

County Farm Bureau To Support Program

Directors Pledge \$1,060 For Plant Disease Research

Plans Made Friday Night For Annual Barbecue In The County May 7

Meeting in the county courthouse last Friday night, directors and members of the Martin County Farm Bureau recognized the need for intensive research in the fight against plant diseases and pledged \$1,060 as the organization's part in supplementing a \$35,000 research program. While in session, the group made tentative plans for holding the annual meeting and barbecue in Williamston on Friday, May 7. Tom Brandon, Johnny Gurkin, Mayo Hardison, Joe Winslow and Van Taylor were named members of a committee to handle the arrangements for holding the meeting and providing the refreshments. The place for holding the meeting will be announced later along with other plans.

Addressing the meeting, Farm Bureau President Chas. L. Daniel said that the proposed plant disease research program had been discussed and explained at a meeting of the State directors in Raleigh a short time ago. "Gentlemen," he said, "it boils down to this: We have had some good men heading up the plant research work in this state, but hardly before they complete a project other states come in, offer them more money, double and even triple the amount they are receiving, and take them away from us."

"North Carolina farmers are losing several million dollars each year in plant diseases," Mr. Daniel pointed out, adding that the diseases are spreading and the cost will become greater in the future, and we should do all we can to combat it."

Continuing, Mr. Daniel said, "Had it not been for the research scientists on plant diseases, some sections of our state would not be able to grow tobacco."

Farm Agent T. B. Brandon said that certain plant diseases were making inroads into this county, that new seed and plant strains were being developed, and that new poisons were being tested, "but we have got to learn the residue effects, and it will be important to advance the work as rapidly as possible under a capable pathologist."

County Commissioner C. Abram Roberson, speaking in behalf of the proposal for this county to raise \$1,060, said that North Carolina developed good men, but could not pay enough to keep them. "I believe that the Farm Bureau, for selfish reasons, if no other, should do everything to make it possible to keep good men in such vitally important positions."

Before the group accepted the obligation, several advanced the question why the State of North Carolina did not pay higher salaries to the scientists. It was explained that the State had a fixed salary schedule, that if one person's salary were advanced, all others would have to be increased.

Assistant Agent Jesse Sumner explained that other groups are

Minor Accident Last Saturday

No one was hurt and damage estimated at less than \$200 resulted in a minor highway accident between Williamston and Jamesville on U. S. 64 early last Saturday afternoon.

Both vehicles were traveling toward Jamesville. Mr. Griffin driving a pick-up truck, started to make a left turn just as S. A. Van Landingham started to pass in his mail truck. The vehicles sideswiped each other, doing about \$150 damage to the Griffin machine, and about \$25 to the mail truck.

BUSY

Delayed by unfavorable weather conditions existing for weeks, Martin County farmers started preparing their fields for new crops this week on a big scale. A few ventured into their fields last week with turning plows, "breaking" the high spots.

Spring came in over the week-end along with summer-time weather, and yesterday spring plowing was under way on 98 percent of the farms, it was conservatively estimated. Although they are starting from two to three weeks late, farmers, with their modern equipment, are almost certain to get back on schedule within a short time.

Jury Hears Two Cases In Court Here Yesterday

\$500 Verdict Is Returned Late In Afternoon In \$2,500 Damage Suit

Spending much of the day studying the calendar and hearing motions, the Martin County Superior Court, going into its second week with Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids on the bench, prepared only two cases for the jury yesterday. And one of the two was a divorce action, requiring only a few minutes of the court's time.

Two women jurors, Mrs. Edna Laughinghouse and Mrs. W. C. Manning, were excused on account of illness in their families. Judge Parker recommended that their names be included in a later jury list either for service in April or June.

Considerable time was spent hearing a motion in the case of Lyla J. Taylor against C. C. Taylor, the plaintiff appealing to the court for appointment of a referee. The proposal was opposed by defendant's attorney, Paul D. Roberson, who explained that all the facts were available. Judge Parker listened attentively to the arguments and suggested that the case be placed in the hands of a referee who is to hear and record all the evidence and submit it to the court in June. Each party to the action was assessed \$150 to pay the expenses of the referee and court reporter. E. S. Peel was named referee.

Wheeler Boston in his cases against Cristobell Boston was given an absolute divorce, the action being based on two-year separation grounds.

After continuing quite a few cases on account of the illness of Attorney Robt. L. Coburn and for other reasons, the court called the case of Mildred Ray against Grace W. Maynard at 11:00 o'clock. Alleging she was the victim of a pistol attack at the hands of the defendant the evening of last July 5, the plaintiff asked \$1,500 actual and \$1,000 punitive damages. More than an hour was spent hearing the plaintiff's evidence, but the defendant did not take the stand.

Attorneys in the case completed their argument before the noon day recess, and Judge Parker charged the jury for nearly an hour. Deliberating the four issues presented it for about twenty-five minutes, the jury allowed the plaintiff \$500 damages, including \$200 actual and \$300 punitive, the

(Continued on page eight)

Save Money By Renegotiations

Renegotiated war contracts saved the nation about \$2,770,000,000, according to a navy announcement issued in Washington a few days ago. Some 24,000 contracts, totaling about \$75,000,000,000, were reviewed. Of these, savings were made in about 6,000 cases.

Last Rites Held Here Sunday For Thomas Sullivan

County Young Man Gave His Life In Naval Battle Off Guadalcanal

Last rites were held at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery here Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for William Thomas Sullivan, Martin County young man, who gave his life for his country in a naval engagement just off Guadalcanal November 12-14, 1942. On account of the illness of his mother, the services were private, only immediate members of the family and a few friends attending to pay fitting tribute to the young man's memory.

Rev. John L. Goff, local minister, and Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Robersonville Christian Church where Thomas worshipped as a youth, officiated. There were no military rites. Billy Biggs, undertaker and veteran of World War II, folding the flag that draped the casket and delivering it to the young man's mother.

Buried in a United States cemetery on Guadalcanal, the body was disinterred and returned to this country, arriving in San Francisco on February 11. It was delivered here with an escort last Thursday by government motor car, having made the long journey home with that of William Freeman Haislip, II, who was buried in Hamilton on March 11. His was the fifth body of a Martin County man to be returned from overseas for burial in native soil.

Transferring from the battleship, "Texas" in March, 1942, the first class seaman visited here and reported to New York where he shipped out on the new cruiser, "Atlanta."

The ship moved into the Pacific and he was mortally wounded while in the line of duty on November 13, 1942, dying two days later on Guadalcanal without regaining consciousness.

A year or more before war broke out the young man joined before the draft was established and was in line for promotion at the time he lost his life.

He was a son of Robt. L. Sullivan and Mrs. Blanche Britton Sullivan Jones, and was born on November 25, 1919, in Robersonville where he spent most of his life. He lived in Williamston several years before going to Elizabeth City to make his home and where he enlisted in the service.

Surviving besides his mother, are a sister, Mrs. James Bullock, and a brother, Jack Sullivan, both of Williamston.

CAA Equipment Flight Checked

The installations for the Interstate Airways Communication Station located in the City Hall here were flight checked Friday by flight control pilot, William C. Ball, who arrived Wednesday from Columbia, South Carolina, to make the necessary inspections and tests.

After the tests proved satisfactory Mr. Robert Henry announced that he with Mr. L. C. Jackson, who have been in Williamston since January 22, would complete arrangements and installations for the remote radio control center today and leave for Charleston, where they will finish a partially completed station.

Mr. Tilghman, of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, was here yesterday handling details with Manager McGee. The range finder near Jamesville will be placed in operation and controlled from this point just as soon as a direct line can be built by the telephone company.

Fred Hardison On The Dean's List At Duke

Among the 145 North Carolina students at Duke University who made the dean's list last semester is Frederick Leon Hardison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Hardison of Route No. 1, Williamston. Membership on the dean's list, numbering 528 students, is given those making a B average grade and enrolling them in six class cuts during the semester instead of the regulation three absences.

Large Number of Vehicles Pass Inspection Tests Here

The North Carolina Inspection Lane, operating in this county for the first time, approved approximately 550 motor vehicles last week, Superintendent Porter stated last Saturday that the percentage of cars passing inspection at the lane in this county was higher than at any other point they had operated. Porter said that possibly the owners in this county took better care of their vehicles than those do in other places, the chief inspector politely overlooking the heavy run made on the garages by owners trying to get their machines in shape during the past few weeks.

It was stated that 364 of the vehicles receiving the O. Keh stickers passed the initial inspection, that 80 percent of the 136 receiving red stickers returned before the lane was closed at noon Saturday to pass final inspection. No cars or trucks were condemned, and the idea that one must have a new car and that it must be in perfect shape from stem to stern was dispelled. Defective lights accounted for most of the trouble, but a few were found to have been operating vehicles with inadequate brakes.

Superintendent Porter declared that the people were very friendly and cooperated with him and his men.

Plans are being made to have the lane located on the property at the radio station on Highway 64, but there is some doubt if the strip can be made ready when the lane is reopened in this county on May 14.

Motorists whose cars are wearing the red stickers have until May 14 to have the defects remedied. They may, however, report to any other lane during the meantime. There'll be no charge for the second inspection.

ELECTIONS BOARD

Messrs. Sylvester Peel of Oak City and Wade Vick of Robersonville were named members of the Martin County Board of Elections by the State Board in Raleigh last Saturday, the Oak City man succeeding Alvin Hasty of Robersonville as a democratic member of the county group.

It will be Mr. Peel's eleventh term as an election official in the county. Mr. Vick, the Republican on the board, has also served, and served well, for a goodly number of years.

No definite date for an organizational meeting has been announced, but the group is expected to meet on or before April 10, name a chairman and make ready for the primary registrations and May 29 election. During the meantime, Mr. Peel is receiving candidates' filing announcements and fees.

While Worsley is listed as succeeding Mr. Hasty, the record actually shows that Mr. Hasty never qualified for the appointment on account of a conflict, leaving Messrs. Peel and Vick to handle the work.

County Fishermen Have Narrow Call

Fishing in Scuppernon River not far from Columbia, Charlie and Albert Gurkin and Elmo Lilley, Martin County men, had a narrow escape from drowning when their boat overturned while they were fishing last Thursday.

Albert Gurkin, standing up, lost his balance when he stepped backward and got his foot hung in the fishing poles and line. When he fell he caused the small boat to turn over. Lilley, unable to swim, was just close enough to the bank to grab a tree limb and save himself in the eight- or ten-foot deep water. Albert Gurkin, putting in use and without delay the old dog swimming stroke, pulled into the shore, while Charlie Gurkin rode the overturned boat to shore.

The fishermen were opening the spring bathing season a bit early and they found it necessary to build a big fire and dry out their clothes—and quite a few paper money bills.

Most of their equipment was saved, but they came back with the same old story: most of the fish got away.

Fliers Bomber Home From Biloxi, Miss.

Flying a B-25 from Biloxi, Mississippi, Lt. Lue Mallory accompanied by Sgt. Grube of Georgia, and Capt. Epley of Texas, visited his mother, Mrs. Effie Mallory, near Oak City last week-end. Making the run in about six hours, the fliers landed in Greenville. The young lieutenant signaled his mother from the air by greting their home early last Saturday afternoon, and members of the family went to Greenville for him and his company.

Present Petition To Place Name Of Wallace on Ballot

Mrs. V. A. Ward, National Committeewoman, Will Circulate Paper

Despite stringent rules and regulations advanced by the North Carolina State Board of Elections in session at Raleigh last Saturday to block the action, plans are going forward to place the name of Henry A. Wallace on the presidential ballot. Mrs. V. A. Ward of Robersonville, recently named national committeewoman for the Wallace party, is circulating a petition in this county in behalf of the Wallace candidacy.

Briefly stated the petition proposes only to place the name of Wallace on the ticket in North Carolina, and when one signs it it does not mean that he will vote for Wallace in the election. The petition proposal, meeting with opposition almost characteristic of the police state, makes it possible for a voter to support the candidate of his choice. While it is quite evident that the State Board of Elections is trying to make it difficult if not impossible to have Wallace's name appear on the ticket, there is some doubt as to the legality of the board's action. Announcing she would circulate the petition, Mrs. Ward said, in part: "Those of us intending to support Wallace because we believe he is sufficiently honest and reliable to make effective appeal to the dormant honesty abiding in the souls of foreign despots and demagogues are being called a 'motel' crowd."

Mrs. Ward then asks, "Can (anyone) supply me with the names of candidates for president and vice president whose following cannot be described by the same epithets?" She continues, "At any rate I do not count myself deserving of being called 'motel'. I do not consume alcohol, tobacco, opium or other stupefying drugs, and I make a point of refraining from participation in man-made gambling enterprises. I believe I have acquired the kind of habits of personal living which enables me to contribute more good influence than evil to causes I support."

"If I do not learn of any other voluntary movement to enlist Martin County electors on the 'Wallace-for-President' petitions before April 1, I shall proceed to do as good a job as my spare time and talents permit following that date, and take the consequences with patience and forbearance."

This country's founders provided for everyone to vote for whom he pleased, but in the very seat of "democratic" democracy, the officials are fighting such a provision. The petition circulators are not asking any one to support the Wallace candidacy with votes; they are merely asking that they make it possible for the people to vote for the man of their choice despite the action taken in an effort to deny the people that right.

To get Wallace's name on the Presidential ballot, petitions, carrying 10,000 or more names, must be submitted to the State Board of Elections at least ninety days before the election in November.

One may disagree with the Wallace movement, but that group has a right to express itself if Democracy means anything.

Services Being Well Attended

The first in the series of union religious services for Holy Week here were well attended yesterday morning and this morning at 10:00 o'clock in the Watts theater. Rev. Stewart B. Simms led the service yesterday morning, talking on Christ's visit to the Temple and how He took a determined stand against the money changers there. Rev. E. R. Shuller, Methodist minister, addressed the group this morning. Following the theater services a similar program is being held in the high school.

In addition to the scheduled union services, the individual churches are holding special services during the week, reports stating that fairly large crowds are attending.

Attorney Will Manage Broughton's Campaign

Clarence W. Griffin, local practicing attorney, has been named to manage the campaign of J. Melville Broughton in Martin County, it was announced this week by Broughton's state manager, Jeff D. Johnson. Broughton, former governor, is opposing William B. Umstead for a seat in the United States Senate.

Politics Shaping Up For County Offices

Members of Board Announce Plans To Retire This Term

The sale of new automobile and trucks is increasing fairly rapidly in this section, a report from the state license bureau maintained here in the offices of Harrison and Carstarphen by the Carolina Motor Club stating that more tags were sold last week for new vehicles than in any other week since the war.

There were 33 tags sold for new cars and trucks, mostly cars, N. K. Harrison, one of the bureau managers, said. Sales went to car and truck purchasers in Windsor, Plymouth, Robersonville and Williamston.

Briefly stated the petition proposes only to place the name of Wallace on the ticket in North Carolina, and when one signs it it does not mean that he will vote for Wallace in the election. The petition proposal, meeting with opposition almost characteristic of the police state, makes it possible for a voter to support the candidate of his choice.

While it is quite evident that the State Board of Elections is trying to make it difficult if not impossible to have Wallace's name appear on the ticket, there is some doubt as to the legality of the board's action.

Visiting Band Gets A Grand Welcome In Parade, Concert

Elizabeth City High School Group Attracts Huge Crowd Here Friday

A welcome in the grand manner was given the Elizabeth City High School band here Friday afternoon and night when they paraded along Main Street, put on a show in front of the post office, were given a picnic supper at the school cafeteria and gave a very fine concert in the school auditorium at 8 o'clock.

Although they arrived a bit late because of trouble with one of their buses on the road, the band put on its parade and full show just the same.

The parade began at the corner of Watts and Main when Miss Sarah Page Jackson, one of the classiest drum majorettes ever to twirl a baton, swung under the stop light and gave the signal for music. As the visiting band moved into the second block the Williamston High School band, now grown to 48 pieces, moved along for its first appearance since the football season and gave the merchants, business men and other friends who had contributed to their uniform fund a chance to see how the money was spent.

Reaching the Guaranty Bank Building the Williamston band returned to the post office block while the Elizabeth City unit turned about at the Houghton Street junction. The Green clad youngsters of Williamston, led by Bobby Clayton, formed a line surrounding the space in front of the post office and the visiting Gold and Black marched into the enclosure to put on a series of drills and specialties that kept the crowd almost breathless for about half an hour. Everything moved with exact timing but Miss Jackson was the star of the show.

Immediately after the show in the post office block the band moved out Smithwick Street to the school cafeteria where a picnic supper was served to members of both bands and visiting officials. The "eats" were prepared and served by the Williamston Band Parents Club and they made a big hit with the young musicians. It was estimated that over 200 were served.

Although the band arrived late and everything else moved behind schedule through the supper, the concert was started almost on the minute and was one of the finest ever heard here. Opening with a march during which the majorettes performed in a cleared space in front of the stage, the band

Navy Recruiters Set Up Temporary Station Here

Recruiter Jones and assistants opened a temporary navy recruiting station in front of the post office here yesterday. The station, open each day this week, is interviewing applicants from 17 to 30 years of age.

Recruiter Jones stated that enlistments have been fairly large in some sections, but that few signed up in Plymouth last week.

BIG WEEK

Members of Board Announce Plans To Retire This Term

Several Candidates Already Announce For Various County Offices

With the gubernatorial, congressional and other state contests lined up, county politics is now jockeying for the various public positions here at home. So far no contests have developed for any of the county offices, but it is fairly certain that one and possibly three places will be contested.

Following the definite announcements by Attorney Edgar Gurganus for the State House of Representatives from this county and Farmer W. Tom Roberson for county commissioner from the Griffiths-Bear Grass district, the only tangible acts were the withdrawals of Messrs. R. A. Haislip, representing the Goose Nest-Hamilton district, and Joshua L. Coltraine, representing the Jamesville-Williamston district on the board of county commissioners. Commissioner Coltraine, having served almost twenty-two years as a member of the board of commissioners, stated yesterday that he planned to retire at the expiration of his present term.

Commissioner Haislip is now serving his fifth or sixth term, both men, having given freely of their time in the interest of county affairs, explaining that their health is not so good as it used to be, that they were willing to step aside for other candidates, possibly younger ones.

No name, as far as it could be learned here, has been advanced in Commissioner Haislip's district, but Jamesville citizens, learning that Commissioner Coltraine was planning to retire, went into action immediately yesterday and proposed C. C. "Frosty" Martin for the place. While no report has been received from Mr. Martin, it was learned that he is favorably considering the position and that he is expected to make an announcement very shortly.

None of the three other members of the board of commissioners has made an official announcement, but it is fairly certain that Commissioner C. Abram Roberson, representing the Cross Roads-Robersonville district, and Board Chairman John H. Edwards, will be without opposition if they enter the primary, leaving Commissioner W. M. Harrison opposition in the Griffiths-Bear Grass district in the candidacy of Mr. Roberson who has already filed with the board of elections.

With one candidate already announced for a seat in the State assembly, it is likely that a contest will be developed by Mr. A. Corey of Jamesville. Mr. Corey has not formally announced his candidacy but he is seriously considering the position, it was learned yesterday.

He has made no official announcement, but Chas. Manning, attorney, is considering the position of recorder's court judge. No announcement has been made by Judge J. C. Smith, the incumbent.

(Continued on page eight)

Britain Halts Its Naval Building

The British government announced on February 24 it has stopped all new naval construction and has cut naval appropriations for the coming fiscal year by 43,700,000 pounds (\$154,800,000). The total naval appropriations for 1948-1949 will amount to 133,000,000 pounds (\$612,000,000). The personnel strength of the Royal Navy and its adjuncts is 167,300, a reduction of 13,000 over last year. By March 31 of this year the strength will be down to 133,500. The cancellation of new construction will not affect the completion of vessels already being built. Under the present program seven destroyers and seven submarines will join the fleet by March 31.