

## Young Democrats Organize County Group Thursday

### Congressman Bonner And Solicitor Fountain Address Meeting Here

Answering a plea from the elder party members, young Democrats of Martin County perfected an organization of their group at a meeting held in the courthouse last Thursday evening and pledged themselves to the task of carrying Democracy's torch. Clarence Griffin, Williamston attorney, was elected president of the club. Mrs. H. H. Worsley of Oak City and LeRoy Harrison of Bear Grass were named vice presidents, and Nat Johnson of Oak City is the club's secretary and treasurer.

The newly elected officers met and named the following precinct committees:

Jamesville, Frosty Martin and Mrs. Cimille F. Rawls; Williams, Joe Lawrence Coltrain and Mrs. Sallie Taylor; Griffins, James Harrington and Mrs. Raymond Gurkin; Bear Grass, Ralph Mobley and Mrs. Velma Bailey; Williamston No. 1, W. B. Gaylord, and Mrs. James Bullock; Williamston No. 2, Edgar Gurganus and Mrs. W. I. Skinner; Cross Roads, George Taylor, Jr., and Mrs. Edith Ayers Martin; Robertsonville, Oscar Roberson and Mrs. Paul Roberson; Gold Point, Cecil Powell and Mrs. James Roberson; Hassell, P. C. Edmondson, Jr., and Mrs. E. R. Edmondson; Hamilton, H. S. Johnson, Jr., and Mrs. Clayton House; Goose Nest, Hassell Worsley and Miss Beatrice Turner.

En route home from a speaking engagement at the tri-county Negro fair in Ahoskie, Congressman Bonner, accompanied by his secretary, Henry Ogleby, addressed the small but interested group briefly. "I'll soon be your responsibility of carrying on your town, county, state and federal government, and I'm glad to see you take an interest in the problem," the congressman said, warning that young Democrats cannot take for granted that what has been going on for sixteen years will go on forever. Referring briefly to his reception at the Ahoskie fair, the representative urged the young men and women to work for race harmony, to solve the problem without outside interference.

"We quarrel in our primaries, but we unite in the election," the speaker said, declaring that negligence is costing many votes. "We must correct that condition, register and vote and help in the party's fight in the State and nation." Concluding, he said "hat a small vote in the election is a reflection on the state, that it has been ridiculed and belittled by the critics in high places.

Delivering the main address, George Fountain, solicitor and district attorney.

## Democrats Asking Funds In County

Their treasury penniless, Martin County Democrats are seeking to raise \$700 within the next ten days. Elbert S. Peel explained that the party was badly in need of funds, that President Truman was forced off the air in Philadelphia a few days ago because there were not sufficient funds to finance the entire broadcast. At the same time, the Republicans are speaking from morning until night. Even in this section of the State the Republicans have a year-long radio schedule with enough money apparently to finance it.

Representing nearly every section of the county, forty Democratic leaders in a meeting last Friday afternoon agreed to canvass their precincts and raise at least \$700.

The precincts were asked to raise the following amounts: Jamesville, \$50; Williams, \$25; Griffins, \$50; Bear Grass, \$50; Williamston 1 and 2, \$250; Cross Roads, \$50; Robertsonville and Gold Point, \$100; Poplar Point, \$25; Hamilton and Hassell, \$50; Goose Nest, \$50.

## Democrats Announce Plans For Campaign In Precincts

Meeting in the county courthouse last Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock as an anti-climax to Army Secretary Kenneth C. Royall's address, about forty Democrats mapped plans for carrying the Democratic Doctrine into various sections of the county prior to the November 2 election. No attempt will be made to canvass the individual precincts, but the campaign will be centered in three areas with a hearty invitation being extended all persons to attend one or all of the meetings.

Opening the campaign in a big way at Williamston's Peanut Festival, Army Secretary Royall will be followed on Wednesday of this week when the Honorable Cameron Morrison, former governor

and United States Senator, speaks in the county courthouse. The old war horse of the Democratic Party and one of its greatest supporters during the course of the past three-quarters of a century, Mr. Morrison will speak at 8:00 o'clock and Martin County people are planning to pack the courthouse for a jolly good time at a sure-nuff old-time political rally. Everybody is invited.

The next gun in the campaign battle on the home grounds will be fired by Congressman Herbert Bonner when he addresses the voters in the Oak City school auditorium next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock. The congressman will close the campaign in this county Friday, October 29, at 7:30 o'clock when he speaks in the Bear Grass School.

## Secretary Of Army Heard Here Friday

### 50-YEAR CLUB

The 50-year Martin County Political Club members will be given honor seats in the courtroom Wednesday evening of this week when Cam Morrison makes a democratic address at 8:00 o'clock.

A special invitation is being extended to all those Democrats who voted in the 1898 election to attend the meeting and celebrate the anniversary of the fall of Fustis-Republican rule in North Carolina. Friends and relatives of the old-timers are urged to help get them to the meeting.

## Hold Funeral For Clyde E. Mizelle Tomorrow at 3:00

### Young County Man Died While Serving His Country in Philippines

Funeral services will be conducted at the home in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Pfc. Clyde E. Mizelle, Martin County young man, who died while serving his country in the Philippines on July 26, 1945. Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, and Elder P. E. Getsinger of the Primitive Baptist Church, will conduct the service at the home and a detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will be in charge of the rites at the graveside. Burial will be in the Hardison Mill Cemetery.

The young man died following an operation, according to information received by relatives in the county.

The body today is en route home from Charlotte and is expected to reach here early this evening, accompanied by military escort. It will be carried immediately to the home of his mother, Mrs. James A. Roberson. The soldier was born in this county in 1917, the son of Mrs. Minnie Moore Mizelle Roberson and the late Joseph Mizelle of Jamesville Township. He entered the service in his early twenties and at the time of his death was serving with Company B, 863rd Engineers Aviation Battalion which saw much action in the Pacific theater during World War II.

## Recovering From Injury Received In His Eye

Tommy Wynne is recovering very rapidly from an eye injury received when he was struck in the eye by an acorn while attending school at Bear Grass last Tuesday. He was removed to a Durham hospital for treatment. When relatives went to visit him Saturday, they were advised he was attending a football game in Chapel Hill.

## Peanut Festival Most Successful Event Ever Held

### Three-Day Event Closed Last Saturday Night With Amateur Show

Despite a little confusion ordinarily expected the first time an event of such magnitude is undertaken, the three-day Williamston Peanut Festival last Thursday, Friday and Saturday was rated one of the most successful undertakings ever advanced here.

Promoted by the Williamston Boosters, Lynn Taylor, secretary, the festival attracted thousands of visitors to the town, and the program, highlighted by a mile-and-one-half-long parade, was enjoyed. The community's own home-grown crop of peanut clowns added merriment to the festival which had the support and cooperation of the public in general.

The first in the series of program events was held Thursday afternoon when the Marine Band from Cherry Point gave a splendid concert following a parade. The baby contest and parade the same afternoon attracted much attention and rightly so.

That night the double-unit dance—regular dancing at one end and square dancing at the other—on the Washington Street block between Main and Railroad Streets, attracted between 2,500 and 3,000 people Thursday night.

Friday was the big day when a parade was formed by Marshall "Blue" Manning and sent through the streets of the main business districts, and when Army Secretary Kenneth Royall spoke. The formation of the parade required just about every street on the south side of the town, and the front units almost over took the last floats as going around the loop from Williams Street, down Houghton to Washington Street and down Washington into Main and down Main to Watts where the parade continued to the starting points.

It was conservatively estimated that 4,000 people witnessed the baby parade and heard the Marine Band Thursday, and that ten thousand witnessed the parade Friday.

The Robersonville-Williamston football game, separate from the festival program, attracted 899 paid admissions that night.

Saturday, the Watts Theater was packed from 9 to 11 a. m. for the showings of a movie made in Williamston in 1934. At the amateur show Saturday night in the high school, the Gospel Singers, colored group of Williamston, and Jean Stevenson, black-face singer, of Williamston, tied for first place, \$10 prize going to the singers and a camera to the other contestant. Third prize, razor sets, went to the Piney Grove quartet. Leda Daye Manning and Marie Griffin and Dolly Wynne and Myrtle Nicholson tied for fourth place and each was given a permanent wave. The Godards—father and son—were sixth, winning a box of candy each.

Aided by members of the Highway Patrol, local police blocked and handled the large crowds and traffic in a masterly fashion.

## Need Vestments For Glee Clubs

Invited to participate in the State Music Festival at Greenville early next spring, Williamston's High School Glee Clubs will have to have vestments before they can accept the invitation. Mrs. Beecher Patterson, the director, states there are thirty members in the junior club and thirty in the senior club, that the vestments for the juniors will cost \$10 each and those for the seniors will cost \$15 each.

The clubs, presently without funds and sharing no place in the current band-recreation fund drive, are planning to appeal to the public on their own within the near future for approximately \$700. The director and the members of the two clubs are hopeful their plea for the badly needed funds will be well received when the canvass is made.

## First Annual Peanut Festival Rated Most Successful Event Of Its Kind Ever Held Here

### Friday Afternoon Parade Surpasses All Expectations

### One and One-half Mile Parade Thirty Minutes In Passing Given Point

After waiting forty-five minutes for the honor guest of the day to arrive, Williamston's first annual peanut festival parade, recognized as the greatest event of its kind ever seen here or in any other eastern Carolina town, started moving in all its splendor before a crowd conservatively estimated at ten thousand people.

Formed under the direction of Jim Manning in the streets to the south of the main business districts, the parade moved out of South Houghton into Washington, thence into Main and on down to Watts, turning there and continuing to points of origin. The parade, possessing not one single weak link, was thirty-five minutes passing a given point, clearing just in time for Army Secretary Kenneth C. Royall to go on the air with a political speech in the street at the corner of Main and Smithwick Streets.

The parade was not officially judged, the task of selecting the prize float having been left for the public to handle. There were eighty-four units in the parade, the floats and other features comparing with the best seen in any parade anywhere.

The festival spirit was injected during the waiting period by a group of home-grown peanut clowns who performed admirably and to the great delight of the crowds packing the sidewalks and street edges.

A running description which admittedly falls short in picturing the parade, follows:

Patrolman E. W. Parker, in a patrol car, spearheaded the one and one-half mile-long march, followed by a ten-unit motorcycle escort. A detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion was next, preceding a special car of dignitaries, including Army Secretary Royall, Congressman Herbert Bonner, Mayor Robt. Cowen, State Senator Chas. H. Jenkins and Former State Senator Elbert Peel. Town and county officials were next in line, followed by special guests and officials of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs.

The Williamston High School Band moved up next, executing exacting maneuvers in the main street and giving the march a real parade atmosphere.

The first of the attractive floats was prepared by the Roanoke Chevrolet and Williamston Motor Companies, bearing a large key of Welcome. A station wagon and a truck of the North Carolina Forest Fire Service followed.

Williamston Peanut Company's float, next in line, supported the underlying principal of the festival with seven little tots surrounded by peanuts on the vine and in various types of bags.

Griffin Motor Company entered four stock cars and another pick-up truck of the Forest Service followed.

The Williamston Boosters, festival sponsors, were well represented with a float, bearing the queen, Miss Katie Leggett, who stood in an arch doorway.

Blue Star Cleaners offered a moon-shaped float mounted on a motor scooter with a large blue star on each side.

The next float was that of Chas. H. Jenkins Company, displaying frozen food boxes with an attendant. The company also featured in the parade a 1924 Buick sedan, and the latest Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Buick and Pontiac models.

Western Auto had a tire display on a motorbike and small trailer. A 3-unit motorcycle escort followed.

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## Tobacco Sales Pass Nine Million-Pound Mark Here

Tobacco sales, rapidly drawing to a close, passed the nine million-pound mark here this morning, reports from the market indicating that little leaf is left to be sold in this immediate area. No definite closing date has been mentioned, but it is likely that sales will be brought to an end sometime next week.

Last year the market continued open until November 18, but the short crop is making for a different story this season. During the first 42 sales days of this year, the market had sold 8,984,016 pounds for \$4,354,373.73, an average of \$48.47 per hundred pounds. In the first 42 sales days last year the market sold 10,264,336 pounds, but

received only \$4,243,700.94 or an average of \$41.34. In other words, the growers patronizing the local market received \$110,672.79 more this year for 8,984,016 pounds than they received for 10,264,336 pounds last season.

Daily offerings have been dropping fast since Monday of last week. The season's low for any one day was reported yesterday when only 36,142 pounds were sold. Prices, while below the peak reported week before last, continue to hold above \$50.00 per hundred pounds.

It is expected the market operators will announce later this week when they plan to close their houses for the season.

## Band Concert And Baby Parade Open Festival Thursday

### Over Four Thousand Jam Streets To See Babies And Hear Band

Well over four thousand people crowded the streets in the main business districts for the opening of Williamston's first annual Peanut Festival last Thursday afternoon when the 2nd Marine Aircraft Band from Cherry Point appeared in concert and nearly 175 babies, white and colored, paraded up and down the streets. Traffic was blocked from Watts to Houghton on Main and from Main to Houghton on Washington Street. The crowd overflowed to second story store windows and to roofs along the parade route.

The Marine Band, numbering thirty pieces and under the direction of M/Sgt. Charles H. Lynch, paraded a short distance before locating in front of the Virginia Electric and Power Company building in the main street at 3:00 o'clock. The concert, broadcast for thirty minutes, was well received. The band was sent here by Major General Field Harris, commanding officer at the Marine Base.

The baby parade was of such size that it literally caught the promoters off guard. The judges were almost baffled, their task was so difficult, and while there was confusion, the crowd got a great kick out of seeing the little folks march while the Marine band played.

Little Jackie Leggett and Mary Emma Peel were chosen junior queens of the festival and Kenneth Manning was selected junior king. The Harris twins, Alton and Margaret Faye, of Bear Grass, won first prize in the twins' contest, second prize going to Barbara Sue and Brenda Lou Scaree of Hamilton, and third to Frances Arline and Robert Eugene Lilley of Williamston.

In the colored division, Rudena Bowser won the grand prize. In (Continued on page five)

## Body Of County Boy Due Thursday

Returned to this country a few days ago from a temporary United States Cemetery in France, the body of Metalsmith 3/c Onley S. Cowan, Jr., is due to reach here about 11:00 o'clock Thursday for burial Saturday afternoon, relatives were advised this week. The body is being shipped late Wednesday night from Philadelphia. The only son of Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Cowan, he made the supreme sacrifice for his country in the Mediterranean off the coast of Southern France on August 18, 1944.

## ROUND-UP

Eleven persons were rounded up and placed in the county jail last week-end, but local police pointed out that a single person was jailed during the big day of the festival.

Four of the eleven were charged with drunken driving, three with assault, and four with drunkenness.

Five of the eleven were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 25 to 48 years.

## Lassiter Funeral Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Dorcas Bennett Coburn Lassiter, respected citizen of Poplar Point, died at her home there last Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering with heart trouble for nearly forty years, she was stricken last Friday, dying a short time later.

The daughter of the late James Thomas Bennett and wife, Mary Ann Bennett, she was born in this county 80 years ago on December 15, 1868, and spent all her life in the Poplar Point section. In 1900 she was married to James Coburn and two daughters, Mrs. Irma Leggett of Hopewell and Mrs. Beulah Rawls of Robertsonville survive the union. Some years after Mr. Coburn's death she was married to William Lassiter who also preceded her in death.

She was a devoted and faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Spring Green for many years, was a good neighbor and friend. She was the sixth member of the church there to pass away this year. In the absence of her pastor, Elder A. B. Ayers of Bear Grass conducted the funeral service in the church at Spring Green Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Burial was in the church cemetery. The body lay in state at the Biggs Funeral home until a short time before the funeral service.

Surviving besides her two children are a brother, Joe Bennett of the home; two sisters, Mrs. Florence Edwards of Poplar Point, and Mrs. Lydia Pierce of Hopewell; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## Mother Of Local Man Dies In Kinston Hospital

Mrs. Isaac Baldree, of Ayden, mother of Mr. B. F. Baldree of Williamston, died in a Kinston hospital Monday evening following a short illness.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home in Ayden this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. G. H. Sullivan, assisted by Rev. W. H. Brunson. Interment will be in the Ayden Cemetery.

Besides her son here, Mrs. Baldree who was 77 years of age, is survived by two daughters, four sons and three brothers.

## Several Highway Wrecks Reported In Martin County

### At Least Six Persons Injured; Property Damage Is Close To \$1,000

Three motor vehicle accidents were reported on the highways and street of this county over the week-end, members of the State Highway Patrol stating that at least six persons were hurt, none seriously, and that the property damage would stand right at \$1,000.

The first in the series of accidents was reported at 7:00 o'clock last Friday evening at Council's store on N. C. Highway No. 11, not far from Hassell, by Patrolman D. E. Perry, S. G. Gibbs and B. W. Parker who made the investigation. According to Patrolman Perry, Lee Person backed his car from the store into the highway and had straightened the machine out to drive away when Aaron Council plowed into him with a 1938 Chevrolet. The report said that Council and Person were not hurt, but that T. C. Johnson, Charlie Little, Jr., and Jessie Bell Little, passengers in the Council car, suffered cuts and bruises on their faces. Others riding in the cars suffered minor bruises and shock. All were treated in a Bethel doctor's office.

Damage to the cars was estimated at \$600. Council was booked for drunken driving and Person was charged with careless and reckless driving.

Twenty-four hours later, almost to the minute, J. D. Holliday and William Brown, Jr., both of Williamston RFD 2, were painfully but believed not seriously hurt when a pick-up Ford truck and a 1939 Ford car crashed at the main street intersection in the town of Bear Grass. Holliday suffered a one-stitch gash in his head and was bruised on the shoulder and arm when he was thrown out of his truck. Riding in the back seat of his father's car, the Brown boy had his nose smashed but not broken and was cut on his lip. They were treated in Brown's hospital. Holliday was driving the pick-up which he had driven only thirty miles following its purchase new earlier in that day. Damage to the machines was estimated at about \$300 by Patrolman M. F. Powers.

Patrolman R. P. Naron with Patrolman B. W. Parker and J. T. Rowe was called to Raleigh Monday and no detailed report could be had on an accident taking place about 12:30 that morning on a Hamilton Street. The driver of an Oldsmobile was reported to have tried missing a dog in the street and lost control of his car which turned around and came to (Continued on page seven)

## Fund For Needy Children Grows

While the goal is still a long way off, the drive to raise \$2,500 in this county for needy, starving children in war-torn countries continues to go forward, the county treasurer, Mrs. N. C. Green, announcing yesterday that \$951.57 had been raised.

Since the last report was released, \$109.12 was added to the fund by the following:

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Williams, \$3; Harrison Oil Co., \$10; Mrs. J. G. Staton, \$50; Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Godwin, \$2; Mrs. Elbert S. Peel, \$10; Mrs. C. B. Clark, Sr., \$1; Mrs. J. D. Woolard, \$1; Mrs. J. C. Cooke, \$1; Mrs. P. H. Brown, \$1; Mrs. C. B. Clark, Jr., \$1; Mrs. D. R. Davis, \$1; Mrs. Bruce Wynne, \$1; Mrs. John W. Manning, \$1; J. S. Whitley, \$5; F. U. Barnes, \$5; Mrs. Herman Bowen, \$2; Mrs. W. C. Mercer, \$1; Mrs. P. B. Cone, \$1; First Methodist Church \$12.12.

## Firemen Called To Home On Center Street Here

Firemen were called to the home of Narvin Hawkins on Center Street here last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock when fire, starting from a defective flue, threatened the small building. Hawkins and neighbors had the fire out when firemen reached there.