

Greater Interest Shown In County By Wildlife Club

Conservationist Gives Plan For Better Hunting And Fishing

Martin County Wildlife Club members held a very interesting meeting in the courthouse here last evening, observers pointing out that it was one of the club's best meetings held in months.

In the absence of the president, Don Matthews, Jr., the vice president, Hildreth Mobley, presided over the planned program. Secretary J. H. Edwards announced that 98 members had joined for the new year, that 150 others were expected to affiliate with the organization.

Joe Winslow, district member of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission reviewed the recommendations heard at a district meeting of the commission in Kinston a short time ago. Lay days were discussed at length, the commissioner explaining that while no action was taken and none will be taken until two other district meetings are held, there is a possibility that lay days will be eliminated or made uniform throughout the State.

Anticipating appeals for a regulation outlawing the sale of squirrel and rabbit, the commissioner asked the views of the meeting. The proposal was discussed and while some members favored withdrawing squirrel and rabbits from the commercial market, the group decided to take no official stand on the question.

The commissioner explained that the game wardens are on the job, that those not handling their duties can expect to be relieved. Mr. Winslow explained that hunters and fishermen were recognizing the warden as a protector of game and fish and the interests of the hunter and fishermen, that those enforcing the law should cooperate with them in every way possible.

Howard McKnight, soil conservationist, briefly offered a program for increasing game and fish, especially quail. He declared that the bird population is controlled by the feed supply and the elimination of stray cats and dogs and hawks. He suggested planting borders to certain plants which will control erosion and at the same time offer feed and protection to quail. He stated that he had 3,000 plants available at

Under Bond For Throwing Rocks

Identified by Floyd Spruill, Jr., at a preliminary hearing held before Justice R. T. Johnson here Tuesday evening, Benjamin Pate and Norman Godard were bound over to the county court in \$100 bond each for allegedly assaulting Spruill with rocks on the Hamilton Road near here last Friday evening. Probable cause was found when Spruill identified the two young white men, and no evidence was heard by Justice Johnson. Bond was arranged.

Just prior to the attack made on Spruill some one either shot or threw a rock or bottle at two vehicles, one on the Jamesville Road and the other on the Hamilton Road. Windshields on both cars were broken, the missile shattering one of the glasses. Occupants of the two vehicles were called as witnesses but they did not testify at the preliminary hearing.

Firemen Called To Burning Car

Fire starting from an overheated bearing burned a wheel and tire on a Fayetteville traveling salesman's car on Warren Street, not far from the laundry, at 4:05 Tuesday afternoon. The overheated bearing caused the fluid container to burst and that caused the fire to spread.

Firemen were called out and they put the fire out but not until the rear of the car had been tilted and the interior smoked.

Advance Plans for Calling Referendum on Beer-Wine

Acting as individuals, a group of county ministers and laymen continued to advance plans at a meeting held in the Baptist church here Tuesday evening for calling a referendum proposing a ban on the sale of wine and beer in this county.

Thinking the law called for a petition supported by fifteen percent of the voters in the last general election, the group later learned that the petition is based on the vote for governor. Two years ago less than 1,400 votes were cast in the general election. Fourteen of the twenty-two petitions circulated and returned to the meeting Tuesday evening carried the names of 485 voters, or about 35 percent of the total votes cast in 1946. It is estimated that the eight petitions still out will boost the count to approximately 800, a number 155 over and above

the necessary fifteen percent based on the approximately 4,500 votes cast in the general election in 1944.

Discussing the movement designed to clean up the muddle now existing, the drys said that there was possibly an even greater demand to include hard liquors in the referendum. Since the circulated petitions included only wine and beer, the meeting was of the opinion that it would be advisable to whittle at the problem little at a time, that to include liquor would necessitate the circulation of new petitions and the discarding of the present ones.

Scheduled to meet in the Baptist church here again Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock the drys plan to complete their organization. A committee, composed of Messrs. J. Frank Weaver, C. B. Bowen and B. S. Courtney, was named to contact a chairman.

P. T. A. MEETING

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold a meeting in the high school auditorium next Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced today by the president, H. P. Mobley. A report on the proposed building program is expected. An interesting program is being planned by the chairman, Mrs. Herbert Taylor. A large attendance upon the meeting is anticipated.

High School Band All Set For Its Trip To Tarboro Friday

Director Butler Has New Uniform; Young Musicians Working Hard

Plans for its trip to Tarboro to participate in the giant Hospitality Day parade and program tomorrow afternoon will be given final attention tonight as the Williamston High School Band makes its first public parade appearance in another town since it was re-organized last spring.

Present plans call for the band to march in eight rows of six each under the guidance of Drum Major Bobby Clayton and with a group of peppy majorettes in new uniforms to add more color to the formation.

With the arrival this week of a new uniform for Director Jack Butler the band has its full uniform equipment and observers regard it as a distinctive appearing unit.

Special practices have been the rule during the past ten days or two weeks while drills and new numbers were studied and practiced. Weather has hampered the practice efforts some but the unit is expected to make a good showing in giving the town some publicity to repay the effort local people and business firms made in almost doubling the quota set in the recent uniform fund drive.

Several new marches have been lined up for the Tarboro event and still others are due for the appearance in the Gallopade at Rocky Mount next month. The band will travel in private cars, leaving here about 2 o'clock Friday afternoon and returning early in the evening. A number of local citizens are expected to attend the parade and some to stay over for the Coastal Plain League ball game that night.

The band is just now getting back into the groove it had cut some years ago when the war took its director away and broke the unit into pieces.

Registrar Unable To Accept Appointment

Explaining he would be unable to serve, Jesse Everett this week resigned as registrar for Hamilton Precinct. Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections, tentatively named Wade Everett to handle the task, but the appointment had not been officially accepted late yesterday.

Voting On Support Program For Irish Potatoes April 27

Approximately 100 Farmers In This County Are Eligible To Vote

All Martin County farmers who produce Irish potatoes for market are eligible to participate in a price support referendum to be held in the county agricultural building at Williamston next Tuesday, April 27. The voting hours will be from 8:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m., but farmers eligible to vote may do so by mail provided their ballots are postmarked not later than midnight, April 27.

Applications for certificate of eligibility are now available at the office of the county agent, and quite a few have already been distributed.

To rule himself eligible, the grower must apply to the agent's office, posting a \$3 minimum fee to cover cost of measurements and sign an agreement.

Under the terms of the agreement, the grower agrees not to sell ungraded potatoes or field-run potatoes except to the Department of Agriculture or to contracting dealers, that he will not sell potatoes of or below No. 1 size B grade or quality or U. S. No. 2 grade or quality regardless of size except to the department, to contracting growers or with prior approval to processors or livestock feeders.

The farmer also is to agree not to offer for delivery under the government's support price program any potatoes which fail to meet at least the quality requirements of U. S. No. 2 grade, 1 7/8 inches minimum diameter, or of U. S. No. 1 Size B, grade, or any potatoes damaged or affected by disease, insects, frost or any other injury rendering them unfit for normal consumption or unable to withstand normal shipment and storage, regardless of grades.

There are certain other provisions, all designed to prevent a market glut and hold prices up to a point equal to or above the support level.

It is estimated that approximately 100 farmers in this county are eligible to participate in the program and vote in the next Tuesday referendum.

New Tenants For Apartment Stores

Vacated several weeks ago by the Woolard Furniture Company, the Tar Heel building stores are being extensively remodeled for new tenants. No official announcement has been made, but Mrs. Dolores Long Beard's Wear-Right Shop and the Employment Security Commission are planning to occupy one side of the lower floor and Colonial Stores will occupy the other side.

The Wear-Right Shop is now located in the Bowen building on Washington Street, and the employment offices are on the third floor of the City Hall. The Colonial Stores are surrendering their lease on the Harrison Brothers building.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Postwar nervous tension seems to still grip the automobile driver. That and carelessness, thoughtlessness and "unavoidable" conditions boosted the current accident figures on Martin County highways to a booming level over the week-end. The record to date, clearly indicates that it is time to slow down and to drive more carefully.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

16th Week				
Year	Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Damage
1948	8	3	0	\$ 1,620
1947	2	1	0	600
Comparisons To Date				
1948	48	20	1	\$ 8,710
1947	40	21	3	9,350

Farm Work Going Forward Rapidly In Martin County

Tobacco Transplanting To Get Under Way On Big Scale Next Week

Delayed about two weeks by unfavorable weather conditions during early spring, Martin County farmers have caught up with their work and farm activities are going forward rapidly now, possibly a little ahead of a normal schedule.

Tobacco transplanting, while breaking no new early season records, is getting under way on a small scale with the possibility that it will be in full swing by the middle or latter part of next week. Several farmers stated this week that they planned to complete the transplanting task by the middle of next week.

Farmer Toba Bowen launched the transplanting season last Monday but several others have since started the task. Farmer Simon Beach started transplanting the first of twenty acres of the J. S. Ayers Estate farm in Hamilton Township yesterday afternoon. A few other farmers, finding their plants too large to hold until next week, are transplanting them to the fields in scattered parts of the county. It is estimated that seventy-five percent of the farmers are preparing their land for tobacco, making ready to start transplanting operations next week. With a few exceptions just about all the seed beds were sown during the same week last winter and most of the plants will be ready for the fields about the same time.

Blue mold is present in nearly every section of the county, but so far it has damaged the plants very little, as a whole.

The corn crop is off to a good start, the farmers reporting excellent stands. Quite a few farmers have already cultivated the crop a first time. Some cotton has been planted and preparations are being made for planting a large peanut crop, but the goober plantings will be assigned a position secondary to tobacco transplanting.

With some observers predicting 50-cent tobacco and with a support price for peanuts, Martin County farmers are looking forward to a good year.

Fifty Cases On Court's Docket

Right at fifty cases are being placed on the docket for trial in Judge J. Calvin Smith's county court next Monday. Up until noon yesterday forty-three cases had been calendared, and several more were moving out of the justices of the peace courts.

Twenty-two of the defendants are facing the court on speeding charges. Possibly half or more of the speeding charges are pending against out-of-state drivers, many of whom are likely to forfeit their bonds rather than return long distances for trial. Five are charged with drunken driving, four with operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses. Three are booked for assaults, and two for bastardy. Two are charged with non-support, one with peeping into a bedroom window, and another one with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

One is charged with abandoning his crop, one with issuing a worthless check and still another with operating a picolo without a license and maintaining a public nuisance.

If all the defendants plead guilty or are found guilty, the court is likely to break the income record for a single session.

Buy Business From A. W. Hardison Here

Reconsidering announced plans to locate in Franklin, Va., when they could find no living quarters, Mr. and Mrs. John Wier this week purchased the filling station and lunch counter operated for several months by A. W. Hardison next to the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here. The new owners plan to take over and remodel the building soon after May 1.

Workers Vote 77 To 11 For AFL Union In Plant Here

Participating in an election conducted last Tuesday by the National Labor Relations Board, workers at the Marvil Package Company plant here voted 77 to 11 for a union, according to unofficial reports. The action, coming as a surprise move on the part of union organizers, followed a miserable and costly attempt to organize the old plant of the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company late last summer.

The election, featured by fantastic publicity from the air, was peaceful and without incident, and climaxed organization work handled by Louis Price, union representative of Plymouth, during recent weeks. During or just prior to the election, one report stated, an airplane dropped slips of paper, urging the workers to vote "Yes."

Up until early today no official announcement had been made either by the union or the company. It was learned that contract terms will be negotiated within a short time.

The union at the local plant is a unit of the American Federation of Labor and is affiliated with the Sulphate pulp and paper division, one report said.

Unions have organized two other local plants since early last fall, but one report states there is some doubt if the workers will support the union in one of the plants when the present contract is terminated.

Organizers Thomason and Crawford who were stationed here for several months apparently were withdrawn after the strike at the old basket factory failed.

Judge Throws Aside Second Jury Verdict

Court Ends Term After Disposing Of a Few Cases

Says Value of Betterments Allowed By Jurymen Is Too Great

Up until last week Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn had never in his twelve years on the bench set aside a jury verdict. He slapped the jury in the face after it had rendered the plaintiff a judgment in the sum of \$2,350 in the case of R. B. Speller against Dr. Edward L. Early, and he directed another slap Tuesday afternoon when he set aside a jury verdict in the case of V. G. Taylor, petitioner, against Thurston Davenport. Once he broke the precedent, the jurist wasn't long in repeating the act.

Back in 1941 the petitioner bought a piece of land in Everetts, and it later developed that the deed was void. During the meantime, the petitioner, acting in good faith, made improvements to the property. The ownership of the land no longer in dispute, the petitioner asked that he be allowed the value of the betterments and improvements. The jury allowed the petitioner \$7,500. Monday afternoon Judge Burgwyn inspected the property, announced that the allowance was too much and set the verdict aside. It was reported that the jurist recommended that the petitioner pay Davenport \$750 for the land. It could not be learned what action will be taken, whether the case will be carried into court again or whether a settlement can be effected by the litigants.

Characteristic of many of the court terms, comparatively few cases were tried during the abbreviated term ending last Tuesday afternoon. Only six cases were handled by the jury and one-third of the jury's decisions were rendered useless when the judge set the verdicts aside. To speed up the proceedings, the court ordered enough jurymen to carry on while one jury was deliberating. The speed-up plan fell through when several of the big damage suits were continued.

Other proceedings not previously reported follow: R. A. Critcher was given a judgment in the sum of \$578 with six percent interest from February 1, 1947, against the Southern Butane Gas Corporation, the plaintiff alleging that a certain guarantee was not sustained by the defendant corporation.

In the case of W. A. Perry against Bruce Whitehurst, the court appointed Chas. H. Manning referee to hear the evidence on May 13, 1948, and report his findings to the court. Each of the litigants was required to post \$50 for expenses.

After the jury heard all the evidence in the landlord-tenant case brought by Louis Brown

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To Inspect All Motor Vehicles Under New Laws

Trailers, Motorcycles, Motor Bikes and Scooters Are To Be Inspected

The Motor Vehicles Department has announced that the new inspection law requires that trailers, motorcycles, scooters, and motorbikes be inspected along with all automobiles and trucks in the State.

Arthur T. Moore, Chief of the Mechanical Inspection Division, said that since the law requires that these vehicles be registered, it also requires that they be inspected for safe mechanical condition.

There is a provision, however, that farm trailers of less than 2,500 pounds gross weight will be inspected free of charge. A metal inspection tab will be placed on the trailers, which will be inspected on the following points:

1. Wheels for alignment.
2. Tongue to see that it is securely fastened to the bed of the trailer.
3. Trailer hitch to see that it is sufficient to keep the trailer attached to the towing vehicle.
4. Axle to see that it is not bent and is securely fastened to the bed of the trailer.
5. Bed to see that it is of substantial construction.
6. License plates to make sure they are securely fastened.
7. Reflex-reflectors, to see there are two 4 inch ones as required by law and that they are properly placed (in lieu of tail lights formerly required by law).

As for motorcycles, motorscooters, motorbikes and other small power-driven vehicles, there will be the usual \$1.00 inspection fee. A metal tab will also be used for grading them, and this seal will be placed on the frame to the rear of the saddle post in a protected visible area, Moore said.

These vehicles will be checked on these points:

1. Headlight to see it meets the requirements, and that vehicle does not have more than one spotlight, as is the maximum allowed by law.
2. Brakes to see that they are sufficient to stop the vehicle.
3. Tires to see they are in condition for safe operation.
4. Other lights to see they are in working order, and that general condition of vehicle is satisfactory.

Moore said that since the inspection law is effective (Continued on page eight)

PROGRESSING

Construction work on Williamston's new \$75,000 theater is progressing rapidly, and it is expected that the movie house will be made ready for its formal opening in late June or early July.

Named "Viecar" after the owner's two young sons, Victor and Carlyle Brown, the theater has an impressive front of suede green builder's glass, and the latest type marquee. The exterior construction is just about complete and the plasterers are finishing their work this week.

Germans Fleeing Back and Forth Across Borders

False Rumors Rather Than Actual Facts Cause For Turmoil

Many panicky Germans, confused by Allied-Soviet tension and fantastic rumors, fled back and forth across the Russo-British zonal border recently. They said they didn't know which way to turn.

Refugees from the Russian border area of Germany fled to the British zone. Those from British-occupied territory fled to the Russian zone. Some crossed the border, looked around and then went back where they had started from.

The Germans were jittery because of a wave of false rumors. Some sought refuge from a coming "flying saucer" attack. Others wanted to hurry across Germany to board sea-going rafts, which they heard were being constructed to carry Germans to other countries.

The woods near British-controlled Helmstedt, 10 miles east of the Soviet control point of Marienborn, were dotted with camps of hundreds of refugee Germans fleeing in both directions.

Each camping party usually consisted of one or two families huddled around a log fire. Their household possessions were piled around them as they slept in the open.

One man, an agricultural worker from British-occupied Brunswick, was taking his wife, two children and bundles of clothing to his wife's family in Magdeburg, in the Soviet zone.

"But I expect we will be back in a few days, bringing my wife's family with us," he said.

Company Sergeant Major E. C. Glade, of the Exeter detachment, was in command of a border military police post where Germans were checked as they crossed. He said thousands of persons had passed his post in the past few days.

There has been little or no interference with German travelers by Soviet frontier guards as long as they have presented the proper inter-zonal passes.

Mayor R. E. Cowen Hears Six Cases

Mayor Robert Cowen, pinch hitting for Justice John L. Hassell who continues in a Washington hospital for treatment, heard six cases in his court last Tuesday evening when alleged drunks were paraded before him.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the cases charging Robert Martin and Chas. Ben Roberson with public drunkenness. Joe Mabry, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

The court found itself just about helpless to act and dismissed the case charging Elmer Whitehurst with public drunkenness.

Luther Perkins was taxed with the cost in the case charging him with an assault.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jesse Rascoe was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100 for trial next Monday.

Firemen Are Called To Burning Electric Pole

Local volunteer firemen were called out for the second time in as many days yesterday afternoon when a burning trash pile fired an electric power line pole in the junk yard of the Williamston Parts and Metal Company.

The pole fire was extinguished by a small hose line, but a connection with the city water main was necessary to knock out the trash pile fire. Damage was not great.