

Nineteen Apply For Positions In County

Eight Candidates Are Automatically Listed as Nominees

Contests for House, Judge Boards of Education And Commissioners

Nineteen candidates for political offices in this county and its subdivisions had their hats in the ring well before the filing deadline at 6:00 o'clock last Saturday evening. Board of Elections Chairman Sylvester Peel announced, the action filling all major offices in the county and two constable positions, one in Jamesville and the other in Williamston. No one filed for the office of county surveyor, leaving that post unsuccessful in its humble bid for a candidate. The surveying business will have to drag along the best it can without the services of a primary-recognized surveyor.

There were no late developments to upset the political apple cart in the county. P. Paul Holliday filed for constable of Jamesville Township a short time before the filing period was closed, and Chas. Ray Moore, the perennial candidate, came across well in advance with his \$5 filing fee for constable in Williamston Township.

The line-up as it is now constituted lists nineteen candidates for county and township offices, but eight of them, encountering no opposition, were automatically declared the democratic party nominees and their names will not appear on the ballot for the May 29 primary.

The declared nominees are: J. Sam Getsinger, register of deeds.

R. H. Smith, treasurer.

Paul D. Roberson, county solicitor.

C. A. Roberson, county commissioner Cross Roads-Robersonville district.

John Henry Edwards, county commissioner, Williamston-Poplar Point district.

C. C. Martin, county commissioner Jamesville-Williams district, succeeding Joshua L. Coltrain who is retiring after a long period of able and faithful service.

Chas. Ray Moore, constable Williamston Township.

J. Paul Holliday, Jamesville Township.

The other positions in the political set-up where activities are a little warmer are being contested, and all by good candidates. And since it has good men seeking the various offices, Martin County is assured a continuation of good government, a condition the county and its people can be justly proud of.

Edgar Gurganus, Williamston attorney, and A. Corey, Jamesville man and accomplished "jack of all trades," literally speaking, are in the race to capture Martin County's seat in the State House of Representatives which C. B. Martin, Robersonville school man, is relinquishing.

Chas. H. Manning, Williamston attorney, is contesting the position of judge of the Martin County Court with Judge J. Calvin Smith, incumbent.

While three members were declared the party nominees, much interest is almost certain to be shown in the two board of county commissioners contests. W. Tom Roberson, Farm Lake farmer, (Continued on page six)

SPEEDSTERS

Speedsters are being lined up in fairly large numbers for visits before Judge J. C. Smith in the county recorder's court next Monday. Up until noon Monday twenty had been booked by members of the highway patrol working in this county. The group includes a New York minister who was hurrying south last week to see the Azalea gardens.

NEARS GOAL

Although complete reports have been received from only two districts, it is fairly certain that the cancer fund drive in this county is nearing the \$1,500 goal.

Bear Grass went over the top with some to spare last week, and this week Rev. W. B. Harrington, chairman for Griffins, stated that Miss Bessie Griffin, Mrs. Leslie Griffin, Mrs. Marion Lilley, Mrs. Raymond Gurkin, Mrs. Urban Lilley and Mrs. Pierce's store had made a two-day canvass and raised \$118.20, an amount \$43.20 in excess of the assigned quota.

A fairly complete report on the drive is expected within the next day or two.

State Politics Are Warming Up

Coasting along and attracting very little attention despite feverish campaign work by the candidates during recent weeks, State politics are beginning to warm up. The routine issues have been discussed, the candidates stressing their deep-rooted attachment to the soil and their great love for the common folks. Now, the side issues, piping hot from opposition camps, are breaking into the open.

Editor Davis of the Zebulon Record last week came out with a question about the investment of State funds. "Mr. Johnson, has there been any effort to invest the idle millions of dollars held as surplus in Raleigh?" the Zebulon man asked. Johnson, the State treasurer and candidate for governor too, came back and said that the millions were in funds that could not be invested, or some such answer.

Drunken Driver Arrested Here

Crashing the Main and Watts Street red traffic light, almost clipping a school child and ignoring a call by Officer Chas. R. Moore yesterday afternoon, Leslie Edgar Coggins, RFD 2, Greenville, was arrested a few minutes later and charged with drunken driving. He arranged cash bond in the sum of \$200.

Apparently realizing the law was closing in on him, Coggins was closing in on him, Coggins got from under the wheel and his companion, Mary Taylor, of Chowinity, took over. She was booked for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. Their cases are scheduled for trial in the county court next Monday.

Lawful To Seine For Minnows In Streams

In accordance with an amended regulation by the Wildlife Resources Commission recently, it is now lawful to seine for minnows in inland fishing waters provided the net used is of dip-net design with opening not greater than six square feet; a seine of length not greater than twelve feet and with a mesh one-half inch or less. To seine or take minnows from public waters for purpose of sale, one must obtain a written permit from the executive director, Clyde P. Patton, Raleigh.

Youngster Painfully Burned At Home Here

Melvin, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Davenport, was painfully but not seriously burned at his home here on Cherry Street shortly before noon yesterday. Telling members of the family that he was cold, the child went to the living room and dashed a small quantity of kerosene into some coals in a heater. The flames flared up in his face, burning his face and arm, and singeing his eyebrows and hair.

Eight Accidents On County Roads During Week-end

Two of Eight Wrecks Reported On Williamston's West Main Street

A wave of motor vehicle accidents struck the streets and highways in this county over the week-end. Town officers and members of the highway patrol reported eight accidents, two of them within a few blocks of each other in Williamston's main street. Others were reported at each of the county and in the middle. Only three persons were hurt and their injuries were described as minor ones. The property damage total was estimated at \$1,620.

Rachel Manning of 821 Spotswood Ave., Norfolk, suffered a leg injury when the car she was driving from Oak City toward Hobbard early last Thursday afternoon went out of control and turned over. Other occupants in the car were not injured and the driver was treated in Scotland Neck. According to Patrolman R. P. Narron who made the investigation, the driver, while not running very fast, started to pass a car and lost control of her 1947 Chevrolet which was damaged to the extent of about \$500.

The series of wrecks starting in Williamston Sunday morning spread to all parts of the county before the day was spent.

The first in the series was reported Sunday morning about 9:30 o'clock when a 1936 Ford driven by Jack Dempsey Bryant, RFD 1, Greenville, plowed into the rear of a 1941 Plymouth being driven by Ed Powell on Williamston's West Main Street. Mrs. Bryant suffered shock and a small cut on one finger when she was thrown into the windshield. She was discharged from Brown's Community Hospital following treatment. Damage to each car was estimated at about \$75 by Chief W. E. Saunders and Officer Chas. R. Moore who made the investigation. One report stated that Powell started to pass a car and trailer in the 400 block, that he apparently slowed down to get back into the lane of traffic when his car was struck from the rear.

Brink Lilley stopped his taxi near the railroad under pass on West Main Street to discharge a passenger about 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon and was struck from the rear by a car driven by G. M. Nicholson, RFD 3, Williamston. No one was hurt and the damage was negligible, Officer Wm. Haislip, investigating the accident, reported.

William H. Rogerson, driving his 1940 Chevrolet west on U. S. 64, had the right rear fender of his car smashed when James Josh Meeks of Robersonville started to make a U turn near Parmele Sunday afternoon about 5:00 o'clock. Investigating the accident, Patrolman B. W. Parker said that damage was negligible.

One of the more serious accidents on Sunday occurred in Hamilton Main Street at 8:30 o'clock that evening when Robert Samuel Howell, employe of a cleaning and pressing establishment in Robersonville, drove his 1937 Ford into town from the direction of Palmyra and ran into D. G. Matthews' 1946 Chevrolet. Parked in front of the Baptist church while the owner was attending services, the car was knocked about 25 feet down the street. Howell's car turned over but he was not hurt, but Patrolman R. P. Narron estimated that (Continued on page six)

DELAYED

High water in the Roanoke continues to delay seine fishing at Jamesville, the fishery owner-operator, Mr. C. C. Fleming, stating last night that it hardly looked possible to start operations before next week. The river during the week ending last night, dropped only one-half inch at this point, and is now holding to about eleven feet, or one foot over the banks.

Vandals Batter Vehicles With Bottles On Highway

Running hog wild on the highways in this section late last Friday afternoon, vandals, riding in a car believed to have been a Chrysler, battered automobiles and trucks and pedestrians with rocks and bottles, slightly hurting one or two of their victims and endangering the lives of others.

The first attack was reported about 6:30 that evening when Linwood Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Pearl Sawyer, Ben Peel, Mountwell Holliday and C. A. Askew, was driving from Williamston to his home in Jamesville. They had traveled a short distance beyond Gardner's Creek when they met a car and some object struck the windshield, shattering it and scattering glass all over the car occupants.

A short time later, Ernest Harris was driving a pickup truck belonging to the Williamston Motor Company when a rock was hurled against the windshield. Striking directly in front of the driver, the rock cracked the windshield, the truck occupants thinking at first that they had been fired on with a pistol or rifle.

Floyd Spruill, Jr., colored man, was walking along the same highway near Chimney Corner when a car, said to have been a Chrysler, chased him off the highway into a ditch. He was then attacked with rocks, one cutting his wrist. The car was said to have continued toward Hamilton and turned around, the occupants directing another attack at a relative of Spruill's.

Officers are investigating the attacks and it is understood that several will be questioned tonight, but no warrant has been issued.

Episcopal Laymen In Meeting Here Wednesday Night

Virginia Seminary Representative Addresses Large Group

The laymen of the Episcopal churches in the Middle District of Eastern Carolina held a supper meeting in the Woman's Club here last Wednesday night. Mr. N. C. Green presided over the meeting and welcomed the guests. Rev. E. F. Moseley of Kinston, a former rector of the local church, gave the invocation. Mr. Fitz Duncan of Greenville, president of the district, conducted a short business meeting during which Mr. Will Gaither of Elizabeth City and Mr. Frank Fagan of New Bern, gave interesting reports.

There were about 115 men present, representing churches in Goldsboro, Kinston, Greenville, New Bern, Aurora, Washington, Plymouth, Elizabeth City, Windsor, Roxobel, Scotland Neck and Williamston. Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Woodland was a special guest.

The Rev. Wm. Kirk of the Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, gave an inspiring talk on the importance of the seminary. He said that a vast majority of the men now in the seminary are veterans of the last war and are eager to help make the church's teaching a vital part of the life of our troubled world.

"These men, several of them graduates of West Point and Annapolis, are consecrated to the task of building goodness instead of war and hatred," the seminary representative said. He continued, "The fact that Time Magazine selected a religious leader for the feature article in their 25th anniversary number shows what many think is the hope of the future." He gave a vivid account of how these men are being trained to become the future leaders of the church.

A delicious "rock muddle," cooked by Gene Kimball and Bill Glover, was served by the ladies of the Episcopal church.

Senator Umstead Stops In County

Taking time out from his duties in Washington, Senator Wm. B. Umstead made an impromptu visit in this county last Thursday. The senator admittedly facing strong opposition in this county, talked optimistically about the over-all outlook. The candidate has no manager in this county but he has some strong supporters. However, his opponent, J. Melville Broughton, will, it is predicted, carry the county three to one.

Asked about conditions in Washington, the Senator was quoted as saying that they are in a "big mess." The inflation spiral, slowed down for a while, is now twisting forward more rapidly now, and Washington observers are not at all encouraging in their predictions for the future.

Champ Exhibitor To Defend Title At Annual Show

Increased Interest Is Being Shown In Show's Swine Division This Year

For the first time in the history of the Martin County Fat Stock show the previous year's grand champion owner has chosen to defend his title. Billy Bailey of Everetts 4-H Club will seek to capture the title two years straight at the annual event to be held in Williamston on Friday, May 7.

Marv Jane Rogers of the Williamston 4-H Club who owned the reserve champion last year is out to do better this year. She has her eyes set on the grand champion ribbon. She says the calf that beats her's will have to be a good one.

There are only two 4-H members with a baby beef this year that did not enter one last year. They are Lynette Haislip of the Oak City 4-H Club and Everett Purvis of the Hassell 4-H Club.

There has definitely been an increased interest in fat hogs for the show this year. Assistant County Agent J. W. Sumner said. It is expected that more exhibitors will compete for the prizes and that possibly the swine show will surpass interest in the beef cattle department.

The hogs will be judged in four groups—1 group of individual weighing 180 to 240 lbs, one group of individual weighing 241 to 300 pounds, one group of pens of three weighing 180 to 240 pounds and one group of pens of three weighing 241 to 300 pounds.

A grand champion individual will be selected and a grand champion pen of three also will be selected.

Scouts Organize At Bear Grass

The organization of a Bear Grass Scout troop is expected to be completed within the next two weeks, Scoutmaster Leman Keel announced today. Twelve boys have been registered.

The Bear Grass troop will present a "Womanless Wedding" and a "Fiddler's Convention" in the Bear Grass High School auditorium April 30. The scouts themselves make up the cast of the "Womanless Wedding," which promises laughter and entertainment to the public. The "Fiddler's Convention" is open to individual participation. Anyone wishing to enter the contest is asked to contact Scoutmaster Leman Keel.

Local Merchant Died On Friday

Elijah L. Brown, prominent local colored business man, died at his home here on Washington Street last Friday night. He had been in declining health for some time.

He had worked for the Jim Stations here for many years, finally leaving them to open a grocery business which he operated successfully for a long time. He was a leader in his church and held responsible offices in the Odd Fellows and Elks lodges.

Funeral services are being conducted in the A. M. E. Zion Church on Rhodes Street this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. A. H. Fisher. Interment will be in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

MEETING

Armed with sufficient petition strength to get a referendum, forces will meet this evening in the Memorial Baptist Church here to perfect an organization for an all-out drive against the sale of wines and beer in this county. No definite count on the number signing the petitions could be had, but it is estimated that far more than the required 15 percent of the eligible voters have affixed their signatures to the petitions.

Special Court Holds Final Session Today

FIRST TOBACCO

The first of the 1948 tobacco crop in this county was transplanted by Farmer Toba Bowen on his Bear Grass farm yesterday, the farmer stating that the plants were so large that he had to either pull them out of the bed and throw them away or transplant them. Preparing his land last week, the farmer transplanted only one and one-half acres of his approximately six-acre allotment. He plans to complete the task the latter part of this week. Other farmers are expected to start transplanting this week, but it will be latter part of next or early the following week before the task gets under way on any appreciable scale.

Blue mold is present in many plant beds throughout the county, but damage is slight where spray materials were applied, Mr. Bowen stating that his plants had about recovered from the mold.

Band Preparing For Tarboro Trip

The Williamston High School Band went through a stiff practice session last night and director Jack Butler has announced two extra sessions for the week as preparations are being made to participate in the big parade at Tarboro Friday afternoon of this week as a part of Hospitality Day festivities there.

Special sessions are scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, afternoon at 5:30 and Thursday night at 7:00 o'clock. As much individual practice as possible is being urged upon the students so long as it does not interfere with other scholastic duties.

The full band will go to Tarboro as a baseball game scheduled for Plymouth on Friday has been moved ahead to Thursday to permit all members to be on hand.

High school bands from Wilson, Rocky Mount and other towns are to be on hand and it is reported that two army band units may take part in the parade.

The band is to travel by private cars, leaving Williamston at 2 p. m. A large number of local people are reported planning to go for the parade and for the ball game in Tarboro Friday night.

Former Resident Died Thursday

Mrs. Rena Cunningham, who made her home here with her son at various intervals over a period of years, died at her home in Pineville, Mecklenburg County, last Thursday afternoon. She was 77 years old.

Funeral services were conducted in the Pineville Presbyterian Church Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, formerly of Williamston. Interment was in the family cemetery near Pineville.

Surviving is one son, E. P. Cunningham, and two grandsons, formerly of Williamston but now of Smithfield.

Officers Get Big Still On Friday

Raiding in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township last Friday morning, ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel captured a 100-gallon capacity copper liquor distillery kettle and poured out 500 gallons of medium grade beer. The plant was fully equipped and was supplied from two fifty-gallon and one four hundred gallon fermenters. The still was almost new, the officers stating that they believed it had been used no more than two or three times.

Expect Change In Verdict Rendered By Jury Monday

Two Juries Find Very Little Work To Be Done In Court This Week

The Martin County Superior Court is folding its tent today, marking the close of what was to have been a two-week session for the trial of civil cases only.

Convened on Monday of last week by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, the court handled very little business that day. A few consent judgments were signed and two days were spent hearing the \$15,000 damage suit brought by R. B. Speller against Dr. Edward L. Early. But all the work on the Early case was marked off when Judge Burgwyn set the \$2,350 judgment aside. A \$450 damage suit brought by Bullock against Bate-man was settled last Thursday and the court ordered a recess until Monday of this week. During the meantime, four or five of the big cases were continued on account of a lawyer conflict.

When the court resumed its work this week more cases were continued, but after diligent search it was found that one was ready to be tried.

Back in 1941 V. G. Taylor bought a piece of land in Everetts from the James H. Everett estate. The title was approved, but a hitch developed. It seems that Everett was married twice, that both of his wives were named Mary. The title checker did not know Everett had two wives by the same name, and when he saw that there were children born to James H. and Mary Everett, he listed them as the proper heirs. It was later brought out that there were no children born to Everett's second wife, Mary, that she inherited the property and in turn her own kin and not the first children were entitled to the property.

Last November a nephew, Thurston Davenport, and others were declared owners of the land on Highway 64 in the town of Everetts. At that time Judge Paul Frizelle allowed the defendant to file a petition setting up betterments and improvements. In the court this week the petitioner proved that he had spent \$7,500 building a six-room house, a filling station and other structures. The jury so found after debating the issues about fifteen minutes.

No immediate action was taken by the court to set the verdict aside, but Judge Burgwyn was quoted as saying that the amount allowed for betterments is too high, that he would not let it stand. There was a possibility late Monday that the court today would take some action unless the litigants reach some kind of an agreement. It is a possibility that the petitioner will buy the land. Taking the case shortly before 3:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon the jury found that the petitioner had reasonable grounds to believe title to the land was good and to go ahead and make improvements. A rental fee of \$17.50 per year was allowed by the jury.

Other proceedings not previously reported: The case brought by Mrs. Lina J. Taylor against G. C. Taylor was settled by agreement, the plaintiff receiving \$552.62.

The case of W. M. Staton (Continued on page six)

ROUND-UP

Eight persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail last week-end by local, county and highway patrol officers. Four were charged with public drunkenness, two with drunken driving and one with an affray. Two of the eight were young white men and the ages of the group ranged from 23 to 36 years.