one-half to two feet above the ground. This stubble can be piled four to five feet deep in these cribs. A cover is placed over the racks to keep out rainfall. Within a few weeks the nuts are cured, and the quality and yields are superior to any obtained by any other known methods of curing. Nuts cured with the tops removed can be threshed twice as fast as nuts cured with vines attached; also, nuts thus obtained are cleaner and more free from foreign matter."

For practical tests of this curing method in the fields of this area, the National Peanut Council with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., advises that it will work closely with any farmer who will harvest a portion of his crop by this new method and furnish details of all procedures necessary.

Father Of Local Resident Passes

Mr. C. W. Stallings, father of Mrs. B. G. Stewart of Williamston, died in an Arlington, Va., hospital last Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock of a heart attack.

He was 68 years of age and had been ill for ten days.

A native of Durham, Mr. Stallings spent most of his life there, locating in Washington the early part of the war where he was employed by the War Department.

Funeral services were conducted in Durham's Angier Avenue Baptist Church last Saturday afternoon and burial was in Maplewood Cemetery there.

Besides his daughter here, he is survived by his widow; two sons, Cedric Stallings of Charlotte and Marco Stallings of Durham; and a daughter, Mrs. J. P. Crumpacker of Durham.

Mrs. Stewart was with her father when the end came, and Mr. Stewart and sons attended the last rites, returning home Sunday.

ROUND-UP

Selling liquor costing almost \$3,000 in its store here last Saturday, Martin County reaped a big crop of drunks in the hours following. Fifteen persons were arrested and placed in the county jail during the week-end, eleven for public drunkenness, two for drunken driving, one each for an affray and gambling. Several of the drunks had "passed out" and were carried bodily to the "cooler," remembering little or nothing of their arrests.

Seven of the fifteen were white and the ages of the group ranged from 22 to 60 years.