

Peanut Market Most Ready To Open Here

Damaged Goobers Not Expected To Find Ready Bids

Government Support Price Expected To Prevail For Most of Crop

Williamston's peanut market, one of the largest in the country, is making ready to open the 1948-49 season, but only scattered activity on the market is anticipated during the next two weeks. One firm announced this week that it was ready to start receiving peanuts, but explained that only merchantable goobers would be considered. In other words, it is fairly apparent that peanuts picked too wet will not find ready bidders, and growers are urged to make certain that their peanuts are dry and in good shape. Damaged peanuts carry a penalty, and if the damage is too great bids are likely to be withheld.

The town's two large plants are all set and ready for operations, but the crop is hardly expected to start moving in sufficient volume to maintain steady operations before the early part of next month. Quite a few buyers are of the opinion that picking operations should be delayed another week or more except in extreme cases where the peanuts were dug early and were properly stacked.

Only a few bags of the current crop have been picked and no open market price has been mentioned. It is generally believed that the price scale will hold close to government support figures. The support prices are about 55 points or a little over one-half cent a pound higher than they were last season. An unofficial report stated that the first samples of the current crop graded 11.04 cents a pound. The samples, it was said, graded sixty-nine percent, meat and seventeen percent extra large with little or no damaged nuts in the lot.

The average base price based on 65 percent meat and fifteen percent extra large free of damage and foreign matter stands at 10.35 cents, a figure 55 cents per hundred pounds higher than the comparative price last year. The government support price ranges from 9.55 cents for offerings grading 60 percent meat and fifteen percent extra large, to 12.15 cents a pound for peanuts grading 70 percent meat and 55 percent extra large with an additional 16 cents per hundred pounds for each 1 percent meat content over 70 percent, plus a small premium for all extra large over 55 percent. Sixteen cents a hundred will be deducted from the base price for each one percent of meat content under 60 percent. Fifteen cents per hundred will be deducted for each full one percent of damage, and other similar penalties are stipulated in the government program for foreign material or matter.

The government will maintain a receiving station at the Carolina Warehouse here this season and it will be operated by Messrs. S. C. Griffin, Elmo Lilley and Leman Barnhill. It was also un-

(Continued on page six)

Suffers Broken Bones In Wreck

W. L. Hollis suffered a broken collar bone and a broken rib when his car went out of control in a curve on the Gold Point-Spring Green Road last Tuesday afternoon at 12:25 o'clock and turned over. His four-year-old son was not hurt.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman M. F. Powers said the 1942 Ford traveled 234 feet on the shoulder and plowed twelve feet into a corn field before turning over on its side. A passerby pulled the child from the wreck, but the driver was pinned there for a while. Damage to the car was estimated at \$250 by Patrolman Powers.

Fewer Divorces Reported In Nation Last Year

A report issued by the United States Public Health Service in Washington on September 8 said that the divorce rate and also the marriage rate had decreased sharply during 1947. The divorce and marriage rates were lower, however, only in comparison to the all-time highs set in 1946. Both remained well above prewar levels. The number of divorces in 1947 was estimated at 471,000, compared to 610,000 in 1946.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

October is maintaining its record as being a dangerous month for travel on highways and streets in this county. During the first seventeen days of October, 1947, there were 11 motor accidents. Through last Sunday there had been eleven in this month, and two have been added since that time. The record for the two years is running mighty close together.

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.

42nd Week					
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge	1948	4	6	0	\$ 2,000
1947	5	2	0	1,000	
Comparisons To Date					
1948	108	58	2	\$24,450	
1947	110	53	3	23,690	

Funeral Saturday At Home Here for M3-c O. S. Cowan

Lost His Life On Destroyer During Invasion Of Southern France

Funeral services will be conducted at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Cowan in West End Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Metcalf Smith 3/c Onley Shepard Cowan, Jr., who made the supreme sacrifice for his country on August 18, 1944, during the invasion of Southern France. Rev. N. J. Ward, assisted by Rev. J. Floyd Williams, former pastor of the Pentecostal Holiness Church here, will conduct the service at the home and a detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will officiate over the military rites at the grave side. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

The young Navy man was born near Williamston on June 7, 1924, and was graduated from the local high school with the class of 1940. He was one of three members of his class to lose their lives in World War II. His two classmates, making the supreme sacrifice, were Lt. James Willis Ward and Sgt. Jimmy Watts.

He volunteered for service while in his teens and was serving on a destroyer. He was on deck when his ship was bombed just off the coast of southern France. He was wounded and knocked overboard, and is believed to have drowned. His body, recovered and laid to temporary rest in France, moved out of the depot at Philadelphia late last night for the last homeward journey, reaching here this morning. It will lie in state at the Biggs Funeral Home until Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock when it will be transferred to his parents' home on the Slaughter House Road for the service that afternoon.

Woman's Club Has 20th Anniversary

The Williamston Woman's Club held its second meeting of the year Tuesday night, October 19, in the club room. Guests and members were greeted by Mrs. Ross Froneberger who gave them attractive book marks and door prize numbers.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Jr., and then turned over to the Reviewers Book Club who presented a pageant "Through the Years", written and directed by Mrs. R. H. Goodmon. This program was in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the chartering of the woman's club.

As they found their seats of honor, ten of the ex-presidents received a warm welcome and corsages from the Book Club and its president, Mrs. Reginald Simpson. The narrator, Mrs. H. Grimes, read the many services rendered by the club. The audience was interested in learning that the first club was organized through the instigation of Mrs. James G. Staton and incorporated in 1928.

(Continued on page five)

Judge J. C. Smith Hears Dozen Cases In County's Court

Impose Fines In Sum of \$250 During Short Session Last Monday

Judge J. Calvin Smith held the Martin County Recorder's Court in session only a short time in clearing the docket last Monday. Only twelve cases were heard, the court continuing several when it was pointed out that patrolmen, witnesses in those cases, had been ordered to Raleigh for patrol duty during President Harry Truman's visit to the capital city. Fines, amounting to \$350, were imposed by Judge Smith.

Proceedings: Charged with speeding, Floyd Baker, big league baseball player, pleaded guilty and the court suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs.

Adjudged guilty in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, C. S. VanLandingham was fined \$10 and required to pay the court costs.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken, careless and reckless driving, Dewey Davenport was sentenced to the roads for six months. The court suspended the judgment upon the payment of a \$125 fine and costs. The court recommended that the defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle be suspended for fifteen months.

The case charging Ben Edwards with larceny was not pressed or thrown out of court. Charged with larceny, Perlie Williams was adjudged not guilty.

Charged with maintaining a public nuisance in the operation of his place of business, James "Bud" Brown was adjudged guilty and drew ninety days on the roads. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and the costs. The suspension was allowed on the further condition that the defendant be convicted of no criminal law violation during the next twelve months.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, James B. Warren was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of a \$125 fine and the court costs. The court recommended that the defendant's driver's license be revoked for fifteen months.

Charlie Moore, colored, was sentenced to the roads for ninety days for violating the liquor laws. The road term was lifted upon the payment of a \$25 fine and the costs. The defendant is not to be convicted of any criminal law violation for one year.

Samuel S. White was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost for speeding. Pleading not guilty, Richard Jones was adjudged not guilty of simple assault.

Robert Louis Amon, pleading

Wreck Distillery In Martin County

Raiding in Griffins Township along the Beaufort County boundary last Monday, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked an illicit liquor distillery last Monday and captured a 40-gallon capacity copper kettle. The owners had moved away part of the equipment, leaving only the still, a doubler and cooler and one fermenter.

The plant was the second one wrecked so far in this county by the officers.

While no new poundage record has been established this season, the market has actually sold this season more tobacco in proportion to the size of the crops for the two years than it did in 1947. The price average set no new record either, but it is about seven cents a pound higher than it was last year, and about two cents a pound

Registration For Election November 2 Ends Saturday

Registration for the general election on Tuesday, November 2, ends on Saturday of this week, reports stating that comparatively few new names have been added to the books so far. However, a fairly large registration is anticipated on the last registration day, reports stating that a goodly number of potential voters had inquired about the registration this week with the aim of getting their names on the books.

Complete and accurate reports could not be had on the registration handled the first two Saturdays, but Jamesville, Williamston 1 and 2 and Hamilton reported that nearly 100 names had been added. Unofficial reports from the other precincts indicate that

the registration has been small in those districts. As far as it could be learned every registrant entering his name on the books for the first time declared his affiliation with the Democratic Party and had his name entered in the Democratic primary registration book as well as in the general election registration books. The names of several colored citizens were added to the lists in both the general election and Democratic primary registration books.

It is now apparent that Martin County voters are taking more interest in the approaching election, and it is fairly certain that the county will record a fairly sizable vote, and that most of it will be for a straight Democratic ticket.

Justices Of Peace Hear Eleven Cases In Past Few Days

Third Of The Cases Are Sent To Higher Courts For Trial Next Week

Justices John L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson handled eleven cases in their courts here during the past few days. Reports indicate that the business of the courts has shifted from the criminal to the civil side, that quite a few claim and delivery papers are now before the courts.

Labor liens are pending in eighteen cases against Lester Keyes, Jamesville Township farmer, who allegedly employed that many workers in Williamston to help dig peanuts. The group worked half a day and claimed that Keyes promised to pay them when he came to Williamston.

Justice Hassell handled the following cases: Jefro McQuarin and Eva Bell Everett, charged with the possession and sale of illicit liquor, were

Local Tobacco Market Will Close Season October 27th

Williamston's tobacco market will close one of its most successful seasons next Wednesday, October 27, it was announced yesterday. It is understood that quite a few markets plan to close about that time. Sales have dwindled rapidly during the past week, and it is believed that all farmers will be able to finish their marketing by next Wednesday. Sales will be held the last day on Wednesday with all companies represented.

Under the 1946 figure. The market, it is conservatively estimated, will pay within about one-half million dollars for a little over nine million pounds of which it paid for a little over twelve million pounds last year. If prices had been maintained at or about the opening-day figure, the growers would have received just about as much for nine million pounds this year as they received for twelve million pounds last season.

Up until this morning, the market had sold 9,058,144 pounds for \$4,392,016.73, an average slightly under \$49.00 per hundred pounds. According to an official announcement this morning by Z. Hardy Rose, supervisor of sales on the Robersonville tobacco market, the Robersonville warehouses will close next Friday, October 29th.

Home Damaged By Fire on Wednesday

Starting apparently from a defective chimney, fire and smoke did considerable damage to the home of Mrs. Nick Griffin on Biggs Street shortly after 9:00 o'clock yesterday morning. The fire burned through the wall next to the chimney and was spreading in the attic when firemen reached there. The house was filled with smoke which poured from the attic ventilators in volume. Firemen, thinking the roof was almost burned in, hooked a large hose to a hydrant and managed to knock out most of the fire when they went into the living room and poured water around the chimney.

Several pieces of furniture were broken and considerable damage, possibly approximating \$750, was done by water and smoke.

Father Of Local Resident Passes

Funeral services were conducted last Monday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in the First Methodist Church, Washington, for Mr. Hiram Anthony Swindell, Sr., 68, who died in a hospital there Sunday afternoon after an illness of six days. His pastor, Rev. C. Freeman Heath and Rev. M. Elmore Turner conducted the service and burial was in Washington's Oakdale Cemetery.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Marion Cobb and Mrs. George Whitehurst, both of Williamston, Mrs. Fred Poore of Washington, Mrs. J. C. Harris of Durham and Mrs. Jack Benton of Washington, and one son, H. A. Swindell, Jr., of Washington; one brother, J. M. Swindell of Henderson; two sisters, Mrs. B. T. Bonner of Aurora and Mrs. Clement Credle of Oxford.

Organize Ruritan Club In County

Meeting in Bear Grass Tuesday night of this week, thirty-eight leading citizens of the community organized the county's third Ruritan club and perfected the organization with the election of officers. Similar clubs are functioning in Jamesville and Oak City where much good work is being sponsored and handled by the Ruritans.

The officers of the newly organized Bear Grass Club are, Leon Rogers, president; E. C. Harrison, vice president; H. V. Parker, Jr., secretary; LeRoy Harrison, treasurer; W. M. Harrison, three-year director; M. S. Cowin, two-year director; H. U. Peel, one-year director; Ralph Mobley, sergeant at arms; Sidney Beacham, chaplain. Mr. Noel Lee of the Pactus Club was in charge of the program and he introduced Mr. Elgin White of Elizabeth City, the District Ruritan Governor.

Dinner was served the group by the Presbyterian Woman's Auxiliary. Regular meetings will be held each first Friday night.

Propose Increase In North Carolina Legislators' Pay

Voters To Decide On Issue In General Election To Be Held November 2

By Albert Coates
Director, Institute of Government

For fixing salaries of members of the General Assembly at twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) and presiding officers at fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) and fixing salaries for extra sessions at two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) and three hundred dollars (\$300) respectively.

Against fixing salaries as outlined above.

Article II, Section 28 of the North Carolina constitution allows members of the general assembly a salary of \$600 each for a regular session every two years, and \$8 per day for extra sessions—not exceeding twenty days. It allows the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor—presiding officers of the House and Senate, a salary of \$700 each for regular sessions and \$10 per day for extra sessions—not exceeding twenty days.

On Tuesday, November 2, the people of North Carolina will vote for or against an amendment to the constitution allowing members of the General Assembly a salary of \$1,200 each for a regular session of sixty days and a salary of \$250 for extra sessions; allowing the speaker and the lieutenant governor—presiding officers of the house and senate a salary of \$1,500 each for regular sessions and \$300 for extra sessions.

The present pay scale was voted by the people in 1928, changing the pay scale in force since 1875—\$4 per day for members and \$6 per day for presiding officers for sessions of sixty days, with like pay for as many as twenty days in extra sessions, and ten cents a mile for one round trip between home and capitol. The rise in living costs during the past twenty years has practically doubled, and the proposed increase in pay will leave legislators in 1949 in little if any better situation than legislators in 1929.

Most if not all people will agree that the pay of legislators should not be high enough to induce candidates to run on the profit motive. The pay increase proposed will leave most if not all legislators facing the question their predecessors have faced before them—not how much money they will make, but how much money will they lose in paying for room, board, laundry, tips and other incidental living expenses; in paying for stationery and postage, telephone calls and telegrams in the course of dealings with constituents; for regularly recurring trips home on week-ends to consult with their constituents, keep in touch with their families, and give a lick and promise to the business they left behind them.

Present and proposed pay is

(Continued on page five)

Cam Morrison Makes Strong Party Speech

Big Crowd Hears Former Governor Here Last Night

Pleads for Straight Party Vote In Election On November 2

In an eloquent address, coming direct from the heart, Cameron Morrison, former governor and United States Senator, last night in the county courthouse pleaded with a crowd of several hundred to support the Democratic ticket all the way in the November 2 election. Past his seventy-ninth birthday, the party's noble leader from knee-pants days right on down through the years ably reviewed the work of the Democratic Party and solemnly warned against the Republicans, his vigor, earnestness and eloquence running true to old form.

Introduced by District Elector-nominee Hugh G. Horton, Mr. Morrison opened strong and warmed up as he briefly reviewed the record of his party and went on for a short hour to warn against the glowing promises of the Republicans. "The Democratic Party is the only party that has done anything about government for a long time in North Carolina. The Republican Party has done nothing for fifty years, and what they did before that they are now ashamed of," the old party war horse and leader declared. "I challenge any student of history to find any state that has shared more than North Carolina has shared under the Democratic Party in the past fifty years," he said. "No where has there been a finer, cleaner, wiser and nobler government than that under Aycock, Glenn, Kitchin, Craig and on down the line," he added.

Virtually overlooking the Dixiecrats and Wallaceites, the speaker admitted that during past years "we have during that time had trouble in Washington, but the people always endorsed the Democratic Party in North Carolina." "We have a democratic platform in North Carolina and all party candidates stand on that platform and in that stand they are better able to fight in Washington for what we need and want back home. The President can only make recommendations, but it will be Broughton, Bonner and the others who will vote, and they will do a good job of it," he assured the crowd.

"There's no need to get out of the Democratic Party. If we 'bust' it up in North Carolina the State will go for Dewey next Thurmond," Morrison said, warming up to the main issues in the heart of the national campaign. "Truman believes in most of the principles embodied in the North Carolina platform, but Dewey, he believes in nothing.

"I'm just over 79 and I never agreed with everything a candidate believed in except possibly in what Wilson and Roosevelt believed in, but it is better to vote

(Continued on page six)

Harvest

Leo Roberson, Williamston Township farmer, opened the season for the 1948 peanut harvest on Tuesday of this week. He had picked one bag of the goobers last Saturday to test his picker, and while he did not open the season in earnest on Tuesday of this week he did pick fifteen more bags.

Quite a few pickers were placed in operation yesterday in the county and a few peanuts are beginning to move to market.

No official report could be had, but it was stated that the first of the Roberson pickings graded about 69 percent meat and 17 percent extra large, placing the price, according to government support levels right at \$11.04 for the sample.

Memories of old ballot box battles were appealingly revived in this county last evening when fifteen staunch Democrats met in the courthouse and occupied seats of honor to hear a gallant contemporary, the Honorable Cameron Morrison of Charlotte, deliver an old-time, honest-to-goodness political speech.

Elbert S. Pacl, chairman of the Martin County Democratic Executive Committee, paid tribute to the group and had them recognized before the big crowd assembled there. Each of the fifteen was asked to stand and they were applauded.

Fifteen Present For Fifty-Year Election Reunion

Elbert Peel and Cameron Morrison Pay Tribute To The Old-Timers

Mr. Morrison, opening his speech, recognized the old-timers but explained that for emotional reasons he would address them directly near the close.

His appeal for support of the straight Democratic ticket sounded, Mr. Morrison said, "Martin County has offered leadership in battle, legislation, citizenship and politics, and I wish we had R. J. Peel, Colonel Wilson G. Lamb and Harry W. Stubbs here to recall the trials and tribulations experienced in rallying the people behind the Democratic Party. God forbid that the people of this State shall forget the degradation practiced on the people by the Republican Party."

Comparing present conditions with those back yonder, Mr. Morrison said that the red flag of sectionalism is being waved again. "I don't think much of Truman, but he has got more Democracy in him than any Republican in the United States, and he'll stand up for Democracy. Let us remember that all the friends we have in the North are in the Democratic Party, that the Republicans will not do one thing for the South."

Speaking directly to the little group of fifteen members of the Fifty-Year Election Club, the party leader said that because of their efforts back yonder in 1898 and in the years that followed, North Carolina is the fairest State in the Union, that its beauty stands out in bold relief in the waters of the east and in the mountains of the west with a happy people in between.

Mr. Morrison's address was well

(Continued on Page Five)

Ask For Higher Telephone Rates

The Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company is filing a petition with the North Carolina Utilities Commission, seeking an increase in its rural telephone rates.

Asking an increase of 75 cents for rural residential and \$1 for rural business telephones, the company will plead its case before the commission in Raleigh at 10:00 a. m. on November 5, it was announced.

At the present time the company is charging \$1.75 for rural telephones within six miles of towns and \$2.25 for residential telephones eleven miles from town.

The offices in this county have an unusually large rural subscriber list.

Suffers Broken Arm While Cranking Motor

Leslie Roberson suffered a bad fracture of the right wrist while cranking a large motor at the Roberson Slaughter House early this week. Both bones were broken, one report stated, and the accident victim has been in much pain.