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County Boards To Meet In Regular Sessions Monday

Education Board To Discuss Plans For Expansion In Bear Grass

Two of the Martin County governing bodies, the board of commissioners and the board of education, are to hold regular sessions here next Monday. J. Sam Getzinger, clerk to the commissioners, stated yesterday that his board had very little business on its agenda, that as far as he knew at the time only routine duties would be handled. A short meeting is anticipated.

The board of education is preparing plans for an expansion program at Bear Grass, and it is possible that the plans will be carried before the commissioners for consideration.

Architects were in the county this week discussing the proposed program at Bear Grass, but it could not be learned if the plans and cost estimates would be made ready in time for them to be studied and submitted to the commissioners. When the education board members met the first Monday in March they discussed the need for a plant expansion at Bear Grass with the commissioners who advised them to have plans and cost estimates prepared. The proposed plans call for a six-room high school unit and a lunch room. It was learned at the time, however, that cost estimates could vary the plans.

Recognizing the acute space shortage in the local schools, the parent-teacher association in a recent meeting named a committee to plead the case for a plant expansion here. It was pointed out that the school this year had earned an additional teacher but that one could not be employed because there was no room for her. It was also pointed out that indications point to a larger enrollment next year than the existing one, that the teacher load will be aggravated. The committee is tentatively scheduled to appear before the board of education meeting next Monday morning, but the committee chairman could not be contacted in time to determine if an appointment had been made.

The P. T. A. committee will meet in President H. P. Mobley's office this evening to discuss the problem and map plans for the appeal to the county boards next Monday.

Officers Destroy Two Liquor Plants

Raiding in Jamesville Township last Thursday, ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked two illicit liquor plants and captured two stills and some manufacturing equipment.

The first plant, equipped with a 50-gallon capacity copper kettle, was located near the old Ball Gray farm. The officers poured out 300 gallons of fair quality sugar beer. That afternoon the officers captured a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle, poured out 100 gallons of sugar beer and wrecked the plant located in the Free Union section.

A decrease in the illicit operations is expected now that much time is to be devoted to farm work, Officer Roebuck pointed out.

SLOW GOING

The issuance of driver's licenses to motor vehicle operators whose last names begin with the letter C or D is running far behind schedule, License Examiner Boyce said here today.

Hardly twenty percent of the eligible group has applied for the licenses to date, and the time allotted for the task is half gone. Long lines are predicted for those who wait until June to get their licenses because chauffeurs' licenses are renewed in that month. The license examiner is in the county courthouse each Wednesday and Thursday.

NEW CHIEF



His appointment receiving the unanimous support of the board of commissioners, Whitney E. Saunders entered upon his new duties as Williamston's Chief of Police today. Stationed here with the State Highway Patrol for nine years before resigning a short time ago, Chief Saunders has made many friends in this section where he is highly regarded as a citizen and a law enforcement officer. Earnestly seeking the cooperation of all the people in upholding law and order, the chief is pledging his best efforts in handling his new job.

Griffins Reports \$172.66 For Fund In Current Drive

Need For More Funds Cited By Organization After Recent Disasters

For the first time, Griffins Township citizens fell below the quota assigned them in the current Red Cross fund drive. "We worked diligently and possibly more people contributed than a year ago, but the donations were not as large," Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, chairman for the district, said yesterday in making her report. Assigned a \$225 quota, the district raised \$172.66, leaving the drive \$52.34 short of its goal.

Contributions were solicited and reported by the following canvassers: Mrs. Nancy Peel, \$35.50; Wilford Griffin, \$20.51; Mrs. Justus Coltrain, \$34.75; Mrs. B. F. Roberson, \$30.65; Mrs. Perlle and Mrs. Eugene Roberson, \$24.25; Irene and Bernice Griffin, \$27.00.

Complete reports could not be had from several other districts. While the various chapters are lagging with their contributions, the National Red Cross is receiving increasing demands for relief. During the month of March, the organization appropriated a million dollars for the relief of disaster victims who suffered in destructive tornadoes and floods.

Within the past 10 days two series of tornadoes—one on March 22, the other on March 26, Good Friday night—cut a swath of destruction across the country, to bring the national disaster death toll for this period to 80 persons. Southern states hit in the Easter week-end storms were Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia.

Red Cross chapters throughout the nation, busy with the annual Fund campaign, interrupted their work on the drive to assist disaster victims. Emergency care for the injured, and food, shelter and clothing, were provided. Already Red Cross workers are taking applications for rehabilitation assistance from victims of the most recent catastrophes.

Before the Easter week-end disasters, the Red Cross had estimated the 17-state destruction as 53 dead, 613 injured, 535 homes destroyed, and thousands of others damaged. More than 25,000 persons were reported to be severely affected in the series of March tornadoes and floods.

The additional storms of the past week-end resulted in a reported 27 more deaths, 70 injuries of a serious nature, and untold property damage.

Ala. was hardest hit in the Easter week-end. (Continued on page eight)

J. M. Broughton Addresses Annual Masonic Banquet

Coveted Awards Are Made At Meeting In Local Gym Last Night

J. Melville Broughton, former Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh attorney and, though it was not mentioned, a candidate for the United States Senate, spoke to more than 300 Masons, their wives, friends and special guests at the annual Masonic banquet in the high school gymnasium here last night.

Speaking informally and emphasizing throughout his speech the importance of Masonry and the part the fraternity has played in creating and promoting good citizenship, Mr. Broughton said, "I am proud to belong to an organization that has some adherence to our great traditions."

The speaker was introduced by Hugh Horton who spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Broughton's record as a governor, citizen, Mason and lawyer.

Mr. Broughton touched briefly on the Civil Rights question which has brought forth much agitation and discussion between the peoples and races of the country. However, the question was closed just as quickly as it originated with the following statement: "We can solve our own problems in North Carolina without the suggestions and agitation of outside persons and parties."

A Mason since he was 21 years old, the speaker stated that Masonry creates good citizenship, that the fraternity was founded and based on the great traditions of our country. The Order enhances safeguards and teaches us to respect and give reverence to a high moral standard of living.

Speaking of traditions and our way of life, Mr. Broughton said: "There is no place on earth where you can find freedom of speech, free enterprise and Masonry, but what that great and ancient fraternity, has played a great role in maintaining our freedoms and traditions."

In closing the speaker touched on the possibility of a third world war. He spoke briefly on the apparently hopeless, drab and dreary picture that confronts us but stated that he hoped through faith in mankind and God, that our fears and apprehensions may be relieved and erased. "It is said the night is darkest just before dawn and it is hoped we are experiencing the immediate period just before the light appears in the East."

Henry Griffin, Master of Skewarkee Lodge, presided over the meeting. Bruce Wynne led the song, "America," and John Goff gave the invocation.

After the special guests were introduced by Hugh Horton, Messdames P. B. Cone, A. R. Dunning and Kate M. Ayers, widows of former members of Skewarkee Lodge, were recognized and introduced.

Thomas Coffield Cook, a member of Skewarkee Lodge for more than 50 years was presented a certificate and given special recognition for his long service and association with the lodge. Only one other member, the late J. G. Staton, served the Lodge for so long a period.

Ill for several months George Harrison, Jr., was not able to attend the meeting last night to receive the jewel of a Past Master.

Local Firm Dissolves Partnership This Week

Operating the Pittman Clothing and Firestone Stores here for a number of years, Messrs. D. V. Clayton and C. D. Pittman this week dissolved their partnership. Mr. Pittman will devote all his time to the clothing business, and Mr. Clayton will operate the Firestone store with Mr. Johnny Cherry as manager. Cherry until recently was associated with Miller and Miller in the auto associate store here. Mr. Grover Pittman, connected with the Firestone store for several years, and his family are planning to return to Rocky Mount after the present school term ends.

SPEAKER



J. Melville Broughton, former governor and prominent candidate for United States Senator, addressed Skewarkee Masons and friends in their annual banquet here last night.

Students Meet In Speaking Contest

The Martin County elimination public speaking contest on Soil Conservation will be held in the Williamston High School Auditorium next Monday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The contest is being sponsored by the N. C. Bankers Association and the Banks of Martin County—the Branch Banking and Trust Co. of Williamston, Guaranty Banks of Williamston, Robersonville and Hamilton, and the Edgecombe Bank and Trust Co. of Oak City in cooperation with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

School elimination contests have been held and the winner of each school will compete for the county winner. Those to be represented in the county contest are Mary Lou Coltrain of Williamston High School, Julia Harrison of Bear Grass School, Vernon Suits of Oak City High School and Billy Brewer of Jamesville High School.

Each school winner will receive \$5.00 in cash and second place winner \$2.00. The county winner will receive \$10.00 in cash and the second place winner \$5.00 in cash. The county winner and coach will go to Greenville Friday, April 9, for the district contest. The county winners will be entertained in Greenville by the Greenville Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon and a tour of Greenville. The district winner will receive \$50.00 in Savings Bonds, second place \$25.00 in Saving Bond and third place \$10.00 in cash.

Sale Of Hospital Rumor Unfounded

Rumors, suggesting that Brown's Community Hospital had been sold or was for sale, are without any foundation, it was learned from the owner-operator, Dr. Victor E. Brown today. The report, its origin unknown, has been widely circulated in some parts of the county for some time and especially during the past few weeks.

"I like Williamston, and plan to serve the people to the best of my ability and remain here as long as I live," Dr. Brown said.

ON WAY HOME

The body of Pfc. Floyd Congleton, 28-year-old color sergeant who died on April 7, 1945, in a hospital in France, presumably of wounds received several months previously, is on its way home for burial in native soil, his parents, James and Cyndia Congleton, of Farme, were advised a few days ago.

The body reached New York Tuesday on the U. S. Army Transport, John L. McCarty along with the bodies of 105 other North Carolinians who gave their lives in the invasion of Europe and who had been resting in the "D-Day" caskets, reported at Salt Lake City, Utah, Mer, Bismarck and LaCambre, Normandy.

Tobacco Group Wants Increased Yield Of The Crop

President of Agency Does Not Recommend Change In Acreage Cut

J. B. Hutson, president of Tobacco Associates, Inc., this week came out for an increased per acre yield of tobacco, but did not recommend any change in the 27.52 percent acreage cut ordered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Hutson, in suggesting a larger per-acre yield, stressed quality and advocated closer spacing in rows, liberal fertilization without too much nitrogen, high topping, careful suckering and good cultivation.

Hutson recently outlined some flue-cured tobacco facts on the home front and abroad, as follows:

Total world consumption of U. S. grown flue-cured tobacco during the calendar year 1947 approximated 1,200 million pounds (farm sales weight).

Stocks and production reports indicate that in 1947 nearly 700 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco were used in the United States and about 500 million pounds in foreign countries. Exports last year were 459 million pounds but stocks in foreign countries were reduced fully 40 million pounds during the year.

Domestic consumption of cigarettes continued to increase during the last half of the calendar year, which is the first half of the 1947-48 marketing year.

Consumption was off in January, 1948, but during the first seven months of the 1947-48 marketing year domestic cigarette use was about 4 percent larger than during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Domestic manufacturers have recently purchased sizeable quantities of stabilization tobacco. Stocks at the beginning of the next marketing season will be smaller in proportion to the present rate of usings than they were during the 1930's.

Flue-cured tobacco stocks in foreign countries are small. Unless a considerable volume of stabilization stocks are moved into to export trade prior to the beginning of the next marketing season, foreign stocks at that time will be near wartime levels.

Mr. Hutson pointed out that in recent years there has been a marked increase in production of flue-cured in foreign countries. Last year foreign grown flue-cured was one-third of U. S. production.

Flue-cured tobacco is now produced in substantial quantities in India, China, Southern Rhodesia, Union of South Africa, Canada, (Continued on page eight)

Start Round-Up Of County Dogs

The annual round-up of all dogs in Martin County for inoculation against rabies got under way today when Dr. W. F. Coppage, supported by the sheriff's department, went into Jamesville Township to hold the first clinics. No report on the first clinics could be had here immediately, but it is fairly certain that dog owners will cooperate in every way possible. The service, offered free to the dog owners, will be extended in time to just about every community in the county.

Owners who do not have their dogs protected against rabies are warned that action will be taken in due time to wipe out the untreated canines.

The clinic schedule through next Wednesday follows:

Dardens, Thursday, April 1, 10 to 12 p. m.; Ange Town, Thursday, 1 to 2 p. m.; Jamesville, Friday, April 2, 11 a. m. to 2 p. m.; Dr. W. F. Coppage's office, Saturday, April 3, 9 to 11 p. m.; No. 90 Station, Monday, April 5, 10 to 12 p. m.; Manning and Gurkin Store, Monday, April 5, 1 to 3 p. m.; Easton Lilly Store, Tuesday, April 6, 10 to 12 p. m.; Gossett's Store, Tuesday, April 6, 1 to 2:30 p. m.; Bear Grass, Wednesday, April 7, 10 to 2:30 p. m.

Big Day In County's Court Last Monday

CANDIDATE



Paul D. Roberson, Robersonville attorney, last Tuesday filed with the board of elections to succeed himself in the position of solicitor of the Martin County Recorder's Court.

Confusing Case Heard In Court By Judge Smith

Friend Pleads Guilty But Fails To Save The First Defendant

Real friendship was advanced in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when a friend voluntarily pleaded guilty in an effort to save the original defendant. But the maneuver did not accomplish its purpose for both the young men stood convicted and drew fines.

While the number of defendants was doubled, the case became even more confusing when by a technicality in the warrant the original defendant was not actually charged with what arresting officers apparently accused him of doing; namely, driving a motor vehicle while the operator's license was revoked.

Less than a year ago Dallas Godard's license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked. A few months ago, Patrolmen met Godard driving on U. S. 64 near Jamesville. The officers turned around to investigate and the car was driven off the highway, the driver and his companion fleeing into the woods. A warrant was issued for Godard.

When the case was called last Monday, patrolmen identified Godard as the driver of the car, but Fred James Calloway stepped up to tell the court that he was driving the car, admitting that he had no operator's license of his own. When the evidence was all in Judge Smith called for a bench warrant against Calloway. Godard was found guilty, the judge reasoning that it was possible that the patrolmen saw Godard driving the car, that Godard traded seats with Calloway and that other witnesses in the case saw Calloway and did not see Godard drive the car.

Godard was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost, and Calloway was fined \$25 plus the costs. Apparently realizing that the minimum fine for driving a motor vehicle while one's operator's license was in a state of suspension, the defendant Godard did not delay in paying the fine and costs and closing the case.

FUND DRIVE

Plans were announced just about complete yesterday for launching the drive today to raise \$1,500 in this county to help carry on the relentless fight against cancer. Assisted by volunteers, the county commander, Mrs. Chas. I. Harris, yesterday prepared direct mail appeals to several hundred people. Personal solicitations will supplement the direct mail appeal, it was explained.

Fines Imposed In Sum of \$1,125 By Judge J. C. Smith

Nineteen Defendants Fined \$25 Each By Judge Smith Monday

Judge J. Calvin Smith held the county court in session until almost 4:00 o'clock Monday afternoon, handling a fifty-case docket accumulating over a period of two weeks while the superior tribunal was handling its work. The last Monday sessions attracted a near capacity crowd, and there were more white defendants than colored before the court.

While no record fines collections were made, the court reported a net income of \$1,125 aside from the costs which will boost the total to more than \$2,000.

Aside from nineteen speeding cases, the feature judgment was a six-month road sentence imposed upon Lee Tyner for driving a mule he (Tyner) was drunk. The case had been heard several weeks ago, but prayer for judgment was continued until this week.

The case charging D. D. Hill with assaulting his wife again was not pressed but is subject to be recalled. Hill had disappeared and did not return for trial.

Charged with assaults with deadly weapons, Tommie Taylor and Jonah Clemmons pleaded guilty and each was taxed with the costs.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, disorderly conduct and destroying property, Walter Freeman was sentenced to the roads for ninety days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

Charged with the non-support of his twin children, Berkeley McIntyre was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the court suspending the road term on condition that the defendant pay the cost and \$7 a week for the support of his children during the next two years.

Charged with larceny by trick, Hubert Roberson, colored, was adjudged not guilty. The defendant, after receiving pay for a load of wood, delivered it by mistake to the wrong address.

Charlie Clemmons, charged with the theft of his brother-in-law's watch, pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Sammie Slade, charged with non-support of his child, was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and \$10 a month for the support of his child.

Pleading not guilty of non-support, Benjamin Wiggins was adjudged guilty after a technical fashion, and he was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the costs and on condition that he pay \$7 a week for the support of his two children during the next two years.

Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Hubert Roberson, white, was adjudged guilty and was fined \$100, taxed with the cost, the court recommending that his driver's license be revoked for one year.

James A. Hardison, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Benjamin B. Taylor was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs in the case charging him with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Charged with driving an automobile while his operator's license was revoked, David B. Gurkin was fined \$200 and taxed with the cost, the judge explaining that it was the minimum fine for such a violation. The court recommended that the young defendant's license be revoked for two years. Gurkin, pleading guilty to his guilt, explained that he and a (Continued on page eight)

Speedsters Have Their Day In The Recorder's Court

Man Sentenced To Roads For Six Months For Driving Mule While Drunk

Speedsters, most of them in a hurry to get back home from vacations in Florida, had their day in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday, several of the cases bringing out some native wit after a nonchalant fashion as well as some serious comment.

During the two weeks the superior court was in session, the five members of the highway patrol stationed in this county rounded up nineteen alleged speedsters. Several of them posted bond and continued northward. Each of the defendants, pleading guilty, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs, the total fines amounting to \$475. The costs added about \$450 to the bill.

Myron W. Curtis, one of the defendants, said the fine and costs were a little higher than they were back home in Norfolk, but "you folks are very polite and apologetic, and it's worth the difference."

Louis J. Cugini, driving a car back from Florida to his home in Newton, Massachusetts, for his own, could not arrange bond when stopped by Patrolman M. F. Powers, and Cugini spent the night in jail until money for his bond could reach him by telegraph. Told that it was disagreeable to have to place him in jail overnight, Cugini assured the officer that it was all right, that he (Cugini) needed a couple of days of rest after a strenuous life down in Florida.

Another defendant, Norman F. Drew of Barnstable, Mass., suggested that patrolmen from the North be imported to teach North Carolina patrolmen something, little realizing that the arresting officer was a native of Massachusetts.

Then there was a member of the fair sex who lacked the money to pay the fine and cost and finance the trip on into Providence, Rhode Island. Court officials advanced the difference and Mrs. Beatrice L. Durfee continued on her way.

Included in the list of speedsters were lawyers and doctors who were returning northward from vacations spent in Florida.

Names of the other defendants and addresses where listed on the warrants follow:

Andrew E. Albanese, New York; Kelly W. Bryant, Tarboro; John Parks Mitchell, Greensboro; Max Chuskek, Freeport, New York; Dr. Harrell A. Blaisdell, Jamestown, New York; Peter Ar-

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Johnson To Speak To Ruritan Club

Charles Johnson, State treasurer and candidate for governor, is scheduled to make his first personal appearance in support of his candidacy in this county next Monday evening when he appears before the Jamesville Ruritan Club at a special supper. His visit had not been officially announced late yesterday, but club members were quoted as saying they were expecting him.

His speech topic was not announced, but it is quite likely that it will touch lightly, at least, on politics and the gubernatorial race.

DELAYED

Seine fishing, scheduled to have been started in the Roanoke at the Jamesville plant today, is being delayed, a report stating that high water was blocking the operations. It could not be learned when the big seine would be put in use, but it was likely that the water will fall sufficiently to permit operations before some time next week. This morning the Roanoke was about eight inches above the marks at this point and was reported to be still rising farther up the river.