

Town Officials Plan To Re-enter Primary

Mayor And Three Members of Board File Candidacies

Fourth Board Member Says He'll Make Decision Within Day or Two

The political bee started buzzing on the town's political front last week-end when Mayor Robert Cowen and three of the four-member board of town commissioners announced their candidacies to succeed themselves subject to the wishes of the voters in the primary election to be held on Monday, April 11. Commissioners John Hatton Gurganus, K. D. Worrell and Ben D. Courtney paid their filing fee of \$5 each with Clerk Dan Sharpe last Friday. Commissioner N. C. Green was quoted as saying that he had been thinking about filing but at that time he had not reached a decision.

The board lost an able member in the recent death of Commissioner Geo. H. Harrison, Sr., and in accordance with action taken by the board in its February meeting, the position made vacant on the board by his death will be filled immediately after the primary by the new candidate polling the highest number of votes.

The April 11 primary is open to any citizen, but filing fees of candidates must be in the hands of the town clerk on or before April 1.

Registrar John E. Pope is opening the books for new registrations on Saturday of this week. He will hold the books open in his office on Washington Street each Saturday through April 2 for new registrations, and on Saturday, April 9, for challenge.

After the candidates are nominated in the April 11 primary the nominees will go into the election on Tuesday, May 3.

Filing the candidacies last Friday, the town officials briefly reviewed their activities handled since July, 1947, as follows:

New police car, equipped with two-way radio, was purchased along with new uniforms for police. Three new trucks and a new road grader were purchased for the street and water departments and a deep well was added to the water system. More than \$4,000 was spent modernizing the old fire truck, and \$2,000 worth of hose, a \$550 hose drier and \$250 equipment for fighting oil and gas fires were added to the town's fire fighting system.

A new boiler and equipment were added at the town hall. A \$12,000 plot of land was added to Woodlawn Cemetery, the town paying about \$4,000 out of the current budget.

Approximately 5,500 feet of water and sewer lines were added to the system, and the number of customers was increased by approximately 250 within the town limits.

Fifteen blocks of town streets were paved or resurfaced. Traffic lights were paid for and new parking arrangements were effected in an effort to relieve the congestion in the main business sections. New and permanent street markers were installed, and trash receptacles were spotted on the streets. An effective rat control campaign was handled during the period.

(Continued on page six)

1948 Tax Income Shows Increase

Last year's tax receipts were reported by the Treasury department on February 15 as being almost \$3,000,000,000 greater than in 1947 in spite of the reduction in personal income taxes. The total was given by the Treasury as \$42,302,864,105 as contrasted with \$39,420,845,446 in 1947. New York led with \$7,936,909,726. The other leading states in the order named were Illinois, Pennsylvania, California and Ohio.

SPECIAL DAYS—WEEKS 12 BK

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce Reference Service:

The Camp Fire Girls are observing their Birthday Week this week, and out in Tennessee they are celebrating Andy Jackson's birthday today. Thursday is known as Evacuation Day in parts of Massachusetts, sharing the day with St. Patrick. North Carolina and Oklahoma will observe, after a most casual fashion, Arbor Day on Friday. Next Sunday, Bird Day in Iowa, is the first day of Spring.

Tobacco Situation Discussed At Farm School Last Week

Scientist Offers Timely Suggestions For Growing Finer Tobaccos

By D. W. Brady, Assistant Farm Agent

S. N. Hawks, Tobacco Extension Specialist from State College, discussed the tobacco situation at the Farmers' School in the Courthouse in Williamston. Mr. Hawks said this year we will stress quality rather than yield. He pointed out that most farmers had a pretty good yield and more attention must be stressed on the quality of our tobacco. He said in order to keep our foreign tobacco trade we must keep a good quality and continue to improve it. Mr. Hawks stated that most phases of tobacco production in as much as quality is concerned can be controlled by the farmer. In setting tobacco in the field the plants should not be put in the fertilizer band but should be set in between two bands of fertilizer. If this cannot be done the next best thing to do is to mix the fertilizer in the row with a plow.

Tobacco should be harvested when it is ripe and only then, otherwise some will be cured green and other cured brown or spunged. Lemon color is the color that is bringing the highest dollar so we should strive for this color, Mr. Hawks stated.

If there is no disease involved and one can choose his own variety 402 and Bottom's Special have been leading in dollars per acre, 402 having a slight edge on the latter. Less suckers from these varieties according to experiments have been found.

A great many farmers are having difficulty with diseases. On light soil without much rotation Oxford No. 1 is good for black shank. Vesta 33 is very resistant to black shank. Vesta 44 or 47 do well on heavier soils. Vesta 30 or 33 stands up well against the disease. Black shank is a soil-borne disease carried by many means. Be careful where you get water from when watering plants. It may have come from a diseased field. When Granville Wilt appears, Oxford 26 is resistant to this disease. If this variety is handled properly, the quality is good.

(Continued on page eight)

Will Speak To Jamesville PTA

Miss Margaret Strickland, a teacher in Edgecombe County's large West Edgecombe High School, will address the Jamesville Parent-Teacher Association and invited guests at a meeting of the organization to be held in the school auditorium there Thursday evening of this week at 7:45 o'clock, it was announced today.

Miss Strickland was an exchange teacher last year, and she will tell her about the experiences she had while a member of a high school faculty in Winnipeg, Canada, during the exchange. The public is invited to hear Miss Strickland.

Painfully Hurt In Bad Car Accident Saturday Evening

New Model Car Reduced To Scrap Fit For The Junk Yard

Two persons were hurt, one of them painfully, in a bad automobile wreck a short distance east of Gardner's Creek on Highway 64 Saturday evening about 10:00 o'clock. The accident was one of two reported on the highways in this county over the week-end, the other, involving a truck and school bus near Butler's Bridge on Highway 125, having been a minor one in which no one was hurt and property damage was limited.

In the accident near Gardner's Creek, Miss Hattie Moore, local young girl, suffered a broken collar bone, cuts about the face and bruises and shock. Another passenger in the 1948 model Hudson, owned and driven by Allen VanLandingham, Sylvester White, suffered a back injury, but he was able to continue to his home near Williamston. VanLandingham apparently was not hurt.

Driving east on the highway apparently at a fast speed, VanLandingham was said to have turned his car sharply to the right to avoid hitting just a common ordinary hound dog and lost control of the machine. Reports stated that the car traveled 309 feet after leaving the hard surface, that it rolled over possibly five times, jumped a four-foot fence, landing sixteen feet away on its nose and coming to a stop with its wheels in the air.

The driver was thrown out before the car jumped the fence. White was lost when the machine was sailing through the air. Miss Moore fell out apparently just before the car made its last somersault, Patrolman E. P. Simmons, making the investigation, stating that she was found lying beside the overturned machine.

Treated in the local hospital, Miss Moore was quoted as saying the car was running between 60 and 65 miles an hour.

The top of the car was smashed down to the seat tops, Patrolman Simmons stating that the damage would possibly run around \$1,500 or \$2,000.

Last Friday morning about 8:00 o'clock, Miss Dorothy Gurganus, was driving a school bus to Hamilton when a G and H log truck crashed into the rear of the bus, injuring no one and causing about \$25 damage to the truck and very little to the bus, according to Patrolman N. P. Narron who made the investigation.

The patrolman said the school bus driver stopped the machine before entering Highway 125 from a dirt road near Butler's Bridge, that she saw nothing in sight and turned toward Hamilton. About that time the truck rounded the blind curve and bumped into the bus. No charges were preferred against anyone, Patrolman Narron said, explaining that there was no apparent negligence on the part of anyone, that it was a dangerous blind spot in the road system.

Wins Second Place In School Debate

On Tuesday night, March 8, Billy Bob Peel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eibert Peel, won second place in the district contest of the National High School Oratorical Contest sponsored by the American Legion and held in Rocky Mount last week.

Billy Bob was representing Martin County and spoke on the subject: The Constitution In A Changing World. Each contestant made a main speech of from ten to twelve minutes on some phase of the Constitution and also made an extemporaneous oration of from four to six minutes on some article or amendment in the Constitution.

Young Peel was in competition with representatives from Conway, Elizabeth City, Rocky Mount and Greenville High Schools. Frederick Brooks of Greenville won the contest, but Billy Bob ran him such a close second that three judges rendered a two to one decision. Also Brooks is a twelfth grade student and young Peel is in the tenth grade.

Report Increase In Values For Williamston Township

An increase of more than one-half million dollars in 1949 assessed tax values was reported for Williamston Township by List-taker O. S. Anderson yesterday. A year ago, property owners listed their holdings at \$4,675,494. The figure was boosted this year to \$5,235,271, an over-all gain of \$557,777 over the total for 1948.

Commenting on the new listings, Mr. Anderson said that real estate listings were given an assessed value of \$3,065,887 as compared with \$2,624,119 in 1948, making for a gain of \$441,768 in real estate listings. The gain was \$179,357 greater than the 10 percent horizontal increase ordered by the county commissioners in their words, the horizontal increase

ordered by the commissioners would have boosted the total by \$262,411, but increased building and improvements to real property carried the total gain right on by that figure to \$441,768.

Despite heavy losses in listings of peanut and tobacco stocks, personal property values this year are \$118,009 greater than they were in 1948 and one or two accounts are still pending.

This year white owners listed personal property in the sum of \$2,266,845 and real property in the sum of \$2,768,045, a total of \$5,034,890, as compared with \$4,794,890, as compared with \$1,515,356 personal and \$2,361,005 real property last year. Listings by colored owners: 1949, \$142,539 personal and \$297,842 real, and 1948: \$136,019 personal and \$263,114 real property.

ROUND-UP

Six persons were arrested and temporarily detained in the jail here by local, county and state officers over the week-end.

Five of the six were charged with public drunkenness and one with an assault. Three of the six were white and their ages ranged from 21 to 56 years.

Band Concerts Draw Big Crowd

A near-capacity house heard the Junior and Senior units of the Green Wave Band of Williamston High School in concerts Friday night of last week and visiting directors and musicians complimented Director Jack F. Butler and his young musicians on their presentation of a varied program of marches, overtures and a novelty number.

The Junior Band opened the program with three numbers and the Senior Band followed with nine more. While the entire program was so arranged that it was pleasing to the audience and applause was liberal, the novelty number, Three Bears, in which Johnny Woolard told a story, hit the fancy of old and young.

Celebrating its second anniversary with the concert, the band members were given a birthday party with a special cake baked and decorated by the Martin Bakery, in the school cafeteria. Punch and sandwiches were served in addition to the cake. The party was given by the Band Parents Club, sponsors of the concert.

Yesterday morning the members of the band voted to accept the rigorous schedule of practice which will be necessary for their appearance in a band rating contest at Greenville Saturday and they will go there Saturday morning by bus and car.

The performance of the Junior Band was encouraging for it gave assurance that there will be replacements for the gaps that graduation will make in the Senior Band this year and next.

Making Plans For District Meeting

Plans are going forward by the several home demonstration clubs in this county for entertaining the district meeting on April 13, Miss Agnes Beale, assistant home agent, said this week.

Dr. I. G. Greer of the North Carolina Hospital Care Commission of Chapel Hill will be the main speaker, and Miss Ruth Current, State agent; Mrs. Pauline S. Alford, district agent; Mrs. George Apperson, federation president, and Miss Eleanor Barber, assistant 4-H leader, will have parts on the program.

Opposes Further Increase In The 1949 Leaf Acreage

Fairly Certain Now That The Tobacco Acreage Will Be Held To 5 Percent

Fred S. Royster, Henderson, President of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association, declared that at a recent Washington conference of flue-cured tobacco interests Thursday, February 24, he "strongly opposed any further increase in the 1949 acreage quotas because there is no basis in fact for any such increase."

Royster said the conference was called by the Tobacco Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture to examine the present situation and decide whether there should be an increase in quotas above the 5 percent increase already announced. Attending the conference were members of the Production and Marketing Administration state committees from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the flue-cured states, and representatives of farm organizations and the Loose Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association.

In making known his strong opposition to an additional quota increase for 1949, Royster issued the following statement:

"The 1946 flue-cured tobacco crop totaled 1,352,000,000 pounds, so the recommendation was made that the 1947 quotas be reduced by 15 percent. The Department of Agriculture, however, insisted that 15 percent was too much of a reduction and so the quotas were reduced only 2.3 percent."

"As a result, the 1947 crop totaled 1,317,000,000 pounds and at the end of the 1947 marketing season stocks taken under loan by the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation amounted to 252,000,000 pounds. At the same time, the 1947 crop prices averaged slightly below parity."

"Realizing the position we were in, we insisted that the 1948 crop be reduced 27-52 percent. As a result of this reduction growers received practically the same gross return as they did for the 1947 crop, which I predicted at the time the decrease was being considered."

"The 1948 crop totaled 1,090,000,000 pounds and the July 1, 1948, carry-over was 1,550,000,000 pounds. This was the largest carry-over on record except for that of July 1, 1940—when the flue-cured grower was not even receiving a living price for his tobacco."

"Adding the crop total and the carry-over, the total is 3,040,000,000 pounds."

(Continued on page eight)

RAINFALL

January and February of this year were not dry months by any means, but hardly half as much rain fell as was recorded in the first two months of 1948, according to Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper on Roanoke River here. He stated that 3.65 inches of rain fell last month, pushing the total for the two months to 5.21 inches compared with 9.86 inches recorded in the corresponding months of 1948.

Mention April 2 As Quitting Date For Legislature

Now Predicted People Will Have Chance To Vote On Road and School Bonds

According to the Raleigh "Round-Up", North Carolina's legislators, their pay running short rapidly, are expected to quit Raleigh on or about April 2.

The Round-Up goes on to say: The revised Revenue Bill has been adopted. The Appropriations bill should be ratified by the latter part of next week.

Despite all the talk about new taxes, little, if anything, of concrete nature has been done about them.

State employees' and teachers' salaries will be raised about 20 percent, effective as of last October 1. The \$30,000,000 "hard times" fund which was set up by Broughton at \$20,000,000 and followed by Cherry with \$10,000,000, will likely be spent within the next 20 months to meet greatly enlarged appropriations. We are dragging bottom.

Remember this: The income the State expects to get within the next two years has been set so high that any appreciable drop in it will necessitate one of two things: a decrease in salaries for teachers and State employees or a special session of the Legislature to increase taxes.

Governor Scott is going to get those bond issues for roads and schools before the people. Before adjourning, the Legislature is expected to clear the way for the people to decide, themselves, whether they want to spend an extra \$200,000,000 for roads and \$50,000,000 for school buildings.

The governor has said all along the people want them; and he will wage a vigorous campaign for their adoption. If he can get these two projects across, his administration will likely be recorded as a success.

While adjournment talk is being heard, nothing has been done to make it possible to move the State's mentally ill from the common jails to a place where adequate and proper treatment may be had.

A revenue bill, calling for \$130,406,500 for the first and \$128,584,500 for the second year of the coming biennium, was passed last night without a dissenting vote.

Soldier's Body On Its Way Home

The body of Pvt. Grady Burroughs Hardy, young Martin County man who was killed in action in Germany on April 20, 1945, is en route home, his mother, Mrs. Nellie Burroughs Hardy, was advised last week-end.

Removed from the military cemetery at St. Avold, France, the body along with a number of others from North Carolina, will move through the port at Brooklyn and is expected to reach the county in about three or four weeks. Arrangements are being made for burial in Williamston's Woodlawn Cemetery.

He was a son of Mrs. Nellie Burroughs Hardy of Cross Roads and her late husband, A. L. Hardy. His is the 28th body of a Martin County young man to be returned from the war for reburial in native soil.

Recover Stolen Bike In Tarboro

"Borrowing" a bicycle from Calvin Purvis, his young neighbor last Wednesday, Philip Thompson, 13, was arrested the following day by Tarboro officers after the youth had begged a place to spend the night. He was returned here and carried before Juvenile Judge L. B. Wynne who is considering entering the boy in a reformatory school.

The boy said he was on his way to Raleigh to see his mother who is serving a term in Woman's Prison there. Others said that possibly the boy was on his way to Raleigh to help straighten out the legislature.

Plan Potato Contest For Young Farmers

APPEAL

Reporting on the annual Red Cross Fund Drive, Chairman G. G. Woolard said today that the reports to date had been very favorable, but pointed out that unless the momentum of the drive is maintained until the end, the chapter will fall short of its \$2,700 goal.

Approximately \$1,500 has been raised and reported to date, leaving the drive about \$1,200 short of the quota. Several districts have not yet reported and if their collections measure up with those already in the drive will go over the top.

The chairman is urging the canvassers to carry the drive to every possible source and submit their reports at their earliest convenience.

Preliminary reports state that quite a few counties had already reached their quotas, that Charlotte had raised right at \$100,000 for the Red Cross.

Pastures Offer Big Return To Farmer In Martin County

Sam Dobson Discusses Better Pastures With Farmers Last Wednesday

By D. W. Brady, Assistant Farm Agent

Sam Dobson led the discussion on pastures at the Farmers' School in the Courthouse Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Dobson stated that in the last few years much had been learned about the pasture program. He stated that about three years ago when he joined the College Extension Service very little was said about Ladino Clover, the new and wondrous legume. However, he said, it is now the main talk of the farmers who have tried it. He showed a picture of an old carpet grass pasture that was once recommended. One half of this carpet grass pasture had been renovated and Ladino Clover had been added. The results were that twice the amount of milk was produced the first year on the renovated part where Ladino Clover had been added. The second year showed an increase of three times the milk that was produced on the old pasture. Mr. Dobson stated that dairy farmers over the state stated that there is something about Ladino Clover that produces more milk than any other feed they have ever used. It was pointed out that this section is well adapted to its growth, that farther south, it has the tendency to go out in the summer time and farther north it has the tendency to freeze out in the winter. From 20 to 30 percent protein may be had by grazing Ladino Clover.

Mr. Dobson stated that we used to get a lot of different kinds of seed into a pasture and not fertilize nor lime. He pointed out that the new pasture program was to use one legume and grass and fertilize and lime adequately. The most commonly used and highly recommended combination to use is Ladino Clover and Orchard Grass or Fescue. In purchasing

(Continued on page eight)

"We are going forward with plans to have a market ready for operation in the county next fall, and present indications point to a greatly expanded sweet potato acreage this year," Levin said.

It is estimated that more than 1,000 bushels of the best seed have been purchased by county farmers so far, and farmers seem to be greatly interested in the program. A few plan to enter the program on a fairly large scale, but most farmers plan to start out on a comparatively small plan, planting anywhere from one to five acres.

Present marketing plans call for the installation of a grading, cleaning and waxing machine and direct shipments to the big cities. Mr. Levin has already contacted quite a few outlets and he declares that if the farmers will put up a desirable pack that Martin County potatoes will take their place beside the best in the country. Later, possibly next year, the time will be ripe for setting.

(Continued on page eight)

Postmasters Meet Here On March 26

Postmasters of the First District North Carolina Chapter, National Association of Postmasters, will hold their annual meeting in the American Legion Hut here on Saturday, March 26, it was announced yesterday by Postmaster W. E. Dunn, chairman.

Scheduled to get underway that morning at 11:00 o'clock, the meeting will attract prominent postal officials, Mr. Dunn said.

Most of the postmasters in the district's fourteen counties are expected along with officers from other districts and prominent speakers.

Funeral Held For Infant Daughter

Funeral services were conducted at the home in Griffins Township yesterday afternoon for the two-day old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Copeland who died in a local hospital early yesterday morning. Rev. M. L. Ambrose conducted the service and burial was in the Revels Cemetery in Griffins Township.

She was a daughter of C. Woodley Copeland and wife, Marguerite Lilley Copeland. Besides the parents, a brother survives.