

County Board Delays Revaluation Action

Uncertain About Conditions, Board Inclined To Wait

Monday Meeting Heard Several Delegations For Road Improvements

Discussing the problem and admitting that conditions in an election year are a bit uncertain, the Martin County Commissioners in session Monday delayed calling for a revaluation of all properties for taxation next year. The board members are inclined to review any apparent inequalities and compromise with an equalization program rather than undertake a complete revaluation of all real properties. No definite action will be taken on the matter until the first Monday in December, it was learned.

"We don't want to go ahead and revalue property and then have conditions change so drastically that the new values will be more out of line than the ones now on the books," one official was quoted as saying.

The board was in session until 1:00 o'clock studying the revaluation problem, hearing reports from the various county departments and appeals from road delegations. Several errors found in tax listings for 1948 were corrected.

A contract for the installation of a septic tank and lines for the but \$2,917.17 of \$207,294.03 levied Plumbing Company for \$780. The work is to be handled under the supervision of County Sanitarian W. B. Gaylord, Jr.

Robt. Nelson of Robersonville appeared before the board and asked that the widening of a road near Hassell be recommended. The road begins at the D. W. Etheridge homeplace near Hassell and runs westwardly via Johnson Heirs, Eubanks' farm, Mack Cherry, Rufus Chance and Nelson farm to Edgecombe County line, a distance of one and one-half miles.

A delegation, headed by Garland Forbes and armed with a thirty-eight signature petition, asked that the Bear Grass-Everetts Road or the old Bailey Road be widened via George Taylor, Jr., farm, Reuben Bailey and others to A. P. Barnhill farm, a distance of one and three-quarters miles. The road, serving a school bus and mail delivery service, is little wider than a washed water ridge.

Jamesville Township citizens asked that the old Jamesville-Plymouth river road be improved, beginning one-quarter mile west of Highway 64 near Dardens and thence through Fagan Farm to old Fagan homeplace, serving four families.

The board was also asked to recommend the improvement of one and three-quarter miles of road leading off Highway 64 at No. 90 station to Frank Barber's.

Democratic Fund Nearing Its Goal

The Democratic Party's 1948 county fund is nearing its \$750 goal, and Elbert S. Peel, chairman of the county executive committee, is confident the goal will be reached before the voting is completed today.

Up until last Saturday a total of \$631.80 had been raised and reported in the county. Eight of the ten townships had reported.

Floyd Moore led the list when he submitted Williams' \$25 quota. Luther G. Leggett was second when he reported \$25.30 for Poplar Point. Williamston reported \$200.50. Buck Ayers reported \$38 for Cross Roads. Goose Nest raised and reported \$50 early in the week. J. R. Winslow reported \$145.50 for Robersonville-Gold Point. George C. Griffin raised and reported \$52 for Griffins. Bear Grass raised its \$50 quota last Friday, leaving Jamesville, Hassell and Hamilton to report.

LATE

It's better late than never, Farmer Joe Perry of Williams Township reasoned as he went about the task of digging the last three acres of his 1948 peanut crop. Farmers have completed the task late in the season in other years, but Farmer Perry is believed to have set a new record this year. Several other farmers only completed the task last week.

No definite report on the quality of the late crop could be had, but it is thought that the late goobers are better than those dug early this season. It could not be learned whether Farmer Perry used stack poles previously used by other farmers this season as was the case several years ago in the Bear Grass area.

Ten Vehicles Are Involved In Four Road Accidents

One Victim Suffers Broken Leg; Another Injuries To Arm - Shoulder

Two persons were hurt badly but possibly not seriously and several others were slightly bruised in a series of four accidents reported on the streets and highways in this county last Saturday and Sunday. Property damage was reported in excess of \$500. No one was killed but the victims in several of the accidents narrowly escaped with their lives. Drunken driving figured in at least one of the accidents, patrolmen said.

Driving his 1935 Ford coupe north on Hamilton's main street last Saturday night, Artie Hardison, RFD 3, Williamston, started to pass a 1941 Ford sedan driven by Alfred Sylvester Craft of Oak City. Passing on the right, the Hardison Ford damaged the right fender on the Craft car and then struck Herman Everett's 1941 Plymouth which was parked. Damage to all three vehicles was estimated at \$185 by Patrolman R. P. Nannon and B. W. Parker who made the investigation. No one was hurt but Hardison was detained for alleged drunken driving. The Hardison car stopped when it pumped into a truck.

The accident was the second to occur almost in front of the Hamilton theater in two weeks. Jasper Ellis, driving while allegedly drunk, hit two parked cars, doing damage estimated at \$90.

Later Saturday night at 11:30 o'clock, Frank Moore, colored man of Hamilton, lost control of

(Continued on page eight)

Negro Painfully Shot At Hassell

Augustus Hopkins, 25-year-old colored man, was painfully but believed not seriously shot by Francis Thomas, also colored, at the Thomas home in Hassell last Saturday night about 11:00 o'clock. Thomas fired a load of gun shot into the man's leg. After receiving treatment in a Tarboro hospital, Hopkins was returned to his home Sunday.

Investigating the attack, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said that the two men had quarreled in a Hassell street, that Thomas went to his home. Hopkins followed him there and tried to break the door down with a piece of timber. After he failed to break the door down with the timber, Thomas wife went to the door and asked him to leave. He struck at her with a hoe, driving the blade into the door. Hopkins then ran into the yard to get a pole and Thomas brought his gun into play, firing the load of shot into the muscle of Hopkins' leg.

No arrests were made, but warrants, charging assaults, are being drawn against both men.

Forming The Big Peanut Festival Baby Parade



Pictured above are Little Misses Judy Bullock and Mary Emma Peel, Master Ben Courtney and Misses Mary Bess and Roberta Elliott and Master Jos. Griffin as they took their places in the Peanut Festival baby parade held here on October 14. It was no little task to form the parade, but the big job confronted the judges when they picked the winners.

Two Badly Hurt In Series Of Accidents

Ten Injured When Truck Turns Over On Fill Near Here

Red Cross Moves In To Care For Migrant Workers In Accident

Ten persons were injured, three of them critically, when a truck carrying them and fifteen other migrant workers to their homes in Florida turned over on the Roanoke River fill about one-half mile from Williamston's town limits yesterday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock.

James White suffered a broken neck and other injuries and according to last reports received from the local hospital indicated that the chance for recovery was slight. His wife, Mary White, suffered a broken pelvis and hip injuries, and their daughter, Josephine, 10, was hurt internally. Annie Mae Bankton received a dangerous head injury. Other victims of the accident, most of them treated in the hospital here, were discharged after receiving treatment here and in Windsor. The injuries received by the others were principally shock, bruises and abrasions.

While ten were being hospitalized at least four were placed in the Bertie County jail for public drunkenness. The driver of the truck, Milton Sturgis, 31, of Bell Glade, Fla., was jailed and booked for drunken and reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Completing their work in the potato and truck fields, the group of twenty-five, including one or two aged persons and four small babies, left New Jersey about three weeks ago in a ton and a half truck owned by C. Hudson, of Mt. Vernon, Maryland, and equipped with a wooden body with a canvas top.

Sturgis with three or four others was said to have liquored up in Windsor while the truck was stopped for repairs and he took the wheel from the regular driver. He had not driven very far when the sober ones in the group sensed danger, one of them

(Continued on page eight)

Escapes Attacker On County Road

Fighting off the advances of her suitor, J. D. Carr, young colored man, Sally Brown, 17-year-old colored girl of Robersonville ran and hid in the woods just off N. C. 125 a short distance out of Hamilton on the Williamston Road, and finding her way clear walked most if not all the way to her home, reaching there about midnight Sunday.

The girl left home that morning about 8:30 o'clock with Carr and they rode around Hamilton and other parts of the county until about 5:00 o'clock when he drove into the woods and attempted to assault the girl.

Carr did not worry over the turn of events there, one report stating that he returned to Robersonville and picked up another girl. The troubled parents of Sally Brown got in touch with Carr and threatened to call officers. He agreed to take them on the old roadster and search for the girl. He brought them to Williamston and after failing to find the girl, they reported him to officers about 9:00 o'clock. Carr said that the girl got out the car in Hamilton and said she was going to catch a taxi home. He was booked for drunken driving and denied bond. The parents, stranded here, finally made their way back to Robersonville, reaching there just ahead of their daughter.

Mrs. Jack Parkhurst of Robersonville was painfully but not seriously hurt when the car in which she was riding crashed into a telephone pole on North Smithwick Street just off Main at the Sinclair Service Station about 1:00 o'clock this morning. Her chin badly cut and suffering

(Continued on page six)

Painfully Hurt In Local Wreck

Mrs. Jack Parkhurst of Robersonville was painfully but not seriously hurt when the car in which she was riding crashed into a telephone pole on North Smithwick Street just off Main at the Sinclair Service Station about 1:00 o'clock this morning. Her chin badly cut and suffering

Peanuts Start Moving To Market In Volume Locally

Delayed a few days on account of weather conditions and other factors, peanuts started to moving to the market here in fairly large volume the latter part of last week, incomplete reports indicating that approximately 25,000 bags were handled during the past four or five days.

Pickers were placed in operation in most sections of the county last week and the goobers started moving directly from the field to the market. Observers are of the opinion that there'll be few peanuts stored on the farms while the growers wait for an advantageous market. All seem to be ready to sell just as soon as the nuts are in the bag. Threatening weather today is likely to delay picking operations, resulting in little activity on the market for a few days, at least.

As far as it could be learned the open market is adhering closely to government support prices with few peanuts being offered to government warehouses anywhere in the belt. An unofficial report heard late yesterday indicated that the market was averaging right at 11 cents or possibly a fraction over.

Reports received after the goobers were placed in the bag substantiate earlier reports which stated that the crop was spotted. Some farmers are picking as few as eight and ten bags per acre while the yield in some areas is over twenty bags per acre. It is fairly certain that if weather conditions are at all favorable from now until the harvest is completed, the farmers of this county will market the best crop of peanuts in several seasons.

VOTING

Early developments at the election polls in this county pointed to an unusually large vote. More than three hundred had cast their ballots at the two local boxes in the first two hours after the polls were opened at 6:30 o'clock. The ballots were accumulating so fast at the No. 2 precinct that a rush order for another box was placed.

Over in Williams, one of the smallest precincts in the county, reported twenty ballots cast in the first hour. If the trend is maintained until closing time at 6:30 this evening, the county will have cast well over 4,000 votes with most of them going into the Democratic column.

Preliminary reports from the nation also point to a large vote.

Reports On Rat Control Program Now In Progress

Sixteen Percent of Rodents Examined Found With Typhus Germ

By W. B. GAYLORD
County Sanitarian

During the week of September 21, 1948, the North Carolina State Board of Health cooperating with the Martin County Health Dept. carried on a rodent examination covering bleeding and combing. At that time there were fifty-four rats examined. Laboratory reports showed that there were 16 percent of the rats that showed a positive fixation test, which meant that they had the typhus germ at the present time or had had it in the past. The ectoparasites, which are the fleas, the examination showed that there were 20.4 fleas per rat, which are the typhus transmitters.

The town of Williamston is carrying on a rat eradication program in cooperation with the State Board of Health and the County Health Dept.

Rats must have four things in order to live, air, water, food, and shelter, and they thrive most where these elements are easily obtained. Females breed at the age of three months and the gestation period is about twenty

(Continued on page three)

New Well Offers An Ample Water Supply

ROUND UP

Following two weeks of peace and quiet, quite a little storm broke loose on the crime front in the county last week-end. Patrolmen arrested thirteen persons, jailing four of them here. Other officers arrested about ten alleged law violators, jailing six of them.

Six of the ten placed in the county jail were white, the ages of the group ranging from 21 to 55 years. Five were charged with public drunkenness, three with drunken driving, one with breaking and entering and one was detained for skipping bond.

Man Charged With Robbery Of Store Here Early Sunday

Samuel Gorham Admits Breaking Into Red Front Grocery Early Sunday

Samuel Gorham, 35-year-old colored man, was arrested at his home on Wilson Street early Sunday morning and charged with breaking into and the larceny of several dollars in cash from the Red Front Grocery on Washington Street a few hours earlier. Gorham, allegedly involved in other thefts and robberies here in past years, denied the charge at first but when officers presented strong circumstantial evidence, he admitted the robbery.

Going to a side window, Gorham knocked out the top section (glass and sash) of a window and crawled into the store. He got \$6.54 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters out of the cash register, and apparently started out with a five-pound bag of sugar, but left it. The owner-operator, P. O. Holloman, said that he could not miss any thing other than the cash.

A tenant, occupying a room in the back of the store building, heard the intruder between 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock that morning but officers knew nothing of the robbery until they discovered the broken window about daybreak. Capt. Arthur Sessions was asked to bring his bloodhounds from the prison camp and the dogs picked up a track and followed it to the home of Dave Melton, several blocks away on Elm Street. Melton, asked if anyone had been to his home earlier that morning, stated that Gorham went there that he (Melton) chased the man away. Officer Chas. R. Moore went to the Gorham home on Wilson Street and found the man sleeping. Placed under arrest, Gorham was carried to the police station and questioned. Officers later searched the home and found the stolen money, and when it was showed to him, Gorham admitted the crime.

He has been placed under bond in the sum of \$200 for his appearance in the superior court the second Monday in December. Gorham was unable to arrange bond immediately.

Add Few Dollars To Crusade Fund

The fund for hungry children in war stricken countries was boosted in this county by \$20 over the week-end, according to a report released yesterday by Mrs. N. C. Green, treasurer. So far, \$1,135.32 has been raised and reported.

Donations not previously acknowledged, include the following:

Mrs. K. B. Crawford, 50c; Mrs. Marvin Britton, \$1; Titus Critcher, \$1; Mrs. Geo. H. Gurganus, \$1; Mrs. F. J. Margolis, \$7.50; Mrs. C. A. Harrison \$3; Harrison Shop, \$1; Mrs. Daisy W. Pope, \$1; Mrs. Bill Thrower, \$2; Mrs. Mamie G. Taylor, \$2.

Salt Content Is Lowest Found In The Water System

Completed Unit Will Cost Some Over Fourteen Thousand Dollars

Williamston's water supply problem is believed to have been solved, at last, a report from the regular meeting of the town commissioners last evening stating that a new well had been dug and tested, that the 437-foot well is pumping between 550 and 600 gallons per minute. "We are now certain of an adequate source, and all we need now is an adequate storage to guard against emergencies," one of the board members said.

The cost of drilling the well amounted to \$10,976.00, the engineer's fees boosting the amount by \$658.56. Bids for a pump and equipment are being asked, and it is hoped that the new well can be placed in production within a matter of a few weeks. The officials, recognizing the damage caused by the water if high salt content being drawn from some of the old wells, are anxious to shift to the new water source as soon as possible and Engineers Rivers and Rivers are rushing the details for the installation of the pump and equipment.

Geologists, making exhaustive tests after the well had been pumped for twenty-four hours straight, found that the salt content ranged below eighty parts in a million. The salt content of the water pumped from the well at the courthouse ranged upward to more than four hundred parts in a million.

Very little business was discussed at the meeting of the board last night other than to accept the well in accordance with the terms of the contract. The contractor dug a 450-foot well some months ago, but it did not come up to expectations and he filled it up with two carloads of fine rock at his own expense. He moved a few yards away and hit the "jack pot," so to speak.

The town attorney was instructed to draft an ordinance designed to check feeding places for rats. The taxi problem was mentioned and the board plans to meet with representatives of the taxi operators in an effort to formulate uniform operating regulations, parking and so on.

An order was issued, directing

(Continued on page six)

Struck By Train, Woman Improving

Struck by an A. C. L. Railroad freight train on the West Main Street trestle at 12:20 last Saturday afternoon, Mary D. James, 40-year-old colored woman, was reported recovering in the local hospital yesterday. No bones were broken, but she was said to have suffered painful abrasions and bruises on her face and hip.

Accompanied by Roscoe Marrow, she was walking toward the switch as the train approached from the rear. Apparently she failed to heed the warnings of section railroad workers who waved to her to get off the trestle and did not hear the engine whistle in time to get out of the way.

The engineer set his emergency brakes and skidded into the woman, knocking her off the track. Marrow climbed to safety on the trestle iron railing. The train stopped within three cars of the spot after striking the victim.

She was removed to the hospital in a Biggs ambulance.

Suffers Attack At Home In Bear Grass

In declining health for months, Elder B. S. Cowin suffered a slight heart attack last Friday and is now confined to his bed at his home in Bear Grass. The minister had almost recovered from a stroke suffered some months ago.