

Activity Review In The Assembly During Past Week

For Every Law Passed, Two More Were Proposed In The Period

The 1949 General Assembly shifted into high gear last week. If quantity of legislation acted upon is taken as the criterion, three steps were lost for every two gained because many more bills were introduced last week than in any previous period. If quality of legislation be the standard, real progress was in evidence, since many of the measures that prove to be perennial stumbling blocks were receiving decisive action: the Revenue Bill with committee amendments has reached the House floor, the State Personnel Bill has reached the floor of the Senate, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill has passed both houses, and both liquor referendum bills have received unfavorable committee reports.

Revenue Act Amendments

The Revenue Bill committee substitute which reached the floor of the House on Thursday bore little resemblance to the original. Gone were the provisions reducing the franchise tax on non-utility corporations from \$1.50 per \$1,000 of net worth to \$1.25 and those changing the sales tax on farm machinery to the wholesale rate of tax. Added were provisions giving municipalities 1-8 of the franchise tax on utility corporations attributable to the business done within a municipality; taxing co-ops on the same basis as corporations in respect to income not distributed or allocated to patrons; increasing the income tax deductions for dependents from \$200 to \$300, and allowing deductions for payments of alimony up to \$1,000; and exempting sales of fuel to farmers from the sales tax if the fuel is used for farm purposes.

Supplemental Appropriations

Flat 20 percent pay increases retroactive to October 1, 1948, were granted all State employees and teachers last week as the General Assembly passed SB 31, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill for the biennium 1947-1949. As introduced the bill had tied all increases to those which would be recommended for the biennium 1949-51, but a committee amendment inserted the automatic raise for the rest of the present biennium despite modification efforts in the Senate.

Personnel Bill

On Tuesday SB 51, the State Personnel Bill, came out of committee where it had been since January 19, with its face considerably lifted by amendments which the committee had recommended. If adopted the amendments would have the Personnel Director appointed by the Personnel Council rather than the Governor, require that two members of the Council be personnel specialists not in State employment, two from industry and two from the positions covered by the Act. Public job vacancies would be required, and a clear right of appeal from the Director's decisions would be provided.

Scissors

On Tuesday SB 199 and HB 560, identical bills setting out the Foundation program recommended by the State Education Commission, were introduced. This program calls for an 85 percent contribution by the State, and 15 percent by the counties to meet the cost of instructional service, current expense and capital outlay for the schools. The costs of

ALMOST

Williamston's schools have almost reached the 1,000 enrollment figure and Principal B. G. Stewart is almost certain the round figure will show up any day now. Yesterday, the enrollment figure stood at 999. The school man thought he had reached the figure last week when three new pupils came in, but since they checked out three days later they were not included

Red Cross Drive Nearly Half Complete In Chapter

The annual Red Cross Fund drive in the Martin County Chapter was announced almost half complete yesterday by Chairman Garland G. Woolard, who again predicted that the people in the five townships comprising the chapter would carry the drive over the top.

At the end of the first five days of the drive, \$1,157.10 had been collected and reported. It is conservatively estimated that several hundred dollars more have been collected and will be reported shortly, leaving about half of the territory yet to be canvassed.

Williams, going over the top the first day of the drive, exceeded its quota, Mrs. Joe L. Coltrain reporting \$64.

Bear Grass has raised \$173.10 of its quota. Williamston yesterday reported \$925 collected and turned in by the following canvassers, Mrs. Vella Wynne, \$15; Mrs. Helen

Roane, \$10; Gene Kimball, \$38; Mrs. John A. Manning, \$8.50; Mrs. Titus Critcher, \$38; Miss Elizabeth Manning, \$12; Mrs. C. D. Cavenaugh, \$5; Mrs. Lee Reynolds, \$62; Mrs. Vernon Bunting, \$42; John Hatton Gurganus, \$41.50; Mrs. J. W. Watts and Mrs. R. L. Coburn, \$50.50; Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Jr., \$35.25; Mrs. J. L. Harris, \$46; Mrs. Lerman Barnhill, \$59.75; C. D. Cavenaugh, \$15, and Reg Simpson, \$15.

Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, Griffins chairman, announced the following canvassers, Mesdames Virgil Lilley, Roland Lilley, Carlyle Stallings, Leon Earl Griffin, Kenneth Harrington, Fenner Hardison, Ben Roberson, Arthur Roberson and Raymond Gurkin, and said that the drive is well under way.

Mrs. Camille F. Rawls said yesterday that work on the canvass is progressing very well in Jamesville.

SURVEY

Although it is believed any dispute over boundary lines will have very little bearing in the case, defense counsel for John R. Coltrain, defendant in the Roberson murder case, last Saturday made a survey of the property near the spot where W. Tom Roberson, Griffins Township farmer, was fatally shot on January 26.

A civil engineer whose name could not be learned immediately came to the county from Greenville to make the survey. The findings have not been disclosed.

Sale Of Purebred Swine Held Last Friday in County

First Sale Very Successful; Breeders Plan Second Sale In Fall

The old Martin County fair grounds at Williamston took on an old-time fair atmosphere last Friday afternoon when more than 250 farmers attended the county's first purebred swine sale held there under the auspices of the newly organized Martin County Purebred Swine Breeders Association.

Buyers from several counties were in attendance and a surprisingly large number of Martin County farmers interested in better livestock, participated in the event.

The association, organized by and whose membership is limited to Martin County farmers, is planning to hold a second sale sometime during the early fall, it was learned.

Twenty-one purebred boars and gilts were offered for sale, and while no fabulous prices were recorded the sellers were said to have been well pleased and the buyers were impressed by the movement to make available better stock to the farmers in this section. With prices ranging from \$27.50 for a 12-week old boar to \$110.00 for a bred gilt, the sale of 21 purebred swine for \$1,157.10. Very little expense was attached to the sale, the owner of the fair grounds, D. M. Roberson, offering the property free. Jack Kelly, Extension Division swine specialist, and Harry Hamilton, auctioneer, offered their services without cost and greatly helped the association in making the sale a success.

The association, headed by Julian H. Fagan, veteran farmer of Jamesville, as president, and George Ayers, high school senior of Oak City, as secretary and treasurer, has about twenty members at this time. However, only six, J. H. Fagan and Howard Gardner of Jamesville; George Ayers, Jr., of Oak City; Jack Williamson, of Bear Grass; Bennie Ray Hopkins and R. W. Gardner, of Williamston, offered hogs for sale.

Most of the hogs will be kept in Martin County to promote a fair-

Move Department To New Building

Various departments moved into the recently completed high school unit on North Smithwick Street last Thursday, Principal B. G. Stewart explaining that a great deal of shifting followed the initial move.

The band and commercial department moved into the building last Thursday. The home economics department is in the process of moving and the science department will follow just as soon as equipment can be installed.

Miss Martha Whitehurst's sixth grade has moved into the grammar building to the high school. The home economics department had shared part of its quarters in the old high school building with Mrs. Ann Corey's eighth grade, making room for Miss Erna Benson's sixth grade. Mrs. Gene Kimball's third grade moved from the basement to Miss Whitehurst's room in the grammar building. A third grade was created and the new teacher, Mrs. Mary Bell Gaylord moved into the basement room vacated by Mrs. Kimball's third grade. The creation of the new grade and the addition of a new teacher earned almost a year ago reduced the teacher load.

Mrs. Matthews' Funeral Monday

Funeral services were conducted at the home near Robersonville Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Addie Harrison Matthews who died suddenly at her home there last Saturday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock. Elder A. B. Ayers and Rev. J. M. Perry officiated, and burial was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Mrs. Matthews was handling her household duties about 12:00 o'clock last Saturday when she suffered a heart attack, dying about an hour later or just after medical aid reached her. She had been troubled with high blood pressure for some time, but her condition was not regarded as serious.

The daughter of the late James and Mozella Coburn Harrison, she was born near Robersonville 58 years ago on September 6, 1890. Except for a few years spent in Scotland Neck and Wilson, she spent all her life on the family farm. She was married to J. Frank Matthews 41 years ago and had been a faithful member of the Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church for thirty years.

Surviving besides Mr. Matthews are a son, Thurman Matthews of Williamston; and two daughters, Miss Eunice Matthews of Baltimore, and Miss Ella Louise Matthews of Robersonville.

To Assist In Filing State Income Returns

E. Ross Fronberger, Deputy Collector for the State Department of Revenue will be in his office at the Martin County courthouse on Saturday of this week and Monday and Tuesday of next week from 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. to assist anyone in preparing their

County Board In Regular Session Monday Morning

Plans Are Made For Handling Dog Vaccinations Next Month

Meeting in regular session Monday morning, the Martin County Commissioners listened to a number of delegations appearing before the board in the interest of improved roads, made arrangements for having all dogs in the county vaccinated and drew jury members for the second week in March and the special term of superior court convening in April.

Dr. J. S. Rhodes, Sr., discussed with the board the importance of a mosquito control plan for the county, but no definite plan was advanced and no action was taken by the officials. The medical man explained that while vaccinations serve to check many diseases, the elimination of the mosquito can control malaria. The Federal government offered a plan some time ago, but the project was considered too costly and it was passed by at that time. The government proposed to furnish a truck and the spray if the county would furnish a pump spray and two men to handle the work under the supervision of health officials.

Following is the order passed by the board, calling for the vaccination of all dogs in the county next month:

"It is ordered that all dogs in Martin County be vaccinated against rabies during the month of April under the supervision of Dr. W. F. Coppage as provided by law, the county to pay 75 cents for each dog vaccinated. It is further ordered that a complete record shall be kept as to owner of dog and the township in which owner lives. A complete record is to be furnished to the tax supervisor and collector. It is further ordered that \$500 of such fees shall be withheld or so much thereof as may be necessary until ownership and collection of tax on dogs are reported and accounted for. It is further ordered that the tax collector shall accompany the person in charge of vaccinations for one or two days to instruct the clerk in keeping proper records of dogs vaccinated."

Tax Collector M. L. Peel reported that \$245,145.03 of the \$283,168.48 levy for 1948 had been collected, that all but \$7,021.75 of the 1947 levy had been paid, and that there was a balance of \$2,421.66 due on 1946 taxes.

The board reviewed departmental reports and other routine matters before adjourning at 2:00 o'clock. No time was taken out for lunch.

Funeral Sunday For Mrs. Wright

Funeral services were conducted at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Dennis D. Coburn, near Dardens, Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock for Mrs. Nora Gaylord Wright who died there last Friday. Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, and Rev. J. O. Long, pastor of the Plymouth Methodist Church, conducted the rites and interment was in the family cemetery near her old home in Jamesville Township.

Mrs. Wright was born in Jamesville Township 70 years ago, the daughter of the late William and Nannie Rogerson Gaylord. She had been in declining health for some time and had been confined to her bed for about five weeks. A member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Corinth for a number of years, she was a most thoughtful neighbor and a valuable friend. She found time to visit the sick and played the role of a real neighbor.

In 1898 she was married to W. J. Wright who died several years ago.

Besides her daughter with whom she had made her home recently, she is survived by a son, Surry Wright of Gerald, Missouri; a sister, Mrs. E. G. Waters of Jamesville; two brothers, E. H. Gaylord of Jamesville and W. H. Gaylord of Plymouth; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Review Of Local Legislation In General Assembly

Two of Five Measures Offered by Representative Corey Are Ratified

While only two of the five measures proposed by Representative A. Corey have been passed and ratified, the legislative program affecting Martin County more or less directly is nearing completion, according to a legislative review released this week by the Institute of Government.

The two measures that have been enacted into law deal with a hog cholera control program and the distribution of legal liquor store profits among all the incorporated towns in the county.

The law, dealing with hog cholera control or vaccinations, was ratified last Thursday. Passage of the measure had been pending since February 8. The act, in substance, allows others besides a veterinarian to vaccinate hogs against cholera.

The act dividing liquor store profits to the extent of 25 percent to all incorporated towns in the county was ratified last Friday. Heretofore, the four store towns received 20 percent of the net profits from the stores. The ratio was upped to 25 percent and all incorporated towns will share with the store towns holding a slight percentage advantage.

Representative Corey's first proposal to make it unlawful for one to curse or be drunk in public places not covered already by statute is still hanging fire, but its passage is fairly certain. Introduced on January 18, the proposed act would have made it unlawful for one to talk loudly or boisterously in public places along with a provision making disorderly conduct unlawful. The house committee reported the bill favorably on March 1 with a substitute eliminating loud and boisterous talking from the unlawful acts listed in the bill. The bill has passed the House and when it reached the Senate last Thursday it was sent to the committee on propositions and grievances, the same group that killed a proposal to refer the liquor question to a vote of the people.

The proposal to allow school districts with less than 1,000 pupils to vote a special school tax passed a third reading in the Senate last Friday and is now about ready for ratification.

A proposal to provide drainage districts in the county, after being favorably reported by a House committee, was re-referred to the finance committee last Friday. Its passage is expected.

There was some talk about offering a proposal to eliminate jury trials in the county court, but no action in that direction has been taken.

Recovering From Injury Received by Mule Kick

Kicked by a mule at his plant here the early part of last week, Mr. Henry Griffin, his condition much improved, was able to return home from a Washington hospital Sunday afternoon. Struck on the neck, Mr. Griffin did not think the injury was serious, but infection developed and he entered the hospital Thursday. He was given penicillin, and his following and he has now about scratched his way out of the whole difficulty.

SPECIAL SCHOOL

A special school, dealing with field crops such as tobacco, corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, soybeans and pastures, will be held for Martin County farmers and other interested citizens in the courthouse here during a greater part of tomorrow (Wednesday).

State College specialists and recognized authorities will address the school and offer the latest information dealing with crops and the challenge made by Virginia's governor to our own Governor to set new corn yields. The school opens at 9:30 a. m. and closes at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Outlines Tentative County Road Plans

Plan To Surface Twelve Miles Of Roads This Year

Highway Commissioner Evans And Engineer McKim Meet with Board

A tentative highway construction program was outlined by First District Commissioner Merril Evans and Engineer J. T. McKim at the regular meeting of the Martin County board of Commissioners this week, the commissioner explaining that the program is a minimum one and that an additional one-cent gas tax or the road bond issue could materially affect the program.

Highway Commissioner Evans, probably making his last official visit with the board as a member of the State Highway Commission, pointed out that the State was making plans for the 1949 road building program on the old basis, but he admitted that unless additional revenue is made available the road construction program will not be maintained as rapidly as it had been in the past three years.

The program as outlined by Commissioner Evans includes three main projects, but he added that possibly other minor ones could be handled. "The money for fiscal year ending June 30 has just about been spent, but we hope to start the three proposed projects and handle minor ones without much delay," the commissioner said. He explained that he and Division Engineer J. C. Parkin had recently made a personal survey of the narrow roads in this county, that widening projects would be handled as rapidly as possible. "Many roads have been widened already, but there are many others that need attention and need it badly," the commissioner admitted. In addition to the surfacing and widening program, other roads will be maintained and rocked where necessary, he assured the county board.

The proposed road surfacing program calls for 12.5 miles of road. Listed among the three main projects is the surfacing of the old Bear Grass Road from the Station farm to the Bear Grass colored school.

Surfacing on Route 171 from Jamesville to Washington would be extended about 3.3 miles, giving a hardsurface all the way from Jamesville to a point at or near Hardison's Mill and leaving an unpaved link in the route of about 7.7 miles from Hardison Mill to the Beaufort County line. The road has been paved from Jamesville to a point about 4 1/2 miles out.

The River Road or the road from Hamilton to the Halifax County line near Palmyra is to be completed under the program.

"We also hope to complete the Hassell Road near the junction with N. C. 125 close to Butler's store," the commissioner said.

The commissioner said that he was also including about four and one-half blocks of surfacing near the school to serve the school buses.

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Medical Society Met Wednesday

The Tri-County Medical Society held its regular meeting last Wednesday evening in the Plymouth County Club.

After a brief business session, presided over by the retiring president, Dr. Ernest Furgurson of Plymouth, new officers were elected for the new year, as follows: Dr. V. E. Brown of Williamston, president; Dr. J. M. Phelps of Creswell, vice president; Dr. Walter Ward of Robersonville, secretary and treasurer.

The society handled an active work during the past year and formed an auxiliary society which is to meet jointly with the doctors the latter part of this month.

Regular Road Day Held At Meeting Of Board Monday

Highway Commissioner Evans Tells Board Goodbye; Petitions Heard

It was a regular road day program at the regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners this week when several delegations petitioned the officials for road improvements and when First District Highway Commissioner Merril Evans and Engineer J. T. McKim discussed briefly a proposed road program in the county for the new year.

Mr. Evans, explaining that the visit, in all probability, would be the last one he would make with the board as a member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he had received from the board and the people of Martin County. "My relationship with the board and the people of Martin County has been very cordial, and I have enjoyed working with you," Mr. Evans told the board.

Members of the board expressed the hope that he would continue as a member of the highway commission, but Mr. Evans declared that he could not accept the job for another four years even if it was offered to him.

Mr. Evans assured the board that he had tried to play fair with every county, and he also declared that Martin County had received its share of road construction money.

Board Chairman John Henry Edwards expressed the board's appreciation for the work handled by Mr. Evans, and Commissioner A. M. Roberson said that the board had received every consideration possible and that he was certain the program had been administered justly by Mr. Evans. Even before and after Mr. Evans and Engineer McKim appeared in the meeting, delegations and others were petitioning the commissioners for road improvements.

Most of the road improvement projects asked for centered around the county's famous "tater ridges", but a few petitioners asked that a small mileage be added to the State system.

Included in the projects asked to be widened: The Perry Road leading off Highway 17 at the Bear Grass Road intersection to the Griffins colored school, near Dewey Perry's store on the Smithwick's Creek Road, a distance of about 3 1/2 miles. The road serves about 21 families and six school buses travel the road.

The road leading off the Hamilton-Palmyra Road at the John Anderson Baptist Church and running westwardly via Spencer Burnett's, Sidney Mallory's and others to Highway 125, also from Spencer Burnett's to Oak City, a combined distance of about seven miles. The road serves between 40 and 50 families.

A road in Goose Nest Township beginning at the Green Whitefield fork and running westwardly via Hardy Council's and Tyson farm and others to Red Oak, a distance of about three miles.

The road beginning near Conoho Church on Highway 125 via Buck Pillars, Rufus Luvell's and others to Edgecombe County line, a distance of about five miles.

A road in Bear Grass, beginning at Jim Coltrain place on Bear Grass-Williamston road, via D. Bowen's, Lewis Taylor's and others.

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ROUND-UP

Eight persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail during the week-end. Most of them found their way into the jail on Saturday.

Three were booked for public drunkenness, two for violating the liquor laws and one each for larceny and receiving, drunken driving and assault with a deadly weapon. Two of the eight were women, and two were white. The ages of the group ranged from 19 to 37 years.

FUNERAL TODAY



Funeral services are being held in Raleigh this afternoon for United States Senator J. M. Broughton who died suddenly in the Bethesda, Maryland, Naval Hospital Sunday morning at 8:45 o'clock of a heart attack.

The former governor of this State and a great political figure was to have made his maiden speech in the Senate yesterday. He was preparing notes for his Sunday School class talk when he was stricken Sunday morning at 8:00 o'clock in his Washington home.

Auto Inspections By Patrol Force Being Proposed

Enforcement of New Law Almost Certain To Cause Much Indignation

A new inspection law to replace the traffic lane inspection system is being proposed in Raleigh with the possibility that the enforcement of the new plan will cause more indignation and criticism than the recently discarded system. It was also pointed out that the new plan would make it possible for some vehicles to travel the highways without being inspected year after year, since an early interpretation of the plan describes it as a "hit-and-miss" method, at the best.

Proposed by Senators Sam Campen from this district and Roy Rowe of Pender County, the proposed law would require members of the highway patrol to spend at least one-fifth of their time in spot checking motor vehicles. No copy of the proposed law is available here at this time, and all of its provisions could not be learned immediately. It is recognized, however, as a continuation of the determined plan advanced by the 1947 legislature to value human life and rolling stock on the highways of this State.

The inspection problem was tackled by the Senate Roads Committee last week when several senators suggested that a "hit-and-miss" inspection law system be provided with lanes operating in each county.

No decision has been reached, but present indications point to the adoption of some kind of inspection law.

If the spot check as proposed by Senators Campen and Rowe revealed defects in the vehicle, the patrolman would direct the driver to have them corrected. The driver would be required to file with the patrolman within 10 days a statement from a garage saying the defects had been corrected, or if the motorist made the repairs himself he could have his car re-checked.

A provision intended to prevent used cars from other states from being dumped into North Carolina would require them to be inspected before licenses are issued. Automobiles condemned under the old inspection system would have to be repaired before being placed in operation again.